

While the *Dædalus* was at Fort Rupert, Governor Blanchard held a court of inquiry, but after hearing the evidence he gave a very enigmatical decision. The fact was that in his first despatches to the Imperial Government, concerning the affair, which he had sent before he left Victoria, were based on *ex parte* statements, and when he came to enquire into the matter he found his error; an error, however, which he did not choose to acknowledge in view of the unfavorable light in which such an admission would undoubtedly have placed him. He made no complaints whatever of the conduct of Mr. Blenkinsop or Dr. Helmcken in the affair, and as Blanchard was inimical to the Hudson's Bay Company, he certainly would not have omitted to censure the officers of the company had there been any reasonable grounds so to do.

Now between these two accounts of the same occurrence it is left to the honest reader to judge which is the true one. It may be said that Mr. Bancroft's account was obtained from Muir, the man who is supposed to have written the letter which misled Governor Blanchard, and who has since died of disease of the brain. Mr. Bancroft made no attempt to verify the account, although there are men still living who were present at Fort Rupert during the whole trouble, and who could have set him right, not only on this, but on other matters. I may also say that I have sifted the matter thoroughly and give the facts as I found them. I would not have troubled the reader with this exposure of Mr. Bancroft's method of writing history, had I not, as I have said, found the account of this particular affair quoted elsewhere. The book, however, is full of such misrepresentations and, it will be admitted that when a writer allows his prejudices thus to warp his judgment and color his entire narrative, he simply shows his unfitness to write history.

Another book which I feel compelled to mention, owing to the fact that it has obtained in British Columbia a circulation far beyond its deserts, is that entitled "*A Story of Metlakathla*," by Henry S. Wellcome. This highly-colored romance is "dedicated to the cause of Justice, Truth and Humanity," and, as it is nothing more or less than a plea to the people of the United States for pecuniary assistance to a village of discontented Indians, the moral virtues which are thus called upon to become its sponsors are presumably those which have become so popular throughout the American Republic. This book tells "a story of outrage upon, and cruelty to, a civilized