

1814

March 3

I would not in his Test but I would take them with me and made a
vow to go off but I was immediately arrested. I then told him
that he certainly must have formed a very silly opinion of me
indeed to think I would divulge any secrets intrusted to me.
He found on examination that I had more to say against
the North West Company than they had against me. he then
proposed to bind myself and Servants to the peace for a twelve
month. I consented to bind myself only and that on Condition
I should be justified in taking up arms in defense of self
and property intrusted to my charge in case I should be
attacked or insulted. To relate you all that passed would
fill up a few more pages. I as well as Mr. Dougald wrought
from noon 15th till 1 P.M. 17th Inst. during which time I
can assure you that they insisted hard to obtain Goods as
a security for my future conduct. and particularly Blacky
finding at last they could not obtain the Goods they all
said they would follow Lovell's plan. I put them
to the Test, after we had agreed and settled for \$1000
in the Agreement the second was proposed finding they had
all the men that knew the road that way in their possession
as well as Mr. Clarkes Letters in their hands and Mr. Dougald
informing me at the same time that the news was sent Mr. Blacky
by Slave Lake I agreed not to send towards the North, Mr. Thompson
suggested to me privately if it was himself matters would be
much easier with me but that he was obliged to act as he
did, and whether I would consent or not, not to send any letters
that way they were determined not to allow any to go. The
third Day after I had sent off Mr. Clarkes letters towards
the North West People who followed Dechamp from Athabasca
arrived here by whom we learned that a North West Clerk
with a strong party were sent after Dechamp but finding
they could not overtake him they returned and now at
this place they are watching as close as ever they were
so that it will be in vain to attempt sending this way until
the starvation - for the way they wrought at me to obtain
the Goods I refer you to Mr. Dougald who was detained prisoner
as well as me.

On the next you will not approve of the arrangement
I made with Mr. Thompson you have only to call me from here

1814

March 3

and all is void and null I can assure you if I had not made
arrangements it would have cost blood shed and property and
I think their principal motive was to obtain Goods which they did
not accomplish. Black and Ogden did not seem well pleased
with the agreement. So Day I was just on eve of setting off to
speak to you in person but Black objected to my going at
present. Day was the only security they had for the agreement
made between us.

I do not think it safe to bring any of the American laws
than Green Lake except what will be sent to Mr. Blacky and what may
serve me out. I likewise intend removing all the Goods from here
before the North West comes out in the Spring. I think I shall be
able to be at Cumberland before my adversaries comes here in
greater number than they are.

I have made inquiry about getting the American
brought here by Pack Horses which I am told it is impossible as
the River is not practicable. But I rather doubt it as I have
seen where it discharges itself into the Beaver River below Green
Lake and it appears very large however I shall enquire more
minutely about and if thought navigable with either large or
small Canoes I shall send toward you very soon.

The North West seems to have a claim against Mr.
Decouy for engaging their prior engaged Servants last Year
so that it will be as well for him to go out your way then
to come this way as I shall be off before he comes here. In fact
we have to be on our guard for if the North West will have no
confirmation of their reports in circulation we may rely on
an attack. I think three or four of the Half breeds here
will go and assist in protecting the American in the Spring.

I think I shall be able to get six Canoes made I am
to send all Marchard to Green Lake in a few days to begin to prepare
wood for them. You mentioned that our People does not gain
any Ground at Green Lake which is owing in a great measure
to mismanagement of our people in the first place their whole
time is taken up with hauling of Provisions to so many ugly
islands - whereas they might have made a fall fishing, some
of the people that wanted them told me they used to put from

187
March 3

36402. Lick you in the letter.

You justly accuse me for engaging so many of them ~~now~~
I mean Indians not even then who were here, but likewise those
brought from Red River. They are a set hasty, tempestuous, bad
people before I received your letter. I had three months ago wrote
to Duperreux to send Bourie about his Business - I can shew
you Mr Logan's recommendation and wishes to engage Bourie
and Duperreux told me last Fall that Bourie was worth half
of his men, old Michel, Mr Clarke had engaged him
before my arrival, and Marchand I have made no final
agreement with him yet kept him for the sake of making
bances which if not done he is to receive no wages -
Mr Logan mentioned in his last Letter hoping I had engaged
Bourie. - There are so many recommendations and those so very
efficious that they are apt to lead any young man astray -

In my present situation I am not able to judge how
I may arrange for the summer. If time and business will admit
of without any detriment to the concern, I shall endeavour to
see you before the snow is off the ground. You will please to
let me know what wages I may give Capt. Beauchamp and I am
sure you cannot exceed his expectations. If he agrees for another
Year he wishes to remain inland to be employed in searching
for Indians & there are a great number of our Canadian Savants
whose terms are nearly expired. I suppose the Depôt will be the
best place to reengage them - It is a hard case to be involved
in such troubles as we are but I hope it will soon terminate.

I think it rather strange that those people who came to
Mr Sutherland to carry letters for the North West and now for
their employers but still there is a something appertaining to
truth in it - Whenever the Navigation is open I shall send
Dechamp and the others that came from that Quarter to meet
Mr Clarke which will enable me and my people to learn this
sooner than I otherwise would -

To search for Indians the summer certainly is
the best season while the main force of our opponents are
away -

Mr Frobisher of the North West that hired the
Indians to attack me in the spring, etc., of which I am not in

187
March 3. the last dread. Went a few of these Indians and found them 22
remarkable kind but I make not doubt but Frobisher will urge
them to do so -

It was purposely to attack us here that the North West
converted all their Officers in the English River. Sir Frobisher
from Lure to Manje, Ogden from Green Lake and several of their
men from those Posts beside what force they had here. Their men
were very unanimous. Mr Thompson tells me that this news brought
has a very bad effect on his Men - If it was only the masters we
had to contend with it would not be a hard matter for their men
are not made of Iron more than ours. - I wrote Mr Carmichael to
send if possible 40 or 50 bags Comican to Beaver River as the conveyance
you mentioned is not certain I cannot commit to paper at present
what I would wish, I principally send to inform you of the state
of Affairs here I am still in hopes to get safe out with all
party in main time conclude with best respects

Sir

Your most Obedt Servt
(Signed) Jno. M'Leod

4th Took the information of Mr Ray against Peter Skin Ogden
for the apprehension of whom I drew out a Warrant and delivered
it to John McDougald, who was sworn in a Constable of the
Northern Department to be by him executed with the approbation
of Mr McLeod the first favourable opportunity -

5th James Gaddy and John McDougald with their companions
set off in their sledge to Isle la Crosse and Swan River. Copies
of my Letters to Miss Sutherland and McLeod are entered in
the correspondence book. I have desired Mr McLeod to send
Charles De Ford to this place in order that I may examine him
respecting the outrage committed on him by Ogden, as I
conceive that the evidence of Mr Ray, who is a half-breed,
although it is fully corroborated by Mr McLeod and John McLeod
may not be considered quite satisfactory, as better is to be had.

Mr Ray said that on the eleventh day of February last,
as he Francois Dechamp and Charles Duford were pursuing
their journey to Isle la Crosse and had arrived within a few

1871
March 3

3 to 4000 feet up in the hills.

You justly accuse me for engaging so many of these Indians to run over not even those who were here but likewise those brought from Red River. They are a set of lazy, smug, boastful, idle people before I received your letter three months ago, and to Duperreux to send Bourie about to be killed.

Your Mr Legari's recommendation and Duperreux told me last fall of his men, old Michel, etc., before my arrival, and allowed agreement with him merely kept him which if not done he Mr Legari mentioned in his letter Bourie. - There are so many inefficient that they are oft to be

In my present situation I may arrange for the summer, of without any agreement to the see you before the snow is off the let me know what wages I may sure you cannot exceed his usual. Year he wishes to remain in charge of Indians &c. There are a great while time are nearly expired, so best place to reengage them - It in such trouble as we are but.

I think it rather strong W. Fetterland to carry letters for their employers but still there is a truth in it. - Whenever the new Dechamp and the others that are M. Black, which will enable me sooner than I otherwise would.

To search for Indians the next season while the snow away. -

M. Fobisher of the North West that hired the Indians to attack me in the going out, of which I am not in

Mr. Price Journal No. 8. 10/16/17
March 10/17. 10/16/17

1871 March 3. the last strand. I met a few of these Indians and found them remarkable kind but I make not doubt but Fobisher will urge them to do so.

It was purposely to attack us here that the North West converted all their officers in the English Woods. Say Fobisher

from Mr. Parker from Green Lake and several of them come they had here. Their men tell me that the news brought by it will only the masters in a hard master for their slaves. - I wrote Mr. Cornwallis to Beaver River as the conveyance to commit to paper at present, and to inform you of the state to get safe out with all best respects

Sir

Your most Obedt Servt
John C. Head

against Peter John Byden sent a warrant and delivered on in a Constable of the executed with the approbation opportunity. -

engaged with their companions Grose and Sarah Hove. Grose and M'Leod are interested in said M'Leod to send die that I may examine him on him by Byden; and Roy, who is a half-breed, by M'Leod and John M'Gregor factory, as better is to be had. 10th day of February last,

The Francis Dechamp and Charles Duford were pursuing their journey to Isle a la Cope and had arrived within a few



Enclosure to foregoing

D. 2 / C

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

March 5th Miles of that place, they were assaulted by Peter McNealy, a black of the North West Company, and five armed Canadians who took from them their Hedges containing their bedding and a packet of Letters which they were conveying to Mr. McLeod, and found them to go to the House of John Thompson Esquire a Factor of the North West Company where they were forcibly detained several days. - The first notice Mr. McLeod had of the capture of his Men was by the following Note of Mr. Thompson.

Mr. McLeod
12th March 1811

Sir

I am sorry that the recent occurrences at present existing in the Indian Territories between the contending parties, oblige me to trouble you with this note - Your Man Francis Dechamp &c with the Letters in their possession are now in this Fort - an amicable accommodation may be entered into between us and for this purpose I shall be happy to see you over as soon as convenient.

I am Sir

Yours sincerely

(Signed) John Thompson

8th George Sandison and Peter Whifford (whom I sent to Edmonton to warn Mr. Carewelle of Mr. Jarvis's approach) arrived. Mr. Carewelle informs me that Mr. Jarvis brought with him to Edmonton Letters for Mr. Hughes from Mr. Johnson of the Sainte Anne's, and several printed copies of a proclamation issued by the Governor of the Canadas forbidding all persons resident in the Indian Territories to commit any acts of violence &c, and commanding all the Justices of the Peace resident in those Territories to search after and apprehend all persons committing any crime or offence whatever &c. - One copy of the Proclamation above mentioned Mr. Carewelle has sent me, he having received it, for that purpose, from Mr. Hughes. - Before the receipt of this Proclamation Mr. Carewelle says that Mr. Hughes frequently expressed an opinion that they (the North West Company) had a right to retaliate on us any violence or injuries they suffered from Lord Selkirk,

but that now all his dis course is of a pacific nature and ²³ frequently expresses his regret that a knowledge of this proclamation had not reached Mr. Archibald Norman till ^{some time ago}. He tells Mr. Carewelle also that the North West Company are now disposed to divide the whole trade equally with the Hudson Bay Company and that he expects that an amicable arrangement on that basis will speedily take place between the two companies.

19th Mr. Heron arrived, by way of Cumbuland House, from the River and delivered me two packets of Letters one of them from the Earl of Selkirk and the other from Miles McDonnell Esq; that from his Lordship contains a duplicate of Your Honors Letter of March last addressed to the late Governor Simcoe, and a few lines from his Lordship, noticing the inclosure just mentioned, desiring me to concert with Governmental Friends the necessary measures for the future management of the Company's affairs, and referring me to Mr. McDonnell for an account of the events which took place last autumn at Fort William. The packet from Mr. McDonnell contained a Letter from himself informing me of his arrival in Red River, of his having left Red River and Fort Douglas and that he will require a supply of Leather and Piancan, and paying me for an account of the occurrences at Fort William to the Letter of Lord Selkirk; also the opinions of several eminent Lawyers on the Validity of the Company's Charter &c, which have not failed to give very general pleasure and to create universal confidence amongst all classes of the Company's Servants. -

25th Messrs Joseph Cook, George Bird and William Lte. Scammon by John Hollinsen, William Hollinsen, and James Sanderson arrived, agreeably to instructions I gave Mr. Kennedy &c, to assist in the defence of this place, should the North West Company, as it is rumoured they will, make an attack on us; and to protect our Piancan during its conveyance from hence to Cumbuland. -

April 7th Joseph Rocque accompanied by two men from Swan River arrived and delivered me Letters from Miles McDonnell Esq; Messrs. Lutherford Hobson and Fisher. These Letters contain

April 5th very little that is either new or important. Roque is come for his wife and family, whom he intends taking with him to the Red River when the Lakes are open, where he is engaged to fill the station of interpreter for the Sioux language.

Joseph Roque accompanied by an Indian had set off for the Canadian House at the South Branch to fetch his Woman who is residing there. -

Having written so profusely to Mr John Wood of Gla la Crosse, to come himself, or to send to this place, that I am convinced no ordinary circumstances could have prevented his complying with my instructions long before this time, I this morning sent off William Stew and Malcolm Ross to endeavour to find their way to Green Lake and to ascertain if possible the situation of our people there relative to the Canadians, and the cause of my not hearing from Mr Wood.

In the evening the Indian lad who accompanied Roque arrived and informed me that he left Roque and his wife on their way to this house. This lad was sent with Roque to bring us information in case Mr McLean should attempt to detain him or his wife.

Two or three Indians who have lately arrived have in their possession a Soldier's coat and a horse Pistol with the tower mark on it, which were, they say, given to them by some of the Canadian Half-Breeds of this District who were concerned in the cruel transactions of last June at Red River. - - -

6th Joseph Roque arrived from the South Branch with his wife and family. He says that Mr McLean gave up his family without hesitation, but told him that he had better let them remain where they were as in all probability he (Roque) would soon be brought to that place by Mr Wood and Roque says further that the Canadians at Mr McLean's house told him that Mr McLean frequently said "let the English get all the Comican we will take it by and bye" they added that they (the common men) were determined to take no part

in any acts of violence towards us that might be meditated by the North West Company. - On his way a few miles from this house Roque met two Canadians who lately left Edmonton House. They told Roque that Mr Archibald Norman Wood was expected there every day when they left that place and that it was reported he was coming to take all the servants of the Hudson Bay Company in this place; but they added that, Messrs. Hughes and McFarlane had resolved not to take any part in such a measure, and that these Gentlemen said, if Mr Wood was determined on acting so violently he should act alone. - It would be imprudent to rely on this latter part of the information given to Roque, yet from my knowledge of the character of Mr Hughes and the nature of his conversation of late with Mr Carswell I am inclined to think that it is not altogether without some foundation in truth. -

13th Two Southward Indians arrived from the Jack Lake, they inform us that on the 8th inst. five of their tent mates returned from Green Lake, whether they had been on a visit to the Company's Settlements (and reported that they found the Company's House there abandoned, and were informed by Mr Peter Ogden, and other Servants of the North West Company, that all the English who were at that place were lately taken by them and sent prisoners to Gla la Crosse. This news (our informants add) so enraged the Indians in general, many of whom had lately been particularly well treated by the Company's Servants at Green Lake, that they determined to go immediately in a body and retaliate on the Canadians by taking all their property from them; and a party of upwards of forty Indians were all ready to set off for that purpose on the eleventh instant. Who can help expressing a wish, that these Indians may persevere and that the Canadian may from them receive the punishment due to their outragous conduct. I am sorry however to be obliged to add that that is too much to hope from the indolent, careless, and fickle disposition of the Southward Indians.

16th An Indian, who accompanied William Stew and



April 18th Malvern Stein on the fourth instant, on a reconnoitring excursion towards Green Lake, arrived. He relates that he and his companions were pursuing this quarry they saw, within a day's walk of Green Lake, an Iroquois who traded, during the winter, with Mr. De Charnie, and by whom they were informed that some of the Company's Servants had a few days before been at his tent for furs and that Mr. De Charnie was at that time, of course understood by the Canadians. This information induced Tate and party (contrary to instructions I had given them) to proceed in open day, and on the open Lake, towards Mr. De Charnie's House, and the consequence was that, when they had reached the middle of the Lake, they were overtaken and surrounded by about twenty, Canadians, with Ogden at their head, who conducted them prisoners to the North West Company's house there. Tate and Rose having been disarmed were soon sent off towards Isle a la Crosse escorted by two armed Canadians. After having been a few hours about Tate and party ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~and~~ returned to Green Lake, accompanied by John McDonald and two more Servants of the Company, who, the Indian understood, had left Isle a la Crosse privately just meeting Tate, &c., the whole five allowed themselves to be led prisoners by two canadians to Ogden's House. The evening after McDonald's arrival at Green Lake three armed men, two half Indians and one Canadian, arrived in pursuit of him. John McDonald took an opportunity to whisper to the Indian that Mr. McDonald and all his people were prisoners at Isle a la Crosse and that it is the intention of the factors of the North West Company to take all our inland settlements and, when the navigation opens, to proceed to Lake, to capture that place also. Ogden confined the Indian three days and then allowed him to return to his tent under a promise that he would not come to this place to acquaint us with what had happened.

18th

Two Indians arrived from the Canadian Settlement

18th April 18th at the South Branch which they left this morning. They say that yesterday, McClellan received letters from Swan Stein informing him that all our Settlements and all the Company servants in that district were in the hands of the North West Company. This occurrence proves how necessary it was for Governor McDonell to have taken La Cappelle and subdued the north west force there before he proceeded to adopt any strong measures in the lower part of Red River. Had that settlement and the Buffaloes stationed at it been captured the North West Company would have had no rallying point nor any means of procuring provisions to support a large number of men, in Red River, in short they could have made no serious opposition whatever to Governor McDonell. Whereas with La Cappelle in their possession and the means it affords them for attack for defense or retreat they may long annoy the Servants of the Company in all the neighboring District and at last make their escape if necessary. - The events of last spring fully exposed to every observing person the bad policy of commencing hostilities at the Lakes. There can be no reason to doubt that if Governor McDonell had proceeded straight from Rainy Lake to La Cappelle and captured that place and secured the Buffaloes who were at it, he would thereby have acquired a permanent superiority in Red River.

26th A few Saulteaux Indians arrived from the neighborhood of the Jack Lake, where they and the Stoner Indians are assembled determined to await any attack that the Slave Indians may dare to make on them. These Indians inform us that a party of young men actually intended to go and plunder the Canadians at Green Lake, but that they were dissuaded from carrying their design into execution by their old men who said "You had better not interfere in the quarrels of the white people. You cannot know what party will ultimately prevail - Should you assist the weaker you will not fail to be long punished for such presumption by the conquerors; whereas this the party you assist should prevail, the services you may have rendered it will soon

April 26th
be forgotten so that You may injure, but cannot permanently
harm yourselves: Two Young Men however left their Fort about
the fifteenth instant to go and attack the Canadian Horse at
St. La Croix. Some of the Indians above mentioned
informed me however that, if I would send two or three of the
officers of this place at their head, they would raise a party
and take Oden and his men prisoners. I did not however
think it prudent to accept of their offer at present from
a consideration that such a step, even if attended with
complete success, would not effectually re-establish our
affairs, while the adoption of retaliatory measures on our part
would not fail to render the violent proceedings of the
North West Company less striking, less calculated to excite
general indignation, and consequently more unlikely to draw
forth speedily on the authors of them the punishment they
so richly deserve.

th
27 William Lote and Patrick Dunn arrived from St. La
Croix and delivered me the following Letter

St. La Croix 18th April 1811

Dear

Yours of the 5th Ultimo came to my hand, the sixth day
after it left you wherein you mentioned that the conduct of my
opponents unjustifiable as it was would not bear a comparison
with that of Alexander Stewart at Lesser Slave Lake; but I think
when you peruse the following lines you'll find it very little
deficient and I am sorry to inform you that their depredations
are not altogether confined to this place and Lesser Slave Lake.
They have likewise disarmed Mr. Clark and party in Athabasca.

Conformed to your request I with two men left here on
the fifteenth of March with the intention of paying you a
visit - I was followed by Samuel Black and four of his men,
we proceeded on until we came to the North end of this Lake
which is about eight miles from this fort and there we met
him in ambush eight more men under arms whom
John Thompson had sent for the purpose of apprehending

April 27th
26
me, we were immediately seized and brought prisoners to Thompson's
fort where I and the other two men were kept in close confinement
for fifteen days -

Sunday the sixteenth of March which was next morning after
I was taken about four AM Black with all his and Thompson's
men broke into our fort when he found all the people asleep and
seized and disarmed them and returned to his fort with our arms.
In a few hours after Black accompanied by Thompson, returned
to our fort and entered into the house, when in presence of
and with desire of John Thompson Black broke open the
warehouse door and seized all the Hudson Bay Company's
property which I saw afterward brought to Thompson's fort
and put into his ware-house -

Black left here on the eighteenth following, with a party
and on the night of the nineteenth he seized all our people
at Green Lake and took possession of all the Hudson Bay
Company's property there, took all the people to this place
even the women and children who were not able to walk
were dragged down here, some of the women and children
who were not able to keep up with Black and the men, were
left along the road and none of the men were allowed
to remain along with them till they were afterwards picked
up and it is really cruel how they behaved here -

It is in vain for me to attempt to describe what a
disagreeable situation we are placed in, it is grieveing to
me to see so many as there are here of men deprived of
their liberty and of course of great loss and detriment to
their employers. They are prevented from going where they can
be of service and perform their duty. We are told that we
are to be kept behind the north west people going out in
the spring and that we are to be detained at some fishing
place till such time as the whole of the North West will
get out first. For my own part I am informed that I
shall be brought to some remote quarter where I can bear no
testimony against any person - Black told me some days ago
that they are not done with seizures yet - I am informed
they are determined upon going to York and seize all the

April 24th

Property there. As further tyrant Black he sticks at nothing, so he will not attempt to go down himself - they had it in agitation all the winter to have gone to your place and brought you to Green Lake - At the time I was allowed to join the rest of our people which was on the twenty ninth of March Thompson promised me before we withdrew that none of us should be detained after the eighth of April on the ninth John M'Donald and two others went off to endeavour and get to your place, but no sooner Black missed them than he immediately made a search for them and not finding them about the house he sent some of his half breeds after them who came up to them at Green Lake from whence they were brought back to this place. whatever may be the consequence I am fully resolved not to lend them a single scrip of a Pen - They seem quite regardless of the laws of their country and they most undoubtedly know that they act contrary to any thing contained in the English Constitution they can confess themselves that they have no room to complain of my conduct since I came here - I have not been hitherto commanded by any of my superior officers in the Hudson's Bay Company's service to do any illegal action nor shall their concurrence sustain the least injury on my account If I have committed myself anyways let them (the North West) bring me before a Court of Justice and if found Guilty let me suffer accordingly. This I have already told them here.

Should there be nothing against them in this Quarter but the stopping of my sending in due time to you or Mr Carswell for Provisions, it is a serious affair that such a number of People as what ~~they~~ are here and ~~and~~ with Mr Black should run the risk of being starved for the want of those provisions on which we all depend. -

I have already advertised them before withdraws that the Hudson's Bay Company would not be answerable for any supplies they may give as they prevented us from providing for ourselves in due time - If it can be done it is most unfeul that Mr Carswell would send less or more.

April 24th

Pemican say fifty or sixty bags to Cold Lake Potay²⁷
You cannot be too much upon your guard - with no hope of seeing you - I conclude with best respects

LW

Yours obd Servt

(Signed) JW Black Esq

P.S. Have a great deal more to add, but I must refer it to a future period.

William Tate says that he was taken by Ogden and sent off for Isle a la Crosse, nearly in the manner related by the Indians who arrived here on the sixteenth instant. When he arrived at Isle a la Crosse he was taken before Mr John Thompson (the South West partner there) who asked him a number of questions regarding the purport of his journey to Green Lake, and at length desired him to go and remain with Mr John McLeod till he, Thompson, permitted him to return to Carlton District. - On the eighteenth instant Samuel Black (a North West partner) sent for Tate and after uttering in his presence many threats, against Lord Selkirk, Miles M'Donnell Esq, and informing him that the proclamation issued in August last by the Governor of the Canadas was of no more value than Spittle Esq, told him that he had liberty to return to this place. Tate was accordingly sent off from Isle a la Crosse by McLeod.

The cause of William Tate's being permitted to leave Isle a la Crosse was as follows. Mr McLeod and William Tate informed Thompson that, acquainted with the situation of Mr McLeod, I had sent Letters to Edmonton early in April desiring Mr Carswell to send no Pemican, to Cold Lake, for the Isle a la Crosse, and therefore suggested to him the necessity of sending some Provision to this place to request that I could still send Pemican to Cold Lake for Mr McLeod use, which proposal was agreed to by Thompson. - Mr McLeod suspecting that Black would open his Letter sent by Tate in it requests me to send Pemican Esq, but desired Tate to acquaint me with the reasons of his writing that request viz, that if the Letter should be opened by Black, Tate

April 27

might still be permitted to proceed.

Williams Lake says that M^r Thompson and Black have, at Isle à la Crosse about fifty five men, Canadians and Half-breeds, and that Ogden has about twenty five Men at Green Lake. Mr John McLeod has about forty three Men.

27.

These Indians arrived from Edmonton House which they left about the third of April, at which time the Canadians had made no attempt on that Settlement. These Indians hunted for Mr Hughes during the winter, but about the first of April last they availed themselves of a favorable opportunity which offered to kill near Edmonton two young blackfoot Indians, and immediately afterwards, disarmed and fled to this place. This circumstance added to the Majacres committed by the Southward Indians last summer will certainly cause a very general war amongst the Indians of the plains, during the present summer, and the consequences may be, if the Southward and Stone Indians stand their ground, that no white man will be permitted to go higher up this River than all the place; an event which has been expected to take place these two or three years past.

May 2

A Southward Indian arrived from Lake Lake who informs us that a party of stone Indians from St. Louis lately arrived at his Tent, from the Moon Hill where they /by their accounts/ met with Mr Hallett and about seven Canadians, conveying on ten horses Goods, Fur &c from Moose Lake to the River, one of whom they killed and the rest they robbed of all their property including their clothes and horses. Mr Hallett they stripped naked and in that condition sent him back to his House at Moose Lake. Our informant adds that there is little room to doubt the truth of the above account as several of the stone Indians had Handkerchiefs and other fineries on them which it is not probable that they could procure in any other way. — This event has perhaps been in some

measure, occasioned by the violent proceedings of the North West Company at Red River, Green Lake &c. The Indians are not unconcerned spectators, of the conduct of the North West Company towards us, many of them who are attached to us feel some inclination to revenge on our adversaries the wrongs we suffer from them, while this case, with which they have seized large Quantities of the Company's Goods seems to have produced in the minds of the Indians who adhere to them, a desire to follow their example, but all have hitherto been prevented from taking an active part in ^{on} hostilities by the fear of its leading to serious quarrels among themselves: in short should the present contentions between the two companies be of long duration, there can be little reason to doubt that the Southward Indians will take a part in them, and when they have once tasted the sweets of plunder they will not fail again to satisfy their wants in the same easy way whenever favorable opportunities occur. These Indians from long habit have become fond of visiting the houses frequently and of living with white people on terms of reciprocal confidence and familiarity, but if they once generally commit any acts by which they feel that that confidence must be destroyed they will certainly become the most audacious and the most mischievous of all the tribes that inhabit this part of the country.

May 17

Mr John McLeod accompanied by Francois Des Champ, William Heth, M^ray, & Lacco, all half-breeds arrived from Isle à la Crosse which they had left privately on the night of the twenty fourth instant! — Mr McLeod says that he was induced to leave Isle à la Crosse by information, which he had reason to think, might be depended upon, according to which M^rs Black & Thompson had determined on removing him from his own house and on sending him to remain in a state of confinement at some remote settlement of the NW^{TP}, that he might not have it in his power to give evidence during the ensuing summer against any



1857-

May 7th of the persons by whom he had been so cruelly treated. - Several other men had intended to accompany Mr. McLeod but as they did not join him in the given time, at the dangerous place he had appointed, he concluded that they were disengaged & slept by the servants of the M.R.C. - M Ducharm is appointed by Mr. McLeod to do what he can in order to bring out the residue of the Company's servants of Isle a la Crosse, to Lake River.

Mr. McLeod assures me that we are, indeed, for our present safety, here, to our having early adopted measures of defence, & particularly to our having kept a regular night guard, of which Black was in charge, and which alone prevented his sparing us a risk, to take me to Gun Lake, as he said, if not being able to take us prisoners without losing some of his men; a consideration which he also told William Tate, alone prevented his attacking this place after he had taken Gun Lake.

Mr. George Gaudion, whom I had sent on the 3rd ulto. to Nipigon returned from that place, accompanied by George Asp and brought two Rolls of Tobacco. - On the 4th Inst. Mr. Robertson forwarded a letter (which I sent by G. Gaudion) to Mr. Kennedy, in which I informed this Gentleman of the late conduct of the Canadian at Isle a la Crosse, and desired him to keep a regular guard at Cumberland. - I also desired Mr. Kennedy to endeavour to send two Indians by way of Horse Lake with Letters, to Messrs. Swain, Sinclair & Kirkness informing them of the late events in this quarter, of the probability

1857-

May 9th there is of their receiving a hostile visit from the Canadians, & pointing out to them the necessity of putting their several settlements in a respectable state of defence, or removing the goods which may be under their care to a place of safety. I had before written those Gentlemen to that effect, but I have found it so difficult to rouse the Masters of Settlements to a true sense of their danger that I have thought a second warning to Mr. Swain &c to be absolutely required. Had strict precautionary measures been timely adopted on our parts the advent of the M.R.C. would not have seized all the settlements of the Company which are now in their power.

" 25th

Mr. Lewis with five men arrived in a large canoe from Edmonton with the pleasing intelligence, that we may expect Mr. Carson and all the Boats of Edmonton, to arrive here, in a few days. - This agreeable news is however accompanied by other of the most distressing nature, which is the death of Henry Hillier who was shot about the 19th of April last by a party of Horse Stealers.

Mr. Lewis gives the following account of that melancholy accident. - He says that he became so lame, on his way to Edmonton, as to render the occupancy of remaining in the plains (about fifty miles above Buckingham House) and of sending forward, two of the men, who accompanied him from this place, to fetch horses from Edmonton to carry him to that settlement a few days after those men had left him. Mr. Lewis went from his hut to shoot at some Buffaloes which were near during his

1817

May 25th absence, it appears, a party of Stone Indians
Bordostekas killed poor Miller, and plundered
the hut of every thing that was in it including
Letters & other papers that I had sent to Mr Lewis.
Pierre Matte was at the hut with Miller
but fearing the Stone Indians coming he
threw himself into a Bush where he lay con-
cealed & from thence saw the death of his companion.
After shooting at the Buffalo Mr Lewis returned
to his hut which he soon found had been
robbed, & not finding his men there he ran,
calling them as he went to the top of a little hill
where he saw four Stone Indians who approached
him, but on his presenting his Gun to them
they rode off. He again returned towards the
hut in search of his men but not finding
them he took the road, & set off alone in the
direction of Edmonton. At eight o'clock in the
evening he put up, and about two hours after-
ward was joined by Pierre Matte and informed
of what had happened. The following morn-
ing they together pursued their journey but
were so very unfortunate as to meet with
another party of Stone Indians, consisting of about
Twenty five men, by whom they were robbed of
every thing they had. They had their shirt & trousers,
and in that half naked state, left without
anything to make a fire with, without any
thing to eat, and at three days journey distant
from Edmonton, fortunately however for them
they were soon overtaken by three Canadians
who furnished them with food & blankets
as well as fire. The two men Matte and
Lewis set off before him arrived safe at Edmonton.

1817

30

May 25th It is the unfortunate and shocking occurrence that
I have just related, which gave birth to the
information recd, of which I have mentioned
already in this Journal under date the second
of May, for Mr Hallett has not been stopped,
nor has any Canadian unfortunately killed, though
two were robbed of their Boxes and completely
stripped by a party of the same Indians
who killed poor Miller. Mr Lewis resembles
Mr Hallett sufficiently to be taken for him
by persons who were not intimately acquainted
with him. & Miller was dressed like a Canadian.
It must not however be understood from this
that if Mr Lewis had been known, he or
his men would have escaped unharmed, for
the Stone Indians are now become so numerous
& daring that they, & often ill treat all, without
distinction, who are so unfortunate as to meet
with them on the plains; And there is every reason to
suppose that, if measures cannot soon be taken
~~to~~ will make these Indians feel this depend-
on us, it will be impossible to convey Goods
in safety higher up this river than this place.
Last fall a party of these same robbers took
Robbed a party of Canadians, who were conveying
Goods on Sleds back to Moose Lake of twelve
Horses & a considerable quantity of Goods & shot
one of the men through the hand. —
The murder of the unfortunate Miller
was an act of the most wanton cruelty, as
he was surrounded by about ten Stone Ind^s
and not having a gun in his hand could
make no serious resistance; by the account
of Matte, who saw all that passed, Miller's
death was immediately occasioned by his per-
sisting to hold a handsome Canadian Belly

187

May 22nd At the property of Mr. Lewis) which a stone Indian stopped & in vain tried to take it from him by threatening

Lent off the young half breed who called up here from Cumberland, to convey to the place in the canoe that arrived this morning, Canada, one of Mr. Decouins men who is in a deplorable state with the venereal disease, in hope that Mr. Todd may be able to render him some assistance —

25th

McCawell arrived with eight Boats and 14 long Canoes carrying the Trattle of Edmonton which I am sorry to find is rather inferior to last year & more particularly so in the article of Provision a circumstance which appears to have been occasioned by the death of too young Blackfeet who were killed near Edmonton as mentioned in journal under Date 29th April —

Mr. A. N. McLeod did not arrive at Canonto as report said would be the case, and McCawell says that Mr. Hughes invariably gave him the most positive assurances that no intimidations or commands of McLeod or any of his associates should induce them to commit any unjustifiable acts towards either the servants or property of the Hudson Bay Company. —

28th

Embarked for Cumberland with all the Boats & and the Trattle of Carlton & Edmonton, the quantity of pemican procured in this River amounts to no more than 363 Bags of 80 lbs each of pemican and about 1200 lbs of loose fat; which is about 100 bags of pemican less than were procured last year. — I found that an unusual quantity of Provisions will be required this

187th

May 28th Present summer, and then being a prospect that a considerable quantity, may be procured at Carlton early enough to be of considerable service I have left Mr. Pruden to pass the summer at that place although there is a considerable risk of his being visited, & perhaps attacked by war parties of Slave Indians, on which account more men are left with him than usual. — Mr. Pruden has now with him Mr. Whitford, James Anderson, Mr. Robert Janaisow, Richard Colen, James Spence, Edward Limmons, Oman Norway, George Ross, & Mr. John Garrick. —

30th

Met James Morwick a Canadian in a small canoe who delivered me, for my perusal a notification from the Commissioners appointed by his excellency the Governor in chief of the Canadas of C. to enquire into the disturbances existing in the Indian Territories of C. an open letter from the Governor in chief to the Earl of Selkirk & another open letter from Captain Miles McDonell Esqur to myself relative to the appointment of the said Commissioners, & a sealed Letter from the Secretary of the Governor in chief, revoking my commission of the peace; also an open letter from Mr. W. Thompson to the proprietors of other papers of the same nature.

The Canadian proceeded on with the papers above mentioned to meet Mr. Hughes. Morwick I took back with me to Cumberland, as the Canadian could go on alone without danger or inconvenience.

June 1st

Arrived at Cumberland when I had the pleasure to find Mr. Kennedy & Mr. Morris, and to learn that the Trade of that District, in amount, is not inferior to last year, though there is an astonishing diminution in the article of furs which little animals are almost now exterminated in this

June 8th 1817
Neighbourhood, by the Indians & the shallowness
of the Waters. — According to the information
Mr Kennedy had hitherto been able to obtain, the Notification
lately mentioned had had the effect of putting a stop
to all hostile proceedings on the part of the Canadian
who, both here, at St. John & Red River, now, express
a determination to submit without reserve to the
decisions of the Commissioners, appointed to enquire
into the conduct of the Servants & Agents of
the two Companies. —

14th Embarked for York Factory with fifty-four
men & thirteen Officers in Ten Boats & two
Canoes loaded with the Furs & most of the
provision procured in the Saskatchewan Depa-

rtment. Mr Kennedy with five men remain at St. John
in addition to the number of men usually required
there in summer, to guard the Slave till. The
Canadians arrive sharp from the North, & to
be ready on the first notice to go with a canoe
load of Pimican to meet Mr. Clark's party.
Should Mr Kennedy have reason to think that
such a measure will be advisable or necessary,
In short I have desired Mr Kennedy to act as he
may think requisite, as well with regard to
taking a supply of Pimican to meet Mr. Clark,
as to the endeavouring to get any of the Company
servants who may arrive at Cumberland in
the McCanoes! I have further desired Mr
Kennedy to keep two active Indians in readiness
to carry with all possible expedition, to Lake Roseau
an account of the effect which the Notification
lately mentioned seems to produce on the Indians
and the manner in which Mr. & Mr. Thomson
have lately treated the Company's servants.

1817 June 15th At Isle à la Côte and Athapascow at any other
place that he may think it requisite for us
to be made acquainted with, Met, a few miles
below Cumberland, Thos. Webster & Donald McMillan
in a small canoe from Moose Lake, who delivered
me Letters from Moose River York Factory
and Jack River, by which I was sorry to hear
that the Company's ships have again been
under the necessity of wintering in the Bay
and that Cowes' provisions are to leave at York
and at all the Settlements between that place
& Lake Winnipeg, as to occasion the most
serious inconveniences. — Left at Cumberland
140 Bags of Pimecan, Three Bundles of Dry Meat
all 80 lbs each, Six new Canoes & about Fifty
Gallons of Birchrind. —

17th Arrived at Cedar Lake which we found to be
so full of Ice as to render it impossible for us to
pass through it, a circumstance that will be
the production of most serious evils as it will not
only occasion the loss of time but ^{the} unmaking
of the assumption of Provisions also. —

18th A breeze of Wind from the S.W. moved the
Ice a small distance from the Western Shore
of the Lake, which we coasted round & in the
evening arrived at the narrow where we found
a few Indians who informed me that plenty of
Sturgeon can be speared at this place, in
consequence of which information, I propose
remaining here a couple of days as there is no
reason to hope that we can effect a passage
thru' Lake Winnipeg these several days to come.
The season is evidently much more advanced
making every allowance for the difference of Climate

1817

June 9th As we advanced to the Eastward, and Lake Winnipeg is now navigable till several days after the Cedar Lake has been clear of Ice.—

10th The Indians brought us fifteen Sturgeons today & a little more meat, which together made a meal for our whole party.—

11th The Indians brought us only four Sturgeons today so that tomorrow I intend moving to the Bigfile to be ready for any opportunity that may offer for passing Lake Winnipeg.—

12th Left the narrow of Cedar Lake & arrived in the evening at the entrance of Lake Winnipeg which we found still covered with one vast sheet of strong Ice.—

13th A Breeze of Eastly wind drove the Ice still nearer to the mouth of the River, set a net which produced nothing but a few Jack Fish. The Indians we left at Cedar Lake joined us, George Robertson also arrived from Swan River. He says that, he left Mr Gutherford in Manitobosis Lake, but that he does not know by which route Mr Gutherford intended to go to Jack River.—

14th The Wind & Ice still remain as yesterday, I sent the Indians to the Rapid to endeavor to spear some Sturgeons but they brought us only one & say that there are none to be seen.— Got a few Jack fish from our nets but not enough

1817

33

June 15th to prevent a very considerable expenditure of pemicans

16th The Wind & Ice much the same as yesterday nor can we hope to be able to leave this place till a strong westerly wind removes the Ice from the shores.—

18th A strong northwesterly wind having broken the ice a little we embarked & with much difficulty succeeded in getting about four miles thro' the Lake after which we found the Ice so strong as to prevent our further progres.—

19th A Westerly Breeze having sprung up we hoisted our sails & breaking our way through the Ice finally succeeded in getting to open water and we encamped about 12 P.M. on the small island above the Carrying place.— This afternoon I met Thomas McRae in an Indian Canoe who delivered to me Letters from Mr McDonell & from Mr Alex^t McDonald informing me of the state of affairs in Red River, and containing a handsom offer from the latter of any assistance that he was capable of affording & that the Compt^r Affairs might require.—

20th Arrived about 3 P.M. at Jack River where I had the pleasure to see Mr Thos. & Mr Taylor from Manitowappew.— The Indians who were engaged to build here have performed very little work indeed, owing in some measure to scarcity of goods but in a much greater degree to a want of Industry on their parts to do what they could.

June 25th And the principal advantages obtained by employing them has been their being thereby induced to remain in the Country Settlement.

23rd Sent off all the Saskatchewan Boats accompanied by Mr Fidles man for the Rock House & York Factory.

25th McCausell embarked in a Canoe manned with four Men, Canadians for York Factory. I have given him every instruction that I thought to be necessary as well regarding the preparing an assortment of Goods for the Saskatchewan, as the dispatching of Goods from the Rock to the Depot for supplying the Northland.

Mr James Gutherford arrived with five Boats carrying the Trade of Swan River District which, as to furs, is much more considerable than that of last year, but Mr Gutherford has not brought any dry provisions.

" 27th Mr Gutherford's Boats went off, they are to carry on Trip of Goods from the Rock to Swampy Lake then to go to the Factory and return with a cargo for Swan River.

Mr Decoigne arrived with his people (except one who engaged with the MFC) in four Canoes three of which Mr Decoigne found means to get made at Red Deer Lake. It appears that Mr Stewart did not attempt to detain Mr Decoigne or his men, nor even endeavour to prevent their taking measures to enable them to proceed to York Factory in proper time. Mr Archibald Norman McLeod & Miss

June 27th Black & Thompson had arrived at Cumberland before Mr Decoigne left that place, but they could not be prevailed on to give any satisfactory account of the Company's Servants who were made prisoners in those Districts; at one time they said that they were on their way to York Factory, at another, that they were all dispersed & sent to fishing places, to live, without the means of removing themselves to any great distance, and that none of them would reach Cumberland before September. Mr Kennedy informed Mr J. N. McLeod, that he was going in a canoe with provisions to meet Mr Clarke; Mr Leod endeavoured to persuade Mr Kennedy from going on such an expedition & at length told him that if he went all his Provisions would be taken from him, himself made prisoner, as he (Leod) had left orders with his men to prevent any persons passing in towards Isle a la Crose, without his permission. — Mr Kennedy, in consequence of this information determined on remaining at Cumberland till the MFC loaded Canoes arrived there from Athapascow & to regulate his future conduct by the information he might then obtain.

28th Sent off Mr John McLeod, Mr John Lewis, Miller, Tate, James Bird jun^r, Francois Deschamps, Patrick Quin, William Fleeth & three of Mr Decoigne's Men, in a large Canoe for Red Deer to give Lord Selkirk every information he may require regarding the conduct of the MFC at Lesser Slave Lake, Isle a la Crose Athapascow & to lay their complaints before the Commissioners appointed to inquire into & settle the disturbances

1887
June 28th of this County. —

29th Mr Decouine with all his Canoes Embarked for the Posts from which place they are to return with a load of Goods to the Depot where Mr Decouine is again to fit out his Men &c for Lake St. Louis.

July 5th Three Canadians (who accompanied Mr Graham from Swan River but ~~were~~ ^{being} in a canoe were unable to follow the Posts thro' the ice in the Winnipegosis Lake,) arrived. — They say that they were informed by Indians, whom they saw in Lake Winnipeg, that Mr. Donald, partner of the ~~W.M.C.~~, paid their Rent, on his way to the Big Fall, in a canoe manned with eight men, about the 1st M^r, told them that the W.M.C. had retaken Fort Williams, Rainy Lake, & Point au Porte by that time, that they were coming in, in greater force than ever, that there would be peace in the Country, that the Indians would receive plenty of Goods at a cheap Rate. — The Commissioners, Allen & Gould said, he left at Fort Williams. —

27th Left off the Canadians who arrived yesterday to fetch a few articles of Goods, that are required at this place from the Depot. — Mr McDonald embarked with the others for Red River. — The latter are to spend in gently remaining occasion ally, for some time at good fishing places, till they have again from Red River. —

July 15th 35 Lieutenant Graffham and Mr Duncan Graham arrived with thirty two men in four Canoes from Red River & delivered me a letter from Lord Selkirk desiring my presence at Red River.

16th Lieutenant Graffham with twelve men of the Marion Regiment embarked in two Boats to fetch Goods from Oxford for the use of Red River Settlement, Mr Graham likewise embarked with the rest of his party for York Factory to get an assortment of Goods for the Settlement he occupied last year, and in the evening I accompanied by Mr. Thos Thomas & Peter Fisher of five men embarked for Red River. —

17th Arrived at Red River had the pleasure to see Lord Selkirk in perfect health. —

27th Mr Lewis accompanied by several Canadians embarked with a letter from the Commissioners (addressed to the Proprietors, Clerks, &c of both Company) ordering a restitution of all property taken ~~recently~~ and with Letters & instructions for Capt. Clarke & McKinzie. —

29th Having finished such business at Lord Selkirk deemed it proper for me to talk with the Commissioners, and received such instructions from his Lordship as I thought requisite, with Mr Thomas, embarked for Lake River.

August 11th Arrived at Jack River where I found several the Company's Athapascans, Servants who have just arrived from that District, and who inform us that about Thirty Eight of their fellow servants

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
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187
will arrive here in a day or two. — No Boats or
Canoes have yet arrived here from York Factory.
McGraffens & party left this place for Red
River with two boat loads of Goods several days
ago so that I must have passed him in the
Lake, Winnipeg, near Red River.

5th Six Canoes containing the men above mentioned
arrived from Athapuskow but without any Officer
of Consequence. The Officers being all detained in
Athapuskow by the M.C. but in what
situations these men seem to be ignorant.

7th The Canoes above mentioned embarked to go to
the Depot for Goods with a view of their returning
to the Athapuskow this season of possible. By
M. Stott who accompanies them I addressed a Letter
to Mr Decougn (who I suppose to be on his way from
Depot to this place) according to instructions I
received from Lord Selkirk requesting him to go
to Athapuskow & making him an offer of a con-
siderable Advance of Salary if he will undertake
the Charge. — Sent also away a Boat well
manned for York Factory to fetch part of
4000 lbs of Flour & 576 lbs of Pork which we have
undertaken to deliver at Red River by the 20th
of September for the use of a party of soldiers
who are to be stationed at that place. — Four
Canoes arrived from the Depot loaded with
Goods intended for Lesser Slave Lake they
left Mr Decougn at the Depot but he is
expected back today or tomorrow.

187
August 8th Mr Decougn arrived from the Depot and informed
me that one of the Saskatchewan Boats in sailing
was overset by a sudden gust of Wind within about
3 Miles of Oxford House and about fifty pieces of
80 lbs each of Goods unfortunately lost, the Value
of which ~~of 1000~~ is upwards of One hundred pounds.

10th Messrs Gathland & Carswell arrived from York
Factory. — Lieutenant McDonald arrived from Point
au Fort with four Packs of Furs which had
been detained there by the M.C. but which they
have now delivered up in pursuance of an order
to that effect, from the Honorable W. B. Colman.

The number of Packs detained was originally
forty of which thirty three have been restored
the remaining seven have been kept by the
M.C. (agreeably to the Order of the Commissioners)
in two of six Packs of their Furs sent in May
last, by Lord Selkirk to Moose Factory.

12th Having no proper person to accompany the
Canoes mentioned on the 7th to Athapuskow
I have thought requisite to engage
Mr Decougn for that purpose and I have not
been able to obtain his services without agreeing
to give him 300£ per the Year, & a promise
of 100£ more if he succeeds in establishing
the Company's affairs in Athapuskow.

The Lesser Slave Lake Canoes went off for their
winter quarters, Mr Lewis is appointed to take
charge of that settlement.

13th The Saskatchewan Boats Embarked for
Cumberland engaged Mr Kinnedy to return to

1317
August 1st Cumberland at a salary of \$100 £ 0 annume

" 14th Made such arrangements with Mr Gutherford & gave him such instructions regarding the future business of this place as appeared to me to be necessary particularly respecting the arrival of the men & canoes expected to arrive from Canada, as there is no prospect of my seeing them at this place, the time drawing so near when my presence will be required at York Factory. —

15th Mr D Graham arrived from York Factory, after a very long passage, driving ashore, to the bad state of his canoes which he leaves at this place, intending to embark his men & goods in a boat for Red River. He has about 88 pieces of goods (of 80 lbs each) besides supplies for his men, which unprovided him and has considerably arranged the apportionment of goods intended for other settlements.

This points out the necessity of provisioning made for any new undertakings that may be desired. — It has been the custom at York to make the indent for goods as nearly equal to the known demand as possible, any new call on the store must therefore create considerable inconvenience. —

After settling some little affairs with Mr Graham I embarked in the evening in a wooden canoe for York Factory. —

16th Arrived at Oxford where found the Athapascos

1317

August 17th Canoes on their return to Jacks River, the men are in very good spirits tho' very poorly off for food (having nothing but a little Flour & Fat to live on) and prepared to return to Athapascow. In the evening I continued my route towards York. —

18th I arrived at the Depot, informed Mr Logan that arrangements are made for his wintering at Rainy Lake, with three or four of the canoes expected from Canada. I gave him such instructions as I thought requisite, and afterwards continued my route to York Factory. —



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