

House of Commons, the following statements and observations have been put together, with the hope of shewing, what are the points really deserving of attention and consideration, in relation to the question of how the Hudson's Bay Company ought to be dealt with by Parliament.

Now, amongst the practically important questions, surely that, which it seems is to be referred to the judicial Committee of the Privy Council, is not one. It cannot be worth the time or attention of any one to discuss whether the Crown has a right to delegate, by a Charter, to a body of its subjects, the soil and freehold in some millions of square miles of territory, with power to make laws, to levy war and make peace with all nations, not being Christians, and to exclude all persons from trading within such territory, at pleasure.

Are the Ministry ignorant that Charles the Second's Charter to the East India Company, purported to convey to them just the same tremendous powers—powers which Parliament long ago began to mould into a more moderate and national form, casting away all idle speculations on the prerogative. Suppose the lawyers to have settled, ever so satisfactorily to themselves, the power of the Crown, that is, of the Minister of the day, to grant in perpetuity any portion of the national territory, with jurisdiction, &c., and all other rights of sovereignty, with exclusive trade, still, for the nation, the real question to be decided is, *shall this be law any longer?* Surely any enquiry into the validity of this Charter must needs turn out as unprofitable, except for the purpose of diverting attention from the reality, as would be an enquiry, whether the ordinance of Edward the Third in the year 1337, that none should wear furs who had not an income of £100 a year, was legal or not.

In the society of every-day life, with its frivolity, etc., perhaps the most soporific of subjects for conversation is the Colonies. But so ill-informed, and so little desirous of information are people in general, respecting the vast territories in North America which bear the British name, of which some *three millions of square miles* are under the rule of this Company, that any person who in private seeks to attach