

the enormous rates of freight demanded. They are not allowed to traffic with the Indians in any way. The settlement has been in existence nearly half a century. During this period mere villages, — nay the location of single squatters in the United States, have sprung up into important cities and districts ; but the Red River Settlement has lingered and pined under an incubus opposed to all progress, numbering, at this day a population of from five to seven thousand souls only. On two occasions large bodies of the settlers passed over into the United States, and became American citizens ; the feeling of those who remain is decidedly in favour of annexation to Canada, for which there are many good reasons, rather than to the United States, but the latter course they would decidedly prefer to continuance under the Company's dominion. About this there can be no mistake, for, when the Oregon dispute was still pending, the settlers petitioned congress for admission into the Union, in order to escape from their galling and degrading thralldom. This one fact speaks volumes as to the anti-British tendency of the monopoly.

#### WHAT THE COMPANY HAS DONE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA.

But, whilst discouraging and repressing their fellow-subjects in every possible way, the conduct of the Company and its officers towards Americans has been very different. In the correspondence already described, the strongest testimony cited by the Company in its own favour was that of Americans, who spoke from a lively sense of personal favours conferred, and advantage to their own country to be expected from a continuance of the Company's system. By its connivance, if not by its influence and positive agency, American citizens obtained that footing in Oregon, which constituted the claim of the United States to a most valuable territory, which unquestionably belonged to England if there were one jot of validity in the Company's Charter, and which the States would never have obtained had the Company permitted British subjects to settle there. In connexion with this transaction the Company seems to have been guilty of something very like treason, if there be any truth in the following