

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT;

1815—1819

Copy of a Dispatch from the Earl Bathurst, K. G. to Lieut. General Sir Gordon Drummond, G. C. B.; dated 18th March 1815:—Three Inclosures.

No. 1.

SIR,

Downing-street, 18th March 1815.

HAVING received from the Governor and Company of the Hudson's Bay Company, a Representation, of which a copy is inclosed; in which they state their apprehensions of an attack from the Indian nations in the neighbourhood of the Red River, and request a small military force for their protection; I am induced to transmit it to you, in order that you may make the necessary inquiries as to the grounds of the fears expressed by them on this point; and in the event of your considering them to be founded, furnish such protection and assistance as can be afforded without detriment to His Majesty's service. You will take especial care, whatever measures you may adopt for this purpose, to abstain from doing any act or expressing any opinion which may tend to affect the question in dispute between the Hudson's Bay and North-West companies; the sole object of the present instruction being, to secure the lives and properties of His Majesty's subjects established on the Red River, from the predatory attacks of the Indian nations in the neighbourhood, with which they state themselves to be threatened.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) BATHURST.

My Lord,

Hudson's Bay House, 18th February 1815.

Inclosure
(1.)

in Earl Bathurst's
of 18 March 1815.

I beg leave to lay before your Lordship, a Representation, which has been addressed to the Directors of the Hudson's Bay company by the Earl of Selkirk; from which it appears that a settlement lately formed in Red River, within the territories and jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay company, is in imminent danger of being destroyed, through the machinations of certain persons who are endeavouring by malicious representations to inflame the minds of the Indians against the colonists. Though the evidence, which is now produced, may not perhaps be sufficient to criminate the individuals alluded to, it certainly appears to call for measures of precaution to avert the horrible consequences which might ensue from an actual attack of the settlement by the Indians; I humbly conceive that the only effectual mode of obviating this danger, is by the presence of a military force; and as the Hudson's Bay company have not the means of affording this species of protection, I trust that a small portion of the force now in Canada, may be detached to Red River.

We do not anticipate any necessity for a permanent military establishment, as it is probable that in two or three years the settlers will be in a condition to provide for their own security. In the mean time, a very small force will be sufficient for their protection; and so long as it may be deemed advisable to keep such a force on Red River, the directors of the Hudson's Bay company feel assured, that the expense to Government cannot exceed what the same number of men would cost in any of the garrisons of Upper Canada.