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Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, AUGUST 1, 1863.

'WELL-BRED PEOPLE.'

WHAT THEY ARE DOING FOR CANADA.

'Because some well-bred people among us, should have seen fit to extend to Mr. C. L. Vallandigham the usual courtesies of society, the Toronto Globe is very indignant.' So says a 'well-bred' western newspaper.— And again:

'Had our lion hunters feasted and feted Mr. Frederick Douglass, or some other distinguished Ethiopian, it would have been all right. But a copperhead! a sympathizer with slavery! fie, fie, how could you, Miss Flora McFlimsey?'

Were the question narrowed to that of hospitality to a distinguished stranger, or political exile, or other refugee fleeing his country, the measure and quality of the hospitality might be settled between the 'well-bred' Brantford Courier, from which these words are quoted, and such journals as the Toronto Globe. May the day lie far out of the course of time when the British Empire in any portion of its soil, under any fashion of its laws, shall not be in a position to afford hospitable protection to distinguished exiles, or humblest refugees of whatever country, clime, or colour of skin.

'Well-bred people' at Brantford have been accused of accepting, or of offering to accept blood-money to send negroes back to slavery out of this sanctuary of British freedom. The righteous laws of the Province and of Great Britain forbade them. If there were in Canada newspapers or men so basely sordid as to seek a price for the expulsion of even such a refugee as Mr. Vallandigham, traitor to his country and enemy to our well-being though he be, the presence of such recreant subjects of the illustrious Queen of a free people would be an offence against the laws of Britain. But, both in law and practice, Great Britain restrains refugees from conspiring against the lawful government of the country from whence they may have fled. Dr. Bernard was put on his trial in London in April, 1853, for complicity in the conspiracy against the Emperor of the French—Louis Napoleon. And though acquitted by the accidents of the jury box and the inflammatory harangue of Edwin James, himself a refugee in America since, nobody doubted the question of fact. The verdict of acquittal was against law, but it accorded with the momentary impulse of the multitude. The 'French Colonels' then addressed the Emperor for permission to land in England and 'hunt the conspirators in their London dens.' Then it was that the British spirit was aroused, which brought forth the volunteers in all

that gallantry of magnitude which, with wooden walls and iron-clads, and the fortifications reared from century to century, extended from year to year, the naval majesty with its mighty armaments and military organization, which, combining present efficiency with illimitable expansion, makes it tolerably safe for the British people to look France, or any other nation, in the face and say, come if you dare.

But that majestic reality of present strength and of ultimate resource, which gives the British Islands safety, and confers on safety the attitude of dignity, is absent in Canada, except that portion of it comprised in the natural spirit of the people. That is present and might be available, so far as two-and-a-half millions of persons could withstand the inroads of twenty millions, on a defenceless frontier. That frontier is a thousand miles in a straight line; but including the American lake and river harbors and navigable creeks, from which hostile scourges of war might issue forth upon the similar shores of Canada—the frontier is a defenceless water margin of two thousand miles. And the proposed extension of settlements along the boundary line of the great North-west, which ought to be hailed as the progress of civilization, together with the discovery of golden deposits in that territory, supposed to be such as will carry westward a tidal wave of population; these will add to the exposed frontier fifteen hundred miles more.

Good fortune to Canada seems to be worse luck. The auriferous discoveries which should lead to strength and wealth, indicate weakness and the hazard of all that is worthy of preservation.

The 'well-bred people among us' do much more than extend hospitality to the ex-member of Congress, Vallandigham, who uttered speeches of vehement enmity against Great Britain, and made hostile motions of defiance when the Imperial government in December, 1861, demanded the surrender of Slidell and Mason. They do more than offend the law and practice of Great Britain in conferring the honours of festivity at Montreal, and carrying in a special train, as they might a Prince of the Royal Family, the man who was guilty of treason to his own lawful government, after declaiming to the American Democracy against Great Britain that he and they might kindle the fires of war in Canada. All that might be pardoned though in execrable bad taste; but the offence, committed in the face of the United States, lies in this, that Vallandigham comes avowedly to Canada to profane its soil, sacred to freedom as we thought it, neutral as its people ought to be by the Queen's proclamation, with his conspiracies against the national government of the country with which Britain is at peace, and in relation to which it is the interest of Canada to abstain from provocatives to war.

The 'well-bred people among us' are not alone conferring on the stranger the courtesies of hospitality, despicable though their foolery in so doing may be, they are involving in their hospitality the life, property, and honour of every inhabitant of Canada. Not one of them had a right to extend such hospitality on such terms. To caress this man who comes purposely to conspire on the Niagara frontier against the government of the country lying half an hour's walk beyond his present residence, is not within the rights and privileges of any person or social sections of the Canadian people. It is a great public offence. The events which may ensue give that which might have been only a fault, the dimensions of crime.

We have in past numbers of this paper shown what extensive but silent preparations the American government is making on the shores of the western lakes, from fortifying Makinaw Island at the confluence of Lakes Michigan and Huron, where it stands already the 'Gibraltar of the West,' all down their

own shores to Lake Champlain. We printed the Report of the Committee of Congress, showing what fortifications were recommended; and from personal observation assert them to be in process of erection. Canada engages herself only on new provocatives to war. Ministerial papers, the Toronto Globe leading them, assert that the call for volunteers has been successful; that there are thirty thousand now 'organized.' They are not organized. There are not thirty thousand. Three times that number would not be a success. Even such as are now associated for company drill are not paid. They are kept at the cost of enthusiastic officers. That is not the fault of the present ministry, but partly of the factious Opposition, led by Mr. John A. Macdonald and Mr. Cartier, who by a stretch of parliamentary privilege bordering on treason, stopped the supplies that would have paid the militia so far as yet embodied. But we are constrained to publish, on a higher authority than any ministerial or opposition newspaper, that the volunteers are far from what is claimed for them, though particular companies and occasionally a battalion may be seen well drilled.

At the end of June, 1863, an officer in Her Majesty's service, whose position gives him the means of knowing the truth, overall the Province, as his professional attainments and experience enable him to judge accurately, wrote thus:

'What has been as yet done is worse than nothing. No amount of drill will produce organization, without some farther systematic arrangement; and scattering good arms recklessly about the Province will never produce an efficient body of men, without organization.'

More might be cited from the same high authority, but we refrain; because at present the fault does not attach to the Minister, Mr. Sandfield Macdonald; and we should exceedingly regret if anything entrusted to us by the high authority referred to, should have the effect of embarrassing the Sandfield Macdonald Ministry in forming or carrying out larger plans of militia organization.

If it be impracticable in the face of contending political factions to organize a defensive force, as we sorrowfully confess a really efficient system of Lake and River and Land defences seems to be, the outrage on the prudent neutrality of the Province is all the more reprehensible on the part of those 'well-bred people among us' who are now toying with American treason and involving all Canada, hazarding the very existence of the small body of British troops now in the Province, by their infatuated misconduct.

We repeat, that courtesy and hospitality to Vallandigham on such terms was not theirs to give. They have no title, social nor political, to entertain, aid and abet the conspiring enemy of the government of that country which is already enraged against Canada, and which Canada is not yet in a condition to resist.

Our City Member at Hamilton told on the hustings at the late election that, 'the Province would rise as one man.' Yes, it might rise; but it would be a mob. The more fiery and zealous the uprisen multitude the more uncommandable would it be. The rural mass levies, while called to defend distant cities or towns, their organization impracticable with the enemy thundering from his land and lake batteries, would be told of their undefended homesteads laid in ashes; barns plundered; pastures cleared of cattle; women and children fleeing to the wilderness distracted, or dying dishonoured, murdered, on the cinders of the homes in which they now live happily, and might continue to live in happy safety but for such as you, the 'well bred people among us.'

At the head of Lake Ontario, in Burlington Bay, and at Dundas, ample facilities capable of defence, offer for the construction of naval yards and arsenals, without which the rams-of-war to be launched there, the Ontario lake towns, and especially Toronto, cannot be defended.

But the Hamilton Spectator grovels over its lost sinecure,—the emigrant agency and the twelve hundred dollars a-year. The Toronto Globe persuades the wealthy, athletic yeomen of Canada West, that they are stricken with decrepitude and poverty, and

cannot afford to defend their country; while, in the absence of defences, and of military or naval organization, the 'well-bred people among us' are diligent, persistent in provoking the irrepressible hostility of the enemy, which awaits but a favorable time to cross the frontier at fifty places of attack, and cover the lakes with steam-power scourges of war.

NOTICE.—Several letters and contributions await decision. These and Enigma writers will be attended to in next issue.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

(From the London Globe.)

The new Company has purchased for £1,500,000 the rights, whatever they may be, of the old Hudson's Bay Company over the territories wherein the latter has held undisputed sway. The capital of the new firm is fixed at £2,000,000 and the stock will be issued in certificates at £20 each. The territory thus transferred amounts to no less than 896,000,000 of acres. Although the greater part is a desert of snow, there is a southern range of land suitable for colonization, watered by 1,100 miles of navigable lakes and rivers, and rich in mines of coal, lead, and iron. It is this portion of the ceded territory which the new projectors promise to use as the basis for a new policy.

They intend to keep the desert of snow a desert still, and to trade in furs just as actively as ever in that Northern waste where colonization is impossible. But the less rigorous clime, which marches with the frontier of the United States, will be thrown open for settlement and they will carry through it a great mail route and the electric telegraph. It has been proved over and over again that between Canada and British Columbia there is room for a flourishing state or states. It has been shown, both by Englishmen and Americans of experience, that the best line for an Atlantic and Pacific railroad is through the country north of the United States frontier. On one side is Canada and its sister colonies, on the other British Columbia, with Vancouver's Island, for a portal to the Eastern world. The advantage of connecting those two by a broad belt of settlement has never been disputed. It is assumed that the governments of Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver's Island will readily co-operate to insure the success of plans which promise to give them almost a new place in the world and new relations with the great currents of trade. Nor will the Imperial Government be backward in aiding any really solid schemes for the development of a region hitherto neglected and kept as a sort of preserve on an almost boundless scale.

The Imperial Government, it is announced, is prepared to grant portions of Crown land for the purpose of making the telegraph line. The Governor of the new Company is Sir Edmund Head, who knows well the political and colonial side of the question; and among the Directors are several gentlemen of high standing, who ought to be able to appreciate its commercial soundness. Undoubtedly it would be well, at a time when so vast a change is proposed, when new and important lines of communication are to be opened, and new colonies to be settled, to ascertain the exact nature of the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company. The recent discussion of the subject did not determine any of the large issues then raised. Who can tell us what those rights are? The claims are big enough but do they rest on legal foundation? It is all the more desirable to define these rights on this occasion, because as the land is to be settled questions of jurisdiction must arise, and to prevent endless disputes some understanding must be come to beforehand.

The Duke of Newcastle stated that arrangements must be entered into with the Colonial Office for the settlement of the country. Unless the legality of the transfer now made is decided, and unless the status of the Company in relation to the imperial and colonial Government and to the territory over which it exercises dominion be defined, it is not easy to say how the Colonial Office will escape from vexatious, and it may be serious quarrels with the new Company, whose shares, be it remembered, will be in the market, and whose constituents may be anybody, hailing from anywhere, owning any allegiance.

The Duke of Newcastle has promised to consult the law officers on the legality of the transaction, which re-constitutes the Company, and no doubt some steps will be taken to define its rights as lord of the manor of the North Pole. At all events, care should be taken that nothing is done to affect in any way the absolute sovereignty of the Crown, and the just control of Parliament over the region which has been transferred, and part of which is to be offered to emigrants for settlement.