

of the Prairies. His children and grand-children are well-known to the old settlers of Red River.

AN IRISH CELT.

But few of the Irish Celts have made the Northwest their home. They do not seem, as a class, to have taken hold of the fur trade, and few of them have come as settlers to this country. It is well that we are able to find one who stands out so prominently, and for so long a period in the affairs of Red River, as Andrew McDermott. He was born in the Green Isle in the year 1791, and embarked at Sligo in the first ship of Selkirk Colonists in 1811. He is said to have been so Celtic as to have been able to trace his lineage back to the celebrated Dermot McMurrough, the Leinster Chieftain. In the service of the company he was active and pushing. He became more familiar with the use and structure of the Indian language than even the Indians themselves. We are told that he was "an excellent walker, ran like a deer, and could endure cold with any Eskimo dog." Leaving the Hudson's Bay Company in 1824, he made his first adventure as a "free trader." He became an extensive merchant, and was on good terms with everybody. His business was multifarious. "He could lend a horse, change an ox, or barter a sleigh dog, as circumstances required." He gradually obtained control of the main freighting business of the country. When the Canadian immigration set in, the Celtic trader was ready for the change, and lent a helping-hand to many a new comer in beginning business in the then little village of Winnipeg.