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Our fur-trade with the Indians, however, has certainly done infinitely more towards securing their friendship than all the other causes jointly considered.

This trade is principally carried on by a company of merchants, consisting of several establishments, but generally styled the North-West Company.

The concerns of this house have been so organized, and their plans and schemes of operation conducted upon such an extensive scale as to have extended their trade over a very large proportion of the continent of North America; even from the coast of Labradore nearly to the Pacific Ocean; and from the vicinity of Louisiana, almost to the Frozen Sea, which bounds the continent upon the North.

The trade carried on by this company with the Indians has been so industriously prosecuted and judiciously and honourably conducted as to have rendered it not only extremely profitable, but highly honourable to the company, from their having thereby secured to the British nation the friendly disposition of all the Indian nations, to whom their commercial intercourse has extended. For, in all their intercourse