

considered the best. Pine, spruce, red and white oak, ash, cedar, arbutus, poplar, maple, willow, and yew, grow in this section of country, north of the Columbia river. The cedar and pine become of an immense size."

"It is an additional advantage that an organised and powerful association have already occupied the spot. For centuries they have hunted the adjoining continent. Every inch is to their able functionaries and hardy servants familiar ground, and their compact and iron organization is a ready engine of protection and defence. They have so ordered their arrangements that every district will have its schools, churches, roads, and public institutions, all supported from reserved lands, and the edifice will be crowned by a legislative assembly, chosen by the suffrage of the whole freeholders.

"We are the more particular in noting these advantages that the most audacious attempts have been made to damage the company. They are charged with having prevented colonisation before, from which it is argued they cannot cordially promote it now. There are some minds formed to criticise, and the doers of this world are sorely beset by the mere critics. It is easy to sit in the easy chair at home and review the policy of this association, ruling the most lawless bands in existence, and pushing commerce through the region of tomahawks. Fortunately we have the most trustworthy evidence to refute these charges. The Bishop of Montreal, the Church and Wesleyan Missionaries, Commodore Wilkes of the American Navy, no very prejudiced witness, Mr. Robert Greenhow, translator and librarian of the United States' Government, and others, all worthy of credence, and some hostile to the Company, give personal testimony to their energetic and upright policy in the midst of the most trying difficulties.

"Indeed, in the part of the continent over which they had territorial right, colonisation to any extent was impossible. The whole looks, it is said, "like the fag end of the world," swamps, rocks, treeless wastes, lakes, and ponds mixed up in interminable confusion. At York Factory the ice does not break up till July, and the soil is never thawed more than six inches down. The hottest fire does not prevent the room being coated with ice three inches thick; the wind raises the cheek into blisters; and long icicles depend from the eyelashes. But at Red River, near the southern boundary, the company long ago founded a settlement, with streets, churches,