

British Possessions in North America, which are under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, or over which they possess a license to trade."

This resumption of the inquiry, at the earliest possible period, in the new parliament is a sign good or bad according to the animus with which it is undertaken by the Government. The object may be to arrive promptly at a solution satisfactory to the nation; or it may be to hurry over the inquiry, and renew the privileges of the Company before it is generally suspected that such a proceeding is contemplated. Either way, it is essentially requisite that the public mind should be enlightened as to the immensity of the stake at issue, and the public demand for justice unequivocally expressed, in order that both Government and Parliament may be kept to their duty. The parties to the great suit now pending are the People of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies on the one-hand, and a small body of "merchant adventurers," as they call themselves, on the other: the interests involved are those of the mother country and her North American colonies, of law and justice—of civilization, Christianity and humanity, one and all of which have been ignored, during a period of nearly two hundred years, for an end utterly contemptible in itself, viz. the private gain of the "merchant adventurers" aforesaid, that is to say, of holders of Hudson's Bay Stock.

In order to show the necessity for watchfulness and popular action now, it may be well to describe what took place some ten years ago, when an attempt was made to obtain a similar inquiry, and made in vain. A memorial from nearly a thousand British subjects inhabiting the Red River Settlement, a portion of the Company's *dominions*, was then presented to the British Government, or rather to the Colonial Department, at the head of which was Earl Grey. The correspondence of the Colonial Office with the delegates from the Red River Settlement, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and other persons, extending from the beginning of 1847 to the middle of 1850, is detailed in the Parliamentary Papers No. 227 of Session 1849, and No. 542 of Session 1850. The Memorialists preferred the gravest charges against the Company; they utterly denied the legality of the rights