

would not be wise that he should take the opinion of some of those who have been on the north-west coast, and are acquainted with the character and proceedings of the Hudson's Bay Company, and can inform him what he may expect to meet with, should he put himself into their power. There are many officers in Her Majesty's navy who have no interest in the question one way or the other, and whose evidence is, at any rate, impartial, with whom he would do well to converse before he sails on his expedition.

With respect to the second letter which we have mentioned, there is one remark of great importance to be made. From the "Adventurer's" letter, it appears that, when the proposed charter, granting Vancouver's Island to the Company, was laid before the last meeting of the Adventurers, there were some doubts expressed as to the advantage which the Company was to gain by the bargain; that the Governor flew into a passion, and threatened to resign if any hesitation to sanction his negotiation were shown; and that a promise was given by the Governor and Directors, that the utmost economy should be practised in all the arrangements for promoting the Colony. Now, we have here one remarkable fact; that there is not a disposition on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company to invest any considerable amount of capital in the proposed undertaking. What, then, becomes of Earl Grey's and of Mr. Hawes' assertion, that the Hudson's Bay Company were the only parties who possessed anything like the means for carrying their proposal into effect? It does not appear that the Colonial-office were at all acquainted with the capital belonging to the Company, and still less with the portion of it which was forthcoming for the special object of Colonisation. Thanks to the prudent motion of Mr. Hume, we shall, early in next session, have some information as to the capital and resources and profits of the Company; but, in the meantime, we have this interesting paradox on which to speculate. The Secretary of State tells us, that the Hudson's Bay Company must have the Island, because they are the only persons rich enough to colonise it; and the Adventurers tell themselves (who don't seem to know so much of their own affairs as his Lordship does), that they are very doubtful whether they have funds enough; and they extort a promise from their excitable Governor, that as little shall be spent as possible.

If Earl Grey supposes that there are no other parties in this country who have an interest in colonising the North-west coast, or who are capable of doing it, he has made a blunder unusually great, even for his Lordship. Let it be known that the Privy Council refuses to confirm this grant; and a day will probably not elapse, without a sound scheme being set on foot. But, as long as there is known to be such a mysterious predilection on the part of the Colonial-office for the fur-traders; as long as it is left a matter of doubt, whether all the trouble would not be thrown away; so long, of course, no independent scheme will be organised. The delay and uncertainty which have distinguished the management of this affair, have already done harm enough. For example, will the public believe, that, at this moment, Messrs. Howland and Aspinwall, who four or five months ago would have made

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