

brought this view under the consideration of the Board of the Company; but without effect. The reply practically amounted to this—that the fur-trade was remunerative and met all their desires. The Company had not, however, been content with a passive opposition. They were, in fact, in many forms the vigorous opponents of every effort to open up the country. The position was, therefore, this:—The Company apparently most interested in the success of the efforts he and others were contending for, were the most resolutely hostile to all those efforts. There appeared, therefore, but one alternative as a solution of this line of conduct. Either we must be entirely mistaken as to the value of the country and of the route, or tenure of that country by the Company was invalid. He had purposely confined himself as much as possible to the geographical investigation of the limits of Rupert Land, and had intentionally glanced as briefly as possible at the historical confirmation of the limits as he had sketched and believed them to be; but he hoped he had shown it to be beyond dispute that Rupert Land was held as a trust only, and that the object of that trust was identical with that which gave its present interest to the question, viz. the opening of a communication with the Pacific. He could not adopt the principle contended for by Dr. Twiss, that the inland navigations of North America came under the category of rivers. The great lakes were not the St. Lawrence. Under any circumstances all the interior country, as he had shown he trusted, sufficiently clearly, however briefly, came under the excepting clause. The Hudson Bay Company evidently had no claim to it; nor, until recently, had they advanced any under their charter. In 1817, when the Hudson Bay and the North-West Companies were brought face to face, the Hudson Bay Company made no pretension to monopoly; they did not call upon the Government to protect them: but the most peremptory instructions were sent by the Home and Colonial Governments that the conflicts of the Companies' servants were to be put a stop to, and all impediments raised on either side against any traders or others of the King's subjects were to be removed. If their monopoly dated from 1803, how could they claim it under their charter? The question could not be avoided, for the settlement of the coun-