

The government of Gladstone and Bright will not, it is quite certain, reverse the liberal policy of the empire in order to place McDougall and a few other Canadian politicians into uncomfortable places among a people who don't want them. On the contrary, it is almost certain that the English government will refuse to sanction any measure of coercion which Canada might wish to employ in obtaining possession of the Northwest Territory.

Then what is Canada going to do about it? There are but two things she can do. One is to treat with the insurgents and accept such conditions as they choose to impose upon her, if indeed they will accept her rule on any terms; and the second is to back square out of the bargain by which the country was ceded to her by the Hudson's Bay Company, or rather by the British government, and refuse to pay the price stipulated for the purchase on the very sufficient ground that the Hudson's Bay Company or the British government, acting as principal in the transaction, was unable to deliver the goods according to the terms of the bargain.

We recommend the latter course to Canada as by far the most advantageous to her own exchequer and her general material interests. Let her make a virtue of necessity and say to England that she does not want these sour grapes which hang so far beyond her reach. She will thus avoid the humiliation of another defeat at the hands of Riel and his French half-breeds, and of having her representatives marched out of the country with a half-breed guard, under the Caudine Forks of Stinking River. And in the mean time, whenever the people of the Northwest Territory, after having successfully vindicated their liberties and maintained their independence against Canada, shall declare themselves in favor of annexation to the United States, the United States, they may rest assured, will welcome them with open arms, and England will gladly avail herself of such a providential opportunity to settle the Alabama claims with the cession to the United States of a country whose destinies God has indissolubly wedded to ours by geographical affinities which no human power can sunder, as He has divorced it from Canada by physical barriers which no human power can overcome.

X.—COMMENTS BY THE ENGLISH PRESS.

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AFFAIRS ON THE RED RIVER.

The difficulty at the Red River seems to have assumed a very serious aspect; that is, in no degree serious in itself, but serious from the international complications to which it may possibly lead. We must premise that the accounts which we receive from the States, as well as those from Canada, of the events taking place there are very little to be depended on. The Red River settlement is a little half-cultivated oasis in the middle of a waste of frozen marshes and prairies. News from thence has to travel some hundred miles before it reaches the nearest point connected by railway with the rest of the world. Its climate at this time of the year is exceptionally severe. The Canadian papers naturally give the most favorable view of affairs, the American the most unfavorable. But we are forced to admit that up to the present time the latter seem to be nearest the truth. The hopes which we entertained at first of a speedy termination of the present outbreak, through the recovery of the loyal part of the community from their first surprise, must apparently be laid aside for the present. We must be content to look on the affair from its worst side, as at all events the more probable.

It seems that the discontented party, consisting mainly of the French half-breeds, descendants of the old "voyageurs," are masters for the present of Fort Garry and the other scattered posts on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Governor McDougall, who had been sent from Canada to take possession in its behalf, has abandoned the settlement and made his way out of it by the only practicable exit—which, unfortunately, is that through the American State of Minnesota. Report—but then the report comes from American sources—alleges that he had employed Colonel Dennis as his agent to stir up the neighboring Indian tribes, clients in former days of the Hudson's Bay Company, to assist him in subduing the revolt. Of this we may at present believe as much as we please, until more trustworthy information is procurable. It takes ten days for news from Pembina, on the American frontier nearest Fort Garry, to reach St. Paul, in Minnesota, from whence it makes its way both to Canada and to us. Thus much, however, appears clear: That fears of an Indian attack, whether well founded or only instigated by malevolence, have excited to a high pitch the suspicious anger of the triumphant half-breeds. Captain Dennis is said to have escaped; but forty-five of his principal abettors were captured by the insurgents; four detained as hostages, the remainder "banished," which banishment seems to have consisted in packing them across the frontier into Minnesota, and wishing them a good journey to Canada. The