

its system was before the Government in 1847—9 ; that the Government of that day could see nothing in it requiring parliamentary investigation, refused to appoint a commission of inquiry,—and would not refer the question to the decision of either of the tribunals recommended by its own law officers, excepting on condition that an individual should take upon himself all the *expense* and responsibility of an investigation, affecting not private, but national interests. Above all, let it not be forgotten that, on the “mere assertion” of the Company itself, and on the testimony of two prejudiced and manifestly incompetent witnesses, the Government not only quashed all further inquiry, but made the Company a present of an additional territory belonging to the nation, and of great value for national purposes. Similar influences are still at work, and the result will probably be similar, if the people and their representatives are acquiescent.

Let it not be said that this is a matter in which the public have little or no concern. All classes have an interest, and a deep one, in putting an end to that abominable system by which so fair and extensive a portion of the British dominions has been so long suffered to run to waste, and under which so much of it has already been lost, with the certain prospect of losing more, perhaps all that is worth having, if it be suffered to continue but for a few years longer. The popular voice alone will suffice for its extinction. All classes should therefore join in demanding prompt and efficient justice. Petitions ought to be poured in from every county, town, and hamlet in the country, calling upon Parliament to do its duty. The history of the world presents no example of a monopoly so monstrous and so prejudicial as that of the Hudson’s Bay Company; and the history of the world will present no parallel to the fatuity of the British people, the corruption of their Government, and the subserviency of their parliament, if that monopoly be not at once, and for ever, abolished.

By order of the Council,

ROBERTSON GLADSTONE,

PRESIDENT.