

apology for drawing attention to a subject of such interest. I would farther add, that any reply to my letters on this subject, except over the signature of a known person, will not be answered by me

London, May 16, 1866.

DAVID GLASS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Listowell Banner, June 2, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

A generation ago, when monopolies were not yet exploded in political economy—and when, without responsible government, it was easy to gain exclusive privileges for the few, at the expense of the interests of the many, a corporation calling itself the "Canada Company," obtained, at a nominal figure, some millions of acres of by far the richest and most beautiful land in Upper Canada. The charter, by which they were empowered to enter upon the possession of a territory which has often and justly been called "the garden of Upper Canada," recited that this was for the purpose of "cultivating and settling waste lands." The lands were surveyed, the chief stockholders of the Company immortalising their names by having them bestowed upon the various townships of the "Huron Tract," as the Company's territory was called; and the work of making money out of their speculation commenced. Emigrants were beset with agents and induced to buy land of the Company. Two or three leading roads were opened into the territory, progress along which was something like the journey of human life—once at the end there was no getting back. Those who had not foresight enough, or lacked faith in their ability to pay, were induced to settle on long leases; which meant that a settler on a hundred acres of the Company's land might live there for ten or fifteen years, pay the taxes and labor on the roads, and after the place was pretty well cleared up, have the privilege of moving off and buying himself a wild lot somewhere in the bush. The "settling and cultivating the waste lands" has, during the forty years of the Company's existence, been done to a large extent—as could scarcely fail to be the case, from the crowding of emigration to the Province, the natural excellence of their lands, and the favorable position of the territory—but a precious little of the credit of this belongs to the Company. They have proved themselves a grasping and obstructive monopoly.

They still hold about two hundred thousand acres in some of the best townships of the province. The settlers in these townships have to make and repair roads through the Company's lands, and bear nearly all the municipal burdens, while the lordly absentees wait patiently till the toil of the actual settlers had rendered their remaining lands so valuable that they can get almost any price for them. Is there any injustice in compelling this monopoly to make a late amend, and bring their lands into the market at a reasonable price, as the only colorable excuse that can now be made toward fulfilling the laudable provisions of their charter, "the settling and cultivating of waste lands." Let Parliament, now about to assemble, compel them to pay some respect to the conditions of their charter, by immediately dispossessing themselves of the remnant of their lands, and allowing them to go into the hands of those who will "settle and cultivate" them. Everyone interested in municipal affairs knows the great injustice done to townships by absentee wild lands in their midst. It is one of the greatest obstacles to the progress of the country.

The principal part of the Company's lands compose a wedge-shaped territory with a blunt point to the east of Stratford, and its larger end abutting on Lake Huron. It includes all the County of Perth, with the exception of