

pendent Traders, penetrated further into the interior, in every instance preceding the establishments of the Hudson's Bay Company, till the year 1779, when the different Traders, for their common safety in a country where they had no protection from their Government, entered into agreements, and united the Trade under the title of the North-West Company of Canada, and which has been continued by different coalitions of contending parties till the present time. The North-West Company has now extended its establishments to the shores of the Pacific, and have recently sent two vessels round Cape Horn, to connect those with the Trade to China, a trade hitherto carried on with avidity by the Americans. The Hudson's Bay Company have slowly followed their movements in the interior, but without the ability to profit by the Trade.

The Capital which your Memorialists employ in this Trade, is much more extensive than that of the Hudson's Bay Company: their returns have, ever since their establishment, four times exceeded those of that Company, and they have equally been obtained in barter for British Manufactures.

The North-West Company and the other British Traders in Canada, have been the great means of cementing our connections with the Indian Nations of the Continent, who are and have always been particularly attached to them. Under these circumstances, and the peculiar situation in which the War has placed them, your Memorialists have it in contemplation to send an Expedition from Quebec to Hudson's Bay, with the requisite supplies for their Traders in the interior, and they have applied to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for protection to their ships while in the Bay.

Your Memorialists have found themselves compelled by the unexpected events of the War, to submit their case to the consideration of your Lordship, and humbly hope for the protection of His Majesty's Government, in their endeavours to retain this valuable Trade to the Country; and they respectfully pray, should it be inconvenient to your Lordship to take these circumstances into your immediate consideration, that you will be pleased, in the mean time, to recommend to the Lords Commis-