

Red river itself is heavily timbered, on both banks, to its point of intersection with the parallel of 49 degrees north latitude, and is navigable for boats of three or four feet draught of water, for four, and some seasons five months in the year, for 500 miles, and to a point within 125 miles of the Mississippi.

I cannot, in this short communication, sufficiently set forth to you the vivid and most favorable impressions I have conceived of your territory. I think it merely necessary to show to the world the actual state of things to ensure its rapid advancement. A portion of the country embraced between Otter-Tail lake, one of the sources of the Mississippi and Red lake, has never been explored. Would it not be advisable for your delegate in Congress to procure, this winter, an appropriation for that purpose? Having begun the exploration, I shall, during the winter, execute a map, and make a report of the region I have seen. It would, truly, be a pleasing duty should I be selected to complete the examination next season.

As I feel deeply interested in the prosperity and welfare of the half-breed residents on the northern frontier of your territory, from having observed their activity, industry, and law-abiding character, I am induced to offer to your notice, as the persons most proper to bring such a subject to the attention of your legislature, some hints as to the proper course to be adopted to ensure the protection of these people, and the foundation of a successful and prosperous settlement along that border. The success of this settlement I regard as the more important, as it is directly in contact with the possessions of the Hudson's Bay Company, who now exercise a paramount sway within the American territory, and who are, every year, drawing from this country, by their fur trade, an immense revenue.

The whole of the Red river settlement was, at one time, within what are now the possessions of the United States; but as soon as this fact became known, the half-breeds were actually forced, by the Hudson's Bay Company, to remove to the British side of the line. Almost all the trapping and hunting is now done within the limits of the territory of Minnesota; and as it has been apparent that no protection was afforded by our government, and great favors are shown by the company to those residing on English soil, it is not to be wondered at that the greater portion of the half-breeds continue to remain north of the line. They are, at present, entirely dependent for their winter's supply of provisions upon the buffalo hunting on this side, and share equal privileges, as matters now stand, with those residing on American soil.

Three things only are necessary to establish a prosperous and populous settlement on the American side, within your territory, and these can at once be effected by the action of your legislature, with the aid of your executive and judicial officers: 1st, Let the law against the encroachments of the citizens or subjects of foreign countries upon our territories be enforced; 2d, Memorialize the general government to extinguish the Indian title to the lands in that quarter, and then extend the laws of Minnesota over the people of the settlement, by establishing courts of justice, and appointing official persons to regulate their affairs; 3d, Throw open, by means of roads and other facilities, the trade and commerce of the Mississippi, and introduce among them the currency of the United States, now much less valued than the notes of the Hudson's Bay Company, payable *sixty days after sight in London*.

These things they certainly have a right to claim; and I sincerely hope