

lonization was only very partially carried out, and having failed at home, Earl Selkirk turned his attention to the distressed Swiss. He prepared and caused to be published in the French and German languages, a pamphlet giving a full but somewhat exaggerated description of the new country, its climate, soil, and productions, and offered to all heads of families, or those who were unmarried and over 21 years of age, land free of cost, with seeds, cattle and farming implement, all on a credit of three years. The pamphlet was freely distributed by Lord Selkirk's agents in the French speaking Cantons of Neuchatel, Vaud and Geneva, and in the German-speaking Canton of Berne. Many young and middle-aged men in these cantons, having become weary of the condition of affairs at home, decided to emigrate to British America under the auspices of Lord Selkirk, and formed a colony for that purpose. In the May of 1821 the colonists assembled at a small village on the Rhine, near Basle, and were floated down the river on two flat-bottomed barges. At the end of ten days they reached a village near Rotterdam, where a ship, the *Lord Wellington*, was in readiness to take them to the New World. They had a distressing voyage of nearly four months, during which their provisions, which were at no time of the quality promised, fell short. Falling in with two English vessels in Hudson Bay, they had their stock replenished, and at length landed at York Fort. The colonists were embarked in batteaux, and commenced the ascent of Nelson River. Propelling their heavy-laden boats by rowing often against a strong current, at the end of twenty days Lake Winnipeg was reached, and here new troubles awaited them. The season was advanced, the fall storms had set in, and their progress along the west shore of the lake, 260 miles in length, was slow and laborious. After a day's hard labouring, often against head winds, the little fleet of boats would put into some sheltered spot, where the weary