

## THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

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The constitution of this Company, and the question whether its monopoly is to be abolished or continued, which is shortly to be decided by the Legislature, involve consequences so momentous, nationally, commercially, and financially, that the COUNCIL of the FINANCIAL REFORM ASSOCIATION are of opinion that they cannot better discharge their duty to their constituents and the country than by assisting the efforts which have been made by various newspapers and periodicals to drag the company from the obscurity which, in common with all things evil, it has loved, and to expose its doings to the light of day. So monstrous are its privileges, so pernicious have been their results, that, in a country which professes to make justice its rule of action, and freedom of trade its policy, little more than such exposure is requisite to insure the extinction of those privileges, the redress of past grievances, so far as these are capable of being remedied, and the adoption of such measures as will prevent their recurrence for the future. To promote a "consummation" so "devoutly to be wished" is the object of the following pages.

The subject has never, until very recently, attracted a tithe of the attention which it deserves, either from parliament or the public. Not long ago the House of Commons was counted out when it was set down for discussion: and the public generally have known little of the Company beyond its name. Last session, however, the House of Commons did appoint a committee of inquiry, by which some valuable evidence was taken; but its further progress was interrupted by the dissolution. On Friday, the 8th of May last, the committee, comprising seventeen of the former members, was re-appointed, on the motion of Mr. Labouchere, the Colonial Secretary, "to consider the state of those