

lustry of his race. found pursuing gh, and there is rious young men and learned pur- some nineteen in the young Wal- Selkirk, as well prominence, and to note the influ- ars of the young House of Selkirk died. The father those who did patronised the of the Isle. The poet occasion, ex- s works and well

u a cat, want it; can eat, ankitt."

in which the in- st snows itself in r, the brother of may be referred known Edinburgh was spending his 1780. Among the ves Lord Daer. A house as that of poet's mind with us interest found of the Selkirk of the poet, and m so hard a critic.

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to the Club of afterwards so well din, Sir A. Fergus- id Douglas, after-

mans much to be such as these—of ure. Adverse cir- distinction gives or and friendless e attrition of the oundings, to give position motive for literature's met Close, Edinburgh, is resort they often the same neigh-

moral of these hem—no less than about this time nking is the most

Of the warmth u we get a glimpse ber of the club nment it was a dinner to his asso-

ing again! Youth and it would have a plans and bright world and society discussions of the

were engaged in securing them, and the land cultivated in that year averaged two acres for every working hand. The settlers had also constructed rude boats, and with these secured a harvest of the finny product of the sea. The experiment, instead of being a failure, as prophets of evil had predicted, had succeeded to the highest extent. Five thousand people in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island—the descendants of that band of 800 pilgrim fathers—are to-day among the most prosperous of the inhabitants of the island.

In 1805 Lord Selkirk determined to bring the matter of a more extensive emigration before the British Government and nation. This he did in two volumes of over two hundred pages, in which he discussed the deplorable state of the Highlands, spoke strongly of the need of promoting emigration; and to show that his projects were feasible, gave an account of the Highland colony taken by him to Prince Edward Island. So well was this literary enterprise accomplished that afterwards even one of the Earl's most bitter opponents in his North-Western colonisation scheme says:—"I was delighted to find a Scotch peer writing with so much intelligence and felicity of style." The book drew forth most favorable notices, and the leading critic of the time, Lord Jeffrey, says:—"The candour with which the first obstacles are described, the practical and profound judgment with which the various measures and arrangements appear to have been combined, and that tone of benevolence without ostentation and yet thoroughly systematic, which pervades the whole design, renders it the most pleasing and useful history that has been given to the world of the establishment of a new colony."

But the public spirit and generous sympathy of Selkirk may be further seen in the warm interest taken by him in the welfare of Britain, in the perilous times through which she was passing. Men's aims, sympathies, and bent of mind may be well gauged by the part they play in times of national exigence.

Those who live for selfish objects—for mere money getting or pleasure seeking, or even chiefly for literary pursuits—care little what befalls the State; intelligent patriotism is an almost unfailing evidence of a large heart. The early part of the nineteenth century was a time of deepest anxiety to the British patriot; Napoleon with "Europe-shadowing wings" was at his height; 1807 brought his climax of greatness. In August of that year he had created his brother, Jerome, King of Westphalia. The discom on the brow of a humble Corsican adventurer, and placed there by the mighty soldier of fortune simply as one of his gifts, struck terror to the heart of every European Sovereign. England quaked, and courageously dwelt on plans of defence—on saving the State. Capt. Birch, of Royal Engineers, wrote an octavo volume, and Lord Selkirk another, and the matter is so much a matter of moment that the Edinburgh Review discusses the books and deals with the subject bulking so largely before the public mind. To Lord Selkirk as a coastman, looking out into Solway and the Dee from his seat near Kirkcubright, the question was one of every day. So insignificant a freebooter as Paul Jones had in the days of Selkirk's early childhood dashed in upon that coast and ravaged the family seat. Peasant ballads may still be heard commemorating that event.

You've all heard of Paul Jones,
Have ye not? Have ye not?
You've all heard of Paul Jones,
Have ye not?
You've all heard of Paul Jones,
He was a rogue and a vagabond,
He was a rogue and a vagabond,
Was he no?

He entered Lord Selkirk's hall,
Did he not? Did he not?
He entered Lord Selkirk's hall,
Did he not?
He entered Lord Selkirk's hall,
And stole the gold and jewels all
Did he no?

The plans suggested by Lord Selkirk were comprehensive and well considered. He would have a system of militia introduced whereby training would be given for three months to begin with to every able bodied young man between 18 and 19 years of age, and then three weeks in each succeeding year to be spent in camp till the soldier be 25. The critics of the time were able of course to point out weaknesses, but the success that has attended this system, as worked out by the Prussians in their overwhelming victories in the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, and the Franco-Prussian war since, is a favorable commentary on the plan proposed by Lord Selkirk in 1808. It was immediately after the publication of this work that the distinguished honor of Fellow of the

ARK WAS KNOWN AS THE TERRITORY OF OJIBWA.



W.M.P.

1. Hudson's Bay.
2. Lake Winnipeg (Ouenipique).
3. Lake Winnipegosis.
4. Lake Manitoba.
5. Saskatchewan River.
6. Fort Daer (now Pembina, U.S.)
7. Assiniboine River (or St. Charles).
8. Souris (or St. Pierre).
9. Missouri.
10. Mississippi.
11. Lake Superior.
12. York Factory.
13. Red River of the North or (Miskoussipi).

Dotted trapezium represents territory acquired by Lord Selkirk.

The transfer was made deliberately, and the highest local authorities in Britain gave their opinion favorably as to its validity. Whether their opinion was correct or not is of no consequence for our present purpose. Every step taken by the projector of the scheme, which none can deny was of magnificent proportions, was becoming the action of a high-minded and honorable man—a man, moreover, of enthusiastic purpose and brilliant conception. For the present paper this must suffice. Many a further page must be written ere we can see his whole career. We have only reached May, 1811. But we have got the clue to the life of this really great man, and unless our judgment is astray, to the proper elucidation of the course of the Nor-West Company. To do justice to the matter there should be given the details of the project, the character of the wild land to which the Selkirk colonists came, with an account of their hardships and varying fortunes. There should moreover be considered Lord Selkirk's defence of his people, his long and laborious journey when coming "coute qui coute" with his band of soldiers he saw the land of his colonists. The charges against him should not be disregarded, but it may be stated now that so far as I have been able to judge they are the product of self-interest and a most thoroughly one-sided combination in Canada of traders and public men—and even clergymen included—to damage a philanthropic and self-denying man and thwart the ends of public justice. The noble Earl disappears from the scene when after "suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," beaten down by litigation, by persecution, and by calumny, he died at Pau in the Pyrenees in the year 1820.

A vote of thanks moved by Consul Taylor seconded by Mr. Whitcher, was given the writer, and the meeting closed.