

The entire value of all the furs and other articles, traded by the Company from Indians in all its territories and possessions, averages less than two hundred thousand pounds per annum. In one year it amounted to two hundred and eleven thousand pounds : and the nett profits for that year were declared at one hundred and nineteen thousand pounds !

I will not assert that the griping system by which these excessive gains are obtained, does really produce general misery among the natives subject to it. The *wants* of Indians in a region where buffalo or deer are to be found, as is the case over a large portion of the country, are limited to ammunition and a few articles of iron and tin, and their *desires* to the possession of a few trinkets. Where those animals are not to be found, fish from the lakes and rivers, and rabbits snared in the thick woods, are, in most places, almost unfailing resources ; leaving the natives dependent upon the traders but for fishing-nets and lines, a few utensils, and a small supply of woollen clothing.

There are, however, some extensive tracts of country in which the means of subsistence are scanty in the extreme. In the region lying between Lakes Superior and Winipeg, the natives during winter can with difficulty collect enough of food to support life. In the country lying im-