

future destiny of which will be a great and glorious one, with an area sufficient to provide homesteads for the surplus population of the old world for several centuries; fortunate, therefore, will be the descendants of those who may now obtain a foothold within its gigantic borders; possessing all the true elements of future greatness and prosperity, its rapid growth and wealth will be unparalleled in the history of British America.

In the words of Whittier,

"I hear the tread of Pioneers, of nations yet to be,  
The first low wash of waves where soon shall roll a human sea."

A plain statement of facts is all that is at present required, with which to go before the world to ensure the commencement of a stream of immigration that will soon fulfil Bulwer's grand project of a chain of loyal provinces, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, induced by the liberal policy of the Federal Government. Manitoba, in the first session of its Legislature, four years since, set an example by the true policy of a liberal "Homestead Law" in keeping with the spirit of the age in which we live, and more liberal than that of any in the United States. In addition to the exemption from seizure of the debtor's ordinary furniture, tools, and farm implements in use, are also one cow, two oxen, one horse, four sheep, two pigs, and the food for the same for thirty days. A further clause says:—"The land cultivated by the debtor, provided the extent of the same be not more than *one hundred and sixty acres*, in which case the surplus may be sold with privilege to first mortgagees. The house, stables, lawns, fences, on the debtor's farm, are, by this Act, declared free from seizure, by virtue of all writs of execution issued by any court of this Province," thereby shewing that we have no limitation as to the value of the farm or residence thus secured to the family; whatever its value *may become*, it remains the shelter, the castle, the home of the family, to cluster round its hearthstone in the hour of gloom and disaster, as securely as they were wont to do in the sunshine of prosperity. We must remember that no general law can be framed for the protection of the unfortunate, that will not sometimes be taken advantage of by others; but it may be safely asserted, that such an exemption law will be found a blessing to thousands of worthy men, women, and children, for everyone unworthily shielded by its provisions.

It is not within the province of this work to enter into details of the early history of the Red River Settlement of the Northwest; suffice it to say, therefore, that the Colony was planted by Lord Selkirk, in 1812, at the mouth of the Assiniboine, as an auxiliary to the Hudson Bay Company's trade, and as a source of agricultural supply, &c.

After the result of various exploring expeditions throughout Rupert's Land, under Palliser, Hinds, Dawson, and others, became known, public opinion in England and Canada began to appreciate the immense value of