

The following is the Memorial :—  
 To the Right Honourable the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
 THE COLONIES,—

The humble Memorial of the undersigned Delegates from the  
 Natives of Rupert's Land, in North America,  
 Most respectfully sheweth,—

That your Memorialists are natives of Rupert's Land, North America, entrusted with the duty of presenting the accompanying petition from their fellow-countrymen the Indians, and Half-breeds residing in and near the Colony on the Red River, praying for the redress of certain grievances therein set forth.

That from the harsh administration of the Hudson's Bay Company discontent and misery prevail amongst the natives of Rupert's Land to an unparalleled extent; and your Memorialists are most anxious that her Majesty's Government should, as early as possible, inquire into the condition of the unfortunate people who are compelled to appeal to their Sovereign for protection against the ruinous effects and consequences of the monopoly which the Hudson's Bay Company have so long enjoyed under a charter that, according to some of the highest legal authorities, has long since lost its force. Your Memorialists, trusting, that a wise and paternal government, distinguished for its attachment to a liberal policy and the principles of commercial freedom, will not suffer to pass unheeded the prayers of an oppressed and injured race, proceed to lay before your Lordship the grievances which gave rise to the accompanying petition, and humbly solicit your earnest attention to the same.

They complain in the first instance,—

That by the practice of exclusive trading with the natives, which the Hudson's Bay Company assert is secured to them by a royal Charter, that Company has for nearly the last two hundred years, to the utter impoverishment, if not ruin, of the natives, amassed a princely revenue, which, as your Memorialists believe, now amounts to nearly a quarter of a million sterling, per annum. Though one of the leading objects contemplated by the incorporation of the Company was the introduction of Christianity amongst the Indians and the securing a due provision for their moral, religious, and social improvement, little or none of the vast sums the Company has been permitted to accumulate, has been devoted to such purposes.

That on the contrary, with a view of keeping the natives in a state of utter dependence, and of perpetuating the wandering and precarious life of the hunter, on which they erroneously consider the existence of the fur trade to depend, they have permitted generation after generation of the hapless race consigned to their care to pass their lives in the darkest heathenism. There is not at present,