

strongly illustrative of the Company's love of commerce, and its desire to develop the resources of the immense territories committed to its charge. In 1842-3 this gentleman, by way of experiment, sent a small quantity of tallow to London in one of the Company's vessels, this being probably the very first consignment of anything but furs, ever made from the Company's territories. The speculation answered beyond his hopes; and next year, he sent a much larger quantity to York Factory, for shipment to England. The Company however refused to take it; it remained at the Factory, under one pretext or other, for two years; and it was then sold to the Company at prime cost. The secret of the refusal was, that this too enterprising merchant had had the audacity to join his brother settlers in a memorial to the British Government, complaining of grievances and praying for redress.

The regulations under which some little traffic is permitted are scarcely credible. Here is a sample of them:—by an order of the Governor and Council of Rupert's Land, dated June 10th, 1845, it is graciously provided that, once in every year, any British subject, resident, and not being a fur trafficker, may import, free of duty, goods of the value of £10, for his own exclusive use. But the liberality of the Company does not stop here, for, once every year, any British subject, qualified as aforesaid, and personally accompanying them, may import, duty free, goods to the value of £50, under similar restrictions. All other imports are subjected to a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*; but the Governor may exempt from this duty all such importers as may be “reasonably believed by him to have neither trafficked in furs themselves since the 8th of December, 1844, nor enabled others to do so by illegally and improperly supplying them with trading articles of any description.” Thus, this knot of private individuals claims a power not possessed by the Queen and her Government,—that of levying taxes without consent of parliament, and it exercises that power with a special view to the maintenance of its own monopoly.

#### WHAT THE COMPANY HAS DONE FOR COLONIZATION.

The territories under the sway of the Company, by charter and by license, might have afforded homes to hundreds of