

from Mr. Ralph, that a vast expanse of territory lies between Hudson's Straits and the Pole; and by a subsequent enactment a special reward of £5,000 was offered to any one who should approach within one degree of the same.

There is no "novelty in the suggestion" given on page 378 that the men of the Company should be employed in the search for the North Pole, and "the interest it may excite" will not be perceptible as any one at all familiar with Arctic exploration well knows that the value of the Company's officers and men in this connection has been recognized for generations.

Speaking of the officers of the Company, it might be as well to state that Sir Donald Smith is *not* the president as there is no such officer. He is the governor of the Company. Mr. Wrigley is not now the commissioner, he has been succeeded by Mr. C. C. Chipman since Mr. Ralph was here.

The statement on page 374 that "by the time the Englishmen established themselves on Hudson's Bay individual Frenchmen and half-breeds had penetrated the country still further west . . . (and) . . . fitted out by the merchants of Canada pursued the fur trade, etc., is pure fiction and the unfortunate creation of Mr. Ralph, who alone, not omitting the bitter partizans of the French and the claims of the celebrated Sir Alex. Mackenzie himself, is bold enough to advance such a preposterous proposition. His assertion that "in a hundred years (1770) they (the H. B. Co.) were no deeper in the country than at first (on the shores of Hudson's Bay), excepting as they extended their little system of forts or 'factories' up and down and on either side of Hudson and James Bays," is not in accordance with the facts. The company had established and occupied, more or less intermittently according to the exigencies of the fur trade, Brunswick House up the Moose River in 1730; Henley House, about 1744, some 150 or 200 miles up the Albany River; Flamborough Factory, before 1750, about the same distance up the Hayes River; and, about 1740-50, apparently, a fort at Split Lake, and Fort Nelson far up the Churchill River.

Mr. Ralph is still more unfortunate when he says that "as early as 1731 M.

Varennes de la Verandrye, licensed by the Canadian Government as a trader, penetrated the west as far as the Rockies, leading Sir Alexander Mackenzie to that extent by more than sixty years." Verandrye did not even reach the Lake of the Woods till 1732 and never saw the Rocky Mountains; in fact he died in the attempt to reach them in 1749.

Two of his sons had, however, accomplished this great design in 1742-3, via the Missouri, eleven years after the date erroneously assigned to the father.

What does the writer mean by saying that the "briffty French capitalists and Scotch merchants of *Upper Canada*" formed the North-West Company in 1783? Really, he ought to know that those canny princes of the fur trade—the McGillivrays, Frobishers, McKenzies, Mac-tavishes, McKays, Grants, Camerons, Frasers, McDonalds, etc., were all of Montreal and had nothing to do with the Upper Canadian merchants. The remark that the "French crown had been first in the field with a royal charter" (p. 384) must be assumed to be jocular, as it is difficult to believe that any one would have the hardihood to set up claims in 1818 under the defunct and preposterous charter of the Hundred Associates conferred by Cardinal Richelieu on the 29th of April, 1627. Sir Alexander McKenzie never so much as hinted at any such a right, even if that charter had been in operation it differed most materially from that of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The royal license referred to on page 391 as expiring in 1838 was renewed for twenty-one, not twenty years. Consequently it did not "expire" in 1858, but so far as British Columbia was concerned it was revoked on September 2nd of that year. As regards the rest of the territories it lapsed by effluxion of time in 1859, the Company refusing to accept the short renewal of it which was offered them.

It would be interesting to know on what foundation rests the statement that "at first the officers and men were nearly all from the Orkney islands," so far as the officers are concerned. It is probably correct as regards the men, and more probably incorrect as regards their superiors, who were almost exclusively