

nor as your Memorialists confidently believe, has there ever been a single Indian school, church, or other establishment for religious or general instruction established by the Company throughout the whole of their extensive territories. What little has been done for the religious and moral improvement of the natives is wholly due to the persevering exertions of the Church Missionary Society, and since the year 1839, of the Wesleyan Society of London. The Church Missionary Society receives no assistance whatever from the Company, and owing to the heavy expenses attending the establishment of Indian missions, its operations are necessarily very circumscribed. What assistance the Wesleyan missionaries receive from the Company, if, indeed, they receive any, your Memorialists are not prepared to say. The other objects for which the Charter was granted, namely, for improving the country by opening up its mineral and agricultural resources, and facilitating the means of internal navigation and transport, so as to fit it for a future colony, have been equally overlooked, with the like view of adding to the aggrandizement of the Company.

That the Company, after having entered into a solemn obligation with the British government to discontinue the supply of spirituous liquors to the Indians, and after having actually abolished the trade in ardent spirits in some districts for obvious purposes, for the first few years, before and after the renewal of their last License, have again introduced this deadly and demoralizing poison, thus undoing the slight amount of good which the missionaries were beginning to effect, and interposing the greatest obstacle to their future success.

That owing to the numerous hunting excursions which the demands of the fur trade render necessary, and to the great slaughter of animals consequent thereon, the only present resources of the country have been gradually diminishing to such an extent, that the larger part of the native population can no longer find the means of supporting life from the produce of the chase, or the natural productions of the soil. In the more northern parts of the country from which all missionaries are rigorously excluded, and where the richest furs are obtained, but where the animals which supply the food of man have almost become extinct, the Indians are exposed to the most frightful destitution. Numbers of them die yearly of famine, while others in the extremity of want and despair are tempted to commit the most revolting crimes to preserve a wretched existence. It is impossible for your Lordship's Memorialists adequately to describe the sufferings of the natives who inhabit these portions of the country, arising from the exorbitant prices demanded by the traders for the wretched and almost valueless articles given in a mockery of exchange for the richest and most valuable furs. Without tents of any kind to protect them from the severity of an arctic climate—unable from their migratory pursuits to abide in per-