

dicade in such cases as might arise, and to give legal advice to the Company in its complicated business. Alexander Ross argues at some length against the need of this, but his reasons show he had little comprehension of the principles on which alone communities can advance. Sir George Simpson had met the young lawyer and political writer in Montreal, and offered Mr. Thom, on the completion of his engagement with Lord Durham, the new judgeship then decided on; and, accordingly, the first Recorder of Rupert's Land, or he is also called the President of the Red River Court, left England, came by way of New York, and reached Fort Garry in the spring of 1839. Sir George Simpson was credited with great shrewdness in making the appointments for the Hudson Bay Company. It is evident from the very considerable salary—£700 sterling a year—paid the new judge at a time when incomes were ridiculously low on Red River, as well as from the unanimous opinions of Ross, Bishop Mountain, Rev. John Ryerson, and James Hargrave, the historian of the Hudson Bay Company, that Adam Thom was a man of decided ability, upright character and very extensive reading. It would seem to one now that a lawyer who had practised longer at the bar, and who had not been so pronounced as a publicist in Montreal, would have made a more impartial judge; but the fact that for ten years he administered law in the courts without complaint, would seem to show that the troubles, which arose in the later years of his judgeship, arose rather from the inevitable conflict between the Company and the people than from any fault of his.

We turn aside, for a little, to look at the career of Mr. Thom's college friend, John McCallum, who, as we have seen, came in 1833 to Red River, to establish what to-day has become St. John's College, with its affiliated schools; and it may be premised that in him we have one of the truest and most practical men of the old Red River Settlement. With the aid of his superior, Rev. Mr. Jones, buildings were erected between the southwest corner of the present St. John's churchyard and the river bank. In the year 1836, Mr. McCallum married the daughter of Chief Factor Charles, of the H.B. Co. The school steadily grew, and five years after its founding, Rev. Mr. Jones returned to England. Mr. McCallum then became head of the institution, so that, when the old friends from Aberdeen met at Red River, the one, Judge Thom, was the head of the legal, the other, McCallum, of the educational interests of the wide extent of Rupert's Land. Originally, the boarding school had been begun under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, but at the time of the visit to Red River, in 1844, of Dr. Mountain, Bishop of Montreal, a change had taken place, for he says, "It is now conducted by Mr. McCallum on his own account with the help of an allowance from the company. It is really a nice establishment, and the premises attached to it have more neatness and finish than is common in young and remote settlements. The youths have a separate garden for their own amusement." Mr. McCallum had by his patience and industry taken such a hold on the community, that on the visit of the Bishop of Montreal it was deemed advisable to ordain him, which event took place on the 7th of July, 1844. Mr. McCallum's duties not only included the school but for the next three years the incumbency of the parish church, which then reckoned amongst its hearers all the people of Kildonan. Judge Thom had for