

with them, and the as yet successful efforts of the red skin is viewed with evident satisfaction; the Hudson's Bay Company have been furnishing the Americans with powder and arms, and also have tendered the use of their steamer on various occasions; this has not escaped the notice of the savages, and the belief is current amongst them at present that the King George Man (the British subject), and the Bo-tans (citizens of the United States), are allies, and that the ultimate destruction of the red skins is their object. The whites on Vancouver Island are placed in a very difficult position, a position that requires an abler man at the head of affairs than Mr. Douglas. *Nous verrons!*

I have been endeavouring to secure some Washington territory newspapers for you, but with small success. The call for volunteers there has been so urgent that editors and devils have been forced to take up the rifle and bowie knife, thus causing a cessation to the issue of "Gazette extraordinary." The accompanying newspaper from that quarter will, though somewhat soiled, I trust, not be unacceptable to you, and enable you to form a more correct idea of the state of affairs at the time of their issue than you can obtain by any other means.

The small bust herewith, though far from a favourable specimen of the talent of the Indian sculptor, will suffice to give you an idea of their ingenuity in the line. I have seen most beautiful work of this description by the Northern Indians, likenesses so striking as to be recognised at a glance.

The fall of the southern portion of Sebastopol was appropriately honoured here by the resident British and French; a medal was struck on the occasion, of which I forward you a specimen.

You will have noticed how successful our friend Walker is in Niagara; he showed wisdom in refusing the Presidency; the sympathy for him here is very strong; by every steamer volunteers flock to his standard; he has wealthy men at his back, as you may judge from the fact of an agent of his having within the last few weeks endeavored to purchase a steamer, showing credits to the tune of 100,000 dollars.

Believe me, &c.
(signed) Robert S. Swanston.

Thomas Banister, Esq.,
5, Child's-place, Temple Bar.

Sub-Enclosures.

(No. 1.)

Copy of Enclosures, with Mr. Swanston's Letter of 14th January 1856, to
Thomas Banister, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Vancouver Island, 20 December 1855.

Trn. accompanying letter to yourself, authorising you to inquire at the Colonial Office whether Her Majesty's Government are disposed to pay any regard to the prayers of the residents of this island, contained in the several documents forwarded to Downing-street in the early part of last year, and of which I herewith forward you copies, was presented to the five gentlemen who constitute the committee appointed by the colonists of this place; and was signed by three out of the five, to wit, by Messrs. Cooper, Yates and Bantfield; the other two, Messrs. Langford and Skinner, though strongly approving of the measure, and thoroughly satisfied with the application to you, declined signing, because were it known to the gentlemen constituting the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Company, it would seriously damage the interests of their families, and perhaps result in active measures against them which might entail ruin on those dependent on them.

You may thus judge of the cruel measures adopted by the Hudson's Bay Company against all efforts made to open the eyes of the Home Government to what is going on here. I cannot do better than conclude with a remark made last week by the senior Member of Council here, Mr. J. Tol, viz., that he was afraid of the Indians rising here *en masse*, as several tribes on the island who, ever since he knew them (for 20 years), have been leading a cat and dog life, have lately become firm friends.

I remain, &c.
(signed) Robert S. Swanston.

We have read the above, and vouch for the truth of what is therein stated.

(signed) James Cooper, M. C.
James Yates.

(No. 2.)

COPY OF LETTER to Thomas Banister, Esq.

Dear Sir,

WE, the undersigned residents, colonists of this island, having been appointed a committee, at a public meeting held at this place on the — February 1854, to draw up a petition to Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies, wherein we were to bring to the

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