

Hudson's Bay Company. It was Lord Selkirk who caused the first survey of his own settlement to be made, very many years before either Goulet or Sabine came to Red River. It was done shortly after the arrival of the first settlers (*z*) in the colony in August, 1812. No actual date can be fixed for the commencement or ending of the survey, but, as has been seen (*a*), in the summer of 1813 or 1814, mentioned in the Parliamentary Report of 1819, "the surveyor of the colony, in laying out some lots for settlers, insisted upon running one of his lines through the middle of the garden of the North-West Company's post, which, after some opposition, was submitted to." Mr. Ross states (*b*) that when Lord Selkirk came to Red River in 1817, Mr. Fidler (*c*), the surveyor, had run

(*z*) *Ante*, pp. 7, 9.

(*a*) *Ante*, p. 9.

(*b*) *Ante*, p. 11.

(*c*) This was Mr. Peter Fidler, born August 16, 1769, a very well-known officer in the service of the Company. He was stated to have made the survey of the District of Assiniboia when it was conveyed to Lord Selkirk. His name is frequently mentioned in the Parliamentary Report of 1819, and in the Reports of Trials at Montreal and York. He was a man of education, and his will, made at "Norway House, Winipie River (*sic*), North America," on August 16, 1821, describes him as "Surveyor and Trader for the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company." In the latter part of the following year he died, and was buried at Fort Dufferin. His will is a very interesting one. He leaves "all my manuscript Journals, beginning in 1791 and continued regularly since 1796 to the present date or time of my decease; also four or five vellum-bound books containing fair copies, etc., of the narratives of my former journeys, astronomical and meteorological observations made by me in different parts of the interior of Hudson's Bay; also all my manuscript maps of the aforesaid places, the rough copies of my thermometrical observations," to the committee of the Company. This invaluable collection the Company disclaims all knowledge of, both in London and Canada—a very great loss indeed. He further gave his library of about five hundred books (a great collection in Rupert's Land in those days) and all his printed maps, two sets of twelve-inch globes, a large achromatic telescope, a Wilson's microscope, a brass sextant by Blunt, a barometer and several thermometers, to the Governor of the Red River Colony in trust for the public benefit, "but none of the things to be lent out of the Government House of the said Colony," all declared to be "for the general good of all those colonists settled in the lands of the Earl of Selkirk in Assiniboia."