

THE COUNTRY *v.* THE COMPANY.

As to why British North America may be peopled, it will be sufficient to observe that the recent explorations which have been respectively conducted under the auspices of the Canadian and Imperial Governments—those, namely, of Hind and of Palliser—have abundantly corroborated all previous testimony, and have established beyond doubt, if doubt ever existed, that the vast tract of country forming the interior of British North America is perfectly fitted for inhabitation, more so, in not a few respects, than many parts of the prosperous and noble country known as Canada.

That vast interior, extending from Canada to British Columbia, forms, in the next place, the only link wanting to complete the chain of British colonies from shore to shore of the American continent. It affords besides incomparably the best communication for the new colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island with Great Britain. These colonies are now only accessible either through a most circuitous and expensive transit across the Isthmus of Panama, or by the yet more circuitous and tedious passage round Cape Horn.

The communication across British North America