

to the bottom at the public expense, Earl Grey declined taking any further steps in the matter. He was guilty, moreover, of a still greater dereliction of the duty which he owed to his Sovereign, and to the country which paid him for the (mis)management of the Colonies; for whilst these heavy and uninvestigated charges were still hanging over it, he made a gift of Vancouver's Island, at a nominal rent of *five shillings* per annum, to the very Company which had been so gravely impeached, and whose defence, according to the admission of his deputy, Mr. Hawes, rested "to a great extent on mere assertion."

The leaning of the Colonial Office, throughout this correspondence, towards the Hudson's Bay Company, is as palpable as is the neglect of public interests demonstrated in the result. Whether the fact that the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, one of the principal shareholders in the Hudson's Bay Company, happens to be brother-in-law to Earl Grey affords any sort of clew to the mystery is uncertain; but perhaps this little sketch of what has been done may be useful now that the parliamentary inquiry refused by Earl Grey has been obtained, seeing that Mr. Labouchere, the present Colonial Secretary, has, on different occasions, shown a strong bias towards the Company, and that Mr. Edward Ellice, Jun., son of the Right Hon. Edward, who is a member of the committee, is also a considerable shareholder in the Company, and one of its directors.

In order that public justice may not again be defeated by private influences, it is requisite that the public should be made thoroughly familiar with three main points, viz. what the Hudson's Bay Company is—What it has done—and, lastly—What should be done with it. On each of these heads a few particulars are now submitted.

#### WHAT THE COMPANY IS.

In virtue of a charter granted by King Charles II. the Company claims to be absolute lord of the soil, in perpetuity, over between two and three millions of square miles of land, (marked Rupert's Land, or Hudson's Bay Territories upon the map,) with powers of Government and taxation, and of making war or peace, far tran-