

be admitted that the great distance at which they are situated from Civilization, the want of the means of intercourse between them and the inhabited parts of the country, the liability to trespass by armed ruffians, and the dreadful rigor of the climate in winter, present very serious obstacles to those who might wish to undertake such management : for obviating some of which I see no better method than the employment, during the summer months, of one or two armed steamers of light draught of water, such as are used for a similar purpose on the east coast of Denmark. These steamers should each have a commander on board, who should be a magistrate and empowered by parliament to act summarily in cases of infraction of the Fishery Laws, and beside supplying the lighthouses and other public works with stores, oil, building materials, etc., conveying the workmen managers and fishermen to their several stations, and protecting the lessees of the Province, might also be profitably employed as the means of transporting the fresh caught salmon from the several rivers, packed in ice, to the Rail-road Stations at St. Thomas and Quebec ; from whence they could be distributed to the markets of Canada and the United States. Two Bills for the protection of salmon and trout in Lower Canada have recently become Acts of Parliament. These may possibly be productive of some good in civilized and inhabited districts, but must be utterly ineffective in those parts of the Province where there are no settled inhabitants, no magistrates, and no tribunals before which those who infringe the Law can be cited ; and this is the case of all the best rivers in Lower Canada.

I cannot close these observations without endeavoring to impress on all who hear me, the necessity for prompt action in this matter ; for there can be no doubt upon the mind of any man who is acquainted with the localities, that if the King's Posts should be abandoned by the Hudson's Bay Company, before some well devised system be adopted for carrying on the work which they have hitherto effected, two melancholy results will be the inevitable consequences, viz.—the salmon rivers will be taken possession of by hordes of lawless men, who will in no way contribute to the revenue of the country, but will quickly and recklessly exterminate the fish, and then desert our shores, leaving behind them no trace of their temporary occupation except the destruction they have wrought—and more terrible still—a whole tribe of Indians (the Montagnards) will be reduced to a state of positive starvation, for upon the Hudson's Bay Company they have hitherto been, and are now dependent for their ammunition, guns, and other means by which they obtain their food and clothing.