

PEMBINA AND ITS INHABITANTS.

The village of Pembina, heretofore but vaguely known as an American settlement about two miles south of the boundary line, on the road *via* St. Paul to Fort Garry, has within the past two months become a place of much interest to the Canadian public. Indeed there are ties of intimate personal relationship existing between hundreds and thousands in this country and the gentlemen who, by force of unfavourable circumstances, have been compelled to take up their temporary abode in that hereafter-to-be-historical village. We are glad, therefore, to be able, through the zeal of our Red River special artist, to lay before our readers a graphic description of Pembina, accompanied with a diagram of the village, shewing all the principal (and all the other) buildings it contains. This will form an excellent "guide" or "hand-book" to winter tourists who, desirous of paying their respects to absent friends, may take a trip to Pembina before the settlement of the Winnipeg disturbance. And those who by business engagements or other cause are prevented from taking such a trip, will find it no less interesting, for they will thereby be able to judge of the attractions of Pembina society, and of the kind of "quarters" to which the Hon. Mr. McDougall and his party have been for a time condemned. Though our artist has also introduced the prominent "citizens" of Pembina in the following description, it was, we may say, his interest in the Canadian strangers now residing there, that induced him to make a personal survey of the village, hence he has been especially particular in describing their residences, and our readers may rely upon his fidelity:—

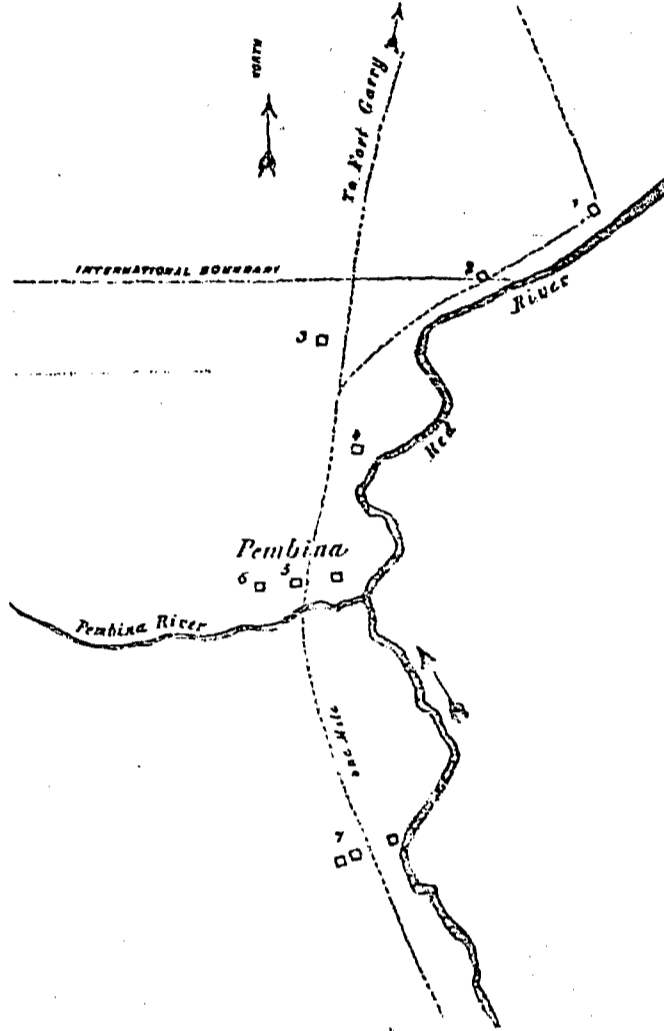
"The first buildings (except a shanty or two) which the traveller meets on his way from Georgetown to Pembina, a distance of over 180 miles, are those now occupied by Governor McDougall, a little over a mile south of Pembina River, as shown on the map, and named the "Governor's Retreat." (7) in commemoration of that being the only house he could find near Pembina in which to find shelter for himself and family when expelled from British territory by a troop of French half-breeds on the 3rd of November. When first taken possession of by the Governor, on the 5th of November, only the main building on the right was erected; since that time the other buildings to the left have been added. They are all built of partially hewed oak logs, with the spaces between filled in with clay moistened and mixed with hay. The roofs of the buildings are also covered with the same material, and it furnishes tolerably fair plastering for the walls inside. The small building at the extreme left is shown as just being built. The mud in winter has to be mixed with hot water carried up in buckets and applied whilst warm. The proprietor of the main building, who left it to accommodate the Governor, is to occupy that humble dwelling.

"On the right are log stables covered with hay; also, the waggons (dismantled of their gipsy covers) belonging to the party, also the tents on the bank of the river, still occupied (November 23) by a portion of the party until the mud and plaster in the new house becomes dry. Lumber for flooring, &c., window-sash, glass and nails, had to be drawn thirty miles to complete the building, and stoves and pipes sixty-five miles from the Red River Settlement.

"Approaching the village of Pembina from the south, the most conspicuous object in view is a half finished log building, the property of the Hon. Joe Rolette, ex-member of Congress. In the distance it has the appearance of a handsome church. To the east of this weather-beaten, unfinished structure, which has stood as it is for several years, is the residence of Mr. Rolette, who now holds the offices of high constable and chief marshal of Dakota Territory. His mansion

is a collection or conglomeration of several shanties joined at the highest part of the roof; and being only one story in height, the group is almost eclipsed by the surrounding stables and the aforesaid unfinished building, which doubtless is intended some day to be the principal house in the village. In a comfortable room in one of the shanties is the headquarters of A. N. Richards, Esq., Q. C.

"A few hundred yards westward is the United States Custom House. It is one story and a half high. The architect, however, neglected to secure or bind the side walls together; the consequence is that the front is bulged out considerably, and but for a couple of props, ingeniously boarded over so as to form a porch, the wall would have tumbled down long before this time. Two small cross windows in front, in the upper half story, look like eyes peering out on each side of the props, which in the distance suggest the resemblance of a huge nose. A piece of stove-pipe at each end, extending through the roof instead of chimneys, appear like horns. Mr. Provencher has his headquarters in a small room up-stairs in this building.



"On the south side of Pembina River, which is but a sluggish creek about thirty feet wide at the mouth, is a small log hut, covered with bark, the only apology for a hotel (?) in the village. The whole establishment consists of only one room for family, boarders, and travellers. This is Mr. Begg's headquarters, and that gentleman has the distinguished privilege, with other travellers, of sleeping on the floor.

"The next house is occupied by Judge Lemay, ex-collector of customs and general trader. He is a portly gentleman—fond of card-playing and smoking—indeed these exercises occupy a very large portion of the spare time of all the villagers.

"No. 6, is the Post Office and the residence of Dr. Cavalier. The Collector of Customs boards here, and so does Colonel Stutsman, a deformed man with only one leg, about eight inches long. The Colonel is an active sympathiser with the half-breed insurgents.

"Another house is the suburban residence of General Harrison, and ends the list of all the residents of Pembina, all of whom, it will be observed, are men of distinction and high titles.

"Following the road northward, Captain Cameron's headquarters is next observed on the right.

"Hayden's farm is next on the same road (No. 4). This place will always be an historical point as the farm on which the Governor pitched his tents when compelled to retire from the Hudson's Bay post by the armed half-breeds.

"No. 3 is a small Catholic Church, built of logs and plastered with mud. The windows are closely barricaded with wooden shutters. On the east end is a tall wooden cross and a small bell. Service is only held in this church about once in two months.

"Across the line is a neat house, also of logs, but shingled, and partitioned with boards inside. The boundary Post, to which Governor McDougall was conducted, is to be seen close on the right.

"About a quarter of a mile further is the Hudson Bay Company's Fort (No. 1), from which Governor McDougall was expelled."

Too late we discovered that our artist had made his sketches from which our diagram is copied on his way from the boundary line to Pembina while, unhappily, he had written his description, beginning at the south side of Pembina and ending with the fort beyond the boundary! In justice to him, we have to state that a sketch for this route was also forwarded, and though less artistic, was more full of detail, in that it indicated the sites of five more houses than are here shewn. This defect in the diagram is, however, amply made up by the fullness of description. The "Governor's retreat," as the most important work of Pembina architecture, at least in the Canadian point of view, is separately illustrated below. The view is from the south—the inmates probably finding it more congenial to look towards the south at this season as well for climatic as for other reasons—and shews the men at work on the roof putting on the thatch of mud and chopped hay. The front building was the only one available for some twelve or fourteen days after the return of the Hon. Mr. McDougall and party to Pembina. This consists of but one room, and for the time specified, the Governor, with the members of his family who accompany him, and his servants, had to occupy it in common with the owner and his family—about eighteen persons in all. It will thus be seen that serious personal inconveniences, if not great personal risk, have been incurred by those gentlemen who have gone towards the North-West Territory to assist in establishing Canadian institutions there. Despite the discouraging news recently received and elsewhere referred to, we still hope that they may be able to enter peacefully on the performance of their important duties. When the existing difficulties are surmounted our friends now at Pembina will probably look back upon their forced sojourn in that village with more pleasure at its termination than at any incident in its duration.



GOVERNOR McDUGALL'S RETREAT AT PEMBINA.