

We have taken the same into Consideration and have been attended by Council both in behalf of the Petitioners and the *Hudson's Bay* Company, who opposed the Petition as it interferes with their Charter.

The Petitioners insisted on two general Things.

That the Company's Charter was either void in its original Creation, or became forfeited by the Company's Conduct under it.

That the Petitioners have by their late Attempts to discover the North-west Passage, and Navigation in those Parts, merited the Favour petitioned for.

As to the first, the Petitioners endeavoured to shew that the Grant of the Country and Territories included in the Company's Charter was void, for the Uncertainty of its Extent being bounded by no Limits of Mountains, Rivers, Seas, Latitude or Longitude; and that the Grant of the exclusive Trade within such Limits as these were, was a Monopoly, and void on that Account.

With respect to both these, considering how long the Company have enjoyed and acted under this Charter, without Interruption or Encroachment, we cannot think it advisable for his Majesty to make any Express or implied Declaration against the Validity of it, until there has been some Judgment of a Court of Justice to warrant it; and the rather, because if the Charter is void in either respect, there is nothing to hinder the Petitioners from exercising the same Trade which the  
Company