

winter, and were to furnish us with fresh buffaloe or other meat, to the amount of or equal to 175 bags of penican, which I had given them back of the provisions seized, on this express condition. Instead of complying with this, Mr. Cameron forbade the freemen to furnish us with any meat; and when we sent to those who owed debts to the settlement to make payment, he took care to be before-hand with us, sent his interpreters before us to get all these people had from them.

8. It was deemed a measure beneficial to the country, which would facilitate in general the procuring of provisions, that certain free Canadians and half-breeds, their children by Indian women, who made a practice of hunting the buffaloe at all seasons, should be restricted. The North-West gentlemen who passed the Summer in our vicinity, Messrs. Wills, J. Dugald Cameron, and Seraphim Lamar, encouraged me to give out an order against this practice, which I did before I left the settlement to go to York Fort. The people in general were well pleased with the restriction, as only a few of these had hunting horses, about five or six, the chief of whom was Beaulino, the North-West hunter. This order remained on the North-West gates, at the Forks and Brandon House, till taken down by the orders of Mr. Cameron. After his arrival, he informed the free Canadians and their children, that they should not be restricted in any way. In contradiction to this, he was heard to declare early in the Fall, that it was formerly no crime in the freemen to hunt for the colony, but that he would take good care they should not do so in future. These free Canadians were formerly in the service of the North-West company, and on becoming burthened with families and infirm, obtained permission to remain in the country, on condition of giving all the furs and provisions to the North-West company. They and their children stand much in awe of the North-West traders, who assume a right to their services whenever they choose to call on them, and threaten to take them to Canada if they disobey. These threats have often been put in execution; and men that served the concern the best part of their lives, have been separated from their families for taking advantage of a better price for their labour, than what the North-West company would give them.

9. Repeated accounts reached us from our people at Fort Daer (Pembina,) that the cattle were driven from our hunters by Beaulino the North-West hunter, and others, running them on horseback, on which account they were not getting much meat. Our people at Turtle River, and Mr. McLeod the Hudson's Bay trader there, made repeated complaints of the same nature; that our hunters could not kill a sufficiency of cattle; that when they would be crawling on their bellies after a herd of buffaloe on the snow, a party of horsemen would come before them and drive away the herd; that my immediate interference was required, or the consequences would be serious. The natives also complained of this mode of hunting, as they had not horses, and their fear of the Sioux would not admit of their pursuing after the cattle far. It appeared that the North-West were determined to counteract us in every way; their hunter Beaulino, who always kept 10 or 12 horses for running cattle, was the principal aggressor.

10. About the 10th January, I left the settlement, reached Fort Daer, and from thence Turtle River. Mr. McLean and some other settlers accompanied me, going to get meat for themselves. I left orders with Mr. Archibald McDonald, to send after us as many of the settlers as he should find most fit to go, to relieve the consumption of provisions in store: but these people, chiefly advised with Mr. Cameron, with whom they had now a constant intercourse; he of course advised them against going, to distress us the more, and consequently but few of them went.

11. I sent round from Turtle River to certain free Canadians indebted to the colony, to make payment of their debts. Mr. Cameron was before-hand with me, having sent couriers among them to get all they had, and circulate malicious reports that I intended to take their provisions by force, seize on all their horses, &c. &c.; even some of our own men helped to spread such reports. The more steady part of the free Canadians, gave no credit to such reports; but many did; and a number of them formed a camp along with 10 or 12 of the North-West company's servants, the whole headed by one of Mr. Cameron's interpreters, Peter Pangman Bostonois.

12. In the mean time, to procure a stock of meat, I employed from 20 to 30 Indians to kill cattle for us, and their women to dry the meat. The free Canadians and their half-breed children, were always very kind and attentive to our people when they met each other in the plains; they appeared to have changed their line of conduct this winter, particularly those of them who were attached to the North-West