

of giving to the world a *faithful* description of the territory over which he presided, there is another account, very enlightening as regards the manner in which the Company conduct their affairs in that unobserved region.

Mr. Wm. G. N. Kingston, in his "Western Wanderings; or, a Pleasure Tour in the Canadas," published in 1856, by Chapman and Hall, alluding to the Hudson's Bay Company, gives the following account in Vol. II, pages 86 and 87.

"Amongst other subjects the Hudson's Bay Company and their principles of action came on the tapis. Their policy seems to be of the most illiberal and short-sighted character. Afraid of losing the services of the half-caste and Indian population, who now form a very considerable community in the territory given up to their sway, should they discover the high rate of wages they would be able to obtain in Canada, they jealously close, to the utmost of their power, all communication with the British provinces; nor will they allow any goods to be brought in from thence for general use, having them instead sent round in their own ships to their settlements in Hudson's Bay. Once a-year only their *bateaux* come from Montreal up the Ottawa laden with stores for their ports; but no general merchandise is conveyed by them, while their crews are trusty old voyageurs, employed always in the same service, who, from their peculiar habits, are not likely to gain any information as to the true state of affairs in the colony, or if they do, to communicate it to the population at large. The American traders of Minnesota, the new State of the Union bordering on the Hudson Bay territory, have, however, very wisely taken advantage of this *anti-free-trade system* of the Company, and, by pushing forward their own trading posts, have induced the inhabitants of the southern districts to come to them for all the goods they may require. The advantage of this trade, which has now become very considerable, has thus been entirely lost to Canada. It appears to be the belief of the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, that it is necessary for the maintenance of their monopoly, to keep the rest of the world ignorant of the real condition of their