line, and "upon the Red River of the North" be speedily acquired by treaty and purchase. This tract of country so acquired he thought ought to be "opened to actual settlement, for which it is represented to be well adapted." On the tract he would place "a body of citizens ready, not only to observe our laws respecting intercourse with the Indians, but willing and able to prevent further violations of them or incursions into our territory by those connected with the British settlements north of the boundary."

The Secretary wrote April 4, 1849, and on the 6th of June following the expedition left Fort Snelling.

But for some time after the Woods and Pope expedition to Pembina the trespasses of the Hudson's Bay Company continued; not until 1857, after they had been allowed to establish their own posts on American soil. Gradually, however, they ceased almost entirely.

In 1857 the Hudson's Bay Company decided to abandon York Factory, its station and principal port of entry at the mouth of Nelson River, at Hudson's Bay. Soon after it completed arrangements with the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury whereby goods for the company and for the former Selkirk colonists might be carried in bond through the United States via St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Red River of the North. (N. D. Hist. Coll., Vol. 3, p. 552.) Trade with the Red River Valley now grew rapidly. Posts of the Bay Company, by permission of the United States, were established at various points on the river. In 1860 Mr. Kittson sold out all his interests in the Red River fur trade to his former unprincipled rival and oppressor, the Bay Company, and became its agent, eventually establishing a line of steamboats and barges called the Red River Valley Transportation Company.

BUILDING OF FORT ABERCROMBIE.

The establishment of Fort Abercrombie, although on the Dakota side of the river, was another event of importance in the history and development of the Red River Valley. Its location was determined upon in 1857, but it was built chiefly in 1858 and 1859. Its location was determined by the reports and recommendations of Maj. Woods and Capt. Pope, after their expedition to Pembina in 1849. Work was commenced upon the buildings in the spring of 1858, and the first structures were log cabins. It was named for Col. John J. Abercrombie, then lieutenant colonel of the Second U. S. Infantry, and detachments of that regiment constituted the first garrison.

In June, 1858, a private expedition, of which Manton Marble, the accomplished writer and artist, was a member, visited Fort Abercrombie on a trip to Pembina and beyond. On page 306 of Harper's Magazine for August, 1860, appears a sketch by Marble of the incomplete fort as it was in June, 1858, with the little log cabins as the soldiers' quarters, etc. Below the sketch is a printed description by Mr. Marble from which the following is an extract:

"North of Graham's point (12 miles) as we rounded a turn of the river, whose wooded margin had concealed it from us hitherto, we came in sight of Fort Abercrombie—that is, of the one building erected for the commander's quarters and the canvas storehouses, which are built upon the prairie near the river bank. The log houses or quarters which officers and privates at present occupy are all built in a quadrangle upon a pear-shaped promontory, looking west toward the prairie."

The Government records show that Lieut. Col. Abercrombie arrived with the first detachment of his troops in August, 1857. (See War Rep. Cong. Series No. 943, p. 354.) But the fort was not fully completed for several years later. The object of its building at the time the work commenced was not the protection of the American traders against the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company, since at that time the latter, by permission of and license from the American authorities, had their posts everywhere through the Valley and practically controlled, without protest or objection, the trade of the region. The object was to protect and encourage the pioneers that were coming into western Minnesota to take advantage of the offer by the Government of new lands in that quarter.