

their territory, without which the means of carrying on a commerce there could not legally exist.

With respect to the second point, the limits of the Hudson's Bay territory, some have laid it down as a rule, which they have also dignified with the name of a "principle," that the king could not grant a territory, which at the time of the grant belonged to and was in the undisturbed occupancy of the subjects of another Sovereign. It would be useless to make any observations on such a position, until it be shewn how it will apply to the territory granted in 1670 by the Hudson's Bay Charter. It has indeed been said, that the territory was claimed by France; but it will not surely be insisted that all that has been claimed by France, therefore belonged to France, or was in its actual possession. It has been related that two French Travellers, Mr. Radesson and De Grozelliars, were the first who approached Hudson's Bay by Land; and after visiting the country, these persons returned to France, with an account of their discoveries, which were considered of so little estimation there, as to produce no steps towards the occupation of the country. Finding themselves and their enterprizes thus neglected in France, it is related that these gentlemen travelled to England, where their representations proved more effectual than they had done in their own country, and were the cause of an Expedition being fitted out for Hudson's Bay, under one Gillam, who erected the first Fort in that country, and gave occasion to the Grant of the Hudson's Bay Charter itself. Even if
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