

wrongful course? If a licensed firm in England, the manager of an hotel, of a theatre, or the proprietor of cabs, or other trading firms, breaks an Act of Parliament, he is called to account, and dealt with accordingly; and wherefore is it, then, that the Government seems to rise above these Acts, and departs from this course, and, moreover, actually guarantees the Hudson's Bay Company the gratuity of £300,000, reservations of land, and compensation for losses resulting from the struggles which have ensued? In these respects has not the English Government now done what no former Government ever dreamed of? Besides, to include in the bargain of the transfer reservations of land, must be also regarded as tantamount to the consolidation of obstacles—instead of their removal—for opening and settling those magnificent regions with British subjects from the surplus of our home population, for it is now generally admitted that the interests of the Fur-trading Company are entirely opposed to all such enterprises.

Moreover, the transfer is clearly illegal. It is now pretty well known that the Hudson's Bay Company could not give a legal title* to a single lot of land in that territory, still less could it legally convey the whole of it to Canada, and on such a footing the Canadian Government cannot legally convey that land to

* See Act 42 Geo. III., c. 138, and 1 and 2 Geo. IV., cap. 66, the last simply recognising the Hudson's Bay Company as traders under a license for a term of years. The charter of Charles II., 1670, was not sanctioned by Parliament when first granted, nor was it ever renewed after the Act of William and Mary was obtained "for seven years and no longer;" and the Government, through the Right Honourable J. Stansfeld, M.P., &c., has admitted, in the recent debates on that country in Parliament, that even the power of trading in Red River and the Saskatchewan territories was not possessed by the Hudson's Bay Company:—how, then, could the Hudson's Bay Company, not having the less power, presume to exercise the greater—that of transferring those tracts of land, and enforcing their own peculiar government over the people out there?