

and thereby incorporated, and to the Governor and Company thereby created, made or erected, and to their successors, and to all governors, deputy governors, committees, and other members, officers and servants, of or upon the said governor and company for the time being, and their successors, or otherwise. **HOWSOEVER,** with and under such restraints and prohibitions, and subject and liable to such forfeitures and remedies for RECOVERING thereof, as in the said Charter are contained, shall from henceforth be good and effectual, and available in the law, and to all intents, constructions, and purposes to the aforesaid **NEW GOVERNOR AND COMPANY** and their successors for evermore, and shall and may be by the **NEW GOVERNOR AND COMPANY** and their successors from time to time for ever hereafter holden and enjoyed, and put in execution after and according to the form, words, sentences, purport, effect and true meaning of the said letters patent or Charter, and that as amply, fully, and largely, to all intents, constructions, and purposes, as if the same letters patent or Charter, and the general matters and things therein mentioned, and thereby granted or mentioned to be granted, were word for word recited and set down at large in this present Act of Parliament, any law, statute, usage, custom, or other matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding. **PROVIDED ALWAYS,** and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Governor and Company shall make at least two public sales of Coat Beaver in every year, and not exceeding four, and that they shall proportion the same into lots each of about 100*l.* sterling, but not exceeding 200*l.* value; and that in the intervals of public sales the said Company may not sell Coat Beaver by private contract, and at any lower price than it was set up at the last public sale, and that the Coat Beaver now in the Company's hands shall be liable to the same rules. **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT THIS ACT SHALL CONTINUE AND BE IN FORCE FOR THE TIME OF SEVEN YEARS, AND FROM THENCE TO THE END OF THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT AND NO LONGER."**

Mr. Robson gives the following account of the passing of the Act, which will be found to perfectly explain away any contradictions apparent in it:—

"It being alleged in the Committee [of the House of Commons], that the Company's Charter was confirmed by Act of Parliament, the Lords' and Commons' Journals were inspected, from which it appeared, that in 1690, the Company, sensible that they had no legal title to their monopoly, petitioned the Commons for a bill to confirm their Charter, upon account of the great losses they had sustained from the French, and their having no right to restrain English interlopers.

"Accordingly, a bill for a perpetual confirmation was brought into the House, but upon a petition against the bill from the furriers, and afterwards from the northern Colonies of America, some of which came too late to be heard, at the third reading a rider was