

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

15

and if you cannot live in peace, and that these land workers will not allow you to trade with us as usual, they shall be destroyed or driven from the Assiniboini river.

To conclude what I had to say: I already see a great change; when we were accustomed to encamp round the forts of your traders in this river, my children used to be fed with pounded meat and grease; but this spring, hunger and starvation forced us to leave the fort much sooner than I intended, for my wish was to remain until the black clouds which appeared hovering over the fort were dispelled. Some of you, my children, thought then perhaps, that I wished to get out of the way; but no, I had no such intention; seeing that you had no provisions even for your young men, I was forced to go and seek something for my children. It was not the sound of bad birds that drove me away. My readiness in appearing here to support your cause, ought to be a proof of my attachment to my traders and to my children.

These are my words, and I have not two mouths.

Gentlemen,

Quebec, July 18th, 1815.

Inclosure

(12)

in Sir G. Drummond's, of 16 August 1815.

Referring to my Letter to you of the 8th ultimo, inclosing copy of a communication proposed to be made to Mr. M^cGillivray, containing certain queries relative to the dangers with which the settlers on the Red River are supposed to be threatened, from the hostility of the Indians instigated by servants of the North-West company, I am directed by Sir Gordon Drummond to acquaint you, that that letter has been answered by Mr. M^cGillivray in such a manner as would have completely removed from his Excellency's mind all traces of any impression unfavourable to the honourable character and liberal principles of the heads of the North-West company, had any such impression existed. On a fair consideration, however, of the statement and documents now before him, Sir Gordon Drummond is of opinion, that if the lives and property of the Earl of Selkirk's settlers are or may hereafter be endangered, that danger will arise principally from the conduct of Mr. Miles M^cDonnell, his Lordship's agent, who appears to his Excellency to be actuated by any thing but a spirit of moderation and conciliation, in his language and demeanour, towards the servants of the North-West company: he has, moreover, assumed powers which cannot possibly, in his Excellency's opinion, have been vested in him, or any agent private or public of any individual or of any chartered body. The legality, however, or otherwise, of the proclamations issued by Mr. Miles M^cDonnell (copy of two of which are inclosed) will of course be determined in a court of law in Great Britain, to which they have very properly been referred by the North-West company.

The papers which accompanied your letter are herewith returned, copies having been retained for transmission to the Secretary of State, before whom it has been his Excellency Sir Gordon Drummond's endeavour to place the whole case as fairly and as fully as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J Harvey.

Messrs. Maitland, Gordon & Auldjo,
Montreal

No. 1.—Statement of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Inclosure

(13.)

The servants of the Hudson's Bay company, employed in the fur trade, have hitherto been fed with provisions exported from England.

Of late years this expense has been so enormous, that it became very desirable to try the practicability of raising provisions within the territory itself. Notwithstanding the unfavourable soil and climate of the settlements immediately adjacent to Hudson's Bay, there is a great deal of fertile land in the interior of the country, where the climate is very good, and well fitted for the cultivation of grain.

It did not appear probable that agriculture would be carried on with sufficient care and attention by servants in the immediate employment of the company; but by establishing independent settlers, and giving them freehold tenures of land, the company expected that they would obtain a certain supply of provisions at a moderate price.

The company also entertained expectations of considerable eventual benefit from the improvement of their landed property by means of agricultural settlements. Having a due regard to the implied conditions of their charter, they deemed it a duty incumbent