

the Company by other settlers, for permission to export tallow at moderate freights; but to this no answer was returned. Subsequently the Company found it necessary to legislate on the subject. From the Minutes of Council on this subject, published June 10, 1845, and from a letter of the Governor of the country, in answer to the application of certain half-breeds to have their position with respect to hunting and trading defined—all of which documents will be found given *in extenso* in Fitzgerald's "Hudson's-Bay Company and Vancouver's Island"—we learn that it is the *fundamental law* of the country that no settler should trade in furs. This is as if the Government of Australia should declare that no settler should trade in gold.

Further, that while, *once in every year*, settlers are permitted, at their own risk, to import stores, fur traffickers are excluded from this privilege, but that, even for this, a licence is required; and, moreover, that while imports to the amount of 50*l.* are permitted, they must be purchased only with certain specified productions or manufactures of the settlement, carried away the same season: but this privilege is only conceded to those who may have personally accompanied both exports and imports; so that all trade beyond what can be superintended personally by an individual is strictly forbidden. The land deed of the Company—also given by Fitzgerald—binds the purchaser of land not to infringe, either directly or indirectly, the exclusive rights, privileges, power of commerce, of or belonging, or anywise appertaining to, *or held, used, or enjoyed by the Company*; that he will not carry on or establish a trade or traffic in or relating to *any kind of skins, furs, peltry, or dressed leather, in any part of North America.*

The freight charged by the Company from London to York Factory on Hudson's Bay, on articles imported in their ships by settlers at Red River, is about equal to the customary charge from London to Canton.

Can we wonder that the settlers sigh for free trade?

"A single Scotch farmer," says M'Lean, "could be found in the colony able alone to supply the greater part of the produce the Company require: there is one, in fact, who offered to do it. If a sure market were secured to the colonists of Red River, they would speedily become the wealthiest yeomanry in the world. Their barns and granaries are always full to overflowing. . . . The Company purchase from six to eight bushels of wheat from each farmer, at the rate of three shillings per bushel; and the sum total of their yearly purchases from the whole settlement amounts to 600 cwts. flour, first and second qualities; 35 bushels rough barley; 10 half-firkins butter, 28 pounds each; 10 bushels Indian corn; 200 cwt. best kiln-dried flour; 60 firkins butter, 56 pounds each; 240 pounds cheese; 60 hams. . . . Where he (the Red-