

'settlements of resident colonists, emigrants from our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or from other our dominions, and shall dispose of the land there-as may be necessary for the purpose of promoting settlements, and for the actual purposes of colonization, and shall at least once in two years certify the number of colonists and what land shall have been disposed of."

From the above acts it would appear, that the Company are real lords and proprietors of the territory called Rupert's land; that they are also proprietors of Vancouver Island, under certain restrictions concerning its colonization, and a stipulation for the reimbursement of all their outlays at the end of their grant; and that they only possess the exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians in the other British territories, together with certain rights of jurisdiction.

It is with some diffidence that I give the above abridgement of the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, with which nobody appears to be thoroughly acquainted, not even the ministers of the Crown.

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In conjunction with the grant of Vancouver Island, a settlement of the Island was drawn up conferring on the emigrants certain powers of local self-government, and also a commission to be issued to the Governor appointed by the Crown on the presentation of the Company; with directions to summons an Assembly elected by the general votes of the inhabitants, to exercise, in conjunction with himself and a council nominated in the usual manner, the powers of legislation.

But when it came to the point, it was found impossible to go on with such a constitution, or have free legislation under the anomalous institutions of monopoly, the antagonistic powers of which could never agree; for, as there were as yet but few settlers, the Company would have been obliged to call a legislature of its own dependants, and such an Assembly would not even have been nominally free.

At the end of two years things had not much improved, and the number of settlers was still very small. This might be attributed to the absurd colonial restrictions and other obstacles thrown in their