

and Mr. McKay returned from Fort William. They came to see us both going and coming. Mr. McGillivray offered to do anything he could for my dear John, so did Mr. Gregory. I think this was in return for some little attention I purposely showed them when they went through, both going and coming. I sent them some fresh butter, and eggs, and biscuit, so they showed their gratitude by offering, as I said, to be of service to my dear John. They went through York. I believe that as the government has purchased land from the Indians, they are now to lay out a road. In fact they told us that this had been decided. No doubt you have heard of the death of Mrs. McGillivray. She died the same day that her husband left Montreal to go for her. You probably knew that she had gone to England under the care of Mr. Todd who took his daughter also. Mr. Todd could not return when Mr. McGillivray did because he had taken cold, and as he indulges himself much in eating, he had to put himself in the hands of a doctor who gave him hope of an early recovery. I suppose he has returned by now.

We are neither very friendly with the military nor the reverse. To say the least it is impossible to be really friends with them, they are so common. Mr. Williams and his wife are the only ones with whom we are intimate. Mr. Cawdell,⁷⁷ you doubtless know, was banished from York because of what he wrote against the Governor and several

many years an influential partner. He died in Montreal, Feb. 22, 1817, aged sixty years. Data derived from Campbell, *St. Gabriel Street Church*, 97-98, *et passim*; Davidson, *North West Company*, *passim*; Alexander Mackenzie, *Voyages from Montreal on the River St. Lawrence through the Continent of North America to the Frozen and Pacific Ocean in the Years 1789 and 1793* (Philadelphia, 1802).

⁷⁷ The allusion is to James M. Cawdell, an erratic individual, one of Upper Canada's pioneer literary characters. After acquiring a classical and legal education in England, he purchased an ensigncy in the One Hundredth Regiment, which he joined at Montreal in the summer of 1810. He was soon stationed at York where he published an anonymous lampoon upon Governor Gore, and in consequence was ordered to St. Joseph, "the Military Siberia" of Upper Canada. Angered by this punishment, Cawdell tendered his resignation and offered his commission for sale, but several months elapsed before the acceptance of his resignation. He figured curiously in the War of 1812, and subsequently settled in York, where he died in 1842, having been for many years librarian and secretary of the Law Society of Upper Canada. In 1823, he had founded in York a publication, *Rose Leaf*, whose contents were chiefly contributed by himself. In a memorial to the Governor in 1818, Cawdell candidly described himself as a genius, whom many of his associates considered to be insane. The student of his career will, perhaps, feel it unnecessary to take issue with the latter portion of this self-characterization. Data chiefly derived from "The Memorial of J. M. Cawdell," Adam Shortt (ed.), *Can. Hist. Rev.*, I, 289, ff.