

"The history of my career," says M'Lean, "may serve as a warning to those who may be disposed to enter the Hudson's-Bay Company's service. They may learn that, from the moment they embark in the Company's canoes at Lachine, or in their ships at Gravesend, they bid adieu to all that civilised man must value on earth. . . . They bid adieu to all the refinement and cultivation of civilised life, not unfrequently becoming semi-barbarians,—so altered in habits and sentiments, that they not only become attached to savage life, but eventually lose all relish for any other. I can give good authority for this. The Governor writing me last year regarding some of my acquaintances who had recently retired, observes—'They are comfortably settled, but apparently at a loss what to do with themselves; and *sigh for the Indian country, the squaws, and skins, and savages.*'"—Vol. ii. pp. 260, 261.

"That the Indians wantonly destroy the game in years of deep snow is true enough; but the snow fell to as great depth before the advent of the whites as after, and the Indians were as prone to slaughter the animals then as now, yet game of every description abounded, and want was unknown. To what causes, then, are we to attribute the present scarcity? There can be but one answer—to the destruction of the animals which the prosecution of the fur trade involves. As the country becomes impoverished the Company reduce their outfits so as to ensure the same amount of profits, an object utterly beyond their reach, although economy is pushed to the extreme of parsimony; and thus, while the game becomes scarcer, and the poor natives require more ammunition to procure their living, their means of obtaining it, instead of being increased, are lessened. . . . The general outfits for the whole northern department amounted, in 1835, to 31,000*l.*, now (1845) it is reduced to 15,000*l.*, of which one-third at least is absorbed by the stores at Red River settlement, and a considerable portion of the remainder by the officers and servants of the Company throughout the country. I do not believe that more than one-half of the outfit goes to the Indians. While the resources of the country are becoming yearly more and more exhausted, the question naturally suggests itself, What is to become of the natives when their lands can no longer furnish the means of subsistence? This is indeed a serious question, and well worthy of the earnest attention of the philanthropist. While Britain makes such strenuous exertions in favour of the sable bondsmen of Africa, and lavishes her millions to free them from the yoke, can nothing be done for the once noble but now degraded aborigines of America? Are they to be left to the tender mercies of the trader until famine and disease sweep them from the earth?" M'Lean. Vol. ii., pp. 266—269.

The territory granted to the Company by their Charter what-