

the settlers; but the natural causes which I have already referred to have retarded its progress, and will continue to obstruct its growth and prosperity until the continent of America becomes much more densely populated than it is likely to be during the present century.

Those persons who attribute the stagnation of the country to the Hudson's Bay Company, are either ignorant of the facts, or falsify them to serve a purpose. The Company have offered premiums for the growth of flax, and the manufacture of linen and woollen cloths; they have imported improved breeds of sheep, horses, cattle and swine; they have striven to excite the Red River settlers to produce tallow, wool, hides, &c., &c., for market; they have removed all restrictions, so that the trade is as free as air; but those efforts have been of no avail. The settlers are not so much to blame for their apathy in neglecting those branches of trade. It was feared, and perhaps justly, that the cost in transporting such bulky produce to market would render trade in them unremunerative. Yet, what can be said for a people, who according to Prof. Hind's showing, have not yet learned to make their own soap; an article so essential to cleanliness that civilization can make no progress until people have learned to make it. I recollect an instance when I was in that country where the want of this domestic article was so great that some French Canadians killed a fine dog to obtain fat to make some; but after eating the flesh of the dog, the fat was so tempting that they licked it all up and had to do without the soap! There is more truth in this anecdote than in half the stories which have been written about the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, and the cause why tallow was then so scarce I will explain in my next, as it has some relation to the whole question.

EDWARD ERMATINGER.

No. 12.—*To the Editor of the Colonist.*

ST. THOMAS, March 31, 1858.

SIR.—Like other migratory animals, the buffalo seeks a warmer climate in winter than the prairies bordering on the Red River and the Saskatchewan, impelled, no doubt, to travel in search of pasture. During winter therefore, only such as are worn out with age or other infirmities are to be found in those localities. These, generally, are the only game the hunter can overtake, and their flesh, it may be easily imagined, is neither very tender nor very fat,—hence the scarcity of tallow, where there are no domestic animals, for culinary purposes and soap-making. This, of course, is not the case now at Red River. I allude to the circumstance of the scarcity of tallow in some parts of the prairie country, to draw attention to the fact of the climate not being so favorable to agriculture as might be imagined. The winters are both long and severe, and this fact is corroborated by the absence of the wild animals during that season, when they are obliged to seek a climate more congenial to their habits, and where they may find pasturage. This gloomy perspective is omitted by tourists in their highly-colored pictures of the Red River and Saskatchewan plains; and I have no doubt the Turkish ambassador, and his suite, on their projected excursion, will learn as little of the miseries of a winter in the Hudson's Bay Territory as the happy inmates of his harem. But when Canada is invited to take possession of these magnificent pairies, (magnificent only as long as they remain in a state of nature,) at a cost of many millions of dollars, to gratify either the vanity of national greatness, or to provide offices for a few pretended philanthropists, it becomes our duty to understand fully the bargain we are called upon to make.