

justly so. They are simply* surmise. Add thereto, however, a consciousness of conduct little fitted to bear the light of public scrutiny, and little honourable in its share as national history; add a dying charter, and a title questionable at the best. Are these not enough, if not to justify, yet to explain by natural causes, the opposition of the Company?

It is not, indeed, the reasoning of honour or of patriotism; it is the reasoning of selfishness; and, let it not be forgotten, it is as much the reasoning of error; but it is not impossible.

If the reasons admit only of surmise, the conduct of the Company and its impenetrable obstructiveness are matters beyond doubt, and must be ended.

How then are the successive steps to be now taken to be summed up?

First, the country from the borders of Canada to those of British Columbia must be freed. There must be no exclusive usurpations from the parallel of the South boundary to the northernmost limit of British American waters.

This can be done either,

By the Imperial Government by proclamation, as has been shown;

By purchase from, or by co-operation with, the Hudson's Bay Company;

* The position of the Company with respect to the enterprise is treated in a Letter to the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1853, now published for the first time. The attention of the reader is requested thereto, as well as to the publications to which reference has been already made.