

the same name, have enabled me to collect fresh topographical, statistical, and historical material on this great district of the Canadian North-west; so that I have had to recast my former account in order to interpolate these recent acquisitions as well as my personal observations.

It will be needless to refer to the works of the first explorers of the region, such as Hearne, Mackenzie, Franklin, Back, Richardson, and others, or even to the more recent 'Wild North Land' of Captain Butler, as the commercial district of Athabasca, which takes its name from the river and lake, has undergone so many modifications during the last decade. In 1879, the Hudson's Bay Company joined a considerable portion of the Lesser Slave Lake and Mackenzie districts to the old Athabasca district, and its boundaries were defined by the dismembered and modified Mackenzie district on the north, the Churchill district on the east, the English River on the south, the Upper Saskatchewan on the south west, and British Columbia on the west.* From the Buffalo river, a southern affluent of the Great Slave Lake, the entire shore of that inland inland-water sea up to and including the two Fonds-du-Lac on the east, belongs to this district; and Forts Resolution and Reliance, which are contained in it, are subordinate to Fort Chipewyan, the headquarters.

If a straight line be drawn from Fort Reliance (situated at the outlet of Artillery Lake, the mouth of the great river "Tpathégé-tchôp," whose current is as perceptible across Slave Lake as that of the Slave River) to the 105th meridian, and the latter

* It should be observed that since M. Petitot's return to France, Athabasca has been re-defined as one of the four districts of the Prairie section of the North-West Territories, by order of the Privy Council of Canada dated the 8th May, 1883, in the following words:—"4th. Athabasca. The district of Athabasca, about 122,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the district of Alberta; on the east by the line between the 10th and 11th ranges of Dominion Lands townships before mentioned [*i. e.*, the line dividing the 10th and 11th ranges of townships numbered from the fourth initial meridian of the Dominion Lands system of survey, or about 111° 30' W. long.] until, in proceeding northward, that line intersects the Athabasca River; then by that river and the Athabasca Lake and Slave River to the intersection of the last with the northern boundary of the district, which is to be the 32nd correction line of the Dominion Lands township system, and is very nearly on the 60th parallel of north latitude; westward by the Province of British Columbia." This district is of larger area than Great Britain and Ireland.