

voyageurs, perhaps drenched with rain or benumbed with cold, would kindle fires, and all be made as comfortable as possible for the night. In addition to these discouragements and discomforts, their supply of provisions gave out, and the few fish they were able to catch were barely sufficient to keep them from starving. At the end of three weeks, much time having been lost by reason of high wind and storms, they arrived, half famished, at the mouth of the Red River, where, to their dismay, they learned that the locusts or grasshoppers had passed through the country the summer before, literally destroying all the crops. With heavy hearts they proceeded up the river some 35 miles to Fort Douglas, situated on the west bank of the river, near the site of the present Fort Garry, then the principal trading post and headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company. Gov. Alexander McDowell and the other officers of the Company, by their cordial welcome and earnest efforts to supply their wants and make them comfortable, not only gladdened their hearts, but did much to make them forget the hardships of their long voyage. As, however, there was not sufficient provisions to last during the winter, some of the colonists were sent to Pembina, where some jerked Buffalo meat and pemmican were obtained, but not nearly enough to supply the wants of the colony. The winter was long and intensely cold, with unusually heavy falls of snow, and great distress was suffered by all; but the health of the colonists continued good, despite the severity of the winter and the insufficiency of food. The opening of spring found them ready to enter on the lands allotted to them at La Fourche. Lord Selkirk had died at Pau, France, the autumn before their departure from Switzerland, but the fact had been withheld from them until after their arrival at Fort Douglas. Consequently no provision had been made to supply them with seeds and farming implements, as promised them before their departure from the Old World. They were there-