

eleven years hence : under the above clause, we ask, will not all this have to be paid for by the people of England ?

In the Parliamentary proceedings, as reported in the "Times" of August 30, 1859, we may anticipate some such report as the following :

"VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

"The Right Hon. B. Hawes, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, rose and said—Sir, In pursuance of the notice which I gave, when I laid upon the table the papers which I hold in my hand, I rise to move for leave to bring in a bill for resuming the grant of Vancouver's Island, which was made to the Hudson's Bay Company in the year 1848, and for paying to that Company the sum of money which they have expended since that year in the Island, and which, it was stipulated in the last clause of that charter, this country should pay, in the event of the property then granted to the Company being taken back by the Crown. It is unnecessary for me to remind the House, that the time has now arrived when we must decide whether we shall make this purchase or not. The exclusive licence of trade made to the Hudson's Bay Company, in the year 1848, being about to expire in a few months.

"Sir, a perusal of the papers on the table are quite sufficient to vindicate the course which I propose to adopt. Honourable gentlemen who have taken the trouble to peruse the documents are aware that they contain extracts from all the correspondence which has taken place, in the course of the last ten years, between the Colonial Office, the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Governor of Vancouver's Island; and that they disclose a melancholy detail of disaster, discontent, and above all, mismanagement. I will not, at this late period of the session, and on a subject of so little importance, invite the House to wade through the sad and revolting narrative; still less, Sir, do I deem it wise or necessary to institute any inquiry into the origin of these events. All we need now inquire is, how they may be put an end to; and having satisfied ourselves that there is only one method, and that is by buying off the Company, and resuming possession of the Island, we had better pay the money with as good a grace as possible. Matters, in fact, have arrived at this pass, that if we do not take this step the Colonists will throw themselves into the arms of the Americans. The sum, according to the estimate sent in by the Company, is £250,000. (Loud cries of oh! oh!) The only event of past times to which it is at all necessary that I should allude, is one which is a complete precedent for the present proceedings. You will find, Sir, upon the Journals of this House, that, in the year 1847, a bill was passed for paying to the New Zealand Company the sum of, I believe, £138,000 (laughter), on the plea that the Government had incurred a debt of that amount to the Company, owing to the mismanagement of the Colonial Office. (Shouts of laughter.) And my own memory will bear me out in saying, that the burthen was most cheerfully submitted to, and the money most readily paid by the country; a fact which justifies me in the anticipation, that the present debt will be discharged in a similar spirit. (Oh, oh.) On the present occasion we have the satisfaction of thinking that there