

round them have not been under the blighting influence of the Hudson's Bay Company, a monopoly opposed to colonization and trade. With free lands and free trade, the prairies in British America would rival those of Minnesota and Illinois. It must be remembered that our prairies are here. When the lands in Canada, New York, and Ohio, had to be conquered from the forest by the axe,—these, with those in Indiana, Missouri, and Minnesota, only require to be fenced.

It is now time to say something of the country lying between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, as to its climate and fitness for settlement. It contains about 360,000 square miles, chiefly prairie, or land fit for the plough, interspersed with woods. The climate about the same as Canada West or Central Germany, being colder in winter and warmer in summer than England, with less rain. Sir George Simpson, Sir John Richardson, and other travellers describe it, between 49° and 55° north, as very fertile—the banks of the rivers equalling in richness and beauty those of the Thames, and admirably adapted for navigation. Captain Pope and party, sent a few years ago by the United States Government to explore, compare it, in beauty and fertility, to the prairies of Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota, without being subject to fever and ague, the great curse of the Western States, with a natural navigation second only to the Mississippi and Ohio. Lake Winnipeg drains a larger and richer extent of country than the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. A glance at the map (Mr. Wyld has lately published one of the Hudson's Bay Territory) will show this great lake nearly 300 miles long, receiving the Assiniboine, Red River, and Winnipeg from the south, (the latter will connect it by Cass's ship-canal with Lake Superior and the ocean); the Saskewatchan in the north-west, with its branches flowing from the Rocky Mountains, nearly 800 miles long; the waters of Lakes Winnipegose and Manitou, each of them 120 miles long, on the west, with several other rivers and lakes: the coast-line of lakes exceeding 2000 miles, with nearly 3000 of river navigation. To the west of Lake Winnipeg and Red River, the country is chiefly prairie, as good as Minnesota, (which has increased its population 180,000 in six years); but between Lake Winnipeg, the Lake of the Woods, Superior, and Hudson's Bay, there are immense forests, which, on the completion of the Minnesota railroads to the Red River, will be very valuable for supplying the prairie country and valley of the Mississippi. The Reciprocity Act, admitting the productions of the colonies, free of duty, to good markets in the United States, will be of great benefit to this country as well as Vancouver's