

THE CANADA COMPANY.

The people are long suffering, and slow to make any united effort for the removal of a public evil. Each man's private affairs so fully engross his attention that great public wrongs may long exist without any one being found willing to enter the arena in opposition to them. Of this the case of the Canada Company furnishes conclusive evidence. For thirty years of the present century this Company, and the operations of it, have been felt by the people of Western Canada to be oppressive, and damaging to the natural growth and prosperity of the country. And yet those who were not backward, when opportunity offered, to give expression to this view, allowed so many years to pass without any general uprising in opposition to this monopoly. It is true that time and again the matter has been mentioned in the House of Parliament, and in some cases urged—not, however, with that success which the people, through the High Court of Parliament, might fairly expect. The history of the Company may be briefly adverted to, as follows:—

About the year 1820 a few men of some means and influence visited this country. They cast their eyes over the land, and saw that it was good; and, as the result soon after proved, they determined to possess themselves of it. They at once returned to England, and entered into a combination with other men of means and political influence, with a view to getting an act of Parliament passed there, under the authority of which they might obtain possession of the most fertile parts of Upper Canada. The success of that combination is familiar to all, and the fruits that it has borne for this country are too well known, and have been too severely felt for the last forty years, to require explanation at this late day. Suffice it to say that the looked for Imperial Act was passed on the 27th June, 1825, by which King George IV. was authorised, under certain safeguards and restrictions, to grant to "the Canada Company" lands as therein specified. The Act recites that, Whereas, large portions of the lands of Upper Canada have been set apart as Clergy Reserves:

“And whereas, the greater part of the said Clergy Reserves in the said Province of Upper Canada have ever since continued and are now