

compared with the monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company, now about to be, like them, abolished, if there be honesty in parliament, or common sense in the British people.

PROFESSED OBJECTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY.

The Company's Charter of incorporation is dated May 2nd, 1670, in the 22nd year of King Charles the Second. It is given at length in the parliamentary paper No. 547, sess. 1842. The preamble states that certain persons, seventeen in number, to wit, Prince Rupert, Christopher Duke of Albemarle, William Earl of Craven, Henry Lord Arlington, Antony Lord Ashley, Sir John Robinson, Sir Robert Vyner, Sir Peter Calleton, Sir Edward Hungerford, Sir Paul Kneele, Sir John Griffith, Sir Philip Carteret, James Hayes, John Kirke, Francis Millington, William Prettyman, and John Fenn, Esquires, and John Portman, citizen and goldsmith, "have, at their own great cost and charges, undertaken an expedition to Hudson's Bay, in the North West part of America, for *the discovery of a new passage into the South Sea*, and for the finding of some trade, for furs, *minerals and other considerable commodities* ; and by such their undertaking have already made such discoveries, as to encourage them to proceed further in pursuance of their said design, by means whereof there may probably arise very great advantage to us and our kingdom"; and had therefore petitioned for a charter of incorporation. On these considerations, his Majesty "being desirous" to promote all endeavours tending to "*the PUBLIC GOOD*," proceeds to incorporate the persons aforesaid, under the title of "the Governor and Company of adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay," with "perpetual succession" and all customary corporate privileges,—appointing Prince Rupert the first Governor thereof, and seven of the other petitioners the first Committee.

WHAT WAS GRANTED TO THE COMPANY.

Never was such a gift as that made by King Charles to Prince Rupert and Co., and to their successors to the end of time. The Charter confers upon them "the sole trade and commerce of all those