
CHAPTER XI

THE SCOTTISH COLONY ON THE RED RIVER

LORD SELKIRK was a man of visions. Nothing else can explain his tenacity in holding for years without question the plan of placing a party of his countrymen on the banks of the Red River, in a region which he knew to be fertile, though hard to reach. His Prince Edward Island and Baldoon experiences were but an apprenticeship in the art of raising up New World communities.

Taken up with his scheme of defence and charity, as we have seen, he did not lose an opportunity in the low price of the stock of the Hudson's Bay Company, which held the lands on which his eye was set, to obtain the area for the establishment of a colony which would bear his name and be a monument of patriotism and disinterestedness. The wars of Napoleon were still continuing, and the labouring classes of England, Scotland, and Ireland were really in a state of pauperism. Commencing in 1808, Lord Selkirk and his relatives had acquired a quantity,

