

names as McTavish, McGillivray, McLeod, McDonell, McKenzie, Campbell, Cameron, Murray, and Fraser occupy a leading place in the fur trade, and that these adventurers were raised to positions of command by their daring, and by the “*perfidium ingenium Celtarum.*”

Archbishop Taché, in his “North-west Sketches,” says:—

“At that time two great rival companies competed for the fur trade. The North-west Company, formed of, or, at least, directed by, Scotchmen, required that its members should speak French, and all its junior employés were French-Canadians, so that the company appeared to be a continuation of that formerly established in Nouvelle France. The Indians, when referring to this company, always spoke of it as ‘the French.’ The English, on the contrary, was the designation universally used in referring to the members of the Hudson’s Bay Company, although its officers were generally Scotch, and its employés Orkney-men.”

Although the Montreal merchants had united in 1787, yet, having been so long accustomed to a life of freedom and independence, they found it impossible to preserve their combination. Accordingly, in nine years after the union, viz., in 1796, a division took place. The offshoot took the name X. Y. Company. It was carried on with much vigour, and posts were built in many places contiguous to those of the Nor’westers. Two names stand out prominently among its leaders—one the Hon. Edward Ellice, the other a notable Celt, worthy of fuller notice. This was—