

which they proposed to adopt for the better administration of justice, submitted to the consideration of the Law Officers of the Crown, no step has yet been taken on the subject; at least, if the Attorney and Solicitor-General have given an opinion, it has been withheld from those who are best entitled to know it,—from the Company, who, under a Royal Charter, are entrusted with the rights and duties of guardians of the peace. The effect of this, in the actual circumstances of the country, has been, to suspend altogether the exercise of the jurisdiction granted by the Charter, and to deprive the inhabitants of the Company's territory of the benefit of any administration of justice whatever. In the mean time, the North-West Company maintain their claims by force; and, under the never-failing pretext of retaliation, commit every species of outrage.

It appears, that the Colonial Department has been impressed with the notion, that all the violences committed at Red River, and in other parts of the interior, have arisen from contentions of commercial interest, and mutual aggression between the contending parties.—Of these two parties, however, the one outnumbers the other in the proportion of nearly three to one; and it would be extravagant to suppose, that a system of aggression would be adopted by the weaker party. Neither can it be supposed that men who entertained plans of lawless aggression, would have made anxious and repeated applications to His Majesty's Government for military protection. On the other hand, the objections made to that measure by the North-West Company, ought