

No doubt the Company's tone at present is to represent the country as being unfit for colonization, much of the land being (as they say) incapable of cultivation, and the climate such as no one would encounter who was not paid for it. Whilst this is their language of to-day, it is interesting to notice the difference of expression that exists in the same mind, when it narrates for historical information in 1847, and when it speaks for an interested object in 1857.

In 1841 Sir George Simpson, (who is the Governor-in-Chief of the Hudson's Bay Company,) travelled across their dominions, and in his "Journey round the World," published in 1847, whilst describing his journey from Montreal to Red River, he frequently breaks out in admiration of the splendid country through which he passed. In Vol. I, page 36, he speaks of the river being studded with isles not less fertile and lovely than its banks, and many a spot reminded them of the rich and quiet scenery of England—with violets, roses, and many other wild flowers spangling the paths, while the currant, gooseberry, raspberry, plum, cherry, and even the vine grew in abundance. And it would be difficult to describe a country in more glowing colors than is given in his narrative at pages 45 and 46, where he states "the river which empties Lac la Pluie into the lake of the woods, is, in more than one respect, decidedly the finest stream on the whole route. From Fort Frances downward, a stretch of nearly one hundred miles, it is not interrupted by a single impediment, while yet the current is not strong enough materially to retard an ascending traveller. Nor are the banks less favourable to agriculture than the waters themselves to navigation, resembling, in some measure, those of the Thames near Richmond. From the very brink of the river there rises a gentle slope of green sward, crowned in many places with a plentiful growth of birch, poplar, beech, elm, and oak."

So beautiful is the scenery in the vicinity of Lac la Pluie, that Sir George breaks forth in prophetic extacy, and writes: "Is it too much for the eye of philanthropy to discern, *through*