

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,

&c.

SINCE the publication of our former remarks on Vancouver's Island, events have occurred which prove that we did not, at all events, over-rate its importance. These events are—first, the publication of some Parliamentary papers; secondly, debates in both Houses of Parliament.

At the beginning of last month Lord Lincoln put some questions to the Government, in the House of Commons, as to their intentions respecting the Colonisation of Vancouver's Island. The questions were, in effect, these—"Are you going to grant Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company?" and, "Are you going to do so at a time when they are on their trial for gross mismanagement of the territories they already possess?"

The answers of Mr. Hawes and of the Prime Minister were deemed to be most unsatisfactory; so much so, that, on the 18th July, Lord Lincoln gave notice that he should move the House to address the Crown, praying that the request of the Hudson's Bay Company, to be put in possession of Vancouver's Island, might not be granted!

The very few observations which fell from his Lordship on that occasion, together with some brief but pregnant remarks from Mr. Gladstone, were received with such marked approbation by the House, that the Government did not think it wise, or, perhaps, safe, to proceed further in the matter, without giving the House of Commons the opportunity of expressing an opinion. Accordingly, on the 8th instant, a return was made to the House of a copy of "Correspondence between the Chairman of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to the Colonisation of Vancouver's Island."

Submitted to the House at such a time, and in such a manner, we are entitled to consider this paper as the *case* of the Colonial-office; as containing such information as they consider will justify Her Majesty's Government in recommending the Crown to grant the island to the Hudson's Bay Company. Viewing the return in this light, we shall proceed to call the attention of our readers to its contents. We shall also make some observations on the discussion which these papers provoked in Parliament.

We have first a letter from Sir J. H. Pelly to Lord Grey, dated 7th September, 1846, written on the occasion of the conclusion of the treaty by which the boundary between the British and American territory was