

## CHAPTER XVII

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### SCOTTISH GOVERNORS OF ASSINIBOIA

THE arrest of Miles Macdonell, the Governor, at the instance of Duncan Cameron in 1815, led to the temporary filling of his place by Alexander Macdonell, a Scotsman who left an unenviable name on the banks of the Red River. This work cannot be a true history of Scotsmen if only the good and the wise are described and the unworthy or the unfortunate are ignored or passed by.

Alexander Macdonell seems to have had a facility for business, unaccompanied by morality. On the arrival of Governor Semple he of course ceased to be Acting Governor, but on the death of this Governor, in 1816, he again came to the front, and for five or six years, amid the conflict and ruinous condition of things upon the banks of the Red River, lived a life of extravagance and unrestraint. No doubt he had ability, but he was utterly unreliable, and Lord Selkirk and his heirs were for years victimised by this worthless parasite.

The plague of grasshoppers visited Red River in the year 1818. Some years before the coming of the colonists a similar destructive visitation had occurred. Now every green thing was devoured,























