

(A.)

CHARTER of GRANT of *Vancouver's Island* to the Hudson's Bay Company, dated 13 January 1849, and CORRESPONDENCE between the Colonial Office and the Hudson's Bay Company thereon, since Date of last Papers laid before the House of Commons.

— No. 1. —

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

ROYAL GRANT.

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting :

WHEREAS by the Royal Charter or Letters Patent of his late Majesty King Charles the Second, bearing date the 2d day of May, in the 22d year of his reign, his said late Majesty did (amongst other things) ordain and declare that the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, thereby incorporated, and their successors by that name, should at all times thereafter be personable and capable in law to have, purchase, receive, possess and enjoy and retain lands, rents, privileges, liberties, jurisdictions, franchises and hereditaments, of what nature or kind soever they were, to them or their successors : And also to give, grant, demise, alien, assign and dispose lands, tenements and hereditaments, and to do and execute all and singular other things by the same name that to them should or might appertain to do :

And his said late Majesty did thereby for himself, his heirs and successors, give, grant and confirm unto the said Governor and Company and their successors, the sole trade and commerce of all those seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks and sounds, in whatsoever latitude they should be, that lay within the entrance of the straits, commonly called Hudson's Straits, together with all the lands and territories upon the countries, coasts and confines of the seas, bays, lakes, rivers, creeks and sounds aforesaid, that were not already actually possessed by or granted to any of his said late Majesty's subjects, or possessed by the subjects of any other Christian prince or state, with the fishing of all sorts of fish, whales, sturgeons and all other royal fishes in the seas, bays, inlets and rivers within the premises, and the fish therein taken ; together with the royalty of the seas upon the coasts within the limits aforesaid, and all mines royal, as well then discovered as not then discovered, of gold, silver, gems and precious stones to be found or discovered within the territories, limits and places aforesaid, and that the said land should be from thenceforth reckoned and reputed as one of his said late Majesty's plantations or colonies in America :

And further, his said late Majesty did thereby for himself, his heirs and successors, make, create and constitute the said Governor and Company for the time being, and their successors, the true and absolute lords and proprietors of the same territory, limits and places aforesaid, and of all other the premises (saving always the faith, allegiance and sovereign dominion due to his said late Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the same) ; to hold, possess and enjoy the said territory, limits and places, and all and singular other the premises thereby granted as aforesaid, with their and every of their rights, members, jurisdictions, prerogatives, royalties and appurtenances whatsoever to them the said Governor and Company and their successors for ever ; to be holden of his said late Majesty, his heirs and successors, as of his manor of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, in free and common socage, and not in capite or by knight's service ; yielding and paying yearly to his said late Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the same, two elks and two black beavers whensoever and as often as his said late Majesty, his heirs and successors, should happen to enter into the said countries, territories and regions thereby granted :

And whereas by an Act passed in the Session of Parliament held in the 43d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled, " An Act