

The pamphlets published during the struggle are now extremely scarce. It was, of course, the policy of both parties to buy up and destroy all such mementoes of former feuds, now that they had become friends and allies, with one common interest. But the nature of the contest is sufficiently indicated in the following extract from a letter addressed by the Home Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company to Lord Glenelg, on the 10th of February 1837, when the united Company was soliciting that renewal of its licence for twenty-one years which it obtained in 1838 :—

“ It is unnecessary to say more of the eager competition into which this Association (the North West Company of Montreal) entered with the Hudson's Bay Company, for the trade of the Indian districts, or of the *scenes of demoralization and destruction of life and property* to which it led, further than to refer your Lordship to the ample details on this *revolting subject* in the Colonial department; to the agreements at last entered into by the rival companies to put an end to them, by the union of their interests in 1821; and to the Act of Parliament passed in the same year to give effect to that union, and to prevent the possibility of the recurrence of competition, by enabling the Crown to grant to the parties interested, a license for the exclusive trade, the only means of restraining violence and crime, and of maintaining order under the peculiar circumstances of the country and the case.” (*Parl. Paper, 547, Sess. 1842, p. 12.*)

The reader cannot but admire the cool impudence of the assertion, that “the *ONLY means of restraining violence and crime*” was to secure to the criminals the monopoly of the spoil for which they were contending against all the rest of their fellow-subjects; but it was quite in keeping with the character of the monopolists, and it seems to have passed muster at the Colonial Office. In this same document the Governor says, “One of the principal objects of the incorporation of this Company was the fur trade with the Indians inhabiting the territories ceded to them.” The Charter itself shows that the principal object was the discovery of a north west passage,—towards which the Company has done comparatively nothing; that another principal object was trade “in other considerable commodities;” and that the constraining