

McTavish, McGillivray, Gregory, McLeod, and others took place in 1787, and we learn from the evidence of the Hon. William McGillivray that the first hold in a permanent form of the Red River district was taken in 1788. This statement is further corroborated by Alexander Henry, jun., a fur-trader, who, in 1800, journeyed along Red River. From him we learn that the first fort on Red River was built by a trader, Peter Grant. The fort was situated on the east side of Red River, a little south of the International boundary, and no doubt near the St. Vincent railway station. Henry in 1800 says that there were at this point "the remains of an old fort."

Fort Pembina on the west side of Red River, a little more than a mile south of the International boundary, was built by a North-West trader, Charles Chaboillier in 1797-98. Mr. David Thompson, the surveyor of the North-West Company, a man of great perseverance and marvellous endurance, gives an account of a visit to this post in 1798, at which time, though he passed the spot, he makes no mention of a fort at the mouth of the Assiniboine. At the time of his journey, which was made up Red River, there was a North-West fort sixty miles further up stream, at the mouth of Red Lake River, where now stands the town of Grand Forks, in Dakota. This fort was in charge of a French half-breed trader, Baptiste Cadot, the son of the celebrated old trader of Sault Ste. Marie, referred to by many writers of the period. Further up Red Lake River there was at this time a post also upon Red Lake, celebrated as being one of the supposed sources of the Mississippi. This was under the charge of a North-West bourgeois, John Sayer. It was a son of this trader who afterwards figured in the remarkable trial at Fort Garry in 1849, when the French half-breeds rose against constituted authority, and seized court-house, judge and jury. As an example of the hardships endured at these forts, Thompson tells us that the trader, Sayer, and his men had passed the whole winter on no more substantial food than wild rice and maple sugar. The Forts on Red River, in 1798, seem to have been Pembina, the Forks (Grand Forks), and Red Lake, all of them in what is now the United States. The approach to Red River would seem to have been made by the North-Westerners by way of Rainy River, or even from Fond du Lac, on Lake Superior, and down Red Lake River. The union of the North-Westerners and the X. Y. Company, who had been rivals since 1796, and to the latter of which Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Edward Ellice belonged, took place in 1804. An impulse was given to their trade, and seizing a leading position at the Forks of our rivers, they built a new post.

FORT GIBRALTAR.—The Hudson's Bay Company claim to have built a fort at Red River in 1799, but no trace of it remains. Possibly it may have been at the point a few miles below the Forks, afterwards taken up by the colony. It was in 1806 that the North-Westerners erected their fort at a point, one old resident informs us, "within gun-shot of old Fort Garry," as it was afterwards built. Such a comparison is suggestive of the relations of the two companies, and certainly it was the warlike humour of the builders rather than the strength of the position that gave this fort its name. It faced towards Red River rather than the Assiniboine, and was situated below the site of the recently removed emigrant sheds. From the evidence of a resident of the colony, we know that, in 1818, this fort was about fifty yards back from the river. The same observer says the river was then 150 yards wide: it is now at this point about 200 yards; so that from each side of the river twenty-five yards have fallen into it. It will thus be seen that ten yards of the