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MANITOBA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WINNIPEG, Feb. 8, 1873.

The main street of Winnipeg is not a long, continuous one like King street, Toronto, but throughout, extending, as it does, nearly a mile north-ward from Fort Garry, consists for the most part of detached buildings, the intervals between which are rapidly becoming narrower and narrower. In the centre of that portion of the street which is most closely built up, and nearly opposite to Davis's Hotel, stands a good sized frame building, with a garden or yard in front of it, and a flagstaff of huge proportions on its roof. This is the Parliament House of Manitoba.

On Wednesday last this building was the centre of attraction, and, although 3 o'clock was the hour appointed for the arrival of the Governor and the opening of the House, long before that time arrived a large crowd had assembled both within and without the doors, all apparently anxious to lose nothing of the approaching spectacle. Here were men of almost every nation, brawny Scotchmen, cool, calm, passive Englishmen, crowds of half-breeds, noticeable at once by their small, supple forms, dark restless eyes, and long black hair. Nor was poor Jo. unrepresented, though truth compels me to admit that any one who had accepted Cooper's portraits of the North American Indian as correct would have scarcely been able to recognize his ideal in the small sized and decidedly dirty looking individuals who, wrapped in blankets of no particular colour, paced, twith anything but "lordly strides" up and down before the gates of "Parliament Square." I may mention, however, as present, that among the Indian tribes of the North-west, and especially among the Sioux, nearly a thousand of whom are now encamped within seventy miles of Winnipeg, can be found some as fine specimens of manly beauty as ever Cooper has portrayed.

To return, however, to the opening of the Legislature. At 3 o'clock the First Parliament of Manitoba was formally opened by the Governor, in the large frame building of which I have already spoken, which serves for a Legislative Assembly—a very bare and comfortably furnished apartment, with ample accommodation for the Speaker and the twenty-four members of the House, with a gallery capable of accommodating sixty or seventy persons. The seats and desks of the members are modelled after those at Ottawa. On the right of the Speaker's chair are the seats of the members of the Local Government, the Hon. Attorney-General Clarke; Hon. Mr. Howard, Provincial Treasurer; Hon. Mr. Royal, Provincial Secretary; and Hon. Mr. Norquay, Minister of Agriculture and Public Works. The President of the Council, the Hon. Mr. Mackay, is Speaker of the Legislative Council.

Retracing our steps into the entrance hall once more, and entering the door on the left hand, we find ourselves in the Chamber of the Legislative Council. This is a very small apartment, however well adapted for the accommodation of the members of that Upper House, of whom there are only seven, it certainly is not fit for the purpose for which it was used on Wednesday last, and, I believe, for which, until the new public buildings are built, the ceremony of opening and proroguing the Provincial Legislature will take place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

At the east end of the room opposite the door is a handsome chair of state, placed beneath a tastefully drawn canopy of scarlet. On the right hand of the throne, and placed as closely as possible, as many of the ladies of the Province as could possibly obtain seats in the space, stood for nearly two hours on Wednesday last. There were pretty faces and pretty dresses in that crowd, no doubt, and have done discredit to a similar occasion in Upper Canada. But the faces were ruined and silken tresses disordered in the crowd, and bright eyes grew a little dim and a little tearful, ere the long-looked-for gubernatorial party made their appearance.

At a quarter before three, a guard of honour, consisting of about a twenty-first of the Provisional Battalion, with the band, and their splendid uniforms, took up their position in front of the building, the sun was shining with dazzling brilliancy, the air was beautifully balmy, the bayonets of the rifles, the formidable sword bayonets and bright accoutrements of the troops, shone brightly, while the appearance of the men, their steady bearing and excellent discipline gave a little lustre to the military pride.

Soon from various points along the line of the main street, which is almost the only street, a little south of the Parliament buildings, a long string of British ensigns took, with their folds, the place of Governor Grantham's "Cocked hat." Together with the ensigns of Britain, I thought I saw the Stars and Stripes floating, and, if I recollect aright, the ensign of the Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Waltham Company, Waltham Watch Company, Waltham Watch Company, Waltham Watch Company. Rivers should be Waltham. These watches in Gold and Silver, Gentlemen's, and Ladies'.

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