

succeeded in construing that Charter in such a way as may be most for the pecuniary advantage of the "Proprietors." To all such usurpation of power and abuse of privilege an end must come. The dissatisfaction so long felt by the people of the west, seemed to culminate in the movement of last year. Public opinion was so ripe upon the subject, that the legislature was flooded with memorials, numerous signed, from Huron, Perth and Middlesex, demanding an investigation into the workings of the Company, &c., &c. And the County Councils of Perth, Huron and Bruce, representing 100,000 souls, memorialised the Legislature for an abatement of the evil. The journals of the Western Counties, of all political shades, lent their columns and able support in the same direction—so that even the power of the Company could not counteract the tide of public opinion. On the 8th day of August, 1866, Mr. Macfarlane, M.P.P., Hon. John Carling, M.P.P., and others, insisted in their places in the House that the time had now come when it should be shown to the country whether the Parliament of Canada or the Canada Company were the most powerful. The vote then taken—in which only six Upper Canadians were found to vote against the investigation,—shows clearly that not only the people, but their representatives, are no longer to be trifled with on this subject. The question now remains to be solved: Will that solemn act of the Legislature be respected? Will it meet with the response it deserves, or that the people may fairly expect? I regret to say I fear not, without the exercise of the most stringent measures; for during the discussion which preceded the vote, and at the time the vote was taken, I am informed, one of the Commissioners of the Company stood outside the Bar of the House, and when it was over he vauntingly declared that the Company would never make a return to the House, and with a display of some temper boastfully set at defiance the memorials of the people, and their representatives in Parliament. It remains to be seen whether these "Proprietors" with their few office-holders in Toronto, will be permitted to ride "Rough-shod" over the rights and liberties of the people of this country. Let them take warning. Parliament has the power, and that power will be exercised to enforce the making of these returns, to the most minute particulars. The people have spoken, and they must be answered. Let the answer be full, fair and open: then a generous and even liberal construction will be put upon their acts. Ample time will be given them to sell the 700,000 acres they now hold, and to wind up their affairs in this country. But so sure as the full expression of public opinion, and the solemn act of the Legislature last year, continues to be disregarded, the crushing power of Parliament will be brought to bear upon the Company, to put a limit to their practices.