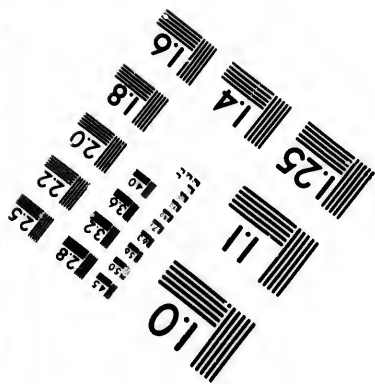
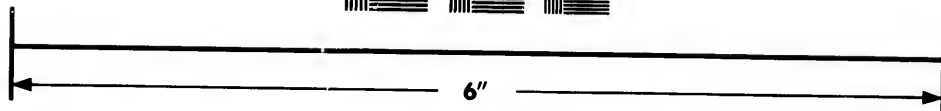
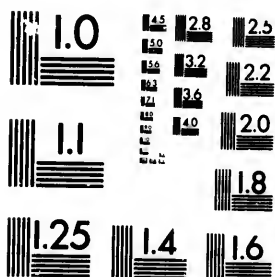


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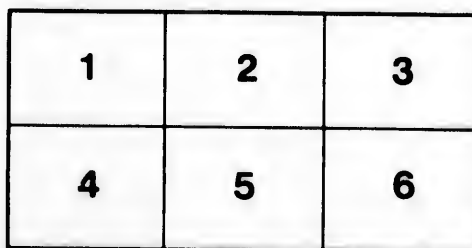
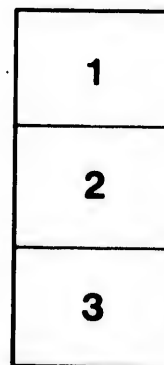
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(NOTE F.)

SELKIRK SETTLEMENT.

LETTER BOOK OF CAPTAIN MILES MACDONELL

(From Archives : Selkirk Correspondence.)

TO THE RT. HONBLE. THE EARL OF SELKIRK.

YARMOUTH, 27th June, 1811.

MY LORD,—We have been singularly unfortunate in winds since setting out. While at Shcerness waiting for convoy we lost two or three days of fair winds, and since then they have been generally adverse. Two copies of the Prospectus and one of my Instructions I have the honour to enclose herewith. The instructions are very clear and distinct, nothing occurs to me at present to be added to them. The temporary Land Grants of 5 or 10 acres, directed to be given in the environs of the fort in case of danger to be apprehended from Indians, I suppose may be given in Lease at an easy rent to be paid in produce. A certificate of the Farm Lots may be given in the meantime until the regular patent arrives. I have searched all Yarmouth for brass Pieces, but without any success. We are so very late that I suppose the Pelican Ripple, on the Red River, will be our wintering place for this year if we can reach it.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

MILES MACDONELL.

YARMOUTH, 4th July, 1811.

MY LORD,—I wrote to Your Lordship from here on the 27th ulto., enclosing copies of Prospectus and Instructions. Since then I received Your Lordship's letter of 19th June (by Capt. Turner of ship King George, which arrived here on 30th) the contents of which shall be attended to when we arrive at Stornoway, but that appears to be as distant as ever.

We remained fast here with contrary winds till the 2nd inst., altho' the weather was moderate the convoy could not move. On the 2nd we made 20 miles against a head wind in two tides, and yesterday were driven back here by a strong gale from the northward.

I am surprised that Capt. Roderick should so far exceed his Instructions in promising such high wages. I suppose he was anxious to procure a number in the general defection of his people. This reminds me of part of my Instructions when in Ireland, where the wages of overseers were left to discretion, and omitted since to learn from your Lordship what wages that description of people were to be allowed.

The detention here is unfortunate & I fear will destroy our expectation of getting into the interior this winter, however, all that's possible shall be effected.

I enclose herewith names of some persons in Ireland, &c., who may probably become shareholders in the scheme, & have subjoined some part of my own observations on these persons, for your Lordships Information. Many others that I yet know nothing of in that Country will undoubtedly join in the Scheme, & once it has gained sufficient strength in Ireland & the Highlands of Scotland, no individual opposition can effect much; unless the Government decide against it—but this I think cannot take place. The settlement will be a great check to the Americans

extending themselves in that quarter, & as there is some prospect of a rupture with them, we may soon be able to cause them annoyance on their back frontier.

Sir A— has pledged himself so decidedly opposed to this project that he will try every means in his power to thwart it. Besides, I am convinced he was no friend to your Lordship even before this came on the carpet.

The wind falls a little, I am in hopes we may get away in the morning.

I have the honor to be, with high respect,

Your Lordships, &c.,

MILES MACDONELL.

STORNOWAY, 25th July, 1811.

MY LORD,—Our fleet put in at Stromness by contrary winds on the 15th instant, where the Prince of Wales remained to take the men on board. The Eddystone, and Edwd. & Anne, &c., left Stromness the evening of the same day and arrived here on the 17th instant. On going ashore I was honored with Your Lordships letters of 21st, 22nd, 29th June, & 2nd July. Of Capt. Roderick's people then there, 32 in number, exclusive of James Young, 12 of them are engaged as writers & 20 as labourers. Ten of the labourers are at £25 yearly wages. They would not by any means consent to have wages reduced; and the offer of land at the end of one year's service they did not think sufficiently advantageous. The land they altogether make very light of. Upon the whole, I judged it more beneficial to the concern that they should be kept for the full period, as their labour for the two last years will be better than that of the first, & sending them home at the expiration of one year would be incurring a heavy expense without receiving much benefit from them to compensate it. It is an unfortunate circumstance that they were engaged different from the others, which will always be a source of grievance and discontent. Many of them said they would not have engaged had they not been promised such wages, & I suppose Capt. Roderick was anxious to send a number forward to make up in some shape for the defection of so many others whom he had engaged.

I had them warned to assemble by themselves to talk with them; & first spoke to two separate to find out their disposition. On the return of these to the others there was a general clamour, saying that they were going to be imposed upon, &c. It was then necessary to address the whole body and assure them that no alteration would be made in their agreements. Others wanted an augmentation to their pay, saying that if I had power to reduce I could add. From the fewness of our numbers, besides the loss it might occasion to Capt. Roderick (who, I believe, has not been wanting in exertions) it would never do to let any of them return home. The Captain must be at some loss with Young; but the wages to him were enormous, & I am astonished he could think of making such a contract without orders—he says there was not time.

There are only 14 of the Irish besides Mr. Bourke; few, instead of 70 that were promised. Mr. Everard's letter to me, a copy of which I enclose, throws some light on the subject.—It appears from it that none of the Galway men reached Sligo, altho' he had advice from the house of Graham & Co. of their being on the route. He mentions to have enclosed their letters to him on this business but has omitted to do it. My letter to Mr. Everard I enclose open for your Lordships perusal, to be afterwards forwarded.

Mr. Bourke I find has already commenced a correspondence with Your Lordship. His reply to the Highlanders shows at least some spunk and zeal for the cause he is engaged in. He speaks Irish, French, Spanish, &c., &c., and might be very useful; but he is unfortunately fond of a sup of the *creature* to which he is but too much addicted. He appears however to have influence among the people of the D.strict h

is from, Killala; all of Mr. Everard's list are from that part except two or three that are from Sligo.

Mr. Charles McLean is here with 20 men; 14 of them are from Lewis & 3 of these are writers, the whole is expected to be embarked to-day. The Prince has arrived from Stromness with 59 men, so that I expect the total will be about 125. There is a boat builder among the men from Orkney, but it has defied me to get boys here to put apprentices to him. There has never any people been taken before from this Island, & it is much owing to the exertions & influence of Mr. Robertson & Mr. Donald Mackenzie, a merchant here, that so many are now got. An ample supply of the Inverness Journal containing The Highlander, has been sent here, & great pains taken to disseminate them about the country; they sent to people who were not in the habit of receiving News papers, & I am told to many who could not read them. They were equally abundant in the Orkneys & I suppose throughout all the Highlands & Isles. If that piece originated in London I should expect to find in it more candour, knowledge of the country, & regard to truth, than it contains; but some part is not unlike the language that was held out there to discourage & dissuade people from embarking in the enterprise.

The choice of a suitable successor from among my people is as yet not easily made, they are all so very ignorant of what is to be done. There is no saying what effect experience may have; but at present there is not a person among them that has any idea of what they are going to do beyond the individual business they were severally engaged for in London. As to taking general management & direction of affairs, it is out of the question. I hope I shall be spared till things are got fairly agoing, & once in proper train it will not be so difficult a task for another to keep them so.

Your Lordship's letter of 9th current is come to hand—I do not think it now possible to get into the interior this winter. Seal Island will consequently afford us the only chance of useful exertion for this season unless we have a very extraordinary passage. If timber and other materials can be had contiguous to the place something will of course be done to forward that object, & the soundings of the river Nelson may be taken. I can only communicate from Y. F. what resources may be calculated on for the support of people to be sent out next year. I think we may provide shelter & support for a few families.

Some of the clerks or writers have already received advances to the amount of their first year's wages. No orders have been given by the Co. for the destination of these young men, or in what manner they were to be treated on board of the ships—there are 15 of them—I have taken upon myself to put two in the Prince of Wales for the Southern Factories, & the rest go in the Edward & Anne for Y. F. So many could not be messed in her cabin, and a place has been divided off between Decks, where they are to lodge & mess by themselves, to have a cook and the necessary attendance. Tea, Sugar, Bread, &c., was purchased here for the purpose. The two clerks put on board the Prince of Wales, to avoid distinction, are to lodge & mess in the steerage. This arrangement will save a considerable sum of money to the Co. as otherwise the Captain would charge 10 guineas for every person messing in the Cabin. It is very unpleasant for me, a stranger to the Coys. affairs to take those things upon myself—but no person appeared to have directions or instructions; I was looked to to decide, & have acted to the best of my judgment for the interests of the concern. It has drawn upon me the displeasure of the writers who all expected to be Cabin passengers. They were while on shore with a few exceptions, as irregular in their conduct & troublesome as the common hired men.

The labourers as well as writers have had very large advances made to them for Clothes, &c., exclusive of board, lodging, &c., so that should any accident befall the ships from sea hazard or the enemy by which the Coy. might be deprived of the services of these people, the loss would be very great. Besides personal advances, which in time may be counterbalanced by their wages, should everything go on prosperously after this, the aggregate expenses for board, lodging, and accommodation for so long a time, is unparalleled & an irremediable loss. Sending off one ship early to receive the passengers on board as they arrived, would avoid all this needless expense. If

the Coy's affairs in this particular be not better conducted in future, the Country trade however successful cannot (in my opinion) support it. The cause of evil is so near home that it can easily be remedied in future. Matters this year are most disastrous.

All the men that we shall have are now embarked, but it has been a Herculean labour I had to apply to the Capt. of the Convoy for a party of Marines, & it was necessary to go through the Ceremony of having some impressed & put on board the man of war. One man had enlisted with a recruiting party, but he is taken from them and shipped. Five have entirely absconded; two of them of Capt. Roderick's list, Mr. Cambridge & another, & three of Mr. McLean's party. The Collector of this place Mr. Reid, an old, weak & dissipated man (although I asked him to dinner & made him drunk) has thrown every impediment in our way, & has armed himself against us with all the formalities of the Customs to which he has exacted a rigid compliance from all the ships, & to which we were fortunately able to conform. Mr. Reid has been holding out to the people that we had no power to compel them to embark, and that we could only seek redress by law for the nonperformance of Contracts made & advances given them.

Mr. James Robertson, the Comptroller, is a fine steady & honest fellow, a candid upright & genuine Highland Gentleman. He has been indefatigable to forward our affairs & has rendered important services in every manner in his power. Without his assistance we should not have succeeded so well as we have done. He will of course give an Account of the enormous outlays here, as nothing has been done without him. It was found necessary to purchase a quantity of Biscuit for the Winter, & to give half allowance of bread & meat to all the other passengers.

The Cattle cannot be taken out this Year without delaying three days longer to prepare a place for them; and that delay would not now be prudent, & besides, the quantity of water they would require cannot be stowed. I do not recollect to have heard anything from your Lordship about the destination of them. I have got from Mr. Robertson two iron swivels chosen from among those belonging to Lord Seaforth at this place. They are light and manageable—next year we may receive a couple of sound brass pieces.

Canvas for Boat Sails and Cordage has been purchased here amounting to £.6.6.9. Mr. Hillier will require some part of it which shall be noted when delivered. Mr. Everard's letter I enclose, instead of the Copy first intended to be sent, with other papers relative to transactions at Sligo.

I have drawn on Your Lordship for £18.2 in favour of Capt. Roderick McDonald which sum is to be charged to my a^c. Letters from Canada for me may yet probably be sent to the care of Messrs. Morland & Co., and I wish Your Lordship will be pleased to take charge of them.

A mean fellow of the name McKenzie, called a Captain, who was last year agent here for the C^o, has to-day while Capt. Gull was on shore clearing out of the Custom House, gone on board the Edw^d & Ann with a Recruiting party, and with his own hand given money as Inlisting money to some of our men; the men he not allowed to take away and himself and party were sent from the ship. The Collector of the Customs, Mr. Robertson and a clerk, came late this afternoon to visit all the ships and muster the people. After visiting the Prince of Wales & the Eddy, and calling over the rolls of the men, I accompanied them to the Edward and Ann which contained the greatest number of the people—the Glasgow men, Irish and a few from Orkney, amounting altogether to about 76. McKenzie with a party of soldiers were in a separate boat and came alongside claiming some of the men as deserters from His Majesty's service. I stopped him from coming up the ship's side, the Collector and his clerk, a Mr. McIvor, said there must be no violence; he was not however allowed to come on board. After the muster was gone through, the Clause of the Emigration Act regulating the provisions for passengers was read then most officiously, a public declaration was made to know if every man was satisfied, & if he was going entirely with his own free will and consent, as that they might go on shore. Several said they were not willing—many went

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the ship's side into McKenzie's Boat—one party ran away with the ship's boat but were brought back—one man jumped into the sea and swam for it until he was picked up by Recruiting Boat.—The Revenue Cutter's boat was likewise very active in taking men away, & the Collector took some ashore with himself in his boat.

This My Lord is a most unfortunate business. I cannot now state what number we may be able to take along, the delay for these last two days by the Custom House has occasioned all this, and the manifest part taken by the Collector, his friends and adherents against this business. It is a question, having all our men engaged as Indentured Servants, whether we should come under the Emigration Act. Mr. Blair has even declared off & gone on shore. The Collector has pledged himself to refund the advances made to him. I can say no more, it is now late at night & the Packet I fear will leave me. I condole with Your Lordship for all these cross accidents.

I am, Your Lordship, &c.,
MILES MACDONELL.

Mem: put on board the Packet boat at 11 o'clock at night—As she was hoisting her sails & under weigh—the mail having been closed, but Capt. promised to take particular charge of it, addressed under cover to Willm. Kerr, Esqr., Genl. Post office, Edinburgh.

Wrote a few lines to the Earl of Selkirk on the morning of the 26th & gave it in charge of Jas. Robertson, Esqr., Comptroller of the Customs, of which there was no copy kept— M. Mc. D.

To the Earl of Selkirk,

MY LORD,

Y.F. HUDSON'S BAY, 1st Oct., 1811.

I had the honor to address Your Lordship fully from Stornoway on the 25th, & a few hurried lines on the morning of the 26th July; and had a letter written to put on board the Convoy, but she parted with us (2nd August, Lat: 59°, 50' N., Long: 17°, 46' W.) when it blew hard & our ship being far from her, had not an opportunity of sending letters.

Mr. Moncrieff Blair went on shore the morning of the 25th July on pretence of some business, where he thought proper to remain. The first knowledge I had of it was from Collector Reid when he came in the afternoon to be present at the Muster- ing of the people;—he asked me for Mr. Blair's baggage offering his own security for advances made and damages that might accrue.—In consequence of the bustle occasioned by the disagreeable affair of that evening, the Collector went on shore without the baggage & sent no person for it before our sailing next morning. Had Mr. Blair made application to me at any time before or after embarking I would have allowed him to depart with all his effects—but I did not expect that a Gentle- man who came so well recommended could think of taking himself off by stealth- the ship. This conduct on shore did not prepossess me in his favor: he was rather inclined to intemperance as well as some others of the engaged writers, his associates who were ready to catch at every discontent among the men as applying to themselves.—His baggage shall be sent back by the return of the ship, I am sorry for the inconven- ience which the want of it may occasion him in the mean time, although it is entirely his own bad management. Mrs. Reid, wife of the Collector at Stornoway, is aunt to Sir A. McK — & he called Capt. McKenzie, is married to a daughter of the Collector: these with all their adherents are in a united opposition to Mr. Rob- ertson, & perhaps influenced in some degree from London to act as they did. I did not know of this connection when at Stornoway, but it may serve to account in some respect for the indecent conduct of that party. If an idea could have been formed that such a low trick was to be played, it might easily have been prevented— the Edwd. & Ann after receiving the passengers on board should have shifted from where she was (being the innermost ship) to outside the Convoy & the Convoy's

boat could pick up the stragglers. There is now no remedy but to be guarded at all points in future. The greater part of the runaways might have been recovered had we remained in harbour only until 12 o'clock that day; but Capt. Hanwell's hurry and impatience drove us out so early in the morning altho' the wind was contrary. It was with great exertion that Mr. Robertson overtook the hindmost ship, to embark two young men who had been engaged for the Company's service, a considerable distance out.

Not one of the young men who came from Glasgow engaged as writers, brought a Matress or Blanket—they say they were told by Capt. Roderick that everything should be furnished to them at Stornoway—such articles were not to be had there. The stores from Ireland came into play, great part of which have been consumed on the passage for the use of the writers &c. an account of which expenditure I enclose.

I forward a general return of the number of men, effective and non effective according to the Lists which have reached me; by this your Lordship will see our strength at one view, & deficiency from non appearance & desertion; our total numbers on board all the ships amount only to 90 labourers & 15 writers including Mr. Bourke; making a grand total of 105, exclusive of us who embarked at Gravesend.—The Irish band were not more troublesome than the others—the people from Glasgow were at first the most turbulent & dissatisfied.—The Orkney men being accustomed to it think nothing of a voyage to Hudson's Bay, but as they formerly when going out fared the same as the ship's Company, they were displeas'd on account of the provisions & serv'd to increase the discontent of the others.

On the 12th September in Hudson's straits, the shifting of some part of the goods & passengers took place in the different ships, much against the inclination of Captain Hanwell, who saw in that movement the loss of his Command, as afterwards each ship was to make the best of its way to its destined port. The desertion from Stornoway from the Edwd. & Ann took place after the General distribution had been made & each ship had received the number of men allotted to her. It was my intention to replace in part this desertion by taking a few from the two other ships, that each might bear its share of the loss—but the Commodore would not part with any of the men the Co's Agent had put on board his ship, being 22 men all from Orkney & besides these, took two more from the Eddystone without my knowledge, after he had left the ship. This proceeding surpris'd me, not expecting that he had any contrivance to the destination of the people.

I took with me 8 men from the Eddystone to the Edwd & Ann—with this augmentation the number on board was 53, labourers & Artificers collectively. Thirty of these I expect to have for the settlement; & from the remainder Mr. Hanwell's party may be formed, not conceiving it to be the intention of the Co. that the clerks and writers were for one part of the Country, I permitted three to volunteer into the Prince of Wales for the south Factories, and two others to go in the Eddystone to Churchill, & desired the Captains to mess them in their Cabins.

The passage has been of uncommon length, & for a summer one very boisterous.—On the morning of the 6th Sept. we discovered land (Button's Island) & were from that day to the 15th in getting thro' the straits. After entering the straits we daily saw a number of lumps of ice called by the seamen Islands, of these some were small, & others appeared the size of two or three Acres in circumference, and about 150 feet high. As we kept at a distance from land in obedience to the Signals of the Commodore, saw nothing of the natives, which was a great disappointment. The Country on both sides of the strait appeared to be high naked rocks, & with the exception of a little snow or ice which I imagine they are never clear of, are not very different like the west coast of Sutherlandshire & part of Rosshire. At the upper part of the straits we met a quantity of flat ice, which gave us no interruption but that we lay to for one night with a fair wind. On the Ocean we had an uncommon share of boisterous, stormy and cold weather—but after entering Hudson's Bay we experienced a course of fine, mild weather and moderate fair winds. Arrived here on the 24th September after a passage of 61 days from Stornoway, the longest and longest ever known to H. Bay.

guarded at all recoverd had anwell's hurry was contrary to ship, to emice, a consider- Of all the occurrences which have opposed themselves this Year against our undertakings, the late arrival here of the vessels is the worse in its consequences. Notwithstanding the late sailing from England, the ships might arrive earlier were each one to make the best of its way after the Convoy left them; & should there be a necessity afterwards to join for shifting of Cargo &c., a general rendezvous might be made in Hudson's Strait. I am convinced the Edwd. & Ann & Eddystone could have made the voyage in a shorter time were they not fettered by the Commodore's signals.—Capt Hanwell is a timid, over cautious seaman, above taking advice, self sufficient & stubborn. The day after the shifting took place the other two vessels were far ahead of his, & shortly afterwards lost sight of him by superior manœuvring. I hope he may make good his voyage.—Our two ships kept together till we were one hundred miles to the westward of Mansfield Island.—The Commodore kept us for 15 days together cruising in Lat. 57 N. & about the Long. of Cape Farewell; during which time with the winds we had, might have gained a considerable distance to the northward—he could not think himself safe within a less distance than two degrees of latitude from the Cape. The Co., in my opinion, would profit in allowing him to retire, were they to give him a pension. Captain Ramsay, from unwieldiness & ill health, is likewise unfit for any service. It is certainly unpleasant to discard old servants, but were they permitted to retire with a gratuity, it could not be deemed a hardship, and that would be preferable to having them continued to sail in the ships as supernumeraries.

I am surprised the Co. never directed a survey to be made of the Coast on each side H. straits. From the appearance of the Country there must be many harbours & inlets for vessels to go into in case of an accident from ice, want of water, &c. We were often ourselves much in doubt for the accomplishment of our voyage, had we been under the necessity of putting back, must have suffered for want of water. Two of the ships, without any additional expense, might execute this survey in the voyage out, with only the detention of a few days, one taking the north & the other the south shore. Should such a survey be directed to be made, Mr. Benjamin Hall, first mate of the Eddystone, would be a very proper person to be employed. He is a courageous, able & good seaman—has a good knowledge of Navigation, Astronomy, &c., &c., & is a Draftsman. I should like to see him promoted to the command of a ship, and feel a conviction that the Co's. service would benefit by his abilities and good conduct.

The Edwd. & Ann was very ill fitted out for a northern voyage. Old sails, ropes &c. and very weakly manned. Her whole crew consisted of 16 persons, including the Captain, mates, and three small boys, the passengers were of great assistance, without them I know not what she would have done. I am surprised the Co. would charter & send her off in that state. The Co's own ships have more men than required—Prince of Wales 32, and the Eddystone 28 including all hands. I am informed that 20 effective seamen would be a good sufficient crew for any of the ships—the wages & expenses of the surplus of hands would be a considerable saving.

Mr. Edwards had much professional practice on the voyage—He attended the ship's company; several of the passengers were ill—some of the writers were ill in consequence of imprudence on shore & a quantity of our medicines has been expended. One of the writers Mr. Stevens I believe is to be sent back on account of a bad complaint. The effects left by the deserters from us at Stornoway were sold by tender among the passengers, and made the amount of £27 sterg & were larged to the different purchasers— None of the young men made any progress learning the Gaelic or Irish languages on the voyage. I had some drills of the people with arms—the weather was generally so boisterous and but few days we had an unobscured sky at a person could stand steady on deck. There never was a more awkward squad— Hudson's Bay at a man or even officer of the party knew how to put a gun to his eye or had ever fired a shot.

I am not fully satisfied with the Revd. Mr. Bourke and would wish to know what character he bore in his own Country—Your Lordship might get every infor-

mation concerning him from the R. C. Bishop of Killala, from whose diocese he is thro' Mr. Everard at Maynooth. He tells me that he came away without the leave of the Bishop who was at the time at Dublin. A report must be made of him at Quebec as now belonging to that Diocese. He is however, very zealous for the increase of our Colony, he assures me he can get thousands to come out from Mayne has written very encouraging letters to his own relations there, and wrote letters for almost every one of his flock to their friends in the same encouraging strain. He wishes to become a shareholder in the concern. He is related to Mr. Everard at Sligland

I found every facility & readiness both from Mr. Auld, & Mr. Cook the Governor to this place, to meet Your Lordship's views to forward the Colony, consistent with the duty to the affairs of the Company. They, as well as a great number of the Copers officers & other servants in the Country, feel interested in its success, & loon towards it as a future asylum for themselves & their numerous offspring.—I am informed that many of the Company's servants & others from the N. W. Co who have served their time, & have families with Indian women will be induced to jotory as soon as they see a settlement begun on a permanent footing.—Many of these are worth money and can afford to pay well for land—Your Lordship will please to send me Instructions respecting such people.

The Eddystone has now arrived here with all her passengers & Cargo without being able to get to Churchill. This affords an additional supply of men not wanted by the Company. I am therefore allowed to Augment my number to 35 labourers & artificers. I have taken all Capt. Roderick's men, the Lewis men, with a portia of Irish; the rest of my list will be filled up by a selection from Orkney—there are besides a number of Orkney men here going home, who have served out their time. I expect to be able to prevail on some of these to remain for one or two years—as experienced men their service will be important to assist in ascending the waters next spring.

Mr. Auld had previous to my arrival sent orders to the different Posts in every Red River Country to procure & save as much provisions as possible for the use of the ensuing year—and says that even had this not been done, there could be no apprehension of any want of Buffalo meat, from the vast abundance of the Country. This being the case I think an accommodation may be provided there for 45 to 50 passengers to be sent out next year for the settlement, among whom may be 8 or many families.—Boats for this number will be ready here for taking them up.—Each will require two expert men accustomed to rapids & poling, some such might be procured in the Orkneys who have been formerly in the Cos. service, by making early application, and they ought to be engaged under a penalty to be fit for the service which they undertake. The Factory can furnish some men of this description as soon as their people come down with the Furs, which is always before the arrival of the ships. Tents of Imitation sheeting will be required to protect the people from the rain, flies, &c., in ascending the waters, they will serve parties in different successive years, & may afterwards be of use for straw beds, bags, & chairs of the settlement. Even the C^m. men have tents, & families cannot possibly dispense with them,—the simplest and most convenient is the Military tent with a ridge & to contain six soldiers with their arms & knapsacks.—Leather of old tents can be furnished here for covering the goods in the boats, instead of oil cloths which would be expensive.

The Boats used here carry 30 pieces of 90 lb each, & are navigated by 5 men. Our boats are entirely disapproved of altho' far lighter & easier constructed than others. I will not give up the utility of flat bottoms for river navigation what may be their opinion, & shall prove them to be of use next spring by going up them. The people here have never seen anything that is used in other parts of America.—My axes & some other tools are objects of great wonder, & condemn without mercy. I am sorry to find Holtzapffel's axes very badly tempered—edge of the first one tried broke in cutting a soft poplar stick. The Blacksmith may, however, soften them. In England they do not understand the tempering of edged tools to stand in cold countries.

An extraordinary inundation occurred this spring on the South or Pembina branch of the Red River, which overflowed its banks the extent of 4 miles on each side of the river into the Country while the Northern branch was not more swollen than usual. This flood was occasioned by the melting of snows which fell last winter towards the source of that uncommonly great. Such a circumstance has not been before in the memory of the oldest Indian, & perhaps may (*sic*) happen again.

I have written to the agents at Stornoway, Glasgow & Sligo; & two Highland lads from Stornoway engaged as writers, wrote letters to their friends there expressive of the good treatment of the passengers: this will serve to contradict the false reports, that may, & of course will be circulated by evil minded & prejudiced persons.—One of these lads John McLeod, I am inclined to take on the R. R. S. list on account of the connection; he is well known there & his statements will be attended to.

The river Nelson is little known, & the accounts given of it are very contradictory. Mr. Fidler came down it, & reports the navigation to be very practicable, & the distance by it to the Lake Winipic shorter, and fewer carrying places than that by the common route. Your Lordship will have an opportunity of seeing Fidler as he is going home this year on account of the death of some of his friends—all accounts agree in one circumstance, that the Nelson is a month later before it is clear of ice than Hayes River. Mr. Auld intends going up it to Lake Winipic next summer & will of course make minute remarks. I should like to accompany him, with a portout must be along with my people on the other route—as it would not be prudent to there an unknown road by which we might be detained and lose the season. Mr. Hillier and my self will take the soundings of the mouth of the Nelson next spring, as far up as Seal Island. The water of it is very high at present & there is no time for doing it.

At this late season the men cannot be employed to serve the Co. in any respect—every possible exertion & dispatch is required to get them & ourselves under cover such situations where fresh meat can be procured throughout the winter, as none of us can be accommodated at the Factory. I am to cross immediately, with all my officers & people to the North side of the Nelson where Deer are said to abound.—Mr. Hillier with a party of officers & men is to be my neighbour. I expect to bring a *Caber Féigh* to the ground this winter with Your Lordship's rifle.

Last winter was the severest ever known in those parts—game disappeared & many of the improvident natives perished thro' cold & want. The Thermometer was 49½ degrees below 0.—It is well that it is past, & to be hoped this may be a mild one. We have had the Thermometer already at 8 & 9 degrees below 0, two successive nights, & we have now snow on the ground.—It is therefore time for those who are without houses to begin building. I hope that none of our Assiniboia people are so late again as to be under the necessity of wintering at this place. The cross accidents of this year could not have been foreseen—the late sailing of the beds, bags, & ships can be guarded against in future; wintering here, altho' attended with expense & loss of time, will give our people the advantage of acquiring some experience & practice in useful labour.—I was aware of considerable difficulties in prosecuting a scheme, which a desire to forward Your Lordship's views led me to undertake.—The troubles attendant on it have already exceeded my expectation: I feel a confidence however that we shall be able to surmount every difficulty, & altho' much retarded in the progress hitherto, the object is very attainable, & Your Lordship need not be under any apprehension for us.—With high respect, I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships most obt. & most humble servant

MILES MACDONELL.

P. S. The boats that take us up next summer, & those for the people who follow the same season, may all be sent down the following year in time to bring up

settlers when they arrive, provided that I have men with me acquainted with rapids.—The sooner that a vessel can be built on Lake Winipic the better; as then the boats need not proceed up further than the entrance of it. The lake is reported to be very shoal, particularly near the shore where boats are accustomed to go, but even should this be found to be the case, flat-bottomed vessels of the *Petty Yanger* kind as used in America, with leeboards, might be made to answer the navigation—and such craft could perhaps get up to the forks of the Red River.

I have been remiss in not replying to your Lordship's enquiries respecting Major McDonald, and can only offer for apology the confusion at Stornoway; I knew a Major McDonald, last winter in London originally from South Uist, but am not certain if his name is Alexander. He had served two or three years in Canada in the 60th Regt. & went from there to the West Indies. He has sold out of the Army & gone on half-pay—has a general acquaintance with living characters—is in inferior health & has been long from the Highlands.

This Factory is very ill constructed & not at all adapted for a cold Country either for use or convenience, but as I imagine the main object of the Co. to be the procuring of Furs, any other arrangements here are to them immaterial. The greatest unanimity appears to subsist between the Chiefs Auld & Cook.

M. McD.

Mem. of Articles to be sent out next year for R. R. S. The Muskets and Carabines left in Store, with bullet moulds complete. 2 Brass Field Pieces.—Gordon Patterson's construction—3 Pounders (3 feet long & weighing 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs.)
*Carriages for do. with rods, sponges &c. complete.
A Quern for grinding grain (if approved of a British Union Flag.)
1 Quart Apple Seeds.

Encyclopedia Britannica—bound in calf complete for *M. McD.* It may be sent next year or year following as convenient.
Hamilton Moore's Complete Navigator for *M. McD.*
A Quadrant, Sextant, &c.
Arrowsmith's Map of North America.—*M. McD.*

The above letter & enclosures was put into the general Letter Box at York Factory for ship Eddystone.

*The dimensions of the Wheels & bulky part of the Carriage need only be sent.

To the Right Honble. the Earl of Selkirk.

YF. HUDSON'S BAY, 5th Oct, 1811.

MY LORD.—The people going home have disappointed my expectations; they have formed a combination together against remaining longer in the country, or they have an idea of getting very high wages at home for coming out again, but I hope some of these will be taken into our service. I have only been able to engage one man for two years at £25 per ann., who has been three years inland from Churchill.

Mr. Hillier was sent off the 30th ulto, with a party to north side the Nelson. I sent away my people yesterday to the same place, and follow them myself tomorrow. Mr. Tomison returns with the ships—he has said nothing to me of his intention. I have it only from others—We can very well dispense with him—Had he remained he could be of no service to our party, neither here nor at the Red River.—The people are old men hurt his back by a fall on the passage and feels discouraged.

Mr. Edwards has not been sufficiently careful of the Instruments your Lordship sent to his charge. The two Barometers are injured—they should have been sent back to be repaired, but that he has taken them with him, and I have only learned of the accident since his departure.

I have taken the liberty of putting some letters for Canada under cover to your Lordship to be forwarded.

The weather has been mild and pleasant for some days past—it snowed last night about 6 or 7 inches, which they say will not go off—this is the month of November in Canada—I shall be very anxious for the month of April to commence our operations, and hope to make then a more agreeable report than the present times can admit of.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

MILES MACDONELL.

My letter of the 1st Instant communicated fully everything that occurred worth mentioning.

To the Right Honble. the Earl of Selkirk.

YF. HUDSON'S BAY, 5th Oct, 1811.

MY LORD,—I have this moment been driven back from Point of Marsh by a strong North wind, but hope to get round tomorrow should the wind fall.

There are some other drawbacks on the outfits of this year—none of the boats that came out packed up has been landed, there is now no chance of getting them ashore—the Captains are just embarking with the Packet, and there is a good deal of ice floating about. The Boats must of course be taken back to England. I think it best to send them out again—they will be serviceable for the people coming next year. I shall build some on nearly the same model for my division, so that the Carpenters here will have to put them together. It is a pity they should be lost.

Your Lordships

ever sincero

MILES MACDONELL.

I do not think all our Grind stones are landed—there never was more confusion than in the landing of stores here, Goods & stores for all the Factories landing promiscuously together, and those to be shipped meeting them on our narrow wharf.—A Newfoundland Dog would be a good acquisition to me.—M. McD.

To William Cook, Esqr., Governor of YF., &c.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 2nd Nov. 1811.

DEAR SIR,—We have had a small supply of fresh meat from Mr. Geddes since I had the pleasure of writing you last. A party was sent there a few days ago and only brought three Barrels of salted meat—Mr. Geddes informed Mr. Jno. Sloan, the officer with the party, that he had orders not to give us any more fresh meat but to reserve it all for the Factory. This must surely be a mistake of Mr. Geddes', as I understood both from Mr. Auld and you, that the motive of sending us to this place, was to be in a convenient situation to receive supplies of fresh meat for the preservation of the health of our people.

There is scarcely provisions now on hand for one month's consumption, at the rate of 2 lb. of meat per. day to a man—and at the expiration of that time there is not a probability of a communication being practicable between this and the Factory, it being very uncertain at what time we can cross the river on ice. Our situation here will consequently be most helpless. We have made every possible exertion to get Game, but hitherto all to no purpose, except about 3 brace of Wood Partridges which have been killed. We now occupy both sides of the river, and have a party at Sam's Creek—no Deer have yet been seen.

You will please to send my stove pipe by these two men—10 lengths of sheet iron along with two Elbows will be sufficient—if the smith has not made Elbows, let 4 sheets iron be sent—we shall endeavour to make them here altho' without a

Blacksmiths shop or Tools.—Could you spare half a dozen Tin plates, we are much in need of them.

Mr. Auld might have been crossed every day since Saturday last, & may yet so long as this mild weather continues. I beg my respects to him, and am with true regard

My Dear Sir,

Very Sincerely Yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

Sent by two men from south side Party to YF, who returned the 5th Instant and brought an order for Mr. Geddes to give us all the meat he might have whenever called for.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 30th November, 1811.

MY DEAR SIR,—A mild day offers to send a boat across the Neison with the Express from Churchill, which arrived here on the 28th instant.

I beg of you to embrace every opportunity of sending us skins for Togas, Trousers &c., with twine, coarse needles, &c. The skins you sent by the last Indians have not yet reached me, the weather being such that we could not put out a boat to cross them. I shall now get them by the return of this boat.

Mr. Auld was to have furnished us with some whip saw Files, from Churchill but I see none arrived. Of course, we cannot possibly saw boards, for want of them Mr. A. promised us a quantity of Essence of Malt, Chrystalized Salts of Lemon &c., to be used as a preventive for the Scurvy, but says nothing to me in his letter about such. The Scurvy has not yet made its appearance among us, but as our people are now living entirely on salt provisions, and our stock of oatmeal not wanting a liberal issue, we are not certain how long that dreadful evil may keep away from us.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your most obedt. and humble servt.,

MILES MACDONELL.

WM. H. COOK, Esq., Govr. YF.

I hope the people with you are recovered from the complaints they had when you wrote me by Mr. Auld.

M. McD.

To William Auld, Esq., Superintendent of the Northern Department Hudson's Bay.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,

25th Decr. 1811.

DEAR SIR,—

Your letter of the 16th Oct., from YF. reached me on the 5th November at the time you crossed here on your route to C. R. & should have been acknowledged before now had an opportunity for communication offered.

The selection of men for Red River settlement was made in my mind on board of the ships, & once that I learned the number to be given me for that service there could be no further delay—In conversation with you, after the arrival of the Eddystone, I was permitted to take 35 of the passengers besides Wm. Finlay since engaged. The people being landed from the ships at different times & hurried off promiscuously as they landed from the Factory to this place, the men intended for R. K.

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could not then without some detention until the whole of them had landed, be separated from the others. That separation was done immediately after my arrival here.—The selection has been made with a view of forming an extensive local connection in the Highlands of Scotland & in Ireland. Ten or Eleven of the number were engaged by the H. B. Co.'s Agent at Glasgow at £25 Sterg. of annual wages, & the Committee pointedly refused to sanction the engagement altho' the people had in the mean time been sent to Stornoway to meet the Co.'s ships.—To cover the Agent & prevent any disagreeable consequences, the Earl of Selkirk instructed me by letter to take these men into his service, the rest of the number has been filled up from Orkney. From the very clear & explicit exposition you make of the state of the Factories, altho' you have not sent me the statement of which you speak, I see great deficiency of men for carrying on the trade in the Northern Department under your superintendance. A supply of 200 men was calculated on by the H. B. Co. to be sent out this last year to the different Departments; that number was actually engaged in the Highlands of Scotland & in Ireland. From the defection of the greater part of these about the time they were to embark, owing to malicious reports industriously spread among them, recourse was only then had at so late a period to engage Orkney men to supply the deficiency.

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The service of the men being now lost till next summer from the late arrival of the ships, the number going with me will be less injurious to the Co's affairs as their wages & subsistence will of course be borne on the R. R. S. establishment. The next ships I am persuaded will bring an ample supply of men for us all. As matters are present situated from the scarcity of hands, I shall be as moderate as possible consistent with the good of the service I am sent on, & instead of throwing obstacles in the way of the Co. have come out to be an ally of theirs to support them. It is unnecessary to point out to a person of your penetration the great advantages to be derived by the Co. from the prosperity of the proposed Colony, among many others, firm & powerful support may be reckoned on in that quarter on the Grand Canadian route; ample supplies of provisions for the Factories, &c., &c.

When you take into consideration the numerous stores now lying in the warehouses at YF, & requisite for such an undertaking: possession to be taken & kept of an extensive country, the natives of which may by malicious machination be ready to oppose; you will think the number already mentioned scarcely adequate to the purpose. However, I shall not ask for more in the present state of things, & shall pursue the particular object entrusted to me to the utmost of my ability with any number of men that may be given.

Were we to form a judgment of all Indians by the present inoffensive & docile state of the natives in the vicinity of the shores of Hudson's Bay, a full security might be reposed in their friendship: but the Ossineboine nation, into whose country we are going, are represented as among the most warlike Indians of N. America. We have already been threatened in London with those people by a person that knows them well (Sir A. McKenzie) and who has pledged himself in the most unequivocal decisive manner, to oppose the establishment of this colony by all means in his power. The London merchants connected with the N. W. Co., are inimical to it; I have reason to expect that every means the N. W. Co. can attempt to thwart it will be resorted to—to what extent their influence may direct the conduct of the nations, is to me uncertain, & justifies being on our guard at all points.

I well know the value of experience and practice in ascending rivers and rapids; and that to descend them requires not only general experience but also a local knowledge of the best channels. The rapids of the rivers which fall into Hudson's Bay must by all accounts be very formidable, & the navigation of them consequently difficult—but it may be remarked that few or none of the people to ascend and descend these waters have ever had an opportunity of seeing river navigation in other parts of North America; & therefore conceive that waters run the sea no where else so strong as those falling into H. Bay. I am persuaded that Canadian voyagers would not shrink from these; & I do suppose that many parts of the route the traders follow from Canada to the N. West must be equally difficult.

I like your candour, & the freedom with which you deliver your opinion permit me likewise to do so, & altho' it must differ from yours with regard to the river navigation, it may yet be no more than an opinion:—In speaking of water that I have not seen, I feel a great advantage you have over me; yet cannot help being strongly impressed with the idea that had we arrived in this country in sufficient time to put our boats together & to get up, we should with the assistance of pilots have accomplished the voyage to R. R. S.; of course, not in so short a time as your experienced men might do, but with perseverance & diligence we should get up, & I trust without the loss of lives or property. It is probable that we could not be able to take all the stores along—the devil must be in the way, if with so many men & all effective, we could not go up. I shall next summer put the matter to the test, & shall only require, (nor would I wish to take more) than one experienced man in each boat along with our own hands, & those I will not require to take farther than the entrance of Lake Winnipic. The number of boats for my party will be five or six, & the furnishing one pilot for each will not I hope be very detrimental to the Honble. Coy's. affairs. Probably this number of men may be furnished as early as we can be ready to proceed before the arrival of the inland traders. When families are to go up they will require two experienced men in each boat, as they may not have so many effective men as we.

The boats which have been sent from England are not well constructed—the plan of them was good, but the idea has not been well taken up by the tradesmen who had never before seen anything of the kind. The work is very slightly imperfectly executed, & there was not time for alteration. The best of them are 40 feet long & came out in bulk, but unfortunately were not landed, owing, as I have been informed, to a difference between Capt Taylor, of the schooner, East Maine, Mr. Davidson, mate of the Edw^d & Ann. Davidson wanted the boats to be taken ashore in the schooner; Taylor would not receive orders from him, the boats were consequently left in the ship & brought back to England. They would be very convenient for us next spring to go up. They shall not however be lost as I expect them out again & will serve to transport part of another division of our people. Those you saw at YF are too short, too deep, & very slightly put together.

All the boats I ever saw used for shoal river navigation were flat bottomed & so the thing of the model of those now at YF; no others can answer a good purpose. I shall cause my boat builder (Thomas Angus) with such assistance as he can have from your people, to build next spring two or three boats such as are used on the St. Lawrence & Mohawk Rivers. they will be easier built, lighter, carry more cargo, & managed by as few hands as your boats. When proved to be fit for your rivers here I am persuaded they will be generally adopted. For these boats I expect to have the wood, materials ready in course of the winter.

Your boats that I saw at YF are in my opinion certainly not the fittest for shoal river navigation & altho' they have hitherto served the purpose must yet be managed with much labour & disadvantage.—They are of the construction of whale boats, heavy, & better calculated for sea service than that of shoal rivers. The keels must be a constant impediment, always touching stones in shoal water. From the bows they take in the bow & stern a man cannot stand in them to use a setting Pole most essential & indispensable tool in rapids & strong currents.

You very justly remark that we have a vast deal of lumber to carry up. A great deal is required to form a settlement so distant from resources as that country is, I should be at a loss to know what articles among the stores to leave behind. Our Packages have not been well made up, & will certainly require a reinspection of which there will be sufficient time in the spring. The private luggage of both the officers & men must be limited. From what you state of the abundance of the country, I am happy to learn that it will not be necessary to bring with us much more provisions than what the journey up may require, this will enable us to take a greater proportion if not the whole of the other public stores.

That the arrival of strangers among them is not liked by the Orkneymen in the H. B. Cos. service, is a thing which might be expected, they have enjoyed

exclusive advantages of the Trade for a long time unmixed with any others; which might induce them to suppose that no people ought to be employed but themselves.— I am surprised however, that they should act so much against their own true interests as not to reengage their services, when it is understood they cannot do so well by going home. I am much deceived unless many of those will come out again should they be taken. In my opinion, experience is their strongest recommendation, & should they altogether quit the Country, the Co. can get abundance of men from other parts of the United Kingdom, & experience can be acquired. With regard to settling a Colony, people from other parts would I think with you serve the purpose better than those from Orkney, particularly such of them as have already been in this Country, whose habits of insubordination, idleness, & inactivity will be very difficult to eradicate. One or two old hands is enough to poison any party—they tell the others that they ought to have this thing & that other thing,—make the whole discontented & keep themselves in the back ground. Wm. Finlay has already occasioned a little difficulty, laying down *Factory Law* (as he explained it) & disobedience; in consequence of which I removed him from my party on the South side the Nelson. Any farther misconduct will occasion stronger steps to be taken with him.

What you so much dreaded, the scurvy has at last made its appearance among us, but in the most favourable manner; only one man has taken it as yet, & he is mending. I am in hopes, as it has kept off so long, that no more will be afflicted with it. However that may be, I could not think of sending any such to YF. as you apprehended. Our people are far more comfortably lodged than they could be at the Factory; & the sick have the benefit & attendance of a surgeon. None of the Essence of Malt, Cranberries, &c., which you intended to send by the return of your sledges from C. R. was left here with us. I have written to Mr. Cook for some of these articles, in case of the disorder making farther progress—but am in hopes they will not be needed.

I am not sanguine as to any personal gratification arising to me from the advancement of the new Colony, on the contrary have prepared my mind to encounter any difficulties and obstructions that may offer, and having now so far embarked, shall not cease to prosecute the undertaking until it arrives at a state of permanency to ensure its success beyond the probability of a failure. With the support to be calculated on, from a knowledge of the firmness and perseverance of the noble projector, at whose request I undertook the execution, this state of permanency, I trust, will not be far distant. Your ready co-operation for this object, will much facilitate its advancement. I am very sensible of the unremitting attention you have all along shown to promote our prosperity. Mr. Cook has likewise embraced every opportunity to administer relief to our wants, and add to our comforts—matters must succeed when all hands pull together. I look on our situation here as the best we could have in this part of the country, for the health and exercise of our people, & far preferable, in every respect, to being at Y. Factory. The people have been hitherto constantly employed; & it is likely there will be found enough of useful labour to keep their blood all winter in good circulation.

With true regard, I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

MILES MACDONELL.

P. S.—The ration established last year by the Honble Committee at the suggestion of the Earl of Selkirk, which you state in your letter of 3rd November, in reply to a letter I wrote Mr. Cook about that time concerning provisions, could not possibly be complied with by our parties here. I was till then ignorant of such a ration being established, & did I know it, could not have conformed for want of the different species, having only oatmeal & meat; of the oatmeal our stock could only admit of one pint to a man per day with two lb. of fresh meat (venison). As we now have access to the Factory one lb. of meat with an increased allowance of oat-

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meal is what is given at present to our people. This appears to serve them amply for two meals a day, all that I allow them to take.

A regular entry is made of the meat received, as well as of the other species of provisions, every pound of which shall be accounted for.

M. McD.

W. M. AULD, Esq., C.R.

Sent by the C.R. Express, 27th December, 1811.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 5th January, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—Messrs. Tate & Spencer arrived here last evening and handed me your obliging letter of the 2nd instant. We have collected here all the drift wood fit for boat timbers that we could between this and Flamborough Head. There is not much of it. There is likewise some collected by the party I had on the south side the river, and which has since been recalled from there. We have a parcel of oars and poles here, and when dressed, will, I think, be sufficient for our purpose. But there is not a tree on this side the river, as far as Mr. Geddes's place, fit to be sawed for boat plank.

Mr. Tate informs me there is a quantity of good wood on the south side above the house your people were building which he formerly saw and I now send along with him to whom he will show the place. Three boats is the number I had made up in my mind that we should require to build; I am happy to find that your opinion perfectly coincides with mine in this respect.

It will be necessary to conclude where these boats can be most conveniently built. The materials lying so scattered, nothing of the kind can be attempted here. I shall have a hut built immediately at the place where the wood is, and have it sawed into boards and planks. None of the boards brought here can be of any service. There is yet a quantity left at the New House which may come into use. As you say that you have materials for one boat at the Factory, there will not be a vast deal required for two more. The boats that I shall direct the construction of will be flat bottomed, & without keels; they will be easier built, lighter, carry more, & managed by a few hands as your boats which I have seen at the Factory. They should be about 30 feet long, the timbers all shaped alike, with a strong stern & stern. The boards & plank for these should be sawed the length of from 15 to 20 feet.

Mr. Tate is in haste to be away—in a very few days I shall communicate further by a provision party, as we are now entirely out.

I am, my dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

W. H. COOK, Esq., Gov. Y.F.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 9th January, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am surprised that Mr. Geddes should make a complaint to you of the uncivil conduct of our people towards him at so late a period, when he had an opportunity of immediate application here.

I sent a party only twice there for provisions, on the 12th & 22nd November. The first party consisted of ten men, they carried very little, each man took only as much as he thought proper & came off with it as fast as he could, without waiting for another. The 2nd party consisted of 13 men, with them I sent an officer to regulate their burdens &c to prevent them from running away from each other for fear of accidents through cold &c. The conduct of this party I know has been regular from the report of the officer, on which I can depend. At the time my

other species of party went, Mr. Hillier sent likewise aparty—it was one of his men who threw away his blanket.

M. McD.

A general accusation cannot so well be taken notice of, but if Mr. Geddes will state the charges more particularly, we can yet find out the offenders, should he not be able to point them out himself. He dined with us on Christmas Day & staid the night when on his way to the Factory, but he did not give the least surmise of a complaint against any of our people.

January, 1812.

You will always, I trust, find me ready to co-operate with you in supporting order, & to enforce the respect due to an officer from inferiors. One of my officers, Mr. Michael McDonnell, who went on the 22nd December last with men of his party for provisions to the Factory, complains of being left all night in the common Guard Room among your men. Having arrived at the Factory late at night, frostbit, after wandering all day in the woods without victuals, being strayed from his people & lost his way in the snow-drift, he could not possibly go away for that night, & was next day dragged on a sled, unable to walk. I forbear making any comment; & give the matter candidly as stated to me by Mr. McDonnell, after his arrival here.

I now send eight men & three dogs for provisions, according to memorandum below. We have already Five men in the Scurvy and nothing of either suitable provisions or acids to relieve them; it is probable that the malady may go through us all unless preventives are in time administered. This consideration will serve to regulate the quantity of antiscorbutics which may be required. It is perhaps easier to prevent this complaint, than to cure it after that it has seated itself in the constitution.

I am, Dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

Memorandum of articles to send:—

1 Sled of Pease,
1 do Barley,
12 yds. Duffel,
1 Bundle of Leather,
1 Iron Pot (about 4 galls.) with Bale.
1 Camp Kettle,
Oatmeal,
Antiscorbutics.

J. H. Cook, Esq.,
Govr. YF.

P.S.—I am much obliged to you for the puppies you sent. Your good intentions were in part frustrated, as only one of them reached me. The Indian left the other behind or allowed him to perish. The one that came promises to be a good dog, but his feeding has been very much neglected. Perhaps your stock may afford to spare another as a companion to him.

Whatever quantity of leather you furnished Mr. Hillier with, he has not been able to spare me any. The quantity I have had can easily be ascertained. M. McD.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 21st January, 1812.

DEAR SIR,

The articles agreeable to your obliging letter of 10th instant arrived, but the barley sent was of our seed grain for R. R. S., it is a pity that it was bundled with. I am obliged to send it back by this party as it cannot be safe here from the unsufficiency of our roofs should rain happen to fall in the spring.

The R. R. S. stores are not for consumption here, there being nothing amorg of the eatable kind except what is intended for seed. It is therefore best not to molest them at present further than may be deemed necessary for their preservation.

I forwarded your packet to Mr. Geddes by an Indian, & for the safety of our people going to the Factory for provisions applied to him for Indians to cut the straight line of road from the new House to the Factory: This will, I expect, shorten the distance & avoid the exposure along the river by the track hitherto followed. Our last party suffered much from the cold and windy exposure, several were frost bitten. The wind was from the Northward & drifted the snow that they could not see across the river. I have to apologize for undertaking this road before you were consulted, but the idea only struck me from the sufferings of my last party the case was urgent & I had not an opportunity for communication. Whatever blame may be attached to it belongs entirely to me. The Indians were backward to undertake it without your order until I pledged myself to defend them harmless.

This party, under the direction of Mr. McLeod, go for a supply of provisions &c., according to the memo. at the bottom. I have now 15 men in the scurvy, & Mr. Hilliers has 8,—it is uncertain to what extent this cruel malady may afflict us. Messrs. McRae & Edwards visit you at this time, no opportunity offered which I could notify to you the time of their visit. They are companions & chuse to sleep together here, so that you need not be put to the inconvenience of furnishing two beds for them. I have directed Mr. McRae to hand you acct. & engagements in his possession of people not on my list here.

As to my men going for provisions, there is a standing order to the officer to let any of them go to the Factory, except the number that may be requisite for bringing away any articles particularly required from there, & which may not be at the Tent, & any such I do not wish to receive liquor or provisions, nor be furnished with any articles on their own acct., unless the officer particularly applies for it.

Mr. Hillier & I propose to be with you on the evening of the first February agreeable to your request, to assist in making such arrangements for boat-building as may be necessary.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

Memorandum of articles :—

10 Gallons Molasses,
20 do Pease,
20 Barley,
20 Moose Skins,
12 yards Duffel,
25 lbs. Muscovado Sugar,
8 Skein sewing Twine,
Oatmeal,
Bacon.

M. McD.

W. H. COOK, Esq.,
Govr. YF.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 26th Jany., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have given due consideration to the suggestion contained in your letter of 23rd inst., of sending some of the Clerks here immediately to Os the

House, on account of their health (in these sickly times) & the advantage of saving the transport of them by the boats next summer.

There are six gentlemen of my mess—three of them, Messrs. Bourke, Edwards & McRae, being in a manner staff officers (the two first being professional men & the third a storekeeper) are intended to be generally along with me. Two others, Messrs. Whitford & McDonnell, are in their present condition incapable of going on any excursion, the first from ill health, and the latter from the effects of the frost. Mr McLeod is the only officer I have who superintends the men at labour & that can accompany parties going for provisions, & with him I could not conveniently dispense.

I have communicated the matter to Mr. Hillier, & he is not inclined to part with any of the young men who are with him. The services of the whole will be material in ascending the waters next summer. In the boats they will keep the men to their duty, see the goods taken care of, & give assistance to expedite the voyage. The officers of each party mess with the chief, they run no greater risk on the score of health than we do ourselves.

If you think the stock of Antiscorbutics at C.R. an object for two men to go here instead of one, it would be well to send them. We cannot now take too many precautions against the Scurvy. Mr. Hillier has 10 men ill with it, & I have 9. I am, however, in hopes it may not make much further progress. Our people now drink freely the juice of the spruce tree, which abound here, indeed there is scarcely any other. This is an approved specific, but it is not an easy matter to get the Orkneymen to drink it particularly the old hands, whose example has a bad effect on the others. With the supply of dried meat you have allotted us (the use of which may not be discontinued) & other articles you have so liberally offered, likewise occasional fresh supplies that the Indians bring from time to time, I think a little will be put to its violence.

Messrs. Edwards & McRae arrived last evening. Your men proceeded on to-day to Mr. Goddes's. This goes by a party Mr. Hillier sends tomorrow for provisions.

I am with true regard,

My dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

On reconsidering the matter I think it may not be necessary to send to C. for the Antiscorbutics. At all events it may be deferred until we meet on 1st February, and may be decided on then according to existing circumstances. I feel very sensibly your attention in the precautions you have taken & the solicitude shewn for the accommodation of Mr. H. & myself on the road.

Yours, M.McD.

V. H. COOK, Esq.,
Gov. Y.F.

M. McD.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,

Sunday evening, 9th Feb., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

Agreeable to your desire I now send three men to assist your people in whatever labour may be required, viz, Peter Harper, James Dickson, & Alex. Simpson. The two first are good working men, Harper can saw, & Dickson is a Blacksmith and does likewise any common labour, Simpson is not a handicraftsman nor is he industrious, but he is a large strong fellow & may be made serviceable, the three are honest & maintained in your offensive Orkneymen & I think will not be in any way troublesome to manage: immediately to these men accompany a party Mr. Hillier sends for provisions, they will together

26th Jan., 1812.

maintained in your

immediately to

these men accompany

a party Mr. Hillier

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take the new road—but as you will not detain them at the Factory they may reach the Tent as soon by the new track as if they took the old—it being four miles shorter.

We arrived here in 7½ hours after parting with you. From the Factory to the Nelson is 15 miles by new track; & from there to this is 8 miles—making 23 miles inclusive,—by the old road it is between 27 & 28 miles. This is a great saving of distance, besides the safety & protection from storms. Your kettle & pot I return by these people with many thanks. All my scurvy men are mending, except one man who has been in a desponding state from the moment he was first taken ill, who I really expect to die, being now reduced to the lowest extremity. To the liberal use of spruce may in my opinion be attributed stopping the progress of the complaint & the favourable change in those afflicted.

With true regard,

I am, &c,

MILES MACDONELL.

By the men I send one of the Pit saws. }
They are victualled to Tuesday night. }

Mr. Spencer has arrived & handed me your map of the Nelson. I am astonished how you could have executed so well in so short a time. There was no necessity for so great despatch. By the next provision party which will go towards the latter end of the week, I shall be able to send you the accs. of meat recd from Mr. Geddes as likewise from Indians.

Yours

M. McD.

To Mr. Cook.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 14th February, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

A Combination has been formed by a part of the men against the authority of the officers set over them. Mr. Hillier & myself were taking evidence as Magistrates of their burning a Hut built for the accommodation of Mr. Finlay, in the most audacious manner. Thirteen of them besides Finlay are implicated, who have to a man have set us at defiance. There are some others of the old hands who are private advisers & abettors. There are very little provisions, and was there an abundance I do not think myself justifiable to issue the Cos: property to refractory servants who run counter to all order. It is therefore most probable that the men may visit you soon at the Factory, & I think it but reasonable you should hold this early intimation. There is no fear of us here, we are yet strong enough to protect ourselves, but threats have been held out to intimidate us. Our men going any time to the Factory ought not to have access to the place where their Boxes without an officer being along with them, several of them have pistols, &c., & pilfering has been committed from each other's Boxes.

I enclose an acct. of all the articles received from Mr. Geddes, in which you will perceive the receipt of the last article was 2nd December, & since then I have not received anything from him nor has any of my men been there. I know nothing of the fat he states to have delivered to Mr. McDonnell. I will be obliged to you to furnish me with 2 Quires foolscap paper.

I am, yours, &c.,

MILES MACDONNELL.

WM. H. COOK, Esq.,
Gov. YF.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 15th February, 1812.

MR. COOK.

DEAR SIR,—

I now send a party for provisions; three of them are of the mutineers; tho' struck off duty and under the denomination of prisoners, they must drag provisions for themselves from the Factory, which will be issued to them here, and a separate account kept of it, and I may be debited as usual with all issues at Factory to my order. I should wish to know, for my guidance, what ration is customarily allowed to men struck off duty for misconduct, as these are?

I cannot now undertake to carry on any boat building here. The defection of fourteen strong, effective men is a great falling off from my people, it will be as much the remainder can do to bring us provisions from the Factory and keep us in fire-wood here.

I am, &c.,

MILES MACDONELL.

Mem. of Articles:—

1 gall. Port Wine.
10 gall. Rum.
1 keg Molasses.
Oatmeal

I only got 5 spoons, please to send 7 more to complete the dozen.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 25th February, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I am happy to learn by your obliging letter of 21st inst. that you are making such great progress in boat building, & the construction I suggested. The model I left with you, had it escaped mutilation on the road, was not complete. From the conversation we had together I thought you reluctant to decide any deviation from the order left by Mr. Auld, without his previous concurrence, therefore forbore pressing the matter or entering into further explanation; nor did I think any explanatory conversation with the boatbuilders on the subject. I am convinced Mr. Auld has more good sense than to feel hurt in not being consulted on the old hands in a matter at so great a distance as Churchill, & must rather be pleased at any movement that we may strike out for the general good.

My model is calculated for a boat of 30 feet long, on a scale of 2 inches to a foot. The bottom is one inch too wide—or 6 inches on the extension. The boat should be at least 2 feet wider at the gunnel, in the middle, than the bottom. Height on the side nearly 3 feet in the middle, with a suitable rise in the bow & stern. Our men going there should not be a seam in the middle of the bottom, but a plank reaching from the stem to the stern, whole length, to which the stem & stern are fixed. Could the bottom be extended to the length of 26 or 28 feet, it would make a vast difference in the stowage of luggage. You will find these boats much easier built than those you have been accustomed to.

I am mortified at how little assistance I now can give in procuring materials. No more can be expected from Mr. Finlay & his refractory party. Mr. H. sent yesterday to bring you the Plank you required from the New House. Men returned yesterday from Mr. Geddes's & require one day's respite before they can proceed to the Factory.

I am, &c.,

MILES MACDONELL.

Wm. H. Cook, Esqr.,
Govr. YF.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 27th February, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I embrace an opportunity offering for Churchill to do myself the pleasure of writing you.

In this wild, desolate, & (I may add) barren region; secluded at present from all communication with the civilized world, intelligence of a local can alone be expected. Could we join in the sentinel's cry of "All is well," altho' not affording great changes might yet be satisfactory in our isolated situation. We have as great variety as generally happens in this sublunary world, of which we here form a true epitome, being composed of men of all countries, religion, & tongues.

The Irish displayed their native propensity & prowess on the first night of the year, by unmercifully beating some Orkneymen of Mr. Hillier's party. Too much liquor was the only incitement. The perpetrators of this unwarrantable act, were as much as could be done, debarred from a repetition of such conduct, by obliging them to give security for their future peaceable deportment. The effect will not however be so readily removed, & will consequently serve to strengthen the prejudices already existing against them.

We have lately had another affair which may be attended with consequences more serious than the first, & of which William Finlay engaged by me in October last at YF, is the primary mover & cause.

At a time when our people were every day getting down in the Scurvy (I mean my party & 17 of Mr. Hillier's were already seized with it) regulations were established for the health of the people; to which Finlay refused to conform. On that account he was struck off work for two or three days, & not intending to go further lengths with him, he was ordered to resume work; but this he refused, saying he would work no more. As he persisted in this determination altho' frequently ordered to work, after a week had passed I had him brought before Mr. Hillier's Magistrate, where different misdemeanours were proved against him, for which he was sentenced to confinement as a refractory servant. Not thinking it any punishment that he should sleep & sit idle in the same house with the other men, I had a hut built for him to which he was removed, a party he had formed among the men assembled to the number of 13 men on the first evening of his confinement, & by the aid of the Hut to the ground, triumphantly shouting in the most audacious manner that they had got it in flames.

Mr. Hillier & I had all these men brought before us & were investigating the matter as Magistrates when they refused to submit to our authority and walked off. They are now with Finlay in a house by themselves, under no control or regulation subsisted by the Provisions of the H. B. Co. which I oblige them to bring from the store for themselves. None of the Highlanders were concerned in this affair; & you may be surprised to learn that even none of the Irish had a hand in it, they are all from Glasgow & Orkney.

There will be a necessity of sending some of these men home to be tried by the laws of their country; however detrimental to affairs in the meantime, it will tend to such irregularities in future, and tend to the establishment of order and subordination in this country. I shall not trouble you more at present on this subject, as you are soon expected here we shall deliberate on what is to be done.

The scurvy made great advances among us, but from a plentiful use of spirits its progress was stopped and our people are now mostly recovered, with the exception of one who I am afraid we may yet lose, he being reduced to lowest extremity. Our winter has been unusually severe with little snow. All kinds of game decrease entirely, and the supplies from the poor natives were scanty, although I am convinced they brought all they could possibly spare. Under all these circumstances we have not suffered any privation of necessaries, and on the contrary were more comfortable than otherwise.

I had contemplated a trip to visit you at Churchill, but from casualties that might take place here, could not venture to be absent. I feel very anxious for the return of spring, and hope to have some useful amusement shooting, &c. Eskimeaux boots are an article I am informed you have at Churchill. I will be obliged to you if you can send me a couple of pairs sufficiently large—they are not to be procured at YF.

I will be happy if you will do me the pleasure to take up your quarters with me when you come here. I have a spare berth & as you travel with bedding you cannot put me to inconvenience.

With true regard,

I am, my dear Sir,

Most sincerely yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

W. AGULD, Esq.,
C.R.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 18th April, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—

To have acknowledged the receipt of your favor, dated 18th ult., by the people going from YF. to conduct you from Churchill, would have been merely complimentary, & rather unseasonable to a person on the eve of departure. On this consideration I trust the omission may be overlooked. As I expect you are attending to go further by this time arrived at YF., it will not, I presume, be deemed improper in me to call your attention to the different matters respecting R. R. S., for which I may require assistance to facilitate the journey to the interior and the necessary preparations to be made prior to our departure.

The fourteen insurgents here will require to be disposed of till ship time; for I am determined (with your concurrence) to send them all to London to answer for their conduct. Two young men, Mr. John McLeod from Lewes and Mr. Michael McDonnell, from Ireland, are both well acquainted with all the circumstances, and it will be necessary that they be sent home to give evidence against them.

These young men may afterwards serve to get good men for us in their respective countries. I would wish, were it practicable, that they should first reach the place of settlement, or as far up as they could go and return to overtake the ships. I did expect that some of the delinquents would after a while repent of having joined in the combination, would be inclined to return to their duty, & of course be pardoned on making suitable submission for their offence, but instead of showing any such disposition, the department of all, particularly the younger part, has been more aggravated than otherwise.

It would not be prudent to bring those men to the Factory. I do not know of any place of confinement there, & all intercourse between them and the servants being duty should be prevented. They are completely out of your way on the North side the Nelson, may easily be victualled there during the summer, and may be readily embarked from thence; were they removed further down so as to be out of the track the Indians take to the Factory, it would be better than where they now are. A net might be furnished them for catching some fresh fish for themselves, but would not be regular as prisoners to give them fire arms for killing game. The treatment observed towards them should, in every respect, be such as to deter others from following their example. Your remark that they should not be allowed to purchase anything from the Cos. warehouses is highly proper; they have not an order from me for anything, nor shall they (except for provisions), but without due subordination, no undertaking of the nature we are now concerned in can be carried on.

It is very detrimental to us, particularly in the present time, to be deprived of the services of so many men. Not only these but several others in my opinion should be sent home as incapable, from age & bodily infirmities, of earning their wages. Four of this class wintered with me & Mr. Hillier has several, all of whom are people who came out last year. Such men can be of no service, & it is better to have a few & all effective than to have a long list of invalids merely nominal rates at high wages. A descriptive list of men so discharged should be sent to the Committee that orders may be given the Agents against reengaging any of them.

Taking this into consideration the number to be furnished for my expedition of last year's importation must consequently fall short of the calculations first made. From the facility & readiness I have experienced from you to forward the undertaking I am persuaded that every possible assistance will be rendered. Mr. Cook's diligence with the boats is such that they will occasion no delay. Should any other matter be in like forwardness we may take advantage of the first opportunity for navigation to proceed. It will be requisite that a trader with an assortment of goods for the Indians accompany the settlers so as to give the settlement, in the first instance, the appearance of an ordinary trading post, to prevent the jealousy the Indians might conceive against a permanent establishment being made in their country. This measure will be beneficial to the Co., as it will be giving them the advantage of a trading post without being at the expense of establishing and maintaining one. It will likewise be necessary that a quantity of slops be sent under the charge of the trader for the use of the settlers.

I expect about Forty men & 8 or 10 families out this year for R. R. S. & H. B. Co. I very much pray they may be able to get to the settlement before winter, of what number they may be of is uncertain, but I suppose they will be a mixture of Scots & Irish. I would recommend as little intercourse between them & the men of York Factory as possible, particularly while your people continue in the discontented state of mind they appear to be in at present. Houses for their reception until embarked for the Settlement might be built above the Factory on the south side the river, at the Shilling Creek or any more convenient situation in that quarter. If built below, the people would be visited and disturbed by the crews of the Boats plying between the Factory & the ships, & various irregularities might be committed which it is necessary to guard against.

Printed orders must be given to the Captain of the Ship the Insurgents are on board of, to guard against attempts they might make to escape at Stromness or any other port the ship may touch at before arriving at London, & even until they are delivered over to the custody of the Law. The expenses of sending them home these fellows, as likewise the gentlemen who go as evidences against them, the H. B. Co. & Lord Selkirk will arrange together. Were it practicable, the evidences should not take passage in the same vessel with the Insurgents. From the information I have received of the place called The Roek, 120 or 130 Miles above York Factory, which boats Carrying upwards of Six Tons might reach, it would be a very convenient situation to establish a Post at, both for R. R. S. & H. B. Co.: it might be made a principle Depot for Stores. Your Inlanders might stop there instead of coming the way down to the Factory, particularly in these turbulent times. In case of invasion from Americans or other enemies, the Co's most valuable property would be safer there than at any place on the Sea Coast.

The giving my views so freely to one who possesses that minute local knowledge of the country which can only be obtained by long experience, may from a stranger appear officious & intrusive, but let me assure you, that these suggestions spring from a desire of showing my readiness to join in whatever project may be judged salutary to promote general good. However slender such endeavour may now appear, I firmly trust that my co-operation will yet be found of essential benefit to the interests of the H. B. Co.

With sincere esteem & regard,

I am, My dear Sir,

Most truly Yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

WM. AULD, Esq.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 4th May, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—

Your favour of the 30th ulto: in reply to my letter of the 18th, was handed me yesterday afternoon, & Mr. McNab going off so soon after I could not by him acknowledge the receipt.

Whatever becomes of the *Insurgents* I do not expect their Employers will send them to Canada for trial. You had when here ocular proof of their temper & disposition. Altho' you clearly & forcibly pointed out the heinousness of their crime, instead of showing an inclination to submission or compunction or offering anything by way of extenuation, it only produced impertinent replies to you, & a stubborn adherence to the part they had acted. Having no personal feelings of resentment against them such as are excited by a wish of forwarding the service I have engaged in, I should cheerfully accede to any salutary means that could be devised more expedient of the first of sending them home. I feel actuated in a similar manner toward the Irish assassants; the crime can be fully brought home to three of them, one of Mr. Hillier's, & the two of my party. One of these, from his numerous relatives and connections in the island I should be inclined to retain for the interest of our Colony, & by his making suitable compensation for the injury, I imagine this might be accomplished. The other two are notorious bad characters, & will be a gain to get rid of.

Your zealous attention to relieve our immediate wants last autumn by a liberal supply of fresh meat, & pointing out this situation for us, to be contiguous for receiving additional supplies from the Indians, I am fully sensible of. I am astonished

however, the servants of the Factory should make this the ostensible grounds of discontent, of what countenance & complaint. They could have got no part of that meat to the Factory until the month of January, & then but partially & with much labour, it being collected on the north side of the Nelson, at the distance of about 60 miles from YF.

The dried meat they took from there at that time, although far more portable, cost them a good deal of trouble. These people were in the meantime receiving weekly the flour, with plumbs for making puddings, &c., substitutes that our men here could not have, besides Bacon and Oatmeal. From the uncertainty of what time the vessels might be passable to have access to the Factory, our stock of Oatmeal could only admit of the issue of 1 pint per man per day with 2 lbs of green meat, and our stock of that was soon consumed by so many mouths as we had to feed, very little

or Bacon on hand. A parcel of raw and inexperienced men arriving after an escape at Stroming and boisterous sea voyage, at the immediate approach of winter, represented by accounts with alarming severity of cold, must in a country so destitute of resources require necessary aid

Men who can censure your laudable conduct in leaning to the side of humanity, & the evident harbour within their breasts a very small portion of that virtue, & would catch at

From the infoshadow of an excuse for discontent. It would be an unmerited aspersion on the individual characters who compose the Hon. Committee of the H. B. Co., which very convenient act of theirs justifies, were I to entertain a doubt that your conduct in this affair might be made out not meet their full approbation. Did all their Officers partake of your firmness, decision & perseverance, I am persuaded their interest would be materially benefited.

With true regard (& not wishing you to be in a situation to excite my gratitude your commiseration & sympathy),

I am always, My dear Sir,
Most truly yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

AULD, Esq.

rs,
MACDONELL.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT, 12th May, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I yesterday received your obliging letter of 10th Inst., touching those point we had verbally discussed while I was last at the Factory. I immediately sent for the Glasgow Insurgents & their Orkney Associates—they sought time to deliberate on the overture made. At 10 o'clock to day I sent an officer down to know their mind, a number of them were out hunting (they having been late supplied with Guns & Ammunition at the Factory) & had not come to any decision. Two of them came up at 3 o'clock, reported for themselves & the rest that they would all serve the Coy. on conditions. I informed them that no conditions would be granted but that of their original engagements for the time to come. With this they went off & two others brought me the enclosed writing which you will please return me when opportunity serves. You see how our good intentions are spurn'd at by those creatures. These were informed that no such condition would be sanctioned, that they must take their chance & strive to conduct themselves in a manner to merit forgiveness, but they acknowledge no fault.

The compromise between Anthony McDonnell & the two Orkneymen, if exactly according to Law Practice, is yet in my opinion strictly just, for who is more entitled to compensation for an injury than the sufferers? And if an Act of Parliament deprive us of the means of legal redress, we can consequently justify the propriety of adopting so equitable a measure.

I do not see my error respecting the venison at the Fishing Wire House. We had from there before 4th Nov., & sometime after that period was brought down by our people in Boats—some of your people would have come round the point of Marsh after the time I came—indeed I am credibly informed it was with much reluctance that men were prevailed upon to pilot round the Points the boats with people some days before I came. The Indians might have been got to bring some carcasses of Deer down in their Canoes, but the Hhds. of Salt Meat could not certainly be brought in their small bark vessels.

What I mentioned about the issue of Raisins was from reports current which I am now satisfied were not correct. My acct. may be filled up by the issue of Molasses & Rum, Articles I had not to give to my people. Molasses I understood was brought in Feby from Y.F., & issued. As to Rum I did not understand a very great allowance of it was given. I gave drams occasionally to my people but my order preclude me from giving a fixed allowance.

I am sorry to have said so much on matters I do not conceive myself to be aware of any moment. They are talked of now by the people for want of a better excuse for some palliation for their discontent and bad conduct. Men who will not cheerfully submit to the circumstances of the times are not good subjects for us, altho' we are unfortunately too many such at present on hand.

I am always,

My Dear Sir,

Your most obliged

and very humble Servant,

MILES MACDONELL.

WM. AULD Esq.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
15th May, 1812.

SIR,

The Insurgents and people here were assembled to-day at 12 o'clock. Your notification of the 13th instant was read and afterwards delivered to the

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gents, who absolutely rejected the terms offered. One of them Wm. Brown would not wait to hear the paper read, & refused to come back when called, he went down to the house passed three officers on the road that were sent for the arms, the others followed shortly after him. Upon this we immediately armed ourselves & went down with some of the Gentlemen to prevent insult being offered to the three officers who had first gone. These we met returning without having got any of the arms, & suffered gross abuse with threats of violence. We proceeded on to the Insurgents' house, by this time they had secreted the arms in the woods. They were then required by your authority to deliver up their arms immediately. Your order for the surrender was read to them, & were further informed of the serious consequences of refusal, that they must be treated as people in open hostility who set all order at defiance; they notwithstanding remained inflexible. We left them, & as we came away one of them, John Walker, went so far as to say, the country did not belong to the H. B. Co., but to the French.

We are informed that they are in possession of five stand of arms with plenty of ammunition—all procured at the Factory, by what means we have not yet learned. We are, Sir Your M : Obed Serts.

MILES MACDONELL.
WILLIAM HILLIER, Royal Navy.

(Sgd,)

WM. AULD, Esq.,
Superintendent YF. }

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
15th May, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR

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The insurgents have rejected every accommodation offered them as you will see by the document of this date signed by Mr. Hillier & me. The failure of the negotiation of the 12th inst., I attribute entirely to Mr. Carswell who was with them the greater part of that day, dined with them & assisted at their deliberations. The part he has acted among these *true Scotsmen* of his, is clearly evinced by the result, even the words of the writing they sent to me appear to be of his diction altho' afterwards copied by one of themselves. Such mean & base conduct is unworthy of a man particularly one in the character of an officer & Gentleman.

The Glasgow clerks—Carswell, Fisher & Brown, have all along kept up a constant intercourse with these insurgents, of which I have ample proofs, and the countenance thus given has been the means of keeping them hitherto so firmly linked together. On my acquainting Mr. Hillier with this he has sent the two first down to the Hut near Sam's Creek to remain close there till further orders. Brown stays with him at Flamboro'; as he thinks he can answer for his future behaviour.

You do yourself unmerited injustice if you harbour a doubt of my being fully assured of your solicitude for the success of the undertaking under my charge. I have experienced every cooperation & advice from you that my most sanguine wishes could desire & that one Gentleman could expect from another. These Glasgow rascals have caused us both much trouble & uneasiness, a more stubborn, litigious & cross-grained lot were never put under any person's care. I cannot think, that any liberality of rations or rum could have availed to stop their dissatisfaction. Army or Naval discipline is the only thing fit to manage such fierce spirits. I shall sign no more provision orders for them, but refer them to the Factory should they apply. Their late conduct has put them more completely in our power. The arms they have can avail nothing against us here, we have three times the number they have—that loss not however excuse the Factory people who supplied them.

I inclose you a letter from them—the contents of which I am ignorant,—they have gone too far to be yielded to now unless they are very submissive indeed.

12b—o

Servant,
MACDONELL.

ENCAMPMENT,
15th May, 1812

to-day at 12 o'clock
delivered to the

Your caution with respect to the Indians, shall be strictly attended to. Excuse my haste—I cannot write as I would wish—Believe me to be always,

My dear Sir,

Most truly Yours

MILES MACDONELL

Wm. AULD, Esq., YF.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,

21st May, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your favour of yesterday was handed me last night. To suggest any means for forwarding us inland required no apology to me, I am only sorry this backward season will not admit of so early a departure as we could wish. It would not be right to lose any advantage within our reach for the transport of stores, particularly when so many untoward circumstances conspire against us that require exertion to surmount. You have therefore my ready concurrence to dispose of myself & people for the advancement of this desirable end.

I herewith enclose a list of the effective men & the officers now with me that you may decide on what number of them shall be sent across the river. Some officers must of course be with the men wherever they go, & not one half of those with me are required here. From this to Flamboro' Head the river is extremely rough & there is no snow for hauling by land; however, these are trifling impediments that we can overcome. I imagine some where about the place where the small house burnt will be most central for the party that goes across. The two men I send will require assistance of men and sleds to bring the tents.

There is an indifferent carpenter here, a very slow hand; I will send him to the Factory if required, What is to be done with the Boats here? They are yet fast in the ice & cannot be touched.

I enclose a return of the Delinquents & non effective men for your information.

I am my dear Sir

Most truly Yours,

MILES MACDONELL

Wm. AULD, Esq.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,

22d May, 1812

MY DEAR SIR,

At this late period an hour should not be lost. I now send Mr. McLeod with 10 men across the river to be ready for any orders you may give; they are the most effective of my people—I may reinforce them with two more men, you know the whole strength is not great. The majority of men here is made up of Felons, Delinquents, 2 non effectives. I wish you could employ Michael M'Donnell, he & another Gentleman here, retain such animosity against each other that it does much harm. I shall be much disappointed if he does not make an active & good officer.

My carpenter, John M'Kay, has broke one of his ribs & is consequently unable to do any thing at present.

ended to. Excuse

To Mr. McLeod I have given a memorandum of articles for R. R. S., that may be transported, the whole, or part, to the Rock in the first boats. We are baulked for want of sleds for this party—the going to Flamboro' Head is so very bad that the large wood sleds cannot be used.

MACDONELL

In haste I am Dr. Sir,

Yours most truly,

MILES MACDONELL.

WM. AULD, Esqr.
Superind^t YF.

MENT,
21st May, 1812.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
22d May, 1812.

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I have no objection to your using the two newest boats. Mr. Hillier has sent neither clerk or man across, I shall see him to day & endeavour to get one of his clerks to be sent to join Mr. McLeod—probably McKenzie. There is so much water on the ice I had to get Indians to conduct my inexperienced people across. Three now go; the last I shall send. Those men sent are my prime; a jaunt to the north will be good for them along with your people—I have only seven left.

I will send him to
They are yet fast

As we cannot all remove from here, I think it necessary to remain myself till the last, on account of the diversity of character among us, as well as those by whom we are surrounded. Adieu.—I am always,

My dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

MILES MACDONELL.

for your informati

WM. AULD, Esq.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
24th May, 1812.

S MACDONELL

MY DEAR SIR,

I have this moment received your favour of yesterday brought me by two men of Mr. McLeod's party—I do not perceive any thing it can forward my being at the Factory nor south side the Nelson—it is certain I can neither make *effective* men nor alter the season.

NCAMPMENT,
22d May, 1812.

The crossing is so very bad that I took the precaution of sending Indians as guides with McLeod, & likewise with Mr. McKenzie, & three men that crossed yesterday to reinforce McLeod; a few lines I wrote you by the men yesterday will inform you that I remain here till the Nelson opens. Had this arrangement been agitated when Mr. Hillier & I were last at the Factory it would have been more effectually & more conveniently executed than at present.

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The Wax or Rosin in Mr. McLeod's list was intended for the bung holes of the kegs containing the seed grain: The spirits of wine I entrust to your better judgment.

My letter of the 18th April is explicit with regard to the Insurgents; and as they hold out against all overtures made, I see no other plan to follow. If you can contrive any better mode of dealing with them I shall be well pleased and readily accede to it. Instead of sending a party as usual for provisions, I am informed the whole band went off yesterday in a body to the Factory.

There is much water on the ice and the crossing dangerous, I have given order to Mr. McLeod not to allow any of his party to venture over after this. I don't know how these two men will get back to him. Good bye till you see me come and the Point of Marsh when I shall have the pleasure of taking you by the hand.

Yours most truly,

(Sgd) MILES MACDONELL.

WM. AULD, Esq.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
29th May, 1812.

My Lord,

To give Your Lordship a proper account of this country, would require ability & more minute knowledge of it than I possess. A cursory view of York Factory & some account of those belonging to it as far as come within my observation is all I can attempt.

The Factory is built at the distance of 100 yards from the North Bank of Hayes River, in low miry ground without a ditch. The stagnate water by which it is always surrounded except when Frozen, would be productive of much ill-health here they a longer summer. The chief Building is two storeys high & covered with lead—the whole badly planned & as badly constructed, make but an indifferent appearance, inconvenient in every respect, & not at all calculated for a cold country. Rooms all laid out & connecting with each other by narrow cold passages. The best rooms have grates such as are used in England for burning coals, out of which the front holes are taken to get wood into to burn on end. All their chimneys are deep narrow holes with straight jams, the wood is burnt in them on end, & except immediately in front the heat goes principally up the chimney, there is neither a Canadian Swedish stove used in all the country. There is a ground cellar under one part of the building, but it keeps nothing from freezing, and for want of a drain it is constantly filled with water, until the frost sets in hard. The site of the old Factory about half a mile below was in my opinion preferable, on a dry point, where Hayes River & a Creek coming into it washed two sides. The French had a Factory 3 miles above before they gave up the country at the Treaty of Utrecht.

The whole pile of buildings except the Launch house & canoe store, are surrounded by a single pile of pickets forming an oblong square of 400 feet front to river & 300 feet depth. The pickets are about 18 feet above the ground & so slender & open that they would give no security against an enemy. A store called the Launch house built close to the wharf on the river bank, is annually in danger of being carried away at break up of the ice in spring. To guard against this casual the stores must be timely removed into the Factory. Last year the water at break up of the river flowed into YF. and the people had boats ready made at the front gate to save themselves and some of the property.

There is no garden cultivated at YF. I am convinced, however, short as the season is, that abundance of green vegetables and potatoes might be raised. A garden formerly cultivated at the old Factory produced well. The present chief has a taste that way. On landing last fall I saw cabbages at table for dinner, but most were brought from Churchill where a garden is cultivated with success. The soil is here too short for raising grain but good meadows might be made in every part I have yet seen. The land is level, wet and generally covered with moss that which grass frequently penetrates. I imagine wherever grass grows wild it will grow by culture. The banks of rivers and ravines are from 15 to 200 feet high immediately on the sea coast where the shore is very flat, and back from it a gradual rise. This affords a facility for ditching. There are three cows and as many horses at YF. Hay is procured from islands in the vicinity, and could furnish fodder

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MACDONELL.

MPMENT,
29th May, 1812.

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considerable stock were the people expert in making it, instead of curing and stacking on the spot whence it could be brought away easily in winter, (the Islands not being subject to overflow till spring) they only cut what is close to the water's edge and bring it away in boats to the Factory to dry.

To the want of vegetables & the people being very gross feeders may be ascribed in a great measure the scurvy at YF. and although they are not altogether strangers to this disorder at other Factories on the Bay coast, it is more prevalent at York than anywhere else. For the cure of this disorder many expensive articles are given which might well be spared. An Orkney man of last year's importation had by the 1st Feby. when I saw him at the Factory, drank out a Hhd. of English Porter with some gallons of Port Wine, & had besides used a quantity of crystalized salt of lemon, essence of malt & cranberries without getting well, while my men recovered in a short time by simply drinking the spruce juice. Spruce is the prevailing wood here & I believe of all these northern parts; were it an object that would pay, tons of the essence might be sent home, it is called the *pine* by the people, who were quite ignorant of its beneficial qualities, spruce, poplar, & larch are all the species of wood that grow to trees, and these are of a very moderate size, the last is called *Juniper*.

There cannot be much improvement made in the country while the Orkney men form the majority of labourers, they are lazy, spiritless, & ill disposed,—wedded to old habits, strongly prejudiced against any change however beneficial. It was with the utmost reluctance they would be prevailed on to drink the spruce juice to save themselves of the scurvy; they think nothing of the scurvy as they are then idle & their wages run on. The Cos. provisions are of the best quality. I have not seen better issued from His Majesty's stores, and these people are as well fed as servants need be in any country, yet these men who at home live in the utmost poverty, grumble here for being deprived of superfluous & costly articles of luxury formerly lavished on them. It is not uncommon for an Orkney man to consume 6lb. or 8lb. of meat in a day, and some have ate as much at a meal This gluttonous appetite they say is occasioned by the cold. I entirely discredit the assertion, & I think it rather to be natural to themselves. The last winter was more intensely cold than any former on record, yet the men I had with me showed no extraordinary symptoms of appetite. All the labour I have seen these men do would scarcely pay for the victuals they consume. With 25 men belonging to it the Factory was last winter distressed for firewood, & the people sent to tent in the woods.

The Factory men, particularly the old hands, have done their utmost to prejudice the new comers against the Cos. service & the Country altogether; they have but too well succeeded in their iniquitous purpose!—These wretches are so malicious and ungrateful that they would exult in the ruin of those who furnished them the means of subsistence for so many years, and in whose service many have acquired fortunes. By the supineness and indecision of the officers in not timely putting a stop to the grumbling of a few troublesome men by their removal, dissatisfaction has been allowed to pervade the whole body of their people who are now in a state of open general discontent. Mr. Auld does not appear to want either decision or firmness but unless supported by his officers he cannot alone stem the torrent.

Many of the Cos. servants I have seen are unfit for service, & a mere imposition. The men inland I am informed are superior and indeed they would require it, otherwise they could never get up the rapids. Eighteen or twenty of the men shipped at Stromness last year are from age or infirmity unfit for the Cos. service. It is a common practice with men sent home from one part of the Bay as unfit for service or for misconduct to impose themselves upon the Agent at Stromness (who does not appear to be very circumspect) & come out again to other Factories. To prevent this abuse, a descriptive list of all men discharged for incapacity or misconduct might be sent to the Committee by the Superintendent, that they could be enabled to give the necessary instructions to the Agents against re-engaging such men.

Mr. Auld & Mr. Cook are both very unpoplar amongst the Indians here, who have likewise caught the spirit of dissatisfaction to a very great degree. These people

who in 1782 offered to defend the Factories against the French, refuse now to come to the Goose Hunt & feel indifferent on all occasions to obey the orders of the Cos. officers. There are no chiefs among them & they are in the utmost state of individual debasement & depravity that can be conceived. It is a melancholy reflection that during their long intercourse with the Whites they have not acquired one moral virtue, nor is the faintest idea of the true deity to be found among them.

*(From here a piece has been torn to the extent of 18 lines).

should benefit thereby. As they had sawed them themselves, it was thought they had a right to destroy them if they chose it, altho' by their engagement their whole time belonged to the H. B. Co.

It is surprising the Co. never encouraged men to bring out their families to this country. A few families might be well accommodated at each of the different Factories. The women could find sufficient employment in making and mending cloaths, washing, cooking, &c., &c. Were this the case the men would be more contented and feel more attached to the country than they do. The children growing up here would be fitter to serve in carrying on the trade than those men imported, and a great deal of the iniquitous and scandalous connection formed with Indian women would be at an end. Every married man at present who can lay by a small sum is anxious to go home to join his family.

*(The same space as above amissing owing to the piece torn out).

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,
31st May, 1812.

MY LORD,

I joined my people here on the 7th Oct., two days after I had the honour of addressing a few lines to your Lordship from YF, and after making two unsuccessful attempts to get round the point of Marsh, succeeded the third time, but was lost for three hours in a snowstorm without a compass.

I found the people in tents pitched on a narrow flat on the North side the River Nelson, fronting the upper & largest Seal Island, with a bank of about 130 feet high in the rear. The men had leather tents; my officer and self used those of sheeting that came out. This was the place pointed out for us by Mr. Auld. Altho' Mr. Hillier and I were desired to land from the ship the day after her arrival, to concert a plan for wintering—we were not consulted. The huts were commenced according to a plan Mr. H. & I had previously settled at the Factory. For some days all the men wrought promiscuously together & being awkward & inexperienced, the buildings made very slow progress. I then made a division of the men with Mr. H. I took those I expected for R. R. S. amounting to 36 according to the enclosed return. A few others besides these wintered with me.

On taking an account of provisions on hand, found our stock of oatmeal would furnish little better than a pint to each man per day till the 1st January, & it was uncertain that we could have access to the Factory till that period on account of the river. A good quantity of fresh & salted venison was supplied us at the Fishing Wire house, about 30 miles above this, & was brought down in boats by our people. Salt Pork and Bacon we had, but it was thought imprudent to give much of it to the people for fear of the scurvy.

By the 26th Oct. all the men & officers got into the Houses; these were in an irregular line along & fronting the river, built of round logs, the front side high with a shade roof sloping to the rear, & covered over the timber with moss & clay near a foot thick. Boards for the floors & births were ready sawed to our hand, we had only to bring them in boats from south side opposite Flamboro' Head, where a house had been begun by the Factory people for trading:

We made fences of a couple miles extent on each side the river with snares in them for killing deer, but the deer did not come about in the fall as usual. We had consequently no success that way; I placed a party opposite to us on the south side—we had another down towards Sams Creek, on the north side, for the purpose of hunting,—all to no avail; even partridges that the country used to swarm with, deserted this part so much that with all the exertions made we did not kill above 200 of them.

The natives brought us throughout the winter occasional supplies of fresh & dried meat & some fish, all they could possibly spare to take from their families,—so that we suffered no privation of food.

The ice took on the river the 18th Decm. with a high flood and unusually rough. A few days afterwards the men were set to work to make a road across by cutting down the rough ice & put up balises, *Comme ils font en Canada*. The 9th Jany. I sent the first provision party to the Factory—an officer 8 men & 3 Dogs. This duty was afterwards continued weekly thro' the winter. The provisions were dragged on Indian sleds. A man hauls in this way from 70lb to 100lb wt & a dog as much. We made our own sleds, bought snow shoes from the Indians & likewise some sleds. An officer always accompanied the men & had instructions to keep his party together, to make regular stops and if any man lagged behind the whole were to wait for him; by these precautions no injury from the frost happened our people altho' they went on these journeys when the thermometer was sometimes at 50° below 0. They performed their duty as well as men accustomed to the climate could do.

There being no Game caught I withdrew my party from south side the River on 27th Dec. Will. Finlay, the man I engaged at YF, was joined to this party on account of his experience, but he soon began to form a party for himself, against the officer Michael McDonnell; this being reported to me I crossed in a boat 2nd Decr. with a crew of new hands & had him brought to the main body. This rascal was afterwards the instigator of much mischief.

On the night of the 1st Jany. a most violent & unprovoked attack was made by some of the Irish on some of the Orkney men of Mr. Hillier's party. The information & complaint given on oath before Mr. Hillier & myself as Magistrates which I have the honor to enclose (Document No. 1) contains a full statement of this affair; too much liquor was the only incitement. Mr. H. always gave his men a Saturday nights allowance of rum, & Xmas and New Years day a pint to each man. My men got drams occasionally but none any allowance. At Xmas & New Year I gave way to their importunity & conformed to my neighbors example. Three Orkney men were so severely beat that for near a month afterwards the Surgeon could not declare them to be out of danger. Three Irishmen, two of my party & one of Mr. Hillier's were most culpable, one of these of my party, Anthony MacDonnell, I got the sufferers to compromise with for a sum of money; not being able to speak English he was drawn into the fray by the two others, he will make a good settler, is strongly connected in Laggan (Coy. of Mayo) and will be the means of bringing out many of his relations. The two others are worthless blackguards—the lash may make them serviceable to Government in the Army or Navy but they will never do for us. I trust if they should get clear of this scrape that means will be taken to prevent them from reaching their native country where their false reports might be detrimental to the Colonial Recruiting. All those concerned had to give securities for the Peace, for a twelve month.

The Scurvey attacked some of our people in Decr. and afterwards became very general, so much so that it was apprehended there would not be effective men to bring provisions for the sick from the Factory One man died, Robt Montgomerie. By the plentiful use of spruce the violence of the Scurvey was checked, & early in Feby. the men were recovering fast. The people here were entire strangers to the virtues of the spruce, and did not even know that to be the chief wood of the Country. It was a difficult matter to get the Orkney men to drink it particularly the old hands and from their example others declined.

Willm. Finlay first set the example of disobeying my order to drink the spruce, at the most alarming time of the disorder; for this I put him off work for two or three days and not intending to go further lengths with him he was ordered to resume work, but this he refused saying he would work no more. As he persisted in this determination, altho' frequently ordered to work, after a week had passed, I summed up his conduct when detached with Michael MacDonnell with what took place here and had him brought before Mr. Hillier as a Magistrate when different misdemeanors were proved against him as Your Lordship will find in Document No. 2, for which he was sentenced to confinement as a refractory servant. Not thinking it any punishment that he should eat, sleep & sit idle in the House with the other men, I had a Hut built for him to which he was removed. A party he had formed among the people assembled to the number of 13 men on the first night of his confinement (12 February) & burnt the Hut to the Ground, triumphantly shouting in the most audacious manner when they had got it in flames. Their huzzaing brought me out, I found them all at the Hut, & had their names taken down on the spot.

Mr. Hillier sat with me next day when we had these Insurgents brought before us & proceeded against them as per Document No. 3. At the examination of the last evidence they refused to submit to our authority & contemptuously walked away. None of the Highlanders or Irish were concerned in this affair—*nine* of them are from Glasgow, of Capt. Rodk. McDonald's List & four from the Orkneys, young lads that were induced to join them. I struck them all off duty. Put them with Finlay in the lower house of my people and removed the other men from them. They brought provisions for themselves weekly from the Factory for which I signed an order & were in this state until the arrival of Mr. Auld; he spoke to them here on the 27 April. I went early in May to the Factory to concert measures with Mr. Auld; it was agreed between us that they should be taken into the Cos. service rather than be sent home. On my return proposals to this effect were made to them as put up in Document No. 3 & rejected, endeavors were made before this to break the combination by getting the Orkney lads away from them, but these would not agree to any accommodation without the rest. It was reported by some of the Cos. other servants that all these men disliked to be employed in the cultivation of lands; but this they themselves publicly denied. They expressed unwillingness to serve in any capacity as they were not treated in a manner they had a right to expect from promises made them by the agent at the time of engaging. This is all the defence they have yet attempted to make.

The litigious & discontented spirit of these men has been fomented by Wm. Finlay & other old hands; all the men at the Factory were their friends and abettors. They were always well received there and allowed to sleep at the Factory when our men going there for provisions had to go back to a hut 3 miles off. Three visitors from Glasgow (Messrs. Carswell, Brown, & Fisher) have kept up an intercourse with them all winter against orders to the contrary, furnished them with arms and ammunition for hunting, & even carried to them every word they heard spoken among us concerning them. Countenanced as they have been it is not surprising these men should reject our offers. The *old hands* have done their utmost to corrupt not only these men but all my people. Every time a party was sent to the Factory the men were tampered with, & always returned with some discouraging story. The mischiefs to be dreaded from the Red River Inds. have not been overlooked, and were painted with most terrific forms. Considerable impressions were made in this way. I hope they have now however nearly exhausted their inventive faculties.

I see no resource now left but that of sending these Insurgents home, there being no controlling power in this country to manage them. Their accts. are made up to the 12th Feby. & and since they have had nothing from us but provisions. They cannot claim any part of their wages from the beginning. I am only mortified at the great advances that were made them at the time of engaging & and the subsequent expenses they have incurred. Two young writers who wintered with me, John McLeod from Lewis & Michael MacDonnell from Killala are well acquainted

with all the circumstances & must go home to give evidence against them. These young men may serve afterwards to recruit forces in their respective countries.

Of all our people Michael McDonnell, alone suffered severely from the frost & that entirely from his own imprudence. He was the Officer with my party on south side the river—went with two of his men 22nd Decr. to the Factory for provisions; it was cold weather snowing and drifting; he went a head of his men on snow shoes, out walked the men & lost his way, wandered about in the woods all day without victuals, arrived faint & weary about 8 o'clock at night at the Factory after the gates were shut. He had the toe and heel of one foot, & his two cheeks frozen, his men had got there safe in course of the day. His arrival and condition was immediately reported to Mr. Cook, who notwithstanding, allowed him to remain all night in the Common Guard room among the men, & did not even send him a blanket to sleep on. Mr. C. told the men next day that they must take him away let his condition be what it would, there being no room in the Factory for any officer. He arrived with me in the afternoon of Xmas day, carried across the river on a mans back, and reached there from the Factory dragged on a sled by Dogs. He was confined to the House the greater part of the winter from this accident. Mr. Edw'ds skill and attention saved his great toe and effected a complete cure.

None of the people of our encampment were at any time inclined to go to the Factory unless business required it. We were as comfortably lodged as any there could be: Notwithstanding the unusual severity of the winter I slept comfortably warm with a single fold of blanket & a buffalo skin for my covering. My officers & men were equally comfortable.

During the months of Jany. Feby. & March the supplies from the Indians were but scanty. Early in April they began to come in with fresh venison, towards the last of the month the supplies were abundant, fresh venison was so plenty that our men would not taste salt meat. We caught *twenty seven* deer ourselves in our snares & likewise shot a few. From the 27th April to 15th May I daresay that no less than 3,000 Deer crossed the river below the Seal Island, from North to South side in different herds some containing at least 100. I am told they equally abound all the way up this river & have regular crossing places. Down here they crossed anywhere indiscriminately, without regarding the length or steepness of the banks or the roughness of the ice. People may complain of bad living in Hudson Bay but it is certain we have all got fatter than when we came to it.

Four new boats are built at the Factory ready for our use, on nearly the bat-taux construction after a model & directions I gave. Two of these are 28 feet long in the bottom; the other two are not so long. Boats used here for going inland are only 22 feet in the keel. It is not expected or believed that I can get up with mine; I shall however convince them of the contrary. The blind attachment to old customs & reluctance to deviate from them in both officers & men here is extraordinary. These boats cost me a vast deal of writing & three trips to the Factory to give the minutest directions; yet they are not well put together. I have a sufficiency of boards & plank sawed here to make boats for the transport of our people coming out this year, with an equivalent complement of oars & setting poles. In future I think it will be more expedient to build boats at the settlement and to send them down for the people; but of this, I shall be able to form a better judgment hereafter. It is very inconvenient to build at YF. where wood is scarce, & none of a good quality to be procured, Spruce is the only wood they have there for boards & boat timbers.

My two young men, Messrs. Edwards & McRae, I have got into very good order, & expect from their good disposition & readiness to benefit by local experience, that they will be very serviceable. The Chaplain is very sanguine for the advancement of the Colony, and continues to write encouraging letters home. I believe he is about writing to Your Lordship, & intends to offer his personal services to recruit in Ireland; he may be more useful there than here, & perhaps this would not be a bad way to get rid of him. By admitting him to hold a share in the concern, would be the means of keeping him interested, & be a spur to his exertions. I do not think that he will ever make a convert to the Catholic Religion. I should not, however,

wish to part with him until another was on the way to join us. I expect that hereafter there will be no difficulty in getting a priest to come out who can be well recommended, and probably at a reduced salary.

We must immediately have some kind of judicature in the colony. No Government is so fit for such an establishment, in the beginning, as a military one; I imagine that once in possession of the Royal Commission, martial law might be established by a proclamation, but I shall require forms; in support of this some coercive power may be necessary; a company of 50 men would be sufficient, in the first outset, they would be mounted in the country, to act as Infantry or Cavalry as the service might require. A war with America, I suppose, would facilitate the obtaining this from Government, as they would naturally wish to strengthen every part, & if ready raised troops were objected to, the men could soon be recruited in those parts of Ireland & Scotland from which the families are brought. More companies might in time be added if required. Should Military Law be established within the tract all traders must take out a License, which may answer a good purpose with the N. W. Co.

The present state of the country requires strong power to bring it to order, and if we are to have Glasgow weavers, or others of similar principles among us, instead of being formidable to the Indians, or other external enemies, we may all be overturned by one tumultuous onset of our own people. Seeing people well prepared often prevents mischievous consequences. I submit all this to Your Lordship's most serious consideration.

Numerous letters passed between me & Messrs. Auld & Cook. Copies of a few of the most important I have the honor to enclose. Mine are chiefly in reply & in justification of ourselves and measures, and as moderate as I could possibly word them, to avoid giving the least shadow of umbrage that might occasion the withholding any support required; but without any intention of yielding in any material point. Business in this country cannot be carried on entirely by writing, although they appear to be fond of long letters & forming systematic arguments. Less writing & more active operations would in my opinion be preferable, & more beneficial to their employers. People here make it a rule to describe the country to strangers in the most unfavourable manner, the most alarming accounts are given, & every circumstance greatly magnified. It was openly said last fall that many of us must fall victims to the severity of the cold in Winter, & to the scurvy. We have already defeated these assertions, & I expect will overcome all the difficulties that now oppose us.

At the suggestion of Mr. Auld by letter of 20th inst., I sent two officers & the most effective of my people across the river on 22nd, to be ready there to take early advantage of the opening of Hayes River for transporting a cargo to the Rock. When Mr. Hillier & I left the Factory on 10th instant, the plan Mr. Auld proposed was that we should all wait the breaking up of this river & assemble together at the Factory before anything further could be concluded on. The hauling was extremely bad when my people Crossed—they had to carry their provisions & for great part of the way on their backs, the ice was doubtful, with much water over it, & they being strangers I took the precaution of sending Indian Guides along to conduct them safe over.

I remain here with my *staff* & a few men waiting the breaking up of this River. I have not said anything of the Nelson, as the chart that Mr. Hillier is about making will be fully explanatory. I cannot yet say what party I shall have for going inland—that can only be ascertained after getting to the Factory, from whence I shall communicate further.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,
MILES MACDONELL.

Rt. Hon'ble
THE EARL OF SELKIRK,

William Finlay & the Glasgow insurgents I imagine are trying what lengths we can go with them, & no doubt they have many abettors at the Factory. There is a necessity of making an example of them for the future benefit of affairs here, however detrimental and expensive to us at present. I do not expect they will be sent to Canada for trial; although Mr. Auld thinks that by the Act 43 Geo. III. c. 138, all matters respecting this country are cognizable in the courts of Canada only. If that is the case adieu to legal redress for H. B. I hope they will in the meantime be put on board a man of war, to serve until claimed for trial. Their pay then might be stopped until the Co. is reimbursed for advances made & expenses incurred through them. This I am informed is a thing frequently done in the Navy. It is painful to lose so many effective men at a time they can be so ill spared. I will not yet send them all home if there is a possibility of avoiding it. The rascal Finlay has been the occasion of all this.

I have no reason to change the opinion I first formed of many of the Glasgow writers in consequence of their irregular conduct at Stornoway. Two Highland lads, Andrew Stewart & Don^d McPherson, who went to the Southern Factories, are exceptions. They are both young men of good character & conduct, had I known so much of them as I do now, they should have come to YF. They may if thought necessary be sent to Winipig from where they are, as readily as from here. Mr. Sloan is likewise a very good young man, but is unfortunately bent on going home, with what propriety I cannot see, after signing a contract in the usual way. The documents & papers referred to here will accompany the original, to be sent from YF.

M. McD.

NELSON ENCAMPMENT,

19th June, 1812.

MY LORD,

By a line received last night from Mr. Auld I am happy to inform your Lordship that the Insurgents have at length come into terms, acknowledged their guilt, & have thrown themselves entirely on the mercy of the Committee, so that none of them shall now be sent home for the affair of the 12th February, they crossed from here to the Factory on 24th May, & thought the ice too unsafe to return. Mr. Auld turned them out of the factory & refused them provisions until they surrendered their arms, by this decisive conduct towards them, having no leader, the Glasgow writers Carswell, Fisher, & Brown being on this side the river, as likewise Wm. Finlay who had remained behind; finding themselves destitute & unsupported, they immediately came to a proper sense of their situation, & submitted. This is so far well, they are however lost to us, as I cannot think of taking any of them to R.R.S. The mutineer Finlay, & the two Irish assailants are yet to be disposed of.

I am detained here by the ice,—altho' the river has opened 4 miles below us it is yet choked up here, the ice has frequently moved but stopped again for want of a sufficiency of water in the river to carry it off. We are caught in a trap & cannot help ourselves. This season is the latest ever known, the Factory river only opened on the 5th instant, there was no inundation, & the schooner is safe. My party went on a trip to the Rock on the 10th, so that there is something going forward altho' we are pent up here.

This goes by two Indians Mr. Auld is sending off express to Abany with letters for England to be put on board the Prince of Wales, Capt. Hanwell. I enclose a duplicate of my letter of 31st May, to give Your Lordship the earliest information respecting us. The papers referred to in the duplicate would take too much time to copy. I shall enclose them with the original from YF, with such other matters as may

occur till our departure, I shall accompany Mr. Hillier tomorrow in the survey of the Nelson as far up as it is open. I have the honor to be always

My Lord

Your Lordships Most Obedt.,

And very humble servant,

MILES MACDONELL.

The Honble.,

THE EARL OF SELKIRK.

Sent with the foregoing letter under cover to Capt. Hanwell, H.B. Co., Ship Prince of Wales, East Maine, by two Inds, going Express. Addressed to Wm. Kerr, Esqr. Secy., G.P.O., Edinburgh.

YORK FACTORY, 4th July, 1812.

MY LORD,

Sunday afternoon 21st June the ice moved a little in front of our encampment, & cleared the mouth of the creek our boats were in, but remained still fast below. I expected we might by going up a mile above Seal Island, gain the South Channel which was open. With this intention everything was embarked & we left the place at 12 o'clock next day; much ice was drifting, we had four boats, two of them very large & unmanageable. I got round with 3 men in a small boat and arrived at the Factory at 6 o'clock next morning 23rd June, the other boats put back, got entangled in the ice, & by the awkwardness of the people, they being chiefly non effectives, one large boat got adrift & was abandoned by the crew. She contained the stores and luggage of myself & party, & was found by an Indian two days afterwards stranded on south side the river near the Factory path, completely wrecked and the lading still in her. She had floated there by means of a quantity of boards and oars that had been placed under the lading. I sent a party from here and had all the things saved, with little damage from having got wet. The ice opened at the Seal Islands, and the rest of my people came here 25th June.

Mr. Auld thought it best that I should wait till the people from inland should arrive, no particular party could be assigned me till then; the men were in the mean time employed in transporting my stores along with the Cos goods to the mouth of Hill River. Messrs Bird, Sinclair, & House arrived the 29th June, and on the 1st Instant the men were divided. 22 is my portion out of 49, all that are effective of last year's importation. The people are so fluctuating that I cannot yet send a list of my party. A man of one nation is prejudiced against going with one of another. I shall go on with any number, take possession of the tract & hoist the standard.

It will never do after this to take the colonists from among the Cos servants, the Orkneymen are so averse to labour that they prefer the Cos service to agriculture, and all being engaged in the name of the Co they object to serve in the colony thinking it a separate concern. The common servants have entirely the rule here. Mr. Bird's men came down yesterday in a body from the Rock, contrary to the express orders of their chief, who left them above to be transporting the goods over the carrying places. I shall get up by mixing my people & stores with those of the inlanders; some part of my stores must unavoidably be left. No assistance from here is promised next fall to those coming out. I cannot possibly afford them any & I dread the families wintering here, in which event some must perish, & the report will spread far & wide. I shall endeavour to send Mr. McRae down from Winipic to meet them, & there is a chance of my engaging some of Mr. Bird's free inlanders. I know the little exertion of people here, & the confusion at ship time, there is not a place allotted for the reception of the colonists, they must of course lay in tents.

To Mr. Bourke I have granted leave to go home at his own desire, & enclose his letter. He was only an encumbrance to me, irregular & eccentric in his conduct as clergyman. He has no sway over his flock, & religion is turned to ridicule among strangers. If he can do any good to the colony in Ireland it is well; as a priest he can be of no service here, particularly in the infancy of the settlement; & I hope Your Lordship will not be in haste to send him out to us. We must, however, immediately have a priest, and he ought to be an exemplary steady character. Such a one will be of very great advantage. Mr. Bourke's people know nothing of his going home, he remains here on pretence of waiting for those coming out to go up with them. I congratulate Your Lordship on the River Nelson being found capable of admitting ships of any burden, there being sufficient water within a short distance of Flamboro' Head, as Your Lordship will perceive by the chart & report of Mr. Hillier which I enclose. Mr. H. went from here two or three days ago to take the soundings across between the beacons on the point of Marsh and Sams Creek; & the day before he set off, it was said at the public table, that a man could wade across there at low water! I trust the navigation of it all the way up will be found more practicable than people here give out, in short, there is nothing but discouragement to be heard from them on every side.

I send samples of stones & sand found in abundance at our wintering place. Mr. Bourke who may justly claim the merit of the discovery, supposes them to be of the most valuable kinds. Diamonds, rubies, &c., &c., and gold dust. Should they be found valuable on their analysis, immediate advantage ought to be taken of it. Your Lordship might obtain a grant of the Nelson with a mile on each side of it from the H. B. Co. I have enjoined the closest secrecy on Mr. Bourke, & no person here has the least idea of the matter. We may make further important discoveries in going up.

No particular accounts for my party last winter can yet be settled. The consumption of provisions for all the men of last year's importation is to be kept together to be properly arranged hereafter. What shall be supplied me here to take up, must of course be a distinct part. I shall never attempt to build a boat here again by Factory men, the acct made for those already built is enormous and the work bad. Your Lordship will see by it, how the people pass their time, two ordinary carpenters ought to build one of these boats in eight days, having the materials furnished to their hand, as these had.

I have drawn on Your Lordship for £13 stg. in favour of Misses Flora & Ann McDonell & likewise for £7 in favour of Jno. McDonell, Knoydart, on Mr. Anderson Edin. as easier negotiated in the Highlands, both dated 20th June, I take the liberty of inclosing an order for a few books I wish to have sent out next year.

We cannot depend on this Factory for the supply of any stores for R. R. S. as they have not many articles we require. I shall therefore have to make an Indent for next year of such as may occur to me along the road. I leave here to-morrow with Messrs. McRae & Edwards in company with Mr. Bird.

I have the honor, &c.,

Your Lordships Most Obt. & very Hble. Servant,

MILES MACDONELL.

Rt. Honble. The
EARL OF SELKIRK.

Four Irishmen are to be sent home. Higgins & Hart for the felonious attack on the Orkney men, W^m. Gray, non-effective, & Hugh Redden, who lost his arm by the bursting of a Gun given him to fire off by Mr. Brown, one of the Glasgow Clerks,

M. McD.

List of books sent from YF. 3^d July 1812.

Dictionary, Spanish & French.

Grammar Spanish.

Don Quixote in Spanish.

Act for punishing mutiny & desertion & articles of war....	5s. 6d.
Light Horse drill.....	18s.
Whitmore's General System of British Tactics.....	7s. 6d.
The Soldier's friend, a new pocket vocabulary in six languages.....	6s.
Nineteen Manœuvres—Dundas.	

Gaelic Books.

Ronald McDonald Collection Gaelic Poems.	
Vocabulary Gaelic & English—by Robt. McFarlane, Ed.	
McDougal & McLauchlan's Collection of Gaelic Poems & Songs— Fort William.	
Gaelic Proverbs—by Charles McIntosh Esqr.	
Alexander & Don Stewart's Collection of the works of the Gaelic Bards—2 Vols.	
An Azimuth Compass.	

NOTE G.

VISIT TO NIAGARA.

JOURNAL OF CAPT. ENYS, 29TH REGIMENT.

1787.

1787, July 18th.—From hence to Fort Slosser is about a mile & a half or two miles on a perfectly straight and good road, at which place we at length arrived, after being four hours on the road from Niagara, which is only fourteen miles. On our arrival we found dinner over but we soon got a mutton chop, which we had no sooner swallowed than we all set out to see the Falls taking Mr. Hamilton of the 53d Regiment for our guide, who having commanded Fort Slosser for some time knew his way. After passing through some fields and a small piece of wood, we came to the river side at an old saw mill, about a quarter of a mile from the brink of the Falls. This view alone is worth going many miles to see. The current, which is very strong more than three miles above the Falls, is here increased by many causes, for the river which grows naturally narrower as it approaches the brink of the cataract, is here divided by a large island in the middle; it also begins to be shallow and rocky, so that from hence quite down to the brink of the Falls the water is in a continual foam and has in many parts of the distance Falls which would be much talked of were they in any other situations, which may be easily conceived from the perpendicular height which the water falls in the course of this quarter of a mile previous to its reaching the brink of the cataract, which is at least sixty feet; this many seem to think should be added to the perpendicular height of the Falls; whether it should or no I shall not presume to determine. I already find my pen, or at least my ideas, inadequate to give any account of what is now before me, as it is not only the water which is beautiful but the island also is covered with noble trees down quite to the edge of the water; to this we must add the many small islands which have been severed from time to time from the larger one by the force of the current, and which still partake of their parent's verdure and beauty. It was with difficulty we could prevail on ourselves to leave the place, even tho' we knew we were to go to parts infinitely more beautiful. We at length, however, struck again into the wood and, passing down its skirts, Mr. H. brought us out a few yards below the Fall. Here I for one sat down for some time in silent admiration and astonishment, at a sight which I am fully persuaded no pen or pencil can ever convey across the sea. In our present situation we were too near to the highest

