

And in this we do not seek to teach the Press of that country better or more gentlemanly manners, but simply ask the authorities to put the laws in force against violent vagabonds and their abettors.

Those people profess to have established codes of national law for themselves, but as their definition has not been accepted by the civilized world it follows that they can only enforce them by persistence and importunity—this claim for compensation on the Alabama case is one in point. Mr. Seward in one of his interminable despatches on this question goes back to the Revolt of the North American Colonies in 1775 to show that Holland, a professed neutral country, had allowed no privateers to be fitted out in her ports. But the privateer Paul Jones carried his prizes and prisoners to the Texel. Yet England demanded no compensation for want of sympathy in that case, nor from the Dutch for furnishing the rebels with arms and munitions of war.

It is a strange doctrine to find that when a nation is engaged in an internecine contest she expects her neighbors to guard her coast and protect her commerce, yet this is the very doctrine propounded by those astute negotiators, Messrs. Seward and Fish.

England did wrong in not at once recognizing the South, as it was evident she had every element necessary to national success except the liberty to purchase the munitions of war in a neutral port, a liberty accorded to the North American States to the fullest extent. Now, it may fairly be asked, what claims have those people to set all international law at defiance. The answer is none. They are merely viewed as ignorant bullies who would be vicious if they dared, and are treated with civil contempt by every power except Great Britain.

Their conduct to the people of Canada for a whole generation has been most insulting and contemptible, and it has borne its proper fruits in detestation of their institutions and contempt for themselves. The system of bullying has placed an impassable barrier between both countries, and is a far more powerful agent of separation in political and social interests than five thousand miles of ocean would be.

The return of Lt.-Governor McDougal and his cabinet to Canada has virtually left the Red River Territory in the hands of the insurgents for the present; from the concurrent testimony of gentlemen who have resided there before the armistice, it is possible that the mission of Cols. Ermatinger, de Salaberry, and the Grande Vicairie will be successful in disarming all opposition and bringing the people to reason.

It is not necessary to charge the outbreak to any particular party or even any single cause; many motives no doubt led to it. Prominent amongst all others is the land question, and any one who will take time to consider will be convinced that this was the

primary and moving cause with the mass of the people. Their idea seems to have been that the new government would make radical changes in the disposition of the land and probably in its tenure, and unfortunately the surveys undertaken gave people who knew nothing of the reasons for which they were undertaken, cause for alarm and suspicion which subsequent events appear to have confirmed; then came the formation of the Executive Council from which all the educated people of the Red River settlement were excluded, the jealousy and dissatisfaction of the officers and servants of the Hudson Bay Company—and this feeling was intensified by the injudicious conduct of some of the employees of the Dominion Government. The intrigues of the Americans and Fenian interference coming in at a later period, if they exercised any influence; it was all these together produced this outbreak which appears to have been aggravated by the manner in which the agents of the Government expectant dealt with it. As the whole of this matter will doubtless form a subject for parliamentary discussion and inquiry in which all the true facts will be elicited, it is as well that the public should suspend judgement till the whole case is before them.

It is evident, however, that no complications can be allowed to interfere with the acquisition of the territory by Canada, and not only that, but also British Columbia. If this outbreak at Red River did nothing more than convince Canadian statesmen of the necessity for setting seriously to work to effect railway communication between this country and the North West territory, it has done the state good service.

A railway from Montreal to Fort Garry would be 1,200 miles in length, and would cost say \$50,000 per mile, completed and equipped, making a sum of \$63,500,000 or £12,700,000 sterling, a large sum, no doubt, but if there is any faith in the future of this country, or value in the development of the North West territory, a mere bagatelle in comparison of the advantages to be gained.

The improvements already undertaken are merely temporary and will do for a year or so, but the question can no longer be evaded and the people of Canada must either make up their minds to lose the territory or spend the money. Already the Canada Gazette contains a notice of an application to be made at next session of Parliament for a Bill to incorporate a private company to build the proposed railway. It is very evident that any company seeking such a charter must look to securing some advantage beyond the traffic arising on the route to make the project pay as a profitable investment, and after all they would have a monopoly of a traffic which will be in a few years enormous. There is no good reason, but on the contrary very urgent ones, why Canada should not build this railway herself.

As this subject will doubtless also occupy much public attention the discussion of its details is postponed for the present, because the policy to be pursued before the railway becomes *une fait accompli* is of more consequence at present.

Parliament will meet in February and the complication at the Red River will doubtless give occasion for much party manœuvring but the public have to deal with the simple fact of how the country is to be held and governed.

The VOLUNTEER REVIEW recommended the employment of the Royal Canadian Rifles and a strong Volunteer force not to coerce but to prevent a repetition of the outbreak. Every one who has come from Fort Garry declares that if all pacific overtures fail, 2,000 troops thrown into the territory will crush out the rebellion without firing a shot. Nothing exists to prevent that being done within six weeks from the opening of navigation, and it is a contingency that people are prepared for.

This circumstance then determines the character of settlement as that of a military colony which will be, after all, the cheapest and most efficient as a safeguard against troublesome neighbours and troublesome Indians.

The Government must of necessity be named and appointed by the Dominion Government, but care should be taken to have the Executive Council wholly of the people to be governed; a Governor, Secretary, Attorney General, and probably a Collector of Customs, are all that ought, in justice to the people of Red River, be sent there, as they can doubtless supply the rest.

The records of the year 1869 are marked by many stirring events calculated to promote the progress of civilization and the advancement of arts and science, and many others of that grave and solemn character whose effects will be felt by succeeding generations for good or evil, and therefore require time for development. A retrospective review of the principal events will be instructive and furnish matter for serious reflection.

Beginning with Canada—the progress made in developing the country has been most remarkable; blessed with an abundant harvest and resting under the ægis of the British flag, the people contented with a liberal constitutional Government, and thoroughly satisfied with their institutions, have no place or room for modern revolutionary doctrines or ideas.

The principal political events which hardly produced a ripple on the unruffled tenor of social life has been the conciliation of the people of Nova Scotia, whose political sensibilities were outraged at the manner in which the union of the Province with Canada was effected, and the disregard, real or apparent, of the interests of the people thereof. As the Union, to be effective,