

drawn on the map by the negotiators, as they probably did, stopped short of this point. This map which was to govern, in the settlement of the details, is unfortunately lost and Ontario is at a disadvantage.

The company was guilty of laches by which it probably forfeited the rights acquired under its charter, but forfeiture was never enforced; and the question is whether any authentic official act ever took place by which its territorial limits, in the direction of Canada, were curtailed. The validity of a grant of territory such as this has sometimes been disputed by Great Britain herself, when another nation was the grantor. When the Hudson's Bay charter was granted, no British subject had been farther into the country than the west coast of Hudson's Bay, into which emptied the rivers claimed by Great Britain in their entire length, together with all the country through which they ran. But it is too late to dispute the validity of this grant. In those days European Sovereigns showed great facility in granting what they did not possess. Forty-three years before the Hudson's Bay charter was framed, the French King had gone through the act of granting the same territory, as far north as the Arctic circle. At other times, the same King purported to extend the authority of his officers as far north as the land extended. But the French did not make good these claims by actual possession. The Hudson's Bay Company did not for a century take actual possession of the lands acquired by its charter, remaining most of the time sedentary on the coast; but if the Privy Council should rely altogether on the territorial rights of the company conveyed by that instrument, it need not be concealed that Ontario will practically be cut off on the north of the Height of Land.

Should this be the decision of the Privy Council, Ontario would lose about half the depth of the territory given to her by the award of the arbitrators north of Lake Superior, and instead of extending north from Toronto as far as James' Bay, she would be cut off at less than two-thirds of the distance. The greatest depth of the loss would be about three and a-half degrees from the mouth of Albany River, southward to Fort Alantagunie. One branch of the Albany River extends within the distance of a degree of Michipicoton, on Lake Superior. Quebec would be almost as great a loser. At Eastmain, which is farther south than the mouth of the Albany, which river the arbitrators made part of the boundary line of Ontario, Quebec would be curtailed of territory extending from the 69th to the 78th meridian. At Temiscaming, where the French are now actively colonizing, they would have nearly reached the northern limit of their province. The southern water-shed, north of Lakes Huron and Superior is short; the northern water-shed of Hudson's Bay and James' Bay—parts of same sea under different names—is long. Abitibbe and Moose Rivers, whose waters join over forty miles before James' Bay is reached, spread with their branches over seven or eight degrees of longitude and three degrees of latitude. The value of much of the territory that would be lost would probably be small. Father Laverlochere, a missionary priest, describes the banks of Albany River, for a distance of three hundred miles from the mouth, as a quaking bog (*terroir tremblant* and *marécageux*), and says it grows nothing but alders and wretched little resinous shrubs.

For the western boundary, the Federal Government appears to rely entirely on the construction of the Quebec Act, passed in 1774. That Act describes the western boundary as a line drawn "northerly," from the junction of the Ohio with the Mississippi River, to the Hudson's Bay Company's territory. The difficulty arises on the word "northerly," which under different circumstances may mean north by east, or north by west, with almost infinite variations. If there were nothing to indicate that a line to be drawn "northerly" should deviate to the east or the west, it would have to take a due north course. The Federal Government contends for a due north line. Ontario, rejecting this strict and narrow construction, seeks aids from the events of the time which have a bearing on the problem. The British Government, in public documents which were required to pass under the eye of the law officers of the Crown, afterwards qualified the indeterminate word "northward," by adding "along the eastern banks of the Mississippi to its source." In a great question like this, where so much is at stake, it seems reasonable to borrow lights of this kind to aid in the construction of a word which, standing alone, is capable of giving rise to the greatest contention.

Just as the above was going to press arrived the news that the Privy Council, though it had decided that the award was not legally binding, had upheld the decision of the arbitrators with regard to the boundary between the Provinces. All those who knew the general temper and tendencies of the Privy Council anticipated that such substantially would be the result, and that the Dominion would not be thrown back into the strife and confusion from which the judgment has happily set us free.

C. L.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which will take place in the City of Montreal next month, apart from the intrinsic interest attaching to so famous an institution, is particularly noteworthy from the fact of its being the first time this Association has ever met outside the British Isles. The Dominion of Canada consequently has special reason to congratulate herself upon what cannot be otherwise regarded than as a mark of distinguished favour. Then again, this forthcoming meeting presents another important aspect, inasmuch as from the proximity both in point of time and distance of the meeting of the American Association, it will be possible to realize in some degree the project so long discussed of an international scientific conference, as many members will be able to attend the meeting in Philadelphia as well as that in Montreal.

For the origin of this association we have to go back more than half a century, to a period in the history of England when the pursuit of scientific knowledge was almost wholly disregarded, and anything like original investigation confined to a few individuals who, animated solely by devotion to science, toiled away with little recognition from the State or the general public. Since the death of Newton, science had remained for a century in a stagnant condition. Proud of the noblest literature of the world, England was disposed to look with something like contempt at the reports of the progress of mere physical science on the continent. Proud of her success in the arts, in commerce, and in war,—proud especially of her practical character,—England disdained to receive hints from other nations where science was more fostered. The practical man was essentially in the ascendant at this period. Content with the conclusions drawn from his own shrewd observation, and with the result of his own skill, the practical man distrusts or disbelieves all that he cannot understand. If he be a soldier, he has a contempt for a great arithmetician who has never "set a squadron in the field"; if a farmer, he has no faith in new-fangled notions, but tills his land as his father did; if he be a mechanic, he combines with his fellows to destroy the machinery which science has introduced to diminish his labour; and in all crafts he knows right well, that "an ounce of practice is better than a pound of theory." Of precisely such ways of thinking were the men who had the management of affairs in England half a century ago, and it seemed as if there was no awakening them to the fact that England could keep pace in commerce and manufactures with other nations only by her sons of industry becoming humble disciples of science.

This disregard for the study of science, which at first passed comparatively unnoticed, at length began to excite attention. Whilst England was so apathetic, great activity in the promotion of art and science characterized many of the continental states, and warning voices soon were raised by men who were entitled to be heard, proclaiming that unless England bestirred herself she would be left behind in the race of nations. Sir Humphrey Davy lamented the decadence of science in a land which had produced Bacon, Boyle, Cavendish, and Newton. Sir John Herschel said, "In England, whole branches of continental discovery are unstudied, and indeed almost unknown by name. It is in vain to conceal the melancholy truth that we are fast dropping behind." Sir David Brewster pointed out, with pathetic earnestness, that science was unrecognized and uncared for in high places, and contrasted the action of foreign potentates in relation to the patronage of science with that adopted in English courts. Galileo, if he were persecuted by the Church, was fostered by Cosmo, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and honoured by Pope Urban of Rome. Tycho Brahe was enriched by Ferdinand of Denmark. Kepler received a liberal pension from the Emperor Rudolph. Descartes enjoyed princely bounty from Louis XIII. Roemer, Huygens, Hevelius, Leibnitz, Euler, Lagrange, Volta, and other eminent men were cited as receiving place, pension, and honours from continental sovereigns, whilst in England, the name of Newton stood alone as associated with emolument or recognition from the Government. While France was showering pensions and decorations on her *savants*, sums amounting to £100,000 being annually voted for the aid of science, art, and literature, Sir David Brewster could sadly say: "There is not at this moment, within the British Isles, a single philosopher, however eminent have been his services, who bears the lowest title that is given to the lowest benefactor of the nation, or to the humblest servant of the Crown. There is not a single philosopher who enjoys a pension, or an allowance, or a sinecure, capable of supporting himself or his family in the humblest circumstances. There is not a single philosopher who enjoys the favour of his sovereign or the friendship of his ministers." Such was the position of science in England in 1830.

Language so earnest, and coming from such a source, could not fail of