

guished traveller from other climes, sojourning at the time in the city.

The Beaver Club, says the Hon. L. R. Masson,* created in 1785, was the outcome of the coalition of Canadian enterprise, associated under the name of the *Company of the North West*, to secure a monopoly, if possible, of the fabulous wealth, the fur trade of the North West territory offered to a great company, able to control it through its thousands of *trappeurs* and *voyageurs*, located in its innumerable forts and posts, spread through the western wilds and trackless plains and lakes of the North. 'Tis true; another powerful monopoly existed then under an imperial charter, obtained in London, a century previous; the Hudson Bay Co.

The hunting grounds—though they represented nearly half a continent—it seems—were too small for two monopolies: there was not enough elbow room—apparently. Soon a deadly feud sprang up between the two powerful associations whose resources and followers were marshalled by two chiefs—men of more than ordinary ability and energy: Sir Alexander McKenzie and Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk.

The violent rivalry between the two companies, culminated in a battle royal under the guns of Fort Douglas, at Assiniboia, on the 16th June, 1816; in which the Governor of the Hudson Bay Co., Mr. Semple, who had succeeded to Mr. MacDonnell, met his death, with many of his soldiers, at the hands of the Metis—led on—it was averred—by the agents of the North West Co. This led to a memorable trial where the jury returned a verdict of "not proven."

Let us revert to the exquisite fortnightly entertainments of the far-famed Beaver Club: our oldest Canadian Club.†

The original members we are told—nearly all Scotchmen, numbered nineteen: their wealth, education, spirit of

*I owe to the excellent volume "*Les Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest*" recently published by the Hon. L. R. Masson, a great portion of my data in this article.