

to a Company which they had really themselves encouraged to come into existence. However, that answer was given, and thereupon the question arose what the Directors must do. In reply, having argued the matter as well as they could, and finding the Duke was determined upon this, they said, "Very well, if we are to give you our land you must pay for it," and in the first place they asked to be paid a sum of a million sterling. The Duke said what anybody might have expected, he was not likely to get the House of Commons to agree to it; and I must say, as a member of the House of Commons, I think he probably was quite right. Then the Company made another proposal, and they said, "Well, if you won't give us a million of money, give us half the land and take half for yourselves." That, I must say, seemed a very reasonable proposition for them to make, but that was met with an equally decided refusal. The Duke of Newcastle then made a counter proposal of his own, and he said, "If the matter is to be dealt with at all in this way, it must be by your handing me over your land, and my agreeing to give you out of the proceeds of that land, as it comes to be sold, so much per acre—not until you get your million,—but till you get £250,000." That was the proposal which he made, and to the Directors that seemed of course perfectly inadequate. However, they made thereupon a counter proposal, which was calculated to have obtained for them after the lapse of a certain time, if the sales went on as it might be hoped they would do, the sum of a million, of which they had spoken; and there were other points in the proposal. Well, this was under consideration when the Duke of Newcastle died, and he was succeeded by another minister. Then, at that point of time, I think it was that the first communication came from Canada, putting in a claim on their part, disputing the Company's title to a considerable