

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

We cannot, therefore, consider without serious apprehension the state of confusion and distress which must ensue when the vast numbers now swelling the tide of immigration shall have settled on these shores, should the present restrictions imposed upon trade by the Hudson's Bay Company continue in force.

2d.—We beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the great inconvenience that is suffered by all classes, and by the mining community in particular, for the want of a reliable steam communication between this port and the mining districts; a want which has already caused the loss of many valuable lives. Such a state of things is deplorable in this age, and the more to be regretted when we consider that the means of supplying this want are at hand, and freely offered, but are rejected by the exclusive policy of the Hudson's Bay Company.

It was with great satisfaction that the public heard that on the 5th instant your Excellency had given permission to the American steamers, "Surprise" and "Sea Bird," to carry passengers from this port up Fraser's River, but it heard with deep regret that this permission was given for one trip only.

3d.—We would especially point out for your Excellency's most serious consideration how highly injurious is this state of things to the interests and progress of this important Colony. Many British subjects have recently come here, anxious to make this their home, and have invested in property to a considerable amount, and numbers of their friends are only waiting their advices to follow; but they find their ardour damped and their operations checked by the monopolizing policy of the Hudson's Bay Company. In the meantime, thousands of our countrymen from California are daily passing this beautiful island to settle upon American soil, because they see no fair field offered for their enterprise under the British flag.

We feel assured that your Excellency will at once perceive that in bringing the objects of this memorial so prominently before you we are actuated solely by an earnest desire to advance the interests of this Colony, by providing for the welfare of settlers, and holding out inducements to early immigration, convinced that this is only to be obtained by the speedy adoption of the liberal measures embodied in the Resolution we have submitted.

Requesting that your Excellency will favour us with an early reply,

We have, &c.

Victoria, V. I.,
June 9, 1858.

(Signed by) JAMES YATES.
(And five other persons.)

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. LORD STANLEY, M.P.

(No. 26.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island,
June 15, 1858.

(Received August 9, 1858.)

(Answered, No. 8, August 14, 1858, page 47.)

MY LORD,

1. IN reporting the other day the result of my observations on the Gold Regions of Fraser's River, I omitted to mention several things which I ought to have communicated to you.

2. In consequence of that omission I have now to state that during my stay at the Falls of Fraser's River I appointed Mr. Richard Hicks, a respectable Englishman engaged in mining pursuits there, as Revenue officer for the district of Fort Yale, at a salary of 40*l.* a year, to be paid out of the Revenues of the country.

3. On the arrival of our party at "Hill's Bar," the white miners were in a state of great alarm on account of a serious affray which had just occurred with the native Indians, who mustered under arms in a tumultuous manner, and threatened to make a clean sweep of the whole body of miners assembled there.

4. The quarrel arose out of a series of provocations on both sides, and from the jealousy of the savages, who naturally feel annoyed at the large quantities of gold taken from their country by the white miners.

5. I lectured them soundly about their conduct on that occasion, and took the leader in the affray, an Indian highly connected in their way, and of great influence, resolution, and energy of character, into the Government service, and found him exceedingly useful in settling other Indian difficulties.

6. I also spoke with great plainness of speech to the white miners, who were nearly all foreigners, representing almost every nation in Europe. I refused to grant them any rights of occupation to the soil, and told them distinctly that Her Majesty's Government ignored their very existence in that part of the country, which was not open for the purposes of settlement, and they were permitted to remain there merely on sufferance; that no abuses would be tolerated; and that the laws would protect the rights of the Indian, no less than those of the white man.