

fort at the mouth of Winnipeg River. Half-way up Red River is a fort called "Pointe du Bois," some seventy-five or eighty miles south of the United States boundary line. At the mouth of the Assiniboine, where stood the Red Fort, there is marked a fort with the disappointing addition, "abandoned," showing that it could only have been occupied one year.

(2.) A map found in the Department of Marine, Paris, professing to be made after sketches by de la Verandrye, and claiming to be of date about 1740, gives Fort Rouge at the mouth of the Assiniboilles and on the south side of it. The direction of the Assiniboine is not quite accurate. (See Plate I. Map 1.)

(3.) Another map in Paris supplies a little further information. It is a "Map of the new discoveries in the west of Canada, prepared from the descriptions of M. de la Verandrye, and given to the Depot of Marine, Paris, by M. de la Galissoniere, 1750." In this map on the north side of the Riv. des Assiniboilles (*sic*) is given Fort de la Reine, where Portage la Prairie now stands. The lake is marked "Vnipigon." We again notice on the site of Fort Rouge, a fort marked and described as "Ancien Fort," fifteen or seventeen years having sufficed to give it its antiquity. In this map the direction of the Assiniboine is properly given. (See Plate I. Map 2.)

(4.) Thomas Jeffreys, Geographer to His Majesty of England, in a map and description in 1762, speaks of Fort Maurepas (on Lake Winnipeg) and Fort de la Reine (on the Assiniboine), and states that another fort was built on Rivière Rouge, but was deserted on account of its vicinity to the two named.

(5.) Another manuscript map in the Department of Marine, Paris, and bearing date 1750, figures a Fort Rouge on the Assiniboine at its mouth. In this map the direction of the Assiniboine is, again, somewhat wrong.

Of Fort Rouge no vestige now remains. The site of it must now, from the falling in of the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, be under water. A few years ago the writer ascertained from one of Lord Selkirk's colonists, who saw the locality in 1812, that there was not then a trace remaining of the Red Fort of seventy or eighty years before. Though the south bank of the Assiniboine at the point is now treeless, this informant says it was in 1812 fairly wooded. Undoubtedly the Red Fort, built in haste, and so soon to be abandoned, was little more than a rudely constructed log enclosure, erected on the clearing made just large enough to supply the material for its construction.

After the British conquest of Canada there is a break in the history of the Northwest. The change of rule paralyzed the fur trade of Montreal for a few years; but the love of adventure and the inducements of trade led Montreal merchants again to send their agents to the far interior. Three or four years after the Treaty of Paris in 1763, there is record of Montrealers penetrating by the canoe route even to the Saskatchewan. These were the merchants, Curry and Findlay. The rival traders from Hudson Bay built Fort Cumberland on the Saskatchewan in 1774. As to the occupation for trade of Red River itself, we know that Louis Nolin, whose descendants are still among the best of the Metis, arrived at Red River in 1776. Augustin Cadot, a Metis from Sault Ste. Marie in 1780, and Tous-saint Vandrie, a French interpreter, came about 1788. It was a necessity for each of the companies engaged in the fur trade to extend their agencies as far as possible, in order to counterwork each other. The Montreal traders further saw the necessity of combination if they would successfully oppose the Hudson's Bay Company. The union of Frobisher.