

twenty years, from 1803. The trading body, thus constituted, is the present NORTH WEST COMPANY OF CANADA.

4. This Company, being thus established upon the principle of a coalition of interests of persons who were the rivals of each other, uniformly produced, whilst that principle was adhered to, all that was expected from it; namely, the prevention of animosities, violence, and losses among the traders; and an increase of the trade, through the peaceable industry of the Indians. Temporary departures from the principle have kept alive the recollection of its importance, by plunging the Indian territory, whenever they have occurred, into scenes upon which it would be painful to dwell; by leading to the commission of reciprocal injuries on the part of the traders; by producing idleness and quarrels among the Indians, and consequently diminishing the returns of the trade, both through the increased expense of its prosecution, and through the diversion of the Indians from the chase. The influence of the North West Company in increasing the Fur Trade is shown by the following statement of the returns, in 1784 and 1810 :

1784