

To you, who, on the present occasion, and on purpose to make your uncourteous attack, have voluntarily stepped out of the pulpit, and thrown aside the restraints which a regard for the decency becoming your office as a Clergyman, might have imposed, the freedom with which I reply requires no apology; and if one be due to the public, the example which you have set, affords a much better than any that I could offer.

Before proceeding to particulars, it may not be amiss to consider what we might expect to be the nature of statements concerning the colony, of such origin as those which you have made public. The ground work of them was furnished by persons considerably in debt, and who, having resolved to quit the Colony, on purpose to defraud their creditors, had been base and cowardly enough, not only to abandon their friends and countrymen, but, after taking an active part in robbing them of the artillery and muskets that had been provided for their defence, had left them, (as they and the North West Company flattered themselves), to fall a prey to the savage ferocity of their bastard Half-breeds. They, of course, must have had every disposition to make it appear, that the steps they had taken were justifiable, either on account of the injustice with which they had been treated, or on the score of necessity, and would therefore be glad to meet with any person, especially a man of your consequence, who was willing to lend an ear to any complaints, however unfounded, which they had to make against the officers of the Colony. This was nothing but natural with men in their situation, and therefore any unbiassed person would have been disposed to listen to what they had to say, with some grains of allowance, and would have waited to hear both sides of the question, before forming his own opinion; but you could not be expected to adopt so reasonable a course of proceeding.—In the first paragraph of the advertisement prefixed to your pamphlet, you candidly acknowledge, that from the moment you heard of the commencement of a settlement at Red River, you first decreed that it was a deception, and then determined to obtain the necessary information. This you had done even before you had seen Lord Selkirk's Prospectus, and after waiting four years