

from Canada to Columbia. Had this idea been carried out, no rebellion would have arisen on the Red River, and no difficulty would have occurred. It may now be too late, though we cannot help thinking that even now the establishment of such a colony by the imperial government would pacify the insurgents, checkmate the Americans, relieve the Canadian Dominion of a payment which it cannot well afford to make, and open up to colonization, not only the valuable territory of the Red River, but the vast regions of the Saskatchewan. The cession of the country to Canada was a mistake. Canada can neither govern nor colonize nor subdue it; and if it is not to be ultimately ceded to the Americans, probably the best thing to do with it would be to place it upon the same footing with regard to the Crown as Columbia, or as Canada itself.

[From the Times, (London,) January 13, 1870.]

Our readers will have observed from time to time, in our American intelligence, statements respecting the Red River rebellion, and the troubles which beset the Canadian authorities on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. The subject naturally excites but a very faint interest; the place is distant; its geographical position is obscure; the causes of the quarrel are only vaguely known; and the result is almost a matter of indifference to individual Englishmen. It is the affair of the Canadian Dominion, and does not come within the sphere of British home politics. Yet there is something in this remote tumult in the wilds of the New World which will repay attention. Even a dramatic element is not wanting. In short, the Red River warfare only needs a "sacred bard" to win a respectable place among cotemporary events.

About midway between Canada and the Rocky Mountains, and close on the northern border of the United States, is the settlement which is now the scene of what we must call a civil war. It forms part of the vast territory which has hitherto been administered by the Hudson's Bay Company. The seat of the settlement is likely to be one of the most prosperous in the north of the continent. The climate is, indeed, vigorous, though, we believe, far less severe than under the same latitude on the Atlantic shore. The land is one of lake and stream, and does not yield to any part of the continent in the majestic vastness of its waters. A system of three great lakes receives the rivers of a vast region. Lake Winnipeg has a length of 264 miles, and an average width of 35 miles; it covers not less than 9,000 square miles. To the southwest of Winnipeg lies Lake Manitoba, and to the west, Lake Winnipegosis, the three lakes being connected by navigable channels. Their united area is said to equal that of Lakes Ontario and Erie combined. The great stream of the Saskatchewan, after flowing a thousand miles from the Rocky Mountains, falls into Lake Winnipeg; the Winnipeg, the Red River, and the Assiniboine roll through the same favored region. The settlers have lived hitherto under the protection of the Hudson's Bay Company, being reconciled, no doubt, to its anomalous jurisdiction by the fact that they were left to govern themselves pretty much as they chose. We do not hear that they have been very energetic and progressive, but they have been independent and contented. Agriculture and hunting have given them a livelihood, and they have had some share of the blessings of civilization, for on their southern border the State of Minnesota has made remarkable progress, particularly in the development of its railway system. Through Minnesota, the remote Winnipeg has been brought into contact with the outer world. One may assume that a good deal of the American spirit has been diffused among the settlers. Those of French origin are said to be very numerous—perhaps the majority. In the present quarrel they have almost unanimously taken part against the new order of things, and they are the most deeply concerned in the movement for independence. The English are more placable, though many of these have opposed the new governor, and nearly all of them would have preferred to be left as they were. The third element in the population is the Indian. Many of those called French or English are of mixed breed, and there are, besides, numbers of full-blooded Indians more or less reclaimed from savagery, and living on terms of amity with the white men.

It was to this primitive community that the government of Canada announced some months ago that the Hudson's Bay territory had been transferred to the Dominion, and that the settlers must prepare to receive a governor and officials appointed by itself. In its acts the Dominion appears to have been premature, for the transfer of the Hudson's Bay territory had not been completed, and, even assuming that the purchase would give the Canadians the right to govern the Red River as they pleased, that right had not accrued. But in the autumn Mr. William McDougall was sent to the settlement as governor. We will endeavor to guard against doing injustice to this gentleman, of whom we know nothing; and it is proper to state that almost everything we hear comes from those who are friendly to the insurgents. But it is not, indeed, necessary to charge Mr. McDougall with violence or rashness; the people of the Red River would probably have opposed any other governor with equal pertinacity, for it was to the principle of the transfer, which had been or was to be made without any reference to their own disposition, that they objected. Mr. McDougall took possession of the government and issued a proclamation which gave much offense. It is urged on behalf of