

the administration of law, and the maintenance of a regular police,—and that every step towards civilized order would have a tendency to overturn that system, by which they were enabled to direct the combined force of their servants to illegal purposes. It was natural, therefore, that the North-West Company should look upon colonization as undermining the very foundation of their monopoly.

It may be established by indisputable evidence, that the determination of the North-West Company to frustrate, at any expense, my attempt to form a settlement in the interior, was taken before the arrival of the first colonists in that country,—long before the date of those occurrences, which they now pretend to have been the original cause of all the disturbances, and even before any of those alleged acts of mutual aggression, which have been so much dwelt upon, could possibly have occurred. Attempts have been made to excuse, on the ground of retaliation, not merely the robberies, but the murders, committed by the North-West Company, as being the errors and indiscretions of inconsiderate young men, acting under the impulse of irritation. Such men may, in many cases, have been put forward as the ostensible actors; but these crimes have been deliberately planned, directed, and sanctioned by Partners of the Company, some of whom acted at the time as magistrates for the Indian territory.—Is the plea of retaliation to be admitted as a vindication for the conduct of men who thus take upon themselves systematically to avenge wrongs, for which the laws of their country would have afforded means of redress? With the