

relish one of the grossest misstatements of which Mr. Bancroft is guilty, and I shall, therefore, go to the trouble of citing it *in extenso* and then of giving the true version of the occurrence. The following is Mr. Bancroft's version: "During the summer of 1850 a case occurred at Fort Rupert, while yet John Sebastian (Helmcken) wore ermine, which casts dark reproach, both upon the Hudson's Bay Company and the officers of the Imperial Government, and which tended in nowise to reconcile Blanchard to his anomalous position. The ship England, on her way from the southern coast to Fort Rupert for coals, stopped at Victoria for sailors, the vessel being short of hands. The California gold excitement was everywhere raging, and sailors willingly risked their lives to free themselves from service. From one of the Company's vessels, then lying at Victoria, three men deserted to the England, which then continued her way to Fort Rupert. Meanwhile notice was sent to Fort Rupert of the deserters, who thereupon became frightened, left the England and took to the woods, intending to join the vessel at another port. Indians were sent in pursuit with orders from Blenkinsop, then acting for the Company at Fort Rupert, to bring in the deserters dead or alive. Four days afterwards the Indians returned and claimed the reward, saying that they had killed them all. It was true. The sailors had been shot down in the forest by savages set upon them by an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company. Blenkinsop gave directions to have buried the bodies of the murdered men where they lay, and let the matter be hushed, but Muir insisted that they should be buried at the Fort, and it was done. Very naturally the colliers were furious. \* \* \* \* \* About a month after the murderous affair H. M. S. Dædalus, Captain Wellesley, arrived at Victoria, when the Governor went on board and proceeded at once to Fort Rupert. Now mark the course of justice pursued by the officers of the Imperial Government. Instead of proceeding against the instigators of the murder and arresting the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, as they should have done, they direct the full force of their vengeance against the natives. Helmcken, the newly-fledged magistrate, cognizant of the whole affair, and well knowing who were the guilty persons, and what hand he himself had in it, goes to the Newitsee Camp, twelve miles distant, and loudly demands the surrender of the murderers. The savages acknowledge the murder, but plead that they were only executing orders. Truer to