

III.—Letters from the Hudson's Bay Company.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a LETTER from H. H. BERENS Esq. to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON Bart.

SIR, Hudson's Bay House, July 27, 1858.
 REFERRING to the conversation Captain Shepherd and I had the honour of holding with you yesterday at the Colonial Office, from which I gathered that you were of opinion that it would be necessary to take the opinion of the law officers of Her Majesty's present Government upon the best mode of ascertaining the validity of the Charter of the Hudson's Bay Company, I hope that it will not be considered presuming if I request that before any such case be submitted for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown you will be good enough to afford the Company an opportunity of perusing it, as we are desirous, if possible, of co-operating with Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) H. H. BERENS,
 Deputy Governor.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a LETTER from H. H. BERENS Esq. to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON Bart.

SIR, Hudson's Bay House, London, August 6, 1858.
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Earl of Carnarvon's letter of the 5th instant,* in compliance with which I have announced to my colleagues in the direction the intention of Her Majesty's Government to revoke the right of exclusive trade with the Indians which was given to the Company in the Royal Licence of the 30th May 1838, over so much of the territory in question as is comprised within the Colony of British Columbia.

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I have also the honour of enclosing an extract of a letter addressed to Governor Douglas, under date the 16th of July last, from which you will perceive that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government upon this point have already been anticipated to a certain extent by the Hudson's Bay Company, in a manner which you will doubtless approve.

Extract.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) H. H. BERENS,
 Deputy-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from W. G. SMITH Esquire, Secretary, Hudson's Bay Company, to JAMES DOUGLAS Esquire, Governor of Vancouver's Island, dated London, 16th July 1858.

By the Despatch from the Colonial Office dated the 1st instant, to which I referred in my letter of last week, you will see that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that free access be allowed to all nations to search for gold in Fraser's River, while by the Bill providing for the government of New Caledonia (which will doubtless become law ere you receive this) all the exclusive privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company will, so far as that district is concerned, be at an end. You will bear in mind that although the Company have equal rights of trade within that district with others of Her Majesty's subjects, yet that no claim for exclusive privileges can now be maintained there.

The Governor and Committee presume that you will receive from Her Majesty's Government definite instructions for your guidance, and they rely upon your using your best endeavours to carry them into effect.