

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY					
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference :—

B.27/a/6

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Copy No.

SECTION B

Reference

CLASS 27

Reduction

SUB-DIVISION a

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION CARLTON HOUSE

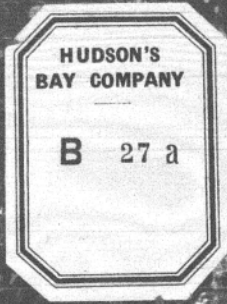
(Saskatchewan) -

POST JOURNAL

1816 - 1817

NOTICE.

THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ONLY. NO REPRODUCTION EITHER OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR OF THESE NEGATIVES, OR OF PRINTS FROM THEM, MAY BE MADE OR USED FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON, ENGLAND.




*Journal by
James Bird.*

No 8 - J.

Carlton

1816/17



6
1816-17

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY					
2	3	4	5	6	
					Reference
					B. 27/a/6
COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON					

Sept 25th About 9 A.M. we found two new hands whom Mr. W. Donnell
who left 3rd days ago with a Boat heavily ^{laden} with Oatmeal &
other grain for the use of the gelling / had left with ten bags
of Oatmeal (250) to lighten his Boat in consequence of the shallowness
of the water. I ordered these men to wait there till Mr. Lincoln
arrived, who will take them with him if possible.

30th At seven till, we arrived at Mr. W. Donnell's fire (a little above
Hill River House) and remained with him all night. Mr. W. Donnell
has found much inconvenience from the shallowness of the water
in Hayes and Hill Rivers, and in Hill River he has been under
the necessity of going up one particularly shoal rapid with part
of his cargo only, and of returning the Boat, to fetch the remainder
which has occasioned much delay.

Oct. 2nd At 10 A.M. I arrived at the White Mud Creek (above the
rock) where Mr. Baldu with two men have prepared a good
deal of blood which will considerably accelerate the building
of Houses by Mr. Linklater and party who are to winter here.
An Indian who was at this place with Mr. Baldu, but
whose relations are living at the Lakes south of this plain
assured me that a great number of Tuckameg may be
taken there, (the Lakes are distant about twelve or fifteen
miles from the spot where the buildings are to be made) and
I have therefore left a note for Mr. Linklater again directing
him to pay very attention to the procuring of Fish and
other Country Provisions to enable him to support his Men
without any material consumption of English Provisions.
I also left a note for Messrs. Robertson & Finlayson urging
them to make every expectation that circumstances will
admit of.

4th At 6 P.M. I arrived at the Depot at Swampy Lake
where Mr. Logan is busily employed in making winter
Habitations for himself and his Men. There will soon

Oct. 4th be finished and as he will have as many new hands at his Disposal
as he can maintain (the lateness of the Ships arrival not admitting
of a more advantageous employment of them) and as all the wood
collected at Swan Lake is here on the spot there is reason to conclude
that Mr. Logan will by next July have the necessary Buildings
ready for the convenient transaction of the Wharves at Bayou.
Mr. Logan is at present taking in Furs, a good number of
Tuckameg, and has hopes of being able to make a good Fall
Fishing. - I suggested Mr. Logan to examine the ground bordering
on Jack River with a view of ascertaining the practicability of
making a summer cart road to the head of the Rapids; and, if
he did not find the Country such, as to render all hopes of such
an improvement being made, fruitless, to mark the Place where
such a road could be most advantageously formed so as
to admit of a further examination should such a step be
thought worth the trouble. If over a regular transport of
Goods / from Yorks Factory / to and from Red River takes
place during the whole summer, a cart road past the Rapids
of Jack River will be found not only convenient but necessary.

7th Arrived at Oxford House about 3 P.M. There I left notes
for Messrs. Lincoln, Robertson and Finlayson, requesting the
former to examine the Country bordering on Trout River
(for the same purpose that Mr. Logan is to examine Jack-
river) and to render every assistance in his power to
enable Mr. Logan to feed as many Men as he can
advantageously employ in building, or in clearing ground
as Mr. Logan is of opinion (and he appears to possess considerable
knowledge of the Subject) that the soil in the neighbourhood
of the Depot is sufficiently good for the production of the common
garden Vegetables, and good Hay. The latter Messrs. Robertson
and Finlayson / I have again urged to be expeditious and
have desired them to give the Men a few Glasses of rum (at
proper times) if that measure, or trial produces any good
effect.

Oct 13

Arrived at Norwegian Point, where Donald Lewiston and five Men left with him have made a House of sixty feet by twenty five nearly ready for the roof. At 8 A.M. I passed Lark River where the principal part of the Settlers are to pass the winter some of them have possession of the Houses belonging to the Company and others have built cottages for themselves and as they are taking plenty of Tackamag which are good and, to them, agreeable Food there seems to be little doubt of their passing a comfortable winter

I have still desired Donald Lewiston to make one large Gun Boat seeing that if it should not be required for hostile purposes it cannot fail to be useful on many other occasions. At this place I overtook Mr. Hales who left York one day before me, for Swan River, and, as his Indians are unwilling to accompany him further, he proposed trying to perform the remaining part of his Journey with two Englishmen and to accompany me as far as the Indian Lake. I left with Mr. Kirkcuff a Letter for Mr. D. Sutherland directing him to examine the Waters between the big Fall and Indian Lake, to ascertain the most easy way of communication between York Factory and these waters, and to collect all the information he can relative to the Country between Indian Lake and Canaburg, the Number of Indians who inhabit it, the number of Canadians who winter in it, and the best places for settling, at &c.

13th At 8 A.M. embarked with Mr. Hales in Company but the wind blew so violently that we were obliged to go on shore, about two Miles beyond the Moppy Point where we remained for the Night. In the evening Mr. Kirkcuff arrived at our Tent and delivered me Letters from Lord Selkirk and Mr. Vincent, addressed to the late Mr. Temple which I thought necessary for me to open. These Letters Mr. Thomas McMac (whom I sent from Lark River on the 10th of August last) received in Lake Sal from a Mr. McAulay who had fortunately pursued them from the Canadians and who (after the shameful

Oct 13th

apprehension of Mr. Hales by Archibald Norman McLeod of which your Honors are already informed) was then returning to Canaburg. I gave a note from Mr. Hales on the subject of the Red River Accounts, and other papers relative to the Business of the Colony to Mr. Kirkcuff to deliver to Mr. McDonnell, and instructed the former to inform Mr. McDonnell, and the Settlers, of Lord Selkirk's sentiments regarding them.

14th The Wind becoming a little moderate I embarked at 5 AM but at 9 AM was again obliged to go on shore. Mr. Hales whom Men are quite unsuspect in the Management of an Indian canoe did not leave our late encampment.

15th The Wind continuing too violent to admit of my proceeding on, I took extracts from Lord Selkirk's Letter on the subject of extending the Gardens at the Company's Settlements, and from such parts of your Honor's Letter as I thought Mr. Sutherland ought to be made acquainted with, and made them part of a Letter to him which I am preparing to send to Swan River by Mr. Hales who will I hope (through his resolution and experience) be able to render important services to the Company.

16th At 1 AM I embarked and proceeded on till 3 PM, when the Wind once more obliged us to land near the first rocky Point.

About 12 AM I met my son James who was detained last May a prisoner by Mr. Alexander McDonnell because it was reported that he had said that if the North West Company made any Attack on the Settlement where he was that he would himself kill three or four of the Canadian Half-breed George Sinclair and Gormain Mocheneus sent by Mr. Sutherland from Swan River to inform me of a piece of important News which has heard there. According to this News which is so strongly corroborated as to appear to have some foundation in truth Lord Selkirk about the 20th of August last, took possession of Fort William, made seven

Oct. 16th profiting themselves and a great number of Canadian prisoners and prevented any canoe of the North West Company, proceeding to Red River. Two Half breeds Alexander Spence and Sims (who were made prisoners, but who succeeded in making their escape) brought an account of this event to Red River, with a Report that Lord Selkirk had left Miles McDonald Esq. with fifty soldiers to keep possession and was himself on his way with fifty more, and Men to work them, to Red River, at which place Alexander McDonald had lately arrived and had distributed a Canoe load of Goods among the Half breeds for their Meritorious Exploits in the Months of May and June last. John Spence (a Native) son of Maguire Spence was at Red River (to which place he had gone to fetch away his Father who remained there last Spring) at the same time this alarming news was brought to McDonald who as soon as possible reengaged all the Half Breeds and Canadians who were near him, added to them eighteen Men, which together amounted to sixty men, and with this band of savages set off, as he told Spence, to intercept Lord Selkirk and his party, and take them prisoners or destroy them; or to retake Fort William; but said McDonald if I should not be able to recover our Fort I will return and destroy all the Hudsons Bay Company's Settlements without pity to those of any age or sex that I may find at them, and dont let me catch you (said he to Spence) at Upper Swan River for if I do I will have no mercy on you. McDonald accordingly left Red River with his horse band, in two Canoes and one Boat with three Flags flying, singing war songs and uttering the most horrid Yells and Shrieks - such are the Alling and howling Instruments which the North West Company have dared in defiance of all laws and the common feelings of human nature, to employ for the destruction of their Countrymen and fellow subjects and to such a degree of brutality has the cruel policy of that Company reduced in one short year, many young men of the Half breeds who before that period had conducted

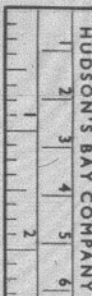
Oct. 17th themselves with propriety, and abhorred the idea of murdering a white man, but who now, as they were about to embark, said, with a mixture of boasting and contempt, in Spence's hearing, they were going to kill some more English flesh for their Dogs which were hungry!! This they said with reference to a circumstance, in itself, sufficient to call forth the public indignation against Alexander McDonald and the North West Company which is, the Dogs, about the Forts of the Forts having dug or attempted to dig up some of the bodies of the men who were so cruelly butchered last Spring.

The threats of McDonald seem to have had too great effect on Mr. Sutherland who instead of benefiting by the absence of his Enemy, to collect a body of Half breeds and Indians, and put himself in a state of defence seems to despond, and to be disposed to trust entirely to his mercy. Germain's Missionary I sent on to Park River to acquaint Mr. Kirkman, and Mr. McDonald when he arrives, with the news received from Swan River. The former I have directed to get Stockades put up round his Fort and Block Houses built and to retain a few Indians about him and keep himself strictly on his guard directly the Ice of Lake Winnipeg breaks in case Alexander McDonald should make any attempt in that quarter.



Oct. 17th Embarked at 7 A.M. the wind which is still blowing hard having varied to the Westward, and at 8 P.M. arrived in the River at the foot of the Grand Rapid.

18th Proceeded up the Rapid carried over the carrying place and encamped there. There being now no probability of Mr. Halcro's overtaking us before we pass the Cedar Lake, I determined in leaving my Letters for Mr. Sutherland in the care of some good Indians, ~~and~~ ^{who} are tenting near the bottom of the Rapid (that belong to Park River) with a view of their delivering them to Mr. Halcro as he passes. In these Letters I have endeavoured to prevail on Mr. Sutherland to rouse himself, if it is not too late, and to collect a few Half breed and Indians and with



Reference
B.27/a/6

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE
REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR
OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF
THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

Oct. 16th the assistance of Mr. Balou to endeavour to defend himself and the property entrusted to his care at Spomstuen, as also to render any assistance in his power, by timely notice or aid of any kind that can be useful to Mr. Pruden at Carletonhouse.

I also left letters with these Indians for Mr. Alexander McDonald and Mr. Kirkness, suggesting to them the propriety of being on their guard against attempts of the North West Company, till they hear from us, that such a measure is unnecessary.

19th Arrived at the Entrance of the Muddy Lake and encamped with a few Indians who are here, to whom I have given a few lines for Mr. Joseph Cook (who is Master of the Settlement at Moose Lake) directing him to provide Stags, Snow shoes and as much Provisions as possible to aid in the conveyance to Cumberland of the Tobacco the Boats behind me, have on board in case they are stopped as will probably be the case in the Neighbourhood of Cedar Lake.

25th Late yesterday evening we entered Cumberland House Lake with hopes of being able to get to the House but the night being dark and the Channel intricate we found ourselves under the necessity of sleeping in our Canoe in the Lake all night. In course of the night a Gale of Northerly Wind came on with thick Snow which quickly congealed in the water, and it was with difficulty we reached the Shore, though only one Mile distant from it, at eleven this morning ^{when} we landed at Cumberland House where I had the pleasure to find Mr. Kennedy and his Men well, and to hear that the Canadians both at this place and Moose Lake behave towards our people in a peaceable manner; indeed they appear not to be, either here or at Moose Lake, sufficiently numerous to act on any other system - they are even weaker than last Year and apparently worse furnished with Goods, from which it would appear that the North West Company are determined to make sacrifices in other quarters to

6
Oct 20th enable them to carry every thing with a high hand in Athabasca. — I found this Letter from Mr. Pruden which confirms the account given by Mr. Sutherland of the dangerous passage made by fire in the Plains and of the consequent poor prospects of procuring large quantities of dry Provisions in the Saskatchewan.

27th The Gale of Wind still continues with snow and severe cold which has covered the Lakes with one vast sheet of Ice and destroyed all hopes of my being able to proceed further by water. The Boats I left behind are also most probably unable to proceed, since the 25th instant when I should imagine they ought to have been in the Neighbourhood of the Grand Rapids.

November 1st The Snow having frozen over on the 5th Inst. I desired Mr. Kennedy to prepare two parties to start to morrow, one of which consists of James Bird Jun^r, William Tate, Duncan Cameron and George Sutherland who are to go to Carleton House as a reinforcement for Mr. Pruden and to convey to him the news from York Factory, and the account received from Red River, as also a roll of Tobacco which I brought with me from Oxford House but which on opening here I find to be so bad as to be scarcely worth carriage, which was the case with three fourths of the Tobacco brought by the Ship 1815, and which renders the scarcity of that article more severely felt. The other party viz. Mr. Neeson and William Gallendine are to go to Moose Lake and if no accounts are received at that place, when they arrive there of Mess^{rs} Robutson and Finlayson, they are afterwards to go on towards Jack River till they find the Boats, and then take such measures as may appear practicable to get the Tobacco and the Men of the Boats to Moose Lake.

8th The two parties mentioned yesterday set off on their respective Journeys.

November 9th Seeing that the conveyance of Tobacco &c. will so completely occupy the time of the Men of this place and Moose Lake I have agreed with Mr. Hennock that it is expedient for him to come to terms with the Master for the North West Company at this place Mr. Connolly, who by either party are to interfere with the Indians of the other. This Agreement Connolly seemed quite disposed to enter into as he apprehends a good deal from our apparent superiority of numbers (not knowing how fully those men must be employed on business not immediately connected with the trade) and is desirous of making a greater profit than his predecessor who had a much more ample supply of goods and men than himself. William Connolly is a young man of about thirty years of age has a good deal of information and a tolerable address. In a conversation that I had with him he spoke with disapprobation and regret of the violent proceedings of Alexander McDonnell in Red River and expressed a determination never to commit any action himself in this Country that he should ^{never} have known in his own. He has been fifteen years in the ^{service of the} Northwest Company, and is perhaps now to come in for a share. The only disagreeable action hitherto laid to his charge is his concealment of Mr Clarke's desertion last year at this place and his denying the fact. a circumstance which he is ashamed of (contrary to the custom of his associates) and which he attempted to excuse by saying, ~~you know the Northwest Company, Mr Clarke, and what they expect of their clerks.~~ "You know the Northwest Company, Mr Clarke, and what they expect of their clerks."

December 1st Messrs Robertson, Heron, Todd and Henry arrived from the Moose Lake, Mr Robertson and party were stopped by the Ice at the Grand Rapids from whence they have walked to this place. They brought three rolls of Tobacco with them, nine more were already at

December 3rd George Lakes when they left that place, and it is hoped that the whole quantity will be got there about the middle of the month. The above Gentlemen brought me a letter from Mr Lathland who informs me that Mr McKay and the rest of your household servants who remained with him at Tuijulle, had left that place and rejoined Mr Lathland, at Susan River. Mr McKay confirms the intelligence we before received, of Lord Selkirk having taken possession of Fort William and of his Lordship's having there apprehended several partners of the Northwest Company. Alexander McDonnell had returned to Red River, and the LaSatchewan Half-breed had returned to their home; but Mr Lathland was still unable to form an opinion on the probable conduct of the adherents of the Northwest Company, and was therefore keeping in a regular state of defence.

Three men start tomorrow to fetch six rolls of Tobacco from Moose Lake to this place.

4th Sent off Messrs Robertson and Henry and two men, with the three rolls of Tobacco received on the 1st inst. for Nippar and Carlton House. I have directed Mr Pruden to forward all this tobacco, that is not immediately necessary to him, to Edmonton, unless he has received information which convinces him that a short delay will occasion no inconvenience to Mr Carswell in which case I have directed Mr Pruden not to send above till we get more Tobacco to Carlton and are enabled to send a sufficient number of men to protect it from Indians or the servants of the Northwest Company.

Mr Robertson is instructed to remain at the Nippar if there is a probability of his services being useful in promoting any measure that can enable us there to procure provisions.

5th George Sanderson and Angus McLeod arrived from Carlton House with letters from Messrs Pruden and Carswell and with Dogs and sleighs to assist me up to Carlton.

11/5
Dues

At Edmonton and Carlton all remains quiet between us and the Southwest Company. The Half breeds belonging to the Saskatchewan arrived there some time ago and have so far remained quiet, indeed they are not sufficiently numerous to attempt much alone. These people confirm the account before received of the taking of Fort William by Lord Selkirk, but if this report is true you hope soon to hear a confirmation of it from his Lordship himself as well as instructions regarding the measures he wishes us to pursue in consequence of that Measure.

8th Got off for Carlton. I take Mr. Hearn with me in case that Northwest McLeod should have omitted Mr. John McLeod as report says will be the case, so that his services should be otherwise required above.

11th Arrived at the lower Nippon an outpost from Cumberland. Great part of the original Cumberland House Indians are in the neighbourhood of this place and have made tolerable good hunts of Beavers. These Indians saw a short time since six Indians who trade with the Canadians at Lake La Longe to whom our people are gone with goods in hopes of being able to get their hunts.

13th Arrived at the Upper Nippon an outpost from Carlton in the neighbourhood of which place most of the Carlton House Indians have retired for safety after their woe exploits of last summer. They appear to be doing very little in the fur way, and our men can scarcely get sufficient Meats for their present subsistence.

The Southward Indians after destroying last summer a great Number of Women and Children of the blood Indians fled to this place to conceal themselves, and they intend to pass the winter in this neighbourhood, but according to appearances they will do very little indeed, either in the way of Provisions or furs.

Mr. John George McTavish the Northwest Proprietor

1815
Dumfriesshire

8
who is in charge of this district, visited this place a few days ago when he spoke in the most friendly way to our people, he assured them that no half breed should dare to commit any acts of hostility on them while he was in this view, expressed his grief at what had already happened congratulated himself that he had no share in it, he ventured into the Columbia last year and concluded with expressing a hope that I would call at his House (which is situated about a mile below the forks of this River) on my way to Carlton. In consequence of this invitation I wrote the following Letter to Mr. McTavish

Mr. John George McTavish Esqr.



My son acquainted me with your very polite invitation to call at your house on my way up to Carlton (which I beg leave to assure you, nothing but the equivocal posture of affairs, between our two Companies, and the calamitous occurrence of last Summer could prevent my accepting with considerable pleasure.

You will feel that it must be extremely unpleasant to me, to be entertained as a visitor, at the same house and possibly in the same room, where some of the murderers of the late Mr. Semples, and his unfortunate companions, are not only inmates, but are treated with regard, and that consideration will I trust sufficiently excuse any apparent neglect of attention on my part which most abundantly is not owing to any want of personal respect for you.

I believe that you will lament equally with myself the disgraceful and shocking event I have alluded to, and under this opinion I cannot forbear mentioning the unjustifiable conduct of your clerk Mr. McLean (in September last) who accompanied by armed Men, and himself armed, forcibly took from John Hume two Dogs the property of the Hudson's Bay Company Mr. Hume's appears also to have acted towards the same man in a similar Circumstance with little less impropriety than Mr. McLean

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

110
Dumbar. But I forbear to dwell on these disagreeable subjects as it cannot escape the observation of any discerning Man that the time is fast approaching when all acts of injustice committed here will be brought into public notice and very probably meet with the punishment they deserve.

I conceive it to be unnecessary for me to add that I earnestly wish for a speedy reestablishment of that concord and friendly intercourse which formerly subsisted between us and that I shall always be ready so far as depends on me to promote so desirable an event.

I am Sir

Your very Obedt Servant
James Bird

The affair of the Dogs mentioned in this Letter is according to the testimony of John Havin as follows.

In September last he bought two Dogs from an Indian named Maskego, a Canadian trader, some time afterwards Mr McLean arrived at Havin's House, with one half breed and a Canadian all armed, and demanded the Dogs which Havin had purchased saying that he (McLean) had promised last Spring that he would take the two Dogs in question in lieu of twenty skins of Debt which the Indian owed him. Havin refused to deliver up the Dogs and McLean therefore took them by force.

The affair of the Horse is according to the same man's account as follows. Havin bought a Horse for the Company from the Indian named above. A few days after the purchase was made Mr James Hughes arrived at the Kippow and being informed that the Indian had sold his horse said to him "what a fool were you, if you had reserved your horse for me I would have given you four times as much as you have received for him, and added so much that the Indian took back his Horse from Havin (who was alone) and by force gave it to Mr Hughes who told Havin that he would return a Horse

111
December 18th for the one he had ^{then} received, at Edmonton. - I hope to see this Indian myself and to be able to discover the real truth of these circumstances.

There being no meat in the house I am under the necessity of remaining here till some meat is brought from the hunting Tent.

The Canadian Master of this place Batoch is father of the young Half breed who was killed in Red River. Having heard that the old Gentleman always disapproved of his son's joining in that affair, and that he had upbraided Mr Hughes even in the hearing of our people with all the bitterness of parental grief, for having occasioned the death of his son, I sent for him with a view of ascertaining his real sentiments regarding that event, and of the cause in which his son had fallen. He did not sit long before he adverted to the subject in Question loading Messrs Hughes and Halden with the severest reproach. It was them, said the old Man with great warmth, who deprived me of my son: by flattering promises and subtle insinuations they induced him, for the first time in his life, to disregard my advice and to act in direct opposition to my wishes. I never consented he would consent to his going to Red River, because I believed the business he was to be engaged in to be both cruel and unjust - a sufficient proof of which was, the Northwest Company themselves refraining from taking a part in it. Who, was it he exclaimed, that sent for my son? Mr Alexander McDonald and Mr Duncan Cameron I answered, - it is on one of those if I ever see them, said he, that I will be revenged. I hinted the old Gentleman's discernment and liberality and assured him that the day is not far distant when he will have reason to congratulate himself for having acted with such regard to the duties of a civilized being, and for having scorned to be made a wretched tool of the Northwest Company. He seemed pleased, said that it was true he had not the

December 11th advantages of education but that he had sense enough to know right from wrong, and that he early formed a determination to commit no action that he thought unjust, and this determination I have always adhered to, since he, in spite of several solicitations from the Northwest Company to act otherwise, and for the truth of this continued he I may appeal to yourself. It is but justice to Barlock to say that, that he has always exerted himself for his employes with the greatest activity and the deepest interest, I never heard of his having at any time acted in an unjustifiable manner.

Now then I believe is a proof of certain Factors of the Northwest Company, having, to serve their own cruel purposes, induced young Men to act in direct opposition to the will of their parents whom they have loaded with sorrows or involved in their guilt.

15th Having received the meat of two red Deer last night from the hunters, we recommenced our journey towards Carlton and at 12 AM passed Mr. Walker's House near the mouth of the South Branch.

17th Late in the evening we arrived at Carlton and found Mr. Pruden and Men all very well.

18th Mr. Pruden has already received a good quantity of provisions from the Stone Indians and prospects at this place are not quite so gloomy as I had been led to believe for, if the Indians of this quarter are not disturbed by the Slave Indians, we may, I think venture to hope that we shall procure 200 bags of Pemican here: And this quantity with what may reasonably be expected from above, assisted by the barley &c we have, and salt Geese that I hope Mr. Kennedy will be able to procure at Morse Lake, and Cumberland, will enable us, I trust, to conduct the summer business with the usual ease and expedition.

10
December 23rd A band of Stone Indians, consisting of about sixty men with their women united, apparently well loaded with Provisions. Many of these Indians are accustomed to trade with the Canadians and it appears that we are indebted to our advantageous situation for their coming to us at present.

This requires an explanation. - Last Spring the Canadians determined to abandon this place, partly from apprehensions of the Slave Indians and partly from an opinion that a station in the South Branch would be more beneficial to them.

Mr. Pruden being of a different opinion, with regard to our affairs, preferred remaining here, which I permitted him to do. - The Canadians accordingly left this place last May and built a House near the mouth of the South Branch. When their Canoes arrived in the fall they built another House, nearly opposite the old House in the South Branch formerly occupied by Mr. Walker, and a third at the Kippis where we had settled in preference to the mouth of the Branch.

Mr. Pruden, at this place they left unopposed, Now the plains on the South Branch River having been all burnt in the month of September there are no Buffalo in that quarter, in consequence of which the Stone Indians are, nearly all of them, living on the borders of this River and one of course nearest to this House - a circumstance that we hope to benefit by considerably.

27th The Stone Indians finished trading and went away apparently very well pleased with the treatment they have received. - For feeling the urgent necessity there is for our procuring a large quantity of Provisions at this place, I desired Mr. Pruden to pay them better for their Provisions than he has been accustomed to do, altho' he has always paid them a high price.

These Indians brought us 3000 lb. Fat and 1700 lb. of pounded meat, which we find has cost us much dearer than usual on account of the largeness of our Tobacco. One fathom of our present Tobacco weighs one pound

1816
December 31st Tobacco one pathom of our Tobacco of last year weighed no more than half a pound, now the Indians attend much more to the length of Tobacco they receive, than to the weight, and large Tobacco is therefore extremely desirable & a dangerous

31st Four Men arrived from the Nippa with five rolls of Tobacco which is all that Mr. Kennedy was able to forward from Cumberland after my departure from that place.

These Men have also brought me Letters from Jack River, and from Mr. Fidler who winters at the Partridge Camp. Mr. Fidler informs me that he was obliged to leave Mannetowappus on account of information he received of the hostile intentions of the Canadians who, after Mr. Fidler had left the Settlement at that place in the care of two or three Men, actually arrived there under Scaphin Lemar and robbed the House of Goods to the value of about 200£ (exclusive of cost and charges on inland conveyance) which they carried off to the Falls of Red River. - Mr. Fidler further informs me that four Canadians arrived at his House (at the Partridge Camp) in October last on their way to Swan River, who told him, that, a part of them were freemen and the remainder engaged to Lord Selkirk who they said (agreeably to the Accounts we have before received) is in possession of Fort Williams and intends passing the winter there, that Captain McDonnell with Archibald McDonnell Mr. Chetlain and fifty soldiers are in possession of the Northwest fort at Rainy Lake and that Mr. Pemberton, with several Canoes, winters at, or in the vicinity of, Luch Lake from whence he is to proceed to Red River in the Spring. It is no small mortification to us that we cannot place implicit belief on the information given us by the Men. Since it seems almost impossible to suppose that Captain McDonnell should send them from Rainy Lake and not send a Note by them informing us who they are, and the

1816
December 31st few part of their journey, how he was himself situated and what line of conduct he expected us to pursue; since he must perfectly aware that the important measures Lord Selkirk and himself have taken, cannot fail to require the adoption of particular, or rather corresponding, measures on our part, to prevent the Northwest Company retaliating on us. The Men in Question had it is true a Note apparently written by Mr. Chetlain requesting the Hudson's Bay Company's Office to supply them with any little things they might be in want of - but we are not even sure that Mr. Chetlain is in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The want of certain information in the present state of affairs is extremely embarrassing to us and gives our advantage inconsiderable advantages - but I hope that we shall in a short time receive certain information of the events which have taken place towards Fort Williams as well be made acquainted with the nature of the conduct we are expected to pursue. It is certainly in the power of Mr. Sutherland to open a communication with Mr. Pemberton or even with Captain McDonnell if they are in the situations assigned them; and if he finds the information of the Men mentioned by Mr. Fidler worthy of belief I hope he will at any rate make the attempt.



1817
January 3rd Four Men arrived from Edmonton House for Tobacco they brought Letters from Miss Desjardins, Mr. Leed and Carswell, and Thomas Costello and John Pavell arrived from Swan River with Letters from Mr. James Sutherland, which relate the arrival at Swan River of the Canadians, mentioned by Mr. Fidler, who appear to ^{have} given the same accounts regarding Lord Selkirk and Captain McDonnell, to Mr. Sutherland as they did to Mr. Fidler.

Mr. Carswell informs me that his prospects of trade are as good as last year and that he has hopes of being able to obtain as much dry Provisions. The Northwest Company's people at Edmonton

117
January 5th conduct themselves in the usual way.

7th Sent off the four men who arrived from Belmoriston and with them John McKittrick (a young hand who is to pass the next summer at that place) with seven Bolls of Tobacco. — I then again directed Mr Caswell to make use of every means in his power to procure as much provisions as possible and to get eight or ten Canoes made, for the making of which he has Birchbark sufficient, that was procured in the summer.

8th I called in Thomas Costello who gives the following account of what occurred within his knowledge from the time he left Albany Factory in June last, till he left the North West Company's House at Lussipulle in the latter end of October or beginning of November.

Thomas Costello being duly sworn deposite that on or about the fifth of June 1766 he left Albany Factory in company with Mr Owen Hoveney, Mr Cauley and several Men amongst whom were Cornelius Hoy, Thomas Poring, John Kennedy, John Corrigle, Patrick Cavenar, John Luing, Hugh Linklater, David Saunders, and Joseph Brown and William Donald (who were going to settle in Red River) in a Boat, and two small Canoes, in which they had on board, two young Cows and two young Bulls, to go to Red River. Mr Hoveney treated the men on the way very harshly and in consequence, when he arrived at Onaburgh House, two men, viz John Corrigle, and Patrick Cavenar, deserted from Mr Hoveney, and concealed themselves in the woods. Mr Hoveney pursued his journey from Onaburgh without his deserters, but he had not proceeded far till they were brought to him, when Mr Hoveney obliged every man of his crew to give them many severe blows with a large willow, Mr Hoveney

117
January 8th standing near during the operation with loaded Pistols in his hands, and a sword by his side, to enforce severe punishment on the delinquents. When the flogging was over the two men were hand-cuffed and obliged to row in the Boat, and do other work in that state (except when they were employed carrying over portages) till they proceeded on about twenty days journey from Onaburgh when Patrick Cavenar concealed himself in the woods on a camping place, and he could not be found, was left there by Mr Hoveney, who continued his journey with the boat, and the rest of his crew till they came to Skibbuckham Lake when they heard certain accounts of the destruction of the Colony, by the North West Company, and the death of Governor Temple: this news terrified the whole crew and induced Brown and Donald to express to Mr Hoveney their determination to return to Albany, which Mr Hoveney opposed, threatening Brown, and forcibly taking from him his store which alone could procure him food for his subsistence on his return to Albany: he was therefore obliged to accompany Mr Hoveney who the following night encamped on Satape des Lacs, in Wennebig River, when, in course of the night, Joseph Brown, William McDonald, Hugh Linklater and David Saunders got on board two small Canoes, the property of Brown, and left Mr Hoveney, to return as dependent believes, to Albany Factory. Mr Hoveney with the men who still adhered to him pursued the deserters but they were not overtaken and Mr Hoveney resumed his journey towards Red River. The day after these men deserted a few Canoes of the North West Company, of which a Mr Grant seemed to have the charge, passed by Mr Hoveney who was informed by Mr Grant, that Lord Selkirk was on his way to Red River, but that his Lordship would be unable to reach his destination from a scarcity of provisions. Mr Hoveney and party still continued their journey when on morning in the White River Mr Hoveney ordered deponing

1817
January 8th to cut willows with which Leamy was severely beaten for having
kept too long in the morning. Mr. Hevny had before beaten
Leamy and stabbed him slightly in the thigh with a
Bayonet; The whole party afterwards proceeded on to the
Boat carrying place, in Winnipeg River, where ten of the
Kathwest Canoes passed them, and encamped on a Portage
quite near to the Boonick, where Mr. Hevny and party remained
for the night. Here in the evening, Mr. Hevny perceived after
the other men had done work, they going over the carrying
place and asked what he was going after, they answered,
'a Keg Sir', they had let a Keg fall and broken it and
afraid to let Mr. Hevny know what had happened intended
to get the Keg over in the dark without Mr. Hevny's seeing
it. You rascal, replied Mr. Hevny, you never do your work
in time, and he cried out to Depont 'Castolle mind you
get willows ready in order that we may give they a
good beating to morrow which I have long intended
for him.' they heard what Mr. Hevny said, and, in
course of the night following, deserted and went to
the Canadians who were encamped near Mr. Hevny,
~~who with~~ the men, who remained with him, again proceeded
on till they came to a carrying place called the Silver Falls.
The bank of this portage was high and the few men
Mr. Hevny had were unable to take the Boat up it,
tho' they exerted all their strength and tried every
method their ingenuity could suggest, the boat though
remained about half way up the bank and Mr.
Hevny seeing that he could not get further said,
to Depont 'well I see I must remain here' and they
all accordingly pitched their tents. In the evening
Depont and Kennedy were examining their cloaths
and going to put on clean shirts, when Mr. Hevny called
to Depont saying 'Castolle what are you doing.'
Depont answered 'we are going to put on clean
shirts Sir' 'You Sir' you rascal replied Mr. Hevny,
'I know that you are preparing to desert to the
Canadians' Depont insisted on it that he had

1817
January 8th no such intentions and added that nothing less than
worse usage than he had yet received would induce
him to leave the Hudson's Bay Company's Service: some further
alterations ensued and Mr. Hevny stuck Depont, still
however he persisted in refusing to go away till Mr. Hevny
gave him John Coigle, John Kennedy and Leamy positive
Orders to go to the Canadian House at Point aux Sources to
morrow, and ordered Mr. Cauley to serve them out two days
allowance of provisions for their journey to that place, which
was only about half a days journey off. Depont
accompanied by Coigle, Kennedy and Leamy fearing
that Mr. Hevny would inflict some severe punishment
on them if they remained, set off the next morning and
arrived at Point aux Sources where they found they, who had
left them as before mentioned. Mr. Cauley and Leamy
remained with Mr. Hevny on the carrying place at the
Silver Falls. Depont and party were well treated by
the Canadians at point aux sources and Mr. Schibald
McLellan frequently told them that if they wished
to have any satisfaction of Mr. Hevny they should soon
obtain it as Mr. Schibald Norman McLeod who is a
Magistrate ~~was~~ would soon arrive there. Mr. McLeod
arrived a few days afterwards when they, Leamy, Kennedy
and Depont were successively called before him and
depositions (regarding the treatment they had received from
Mr. Hevny) by Mr. McLeod taken, of all, except Depont
who was told by Mr. McLeod that he had not time to
take his. The following morning, Mr. McLeod sent for
Depont (who had been sworn in Constable at Albany)
and one Reynard or Rainard; Mr. McLeod first spoke
to Depont saying 'Castolle I have heard that you have
been sworn Constable at Albany and you can therefore
have no objections to go and arrest, in virtue of a
lawful warrant that I will issue, Mr. Hevny, who has
used you and your companions so shamefully' 'Yes, Depont
answered, 'I have' objections Mr. Hevny is my Master

January 8th and it would be a disgrace for me to take him in the dejected
situation in which he now is? He replied Mr Leed you must
not be backward for if the Half-breds here know that
you have still a regard for the English (meaning the
Hudson's Bay Company) they will not hesitate to take
your life - they think no more continued Mr Leed of the
life of a man than they do of a pin. - Deponent still
persisted in expressing an unwillingness to seize Mr Hevony
Mr. McLeod advised deponent to engage with the North-west
Company, to which deponent answered that he could not
do as he had very lately signed a contract to serve the
Hudson's Bay Company for three years. He that is nothing
at all replied Mr Leed, we will engage you and pay
you well! and he again threatened deponent with
the vengeance of the Half-breds when deponent thought it
would be but prudent for his safety, to assent to accompany
another constable, to seize Mr Hevony; and deponent
was accordingly sworn in Constable by Mr. McLeod, as
was Rainard, a few minutes afterwards, in presence of
Deponent. The morning after deponent was sworn in Constable
he, accompanied by Rainard, Pimo, La Sante, Hays, Rafter,
Michelle Martin, Francois Merille and another Half-breed
named Francois (these six men last named are all Half-
breeds) went according to their orders to seize Mr Hevony.
They arrived accordingly at Mr Hevony's Tent when Rainard
tapped him on the shoulder saying he was his prisoner
upon which Mr Hevony attempted to take his Gun, but one
of the half-breds seized Mr Hevony who then abused them
all, which occasioned Pimo to attempt to shoot him but
he was prevented. Mr Hevony soon submitted and was
conveyed to Point aux Fourcs. The half-breds who accompanied
deponent, plundered Mr Hevony's Tent of every thing that
was loose and Mr Hevony's desk and papers were conveyed
to Mr Archibald McLellan at Point aux Fourcs. After Mr

1817
January 8th Mr Hevony had been two days at point aux fourcs Deponent and
a half-breed young man were sent by Mr Archibald McLellan
with orders to inform Mr Cauley that McLellan wished to speak
to him at his house. While Deponent was at the carrying place
with Mr Cauley five Half-breds arrived there in a canoe with
Mr Hevony who then, in presence of Deponent, abused a good deal
the Half-breds who had him in charge, one of whom named La
Sante then put hand-cuffs on Mr Hevony, and when he was
about to put him again in the canoe which set off towards
Fort Williams. Not one of the Half-breds who had Mr Hevony
in custody could either speak or understand English, so
that he could not understand them or be understood by
them. Soon after Mr Hevony's departure several Canadians
sent by Mr Archibald McLellan arrived at the carrying
place and they and deponent took Mr Hevony's goods, the
four calves, and all other property belonging to the Hudson's
Bay Company, which was then, and proceeded with the whole to
Point aux Fourcs where it was delivered to Mr Archibald McLellan.
While Deponent remained at Point aux Fourcs news was brought
there that Lord Selkirk had taken possession of Fort Williams and
about a week after the arrival of this news Mr Alexander McDonnell
accompanied by about thirty Half-breds, and about twenty-two
Saulteaux Indians arrived at Point aux Fourcs to go, as deponent
understood, to meet Lord Selkirk, who was supposed to be on
his way to Red River. But the Half-breds would not go on the
Expedition unless Mr Alexander McDonnell accompanied them
which he would not do, and the proposed expedition was dropped.
Soon after this Mr Alexander McDonnell with nearly all his
adherents left Point aux Fourcs, and proceeded to the Forks of
Red River, where they remained a few days. While they were
there deponent heard Seraphin Lemaie call the Canadians
and Half-breds who were there together and ask them who
would go to plunder Mr Toller, who had charge of a post in



1817
January 8th

Manitowappan, for the Hudson's Bay Company, of his goods. Several immediately volunteered to perform what was required of them, and a large party set off accordingly, among whom Deponent recollects the names of the following persons Viz. Joseph Lemaire, Francois Duchamp, (both Canadians) Francois Duchamp Junr, Gos Lete, Perich Pettie, Charles Pettie, Haje, Rodrick McKenzie, Alexander McKay, Mississinibi, Hoostoo and Paine all Half breeds, Angus McDonald, Belgard, and Skutic, three Canadians, and three Sautan Indians. After a few days the party returned with only a small quantity of Goods, and deponent understood that Mr Fidler had retired with the most of the property under his care to an Island where the Canadian party could not discover him. After these people returned, deponent heard Mr M'Donnell say "So the coward Fidler has run away but we will catch him yet, and then the half breeds will pay him." About this time William Shaw a half-breed read a paper to deponent which he, deponent, was told, was drawn up by Mr Alexander M'Donnell by which the half breeds were informed that they had a right to plunder, whenever they found it, the property of the Hudson's Bay Company in retaliation for Lord Selkirk's having captured Fort Wellington. During deponent's stay at the Forks he saw part of a blanket which Mr Heveny was accustomed to wear on an Indian, which made deponent suspect that Mr Heveny was destroyed; and on making inquiries he, deponent, was told that Mr Heveny was stabbed in the breast with a sword, by Raynard (who first apprehended him) and that a Half-breed put an end to his existence by shooting him through the head. — In the month of October (1816) Mr Alexander M'Donnell accompanied by a large party of half-breeds a few Canadians and, deponent, Leveny, Hoy and Kennedy arrived at Quappelle. A short time after their arrival at that place Mr Alexander M'Donnell set off to the Mississinibi to make peace as deponent was told with the Mandan Indians in case Lord Selkirk should

1817
January 8th

arrive in such force to render it necessary for Alexander M'Donnell and his band of desperadoes to seek a retreat in the United States. In Mr M'Donnell's absence deponent was urgent with Mr M'Donnell to let him go to the settlement of the Hudson's Bay Company, and Mr McMillan at length reluctantly allowed him, and Thomas Leveny, to depart from Quappelle (Kennedy and Hoy preferred to remain with the Canadians). Deponent and Leveny set off accordingly, and after travelling ten days (being unacquainted with the road) arrived at Fort Hebernia. Deponent sayeth that while he was at Quappelle he heard Cathbert Grand (the leader of the half breeds) say that he would go with a party in course of the winter and plunder Fort Hebernia. — Deponent further sayeth that while Mr Alexander M'Donnell and his half-breeds and Indians remained as aforesaid at pointe aux fourches the four Calves brought from Albany were all killed, three of them were shot by Michelle Bonapapa (a half breed) and the other was killed, for Mr Alexander M'Donnell's table by his orders. Deponent also further sayeth that while he was at pointe aux fourches he saw the Canadian taking one brass Cannon lately belonging to the Colony, to conceal it in the woods, where he believes it was concealed.

(Signed) Thomas Costello. —

Given before me
James Wray

10th Thomas Costello and John Tavill set off on their return to Swan River, Mr Heron accompanies them to explain some little circumstance to Mr Sutherland which is an unwilling mention in a letter to him in the present situation of affairs in that Quarter. — Sent of also an Indian to Lacum Lake desiring the Master at that place to send here direct for a few tubs of Tobacco which Mr Clark may possibly send to the Lake for.

12th An Indian arrived, sent by a relation of his, to

OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

117
January 12th inform us that when he left Mr. W. Jarvis's House (about the 1st of January) Mr. Jarvis was on the eve of starting, to go to our House at the Neppoc to demand them, which he said George Bird had got from his Indians contrary to an agreement George had made with Gattock, and if they were not given up to him, Mr. Jarvis told the Indian that he would take George's House and Goods. The Indian says that the Half-breed was engaged for this new piece of violence.

15th James Bird Junr, George Sandison and Hugh Craigie arrived (after having been absent nineteen days) from some Indians to whom they were sent by Mr. Pruden to trade furs. They saw living with the Indians of this place three Southward Indians who usually trade with the Canadians at Lac La Ponge one of whom ^{who} appeared to be a chief, informed James Bird that all the Indians of Lac la Ponge were called together last fall at the House of the North West Company at that place and requested by the Master of the House whom the Indians called Yellow head, and whom I believe to be Mr. Forbes, who proposed to them that they should take up arms and forcibly drive away all the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company from Lac la Ponge and its neighbourhood, and told them that if they succeeded in doing so, they should be well paid by the North West Company. The Indian further told James Bird that he would hear of our people who are about Lac la Ponge being attacked before the spring by a combined force of Indians and Canadians, as many Indians had consented to perform the service required of them by the emissaries of the North West Company.

James Bird and George Sandison saw in course of their journey, Muskeggo and as I had instructed them separately enquired of him if he had at any time previous to his selling two Dogs to John Hauiv last fall, found

117
January 15th sold, or given, these Dogs to Mr. L. McLean a Clerk of the North West Company. To which enquiry, Muskeggo answered no, and added that the two Dogs in question were his own property, and that he had not disposed of them to any body but to John Hauiv. They (James Bird and George Sandison) also asked the same Muskeggo in the same way what induced him to take back, by force, a Horse he sold last fall to the same John Hauiv, to which he answered that he was induced to take back the Horse by Mr. James Hughes a partner of the North West Company, who gave him (Muskeggo) a nine gallon Keg of yeast for taking back the Horse, and paid him sundry Goods to the value of thirty shillings besides, for the Horse.

The Indian above named Muskeggo, is the man who sold two Dogs to John Hauiv which were afterwards claimed and forcibly taken away by Mr. L. McLean a Clerk of the North West Company, under pretence that he had previously got those Dogs from the Indian. The Muskeggo is also the man who sold a Horse last fall to John Hauiv at Neppoc, and a few days afterwards forcibly took back at the instigation of Mr. James Hughes the same Horse and sold him to the same Mr. James Hughes a partner of the North West Company, as related in this Journal under Date 14th December 1816.

16th sent off two men to the Neppoc for Tobacco and to see if there is any truth in the Indian report above mentioned.

21st Mr. Pruden taking a ride in the plains Southward of the House saw Mr. W. Jarvis accompanied by Messrs. Shaw and Chasen, La Tour, Bonnappe, Mikkashit, & Pisset (all half-breeds concerned in the late deplorable events at Red River) and some Canadians, who were, according to Mr. W. Jarvis's account, on their way to Edmonton House.

23rd sent off, George Sandison and Peter Whitford to go by land to

1811
January 23rd Edmonton House to inform Mr. Casswell of Mr. McTavish and parties journey to that place that Mr. Casswell may be prepared in case Mr. McTavish and his colleagues should have any hostile measures in view.

24th The men whom I sent to the Kippow on the 16th inst, accompanied by two other men from that place arrived with four rolls of Tobacco. - By the Letter I have received from Mess^{rs} Robertson and Bird it does not appear that Mr. McTavish has acted towards them in a way to make ^{them} suspect that he had any intention of acting with violence towards them.

27th John McDonald and three Canadians arrived from Green Lake with Letters from Mr. Clarke and Mr. John McLeod from which it appears that Mr. Archibald Norman McLeod has at Athabasca Lake availed himself of the number of his adherents and his commission of the peace to disturb in a variety of ways the Company's servants in that quarter and to prevent their being able to have any share in the trade with the Nations.

February 2nd Thinking it important that Lord Selkirk should receive early information of the tyrannical conduct of Archibald Norman McLeod in Athabasca towards the Company's servants as well as the Indians. I send off two men to the Kippow with a copy of the Letter lately received from Mr. Clarke under a hope that Mr. Letherland may, as I have urged him to do, find means of forwarding it to Captain McPonnell at Rainy Lake.

12th Two young Southward Indians arrived from two different camps of Indians on the South Branch River.

February 12th With three young men agree in stating, that Piemo (the same that has been already spoken of in this Journal) arrived a few days ago at a large camp of Southward and Stone Indians with some Tobacco which, he told these Indians, he was deputed by the Mandans to carry to them, for them to smoke, preparatory to a peace which the Mandans wished to establish with them, a ratification of which it was proposed, should take place next spring, in the neighbourhood of Grandon House, where the Mandans were desirous to meet the Southward and Stone Indians and make them a present of a number of guns & horses. The two young men add that the Southward Indian smoked Piemo's pipe of peace and promised to give the desired meeting, but that the Stone Indians refused to listen to any pacific proposals from the Mandans.

This attempt of Piemo's seems to be almost a convincing proof that Alexander McPonnell (of the Northwest Company) has formed no less a project than to assemble, in the neighbourhood of Red River, a considerable number of these different nations of Indians, under an idea that if they were once collected, it would be in his power to induce some or all of them to act against Lord Selkirk. A scheme wild as it is barbarous, and which I hope it will be easy for us to defeat.

13th The two men who went off for the Kippow on the 20th inst arrived and brought two and a half rolls of Tobacco. Mr. Robertson informs me that he dispatched my Letter for Swan River on the 9th inst, and that he has lately been informed by some Cumberland House Indians, who are living near the Kippow, that they lately saw some Indian of Lac La Ronge by whom they were informed that the Canadians last fall endeavoured to induce all the Indians of Lac La Ronge, and that neighbourhood, to attack and

Feb 13th / plunder the servants of the Hudsons Bay Company who went to
towards Ile a la Croix; but that the Indians would not
agree to the usual proposal. This account agrees so perfectly
with that which James Bird jun^r received on course of his
Journey in January last, from other Indians from Ile a la Croix,
that there is little room to doubt of the Canadians having
made an attempt to prevail on the Indians of that quarter
to offer violence to Mr Wood and party at Ile a la Croix.

15th Robert Sandison, William Gibson, Donald McDonald
and George Ward arrived from Edmonton House for Tobac.
The man who left this on the seventh of January arrived
safe at Edmonton with the Tobacco sent by them.

Mr. Carewell in his Letter mentions nothing worthy of
particular notice the Indians visit him in great
numbers and he is still in hopes of being able to procure
as much dry Provisions as last Year.

17th Sent off Robert Sandison, William Gibson and Donald
McDonald with four and a half Hells of Tobacco for
Edmonton. George Ward I detain here, to accompany
two Men from this place to Edmonton as soon as we receive
more Tobacco from Cumberland House.

25th Two bands of Stone Indians have visited us since the
19th inst from whom we have traded upwards of three
hundred pounds of dry Provisions and we have reason
to hope that we shall still get a good quantity.

James Bird jun^r accompanied by two or three Indian
arrived from a large camp thirty Leuts of Southward
Indians who are tenting about thirty miles from hence.
At this camp James Bird saw a Canadian and a
North West interpreter called Homme both from the
South Branch Houses. Homme had been informing the
Indians that when the snow is nearly thawed away,
Mess^{rs} Wood and Hughes with a number of Men are
to Kill us, or take us prisoners, and take possession of the

18
February 25th House and all the property in it, which the North West Company
intend to occupy during the summer. when we are to be totally
excluded from the River &c. such are the threats those Indians
dare to hold out, but which would not deserve a moment
consideration had not similar threatening been repeated last
Spring in the dreadful snows of Red River.



27th Mr. Lewis and Pierre Matte arrived from Lesser Slave
Lake and brought us the disagreeable intelligence of
Mr. Decaigne with all his Men having being taken prisoner
and the property that was under his care seized by Alexander
Stewart of the North West Company.
Mr. Lewis gives the following Account of this astonishing
outrage.

About eight o'clock on the evening of the second of
December last Mr. Francis Decaigne, myself and the Little
Pegon, our interpreter, being then sitting by the fire in our
House at Lesser Slave Lake, nine Canadians, all servants
of the North West Company, suddenly rushed into our room,
seized us all three (Mr. Francis Decaigne, myself and the
Little Pegon), and forcibly dragged us out of our House,
at the Door of which I saw about eight armed Men,
among whom were Alexander Stewart a partner of the
North West Company, a Mitchell Rhyne, and Robert Henry, two
clerks in the service of the North West Company, drawn up in
two files, which I was made to pass through, several cocked
Guns being pointed towards me on each side as I passed.
When the three men who had seized me, viz. Andrew Saint
Leger, one de Chen, and one Langtin, had dragged me
without the outer Gate of our House, Saint Leger took off
his sash, and tied my Hands, de Chen and Langtin
holding me till Saint Leger had effected his purpose,
after which they pulled me away to the House of Alexander
Stewart refusing, though I repeatedly requested them, to
allow me, to put on my Coat and socks, in consequence
of which one of my Feet were severely frozen, the night
being cold, and the distance from our House to Stewart
House being about half a mile. I was put into a room

1817
February 27th

at Stewart's House with the Little Bizon, who was also dragged
over by these Canadians, and a guard placed over us during
the night. After I had been in Stewart's House about
ten minutes, Mr. Francois Desnoye was forcibly brought
into the room where I was, by several of Stewart's Men.
Mr. Desnoye asked Alexander Stewart, on what account, or
by what authority he had taken us Prisoners, to which
Stewart answered, "I have seized You because I heard
from some few Canadians and Indians that you intended
to seize my House and Property, but soon after Stewart
told us that we were made Prisoners by way of revenge for
what happened in Red River last Spring, and indeed it is
quite evident that our apprehension was determined on
before Stewart arrived, in October last, at Lesser Slave Lake,
as contrary to the custom of the North West Company
Stewart after his arrival did not take any active
measures to procure furs, or to prevent the Natives, most
of whom were trading with us, giving us their furs and
Provisions. The Day after I was taken Prisoner, as above related
was on the third of December last, Alexander Stewart sent
his Men with Horses and Sledges, to our House and in course
of the Day they brought over and delivered to Stewart all
the Property of the Hudson's Bay Company which we had in
our House and partly destroyed the Buildings. Only five
of our Men, Canadians, were at home when we were seized
and these Stewart prevented from coming to our assistance
by standing at the Door with his party of Armed Men
and desiring them not to come out. Our Men, who were
absent at the time of our being seized, gradually came
to Stewart's House, and they asked Mr. Desnoye what they
were to do, who told them to live in their own House and
receive Provisions from Stewart to whom they were Prisoners.
Stewart refused to feed our Men unless they lived at his
House, and he tried every means in his Power, but with
little success, to induce the Men to desert and engage
in the Service of the North West Company. Alexander
Stewart detained Mr. Desnoye, myself, and the Little
Bizon, Prisoners, till the month of December last, when
he told us that we might go whither we pleased.

1817
February 27th

Mr. Desnoye chose to remain at Stewart's House, several of our
Men dispersed in different parties to provide food for
themselves, I went away with a Native, Deguarais (a Native of
this country and a good Hunter), Pierre Allatte and Joseph
Francour, we moved on gradually to Red Deer's Lake and from
thence to Lesser Lake where we arrived on the fifteenth of
February last, and from thence I set off on the eighteenth of
February following, with Pierre Allatte for the place where
I arrived (as you know) on Friday last. Mr. Desnoye informed
me that he was seized first by Charles Delorme, Stewart's Guide,
la Hatté, a half breed, and one la Spinier, that when about
half way between our House and Stewart's House he extri-
cated himself from them, and ran towards our House,
but being surrounded was retaken and forced into
Stewart's House as I had seen. Mr. Desnoye further informed
me that when he broke away from the men who first held
him, Charles Delorme called out, fire at him, fire at him,
and that he saw one Ahpshahshik accordingly kneel
down to take aim, but a Canadian interposed and
prevented his firing. Mr. Desnoye had his Feet and Cose
frozen.

I believe the above to be the truth

(Signed) John Lewis

Mr. Lewis says that Archibald Norman McLeod was
expected at Lesser Slave Lake and that it was rumoured
amongst Stewart's Men there that the Furs procured at
Lesser Slave Lake and the Athabasca were to be taken
across next summer to the Columbia. This rumour by
agreeing so exactly with that mentioned by Mr. Clarke
in his Letter of December last appears to have some
foundations in fact, and the mysterious manner in which
Mr. Donald McRorie (bately an agent of Jacob Astor
and Company of New York) passed through these
territories, by some Persons being called an agent of Astor,
by others Partners of the North West Company, an agent
of the North West Company, leads me to suspect that
Astor is connected with the North West Company and that

1817
February 27th

this man to attempt, if necessary, jointly to carry on the
Albaca trade by the Columbia, and to transport the
part the North West Company procure this season across the Rocky
Mountain if their usual channel of communication with
Lake Superior should be closed against them.

The report mentioned by Mr Lewis of Mr Led's being spotted
at L'Esperance Lake, renders it in no small degree probable that
the threat made use of by Stomus, as mentioned on the 25th ult
has also some foundation in reality, at any rate it will have
the effect of putting us on our guard, and inducing us to
keep a regular watch hereafter.

March 3rd

James Gaddy, Norman McDonald and Magnus
Spence arrived from Swan House with a few articles of Goods that
Mr. Raden had requested of Mr. Lathrop and with Letters
from that Gentleman who informs me that, he had
received accounts through our opponents that he believed
may be depended on, of the arrival of Captain McDonald
with a strong party of Men in Red River, but that he had
not yet received any news from Captain McDonald himself.

3rd

Two men arrived from the Neppaw with three Hells of
Tobacco John McDonald also and two Canadians arrived
from La la Croix and delivered me the following
Letter from Mr. Black.

La la Croix 18th Feb^r 1817

Sir,

Hoping this will come to your hands
with less struggle than what I received from your Quarter
venture once more.

The manner that Deschamps and Party were taken
with the letters in their charge I refer you to my letter of
14th Instant - It was my justly suspecting it was a scheme
of theirs to get hold of my Person that made me not comply
with Thompson's request at first but send off to inform you
of what had taken place and to caution those who were coming
from Edmonton. About ten miles from here, the People I sent

1817
March 3rd

off in the morning, Mr. Tall Cunningham and the other coming
with the Packet and both the Parties returned back here together
but they scarcely had turned about when they met Ogden and
his Men and Party returned to their Fort and when within hearing
of us and alarmed their people they all turned out in a body
and Mr. Black at their head of which there is a list enclosed
on seeing them turned out I immediately turned also with a few
that followed me and came to them upon the Lake but to my
Grief found them between me and my People who were coming
with the Letters - Black and Ogden advanced towards me with
a Party and towards them I asked them what did they mean by
his manoeuvres to day did they intend to begin the Butchering
again, If he did to give us man for man he then replied it was
my fault by not complying with Mr. Thompson's request they had
put the question to me If I would go and see Mr. Thompson
I answered in the negative they then returned to their main
body or Party who were blockading our people who were
coming with the Packet, our people made a motion to come
on but were immediately surrounded and after a great deal
of resistance and struggle our People were disarmed on seeing
my People thus used I ran to their aid and found them still
struggling Ogden attacked me with a cocked Pistol I
immediately prepared mine and was just in the act of
taken aim at him when he desisted and said he only want
to speak to me at the same time he offered to give my
Arms but I kept him off and told in French before all his
Men him and I to decide the affair he and Black replied
again and put the question to me If I would promise to go
and see Mr. Thompson to day. Seeing my People and letters in
their hands I consented to go on Conditions they would restore
their arms to my Men and let them home to the Fort to
which they agreed but they still kept Deschamps and Party
in Confinement, Without waiting to open any of the Letters
brought by the last Party I went to see Mr. Thompson and
with no expectation of coming back soon but I was resolved
neither to open any letters in the Fort nor give any Goods whatever
might be the result. I was no sooner in his Fort than Thompson
gave me the Letters and wished me to open them I told him

