

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY TO LORD CLARENDON.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,

*February 28th, 1854.*F. O.
Russia
Domestic.
Vol. 452.
1854.
February 28.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter which has been received from the Russian American Company.

It would be satisfactory to the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company if some such arrangement as that suggested could be made, as it would relieve them from anxiety and risk.

The Russian American Company have a considerable military force, as well as several armed vessels, at their establishment of Sitka, which they also employ in the prosecution of their trade with the Indians. The Hudson's Bay Company have only servants employed in their trade with the Indians, and dispersed over the country, and they have large depôts of goods at Vancouver's Island and at their establishments on the coasts of the mainland, without military or other sufficient protection against foreign attack, excepting that which is afforded by Her Majesty's cruisers.

Having communicated these facts, I am instructed to submit the matter to the consideration of your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government, and shall feel obliged by the communication of your Lordship's determination that the Hudson's Bay Company may be enabled to give an answer to the letter of the Russian American Company.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

A. COLVILE,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Clarendon,

&c., &c., &c.

ENDORSED—Hudson's Bay Company.

D. 28th *February*, 1854.,

„ 2nd *March*.

[1 ENCLOSURE.]

Letter from the Russian American Company suggesting strict *neutrality* between that and the Hudson's Bay Company in case of a war between Great Britain and Russia.