

## The Record.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1858.

### THE CLAIMS OF THE NORTH WEST.

For some time past the newspapers of the day have been full of the most exciting accounts of the gold regions on the Pacific coast, and already we hear of numerous parties either actually setting out, or preparing to set out for the region referred to. While we by no means approve of that feverish excitement, which prompts so many young men to forsake the walks of quiet industry for our modern gold fields, still we believe that the discovery of gold in such a region, as that which just now attracts attention, serves, in the arrangements of an all-wise Providence, a most important end, in arousing public attention, and attracting and directing the tide of immigration. In the North West there are thousands and millions of acres adapted for cultivation, and fit to sustain a dense population. In Vancouver's Island and the adjoining territories, there is not only a fertile soil, with immense mineral wealth, but also a temperate and salubrious climate. But until lately the region was comparatively unknown. We had heard of it only in connexion with the wild exploits of the trader, or the stirring tales of the bands of Indians who roam over the prairies, and have too often been a kind of western Ishmaelites, having their hands against every man and every man's hand against them. But now that gold has been discovered, attention is aroused, a large population is immediately attracted, the real capabilities of the country will be developed, and the foundation laid for future prosperity, and order, and moral influence. Of course in this region, as in California and Australia, the state of society at first may be rude and heterogeneous. But the elements of strength and order will be there, and through the self-developing energies of the Anglo-Saxon race, a new British Province will, by the blessing of God, soon take its place on the western shore of the North American Continent. Looking at the map, who can over-estimate the importance of such a province, or the influence which it may in future years wield on Eastern Asia. Placed within a comparatively short distance of China &c., it may be, before many years have passed, a centre of mercantile enterprise, and of missionary effort. We thus look on present events as having a most important bearing on the future evangelization of the world. We believe too, that, if the gold fields are as productive as they are represented to be, before many years have passed away, we shall have railway communication through our North-western territories, and that the Red River will be the centre of large and prosperous settlements.

Our object in adverting to this subject is to press on the Church the importance to looking after Vancouver's Island, and the territories

adjacent. There is already a large population, embracing a considerable number of Presbyterians, and there is but little being done as yet for their spiritual benefit. There are also important places where missionary operations might be carried on among that interesting class the aborigines of this continent. Our way has for the present been barred in the East. Has not God been opening a door in the West, and pointing us in that direction? We believe He is now doing so, and it becomes us to prepare to open the door and enter in with the message of peace and salvation. It may be now too late for anything being done during the present season, but we would recommend that some minister or ministers of vigour, prudence, and zeal, should be sent early next season, with the view of exploring the region and bringing back a report, to guide the church in her future movements. We have been disappointed in getting any minister to proceed to Red River this summer as was expected, to visit the field of labour occupied by Mr. Black, and strengthen his hands in maintaining the important position to which he has been appointed. This object might be conjoined with the farther object of exploring, and collecting information to guide the church in planting her standard, or rather the standard of the gospel, on the west of the Rocky Mountains. This we look upon as peculiarly the work of our church, whether she shall undertake it alone, or with the help of some of the churches in the mother country.

### THE EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH.

Our readers are of course, all fully aware of the political events of the past month. We do not regard it as our peculiar province to discuss such subjects. At the same time, we do not think it beyond our province to watch these events as they transpire, and to give expression to our sentiments, more especially when the interests of truth and of public morality are concerned. In the course of a few days, the country witnessed three several administrations. We enter not into a review of the circumstances connected with these changes. This has been done by the Press throughout the country, and our readers are no doubt well acquainted with the circumstances referred to. But we enter our protest against some things connected with the most recent change. We refer to the fact that Ministers of the crown formally accepted certain offices, and were solemnly sworn to the faithful discharge of the duties connected with these offices, when they had not the slightest intention of really entering on the duties at all, and within a few hours, and before performing a single function of their offices, resigned these and were sworn into others. We protest against this conduct by whomsoever countenanced and sanctioned, and cannot but look upon it as fitted to demoralize the community, and familiarize the public mind with trickery and perjury. If such corruption prevails at

the fountain, what can we look for in the streams? If the highest in the community scruple not to perpetrate, or to sanction such acts, what are we to expect from officials in lower grades? We long to see high-minded principle in our public men, and especially the power of religion, which alone can effectually lead them, in all the relations of life, to act on the apostolic injunction: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if these be any praise, think on these things."

An event to which we turn with greater satisfaction is the completion of the project for the establishment of telegraphic intercourse between England and America. This indeed may be regarded not only as the great event of the past month, but of the year,—yes, of the age. We see in the successful accomplishment of this undertaking not merely the triumph of science, but a powerful guarantee for the peace and harmony of the nations of the earth, a mighty step in the civilization and evangelization of the various tribes that people the globe. The two most influential and enterprising, and, we may add, christian nations of the earth are more closely connected than ever. Sprung from one common stock, one pulse will throb, one current of thought will flow between the two. May we not hope that the establishment of telegraphic intercourse will tend mightily to bring about community of sentiment between the two nations. We feel persuaded that the small wire connecting the two continents will do more to secure peace, to hasten the emancipation of the slave, to lead to united action for the enlightenment and evangelization of the world, than the negotiations of statesmen, the legislation of Senates, or the decrees of princes. We recognize the hand of God in the work. We desire to give Him the glory. We pray for the hastening of the day when not only America and Britain, but all the nations of the earth shall be bound together in community of interest, and harmony of sentiment, and in willing subjection to Him who is Governor among the nations,—who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### DR. MONOD'S OPINION OF THE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

Dr. Monod, as our readers generally know, was lately in this country collecting money for the erection of a mission church in Paris, for the congregation to which he ministers. In consequence of the monetary crisis, he failed in his object, and lately returned home, proposing, God willing, to return at some future period to finish the work which he had now to give up. Since his return he has, in the "Archives du Christianisme," given his opinion in regard to the late action of the American Tract Society, approving of the course of the Society, in declining to publish on the subject