

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

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these provinces, possesses the means of influencing the actions of these remote tribes of Indians, with whom they *alone* hold an intercourse, whose wants they alone supply, and whose conduct they alone can control. The North-West company, therefore, will be considered responsible in the eyes of the world, as well as in those of His Majesty's government, for any such horrid catastrophe as I have alluded to, whether arising from the instigation of their subordinate agents, or from the uninfluenced malignity of the Indians themselves.

Sir Gordon Drummond feels assured, that by this appeal he has more effectually provided for the safety of the subjects of His Majesty, inhabiting the shores of Hudson's Bay, than it would be in his power to do by any other measure whatsoever.

His Excellency being ill provided with maps or charts of that remote part of His Majesty's dominions, in which the Red River settlement is situated, has directed me to request you will favour him with the short loan of any which may be in your possession.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Hon^{ble} W^m McGillivray, Esq.
&c. North-West Company.

(Signed) J. Harvey.

My dear Sir,

Montreal, 24th June 1815.

Inclosure

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I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 14th instant, stating the communication which had been made to his Excellency Sir Gordon Drummond, from high authority, relative to the alarm entertained by the Earl of Selkirk for the safety of his settlement on the Red River, and asking from me an opinion, whether or not there is ground for such alarm.

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

I have reason to suppose that the communication alluded to, is the same that was made to His Majesty's government in February last, upon that subject. A copy of it was transmitted by Mr. Goulburn to the gentlemen representing the North-West company in London, who in my humble opinion returned a suitable and satisfactory answer to it at the time; but it would appear that this has not been considered sufficient, and the said company, according to his Lordship's insinuations, are still supposed to be capable of instigating the natives to massacre the settlers.

I cannot but express the feelings of indignation to which this calumny gives rise. I deny, in the most solemn manner, the allegations whereon this shameful accusation is founded: so far from their having any existence in truth, the contrary is the fact; for it can be proved, that the first year of his Lordship's settlement, the innocent people who had been enticed from their homes by his golden but delusive promises, and misrepresentations, had no other means of avoiding starvation, but the supplies which they derived from the stores of the North-West company; therefore had the principles of the body, or of those employed by them, been such as the Earl of Selkirk has been pleased to impute to them, there was no need of hostile Indians to interfere in the destruction of the settlement: hunger alone would speedily have accomplished the work.

The liberal sentiments which Sir Gordon Drummond is pleased to express for the North-West company, are highly flattering to that body, and I trust well merited; I should therefore be extremely sorry, and deem it highly improper to injure them in his opinion, by misrepresenting facts, upon whatever subject he did me the honour to ask my opinion. I therefore declare, that I am an utter stranger to any instigation, or any determination of the Indian nations to make any attack on the settlement in question; but I will not take upon me to say, that serious quarrels may not happen between the settlers and the nations, whose hunting grounds they have taken possession of, in the American style of injustice and land pillage, exclusive of the danger they run from the vicinity of the Sioux nation, who from time immemorial have made it a practice to make war on the Indians on the Red River, their permanent enemies, and upon the whites who are found in that country; many instances of which can be adduced, because the Indian nations, when in a state of hostility, consider the whites found in the country of their enemy, as being in his interest, and to be treated accordingly.

The arrogant and violent conduct of Lord Selkirk's agents, cannot well fail to produce such a result as the quarrels above mentioned. The Indians require no instigation