

side of the Atlantic. The Aborigines' Protection Society of London started up to new life and renewed effort; and the leading press of Britain has not been silent upon the subject. We believe that at least one member of the Imperial Government is prepared to act on behalf of Canada in this matter. The popular mind has been pretty effectually aroused in Britain and Canada. The presentation of the Address of the Aborigines' Society to Mr. Labouchere, and the conference subsequently held with Sir Allan MacNab, were indications of what was likely to be done in Britain: the Toronto meeting, of the proceedings at which we published a report a few days ago, is a first step in popular agitation on the subject in Canada. These are signs of the times, betokening the breaking down of the huge monopoly which now controls half this continent. It is a warning to the Company to set its house in order. The magnitude of this subject, the immense effect it is likely to have upon the fortune of Canada, can hardly be over-estimated. Our contemporary, the *New-York Albion*, is right in declaring that 'this is, or ought to be, the Canadian topic of the day.' Among the present party struggles, the petty intrigues of place-hunters and place-holders, this rises up as a matter for great minds to grapple with, and to rouse great hearts to action. There seems little difference of opinion among the press, or political parties of Canada, upon this point. Clear Grit and Ministerialist, Mr. Vankoughnet and Mr. George Brown, all seem to feel alike that a great future destiny for the people of Canada is bound up in the disposal of this territory, and that it is the duty of the present generation to secure the prize for those who are to come after them. We know too little, and have cared too little, for that great West which should be our own. The enterprising men in the United States founded settlements in Oregon, and then juggled the British Government diplomatically out of what should have been our land. We know not how soon a nearly similar process may rob us of another slice of that territory. The Americans are pushing forward their settlements around the western end of Lake Superior; they occupy Pembina, on the Red River, just where the boundary line crosses it; they are pushing their outposts northward in Oregon; they are filling up all that territory; and their population will soon stray over the geographical boundary which divides their land from ours. And what are we doing to appropriate a territory which we should occupy? - Nothing. The leaden weight of a great commercial monopoly keeps all slothful and torpid north of the forty-ninth parallel; and we have hitherto submitted quietly while other men have spoiled our patrimony. The British Government give the settlers on British lands a Company to govern them, which prevents them from the exercise of all the franchises which, as free men, they should enjoy; which cripples their industry and fetters their commerce; which taxes and spoils them of their gains. It sets up an authority as if for the express purpose of alienating the affections of those who seek to make the land productive from British rule, so admirably is its machinery adapted to that end. So we find many of the settlers at Red River discontented, and determined either to throw off the yoke of the Company, or seek freedom and more remunerative employment of their industry south of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, under the stars and stripes. What more natural result to flow from such a cause? We may be told much about the paternal kindness and care of the Hudson's-Bay Company; and much they tell us about it may be true, just as it is true of the Government of Russia. But much of it is untrue also. That institution is very bad—almost, if not quite, infra-human—of which a friendly pen or pencil cannot sketch a bright side. But the pictures of the Hudson's-Bay Company's rule, painted *couleur de rose* by their friends and salaried servants, have their dark, black side, too, which it were not well for humanity to have too broadly painted. It may be a paternal