

years without obtaining any information that suited your long meditated purpose, you had just finished your calumniatory letter, when the N. W. Company at length brought before you a considerable number of the settlers. As you had condescended, in your Letter, to represent to Lord Selkirk, at some length, what he had reason to be better acquainted with than you—that is, the difficulties attendant on all new settlements, and as you had not been able to procure any appropriate information in time to be embodied in your Letter, you were glad to seize the opportunity thus furnished, of producing in the Postscript, something like a practical proof of the prophetic sagacity and ability with which you had foretold the disasters of the Colony.

You cannot be supposed, however, to have been very anxious to ascertain the truth of the statements which you produced from the settlers, trusting, that if they were true, they could not be disproved, and if false, that it was not you, but the settlers, who would be responsible. You were only solicitous to bring into public view, what, appeared, to use your own words, “strongly corroborative” of what you had written, and it would not, therefore, have been consistent with your plan to take any notice of the fact, that a number of the settlers whom you saw, notwithstanding the hardships and difficulties which they had encountered in their passage by sea and land; notwithstanding the numerous impositions which had been practised upon them, and notwithstanding the mal-treatment which, according to your statement, they had experienced, both before and after their arrival at the Red River, had nevertheless been so well satisfied with their situation in the Colony, as to write letters to their nearest and dearest relations in Scotland, advising them to come and share their good fortune. Neither would it have suited your purpose to have paid any attention to what, nevertheless, your denial cannot disprove, that the fertility of the soil at the Colony, surpassed any that they had ever seen; and that, for the purpose of cultivating grain or potatoes, the land being ready cleared, they had only to plough the ground and put in the seed. Nor could you be expected to have stated, that of the men whom you saw, some, who had originally come out as indentured servants,

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