

What con-sid-er-a-tion was given to the King by the real "merchant adventurers," for this extensive transfer, beyond the promise of the "two elks and" the "two black beavers," or how Prince Rupert and the other Lords, who certainly never made any discoveries, or dreamt of degrading themselves by entering into trading transactions, were compensated for the loan of their names and interest, does not appear. In all probability his Majesty's coffers, always craving and generally emptied almost as soon as filled, were replenished with a handsome bonus down, in addition to a liberal allotment of free shares; and it is not unlikely that the same favours were extended to the princely and noble sleeping partners in the concern. But these are matters of very secondary importance;—for, whatever he got for it, these three facts are demonstrable, 1st, that King Charles gave away what he had no right to give; 2nd, that from this grant he expressly excluded much which the Company now claims under it; and 3rd, that he invested the Company with powers which he did not himself possess.

As to the first fact, conceding the point that the Crown can make grants of waste lands in the colonies, there never was any pretence that it can give away a whole colony, or, as in this case, territory sufficient for the establishment of many colonies, to any private individuals. But, supposing that the Crown had such power, King Charles did not give to the Company a tithe of what it now claims under his gift. It has been seen that he expressly excepted all territories possessed by the subjects of any other Christian Prince or State. Now, at the date of the charter, and long before, far the greater part of the existing "Rupert's Land" was precisely in this condition. In the year 1598, seventy-two years before the date of the English charter, Henry IV. of France appointed the Sieur de la Roche his Lieut. Governor over the countries of "Canada, Hochelaga, Terresneuves, Labrador, and the river of the great bay of Norrembegue." In 1627, forty-three years before the date of the Hudson's Bay Charter, the French King granted to "The Company of New France," otherwise the Fur Company of Québec,—the rights of property, justice and lordship in Canada, and along the coasts to Florida and the Arctic Circle; describing the boundaries as being, on the West, the Pacific