

line drawn upon the map. The instructions of the English Commissioners were also in accordance with a similar line. The opinion given by Sir Arthur Pigott, Mr. Spankie, and Mr. Brougham, is a most carefully considered opinion. They say that the grant was not intended to comprehend all the lands and territories that could be approached through Hudson's Straits; that it is limited by its relation and proximity to the Straits; that it is not a grant of all the lands and territories upon the countries, coasts and confines of the seas and rivers within the Strait, to an indefinite extended distance. Still less is it a grant of all the lands lying between the seas, straits, rivers, &c., hundreds of miles away from the Straits. There is a point stated in the opinion of Mr. Holroyd which is of vital consequence in the consideration of this question, and which has been wholly neglected by those who are working to uphold the authority of the Hudson's Bay Company. They assume that the whole country must belong to the Hudson's Bay Company, unless it was previously held by the French King. Now, that is not the fact. If the doctrine, which I have already stated as the policy of those charters, is well founded, then the charter given to the Hudson's Bay Company could no more stand in the way of the French subsequently acquiring dominion, than the former charter, given by the King of France, could prevent the English reducing any part of the coast to a British possession. Mr. Holroyd says the charter will include all the country within the grant not at the time actually possessed by the subjects of any foreign Prince, and which have not been subsequently possessed by any foreign State previous to actual or virtual possession being taken under the charter. The charter could not convey the North-West Territories until the Company had actual or virtual possession of them on behalf of themselves or the Crown, and so as, by the law of nations, to vest the Sovereignty in the Crown. It could not stand in the way of France extending her dominion over this country. The charter to the London Company extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but whoever heard of that that charter prevented Spain from extending her sovereignty over Northern Mexico, or France from acquiring possession of Louisiana? Who will undertake to show the boundaries of Virginia by looking to the charter by which the Old Dominion was first constituted? It is absurd to do so. North America was open to all Europe to acquire. Each nation might undertake to establish its Sovereignty over any portion of it, in conformity with the law and usages of nations. Any monarch might say to a number of his subjects: "I will give you an exclusive charter to the whole continent, between certain parallels, subject to rights already acquired by other of my