

the Indian tribes took part on opposite sides, and were instigated by their *Christian* patrons to pillage and slaughter. Between the rivals there was a truculent paper warfare, as well as an actual one, in which each openly accused the other of the foulest crimes, robbery and murder being included in the catalogue. This state of things, so thoroughly disgraceful to people calling themselves Christians, continued for many years. At length the Hudson's Bay Company, finding it impossible to beat its rivals either by fair competition or downright force, and well knowing that any appeal to a court of law against the alleged interlopers would involve an inquiry into the validity of the Charter fatal to its pretensions, determined on compromise and coalition. By previous arrangement with its competitors, and with the aid of strong interest at the Colonial Office, enjoyed by both parties, an act of parliament was passed in 1821, the 1st and 2nd George IV. c 66, by which the Crown was empowered to grant to "*any* body corporate or company, person or persons, the exclusive privilege of trading within lands and territories not previously granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, or part of the United States," for a period of 21 years.

Under this act the Crown might have granted the privilege in question to any other Company, person, or persons, quite irrespective of the pretended rights of the Hudson's Bay Company; but it was an understood thing beforehand that it was to be given to the leading members of the North West Company, Messrs W. and S. Mc. Gillivray, and Mr. Edward Ellice, afterwards to be transferred to the Hudson's Bay Company, the two Companies coalescing. All this was done accordingly, and Messrs Mc. Gillivray and Ellice who had most patriotically denounced the claims and proceedings of the Hudson's Bay Company as opposed to all law and justice,—who had so manfully asserted the rights of free-trading and settlement on behalf of British subjects generally, and Canadians in particular,—forgot all previous professions, drowned the remembrance of fierce hostility, and stood forth, in their own behalf, and that of the Hudson's Bay Company, against all the rest of the world, as champions of that very monopoly which they had denounced as the very essence of injustice and oppression.