

Montreal March 18<sup>th</sup> 1818

Gentlemen

It is with great concern that I find myself in circumstances, which do not admit of my appearing at the approaching Quarter Sessions at Sandwich - my presence being indispensably requisite in this Province during the pendency of several criminal prosecutions of the greatest magnitude which are appointed to be tried at this place and at Quebec - The interval of time between the different Terms and adjourned Sessions of the Courts here which I must attend are too short to admit of a Journey to Sandwich till after the close of the Court of Oyer and Terminer which is to be held here in May - Under these circumstances I trust that my unavoidable absence will not be ascribed to any want of respect for the Court when you learn that Bills of Indictment have been found here against more than forty persons, many of them of considerable rank in Society, as principals or accessories in Murder not to speak of a long train of other crimes carried on in a systematic manner. You will be sensible that the effectual prosecution of these matters is an object of the highest consequence to the ends of public justice and that no business of more private concern ought to be allowed to stand in competition

Truly

<sup>14</sup>  
Fully confiding in the liberality of your views I  
flatter myself that you will accept of this apology  
and allow my recognizance to stand over till  
another term

I have the honor to be Gentlemen

Yours most obedient  
and very humble servant

(signed) Selkirk

To the Chairman  
and Justices of the Peace

in Quarter Sessions at

Sandwich N.C.

Fort William 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1816

Gentlemen

Having been appointed by Mr. Mc Gillivray and the late Mr. Kenneth McKenzie by letter of Atty to take charge of the North West Co. property at this post and to act for them as if they were personally present. I herewith forward to you by permission of the Earl of Selkirk who has taken possession of this Fort, the Governor General's proclamation respecting the outrages committed in the Indian Territories for some time past. It is unnecessary for me to point out to you the necessity of your strictly complying with its contents. I have farther to remark that on the peaceable and prudent conduct of the Proprietors Clerks and servants of the Company now in the interior will depend in a great degree the restoration of the packed goods and stores now held over by his Lordship in this post to an immense amount as a security for the losses he has already or may sustain from the measures he expects to have been taken by the Company. —

His Lordship consents to the business of the post being carried on as usual under the conduct of Mr. Lake and Capt. McBargo until a compromise of all disputes can be made by arbitration or terminated by the decision of the law. — After the fatal affair that has taken place at Red River he objects to any outfits being sent to that place or its neighbourhood. I am now on the eve of my departure to St. Marys and perhaps to Montreal allow me therefore to repeat my request that a peaceable demeanour

demeanor and strict submision to the laws may mark  
your conduct during the winter as it is the only means  
by which you can extricate yourselves out of your  
present difficulties. -

It is with great pain I announce to you  
the death of Mr Kenneth McKenzie who was drowned  
with two Soldiers - Two Indians and one Canuckan  
off the Isles aux Asables in a gale of wind when  
going down a prisoner with Mr Mc Gillivray and the  
other Gentlemen found here on the 27<sup>th</sup> August last

I beg leave to remain

Gentlemen

Your most Humble Servt

(signed) John Johnston

Acting Agent N. W. Co

To A. R. McLeod Esq  
and Partners N. W. Co  
now in the Interior

30 December 1819

Indian Territory }  
to wit

Personally came and appeared before me  
W. N. McLeod Esquire one of His Majesty's Justices  
of the Peace for the Indian Territory John Pritchard of  
Red River and deposed and doth depose as follows  
viz<sup>t</sup>

J That Alexander Macdonell commanded a  
party of the Hudson Bay Company's servants when the  
party attacked and took a House belonging to the  
North West Company at Pimbinia River on or about  
the twenty first day of March last, and that the said  
Alexander Macdonell did feloniously break and force  
open the doors of the North West Company's House took  
Bastonnais Pangman who had charge of the said House  
for the North West Company prisoner as also W<sup>t</sup> A.  
Fraser and Charles Hysse all of them then in the  
employ of the said North West Company - The deponent  
further saith that the said Alexander Macdonell was  
accompanied by Patrick Corcoran or Pochrane who was  
also a servant of the said Hudson Bay Company,  
that he the said Alexander Macdonell ordered Bastonnais  
Pangman to deliver the Key of the Shop which obtaining  
he the said Alexander Macdonell and his party seized  
upon the Guns, Muskets, Gun powder, Shot and  
Ball and carried them down to the Forks of  
Red River.

The deponent saith that he is not  
certain whether the persons designated as servants  
of the Hudson Bay Company are so in fact or not,  
as they are commonly called settlers or Colony  
servants, and the acknowledged and avowed head  
of which is the Earl of Selkirk.

He the deponent also saith & deposes that  
that one John McLeod clerk to the said

Hudson's Bay Company, John Forbes, and Peter  
Isaacson a Norwegian were of the party thus  
under the orders of the said Alexander McDonnell who  
seized feloniously and with force of arms the said  
persons of the above mentioned servants of the  
North West Company as also the property specified,  
and left the House without a Commander and  
the property still remaining in it in great  
risk and danger of being lost or embargoed -

Sworn before me this twenty fourth  
day of June one thousand eight  
hundred and sixteen and of  
His Majesty's reign the fifty sixth  
at Riviere aux Morts Red River

(Signed) A. A. McLeod  
J. P. J. T.

(Signed) John Pritchard

Sir,

Agreeable to your wish I hereto subjoin a narrative of the unfortunate events which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst in the plains of Osimbou. On the Evening of that day a man from the Watch House called out that the Half breeds were coming. The Governor in Chief some other Gentlemen and myself looked through spy Glasses and I distinctly saw several armed men on Horseback passing in the plains. A man then called out "They (the Enemy) are making for the settlers" - at which the Governor said "We must go and meet those fellows. Let Twenty men follow me"

As we were going along we met many of the settlers running to the Fort. They were in great fear and said the Half breeds were come upon them. -

When we were advanced about three fourths of a mile along the Settlement we saw some men behind a point of woods and as we advanced Their numbers increased - and at about one miles distance from the Fort They came before us - we made a Halt and they surrounded us in the form of a Half moon - we then extended our line and moved more into the plains - at sometime as They advanced we retreated very slowly a few steps backwards - I then saw a Canadian (I believe His name to be Bushé) advance waving His Hand to the Governor and calling out in English "What do you want" The Governor answered "What do you want" "We want our Fort" replied the man - I believe the Governor then said "Go to your Fort" -

What

What they said to each other afterwards I was too far off to hear - but I saw the Governor and the man struggling for a Gun - and almost immediately the firing began but which party fired first I do not know as my sole attention was directed to my personal defence -

I was told that our party amounted to Twenty Eight Persons consisting of Officers and Servants Twenty one of whom were killed I was informed the Enemies party was sixty two strong one of whom it is said was killed -

I was taken prisoner and when taken to the Camp, I there saw Alexander Murray, His wife, two of William Bannermans Sons, and Alexander Tuthill Settlers, prisoners as likewise Anthony McDowell Servant The Settlers were taken prisoners before the action took place - McDowell during the action -

(signed) John Pritchard

To / Arch Nounan McLeod Esqr }