

manent habitations—half naked, owing to the exorbitant prices demanded for the clothes furnished by the Company, whilst they are, at the same time, restricted from exchanging the produce of their toil with any other parties—kept constantly in the Company's debt, which they spend their whole lives in an ineffectual effort to clear off—exposed yearly to all the horrors of famine, and the attendant crimes of murder and cannibalism—the wretchedness of the people's condition can scarcely admit of addition. The scarcity which prevails in the northern districts is gradually but surely extending to the south, and unless government interpose its paternal authority to wean the Indians from their present wandering habits, and endeavour to turn their attention to agricultural pursuits, the whole of the northern tribes must at no distant period, when the resources of the chase shall have failed them, be subjected to all the horrors of a wide-spread famine, from which they never can emerge.

That from the line of conduct pursued by the Company it does not appear probable to your Lordship's Memorialists, that sufficient precaution will be taken by them to avert so overwhelming an evil; their agents in the country are for the most part men of very limited information, and doubtful exemplars to a people arriving so slowly at a social state. Wholly imbued with the mere spirit of trade, few of them are possessed of those generous sympathies and more enlarged views which are necessary for undertaking and carrying out any comprehensive scheme of social amelioration. Their deity is gold, to obtain which they trample down Christianity and benevolence.

That feeling the utter inadequacy of the remuneration for their furs from the Company, many of the more enterprising of the natives have formed a resolution to export their own produce, and import their own supplies independently of the Company. They urge, that even supposing the Charter were still valid, and that it vests in the Company an exclusive right of trade to Hudson's Bay as against all other traders from Britain, none of its provisions are, or can be binding on the natives to trade with the Company exclusively, or can prevent them from carrying their furs or other property out of the country to the best market. Where this course has been adopted, however, the Company's agents have seized the furs of such parties as refused to sell them at the prices fixed by the Company, and in some instances have imprisoned the recusant natives. Against such gross aggressions on the rights and liberties of the natives your Memorialists most vehemently protest. Being unable to obtain redress from the local courts of the country, your Memorialists feel entitled to claim the protection of the British Government, and humbly intreat your Lordship to take the case into your kind consideration.

It is also the painful duty of your Lordship's Memorialists to advert to the precarious state of the public peace throughout the ter-