

the arbitrary nature of its institutions, so different from those that surround it.

"That Vancouver Island and the Mainland were till lately separate colonies, with one and the same governor; when unfortunately for both, two distinct governors were appointed, over a total population of ten or twelve thousand souls. That from that moment a system of commercial aggression, if not hostility, towards Vancouver Island was adopted by the Government of the mainland, and things brought to such a state, that in a fit of despair the House of Assembly in Victoria petitioned the Home Government for the union of the two colonies, and, fondly trusting to the liberality of the mother country, offered (without asking the consent of the people) to accept whatever institutions she might think fit to grant.

"That the Governor of the Mainland, who was then in England on leave of absence, was consulted, his views embodied in a bill, and the two colonies shortly after united by Act of Parliament. The representative government of Vancouver Island was abolished without a dissenting voice in either House, the free port of Victoria done away with, and the hostile governor of the Mainland re-appointed over the united colonies, with a Legislative Council consisting of 22 members, of whom fourteen were appointed by himself, and the eight others elected subject to his approval. The capital was removed to New Westminster, a village of 700 inhabitants, the officials there alone maintained, those of Vancouver Island discharged, and the general welfare of the colony thenceforth sacrificed to local interests.

"That although Vancouver Island commands the coasts of the United States on the Pacific as completely as England does those of France on the Atlantic, the Home Government had never spent anything on it; the colony, though yielding over half a million of gold yearly, is indebted to the United States for the carriage of every emigrant and every letter that reaches her shores; and if a man-of-war require repairs she must go to San Francisco; thus depriving the colony of the benefit of an expenditure which ought naturally to accrue to her. In short, the only ties that bind the colony to the mother country are the infliction on it of a despotic form of government; an expenditure over which the people have practically no control, and which is out of all proportion with the means of the colony; and a Governor with a salary of £4,000 a year, besides other allowances, who only consults the interests and wishes of the very smallest portion of the colony; so that although public improvements have been for some time suspended, the colony is sunk in debt, the trade of Victoria has been annihilated, the population has dwindled to a shadow; those who remain are, to say the least, disaffected; and unless some more real interest is evinced for the colony, when the occasion offers she may be driven to vote for annexation to the United States.

"But British Columbia is the key to the North Pacific. Without her and the Saskatchewan territory, the very existence of Canada as a British dependency would be compromised, and before long at an end. The United States are already knocking at the door, and if the whole of British North America is not speedily connected by an overland communication or by railroad, England may bid adieu for ever not only to Canada but to the greater portion of her trade with the East, and, as a consequence, to her commercial supremacy."

"Your petitioner, therefore, humbly but most earnestly prays," &c.

"Tayistock Hotel, Covent Garden,

May 25th, 1868."

"ALFRED WADDINGTON."