

ritory, particularly in and about the colony on the Red River. The majority of the Indians and Half-breeds in that district depend mainly on the yearly summer buffalo hunts—the colony itself verging on the boundary line of the United States, the whole of the hunting grounds are in the American territories. From these grounds the American government has warned off the hunters of the Red River in favour of the natives of the plains who are under its protection, and for this purpose detachments of American troops are stationed throughout the plains to warn off all persons intruding from the British side, but at the same time proffering them the alternative of becoming American citizens. The Hudson's Bay Company on the other hand claim whatever is hunted on the British side of the line, distraining the goods and imprisoning the persons of those who refuse to accede to their prices. Owing to these conflicting claims the natives, who are the original owners of the soil, have their energies and hopes completely paralysed, and are doomed to starvation in a land which is their own both by birth and by descent.

Deeply convinced that the present appalling condition of the native population, their ignorance, their barbarism, and the sufferings and crimes consequent thereon, are ascribable to the present system of misgovernment, and also being fully satisfied that the existing evils would be remedied, and the still more fearful ones now pending, averted by the adoption of a system founded upon more humane and enlightened views, your Memorialists most earnestly desire to impress upon your Lordship the solemn and sacred duty of inquiring into the condition of this deeply suffering people (the last remnant of a noble race), before inquiry or remedy prove too late. Hitherto no efforts have been made in their behalf by the Government of this country, to which alone they can properly look for protection and justice. The occasional reports which have from time to time been forwarded to the government of this country, at least such as have been made public, are destitute of truth, and were evidently framed with a view to mislead the colonial authorities, and avert further inquiry. To show this we need only request your Lordship's attention to the reports of Sir George Simpson, and beg of you to contrast them with a work published in 1845, entitled, "The Life and Travels of Thomas Simpson," by his brother Alexander. Though both brothers participated in the profits of the monopoly, and must, therefore, be presumed to be less than impartial witnesses, your Lordship will find that the book (published by Bentley, New Burlington-street), strongly sustains and fully corroborates the statements which we have the honour of laying before you.

The spirit and tendencies of the Hudson's Bay Company are for reasons that will readily suggest themselves, opposed to the spread of information among the native population, and unfortunately they possess but too many facilities for carrying into effect the short-