

evils which the great contest in which she is engaged, and the chance of war, may throw upon us, as becomes the character of British subjects and the obligations of a favoured people. We are aware of the important duties which the storm that now seems bending its course towards this hitherto peaceful and happy region, may require; and we are prepared to discharge them with no common energy, and with no ordinary exercise of that loyalty which we profess.

And the Legislative Assembly was not less emphatic. It said:—

Should the wise measures and magnanimous conduct of the Prince Regent, fail to operate a change in the unfriendly disposition and hostile character of the Government of the United States, sensible as we are that it will require no common energy to withstand these effects and perform the important duties which will devolve upon us, we confidently assure your Excellency, that in the loyalty, unanimity, and zeal of his Majesty's Canadian subjects, you will find resources, under the protection of Divine Providence, fully adequate to the crisis."

The Canadian people were, unhappily, soon after called upon to give effect to these professions of loyalty, and their conduct showed how sincere those professions were.

#### HUDSON'S BAY TO MONTREAL.

On the 9th March, 1812, there is a paragraph announcing the arrival in Montreal of Mr. McNab, late chief officer at Surrat, one of the Hudson Bay Company's factories, with three companions, after an arduous journey of seventy-six days. They had come from Moose Fort Factory, at the head of James Bay, "to inform the Hudson Bay Company "through the channel of the American ports, of the safety of their ship, "the Prince of Wales, which sailed from "Moose road on the 10th of October last for "England; and after proceeding on her voyage for several days was driven back by "contrary winds and dreadfully cold weather, attended with snow, which gave the "ship the appearance of a pyramid of ice, "and consequently made her nearly ungovernable. But, however, from the attention "and remarkable perseverance of Captain "Hanwell and his crew, she was providentially conducted into Stratton's Sound, "where Captain James wintered many years "ago." That seventy-six days' journey can now be made with great comfort in less than one-sixth of the time; and in a few years, when the Hudson's Bay Railway is completed, and regular lines of steamships are carrying from the ports of the bay the produce of the Great Northwest, the journey of Mr. McNab and his companions will be to us

what the journeys of the early voyagers up the St. Lawrence and through the Canadian lakes are to us to-day.

#### THE VINDICATOR, PILOT, &c.

Up to the time of the publication of the *Vindicator*, which was the first English paper published in the interest of the Liberal party, the English newspapers had all been representatives of what, in those days, was known as the British party. I have not obtained the exact date of the publication of the *Vindicator*; but it was certainly published in 1832, its editor, Mr. Tracy, playing an important part in the politics and political discussions of the day, and having in 1832 suffered imprisonment along with Mr. Duvernay, of *La Minerve*. The imprisonment created great feeling, and an account of a meeting in Quebec to which it gave rise, by Mr. Chauveau, is quoted by Mr. LeMoine in his "Picturesque Quebec":—

"One bright frosty evening of January, 1832, at the close of a numerously attended public meeting held at the Ottawa Hotel, to protest against the arrest of Messrs. Tracy, editor of the *Vindicator*, and Duvernay, editor of the *Minerve*, the good citizens of Quebec, usually so pacific, rushed in a noisy procession, led by a dozen students wearing tri-coloured ribbons in their buttonholes, and sang the *Marseillaise* and the *Parisienne*, under the windows of the Chief Justice, whose ear was little accustomed to such a concert.

"Among the fiery youthful leaders, the fondest in their patriotic outbursts, there was one who would then have been much surprised had any one predicted that, after being President of the Legislative Council, Prime Minister of the Canadas, and knighted by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in person, he would one day as Lieutenant-Governor, enter in state this same former residence of Chief-Justice Sewell, while the cannon of Britain would roar a welcome the flag of England stream over his head, and a British regiment present arms to him."

This reference was to Sir Narcisse Fortinatus Belleau, but the incident recalls a fact worthy of remembrance, that the Crown of England has had no more loyal subjects than those who in those early days even went the length of taking up arms in the cause of Responsible Government and constitutional liberty, a fact which affords a remarkable vindication of the wisdom of the later colonial policy of the Empire. The *Vindicator* succumbed to the troublous times preceding the rebellion, and, until after the Union, no further attempt was made to revive an English newspaper in Montreal in the same interest. The *Pilot*, established by Mr. Hincks in 1844, had for its first printer Mr. Michael Reynolds, afterwards Mr. Donoghue,