

Some time after Mr. M'Kenzie had been set at liberty, he expressed, in conversation with Mr. Miles Macdonell, his anxiety respecting some pecuniary obligations, which he had come under, for the purchase of the provisions at Michillimakinac, which (as mentioned in his letters,) had been bought up by order of Mr. M'Gillivray for the purpose of distressing and impeding the progress of Lord Selkirk and his settlers, towards Red River. Mr. Macdonell observed, that Lord Selkirk would be glad to buy these provisions. The question then occurred, how far Mr. M'Kenzie had a right to sell them; on which Mr. Macdonell observed, that since he had bought them, he must assuredly have a right to sell them again. This led to further discussions, as to the powers which one partner might exercise over the property of the partnership; and Mr. M'Kenzie expressed his inclination to sell the whole of the Company's property at Fort William, as it would be more advantageous to the concern at large, to secure the value of this property by a reasonable agreement with Lord Selkirk, than to let it fall into the hands of the Montreal Agents, by whom it was likely to be misapplied. He explained that the Montreal Agents had such preponderating influence, as to bear down all opposition in the Councils of the Company, and to rule the partnership with despotic sway; yet, that in fact, they constituted a separate concern, and had very different interests from the wintering partners, who were the genuine partners of the North-West Company. He represented the