

term "possessed," an actual permanent and *bona fide* occupancy must be understood to be meant, and not merely a fictitious or emblematic possession, or a delay *in transitu*, on a trading journey or a voyage of discovery. And the best histories of the times, the sole authorities to which on such a subject we can refer for information entitled to credit, contain no mention of any actual or permanent establishments, or occupants of land in 1670, or before that period within an immense distance of any part of the territories ever claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company. On the contrary, their earliest mention even of trading journeys into these countries is of a date much subsequent to that of the Charter.

It is related by those who are inclined to contest the validity of the Charter, that a Beaver Company was formed in Canada in 1630, who traded to the "*interior*" for peltries. If the boundaries had been defined which circumscribe that uncertain country alluded to, under the ambiguous denomination of the "*interior*," the statement would have been more clearly understood ; but if it be intended to import that the Beaver Company formed in 1630 (*a*) traded into the Hudson's Bay territories, the assertion would only be entitled to ridicule. Quebec was taken by the English under Kirk, commonly called Sir David Kirk, and the government of the Colony was in 1630, in the hands of his brother Lewis Kirk, and so remained until 1632 when it was restored to France by

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(*a*) See the opinion of Messrs. Pigott, Spankie, and Brougham, printed at the end of this publication.