

sort of government, but it is a paternal despotism nevertheless, and that is a system abhorrent to men who, in this age, are given to read and think. The affairs of the *métifs*, or half-breeds, at Red River, may be better managed by the Company; but when they can read and write, and think of what they read—when they have learned to know what the inalienable rights of British subjects are—it is but natural they should desire to use those rights, and act for themselves.”*

The Meeting of the Toronto Board of Trade, alluded to in the above extract, was held on the 3d of December, and significantly indicates the state of public feeling in influential commercial circles in Canada. Our limited space prevents the re-publication, in these pages, of the proceedings of this important Meeting; and there is the less need for us to do so, seeing that they have been published without curtailment in the columns of several English journals. Mr. Alderman M'Donell, and Captain Kennedy (a native of the Hudson's-Bay Territories, and the commander of Lady Franklin's exploring expedition to the Arctic regions), made some important statements to prove the adaptability of the disputed soil for purposes of colonization, and to controvert the popular notion that it is a vast sterile and uninhabitable wilderness. The following extracts from Captain Kennedy's speech will afford some idea of the value of the country as an abode for civilized as well as uncivilized man:—

“On the coast of the portion of the territory where he had lived for eight years, whales, or rather porpoises were so abundant, that they could be caught by thousands. Smaller whales were also to be captured, and sealskins and other furs could be got in abundance. Coal and plumbago abounded in Hogarth's Inlet, so much so that they could be picked up on the sea shore. So numerous was the reindeer, that he had himself, with a party of twelve men, killed 216 reindeer in two hours. He had seen as many as ten or twelve thousand of them at one view. But the fur trade was a secondary consideration. The entire country, extending 400 miles from the boundary line to the north, was capable of cultivation of the same kind as was carried on in Canada. Particularly flax, tallow, and hides, which it was now necessary to procure from Russia, could just as easily be raised on those prairies. The country was as fertile as it could possibly be. The Red-River settlers were now

* Among other Canadian journals which are expressing strong views against the continuance of the Hudson's-Bay monopoly may be mentioned the *Toronto Colonist* and the *Montreal Evening Pilot*. We may here remark, that the Aborigines' Protection Society's Memorial to Mr. Labouchere has been re-published, without abridgement, in all the leading papers in the province. A valued correspondent at Toronto, writing to the Assistant Secretary under date of the 20th December, says—“In Canada the question of depriving the Hudson's-Bay Company of its monopoly is the question of the day. The agitation is proceeding throughout the province like wildfire. Hardly a paper appears in our cities or in our country parts without a column or so devoted to the ‘Hudson's-Bay Territory’ in large characters. The Government here are already prepared to take up the matter against the Company; and now if they wished to recede from such a movement they could not, without loss of office, the whole country being so unanimous in support of the proposal to drive the Company from this continent.”