

fort have fallen down the bank. It was built by John Wills, a bourgeois of the North-West Company, with a force of twenty men: he was engaged for a year in building it. The stockade of Fort Gibraltar was "made of oak trees, split in two." The wooden picketing was from twelve to fifteen feet high. (See Plate II.)

The following is a list of the buildings enclosed in it, with some of their dimensions. There were eight houses in all: the residence of the Bourgeois, 64 feet in length: two houses for the servants, respectively 36 and 28 feet long; one store, 32 feet long: a blacksmith's shop, stable, kitchen, and an ice house. On the top of the ice house a watch tower (*guerite*) was built. John Wills, the builder, lived in charge of this fort until his death in 1814.

The great struggle between the Hudson's Bay and North-West Companies for supremacy in the fur trade, which had been proceeding with bitterness and determination during the last quarter of last century (1774-1800), and had risen to fever heat in the first decade of the present century, was brought to a crisis by an emigration movement of a most important kind. The Earl of Selkirk, though a stockholder of the Hudson's Bay Company, did not, as some have supposed, send his colony out as a means of securing the country for the fur trade. He was enthusiastic in emigration projects. In 1803, he sent a large and successful colony to Prince Edward Island. Before that date even, in 1802, as shewn by a letter sent by him to the Home Department, of which a copy is in the possession of the writer, he planned his colony to Red River; and Prince Edward Island was only selected before starting, because the British Government regarded it as more accessible. It was to gain the territory on which to plant a colony that his Lordship formed the great design of purchasing stock in the Hudson's Bay Company.

Lord Selkirk succeeded in carrying out all his plans; in 1811 he bought up a controlling interest in the company, and purchased a vast tract of what is now a part of Manitoba, and portions of the northern parts of Minnesota and Dakota. This was known as the District of Assiniboia. It was in 1811, as already said, that his representative, Mr. Miles Macdonell, a Highlander, formerly a Captain of the Queen's Rangers, was appointed Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and was also named by Lord Selkirk in charge of his colony. Mr. Macdonell arrived at Red River in the year 1812, and met the colony which had just come from Britain by way of Hudson Bay. It numbered about eighty persons. The new Governor and the colonists, in the year of their arrival, immediately began to erect houses; indeed some of the colonists were under a three years' engagement with Lord Selkirk to erect houses for the Company. These were situated about three quarters of a mile north of the junction of the rivers, east of Main Street, and between James and Logan Streets, probably on the edge of the broken plain skirting the belt of wood along the river. There was a house for the Governor, where also dwelt the sheriff. There were besides a farm house, a store-house, and several other buildings. Here the colonists lived, tents and huts being used as well. The well-known dwelling, with its fine surrounding of trees in the plot at the foot of Rupert Street,—the abode of the late Sheriff Alexander Ross, the historian of Red River—in its name "Colony Garden," still retained by it, commemorates the locality where the colony first took root.

It was the custom of the dwellers at the Forks to journey southward in the winter in order to be near the open country containing buffalo. The Governor had erected an establishment on the north side of Pembina River at its mouth, to which he gave the