

a depth of fifteen feet below the ground ; where the rivers and lakes become frozen masses ; and where a poor, scanty, starving population of Red Indians, the remnants of "the sons of the mighty," wander as hunters of wild animals, to secure their hides and furs for the comfort and luxury of our favoured land of England, and other European countries.

This immense region, part of which is called Rupert's Land, is under the control of a great English company, the Hudson's Bay Company, who employ the poor Indians in trapping the wild animals, for their skins and furs. Here, in almost endless wastes, the traveller may wander over hundreds and thousands of miles without seeing a single town or village. Indeed, there is scarcely anything worthy of the name in the whole territory ; and at intervals only are there found a few poor Indian families in their miserable tents, perishing with cold and hunger.* The stations of the Hudson's Bay Company, are very scattered, and simply consist of a rough fence enclosing a factory and a few houses, for the officers of the Company to carry on the fur trade with the natives. We cannot do better than describe the country as it has been done by Mr. R. M. Ballantyne, long a resident in that region. "Imagine an immense tract of country, many hundred miles long, and many hundred broad, covered with dense forests, expanded lakes, broad rivers, and mighty mountains, and all in a state of primeval simplicity, undefaced by the axe of civilizing man, and untenanted, save by some roving hordes of Red Indians,

* See last page.