

"Governor and Sheriff of that Settlement, for vio-  
 "lent conduct towards others of His Majesty's sub-  
 "jects trading in North America, shall have been  
 "duly investigated before a competent tribunal, his  
 "Lordship must defer giving an instruction, the  
 "evident tendency of which would be, to prejudge  
 "the whole question at issue."—Among the docu-  
 ments which had been transmitted to the Colonial  
 Office, were letters of a partner of the North-West  
 Company, in which he pretended to act by authority  
 of His Majesty's Government, in the measures adopted  
 for the subversion of the Settlement, and particularly  
 in carrying off some field-pieces, which constituted  
 the principal means of its defence; and it was proved  
 by numerous Affidavits, that these guns had been  
 afterwards employed by the same partner and his  
 associates, in hostile attacks against the settlers. As  
 Lord Bathurst, however, did not consider this as  
 sufficiently decisive, farther evidence was transmitted,  
 particularly an extract of a letter from one of these  
 partners, in which he tells a friend, that he is on his  
 way "to commence open hostilities against the  
 "enemy in Red River;" and that his object is,  
 "the complete downfall of the colony by fair means  
 "or foul."—A communication was, at the same  
 time, offered of still more evidence; but this letter  
 the Colonial Office did not even deign to acknow-  
 ledge. (1)

During the period of these communications, the  
 North-West Company were possessed of a decided  
 superiority of force in the interior. So long as this  
 continued, no exertion of public authority could be