

seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks, and sounds, in whatsoever latitude they shall be, that lie within the entrance of the Straits commonly called Hudson's Straits, together with all the lands and territories, coasts, and confines of the seas, bays, lakes, rivers, creeks, and sounds aforesaid, that are not already actually possessed by or granted to any of our subjects, or *possessed by the subjects of any other Christian Prince or State.*" This description seems vague and comprehensive enough, especially as its interpretation appears to have been left to the grantees, though there is one important exception, of which more anon. It did not however sufficiently correspond with his Majestys' magnificent spirit of generosity towards these highly favoured men, for in a subsequent part of the Charter, the grant is extended to "all havens, bays, creeks, rivers, lakes, and seas, into which they (the Company) *shall find entrance or passage, by water or land, out of the territories, limits, or places aforesaid,*" which, taken literally, may mean not only the whole continent of America, but the whole world, or at least, such portions of both as were not "possessed by the subjects of any other Christian Prince or State." All the earth was clearly accessible by land or water, from Hudson's Bay. Coupled with the grant, there was the reservation, that the territories thus handed over to private individuals, should "be from henceforth reckoned and reputed as one of our plantations or colonies in America, called Rupert's Land; " but the Governor and Company for the time being, and and in all time, were declared to be "true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the same territory," holding it as of the "manor of East Greenwich," and paying for it yearly "*two elk's and two black beavers,* whensoever and as often as we, our heirs and successors, shall happen to enter" into the said countries, territories, and regions hereby granted.

The dimensions of the snug little farm of Rupert's Land, and of the additional outlying territories handed over to the same proprietors, by the British Government, in 1821, may be ascertained by an inspection of the map, the use of which has been most handsomely granted for the illustration of this tract, by Mr. Isbister the holder of the copyright.