Came to Canada 1791
aged 17

Born 1774

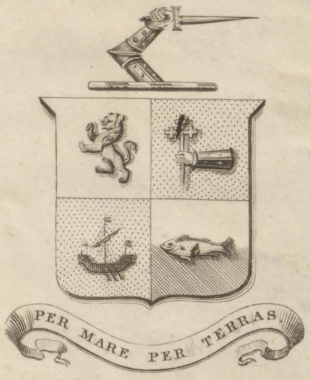
Was 89 in 1859
89
Born 1770 ?

see page 56

de Léry Macdonald
Régaud
Lue

Vol. I

Autobiographical Notes of John Macdonald of Garth



De Bellefeuille Macdonald.

Montreal.

Dawson

De Lery Macdonald

Apl. 25/22

Memorandum

It is reported in the Highlands of Old Scotland, that the McDonalds are connected with the family of Old Noah — i.e. that they had a Boat of their own on Loch Lomond independent of the Ark — by which the Chiefs of the Clan saved as many as the Boat could safely hold. Of course the finest Yacht of Lord Seyes, Hence the superiority of that race above all others ever since, be that as it may, they have had, at any rate, Fallen off either in place or Transform any of the race of Adam —

J. McD

1st March
1859

Tabulated for the 86th year

Gaol Gaspe Creek
1st March
1859

Dear Dr Bellquille

Yourself & my very dear Daughter in Law have been long since desirous to know some thing of your Poor Father, (living a Stranger in a Strange Land) & some Sketch of my long life —

You will remember that I am in my Eighty ninth (89th) # Year & that my Memory is failing — also that in any attempt of the Kind there must consequently be many errors in Dates & Orthographical notations — However I shall try & meet your wishes however imperfectly & as briefly as I can —

My Dear Dr Bellquille
Your affectionate
Father
John McDonald

Dr Bellquille
McDonald Corr

Achnacoichean?

Dear Mr Bellfeuille, 2d March
1859

My Father was from the Braes of Lochaber as I was often told, of gentle blood - being a descendant of the Lords of the Isles - more immediately of the families of Keppoch & Achnacharn. I recollect stories of old times that one of the Keppochs unhorsed one of the Kings troopers at Culloden - mounted his steed. The Horse hearing the bugle in the English camp took his rider into the English camp - when he was made prisoner & afterwards guartered at Carlisle, when it was found he had three hearts - but this as it might be was said to be a fine fellow who deserved a better fate. At Culloden most of my poor Fathers kin - & amongst others my grand Father, who received a cut in the head from an English trooper, he fell but recovered

but

But during the rest of his life he occasionally the loss of his reason in one of those paroxysms, he sold the family property for a song

My Father was an officer in the old eighty fourth (84th) of the Black Captain when that regiment was disbanded & I remember him to be generally on the recruiting service being a Highlander & that was called a smart fellow I remember his piper nearly killing a white faced cow when drunk one night, mistaking her & fancying it was the Devil — this scared was hacked in pieces on the poor cows bones — there was a story told of my Father that when paying his addresses to my Mother in one of his visits going up the lane in front of the house, he was attacked by a gander — his only defence was to draw his sword & keep him off — my Mother & other ladies saw the battle from the window & when the door was opened for him & admittance given to him

before the Ladies were. The Salutation was. Well Mr Capt McDonald you fought well. in this the first Blood your Sword has drawn — it may be supposed that this attack was more than that of the Gardener. He died of Pleurisy at the age of about 40 — he had married the second time & lived at Gart near Callander being an Italy fary —

My Mother died before I was an infant — I think I remember her on her death Bed being in my Nurses arms putting into Bed — She was a Small, Niece to General Stuart Small whose Sitting is in your possession. He had a Brother a Doctor Small who must + have been her Father — She had two Sisters — One married to Spalding the inventor of the diving Bell who was suffocated on going to the Royal George Sunk at Portsmouth, by the Neglect of not giving him the necessary

necessary air & obeying the signals
of the Other Sister married Campbell of Cairnie
Hamish - Father to Sir Archd Campbell
(of Burmese Memory) & Grand Father
to Sir John Campbell who fell in the
attack on the Redan, consequently
you & Sir John Campbell were Cousins
Sir Archd being your Uncle but also
marrying my Sister Helen - by my
Father's second marriage, a Daughter
of Sir Archd - married Mr Hamilton
Mayne Spencer who with a large
family are all alive - as Other Daughter
married a Colonel Tredyoffs, She is alive
with one Son who was wounded
by the side of his Uncle at the Redan
he is now in India with the Regt
the 38th - I believe

Genl Small was Colonel
of the Hungary Invalids & died
Governor of Guernsey & Incorporated the Burnell Family where you
Knew as our Neighbour now in N.Y.
was an officer in the Invalids
was at Guernsey at the time

when Genl. Small died — there was a story told of the General that he went to Old Queen Charlotte's Levee in his Highland Dress. The Old Lady called him to the Chair when he came again to change his Dress, that some of the Maids of Honor did not like such an exposé as his Bare Knees — of course he took the Lint Green Bottle Rolland Snuff Box & Dress Purse belonging to one when 1804 Genl. Small — In 1864 — I visited Salem some 12 Miles east of Boston, there was a painting of the attack upon Bunker's Hill — a Mounted officer approaching leading the attack at the head of his Regt. the 84th — I was told it was Genl. Small then Colonel of that Regt. a Mr. McLeod who travelled with me turned round & said that was my Uncle. Some americans were present & the consequence was an invitation to a Dinner

You had an Uncle in London Angus McDonald Army Agent Pall Mall Court - Pall Mall, He died in the South of France, His Widow a fine woman - died lately in Brighton, If you look into the Army lists of those days, you may see his name as Agent to several Regiments -

You had Connections in the Canadas - The late Honble Colonel Highloney married your Aunt Magdalene there is a likeness here of them, as a family group as it were - The Honble Colonel Highloney married to Col^l Highloney sister, The late Adjutant of Royal Horse Bensington's London were your Cousins - of that family alone are living but the Bracklenbury's Bracklenbury is Consul at Madrid, Into the Highlands you might find many relatives - entirely unknown to me - Being too young when I left home to see them all

Your affectionate
Father -

Great Cornwall
3d March
1859

Dear De Witt -

I was too young & from school when I left the Old Portland to know much of my relations or care much about them, consequently the narrative which I have given you is very concise & my distance from home ever since made me very little acquainted with any of them.

My Grand Uncle Gen. Smith met the Rev. Simeon De Witt Head Patron of the Old North Company in London, he lived with my Brother Aaron of Pall Mall - bound me as a Clerk to that Company - for a definite number of years, at the end of my Service I was to get a Share in the Concern -

On the 19th of April 1791 - I sailed

Sailed from Greenock in the good
ship Canada Capt. Henry Martin
There were passengers, Lt. Col. Scott I
believe of the 60th & his Lady & 2 children
also a Capt. Boyce & an Ensigne Bently
Being a good looking lad of 17 years
old & knowing who I was, I became
a favourite, for Monday's a passage
of six weeks was considered very good
we got to Quebec about the 1st June
I occupied the same state room with
Bently, a tall young Scot — some
how or other we quarrelled, I
challenged him to go on deck in
a dark night, I had pocket pistols,
Lt. Col. Scott heard the last passed which
amused him very much — He wore
his sword daily in the dressed for
dinner — he appeared to me to be
ashamed, I told him, his sword was
more dangerous to himself — There
it would cost him to an enemy, lying
by on our quarrel —

At Quebec Mr. McTavish
the Lad also landed from London

Chief Capt. Haney - to be the time
that I was at the Hotel - (Banks)
with Mr. Dodd & - who took great
care of me. I was sent for by
Mr. McTavish questions - I met
him immediately, He told me to
proceed immediately to Montreal
& offered me Gold to pay my
expenses which I did not re-
quire.

I left Quebec the day
after I think the 5th - Same with
a Doctor Stewart & got to Montr.
the 5th in a Calash - I was placed
in a Boarding House Mr. Massons
excellent Quarters - during my
stay in that Town

I had some letters of
introduction particularly one to
Colo. Campbell of the Indian Dept.
who was well acquainted with
Genl. Brock - Colo. Campbell was
very kind to me, Dined with him
& he was married to a Daughter
of

of St. Luke La-Com, as ugly a
human as he was a lonesome
man - I did great Business for
many Others during my Stay -
I shall now proceed to the Indian
Territory called the North west - but
at this day the Hudson's Bay territory
is Sold to the North west Co.

My Narrative will be
more egotistical than historical
as a matter of course, It is this
you require of me - I left country as
little known now to be what it was
in 1822 days -

I will then note some
incidents in my life which may come
to my recollection, as I have said
entirely egotism.

My dear Dr Bely

Your affectionate
Father

About the 15th June 1891 - I left La Cloche under the Patronage of the Late Simon McTavish Esq. in a large Birch bark canoe - manned by fifteen stout Voyageurs & our Cook - from among a crowd of friends & spectators who had come to witness our departure as a great event before the times of Steam - We landed at St. Ann where the men had their dedication & their Patron saint, & proceeded on the Lake two Mountains - which was the first Lake of any magnitude I had seen - we came to the River Ottawa in the time appending that River a long way we left it & made our way to Lake Nipissingue - crossing that Lake at the Discharge from which Rivers flow to the West & we then reached Lake Nipissing by Trunk River, where we had a Storm stay a day or two

on two, here I Shot some Wild Pigeons which we found very Acceptable as we were upon Salt Ham, Beef & Tea since we left Montreal. The wind having fallen we proceeded on Lake Huron to the Sault St Marie where the Company had an Establishment, on the South Side of the Sault, there was a Small Settlement, Messrs Robin & Johnston who were I believe Indian Traders - here the principal Persons we made the Portage after some Short Stay - & proceeded in our Sail Boat - on Lake Superior - to the Old Grand Portage where we got in Safety the South on Fifth day after a visit to some Trading Posts at Fiven Lac & Nichilipicaton # At Grand Portage there were great rejoicings on Mr. McTavish's arrival Some Partners came there from the interior as well as the Agents from Montreal - the conducted that branch of the business, the total assemble seemed Stary

to me — during a stay of perhaps
a fortnight here — I had a quarrel
with a Black a large English man
of the name of Harrison — he
threw a loaf of Bread at me and
called him out — with my pocket
pistols again — he took a rope &
said this is my pistol, he was
afterwards under my command
& a very good fellow — but no Indian
Relation could learn to offend the
French and believe he died in the
country if I remember right —

I was here affrighted to
be under the care of Hayes I have
an excellent Trader & a man who
managed his affairs well
& a Friend Burgevin to me — he
started in his canoe — a much
smaller Rig — from the Cascades
from La Chine until he overtook
the Brigade of loaded canoes —
the 2nd Lieut Cant Lantotte
at the North end of Grand Portage

Some

some days previous - In two or three days he overtook them when he put me on board of the Pilots or Guide's canoe, that I might be with the Brigade in his absence - The Guide or Pilot took great care of me -

We proceeded & came to the Foot of Lake La Pluie - west end of that Lake - on rather on Birch of Lake La Pluie - we proceeded down the current of that beautiful stream - to Lac du Bois (Lake of the Woods) we crossed this Lake among a many beautiful Islands to the N. E. end of it - from this Lake issues the River Winnipeg - a dangerous & very large stream - to Lake Winnipeg - a Lake about 250 miles long, & wide in proportion, we had many strong gales on this Lake & were often weathbound having many long Portages to make before we

got to the North End which
we did in safety in about 6
days which was considered a
good passage for loaded canoes
We then got into what we
call the waters of the Saskatchewan
& its tributaries. but having
to get up 3 miles of strong rapids
making a long portage & a strong
current to Lake Winnipeg, & crossing
Lake Winnipeg we got into Lake
Bourbon on some streams called
Cedar Lake, a Jim Page Lake,
the Lake Radue, on Mud Lake
so called from its being muddy
from the sediments of the
North Saskatchewan — crossing
Mud Lake we finally got into
the Pasquia River called
in this part of its course Du Pas
after a hard pull for 2 or 3 days
we got by a small stream
into Cumberland Lake & left
the Saskatchewan South of us

Here

there was a Settlement on Trading
post - I ought to have mentioned
that on Lake Winnipeg - a Solitary
lonely Goose came towards the Brigade
skimming the lake - upwards of 20 guns
were ready to blow it within distance
I fortunately took a long shot
& took two down of which I was
very proud - several of the Partners
with the Athabasca Brigade having
joined - among st them was the
Celebrated Jon Alex McKenzie

Lake Cumberland is named
for Stanley, we proceed to the
North end & ascended River
Maligne to Beaver Lake & from
there by Lakes, Rapids & Portages
to Lake Athabasca - he was the
last Settlement - we encamped
at River Maligne & an Indian
brought us some of the meat of
a fine Moose Deer possibly shot
he had a Suspicion of it - I think

I seen found any thing to good probably from the long absence of Goes & food.

We made but a short stay at Lake a Ton Croix — so named as being a favorite resort to the Indians in playing this favorite game — we made the long portage to Beaver River, we found this River very low. It being as it were a more secluded to all the other Rivers. It abounded with Game, such as wild Ducks & Geese — some Pelicans — this gave us plenty of fresh food — our Hunter killed also some Deer — we made our way slowly up this River several days. (Snow was then falling) untill we got to Portage Dorignal in Lat. & Long. The Men struck off from Beaver River, made a long Portage to Lac Dorignal & in about the distance of 10 or 15 miles we

got

we got to the Settlement where there were a good many Indians of the Cree & Assiniboine Tribes hunting on Lake - Mr Shaw made the necessary arrangements for the winter - Ice having already frozen up our passage nearly - we got there exactly in time, next day the Lake (a good large Lake) was open again - Here then we were fixed for the winter in new Quarters but comfortable with plenty of fire wood & good water - We had meat enough of a good kind, but the real white Fish but occasionally the Indians brought us the flesh of the Deer of different kinds - no bread - which I thought with Pemmican, was any repetition only fresh & Deer meat. Pemmican - not too much of that by times - towards Spring Mr Shaw sent me with an Old Interpreter

to

in search of the Indians - Several days on foot in snow & weather I have often since felt satisfied that if the old man had died on the way or that we had accidentally separated, what would have become of me - I did not know the way in the forest - how could I have returned - On this trip I killed a Beaver & a Bear - which I thought paid me well for my labour - here also for the first time I shot a Moose Deer - which I first took for a Horse, we fell upon the Indian Camp - & after feasting a couple days made our way back to the Lake

I was from Greenock in the Clyde - my first summers work was to Lake Dongzal a big day distance perhaps of eight or ten thousand miles - this I must call my first year in the North woods, where I

when I got a good deal of
Praise from Mr. Shaw upon
the representation of my old
Interpreter whose name
I ought to have mentioned
as Old Simon –

I shall now pause
until the ice is clear from
off the Lake to allow us a
free passage on our return
to Head Quarters with what
furs and Bear collected

I hereby beginning my
second year in the Country –
All being in good health & spirits
but a select force of Voyageurs
full of excitement

See Massons Book Page 15

1792

In Spring of 1792 I left the first Lake I went to. I was quite proud of it — about the middle of May we got a passage clear of ice in the Lake & made our way to the Portage & the men in a couple days got canoes & furs, baggage etc. so, while doing so I killed a couple fine Beaver & some Ducks, the waters in the River were then high from the flood & the Beaver were plenty fall, we made our way slowly down the River, it was then the middle of June & they take season in coming from the entrance of the River to the Fort of Lake a la Croix — we were all the only boat in the Lake, the ice nearly crushing the canoes between two fields. We got a slow passage & remained until the 16th June before the Lake was clear. when

we again set out on our journey
to the route we came by viz
by Big Fish on Athabasca River
to Fort Vermilion at Lac Caribou
i.e. the Grand Portage Mr. Shaw
left me in charge of the Brigade
until the Joint Hudson Bay Co.
to pursue our way as weather
might allow us, while he &
a couple more of the Partners
who had joined left us in light
canoes to prepare things before
us at Fort ~~William~~ Grand Portage
for next year — and set off — they
have got the Brigade in the time
the Jews without any damage
We have been about a couple
weeks repacking & sorting &
meeting the Chief Traders & Agents &
settling the costs of everything
& the Fort of Fish —

Sir W. C. McTavish was
then one of the Partners, he was
down with Mr. McGillivray as
directors of everything. Sir

Sir Alex. was then preparing for his voyage of discovery to the Pacific across the Rocky Mountains, & the Small Lad requested of him to take me with him. He told me if I would go I got attached to Mr. Shaw & expressed my reluctance & therefore declined.

It was then so ordered that I should return with the same Brigade with the same Guide to Lake D'Orignal & deliver the charge to another Young Lad of the name of Grame who had been in the country before me & some years older. So at Dole a Tabac-Point we came to proceed to Lac D'Orignal & that Mr. Shaw who was to go to the Saskatchewan was to find fault with me, as his assistant in that Department ~~for the 1st time~~, as Mr. James Finlay a Partner being also in the same department

down down about 200 miles at Fort
de Isle - on an Island - In my this
journey, I met with nothing but the
common accusances of the voyage. yet
I may mention a small matter which
may show that a slow stroke low the
wind blows by times

In one of the portages one of
my men, my steersman Bellanger a
fine darking fellow, accidentally
let a keg of Highwines fall from his
handsh upon the rock - by which the
bottom was stove in partly, consequently
some of the liquor leaked out into a
fissure in the galle, or rock - the
second speech nothing but thought he
might have caught by the last load been lost
he got a giant jaf - mug - & was
scooping up the least 20 gallons when
I discovered the mug spoon tin, & cast
mug & all into the rapid river
reflecting that what was accident
then might be design another time
in order to get a jaf - He grumbled
saying he might have enjoyed it

as well as the Girls. The Habit
Bodwich Mr Bingee happened to
have been present, & told me
I had done well.

Another circumstance re-
lated to me by Mr Graham, Jaboon,
of something of Second Sight in
matters. The Winter previous he
had gone with a couple men from
the Fort & hole a la Bosp to some
Indian Camp distant about
15 or 20 miles, with Dogs & Sleigh
for some furs & the flesh of a
fine Moose Deer. On their return
on the Lake. The night being as clear
as generally in such a latitude —
when about full Moon. He had
got a head about a mile of his
men as their sleighs were very
heavily laden. & being within a
mile of home. At the turn of
a point or peninsula well known
to Anybody. He sat down to await
his men & smoke his Pipe. he lean
in seated & in the act of smoking

He heard a rustling behind him from the quarter by which he came - as it were a gust of wind, he turned round & plainly saw a coach with two horses white as lilies driving towards him. & when it came nearly up to him. It arose in the air & passed, He saw the persons in it plainly - & saw it alight at a certain small River having directed its course that way. When he told this I told him, he must have been dozing & half asleep. He declared not - I found him a good religious lad - I say it was all perhaps from a dream, was it not - That night season, he had gone out on stock hunting with two of his men. & both these men never seen again, he was only at the mouth of this very River was found up dead - There was surely something in this more than superstition

I've got to our hunting quarters in Cotton Town that last season at the Original (Moses Tate) he here was found Old Simon who had been

left in charge of our Indians
awaiting our arrival —

The Lad not been many days
since when I was rejoiced to see
on the opposite ~~side~~ point in the
Lake the arrival of a couple men
& an Indian woman as guides to
them with each a Horse, & one
saddled for my self & two for my
baggage & provisions — I lay that
night in tears, when I took my
departure with them rejoicing
at the idea of joining Mr. Lad
again & his kind treatment
had attached me to him as a
father, & the Indians he told me
I was his little brother —

After three or four days in
strong woods we came to the Borders
of the Prairies, when the guides
told me to follow an Indian trail
which was perceptible, I rode
along — with an Indian Hunter
& my Pack — He stood till within
a certain distance — Paid down

his gun, on the grass - as much as to say (Seeing me a Boy as it turned &
not to be afraid) He pointed my way
& I soon arrived at my destination
& found Mr Shaw with about
Fifty men, putting up Houses & erecting
Stockades for Safety & their winter
quarters - mutual congratulations
took place, Thus I was at my
enchantment transported from Rivers,
& Lakes, from Portages & Strong woods
to an unknown Region - of the finest
Prairies, The new Fort was upon
the Margin of a fine Tammack of
Pine - upon a rising Hill on Bank
with the North Saskatchewan in
front - with Banks in that place of
Strong woods - for perhaps a Mile
in Breadth - & twenty in length along
the River, as it gave a Shelter for
the different kinds of Deer, particularly
the Moose Deer -

The Men passed the winter
& as it was a new part of the world
the country abounded in all kinds

of animals - including numerous
kinds of the Bear - Lastly the grizzly
Bear -

The Tribes of Indians who
visited us during Winter were
the Crees - both Stoney wood &
Plains Crees - The Assiniboils both
Stoney wood & Plains - These come
here as our intimate friends - from
the West prairies came the Sarcee
Black feet - the Piegans, & Blood
Indians - they numerous Tribes
who speak the same language -
having been once of the same
tribe, there were also the Gros
a small tribe, having been cut
off in Wars, all these tribes
are a powerfull people - but they
their food being always animal
food - i.e. Buffaloes & Deer -
no fish, no bread no vegetables
They had numerous kinds of fine
fleet Horses. The fleetest named
for the Race -

Day

They brought for Trade, Beaver, Moly, Skins Skin of the Fox, Bear, &c &c — also Buffalo Robes — but the last are slightly depended upon as they died Bonacons. To prepare as to make into Pemican with Tallow & Marrow fat — a Portable food for the Supply of its other departments — for transportation in Spring, Cumberland House settlement as the depot

Thus I close this year's Journal — in health & good spirits

J. McDougall

1793

It may be made all due preparations in putting canoes in order making Pattaux, making Pemican & packing Furs & by the 15th were all ready to embark for our rendezvous at Grand Portage - all afloat upon the Grand Gascatchewan - then at light water from the melting of Snows from the Rocky Mountains & all its tributary streams - it was a Grand Sight to see such a Grand River, the innumerable herds of Buffaloes & Deers & many Grizzle Bears on its Banks feeding & crossing in such numbers that we often got our canoes amongst them & lost hundreds without relief they say sometimes upwards of a thousand dead or some have partly drowned while crossing in Spring on the ice & washed ashore amongst them here & there seen often the

The Bean feeding upon the carcasses
have of course lost as many as
have required for their own food - or
took on board as much as would
feed us while it kept fresh & good -
generally until we got to the Mississippi
i.e. the boats while we got the Buffalo
enough to ~~last~~ us when we could
get home - Cry from the Prairies
to the Strong wood, Lakes & Rivers
Islands are only a chance Deer
or a Black Bear - plenty of Fish -
if time was given to catch them &
nets prepared -

We got all Tap to
understand before - the position
the Pemican of Tape for the Northern
departments when nothing of the
kind can be such procured. This
is the usual way of supply - care
has taken if possible to procure
a sufficient quantity to enable
all the Brigades to proceed without
loss of time & all encouragements
given the Indians to supply us

an want of provisions would prevent progress — & stop the trade. It is likely ordered by Providence that this should be so — a second supply also came from Red River the Selkirk settlement — the depot being at the entrance of Bison Mountain — near Fort Alex.

We left Lake Pond generally 2d June & made our way in full spirits & health to Head Quarters — where as in all future cases we met the gentlemen from Montreal in good fellowship after a twelve months absence — The men were always regaled with plenty — a feast on animal of Bread & Pork — an unusual treat — & a cup to make them merry — there were usually about 6 or 8 hundred men on the ground on a summons to rale.

We regaled generally about a couple months — when we noticed refitted, made up our crews & prepared to return to winter

each to his own allotted department under its appointed Bourgeois & Clerks - for another campaign - I remember nothing uncommon on this Voyage. We got safe to our winter quarters, Mr Shaw to the new establishment named Fort George & Mr James Finlay at Fort de l'Isle, I was sent first with Mr Hughes to the war lately killed on the Rail Road near La Prairie on the Hospital Providentially for Mr Finlay & I was to have been stationed at Fort George with Mr Shaw -

When at Breakfast one Morning in Mr Finlay's Office two men came in from Mr Finlay's establishment at Isle. The express was sent on to Lac Travers. It was bad Cold out in June & between the Crees & the Tribe of Mandans & Tale Indians on the Missisouri Several had been killed on both sides - The Missisouri Indians

Drawing

that the Crees were in league
with the Blackfeet on the Saskatchewan
determined war upon them also
they killed an old man who went
to the Plain to look for his Horses -
it was not known first who
committed the act - i.e. which tribe
when a numerous band of the
tribe came to Mr Finlay under
pretence of Trade - the Fort
being on an Island a Boat
was employed to cross them &
all their effects except their Horses
which was left behind under
the care of some Boys - when
all crossed they as usual walked
into the Fort & began after a short
time to Trade what little they
had - when they began to be insol-
-ent Mr Finlay soon perceived
their intentions to overpower
himself & men - & murder them
& then to pillage the goods - this
was at last apparent all. but
soon

from Mr Finley was too great a
coward to take any effective steps
to stop them. They had killed his
old man, during the night fearfully
alarm by presents, when Mr. Hughes
the old Chief, exclaimed presents
will not do. To arms men. when
he seized his own arm, the men followed
ed his example, the Indians seeing
this retreat fled out of the House
& fell pell-mell down & down down down
across the River, Mr. Hughes & his
men followed & found it is
supposed some were killed.
Thus Mr. Hughes as brave a
fellow (as I felt I often experienced
since) as ever trod soil - saved
Mr. Finley - his wife & property, by
his daring conduct.
As I have said we were
at Breakfast quietly when this
express was brought to us at first
hand - the Young - I could not refrain
my disgust at little Finlays conduct
saying he not with the good men

to have allowed such insults & requesting more men — Mr. Shaw felt a little angry with me Mr. Finlay being a Partner, he thought a Boy like me ought not to take such liberty — He said, you say to make my young man prepare yourself to be off — with that effect in three days — no appeal to this I prepared & little time was required — the 3d day we left — on Horse Back — very badly settled on rigged out for the 10th days of Nov. & only one blanket under our Saddles.

In the mean time Mr. Shaw was informed that a new party had got to the Town party of the Pascal Russian from Montreal in opposition in the Fur Trade. This made him change his mind, He gave his instructions to me, to go first to Mr. Finlay's which was in my way — & then to proceed to Sturgeon River in the Town party

when the opposition had stopped
to entertain the a Band of Indians
I went to get a few men from the
nearest Settlement & an assistant
an Interpreter & to assist some Charters
& to oppose with all my Might &
with little Success. The opposition
The nearest Settlement
was about 80 miles up the Bow River
on South Branch of the Saskatchewan
under charge of a Obstinate a clever
man but the Son of a Gun. From
this Gentleman I got the Interpreter
a faithfull Person & the men
with the Company Horses - Goods &c
But I ought to have mentioned
that we had a distance i.e. to two
men & my self on Horse Back that
of about 80 Miles to travel to
get to the Settlement mentioned
which we accomplished in 4 Days
under Snow & Sleet - a thing which
has fortunately for us as in a
Sea Storm - in gaining a distant

Hammock of boards in the middle of the Pavilion - we fell upon a fresh killed dog - shot by an arrow - a sure indication that a party of the enemy were still hovering about - but the snow storm prevented our being seen. We got safely on board - and had not yet been done in this business -

The last up the Chantie Stone & I - passed the winter in Brooklyn office - my opponent being an old & prominent Trader Mr David Grant - It may not be out of the way to mention that in Salutations as customary here on meeting & getting a glass & cakes - that one of the Ballyo considering my age as nothing - in firing purposely shot his Powder through my window, I of course got enraged & challenged him to single combat with our guns - this was a check upon him ever after

1794 1794.

I begin my year with my Spring i.e. with the commencement of my Voyage - our Journal trips being called in French Voyages

In Spring 1794 then I was prepared for Mr. Slaves arrival from the Assiniboine Department with his large Brigade of Canoes, & Boats I was packed up & ready to start - he made his appearance in due time & all proceeded to Cumberland House - & from thence to Grand Portage The ice has unusually taken this year - It did not break up in Saskatchewan until 10th June consequently we did not reach time enough to be ready for our Stock of Provisions our Short - the Pedlar makes use of some wild Vegetables & Tripe de Roche - which he has boiled with a little Pemican Broth or Kind of Soup. It is called Lichen I think but Canadians tripe de Roche

We got Lunch on Top Lunch on the Grand Portage - & then pitched as usual -

Fort Charlotte was so called - on the North end of the Grand Portage a small Depot often crossing the Grand Portage 9 Miles long - So called I suppose after Mrs Queen Charlotte - We first landed from the Interior & from Fort Charlotte - on Pigeon River all took their departure to the Interior again - There were often some Stores for Furs & Goods as outfits - There was a Clerk in Charge with some men - There was then a Gentleman of a respectable Canadian family in Charge. Some few days after this got a Post at the Lake Superior end of the Grand Portage, The late Simon McTavish who always called me Jack - Mrs Mc Jack - You must cross the Portage to Fort Charlotte

Charlotte & discharge Mr Lemoine the gentleman in charge, he is charged with some nasty trades - tell him to deliver your his charge & leave - & come across then give your charge to another person to him I have just got - & return yourself immediately -

I set off - & in my entrance into his house met Mr Lemoine & delivered my message He demanded last time to show him my orders. I pointed to my tongue & told him I got no other he said it was useless to resist - & set off as bid. I returned & reported -

Some days after Mr de Sausse called me to him again & said Lady you must cross again, the opposition are picketing out a place for a fort, too close to our - with the intent of watching our movements. So they & to make them move farther off

There is a young Gentleman in
Charge - I emergently went down
& Struck the Young Gentleman (I
think it was Allan Lundie Esq.)
that Such was the last night & that
he must move some Space further
He replied that it was his Master
who planted the Picketts, that he
had no authority on Earth to move
such pickets, that he would be
blamed if he did it & would
not do it. I immediately said
I am not told by any one to
do it but to ask you to do it
But you will not do so. I must
I have not come over to no
purpose - Saying which I Struck
the action with the hand & pulled
them up & threw them into the
Pigeon River. He made no reply
or resistance - I then returned
across the Portage & reported what
I had done which caused a
general laugh among st the Portage
present -

he said that I was a Bold Boy - I
was still considered a Boy - being
but small & delicate

In a few days all was ready
& the Brigade started for the Saskatchewan
Mr Shaw remaining a few days behind
to settle accts - He overtook us
about Lac La Plus finally bottled
my accident on obstruction Mr J. Cook
to our destination at Fort Garry -
Fort shortly Mr Shaw thought proper
to abandon & Mr Finlay came down
to Montreal

Passed the winter at
Fort George, Mr Hayes had joined
us & this had many small adventures
The Hudson's Bay Co. had established
themselves along side & was in
opposition Thus ended my
3rd year -

J. McD

1795

I felt sure as I was joining to the a little man - Mr. Shaw thought prospect to have one in Sask. i.e. at Fort George in charge of the settlement. There have a good many goods on hand & it was expected to make a good trade. I do not wonder to hear Mr. Hughes was sent - I had only about six Orkneymen with me & some an Italian - so too far under such circumstances. I could not leave for a moment as there were many dangers. The gates were well locked at night & guards appointed - we have left some dry provisions down Winter brought us fresh by times. Mr. Shaw returned in the Season & all was well. There lay a Gally boat of ours which had died up - there had be attempted but the Bison on a Gally between us & the Hudson

Bay

Hudsons Bay Fort - Picketed off as
our Corn & Stong in Corn & Beans
in this Gully Mr Thompson (above the
Middle Ap) has Started for Fur & full
Beam - Spread dry a Beaver which gave
plenty of Water. They allowed us the
free use for some time, but at last
apprehension of its drying up also,
stopped the quantity taken from it by
so many for all purposes reduced
to allow Our Justice supplies.

One Man named Lucio came
back with his empty Buckets, saying
that Mr. Thompson came out & sent
him back empty - upon which Mr
Shaw told me to go back with Lucio
& endeavour to convince Mr. Thompson
that there was not Water enough
that Dair had, & all the Gully round
dry, all hands out dr. Mr. T.
would not listen to any reason
indeed I had little to give him
but that if he would not give us
our Water, that either of us must
pay a visit to the bottom of the

Well - Olin Patterson settled him & he got down to Lake of the Woods and afterwards argument

This is the only occurrence during winter that I remember as usual Furs were packed up Pemican made in Spring & thus ended my 4th Year

J. McDonald

J. McDonald.

1790

I think I remained this Winter also with Mr. Hughes, danger having grown upon us - The Settlement upon Bow River having been attacked by the Nipissinie Indians. They killed all the men & pillaged all the goods in the Hudson's Bay Fort excepting one person a Clerk - who hid himself in the Pallisades amongst some Rubbish & then attacked our Fort - They were beaten off & I think killed - our Fort was in charge of one Jacco Finlay an Indian half Brother of James Finlay - a man of courage - He had also an Indian Chief of the Bree Tribe in the Fort - called Mr. Beau Parleur - & certainly, a fine Spoken Man, Mr. Hughes & my self passed a quite quiet Winter - in fact our Stock of dry Provisions & Fine Furs was made - & on Mr. Hughes return he had all things in light order

When just Snow

fell Mr. Shaw allowed as some
short time for a hunt – he did
not go far when he fell in with
a Herd of 24 Red Deer some call
it the Elk – he killed one – he both
claimed that it was his Shot – in
this he could scarcely agree – at any
rate he came home – a very good
day – Mr. Duncan McGillivray
came with Mr. Shaw – Brother to
Mr. McGillivray & Brother to Mrs.
Reid. Widow to the late Chief Justice
of Montreal, & still alive in
Montreal at Park House with
Hugh Taylor Esq. Being 3 young
fellows we carried on no Dangerous
~~Work~~ Spring came & we
prepared as usual to take
our route to Grand Portage, Mr.
Hughes being left in charge of
the Post – with customary com-
-plement of men

J. Nelson

1797

The Buffalo were scarce this season & more so in Spring i.e. within a certain distance of the Settlement In consequence as soon as Canoes were got ready they were sent off with parts of the men to live upon their lands along the river in twos & threes. Mr Duncan Mr Gillison my self & myself left also the Mechess all & to amuse Mr Shaw, he saw but the Buffalo plenty yet. one day saw three grizzly Bears sporting around a hammock of wood of about 40 acres on the opposite side of the River. we determined to cross as we expected to shoot them, we did cross the river pondered us all in the river, from such a step, but so we did, we found the Bears had taken to the Bushes we surrounded the Hammock but luckily the Bears were wiser than we were, they kept close

in the Boat & we kept out Side. So that we did not Beat but returned disappointed, Fools if they had attacked us - two of us only would have become an easy Prey - none of the Crew would accompany us - Out of the danger into another - we determined to Bath it being fine warm weather within two Fathoms - I got out of my depth - & Mr McGillivray could scarcely swim, he however saw the Drift & got far enough in & being a Tall man, he got Hold of a Rock of my fine long Hair & Tether by that pulled me towards him until he grasped my head & pulled me ashore - I had become senseless, but soon recovered - he thought it all this was a good day work, but he soon forgot Gods mercy - Mr Shaw joined us in this on these days - we made away to the Depot - & pursue thence as usual to Grand Portage, The Brigade in high order.

I have

Then we refitted, & began our March again to the Interior & arrived at Fort George again all safe where we found all Right under the care of Mr. Hayes

I had now attained my Majority & a little more & became somewhat of a Hunter both on foot & Horse back & was going man hood, the mean Hooks, my left hand was good. my right had been distroyed in my infancy & many by the carelessness of my Nurse in rousing me up by the arms It was not perceptible until I was of age to use it, It was then too late to set it into its original Socket & so I remained to my death, left my right. I got a Commission in my Fathers Regt at 14 but it was found that my Arm was an objection to my entering the army, So that I did not follow the profession of most of my Forefathers. We had good an agreeable hunter & had several

Hunts

1798

It was my turn to remain in Large Island, & at the usual time Mr. Shaw took his departure as usual Mr. Hughes was left also it being found that the Indian hunting grounds were getting too distant and also that our settlement was not enough - there being too many tribes who often meet & some quarrels arise between them - Mr. Hughes was ordered about 200 miles farther up the River to commence another Post or settlement - which was named Fort Aguantus - & he made as much progress as possible during Jun. Mr. W. Shaw, might find a House on his return & a Store for goods -

It was this Summer I think that the establishments at Grand Portage - were abandoned & removed to the Kaministiquia, as Grand Portage was found to be within the American lines

Mr.

Mr. Hughes & myself passed the summer at the Qu'Appelle Post - until about Sept. when each - I then became made some excursions to the Hunters Tent - & became a good Buffalo Hunter particularly in the Saddle - & I had a couple of Swift Horses - for that and for pony

It was usual now to send good Horses to the Town part of the Rivers where commenced the Prairies - to await the Carts at a certain place, in order to follow the Brigade on their way up - the more to provide fresh provisions - the Partners & Clerks rode for this purpose with the Hunters, This was thought the most pleasant part of our lives - The riding a Swift Horse thro' the fine Valley of the Qu'Appelle - abounding Buffalo & Deer & all game - we rode all day following the progress of the Brigade against a current of 4 knots -

Mr. Rae

Mr. Shaw being daily expected I rode to the Emmett Lime-kiln which I did after a ride of about 20 miles – I rode a beautiful Beast & very stout – a man on two feet just worse for Mr. Shaw & Jno McGillivray –

The Brigade soon arrived a disposition was made & last is I was ordered to join Mr. Hay's at the new Head Quarters with a complimentary corps of men & goods for Essex – The Chases proceeded on the River to Lake I did so with a couple men by land – all now got ready for a long winter

When the affair did on the opposite (the South) side of the River a large Band of Indians with Horses in numbers, women & all other accompaniments – When here they was the question, here we are picketed merely by Horses in a Square shape tied a pole between two Horses – Slowly

Shortly some Chiefs came to the Bank of the River & held a Parley - saying they came to sue for peace they were the Piegan Indians to the Red Nearly cost of Mr. Finlay & had destroyed the Hudson's Bay establishment on Bow River. The River rose that night, the ice gorged & they had just action they Big Knives retired safely!

The Hudson's Bay Fort at the head waters Big Old Friend Mr Thompson - the Forts were within Musket Shot of one another -

As we required all the help we could give one another Mr. Hughes & my self held a Council of war with Mr. Thompson. He told us that after destroying their stores & killing their men - he could not answer for as friends -

Mr. Hughes & my self resolved that we should, accordingly I took my best Horse Rode to Rice Lake & took an Interpreter told them of Mr. Thompson's message they

They loaded me with Blankets & Baubles, from Others — they had by this time fitted their Crafts — They told me they would willingly make peace, & not molest the Hudsons Bay establishment but would trade as they had with me — I was glad that I met them without any harm of any kind — since I placed confidence in them

They accordingly came on & we made a good trade — Mr Stimpson letting his fingers at the result He thought that they should not be allowed to trade — as a punishment — he gained more of his ill will, but I saved his life afterwards by seizing upon an Apaitoch's gun, when in the act of shooting him —

We had now the opposition of which I later mentioned on the other side of us — It had now assumed a powerful shape under the name of the N. J. Co. at the Head was

the Late John Ashley as conductor in Mountain, & at this settlement a Mr King an Old Trapper & in his Prime & Pride as the first amongst Bullyon. In course of the winter Tomson an incident took place which Shewed him, his strength could avail him but little

An Indian in Liquor cut open one of the Windows (Parchment) in passing the of the Chief House. The man gave the Alarm the Indian Chief up his Song as it is in Bravery. In his way to Mr Kings, I called for the Keys of the Gate, got it opened & unlocked unnoticed after the Indian The Gate was now open into the Garden Wall. ~~Intoxicated~~ at Mr Kings It was then about 10 O.C. at Night from the Hill. I saw a Light from Mr Kings room. without any Ceremony I knocked it of its Hinges & saw the Indian Riding himself under a Table. I pulled it from until the Chief, he calling for Mercy

Mr. King turns thunderstruck, I did not know him - He said Sir you are too rude to come to my House with this way - I replied I did so to punish this Rascal & if you are offended you have your remedy, I left the House & heard no more about it

I remember no more incidents during the winter, we made good returns - & packed up all in Spring, I remained again to pack the Furs in Yard Mr. Hughes at our establishment - & I act another year

The Canoes were got ready & sent off to Fort George where Mr. Shaw was - & all went off - I think that Spring I went with the Canoes to Fort George to deliver all to Mr Shaw & that Mr. Hughes continued at Fort Assiniboine

J. McD

1799

This Summer as I have said I passed the Sum^r at St George I had got with me a young Canadian Gentleman from Boston this name Decoigne, a very clever young man. He enabled me to take a Went-worth & to allow him to take a Lunt also — he passed the Sum^r quietly & trading by times. In our Lunt within 2 miles of the Fort I met a Lunt of Bass^ts I was well mounted & in the race killed him — & took No. 5 Tongues home as a curiosity Probably — In due time Mr Shaw returned with the Brigade & also Mr McGillivray —

after a distribution of a proportion of men & goods both left for Fort Augustus & left me in charge with Mr Decoigne, when there was little to do it was usual for each

of us to take a hunt.

Mr. Decoigne took his Gun. Shot out Dogs into the woods. a man of the name of Daniel accompanied him for the purpose of a search for a good Birch tree to make himself a Stage. They had not separated when Mr. Decoigne Shot an Elk. The man Daniel having an axe they made a Stage & put the meat upon it. Skinned the safe from wolves & foxes & small animals. both returned home within late. too late to go for the meat that day.

In consequence of Daniels knowing where the Stage was he was ordered to take a Horse & go for the meat next morning. next morning came & he did as ordered. there was then about two inches Snow.

About noon he came home

Rome in a dreadfull State, he was
seen at a distance behind his
Horse coming on very slowly after
walking about three miles - Some
of the men suspecting something wrong
went to meet him, & found him
all torn to pieces, his scalp in ringlets
down his face & back, they got him
up the Hill with difficulty - he
was dreadfully mangled at least
twenty wounds in his arms besides
the head, fortunately it was sharp
frost & by drawing his cap off blood
over his head the blood congealed
& the hard frost partly cured the head.
He was immediately put to bed
very little sense of his recovery. An
old Indian Woman of the Chippewa
Tribe - very skillfully - patched up
the torn pieces not entirely torn from
the head. & keeping with Herbs roots
& Specifics, all his wounds, he
was kept quiet.

His Story was that he

was leading his Horse on by the Bridle
amongst Small Bamboo - that a Bear
had suddenly sprung upon him -
that his Horse had started from
him, that he had to turn to mount -
then that the Bear pursued him -
& that off - that he turned to fly but
that she came again & pursued
him as he fell & left him again
that she came the third time that
he heard & found that she left him
the third time & saw him no more
He then made his escape with his
Load over the tops leaving - & reached
home as I have said - in a short
time he became delirious & there
was no hopes of him — he died
for it - he was a fine stout fellow
half Scotch & half Canadian —

This morning the men about
Jetty gambled in the large Indian
Hall - some smoking, others
talking - I came there with Mr
DeBoigne to disengage accounts

Dhee

There was one Le Blanc amongst them a very darking Man Yellow a good Hunter & a good Shot –

Le Blanc hoarded a great deal – I was called upon in Lieu to tell him – Le Blanc (he had said that if no one went with him to revenge Daniel's death – that he would go alone) – I'll go & we shall be likt of as two – they will be afraid – The men knew that I would keep my word all said we will all go Since our Martin dies go – we knew well that we would find the Bears at the Cascade of the Deer River –

Next morning all were up & astir at Day break – I had my fusil & Pistol – Otters had Guns – Tomahawks, axes &c – I took Noice of the boys, & we set off in a Jerkin Rope entain that some one would get a taste of the Claws of the Bruin

We

the rope of us knew the way only by tracing the drops of blood which appeared on the rocks by times on the snow

Our Dechamps Ped. ~~Cott~~ a good Hunter & a good Shot & as having a full knowledge of the trail. I placed Le Blanc Left Bay. Jack Le Blanc behind him & myself was kind of the others like us all in Indian file with arms all ready — here expectedly came Jack Le Blanc at the encounter & shot the Grand Lake a fair shot at Lynx — But no —

All at once Dechamps exclaimed in French, Oh Mon Dieu (O my God) Caribou (the Lynx) & in so exclaiming turned round to fly — I called out commandant Dechamps Mons Juiè (the last Jan fly — This opened Le Blanc — he lowered his gun, the was then in full speed to us — & within five yards — when Le Blanc fired

Her Rear Balls Took him fairly in the Breast – he could not miss him I saw the man fall & that he came down, but my own fingers being on the trigger, I could not prevent my firing – we found my shot had taken place behind the neck – just the time it took between our two shots all the other men except one – fired. after he was down, thinking he was not killed enough – he then all at once another stood before his mother – La Liberty the one who had rescued his shot fired into him Belly. she made off – being only about 18 months old. we threw him the rest up a tree, he brought him down – I fired Cock & took the Lock, I may mention that he was reloading my arm after a shot came from behind & pierced my Blanket coat – one of the four fellows was so much afraid he did not know exactly what he was about – I looked round he was pale enough

After a long time Daniel recovered but he never could carry a load so well. His throat was tender ever after. I forgot to say that the moment he blew fired that he let his gun drop. When recalled for it afterwards & scarcely enough he insisted that a tomahawk had taken it out of his hand. I had no power of movement and he lost his gulch. The lad only two springs more to get all one.

The fact of Tom allowing Daniel to escape in the first instance was that he was glutted with the fine venison. & perhaps had the reflection that Tom cute was in danger from the Horse. or as Dr. might imagine to be a man. Be that as it may. I had a lucky escape. I would not fly at 20 fifty lives were at stake my character would have been ruined forever.

J. W. D.

1800

I had now become a Patron of Nature in Jean and received a Man, discharging me & Hunts Lime down West - also another I discharged Sir Jam Lane - & about this time Mr Shaw left the county, & retired to Montreal as an additional Agent -

In Spring of this Year we packed up as usual - & after depositing our Pieces at Lambton Depot, I then pursued our Journey Rod to Grand Portage but to Bonne = Nistguica the new establishd called Fort William after the Hon Wm McGillivray - & got there in Safety - Duncan McGillivray & myself being left in charge of the Department, Mr Campbell & Hunter on departure as usual to the Interior - In recending Rivers the Paddle then on being with Mr Shaw in the Canoe we saw an Animal along Shore a Lead

the Land & dogged him round
a point, I saw it was a Bear. we
could not go back as a point of
honour. he dogged him, growling
when he stopped. & advancing when
he advanced. He took to the water
he rushed in & thinking he would
gain on to cross the River (he did not
see the Chance of a Bear upon a
Sand Bank in the River which he
had smelt) But he turned upon
another. was no alternative but to
stand him, I told Mr Shaw (a good
shot) now Sir you fire first &
you will have your Gun reloaded
to fire a second shot. Should we
both fail to kill him — Mr Shaw
as soon as the Bear got bottom first
made a good shot, but did not kill
He made a Roar which alarmed
our Canoe Men, who had remained
behind when he landed, he was within four
yards of me I fired at him in the
head, he fell dead, my first beaten
Dog. Not till then remained close

at any Rate we lie to Save him fall
Choked at him in the water with
all his Right

The Bear was of the Brown
Kind not so very fierce as the grizly
but much more Gottish the Hair
The Canoe came up & the Skin was
secured. It was a valuable Kind

We got to Winter Quarters
at Fort George & Fort Augustus
in due Time & found Messrs Hughes
& Decorpier well, we had Landed
from the Lower Posts on Hudson Lake
Hunting & following the Canoes
in them & we Messrs up on Staff
assistant - so that we had five men
not the least fatigued after the first
three days. Mr Mcfillivray took
his Station at Fort George & Mr
Hughes & my self at Fort Augustus
I remember nothing particular
in course of the Winter

J. McDs

1801

I remained to prepare the Tents with Decorjas — Mr. Chief Foote & his Defaulter & to Barricade Fortifications — we had decided that we should abandon Fort George & Build about Twenty Miles further, upon a Lonsome & Island to be more Secure from enemies —

Consequently Mr. Decorjas made some progress in Building & when Major Pilcher, Gillemay & Hughes returned they found Stages ready for the goods, the men had to put up their own Houses, Sign to a Bales I remember nothing very particular only a hunting party of the Fort Horse Men amongst whom was the Deschamps Spoken of, Mr. Chief selling & all on good Horses — we Yelle in Little & Head of Bassoe, we were Down in Pursuit — I killed a Bull & Cow — the others killed nothing — Something was the matter with all their Eyes & Nose —

The

1802

Mr McGillivray being unwell left the company for Montreal & has died — as fine a fellow as ever lived — he lived three or three years longer —

A Mr Cathlet Grant a middle aged man was sent in place of Mr McGillivray. I met him at the certain place on the River where I had appointed a Band of Indians to meet the Canoes — to get an outfit before getting to their hunting grounds. We met & I gave them their necessaries. I was on Horseback with a couple men & returned to Fort de Lisle. Mr Grant stayed in his canoe to visit the Brigade —

He was a good man but not active enough for such a post. He saw that & told me to act as I thought proper, I stayed at Fort de Lisle & he proceeded to Fort Augustus & hunted there with Mr Hughes

It would be impossible to tell all the outsides & insides. The oats, & ins, if you remember that all that was worthy of note was that in Spring Mr Hunter came in & told he had found a bear & Bear had a hole in passing tackling a deer, he had heard the Bear making a noise. The lad cuts & would the piece he said, he did not like to attack him alone, I could not refuse in honor to accompany him I took one of the men, after 3 or 4 miles we came near the pine tree under which the hole was. We got my bear to shoot the Bear leaving as there was still some snow. We had to be brave. The lad leaned us & would probably rush out. We made a fire to the hole & finally, our three shots into it, of course he killed him, the lad 4 small cubs

Spring came & Mr. Grant felt entirely careless of a certain disorder

J Lad

I had to get him out a strong
Birth with a comfortable awning in
one of the Boats to descend the River
to Cumberland Mr. Hughes remained
in Land & he made our baggage look
as much great Bags for meat in
Board as he could. Before we took
leave of them just the Pennsylvania
Many Many were the Lords we met crossing
the River, Our Canoes & Boats amongst
them by times — let me only say that we
got Mr. Grant to Ramsiriolaque he here
he soon died,

It was that Mr. Dunston
who was to be sent in his place with
me as I was thought still too
too young to leave the Schooners &
Mr. Grant offered them no one was
required that I would manage alone
with the exception I had, that
I had a Man to go in just as he could
only be a Opposition

Thus I prepared to return
I think that a Mr. Bellamy ought to
make a powerful man I am not

with him first with me as an
Assistant This Year — In Septr
as the Department was closed I am
unmanageable & unruly men

I took my departure thus
as Master of the Target department
in the Short — with a Brigade of Twelve
large Tents — Five Lieutenant
Tents — I staid a couple days
behind the Brigade & went to the Town
on the way — we made our way as
usual to Winter Quarters & found
all well — some way or other an
arrangement was made — & the N. W. C.
bought up the Q. J. C. & Mr. Bing
became One of my Clerks — he was
now with me on the Island, he had
also a Clerk Mr. Bowen. Son of Old Dr.
Bowen of Montreal & Father to the
present Dr. Bowen of Montreal Quebec
a fine Young Fellow — he died
with Joseph Stevenson Two or Three Years
ago — We had now a Strong Trade
opposition with Sir Alex. McKinzie
at Rum Lead — with Forsyth, McLaudan
& Co

a Mr. De Rochblave for the Hudson Company
a Gentleman of family on one side
& the Hudson's Bay Fort on the other, I
was placed this between two fires, for
the Fall, there were a few Canadian
strangers from Lake Michigan who had come
this way - camped on the lower end of the
Island near Mr. Rochblave's House
They were getting supplies for the season
excepting one Chief Jacquanbesin
they were my Traders - I was told one
morning they had a flag flying &
a Keg of liquor on it. They had got
from Mr. Rochblave in a manner to
bring them over to his side, Mr.
Rochblave was an old experienced
South Trader, I knew he had effect
at this would have if quietly sub-
mitted to - I immediately went to the
camp & sure enough it was as
told me, I took the flag & broke
the flag staff, trampled the flag under
foot & spilt the liquor, the
Chief interfered to offer, I drew my
dagger & he desisted any further

Assistance — They examined the Loft of the Figure Red rabbit — but could not help it. I returned home & had no more about it. except that Mr Rockblace had said that it was a bad thing. — In the evening a Messenger came from the Sioux Indians from 1 Tree camp two days journey off — to send for a lot of guns they had in order to pay their debts — I ordered Mr Bing & J. Mady — & next morning he set off with a couple men & as many Dog sleighs. I had running he was talking to a at the Hudson's Bay House, the Master Mr Mallet said to Bing — Take care Bing. of Mr La Motte, (Mr Rockblace's Clerk who also was going to the Camp.) He will shoot you. Ha, ha said Bing laughing, & I shot by La Motte would be a good joke indeed — next morning he set off a dashing fellow in light blue dress to be absent three nights

J. L.

The Second Night Mr. King, wife & Child about six years old (a Daughter) were in Bed, with a clear Housing fire of blazing wood. The little Girl awoke her Mother saying Mother - There is my Father at the foot of the Bed, his Stock all red - The Mother, told her - Lay down & go to sleep, & he did so. She awoke the second time in the same manner - but finally slept - next morning I saw Mr. King who told me all this, & also to all others. but no notice was taken of it. but next day - what was our astonishment to see poor King brought home a corpse on one of the sleighs -

It appeared that some dispute had arisen between King & his Mother about some Jews Harp. the latter said to that King in Self defence had struck to on that, It was a pity to have that such a fine fellow

shot was in the back — & his
coat was all over blood of course
& his shirt all red as the little
girl had described it. Being
I charged with Military Honor,
Zachariah came down to Shantuck
& allowed to live — he was of a
respectable family & occupied,
this caused me friendship towards
Mr. De Mott & was perfectly
innocent of any premeditated
intentions against King. Some short
a month after — being told that an
Indian had come in into Mr. De
Mott's house, I visited
his departure, & seeing him under
convoy of Mr. Mott's son to the
River to fish was pazzen down the
I intercepted them, & told the Indian
to stop while I examined that
he had lost & from whence he had come
Mr. Mott's son objected to his stopping
& any examination, I told him
at his peril to stop the Indian — he
let him go — I examined all the

had got - & allowed him to go on
with Mr. Robertson & my self went
to our House & we were sitting about
it - my Men as well as his were
looking on. & many reflections passed
amongst them.

Spring came - We prepared to
leave off, I remember nothing else of
any thing unusual - we got in
the time to Fort William, Mr. Hayes
remained behind & Mr. David Thompson
our Astronomer & he had come to
the Dept. had Orders to go on a
Tiff of Discovery to land the Rocky
Mountains & keep off the Mountains
if he could

1803 —

I returned from Fort William in the time with the Brigade — & found all right — & determined to build further up towards the Rocky Mts in order to try & meet a new tribe of Indians the Bottom Ball & found that I was a two days Ride beyond my time, however in correct I am as to time, circumstances are the same, this then ought to be 1802 — Mr. Thompson had not done as I expected, in winter I took three good men with Dogs &c & went up the River my self — a journey of a week in going & returning & found the Gap in the Mountains 20 ℓ be exactly as Mr. Thompson represented it — I also made a journey from this new post to Fort Augustus with a Camp of Cree Indians and camped along side of them, & in the night they stole my two Horses

Next

next morning when my Horses were found missing I got very angry called the Chiefs & abused them not a little, they were all innocent I found afterwards that they were & that the act was done by a young man unknown to them, one of the Horses was found next day in the Pasture having broke loose when he had been tied. The other was found six months after his Jet locks all cut to the bone by the Cow hide thongs with which he had been tied. The young man having concealed from the Chiefs that he was the guilty person.

As I am to Your Rightness this must be considered as in the year 1802 as I date each year from April to April, & as I date April as I left Old Fortis in April

I. W. D.

1803

Took my departure early & marched all my guards along the trail at the different points many often incidents took place impossible to remember or mention many Buffalo hunts, many deer killed many Bear seen. This brings to my memory an incident that took place near the Rocky Mountain House, an Indian had gone out hunt & killed an animal I forget what kind, He met a Bear he had killed him while disposing the animal he had killed. Had bottom being he did not return that night went in search of him & found his body in possession of the Bear. The Bear killed him also. He had bottom went in search of his two bottles was more successful & killed the Bear, This brings another thing to my recollection. One of the

Hayes

Hunters had gone to hunt the Bear
a Dog to worry him in the cave
a Grizzly Bear came upon them & Carried off the lad about 8 by Jim Bt.
Mr Hughes leaving
left the Brigade Rambling along the
River & a dozen Canoes turned up-
along the Beach with the men
Chiefly under Stum. a Bear jumped
from a Canoe, & carried a Stout
man off. The Borrasa a half Indian
paddled up. calling till he Saw
one of our friends carried off. without
an attempt to rescue him, he took
his Gun but withdrawing to Jim is
he might kill the man & not the Bear
he Gun fired close the Bear left
the man & turned upon the Otter &
tore him a good deal, broke both
his wrists in his gripes, but he
escaped by the bravery of Borrasa
Many Stories of this kind have
often reached, which I know to
be facts I have seen Borrasa & Jim
him before his wrists were strong

I mentioned as I have said. & then pursued south to Bamingstigaine Lake as an option did, Jennah of the other Partners & Brigades & made route to Jetthom - which was pleasant after the weather matters operations of course upon such meetings Votes were compared Business talked off - & future operations concerted - got all safe to Fort William - where having resigned the Brigade. I sent it off - & Mr Daniel McBinger was appointed in my place to act in concert with Mr Hughes, while I myself took my departure for Montreal after an absence of twelve or thirteen days I got to Montreal in company with some other gentlemen - met a sister whom I left in Rochester in my aunts Spalding's family & now married to the Hon. Lt. Col. McGill: here was not entire strangers to one another, civilized manners were entirely strange to me -

I stayed in Montreal at my Sisters
three or three weeks & left for my
native country intending to land first
on that native soil & I left for New York
by Lake Champlain where we found
a Solitary Steamer bound for a little
Hall on board of which I took passage
at the sum of $35 — Then I found
that Yellow Fever was raging in N.Y.
& I determined to stem for Boston —
after a month's stay at Boston visiting
my kind friends one or two — & in
particular Colo. Parkins whom I
met in his travels in Canada were
all attention to me, I stay-stood a month
as no Vessel sailed during that time
for great Britain ~~[illegible]~~ leaving at New
bedford Finally at last the Ship
Adams sailed & I in less time
got safe into the Mersey, being
in an American Vessel all was
safe — Took my passage in a Coach
to London & stopped ~~[illegible]~~ (Night) at the
Adelphi, next morning found

my

my way to my Brother's office
Pall Mall East, Pall Mall. &
found him in his office - our
meeting was unexpected I had
not seen him for upwards of
10 years - He immediately made
off with me to his Home (By
Appointment) at George Hunter
Brompton where I was kindly
received by his Lady - a fine English
woman born in Jamaica -
I passed the rest of the winter
as an inmate in his House &
seeing the wonders of London. as
travelling in those days was not
by Rail roads - my time did not
allow me to visit Scotland, Ireland
come again once more, & I took
my departure once more for Canada
in an American Ship bound for
N York - We stopped at Gravesend
& cast anchor in the Downs in a
stiff gale - we were nearly run foul
off by a Vessel in which Sir Alex
was a Passenger, having lost an

an Auction in trying to stop in the Dorons also -

There were three or four Passengers - One a fine woman the wife of a tiny Middle-by Trader in business ~~[illegible]~~, & an elderly gentleman a Brother to the noted Elliotts who resided Gibraltar, his family he said were in New Orleans - He was rather a Dentist & one day he had all his papers of ingredients with his scales & spoons upon the Cabin Table spread out when this lady came down from deck - & coming behind him she tossed all his papers & contents on general heap - He got enraged, got up, & jumped into his Cabin & slammed up - She cried for help - & Murder, & immediately came to his rescue jumped into his Cabin door open, she had him on the floor & placed him in safety, some words ensued between us, which I soon filmed & the poor woman thanked me

We got safe to New York & next day I proceeded to Montreal. Sir Alex. McKenzie came in next day & he also as the Head of the firm of R. Richardson & Co. Left for Montl. ~~also~~, I in a few days was underway from La Chine for Fort William & was getting late in the season & a hell raised canoe was in waiting for me. I got safe to Fort William by the Ottawa route & found all well

Thus ended 1806

It was decided in Council that I was to take the Pay & Acct. Branch Dept in Ship in the place of Donald McTavish who left in his turn for Montreal Mr McKenzie did not answer as Comptroller with Mr Hayes & he was appointed some where else & Mr John McDonald took his place from some other Dept

I was very anxiously looking for the return of my Men, Mr Campbell who had been to the Depot for some years a faithful Servant to my cause he got ready & left Fort William for winter Quarters, The Brigade here of five men, Mr I did not see them as well as my Old friend Mr Campbell remained at Lac La Ronge about half way as Crosses his Brother & I left for Lake a la Croix where I passed the winter. The Indians a different Band. Very peaceable — the Hudsons Bay Co. had an Establishment here also — here I passed a quiet winter. We had a Dog also & green Table under Mr Colin Robinson, who afterwards returned home a Lost cause — I discharged him. & he joined Lord Selkirks party

We lived here upon the fine white fish, sometimes some Moose Deer, Rabbits — no Bread as usual Tonjours Fish — & sometimes Pemmican. White Partridge & in Marsh

1805

Spring came & as it every dept.
Thus we packed & journey
began to head Quarters Fort William
Mr Campbell & my self in the same
well manned Canoe — we got there
all safe — & in due time refitted,
It was in the mean time ordered
in our Council that I should
return to my old Station on the
Saskatchewan with Mr. Hughes
altho' a very dangerous dept.
I prepared it. I gave Mr
Hughes to get all ready & we
left Fort William with our
fine boat the best set of men

I determined in Council with
Mr. Hughes that I should take
four hunters & about twenty
five men & go up as far as
I could & pitch my Quarters on
the Bow River, to explore the
country & trade with the Black
feet & Mepisoonie Indians

In going up & sounding a portal in the River I came upon a War Party of the Plain Crees faces all Blacken, they had seen the Canoes at a distance, & waited for us, I did not hesitate I jumped in amongst them, & after some parley I gave them a bit of Tobacco & a glass of Liquor & left them. One Young man came to the Canoe & took hold of the Journal & asked for Rum, I shook his fingers & waved my Gun. he let go his hold ~~of the Boat~~

We continued ascending the River nearly equal in size to the other Branch — the Passage below The Indians had dislodged the Hudsons Bay Fort some few years before and Stolen — & burnt it to the ground. Praises, then Some parts abounding in all kinds of animals, There is a remarkable place called Bois d'Orignal or Moose horns. I never saw such with a Man Countenance. There is a Small River from the South side, It is a favourite

posse of Bee accompanied from the Indians - then proceeded on southwards on either side - there is an Island in this river parallel to Fort on the North Branch, a most beautiful place. I crossed the neck of land perhaps three miles till by the interposition - while the Cannon always in sight had to go round the Bluffs at Sioux - while lying down on the grass awaiting the Brigade - a Stately Bank Elk passed by us. The proceeding under Sitting Bee did not see one another till he was upon us - It being the rutting season, he gave a Bond call which startled us, we turned round & shot him. The bond call is, Jonathan Does - which they answer with a half Wind of which he was kept on for some days, against perhaps a foam short Cousant - almost unknown by the Bassloe at our Encampments - It was the Bassloe rutting season also - & coming down

like an Berlange. Those Estimed
pursuing the Others on down the Banks
we were obliged to keep on Large
fires & fire guns to keep them off
some times a few yards only from
our tents & camp —

One Morning walking
on Shore with one of the men La Rocque
we killed a fine Curious little Deer
then I walked a little up a small
hill I saw three Grizly Bears coming
slowly along. I made a Signal to La
Rogue to come, when I was, I pointed
the two Bears to him, they had not
got the wind of us & were feeding
towards us. La Rogue exclaimed, O
mon Dieu — (O my God) & took to his heels
left Tent Cow, Bears & all & ran towards
the Canoes, I thought the
last part of Valour to follow him
which I did at such speed, I finished in the
Canoes before they saw La Rogues speed
took alarm & not knowing but Indians
had Taken Myself taking it more
coolly — My business. Pure Grand.

nothing and make La Rouge turn
for the fort (as she at last found
a low point of land fit for erecting
Stockades & Houses) I determined to
make that the end of our Journey
It was at what is called now
Hart-field Point - where a detachment
of Hudson's Bay Boats soon joined.
In order to get a Share of the Furs
Provisions &c. The Black feet
roaming Tribe found us out in a
couple weeks - & encamped with us
about 60 Tents - which collected
by perhaps 100 - in a Short time. the
Red Pistols up & down up in Left
Hand a Mortal. I had a very Fancy
Military Marquise - Wigwam standing
around it, in which I lived - the Chiefs
who had never seen anything of
the kind, I entertained them in it
some times upon Beef Steaks & Tea
&c - which they called Medicine
water - Being giving discections to the
men one day - an Indian Young man
came up at full speed - & run

a number of Horse towards me & seemingly
were about one of my Boys. I instantly
drew a large Dragoon officer's Sword
which I always carried with a double
barrel pocket Pistol, I touched the
sides of his Horse with my Sword
broad side, this circumstance took him
by surprise, some Chiefs assembled
and came out of my Bungalow
where they were smoking. an immediate
explanation took place. The young
man said that he had been told that
I had struck his uncle (a Chief) the
Old Dean, & that he had determined
to shoot me, finding this not to be
the case & the uncle present, all
was well, but he doubted that if
I had struck Chief he made a poor
defence of it, he would have done
the deed & I should not be here to
tell the tale. To day, from any man in
the Brigade they would have cut off all
the heads & noses - a Horse man
was seen by the heads coming in

full

full speed - he was superbly mounted & finely dressed in clean new Deer Skin - Breechcloth, with the Porcupine quills, & a very handsome man. I must say that he was a perfect Horse man - his manner showed that - he was off his Horse in a twinkle he gave to one of the men standing by it & was in an instant in my Wigwam, He briefly said I am of the Bitter root Indians - we have made peace with the Whites - but we are at war with the Blackfeet. They surround you & are also your friends - I come from a small Band we are but few but if you receive us as friends we will fight our way in, & take or fall - I gave him some pieces of Tobacco. Smoke a pipe with him telling him we had nothing to do with their quarrels, that our Object was Trade & to bring all Indians the necessaries with this he mounted his Fine Steed & made off at full speed

The Black foot camp

of somewhat five hundred warriors
were within a mile - some young
men had been always upon the look
out (scouts) who discovered
in the camp - here & posted the strangers
next day - later about noon we were
alarmed with the certainty of a battle
from the volleys of musketry I may
call it - firing on little Bighorn & saw
others a call for more ammunition
from the Black feet - I at once determined
to ride out & try & quell them
they were objected to it - I saw the
impossibility, the battle continued till
dark when the sound of fire arms
ceased - scouts came in & reported
that the Bisseronne Indians were
assembled & that in the morning
they the Black feet would kill them
all some of themselves were brought in
wounded & two or three for Bussell

The result was that when the
Black feet thought it time they
leave, the others quietly decided

their escape & when day came the Blackfeet found an empty camp - only that they left some Jars & provisions behind them which they the Blackfeet made a prey of - as booty - they carried them dead & wounded with them - not their scalps might not grace the Victory. Lower pursuit was made next morning & they came up with them & made them drop the dead & wounded - some more were killed on both sides

Now the dead was buried, & the men were asked to dig graves as they had & leaders &c in this a long procession took place, the mean relations were all pierced with arrows through the lips of men & women which caused a bloody appearance with the mournful sing which they attered, it had mournful effect upon us -

The winter passed over tolerably & in spring being upon the Banks of the Bitterroot the men were

were putting Boats & Canoes in order for an early start, my interpreter called out (Master dear Master) there is an Indian intend shooting you. I looked that way & saw him as is their custome generally crouching down, in place of stalking behind a Boat or Canoe or tree. I made direct towards him at a good pace. He had no time for reflection & was intimidated I seized his gun, put my foot upon it & broke it & then drew my Dagger took hold of his Robe & cut it & was proceeding to give himself a stabbing to him my Interpreter came forward & said that was enough.

I took up the gun & went to the Indian hall in which were several Chiefs. I threw down the gun amongst them & went into my own Bed room (in the Hunters) & locked my trusty Pistols & put my 24 Bore Bird Gun, but the Chiefs persuaded about me, then I had another narrow escape

I have even found it that in most dangers
more than lay away in the surest way
to safety, had I hesitated, I was
sure to fail & Cecil's, this, my men had
been first confidence in me, on the way
they thought him selves always safe
under my guidance & would follow
whenever I led.

We got nicely ready. I was
anxious to get all the Indians away
that they should not see as taking
away any one remaining property in
goods of any kind, particularly
Tobacco. Ammunition. Liquors, &c &c
My Estate position was an uneasy
fellow. he positively made a large
bonfire & one clear night a few young
Indians only being in bed, he took
an opportunity to set the house off.
having a favourable breeze the
young Indians of course was brought
out to see it, & I learned above
an hour a little before, they had never
seen anything of the kind & disappeared
in dismay, they gave the alarm

next morning in the Camp - The Chief
The principal of them were ordered in
to my Hall - when the Interpreters
told them & showed them a printed
letter, with some Marks upon it
which they from the Master of Tepa
ordering them off in three days to a
certain point - & not to appear for
a certain number of days else that
they should meet a numerous army
of the Boers & Africanders to be here
in search of them - In fact days
have been gone, & I saw no more of them
they got safe off - with all their Cattle
& at Night kept watch in fear
of treachery - the Zulu Boy Tom
has lost fidelity - & has nearly shaded
down as we have days on time
The Hudmo Bay people have settling
by an Stoffum Kraal close to us -
but they have sent on to say they had large Barges
& anchored out in the River at Stay Ts

We were drawing near
Bois D'Orgnal where the Indians
whom I had seen in the up going

appointed to meet me and expected with some Furs.

I kept this secret from the Wedding Bay people as well as my own in case of divulging it. I called my Guides & Principal men & told him Buck it is my intention to be off before day - we are now out of the daylight - you are in plenty you will remain here for a certain time, take as much Buffalo & Fresh Meat as you can & on that Day I leave & be at the Rapids Fort on such a day - He found all right Poor Fellow, & pitched his Tent to have I had taken a Buffalo & had the way from the Pemmican to the bottom of a Small Tub of Bust on each Side, a Lanterne hole upon the Back of the Canoes & Canoes upon the Beach. The Men as always sleeping under them, The Crews of the Boats sleeping on Board as the Lowest Tent. Thus all was

Night -

The

The Banks were high, but sloping & undulating. One of the men came to Buck & told him he had gone to the top of the Bank & saw something at a distance. but could not discern whether it was a Band of Elk or Horses & Riders, but he was inclined to think it was the latter, that he thought it would be well in him to take their departure, & had gone as I said & that the Band of Crows at Bons D'Orignal got a last Play had a Chase, fought & demolished the Elk one Canoe only & seven men

Buck a fine faithfull hardy man who had left his family the year before intending to return in three years viz. Pr. Jonathan, Cephas, & Co. say Bro. we are to stay here, the time will be out to-morrow morning & we shall leave this all is ready as ordered. That night they were attacked at day break. a Volley fired into Buck's Tent where have three in Bed asleep & all three killed

This Party assured the whole camp, those in the Boats at anchor were able to defend themselves & return the fire, those under the Cannon fired them upon the Indians & put them to flight. By the joining from the Boats they were cut off & yield some of the property they had lost. The Brigade went on & arrived at Bois d'Brigale, the Cross went in pursuit but all were hundreds of miles off by that time, it was afterwards known that the same Indians who had been routed by the Black feet in Canada or a war party.

The Brigade came to the first Settlement & gave the disagreeable intelligence. Mr. I. Lad Hurd would have fallen to the Brave boy. The Commander again pressed me so often & so often we made our way to Cumberland in a few days. Were joined by Mr. Hughes & his Brigade & then

usual routine go through, except
of deaths in this ship we lost that of a
Very Large & Very Old Grizzly Bear which
La Rocque, myself & another of the men
shot - on a small Island. We took our dis-
-posture from Cumberland Lake & got safe
to Barrington River, met our friends & re-
-fitted & reformed our crews. While Mr. Hughes
was busy in this & living scarce of good
men. I was requested to take a well
manned Canoe 14 hands - & with Mr. Donald
McPatrick now no more, a Stout strong man
to pass a Fleet to Old Ground Portage about
60 miles distant in order to try & get
some Furs, also might be induced to
trade Furs, Mr. Sanderson & Co. Fisters
on Sturgeon, Lake Abp. McKenzie acting
there as Head of that concern. The Old
Still a Stick there with Two or three
men also some Indian trading Post -
We soon got there at the rate of 8 miles
per hour on the Most smooth surface
of Lake Superior -

We had not been long in
the Hall of the Building House

L. Ross

when a Man came in somewhat
in liquor, I said to him Sir,
he was a Lady Bred Young Gentleman,
that I the night before had
from Dot down, he was not long so, when
he got up singing Rum do you find
this place dirty you shandrach it
I quietly replyed, that it looked
rotten enough to that it did
upon a time, he tartly replyed that
now I know when you were here
I have perceived that as Cling one
of their Bullyes that his intention
was to insult - I might have been sent
to do so, my Dander got up - I ordered
him out, & Cyron to knock him
with blows - without his attempting
to return any, he stood against a
petition for some time, I Rifled
him one blow & struck the knuckles
against the point in the board petition
& cut one of my knuckles to the bone
near the Joint I Rifled him out &
& out of the Front - out beyond the
Gate. after giving him enough
of it

Mr. Mickton ready to second me if needed. He left next morning without getting any land - ended in an some clear that his strategy, they were ordered not to come near us. I was not exactly the right kind of fellow for intrigue which was requisite.

I resumed my position to Mr Hayes, he was ready & sent off our Brigade - & followed himself a few days & got safe to the Old Dominion, where we passed the winter in strong opposition. I remained at the Potomac & Mr. Hayes at Fort Augustus - Mr. Thompson at Rocky Mountain House. I generally went by land to the Rocky Mountain House & saw the arrival of part of the Brigade with the necessary goods - & then rode back to Fort Augustus & then to my inland winter quarters on the Potomac. Mr. De Montbrun on our side & Mr. Holden on the other, in strong opposition. Thus the winter came on. & Spring came round, with some incidents

J. McL.

1859 – 1862

22. Apl. Copy of a letter rec. yesterday from Mr. Geo. Semple to La Chaise

21. April