

the insufficiency of the charter for the purposes professed in it, without the authority of the Legislature, and which authority ceased entirely soon after the expiration of the seven years after that passed.

“ * * There are various clauses in the charter—particularly those empowering the Company to impose fines and penalties, to seize and confiscate goods and ships, and seize by arrest the persons of interlopers, and compel them to give security in 1,000*l.*—which are altogether illegal, and were always so admitted.”

On these grounds he contended that the company was altogether unfit to be trusted with the duties of government, and contended that the Parliamentary inquiries of 1749 and 1819 had proved that, whatever might be the professions of this company, they had exhibited a total forgetfulness of those moral obligations which were connected with the functions of a Government. Nor did he believe them to have advanced the progress of religion or civilisation within their territories; what had been done was, he believed, mainly attributable to the religious societies of this country; and the conduct of the company towards the Indians was alleged to have been oppressive. Memorials setting forth these facts were now lying in the Colonial Office. Such were the circumstances which had induced him to bring the matter under the consideration of the House. The noble Lord concluded by moving—

“ For Copies of the Correspondence between the Government and the Hudson’s Bay Company, and for other Papers relating to the Grant of Vancouver’s Island to that Association.”