

much of the land in that vicinity when first settled; not less than 42 of the original 111 settlers having, it is stated, died during the first year. (W. H. Smith's *Canada*, 1852, vol. I, p. 2). It was also known as the settlement on the Chenal Ecarté, as appears by a letter from Lord Selkirk's agent at Amherstburg, to the Commissary at that post for provisions, on the 10th of November, 1804, in which he said that he had received information from Lord Selkirk's agent at Chenaille Ecarte (Chenal Ecarté) "that there was but one barrel and a half of pork in store, which would soon be expended, and that unless an immediate supply was made, the settlers might suffer from the want of that necessary article" (C. 363, p. 44). In accordance with this request Capt. Bleamire, commanding at Amherstburg, gave orders for a supply to be sent, on receiving security for its repayment, of which he advised the military secretary in a letter dated 15th January, 1805 (C. 363, p. 45). Writing from London, on the 1st of February of the same year, to Lieut.-General Hunter, Lord Selkirk speaks of the sickness that prevailed in his new settlement at "Baldoon, on the Chenal Ecarté," which he had apprehended, as the situation, from the local circumstances, could not become healthy "till the adjacent islands can be appropriated and improved," and concludes by asking for a grant of additional lots to some of his settlers in the Shawanese township adjacent and hoped that Mr. Macdonell might be allowed to negotiate with the Indians for the necessary land (C. 363, p. 47) Alexander, not Miles, was his agent at the Baldoon settlement (C. 363, p. 50). On the report of Messrs. Chewett and Ridout, Joint Surveyor General, dated 22nd May, 1805 (p. 51) the request was refused (p. 53).

The destitution to which Lord Selkirk's settlers had been reduced at Baldoon is clear from the correspondence.

The second change was that to Prince Edward Island, 800 emigrants having been landed there during the same year that the Baldoon settlement was formed (1803). The reason for this is stated by Lord Selkirk himself, who says:—

"I was given to understand that it would be more satisfactory to Government if the people I had engaged were settled in a maritime situation instead of that I had at first in contemplation. I was by no means satisfied that the suggestion was founded in just views of national policy. Nevertheless, I thought it my duty, under all the circumstances of the case, to acquiesce, and determined on making my settlement in Prince Edward Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence." (Observations, &c., 1805, p. 6.)

The bitterness of feeling which existed between the N.W. and X.Y. Companies may be seen from the concluding sentence of a letter written by Forsyth, Richardson & Co., on the 23rd December, 1803. They say: "By last advices the grand crisis was considered as not being far distant, and we fervently pray that it may terminate in the ruin and disgrace of our unprincipled enemy." (C. 363, p. 41.)

This state of feeling must soon have ceased to exist, as in 1805 the two companies reunited. The union was not followed by any improvement in the condition of affairs in the North-West. According to the statement of Mr. Edward Ellice