

conduct of the Montreal Agents, as having been for a long time past, very unfair, and even fraudulent; always sacrificing the common interest to promote their own separate advantage; and he expressed his opinion that these Agents, in order to cover themselves from the consequences of their actions, would throw away, upon law proceedings and bribery, a great deal of the property of the wintering partners, which it was better to secure for the benefit of those, who were not implicated in their crimes.

From these views Mr. M'Kenzie proposed a sale of all the property of the North-West Company at Fort William, to which Lord Selkirk agreed, but on condition, that it should be accompanied by a reference to Arbiters, of all civil claims for damage on either side. After a good deal of discussion an arrangement was concluded, upon principles so evidently fair and equitable, that it is only by suppressing the truth, and misrepresenting the nature of the transaction, that any plausibility could have been given to the allegation, that it was extorted from Mr. M'Kenzie, by unfair means. In order to shew the real state of the case, full copies of the deeds are subjoined. Stripping them of their technical phraseology, they amount to this:—That an Arbitration was to be entered into, for an investigation and settlement of all damages on either side;—Lord Selkirk agreeing to make compensation to the North-West Company, for all pecuniary damages, occasioned to them by any wrongful acts of his agents, servants, or adherents, whether by his own order or not:—