

their desire to have a School and Mission established among them, to prepare them for the change which they foresaw to be impending over their country. He had been induced in consequence, to bring their case before the Canada Foreign Missionary Society, who had warmly sympathized with the object, and it, was in their behalf, and in the hope of being able to bring the claims of the natives of the Hudson's-Bay territory before the British public, and, if possible, to organize a permanent Committee to co-operate with the friends of the Indian in America, that he had come to England. Although it had been intended, at one time, to annex such portions of the territory as might be detached from the jurisdiction of the Hudson's-Bay Company to the province of Canada, it had been found impossible to carry out this intention, and it is now understood that the Red-River district would be erected into a separate colony, under the direct jurisdiction of the Crown. Under these circumstances, the first claim of the Indians was upon the imperial Government, and on the sympathies of the Christian public of England. For upwards of a century Britain has drawn from them a mine of wealth in the shape of valuable furs, of which the Indians are the sole purveyors. Already this valuable trade is said to have enriched England to the extent of twenty millions sterling, and its annual value at present is not much under a quarter of a million. Surely, from the enormous gains wrung from the hard labour of the Indian race, some portion ought to be devoted for their moral and religious improvement, before the tide of civilization swept them altogether from the earth. From a report laid before the Committee of the House of Commons by the Aborigines' Protection Society, there appears to be upwards of fifty tribes of Indians wandering over the vast area of the Hudson's-Bay territories, equalling in extent the entire continent of Europe, not one-twentieth of whom had, probably, so much as heard the sound of the Gospel. Without disguising from himself the difficulties attending the attempt to assimilate the Red man to the habits and usages of civilized life, he could not but briefly refer to a few circumstances which rendered the present attempt, and at the present juncture, not only a most desirable one, but one which contained many hopeful elements of success. The country about the Lake of the Woods, which is in latitude 49° north, and about that of the southern parts of England, was one of the most fertile districts in the Hudson's-Bay territories. Every kind of cereal grain and of culinary vegetables could be raised in the greatest perfection. The hop and the vine grew wild, and the country abounded in wild rice, which was extensively used by the Indians as an article of food. The whole country was well wooded, and well supplied with game, while the lakes and rivers abounded in fish. These natural advantages had already collected a considerable population about this spot, which was situated at a convenient distance from the Red-River Colony, sufficiently near to fall back upon for supplies when necessary, and as a market for any produce which might be raised in the contemplated Settlement, without being too near to have the first stages of the experiment disorganized by the inroad of whites, and of that class of them more especially who infest the outskirts of civilization, and whose intercourse is often so baneful to the Indian. The Christianized Indians of the Red-River Colony, already habituated to the usages of civilized life by the labours of the Church Missionary Society and other benevolent bodies, would form valuable pioneers in the proposed Settlement, and, by their example, more powerfully influence and direct their less