

in the habit of addressing him as "father." They frequently came long distances to obtain the benefit of his advice and treatment.

It was in 1838 that Mr. Smith first entered the Hudson's Bay Company's service, and he has been so intimately connected with that powerful trading organization, that it may not be amiss, in this sketch of his life, to glance briefly over the history of this corporation. Their territory consisted of land extending over an area as large as Europe, and stretching to the north and west of Canada from the coast of Labrador on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the southwest, touching the Arctic circle on the north, and reaching to the boundary line in the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude between British North America and the United States. This immense territory, the greater portion of which was known as Prince Rupert's Land, was granted by Royal charter by Charles II, in 1670, and, in the words of the document, it is stated that "whereas our dear and entirely well-beloved cousin, Prince Rupert, Count Palatine of the Rhine, Christopher, Duke of Albermarle, and other persons therein named, had, at their own great costs and charges, undertaken an expedition for Hudson's Bay, in the north-west part of America, for the discovery of a new passage into the South Sea and for the finding some trade for furs, minerals, and other considerable commodities, the king granted that they should be a body corporate and politic, by the name of the Governor and Company of adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, and have a common seal." It also granted to the company "the sole trade and commerce of all those seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks, and sounds, in whatsoever latitude they shall be, that lie within the entrance of the straits commonly called Hudson's Straits, with the fishing of all sorts of fish, whales, sturgeons, and all other royal fishes within the said limits, and all mines royal, as well discovered as not, gold, silver, gems and precious stones." It also constituted the Governor and Company, and their successors, "the absolute lords of the same territory."

Prince Rupert's Land is abundantly supplied with water, including Lake Winnipeg to the south,—a magnificent sheet three hundred miles long, and in several places fifty broad,—Lake Winnipegosis, and Lake Manitoba. The Red River, which rises in otter-tail Lake Minnesota, flows northward to Lake Winnipeg, and that portion of the country situated between this lake and the Red River on the east,