

motive was alleged to be a desire to promote "the public good." A brief consideration of what the Company has done in furtherance of objects each far transcending in importance the trade in furs, may not be uninteresting.

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

The other "considerable commodities" in which a most extensive trade might have been developed more than half a century ago, are tallow, hides, horns, wool, and minerals of various kinds. The prairies of the Red River and Saskatchewan are covered with immense herds of buffaloes, red-deer, and wild horses; and the country being admirably adapted for the growth of hemp and flax, is capable of producing all the raw produce we now import from Russia; but as to these, and as to corn and provisions, of which quantities almost unlimited might have been produced but for the deadly Upas of its monopoly, the Company has played, and still plays, the part of the dog in the manger, neither trading nor producing itself, nor permitting others to do so. Its own traffic outwards is limited to skins,—inwards to articles for its own use, or for barter with the Indians. It possesses the exclusive privilege of import and export in its own vessels; and will not permit any other ships than its own, to enter the bay, either for trading purposes, or to fish in its waters, where whales and seals abound. No British subject resident in Rupert's Land, the Indian Territories, or Vancouver's Island, can buy or sell furs from or to any body but the Company. It allows some persons to import goods, but only in its own ships, and only by license, which is never granted to persons interfering in any way with the fur trade, or not submitting to such regulations, and paying such duties, as the Company thinks proper to impose. The charge made by the Company for the conveyance of goods from York Factory to the Red River settlement is 20s per 90lbs, or £24 2s 2d per ton, which makes altogether, a freight of upwards of £33 per ton from London. Hence prices are greatly enhanced, sugar and rice for example, being 1s per lb, and salt 1s per quart. One of the results is, that the settlers procure manufactured goods from the America frontiers, instead of from England, which they can do at about half the price. The case of Mr. James Sinclair, one of the settlers at Red River, is