

THE
GOVERNMENT
AND THE
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

THE discussions that lately took place in Parliament on the propriety of renewing a Charter granted to the Hudson's Bay Company by King Charles the Second, in the year 1670, seemed to develop facts and give rise to startling apprehensions, with which the public mind was not familiar. Few persons appeared to know that such a Charter was even in existence, and nearly all who have read the debates on the subject seem at a loss to imagine how Government, acting upon the constitutional politics of the day, could justify the supposition that the renewal of a Charter would be tolerated, that is so diametrically opposed to the interest of every British subject.

The Charter granted by King Charles to the Hudson's Bay Company is one of those old obsolete Charters, which gives them rights and immunities that are incompatible with the policy and feelings of the present day, and in direct contravention to all the principles of *independent Commerce and Free Trade*.

It appears that the Directors of the Hudson's Bay Company are endeavouring to cajole the Government, into granting them a renewal of this Charter, which expires in 1859, and for that purpose a Committee of the House of Commons was lately appointed to enquire into the facts relating thereto. But as this subject, which is one of great importance to the British nation, must shortly be brought again before the