

monopoly in the world—that they have already enormous possessions, which they have never dreamed of colonising—that it is their especial interest, in the present instance, to prevent the foundation of a Colony, because it would interfere with their monopoly of the fur trade, and of the export trade in manufactured articles—despite of the vast importance of a Colony being established in the Pacific without delay, and of the singularly favourable coincidence of events which would facilitate the foundation of a settlement there at the present time, arising from the demand for coal—despite of all this, the Hudson's Bay Company are to have the island, and to do what they please with it.

Whig Colonial Ministers were not always of the same opinion. When Lord Glenelg was in office, in the year 1838, the Hudson's Bay Company applied for a renewal of the license of trade, which had been granted to them in 1821, under the Act 1 and 2 Geo. IV., c. 66. Lord Glenelg determined on recommending the Crown to renew that licence without requiring any rent, but insisted on the insertion in the charter of a clause reserving to the Crown the right of revoking the privileges granted, over any part of the country in which a Colony should be founded. Lord Glenelg expressly states his opinion to the Committee of Trade of the Privy Council, that should such a Colony ever be founded, the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company ought to cease, as far as the country occupied by the Colony was concerned. But not only does there seem to be no inclination on the part of the Government to put an end to the privileges of the Company in Vancouver's Island, but, as we are credibly informed, these powers are to be increased in a most unusual manner. The land, mines, &c., are to be given to them, and they are to be permitted to appoint their own Governor for the Colony which they promise to form in the island.

We can understand the Crown resigning its right of appointing its own representative, when there is some definite and specific advantage to be gained by so doing. We can understand the appointment being given to the Colonists themselves, from the idea that they will select one of themselves—a man who has their interests at heart, and who understands their wants. But why this right, of which the Crown is so peculiarly tenacious, should be resigned to a Company, who have just as little interest as the Colonial Office itself in sending a proper man to the Colony—why this novel mode of election should be adopted, containing all the evils of the present system, and none of its advantages—all this is beyond our comprehension.

And what are the Company to do for all this? What is its peculiar function, standing, as it will, in an intermediate position between the Colony and the Mother-country? The Colonial Office will reply, "They are to colonise the island; and a Colony is what is wanted!"

Let us inquire whether they will colonise the island, and how they will do it? It is necessary to relate some facts. A company was formed some few years ago, called "The Puget's Sound Agricultural Association." It seems to be one form or phase of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is a kind of co-ordinate or supplementary company to the other. And as all or most of the members of the one are members of the other, and the governors of the one are governors of the other, we may fairly assume that there will be a corresponding identity in their