

to the individual prosperity and wealth, contribute to the general advantage of the settlement at large.

Under this system our energies are paralyzed, and discontent is increasing to such a degree that events fatal to British interest, and particularly to the interest of Canada, and even to civilization and humanity, may soon take place.

Our country is bordering on Minnesota Territory; a trade for some years has been carried on between us. We are there met by very high duties on all articles which we import into that territory, the benefits of the Reciprocity Treaty not being extended to us. Notwithstanding this the trade has gone on increasing, and will continue to do so; we have already great cause to envy those laws and those commercial advantages which we see enjoyed by our neighbours, and which, wherever they exist, are productive of prosperity and wealth.

As British subjects we desire that the same liberty and freedom of commerce, as well as security of property, may be granted to us, as is enjoyed in all other possessions of the British Crown, which liberty is become essentially necessary to our prosperity and to the tranquillity of this colony.

We believe that the colony in which we live is a portion of that territory which became attached to the crown of England by the Treaty of 1763, and that the dominion heretofore exercised by the Hudson's Bay Company is an usurpation antagonistic to civilisation and to the best interests of the Canadian people, whose laws being extended to us will guarantee the enjoyment of those rights and liberties which would leave us nothing to envy in the institutions of the neighbouring territory.

When we contemplate the mighty tide of immigration which has flowed towards the North these six years past, and has already filled the valley of the Upper Mississippi with settlers, and which will this year flow over the height of land and fill up the valley of the Red River, is there no danger of being carried away by that flood, and that we may thereby lose our nationality? We love the British name! We are proud of that glorious fabric, the British Constitution, raised by the wisdom, cemented and hallowed by the blood of our forefathers.

We have represented our grievances to the Imperial Government, but we have not been heard, and much less have our grievances been redressed. It would seem, therefore, that we have no other choice than the Canadian Plough and Printing Press, or the American Rifle and Fugitive Slave-law.

We, therefore, as dutiful and loyal subjects of the British Crown, humbly pray that Your Honourable House will take into your immediate consideration the subject of this our petition, and that such measures may be devised and adopted as will extend to us the protection of the Canadian Government, laws and institutions, and make us equal participators in those rights and liberties enjoyed by British subjects in whatever part of the world they reside.

Wherefore your Petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed),

RODERICK KENNEDY,
and 570 others.