

to this article to discuss at any length, or even mention all those "forgotten worthies" who gave their time, and too often their lives, in exploring this coast. In many instances their only monuments are the names which they have left scattered up and down the shores of the Pacific. There is much to be admired in the characters of these rugged old sea dogs who braved the dangers of the unknown deep in their frail vessels, with scanty accommodation, and faulty instruments, in the vague endeavour to satisfy the restless, adventurous

prosperous communities along the coast of Northwest America.

#### THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY AND COLONIAL DAYS.

The history of the Great Northwest from Hudson's Bay to the Pacific is indissolubly linked to that of the powerful corporation, which for so many years guided the destinies of this great wilderness. On the 16th of May, 1669, Charles II. conferred a royal charter on the "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into the Hudson's



Government House, New Westminster, in 1860.

spirit working within them. The spirit of the age in which they lived imbued them with a love of travel and adventure, which resulted in discoveries of vast importance to all mankind.

The search for the northwest passage, the desire for new and rich dominions by the rulers of the Old World; covetousness for the trade in the rich furs so greatly prized by all civilized nations; the thirst for gold; these were the potent causes that led to the exploration of these northern waters and resulted in the establishment of free and

Bay." This immense concern received many rights and privileges, the vast import of which was scarcely thought of when the grant was made.

By the terms of the charter, provisions were made for the election of a governor, of a deputy governor, and a committee of seven members, who were to have the direction of all voyages, sales, and other business of the company—for the election of new members—and for holding at particular periods a general court of the company. The first company and their successors were made lords pro-