

Alexander M'Donell, partner of the North-West Company, arrived at Fort Douglas the 3rd of September, when he was received with discharges of artillery, and treated the half-breeds with a ball and plenty to drink, the same evening. Next day news arrived, that Peter Fidler, a trader in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company had arrived, with an assortment of goods at Lake Manitoba, having sent word to the freemen to go and receive some payments due to them; when this was reported to Alexander M'Donell, he said "*Que Diable qu'est-ce qu'il a à faire là, il faut aller le piller.*" The same day he told me to hold myself in readiness to go next morning with a party of half-breeds to pillage the said Peter Fidler, to which I made no answer. He had also spoken to Francis Deschamps (father and son), for the same purpose. An hour or two afterwards, Joseph Primaux, the half-breed and interpreter, arrived with another man from Bas de la Rivière, with a letter from John Stuart, partner of the North-West Company, informing Alexander M'Donell that the Earl of Selkirk had arrested Mr. M'Gillivray and several of their partners, and taken possession of Fort William. Next day the free Canadians, about twelve in number, were assembled together with some of the half-breeds and other servants of the North-West Company, when M'Donell told the freemen that they must promise to take arms to defend the country, and to prevent the English, or the Earl of Selkirk, from entering the river, and told those that were unwilling to make this promise to pack up their baggage and quit the country directly. Most