

Lordship had ordered, we received the intelligence, that a canoe had been sent off during the night, loaded with ammunition and arms, and that many papers had been burnt in the kitchen of the mess-house, by the partners. We found eight barrels of gunpowder lying in a field near the fort, which had also been taken away, during the night, out of the powder magazine. We also found, in a barn among some hay, about fifty stand of guns, which were apparently fresh loaded and primed.

From these discoveries, it was suspected that a surprise would be attempted by the Canadian servants and the Indians in the North-West Company's employment; and most of them, therefore, were sent to the other side of the river. Their canoes, also, were secured within the fort. The prisoners were more strictly guarded, and as no reliance could be put on their word of honour, they were taken to a separate building, and guarded as close prisoners. His Lordship ordered our tents to be removed, and pitched in front of the fort, that we might be better able to repulse a sudden attack, if attempted by the North-West Company. After having taken all necessary measures for our own security, Lord Selkirk proceeded with the examination of the prisoners, the criminality of whom appeared to his Lordship to be such as to justify him in sending them under an escort to York, in Upper Canada. He requested that I would take charge of the prisoners, and escort them safely to their destination. We set out on the 18th of August, in three canoes, provided with every thing which I thought necessary for our voyage. We proceeded along Lake Superior, and, about a week after our departure, we had the misfortune to lose one of our canoes. As this has been imputed to my insisting upon, and forcing the embarkation of the party that day, I trust that the following account will be sufficient to justify my proceedings.

In the morning of the 26th of August, we proceeded, with a light breeze, and stopped, as usual, to take our dinner at one o'clock, at an island about fifteen miles from the Sault St. Mary, where we expected to arrive the same evening. During our dinner the wind increased, but, being at the lee side of the island, we did not feel its violence. Mr. M'Gillivray, who had upwards of twenty years experience in this navigation, and whom I invariably consulted during our voyage, was, upon this occasion, especially questioned by me; and, on asking whether he thought it dangerous to proceed, he replied that there would not be the least danger, if the guides of the canoes did their duty. Upon this