

This thing, it is hoped, will not happen again, although the Honorable Edward Ellice (who is Lord Grey's brother-in-law) is still reported to be a large proprietor, deeply interested in the concerns of the Company; and, strange to say, his son (who is a Director of the Company) has again been appointed a member of the Committee, to whom the House of Commons has referred the investigation of the conduct and proceedings of the Company, thus being at once judge and party in the trial.

But a new Parliament is assembled, and it is to be hoped that few honorable Members will be found ready to sanction, by their votes, a repetition or imitation of the measures of 1849, provided only that they can be awakened to the merits of the question.

This Company trades in Furs and Peltries of all kinds, obtained from the Indian tribes; who, to the number, Mr. Ellice states, of about 300,000, roam over their immense territories. The mode of traffic is this. At points in the rivers throughout the country are established Posts, as they are called, which are more or less fortified places, all provided with ample munitions of war, some with cannon, whereto the natives bring the skins for sale. On these a value is fixed by the "gentleman in charge" of the place, and the price is paid in wooden counters, no coined money being allowed to circulate. In another room are exposed for sale a stock of blankets, cloth, guns, knives, pots, &c. &c., and for such of these things as he desires the simple savage pays his counters, until they are exhausted, the result being a profit on the goods thus bartered of at least two hundred per cent. to the Company, as appears from the evidence of an old employè of theirs, given before the late Committee. A more effective device for securing an absolute grinding monopoly was never invented.

Have the Company during the 180 years of their sway, formed any plan, or taken any steps to induce these wretched people, the instruments of their enormous gains, to adopt a more settled and comfortable mode of life? Have they sought to introduce some knowledge of agriculture, supplied seeds,