

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

9

unfavourable impression which the unfounded and self-interested calumnies, raised and propagated against us by the Earl of Selkirk and his agents and partizans are calculated to produce. That nobleman has thought proper lately to become the avowed rival of the North-West company in the trade which they have carried on for upwards of thirty years with credit to themselves, and it is hoped with benefit to their country. Under the guise and cloak of colonization, he is aiming at and maturing an exterminating blow against their trade. Insinuations of alarm and false accusations form part of the system, and his agents and servants are probably instructed to bring them artfully forward, to raise prejudices against us; surely interested representations from such a quarter should be received with caution, and be better supported than the correspondence of his Lordship's agent sent to Canada, who collects and reports his pretended information as derived from a common Canadian whom he does not name. It is matter of astonishment, that the idea of colonization in the Indian country, at the distance of 2,000 miles from home, should be tolerated by His Majesty's government, and its consequences not seen through. If it fail, as it must and ought, numerous innocent individuals will fall a sacrifice to his Lordship's visionary pursuits; and if it succeeds, it must infallibly destroy the Indian trade in the result: as experience proves, that when colonization advances, Indians and their trade disappear. Thus his Lordship is contributing towards Indian extermination. Besides the planting of colonies so far in the interior, where they are placed out of the reach and control of the mother country, is, as it were, transferring them and their future interests to the United States, in whose territory, by the terms of the late treaty of peace, they will most probably be found; and thus a strength is raising up to be hereafter employed in aid of American ambition against British interests. In a fair commercial competition, we have no objection to enter the lists with his Lordship, but we cannot remain passive spectators of the violence used to plunder or destroy our property, under any pretended or usurped authority as was assumed by Mr. Miles M'Donnell, who styles himself governor, but whose proclamation resembles that of a bashaw, respecting our depôts or collection of provisions for the trade as above stated. In all such attempts hereafter, the North-West company would assuredly be justified in repelling force by force; at all events, I cannot but consider the rights and property of that body as equally entitled to the protection of His Majesty's government as the Earl of Selkirk's.

I have no good general chart of the North-West country; but in the one which I now send, the Red River and countries adjacent are correctly laid down, from the surveys of Mr. David Thompson, the astronomer of the North-West company. The grant to his Lordship by the Hudson's Bay company is tinged with a light red or pink.

L' Co' Harvey,
Dep' Adj' Genl, &c. &c. &c.

I have the honour, &c.
(Signed) *W. M'Gillivray.*

Dear Sir,

Montreal, 12th June 1815.

Inclosure

(6)
in Sir G. Drummond's, of 16
August 1815.

WE had the honour on the 10th instant of receiving your letter of the 8th, conveying to us copy of a communication proposed to be sent to Mr. M'Gillivray, on the subject of the Red River colony.

We feel persuaded, that the transmission of this paper is the only step that can be taken for the present, with any hopes of success; for although our duty to Lord Selkirk, and the Hudson's Bay company, led us to convey to Sir Gordon Drummond the plan suggested by them, of employing a military force for the preservation of the colony, yet we think it is one that for many reasons could not be gone into; and we really see no other to be adopted, than the one so judiciously chosen by Sir Gordon Drummond.

From the manner Mr. M'Gillivray is appealed to, we conceive that the question of, whether or not the colony is in danger, can be easily determined from his reply; and in the mean time we inclose you, for the information of his Excellency, the documents alluded to in our letter of the 29th ultimo.

These we should wish to have returned to us at the time that his Excellency may be pleased to convey to us his sentiments on Mr. M'Gillivray's reply.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Lieut. Colonel Harvey, &c. (Signed) *Maitland, Gordon & Auldjo.*
Quebec.