

enough in the matter to throw their weight in the one scale or into the other. Apparently a very decided expression of the opinion of the Shareholders was given, that at that time it was not desirable to go into the policy of colonisation. Well, we found matters were going on in this way, and it had become a question what we were to do. At that moment it was quite obvious there were two policies open to the Company. They might have said, "Very well, the Duke of Buckingham has rejected these proposals, and put forward counter proposals which are inadmissible; we will throw them up and colonise ourselves." Or we might endeavour still to bring the matter to an amicable settlement, and looking to what appeared to have been the consistent policy of the Company—looking to what I believe to be the true interests of the Company—to act in cordial co-operation with Her Majesty's Government, upon whom, after all, we must depend; and looking also, as a member of the House of Commons, as I felt bound to do,—to the mode in which this matter would present itself to the House of Commons if it ever came before it, which it was sure to do,—I thought it was clearly our policy, and I gave my opinions to my brother Directors in that way very strongly, to answer the Colonial Office—to point out the objections to these proposals, and at the same time to make a fresh suggestion, which is contained in the letter, namely, that a simpler method of dealing with the question would be preferable, and that it would be better a sum of money should be paid us for the Company's rights. That led to the proposals which are now before the Meeting. It led, in the first place, to Lord Granville's communicating with the Canadian delegates now in this country. They sent in a long letter, throwing all sorts of dirt upon our title, calumniating us in every possible way, and I cannot say that letter is calculated to produce a very favourable impression. But at the same time, as a matter of business, it does not do to be affronted.