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Head Office, Montreal—No. 71 GREAT ST. JAMES STREET
EDWARD RAWLINGS, Manager.
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The Canadian Monetary Times.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1870.

THE NORTH-WEST.

There are times when the public man is called upon to sacrifice personal pique and the *spolia opima* of party on the altar of patriotism; when the interests of the State assert their supremacy over local jealousies; and the gravity of a crisis triumphs over the trivial makeshifts of politics. Ashamed of the ordinary tricks of policy, and abhorrent of success won at the expense of the country, the politician becomes a statesman, and individual rivalry is merged in a desire to serve the common good. In young countries, and more especially in such as have a comparatively small population, it is difficult to throw aside sectional feelings, to free oneself from the barnacle notions incident to immaturity. But that it is possible to do so in a degree was made manifest in the united effort which brought about a confederation of provinces theretofore strangers to each other. It is not improbable that we may be called

upon, ere long, to test how far Confederation has given breadth of view to our legislators, and how far there has been a blending of object in State policy. The check we have met with in the North-West may be converted into a check-mate, and it behooves us to be wary, lest we sacrifice not only our future as a Dominion, but also British rule on the continent. The stakes are high in the game we are now called upon to play, and we cannot afford to be losers. Four hundred and eighty thousand square miles of territory, with its rich promise of trade and its great capacities, are involved in the issue. Under such circumstances, we may reasonably ask to have the North-West question treated with a becoming gravity, both by the Legislature and the press; to have discussion untainted by misrepresentation such as too often passes current for criticism, by partisanship such as is too frequently accepted as patriotism; and to have brought to bear towards its solution the experience of our best minds, unfettered by the jealousies of creed, nationality, or sectionalism. It is apparent that all this is demanded by the crisis. Unless practical statesmanship be evinced and united action be secured, we shall have abundant reason hereafter for regret. If mistakes are made on our side, or the conclusion arrived at is neutralized by party spleen, there are those ready to reap the advantage. We are too small and too poor a community to have an elastic prestige; we are too young to rely on the influence of the name of our Dominion. When zeal for party prompts the ridiculing of Gov. McDougall or Governor anybody else, outsiders take us at our word. When our public men are branded as venal and incapable, outsiders believe it. The assertion is accepted as a mere confession without allowing for the exuberance of party rhetoric. Older countries have a margin of character to draw upon in case of necessity, a solid past to relieve a questionable present: but Canada has yet to win a place in the world's National Gallery. When mistakes are made by us, or fancied mistakes are trumped forth with vigor, outsiders, knowing little and caring less for us, accept our own self condemnation whether they lend credence to our brag or not. Hence it is that in a matter so momentous as the Red River difficulty, we should, not merely in justice to ourselves, but out of regard for the world's opinion, manifest more patriotic reserve and caution than usual.

If the Dominion is to embrace within its boundaries the North-West Territory, no time is to be lost in taking such steps as will prevent American influence from obtaining a greater ascendancy at Fort Garry; and if the territory is to be of any use to the Dominion, the question of settling present diffi-

culties must not be approached in no sectional or fanatical spirit. There is no doubt that Bishop Taché and his priests have not used their influence over the half-breeds in favor of Canada. They have a strong hold on their parishioners, and a disturbance such as that which has taken place could not have occurred without their countenance or acquiescence. It is not improbable, therefore, that the report as to their desire to obtain a land grant for the church has some foundation. Supposing that to be the case, it will be matter for consideration whether we are prepared to tie up in mortmain a portion of the territory for the sake of winning favor. The priests at Red River, we can easily understand, do not wish to see their parishes broken by an influx of new settlers of a different creed and language. Bishop Taché, in his correspondence with Sir George Cartier, tried to make it appear that the Red River country had been misrepresented as regards the attractions it holds out to immigrants, and that the old old Hudson Bay Co. stories are true. But Sir George turned the tables on the Bishop in a very adroit manner by appealing to the action of the Pope. Now the people of Ontario have a special interest in securing to the Dominion the territory in question, in having it settled by an enterprising and numerous population, in having direct railway communication with it, in thwarting all attempts to wall in any part of the region with religious tests, or to preserve merely distinctions of race and language, and in having a fair chance allowed to the territory in its competition with the border States. If the Hudson Bay Company régime is to be succeeded by a rule formed on exclusions and opposition to settlement, the purchase will tend little to our benefit, and we had better have applied the money to other purposes. The object aimed at by Ontario, when it insisted on the bringing in of the north-west was that it might be at once thrown open for development. Unless that object be pursued and gained, we shall have bought an elephant whose digestive powers will soon tell upon the supplies in the public crib, and the probability is, that the United States will be the ultimate gainer, by a vain attempt to exercise our new born power as a nation. The only reward we shall have for our pains and our money, will be the contempt of the statesmen of the mother country, and the ridicule of our neighbors across the lines.

ETNA INSURANCE COMPANY OF DUBLIN.

We have seen the report of the Master in Chancery in reference to the distribution of this Company's deposit with the Government. A distinction is made be-