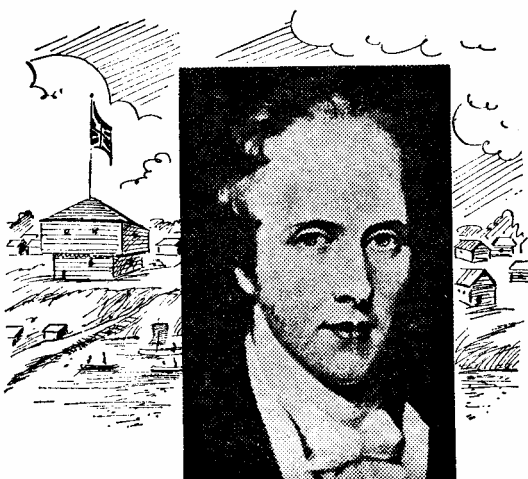


## FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

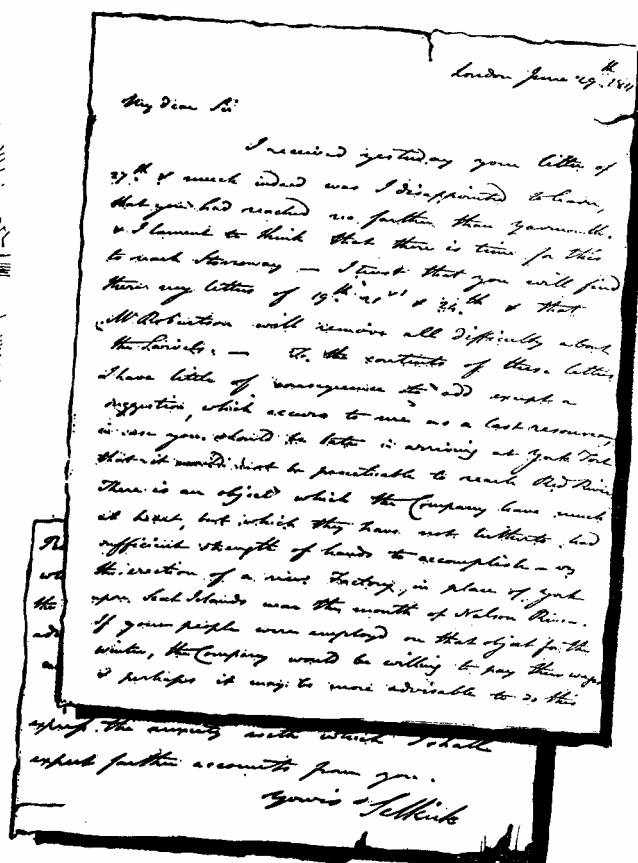


### Red River Colony

The first colonists hadn't left Scotland for the Red River Colony but Lord Selkirk was already visualizing their slow journey across half the world.

In this historic letter to his subordinate Miles Macdonell, Lord Selkirk laments at the progress and lays plans to keep the colonists occupied through their first Winter in Canada.

He had already established colonies of Scottish Highlanders on Prince Edward Island and at Baldoon near Lake St. Clair when he and his brother-in-law acquired 116,000 square miles in the Red River Valley of Western Canada for settlement.



The first party under Capt. Macdonell, who was earlier appointed first governor of Assiniboia by the Hudson's Bay Company, left Scotland in 1811 and reached its destination near Winnipeg in August of the following year.

### Lord Selkirk's Concern for Colonists

London, June 29th, 1811.

My Dear Sir:

I received yesterday your letter of the 27th and much indeed was I disappointed to learn that you had reached no farther than Yarmouth and I lament to think there is time for this to reach Stornoway.

I trust you will find there my letters of the 19th, 21st and 24th and that Mr. Robertson will remove all difficulty . . .

To the contents of these letters I have little of consequence to add except a suggestion which occurs to me as a last resource in case you should be late in arriving at York Fort and that it would not be practical to reach Red River.

There is an object which the company have much at heart but which they have not hitherto had sufficient strength of hands to accomplish — viz. the erection of a new factory in place of York upon Seal Island near the mouth of the Nelson River. If your people were employed on that object for the Winter the company would be willing to pay their wages and perhaps it may be more advisable to do this . . .

Adieu, my dear sir, I can scarcely express the anxiety with which I shall expect further accounts from you.

Yours,  
SELKIRK.