

"the dirty facts" of scarcity of wood, and severity of winter, that the Archbishop dwells on almost as if he loved them.

Fortunately for us, our neighbours have only recently become acquainted with the value of the North-west. Had they known sooner who can doubt that it would have been theirs before-to-day? They had just as much right to it as to Oregon, and to Washington Territory. But by the merest accident they got correct information from Methodist missionaries concerning the fertility and resources of the Pacific slope, in time to prove to the British Government that it had always been, was, and of course must be, theirs. How much easier to have had the boundary line moved up from Pembina to the southern extremity of Lake Winnipeg! And then the door to the whole of our North-west would have been in their hands, and they could have bided their time. No wonder that Carleton is regretfully "set to thinking of the Saskatchewan valley, a region to which the United States once held claim, and which *might now have been* a part of our domain if it had not been for the pusillanimity of President Polk."

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these, it might have been."

There are still very vague notions in our minds about the extent of the good land in the North-west. The London *Times* published last autumn several capital letters from "An Occasional Correspondent" in Minnesota, whose estimate is very low, but as he frankly tells only what was told him in Minnesota, no one need be deceived. He informs the people of England that 1873 "will certainly see the railway track at Fort Garry, and that thus will be opened up the rich Canadian territory of Manitoba, and the fertile Valley of the Saskatchewan, once part of the territory of the late Hudson's Bay Company. Many persons," he goes on to say, "will probably be as surprised as myself to learn that among the possessions of that Company were 20,000 square miles of the finest wheat-producing land in America." Considering that the little Province of Manitoba contains 15,000 square miles, most of it excellent land, and that there is room for a dozen Manitobas in our North-west, the estimate is certainly a sober one. But we know too little about the real dimensions of "the fertile belt," or the local causes that render sections of it unfit for the production of cereals, to be able to pronounce, except in very