

THE SWISS COLONISTS IN MANITOBA.



We are indebted to our friend, Mr. E. A. Bulger, for the loan of a number of original letters with reference to the above subject. Mr. Bulger's father was Commandant at Fort Douglas, and the information furnished is extremely valuable, enabling us to supplement the article in our April number, and also to correct some mis-statements.

Probably in consequence of clerical errors in the M.S. furnished to us, we stated the name of the Earl of Selkirk to be Thomas *Dundas* instead of *Douglas*, and the Governor of the Hudson Bay Company as *Alexander McDowell* instead of *McDonell*.

We also stated that Fort Douglas was situated on the west branch of Red River, "*near* the site of the present Fort Garry," whereas, from an early plan of Winnipeg, the property of Mr. Bulger, it is clearly shown that Fort Douglas stood on a fork of the river several miles distant from Fort Garry.

The agent of Earl Selkirk, who was mainly instrumental in inducing the Swiss settlers to emigrate to the Red River, is described as

"M. Rodolphe de May d'Utzenstorf Burgeois de Berne, Capitaine au Service Britannique, et Commissaire Plenipotentiaire du Comte de Selkirk m'oblige pour lui et en son nom, comme possesseur de la Colonie de la Riviere Rouge et des terres a elle appartenantes dans l'Amerique Septentrionale."

It is clear that Captain May exceeded his authority in his promises to the intending emigrants, and even before they left Switzerland murmurings and discontent had arisen, the following letter will show that even the abandonment of the project was imminent:—