

of the Upper Fraser and the shoals on the Saskatchewan, which would be such as to render their navigation impossible for steamers. The former have been much exaggerated, besides which, the two worst can be easily avoided, (as is shown in the Appendix, pages 43-4). As to the latter, it is admitted that the great Saskatchewan, from Lake Winnipeg to the Forks, is perfectly navigable, a distance of 371 miles ; and if, in the course of the next 600 miles up the North Branch, there exist a few shoals, there are also navigable stretches between, of 60 to 100 and 150 miles. Besides there is every reason to believe that these shoals could be easily deepened. Let the Americans get possession of that magnificent river, and, as on the Fraser in 1858, which till then had been declared to be unnavigable, the steam whistle would soon be heard along the banks of the Saskatchewan, from the confines of Lake Winnipeg to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

RIGHTS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

There can be no doubt that, in order to establish an effectual communication through British North America, the Saskatchewan Territory must be thrown open to settlement ; a thing which would have been done long since, had it not been for the obstacles placed in the way by the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company. These are now so far modified, that the Company have at last made up their minds no longer to struggle with the march of events ; and are willing to cede the territory, provided they receive, as they say, a fair compensation. Latterly, the Home Government has requested them, and they have consented to make a written proposal to that effect to the Canadian Government. On the other hand, their title to the whole country under their rule has been contested on various grounds ; but more particularly that to the Saskatchewan Territory, the waters of which fall, it is true, into Hudson's Bay, but which, it is asserted, may have belonged to France, but certainly did not belong to England at the date of their charter. Such is the view almost universally taken on the subject in Canada ; whilst the Home Government, who are becoming anxious for a solution, but consider the matter as more directly concerning the Dominion (now that the latter has been established) have referred the Company to it for the cession of the Territory, or at least a part of it, and for subsequent compensation. These difficulties are again complicated by the question of sovereign rights and jurisdiction, which no private party can yield with propriety, and which are at present so ineffectually exercised by the Company at the Red River Settlement ; by the unwillingness of the Canadians to acknowledge the title of the Company, still more to pay for it, and the large sum required ; and, finally, by the vast extent of territory proposed to be ceded, and which is far too great to be annexed to Ontario. Besides, it would only, or nearly only, benefit that province, whilst New Brunswick and Nova Scotia would have to pay their share of the price.