

"as once about the twentieth May there last,
 "I proceeded from this place in a canoe bound
 "for the Indian Territories, without having
 "obtained from His Excellency any leave or per-
 "mission to that effect". — I am at a loss
 to conceive on what particulars the charge
 specified in the letter of Major Bowles "as to
 irregular & unauthorised conduct on my part
 whilst employed to accompany the missionaries"
 can be grounded, none being contained in the
 documents above referred to, and being myself
 wholly ignorant of any ^{particular} ~~circumstance~~ ^{charge} which could afford
 a pretext ^{as the} complaint last mentioned
 of my having engaged in the service of the
 Earl of Selkirk, or of the Hudson's Bay Company
 contrary to the Proclamation of His Royal Highness
 the Prince Regent, I had imagined that the
 persons by whom that charge was preferred
 had become well informed that no ground for
 it had been afforded. — altho' the former
 of the charges is alone referred to in the letter
 of Major Bowles, & the latter is only found
 in the documents accompanying it, yet as
 it is these which have given cause for requiring
 an explanation of my conduct, the duty of
 exculpating myself from both is, I presume
 imposed on me. I shall best discharge this duty
 I hope in a manner to exonerate myself from
 every