

Mr. McDermott had, in 1835, become one of the Council of Assiniboia, and was a favourite with the Governor as with the people. He possessed a large fund of information about the early settlement and condition of Red River, and was somewhat given to venturing on that very uncertain task of foretelling the weather and the seasons. In 1881 the portly form of the Celtic merchant, who had reached the age of ninety, and had actually spent three-score and ten years, save one, in business on Red River, passed forever from our view.

A CELTIC EMPEROR.

One of the most striking figures in Montreal society, forty years ago, was the bustling, short-statured, rather domineering, man, Governor Simpson, of the Hudson's Bay Company. A native of "the land of the mountain and the flood," he first saw its heather hills in 1796. Like so many Scotchmen, he had gone to London to seek his fortune. A successful clerk in a counting-house in the capital, he came out to Canada at the instance of London fur traders, to complete, if possible, a reconciliation between the Nor'westers and Hudson's Bay Company, who, by their feuds—on which we have shortly touched—had both succeeded in bringing themselves to the verge of bankruptcy. The young commissioner was a born diplomat. McLean, in the second volume of his "Twenty-five Years' Service in the H. B. Territory," has given an account of the means adopted by the young officer in 1821 to effect the coalition, and organize the new company. Difficulties begirt the new Governor on every side.