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## A GLANCE AT THE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL BRITISH AMERICA.

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The extraordinary commercial activity to which steam and the electric telegraph have contributed of late years, lead us to overlook the enterprise and daring which distinguished the early French colonists of Canada nearly two centuries ago. The history of their successful attempts to open commercial intercourse with Indian nations to the north and north-west, far beyond the present limits of Canada, their journeys of discovery and military expeditions to the shores of Hudson's Bay, appear to have faded from the recollections of their descendants, at a time when the question of extending our civilization into the far interior of the continent is exciting general attention both in England and Canada.

If the proposal were now gravely made to send an armed force of one hundred and fifty soldiers, or one hundred and fifty emigrants, across the uninhabited wilderness between Lake Superior and James Bay, or between Quebec and Hudson's Bay, to establish permanent settlements, a large majority of the public would treat the idea as