

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

I have considered it advisable to place these letters in a connected form before the public, that Members of the Legislature, and all who feel interested, may have an opportunity of judging of the real merits of the question, divested of all the prejudices which have been raised against the Hudson's Bay Company. A residence of ten years in various parts of the Territories, after voyaging from England to Hudson's Bay, thence travelling to the Red River and upper parts of the Asseneboine, afterwards through the Saskatchewan, to and from the mouth of the Columbia River, across the Rocky Mountains, and finally journeying from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and upwards and downwards from Hudson's Bay to Canada, enables me to speak with confidence of the difficulties, on every side, which beset the annexation of the whole of the territories to Canada.

If the rights and privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company were alone at stake, I need not have taken this trouble, because I am quite certain that the sacred principles of honor and justice, based on truth, which must ever influence the acts of the Imperial Government, will afford them sufficient protection.

The Liverpool Financial Reform Association have been eminently lavish of their abuse of the Hudson's Bay Company, and have shown by their pamphlet how grossly intelligent men may be imposed upon, by interested parties. This, I trust, I have fully shown in my letters on this subject.

I have avoided entering on the questions of the validity of the Company's Charter, and the boundaries between Canada and the territories, because I am quite satisfied that Canada need have nothing to contend about on this score. The Imperial Government will concede all that Canada may require, on fair and equitable terms. Some of the writers, who advocate the immediate acquisition of the whole of the Hudson's Bay Territory by Canada, argue as if the Hudson's Bay Company were a foreign nation, which had usurped a large portion of our territory. This is surely an unfair view of the question.

I shall only add, that I can offer all the proofs that can reasonably be required for all that I have asserted, and have had no motive for entering on this discussion but the welfare of Canada and a sincere regard for truth.

Persons who have not received copies of this publication, may obtain them at the publishers, MACLEAR & Co., where a limited number of copies have been left to be disposed of.

TORONTO, 20th May, 1858.