

out, a part of the Selkirk settlers had been coaxed away by an adroit, dashing Highlander—Duncan Cameron—who sported a soldier's uniform—and used a plausible tongue as he promised to lead them to an El Dorado in Upper Canada. Following this departure Cuthbert Grant, the younger, with his band of cavaliers, on June 19th, 1815, swept down the northern bank of the Assiniboine River, turned northward to the plain near Kildonan—Lord Selkirk's Settlement—killed Governor Semple, and followers to the number of twenty-two men, at "The Seven Oaks." The wild intruders seized Fort Douglas, the colony fort, which stood on a site which is within the limits of the city of Winnipeg of to-day. To the whole "Bois-brulés" population it was a great triumph and they held Fort Douglas till the following spring of 1816, when Lord Selkirk and his DeMeuron mercenaries recovered the lost fort to be a nucleus to gather around him again his Scottish colonists.

The time-being conqueror, Cuthbert Grant, had his victory celebrated by the singer of the district of St. Francois Xavier on the banks of the Assiniboine, where Grant and the rhymers—Pierre Falcon—afterward took up their abode. The poet is singing of the victor Grant and satirizing the Governor his military opponent.

Extract:

(A military officer comes to parley with the Red River Metis).

"C'est à la Rivière Rouge,  
Nouvelles sont arrivées,  
Un général d'armée  
Qui vient pour engager."

(He wishes to have the Metis who are great warriors serve him)

"Il dit qu'il veut emm'ner  
Beaucoup de Bois-Brulés.  
Ils sont en renommée  
Pour de braves guerriers."

(He offers Cuthbert Grant, leader of the Bois-Brules, his silver epaulettes as a gift)

"Vous, Monsieur Cuthbert Grant,  
Maître de régiment,  
Mes épauettes d'argent  
Je vous en fais présent."

(The disappointed captain wishes much to flee off to the Far West)

"Bourgeois de compagnie,  
Je dois remercier  
De me faire ramener  
Au fort de Mackenzie."