

## C.—13.

*Extract from a Dispatch from Governor Douglas to the Right  
Honorable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.*

(No. 6.)

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,  
October 26, 1858.

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7. I observe your remarks as to the limit and extent of the rights devised by the Crown to the Hudson's Bay Company, and I have to advise Her Majesty's Government that the Hudson's Bay Company no longer enjoys any exclusive rights of trade whatsoever, and is placed in all respects in the same position as other British subjects on this coast.

8. I will take the liberty, which I feel satisfied you will under the circumstances excuse, of correcting an erroneous impression which appears to pervade the public mind in England. I allude to the often-asserted statement that the Hudson's Bay Company have made an unjust and oppressive use of their power in this country—a statement which I can assure Her Majesty's Government is altogether unfounded. On the contrary, it would be an easy matter to prove that they have been of signal service to their country, and that the British territory on the northwest coast is an acquisition won for the Crown entirely by the enterprise and energy of the Hudson's Bay Company; for, on commencing business operations in this quarter, the whole coast was held by foreigners, and it is only since the year 1846 that the Hudson's Bay Company have derived any real protection from the license of trade, as until that epoch the trade was open to all citizens of the United States in common with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Perhaps you will excuse my saying so much, as a sense of justice leads me to exert the little influence I possess in protecting from injustice men who have served their country so faithfully and so well.

At this moment I am making use of the Hudson's Bay