

rum. These Americans were, for the most part, men of the most lawless character—murderers, outlaws and escaped convicts. These were the kind of men that were playing against us in the North-West. At first, when comparatively few in number, they were more cautious, and plied their trade in secret; but now, increased in numbers, and having ingratiated themselves with the Indians, they set all law at defiance, and carry on their illicit traffic openly and defiantly. As an instance, last summer waggon loads of highwines were carried into the territory by a band of these ruffians. They settled down in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Edmonston, the Indians came around, the liquor was traded for furs, and murders and outrages of the most appalling character were of almost daily occurrence. The whole territory was demoralized to a frightful extent. When August approached, fearing least the Commission might appear accompanied by troops, they made off across the line; but when they discovered that there was little to be feared on this score, they returned with new supplies and were again at work as vigorously as ever. Nor was this a solitary instance, bands of these men were to be found all over the North West. Now it would be observable at a glance that these ruffians had everything to lose and nothing to look forward to but ruin, by the establishment of vigorous Canadian rule in the territory, and in order to the prevention of this being accomplished, they were leaving no stone unturned. Indians were plied with rum, Canadian rule was pictured out to them in the most repulsive colours. The most outrageous lies as to the calamities that would befall them should Canada ever come into possession of their hunting grounds were propagated, in fact they had wrought many of them up to such a pitch that they spit at the very name of Canada. Looking forward to disturbance they were arming them as fast as their gains would allow with rifles, and in fact we had virtually to-day in the North-west hostile people to deal with. But there was still a third element in this North-west difficulty well worthy of careful watching. It was calculated that at present on the little Saskatchewan and other rivers there were at work upwards of a thousand miners gathering gold dust from the sands of those streams. At any moment the cry might be raised of immense gold discoveries in the territory, and what would be the result, why tens of thousands of the border ruffians would instantaneously rush in, and where would Canadian rule be then? where would the Dominion Lands Act lie? They might raise the Republican flag at their will, and there was no man there who would dare to attempt to make them afraid. That the