

The transfer of the North-West to Canada was unhappily accompanied by an uprising of the French half-breeds, who felt that not only had their interests been overlooked in the negotiations between Canada and the Hudson's Bay Company, but that in the proposals for the future government of the country they were not likely to obtain just treatment at the hands of Canadians. It is impossible within the compass of this paper to deal with the causes which led to such a spirit of misapprehension on the part of the half-breeds. The result was a small rebellion, and Hon. Wm. McDougall, the newly appointed Lieut.-Governor of the North-West, was refused admission into the territory. For several months the country was in a state of turmoil, until finally the passing of the Manitoba Act, and the evident desire on the part of the Canadian Government to act fairly to all classes appeased the people. In the meantime, however, Col. G. J. Wolseley, now Lord Wolseley, had been sent with an expedition composed of a detachment of the 60th Rifles, and two regiments of Canadian volunteers to the North-West, by way of Lake Superior, to be in readiness to quell the rebellion by force if necessary. The troops for several weeks had to contend against almost unsurmountable difficulties of nature between Lake Superior and the Red River, but finally, having overcome all obstacles, they entered Fort Garry on the 24th August, 1870, and instead of resistance, they received a warm welcome from all classes of the people. From that time the rapid development of the North-West may be dated. Previous to 1870 the country had been regarded as a land fit only for the hunter and trapper; and the fur traders knowing that the advent of civilisation meant the destruction of the fur trade, spared no pains to circulate the idea that it was a cold, inhospitable, and barren country. This, combined with the imperfect means of communication, was undoubtedly the cause of its remaining isolated and sparsely populated for so many years. In 1870 there were about thirty buildings in the vicinity of Fort Garry, where now stands the city of Winnipeg, with its population of thirty thousand inhabitants. At that time there was no settler away from the river. The line of settlement skirted the Red and Assiniboine rivers, with here and there a few tidy farm houses and small patches of cultivated land adjoining, but the immense plains of fertile soil, covered with verdant pasture, away to the west as far as the Rocky Mountains, were lying idle, only awaiting the coming of the husbandman to turn