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SIOUX INDIANS.

COPIES OF EXTRACTS OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN the Commanding Officers of the United States Troops in Minnesota and the Resident Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Red River, respecting a Tribe of Sioux Indians who were Refugees within the British Territory; of Reports of the Meeting of the Governor and Council of Assiniboine, on 19 March 1864, including Copy of the Message which the Governor is reported to have received from the Indians; &c.

(Mr. Hennessy.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 June 1864.

401.

Under 3 oz.

Recd (2) 244

SIOUX INDIANS.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 6 May 1864;—for,

- “COPIES or EXTRACTS of all the CORRESPONDENCE between the Commanding Officers of the United States Troops in *Minnesota* and the Resident Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company at *Red River*, respecting a Tribe of SIOUX INDIANS who were Refugees within the British Territory :”
- “Of REPORT of the Meeting of the Governor and Council of *Assiniboine*, on the 12th day of March 1864, including Copy of the MESSAGE which the Governor is reported to have received from the INDIANS :”
- “And, of the CORRESPONDENCE between the Hudson’s Bay Company, or any of the Colonial Authorities, and Her Majesty’s Government, in reference thereto.”

Colonial Office, }
16 June 1864. }

FREDERIC ROGERS.

(*Mr. Hennessy.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 June 1864.

SCHEDULE.

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COPIES or EXTRACTS of all the CORRESPONDENCE between the Commanding Officers of the United States Troops in *Minnesota* and the Resident Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company at *Red River*, respecting a Tribe of SIOUX INDIANS who were Refugees within the British Territory:—Of REPORT of the Meeting of the Governor and Council of *Assiniboine*, on the 12th day of March 1864, including Copy of the MESSAGE which the Governor is reported to have received from the INDIANS:—And, of the CORRESPONDENCE between the Hudson's Bay Company, or any of the Colonial Authorities, and Her Majesty's Government, in reference thereto.

— No. 1. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., to Sir *Frederic Rogers*, Bart.

Hudson's Bay House, London,
5 February 1864.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, copies and extracts from the letters (public and private) of Governor Dallas, explanatory of the position of the Red River Settlement at the present time.

An extract from the public letter of the 11th December has been communicated to the Foreign Office, with a view to obviate any misrepresentations at Washington.

I may be permitted to observe, that this difficulty with the Sioux has not come upon the Company in consequence of any of their trading operations. These Indians are driven back upon us by the American troops, and in the absence of the Queen's name and direct authority, it will be very difficult to prevent the mixed population of the Red River from looking to the Americans for protection in case of need.

I am of opinion that Governor Dallas has acted with great propriety and judgment, and I trust, from the extract of the last letter from Mr. Mactavish, that the pressure has for the moment passed away.

But the fact that the Queen's subjects look for protection to the United States, is one of grave importance with reference to the nationality of the settlement and territory. Moreover, it appears from previous correspondence that our officers have been compelled to communicate with the General commanding the American troops on their frontier, in a manner which is hardly consistent with the character of representatives of a commercial company, holding no direct authority from the Crown. It is obvious that the constant proximity of United States troops, and the contact with a civilised people, have produced a state of things wholly inconsistent with the original powers and position of the Company.

The extract from the "Nor-Wester" paper, respecting gold in the Bow River, or South Saskatchewan, is marked by Governor Dallas as "supposed to be true." That river, as his Grace knows, is near the frontier, and a rush of diggers from Minnesota would not be improbable, if the account turns out to be correct.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*, Governor.

No. 1.
The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund Head,
Bart., to Sir
Frederic Rogers,
Bart.
5 February 1864.

No. 1. Letter of
December 11.
No. 2. Letter of
December 18.
No. 3. Extract,
December 25.
No. 4. Extract
from Nor'-Wester
paper.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

Fort Garry, Red River,
11 December 1863.

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

Sir,

HAVING written separately upon general matters, I have now to report, for the information of the Board, that the Settlement is at present in a state of great distress and alarm at the arrival of about 60 lodges, and 445 Sioux Indians, including men, women, and children, in a state of positive starvation.

This band, having been deeply implicated in the American massacres, and being hard pressed, have fallen back upon us, as their chiefs plainly told me, to live or die with us, in preference to perishing amidst the snow drifts of the prairies.

There is barely food in the settlement for the wants of its ordinary inhabitants, owing to great drought in spring and summer, which caused an absolute failure of the potato crop, and reduced the returns of wheat and barley to a minimum. The fall Buffalo hunt was a partial failure, and to the above causes are to be added the improvidence and bad farming of the people.

The arrival of about 400 American Cavalry at Pembina with their followers, has caused an extra demand for provisions for man and beast, and wheat and barley are now held at 8s. and 5s., respectively, per bushel; and flour at 25s. per 100 lbs, with every prospect of further advance, while potatoes are not to be had. Pemican and dried meat, usually worth 3½ d. and 3 d., are now held at 6 d. and 4 d. per lb.

Under these circumstances, the addition of 445 starving Indians is a tax upon our resources, which we do not well see how we can get rid of, as these Indians are absolutely starving, and must have food. They object to go away to hunt on the prairies, on the obvious plea that they have nothing but the few scanty rags with which they are covered, at the commencement of a long winter, in which the thermometer ranges from zero to 40 below (40°), and are without food or ammunition.

I am now arranging to supply these wants out of the public funds, including even ammunition, upon a solemn promise, which I have no doubt will be kept, that it is to be used only to hunt game, and I am in hopes that a move may be made to-morrow.

We shall have to provision the whole party for a period of from 10 to 15 days, and our great fear is that should they fail to procure food by hunting, they will fall back upon us again, or that other bands may visit us.

The American Government may probably hear exaggerated reports of our having supplied the Sioux with ammunition, and make a complaint against us. Our poverty, of food and weakness, and not our will, consent to an unavoidable alternative: food we cannot spare, and even were the case otherwise, the Indians have not the means to carry a sufficiency for more than a very few days.

So great is the distress, that they are offering their children for sale to the settlers—a very unprecedented occurrence, as they will generally rather see them starve than give them up to white people. Three young American children, whose parents were murdered, have been recovered, and are taken care of by some of the settlers.

There are fortunately few Chippeways or Saulteaux in the settlement at present; and though we may get over our present difficulties quietly, our isolated position in the neighbourhood of contending enemies will not, I trust, be overlooked in the negotiations now going on with Her Majesty's Government for the permanent disposition of this territory.

I have, &c.
(signed) A. G. Dallas.Thomas Fraser, Esq., Secretary,
Hudson's Bay House, London.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

Sir,

Fort Garry, Red River, 18 December 1863.

WITH reference to my letter of the 11th instant, I have now to inform the Board that our efforts to induce the Sioux Indians to take their departure have hitherto failed, and that, at an interview held with them at their camp yesterday, they absolutely refused to move, being apparently determined to quarter themselves upon us for the winter. Their number at this time amounts to 494, and not 445, as stated in my last letter; while there are in the immediate neighbourhood 13 more lodges, bringing up the total number to more than 600.

Besides providing them with food for immediate wants, we had prepared, and actually dispatched eight horse sledges, with food for the journey, leather (for shoes, leggings, &c.), ammunition, fishing tackle, hooks, and a guide to conduct them to a part of the country where they could fish and hunt for themselves; but they obstinately decline to move, saying they may as well perish here as on the plains.

I have summoned a meeting of Council, to be held on the 19th instant, more for form sake than in the hope that the Council can assist me. The fact is, we cannot conveniently afford either to quarrel with or to maintain the Sioux, and there is no middle course to adopt, short of allowing them to perish of starvation—an alternative they cannot be expected to submit to without an attempt to help themselves. The Chippeways and
Saulteaux

Saulteaux are much alarmed at this invasion of their territory, and will not long tolerate it quietly.

Our weakness consists in the scattered position of the settlement, extending from 40 to 50 miles north and south, and including the prairie portage, a distance of 70 miles westward. Apart from this consideration, past experience in our own colonies, and the recent example afforded by the war between the Americans and the Sioux, warn us that we ought to avoid an Indian war at any sacrifice. It will, I believe, cost us less to maintain all these Sioux for 10 years than to go to war with them; but the burden is a hard one upon the settlers, and the subject may well be entitled to Imperial consideration.

A collision with the Sioux would necessitate our invoking the assistance of the American troops at Pembina; but the Board may rely upon my best efforts being used to maintain friendly relations with the former at any reasonable cost, and to keep the latter at a distance. Many of the settlers, however, are in such a state of alarm as to be deaf to reason, and are anxious at once to adopt extreme measures.

Thomas Fraser, Esq., Secretary,
Hudson's Bay Company, London.

I have, &c.,
(signed) A. G. Dallas.

Enclosure 3, in No 1.

EXTRACT of LETTER from *W. Mactavish, Esq.*, to *Thomas Fraser, Esq.*, Secretary; dated Fort Garry, 25 December 1863. Encl. 3, in No. 1.

"I AM happy to be able to inform you that Governor Dallas, having yesterday finally arranged with the Sioux Indians now here, that they should leave the settlement and proceed to Turtle Mountain, all those Indians, with the exception of a single tent, have early this morning raised camp, and set out for their proposed destination."

Enclosure 4, in No. 1.

EXTRACT from the "Nor-Wester" Newspaper, dated Red River Settlement, 8 December 1863. Encl. 4, in No. 1.

THE miner who first discovered the Fraser River and Cariboo diggings, came over the mountains to this side last spring, and prospected along the Bow River. He had five men with him. They were very successful; found rich diggings, which paid them 5 *l.* each per day. Knowing that there was any amount of gold there, the head miner resolved to go down to Fort Benton and get up a party for his mines. He accordingly got one John Munro to guide him to Benton, and he there made up a party of 21 men, whom he sent back to the Bow River mines, under the same guide. These were the 22 men who helped themselves to our supplies.

This John Munro is now, and for a long time back has been, living with the Blackfeet, but he had originally come out as apprentice clerk in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. He told me that he had himself seen the miners taking out 5 *l.* worth of gold each man per day, at the Bow River mines; and that the head miner, whom he had guided to Fort Benton, said these mines were richer than any one on the west side of the mountain, as another year would show. Bow River, let me remind you, falls into the south branch.

— No. 2. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head, Bart.*, to Sir *Frederic Rogers, Bart.*

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, London,
27 February 1864.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, an extract from a letter of Governor Dallas, dated Fort Garry, January 15th, 1864, by which, I regret to say, it appears that the Sioux Indians, driven back on the settlement by the American troops, were yet in the neighbourhood.

I also enclose a copy of a letter, written by return of post, in answer to Governor Dallas's communication.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head,*
Governor.

No. 2.
The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund Head
Bart., to Sir
Frederic Rogers,
Bart.
27 February 1864.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 2. EXTRACT of LETTER from *A. G. Dallas, Esq.* to *Thomas Fraser, Esq.*, dated Fort Garry, Red River, 15th January 1864.

"WE are still suffering from the presence of the Sioux, and unless they very soon take their departure voluntarily, some serious collisions may arise. I am urged on all hands to call in the assistance of the American troops from Pembina, and some of the settlers have already applied to the officer commanding, who will not, however, act without a requisition from me. This alternative I wish to postpone as long as possible."

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2. Copy LETTER from *Thomas Fraser, Esq.*, to *A. G. Dallas, Esq.*, Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land, dated Hudson's Bay House, London, 26 February 1864.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor and Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, which came to hand this day.

The Governor and Committee observe with much regret, what you say with reference to the Sioux. They entirely approve of your continued refusal to apply for aid to the American troops at Pembina, and they think that nothing short of actual and imminent peril to the lives of yourself and the settlers, would justify the intervention of a foreign force on British territory.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Fraser, Secretary.*

No. 3.

The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund Head,
Bart., to Sir
Frederic Rogers,
Bart.

4 March 1864.

— No. 3. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head, Bart.*, to Sir *Frederic Rogers, Bart.*

Hudson's Bay House, London,
4 March 1864.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a copy of the "Canadian News," of the 3d March, in which there are two passages respecting the kidnapping of two Indian chiefs, in Red River Settlement, by a person, said to be an American. I have marked the passages, and beg to forward them for the information of his Grace the Secretary of State.

I may add that, although we have received letters from Red River Settlement to the 15th January, they make no allusion to the event in question.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head,*
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

EXTRACTS from the "Canadian News," 3 March 1864.

KIDNAPPING TWO INDIAN CHIEFS.

WE publish, in another column, an account taken from the "St. Paul Press," Minnesota, of the manner in which two Indian chiefs were kidnapped at Red River, and taken across the boundary line to the United States fort at Pembina. After the recent correspondence from Mr. Seward on the matter of International Law, we shall be curious to see the action he will recommend his Government to take in the present instance. The matter, as it stands, is deserving of careful consideration. The "Toronto Globe" thus summarises the events:—"In 1862 the Indian tribes came suddenly down upon the western settlements, robbed and massacred the unprotected people, burned their homesteads, and desolated the country.

Owing

Owing to the exciting incidents of the civil war, the sad doings did not excite the attention which otherwise would have been given to them. Suffice it to say, that the whole history of the long contest between the white and the red man since the first settler placed his foot upon American soil, furnishes no more horrible record of cruelty and indiscriminate slaughter. The Americans, of course, girded up their loins and exacted a bitter revenge; they would have been more or less than human had they not done so. They have, even as their fathers before them, smitten the 'red devils' hip and thigh. They have followed them through the wilderness, and shot and hung them wherever found. To those who have surrendered voluntarily they have shown mercy, but to those who would not bow down they have been most merciless. The retribution has been stern, severe, and all but complete; for, unable to cope with their white foes, a remnant of the powerful Sioux tribe crossed the boundary line and encamped in the neighbourhood of Fort Garry. Very disagreeable neighbours are they to the people there. There is not a soldier in the place, and the settlers, spread over a vast tract of country, can hardly combine for the common defence; but, however objectionable, the Sioux were there. Even though he had had the power, the Governor could not deliver them up to their enemies; such a deed would have been contrary to British practice. These men, savages though they are, had sought refuge under the British flag, and protection was therefore extended to them. Efforts were made to induce them to leave, and food and ammunition were offered if they would do so. It was reported a short time ago that they had agreed to go, but that report has not been verified. The authorities were willing to get rid of them at any price short of a sacrifice of the national honour; that was not to be thought of."

Matters were in this position when the scheme, as detailed in the correspondence of the "St. Paul Press," was laid and carried out. What can be said in justification of the treachery of Mr. M'Kenzie we are at a loss to conceive. Finding all his efforts unavailing to induce the chiefs to surrender, and being decisively told that the Indians would not place any reliance in anything the Yankees might say, as they were "all liars," he next invited them to go and see him, which they did. Relying on his oft-protested good intentions, they went to M'Kenzie's house, and when there they were plied with laudanum, chloroform, and whisky until they became senseless. They were then bound upon sleighs and carried to Pembina, and in the guard-house of that fort they were kept chained to the floor until instructions concerning them were received from head-quarters.

We hold that the Government of this country cannot pass over so flagrant an outrage on our International Laws, and although it could be wished that the creatures for whom the majesty of the law has to be vindicated were other than the miserable Indians, whose hands we know are stained with the blood of harmless American citizens, yet the fact remains that a gross violation of International Law has been committed by persons acting under the authority of the United States Government, and which cannot be overlooked.

SIX INDIANS KIDNAPPED FROM THE RED RIVER.

(From the "St. Paul Press," 2 February.)

FROM official Despatches received late last night by General Sibley from Major Hatch, at Pembina, we have the gratifying intelligence that Little Six, and another Sioux chief, son of Gray Iron, have been captured, and are now in close custody. Both of these men were leaders in the massacres of 1862, Little Six being only second to Little Crow in influence, and far surpassing him in cruelty. The capture was effected without any violation of the neutrality of Her Majesty's soil by our forces, and the event will be hailed with joy by all who are acquainted with the demon-like ferocity which was manifested by these wretches during the outbreak. Much credit is due to Major Hatch and his officers for their good management in this matter. It was reported that many more of the Sioux were on their way to Pembina to surrender themselves, they being in a state of great destitution.

Since the above was obtained, our correspondence has come to hand, giving the following account of this important capture:—

(Correspondence "St. Paul's Press.")

Pembina, D. T., 13 January 1864.

This has been a big day for Pembina. The paymaster arrived last night, and Little Six and another chief, called Medicine Bottle, were brought in as prisoners of war. They were captured by a brilliant strategic manoeuvre by an American, named J. M. M'Kenzie, formerly at Hutchison, Minnesota, and a Canadian Frenchman living in Red River settlement. The Indians were invited to the house of one of the party, and after they had taken a little too much whisky they fell asleep, and then they were tied and bound to horse sleds. Their capture was effected about nine o'clock in the evening, and they arrived here about three o'clock the next day. They were taken to the guard-house and chained to the floor, and from thence will probably be taken to the place of execution.

Little Six was twin devil with Little Crow, and the other one has confessed to having killed men, women, and children on the frontier.

There are about 40 more on their way here from the settlement to give themselves up, but it will require more strategy to get hold of the murderers. Mr. M'Kenzie thinks, however, that he will succeed in capturing the rest of them. He deserves the eternal gratitude of every Minnesotian. They were on British ground, and could not be reached by any other means.

Mr. M'Kenzie was assisted by Mr. D. L. Kinsley, or Lakeville, who also lives at Red River, in bringing them to Major Hatch. There are about 400 more Indians at the British settlement, and the probability is that our commissary will be called on to feed them before spring.

This is all the news of importance at present about Indians. They are in a state of starvation, and will die as our horses did. So mote it be.

The following letter from our ("St. Paul Press") special correspondent at Pembina gives a full and reliable account of the manner in which the Sioux chiefs were entrapped and brought over the line:—

Dear Press,

Pembina, 19 January 1864.

LET me tell you quick that two of the principal leaders of the late Sioux outrages have been captured, and were brought to Major Hatch yesterday at 12 o'clock A. M. Little Six and Medicine Bottle, the chiefs of the murderers and ravishers of our daughters, wives, and sisters, are now chained up and under the close custody of Major Hatch. Too much praise cannot be given to Hatch's battalion. They have already accomplished a great deal, considering the difficulties they have laboured under; while, too, they were prosecuting an immense labour in building up quarters that are nearly completed, notwithstanding the scarcity of materials. They will accomplish still more between now and spring.

The particulars of the taking of these two red devils I have from one of the capturers' own lips, and they are as follows:—On Christmas-day, Lieutenant Cochrane went to J. H. M'Kenzie's, formerly of Hutchison, Minnesota, with a letter of introduction from his old friend, Lieutenant Ensign, and employed him to use his best endeavours to secure the surrender of the Sioux murderers. From that time on, Mr. M'Kenzie gave himself no rest day or night, in order to accomplish the desired end. He was assisted by several persons in whom he could place confidence, but whose names he is not permitted to give.

On the 14th day of January, Captain ——— (whose name I am not at liberty to give) sent word to Mr. M'Kenzie's house to the effect that he desired to see him. On his arriving at Emerling's, the appointed place, he found some Sioux who desired to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war. They were a party who had concluded to surrender several weeks ago, but on the way to their camp they met Hypolite Campbell, who gave them whisky, and advised them not to surrender. They, however, agreed to deliver themselves up on the condition that Mr. M'Kenzie should accompany them with trains to carry their children, also a supply of provisions sufficient for the trip; to all of which the Captain agreed.

Whilst thus counselling, Campbell came in and took the liberty of addressing himself first to the Captain and next to the Sioux, but the Sioux declined any further talk until they could send over the river for Mr. Onisime Gyere to interpret for them. Gyere was soon on hand, and after the council was over, Campbell took the Captain into a room to hold a private conversation with him. What took place there Mr. M'Kenzie cannot tell. When they came out of the room the Captain informed M'Kenzie that Campbell would go with him to escort the Indians. Knowing the deceitful character of Campbell, Mr. M'Kenzie said that he wanted also Mr. Gyere, and that himself and Gyere had better be armed to the teeth, to which the Captain readily assented. The arrangement was to start the next morning.

On the next day two friendly Sioux arrived from Pembina with a letter from Major Hatch, remonstrating against receiving any more prisoners, unless the nine principal murderers of Little Six's band were also given up. The Captain suggested that M'Kenzie should take these two friendly Indians to go and see Little Six and the other Sioux chiefs, four in number, then camped about twenty-five miles west of Fort Garry, on the Assiniboine River. He told the Captain that he must have his friend Gyere to accompany him, as he was the only man that could be of any service to him. The Captain then left the matter to M'Kenzie's own judgment, and said if he wanted Gyere he would hire him to go with him, and would recompense him handsomely.

On the night of the 15th inst., M'Kenzie and his true and devoted friend, Mr. Gyere, started for the Sioux camp. The night was mild, but the road was very long, consequently they had ample opportunity of exchanging thoughts and laying plans for the accomplishment of their mission. Saturday, the 16th, they arrived at the Sioux camp. Four Sioux chiefs and about fifty of their leading men were called together at Mr. Lane's trading post to hold a council. Mr. M'Kenzie then and there used all the eloquence and ability he is possessed of in order to induce them to surrender and make peace, but without success. Some of them might have been induced to surrender had it not been for Little Six and Medicine Bottle, who were determined never to surrender. The following are the words then uttered by Little Six:—

"All the Sioux that wanted to shake hands with the Yankees, the Yankees now have; we will never make peace with them. They are all liars, and this letter (the Major's letter) you now have was written by one of them. Do you think I will believe it? And you are

—a very

a very little man to talk to a great chief like me. When I want to say anything I say it, and when I do anything I do it. Nobody can stop me."

M'Kenzie then replied, "You have been acquainted with me for a long time. You know I have always been kind to you. Will you come and pay me a visit?"

To the last proposition they consented.

They (Little Six and Medicine Bottle) then came down with Messrs. M'Kenzie and Gyere. They went to Mr. M'Kenzie's house and stayed there all day Sunday, the 17th. Then Mr. M'Kenzie went to work with whisky, laudanum, and chloroform, and succeeded in getting them drunk and asleep. Aided by Mr. Gyere, he then procured the assistance of some friends in the settlement, whose names he was not allowed to mention. Little Six was seized in Mr. M'Kenzie's house, tied up hand and foot, bound upon a flat train, and off he went, with Messrs. M'Kenzie and Kingsley in charge of him, as a prisoner, while Mr. Gyere was securing Medicine Bottle, which he did in a very few minutes, aided by other persons. About two miles out Gyere overtook Mr. M'Kenzie with his other prey, and they came on together.

They left Fort Garry Sunday night, the 17th, at 11 o'clock, changed horses at Scratching River, and safely arrived at the Pembina stockades, where the two devils are now safely secured, on the ensuing day, the 18th, at 12 o'clock, making a march of over 65 miles in 13 hours.

Mr. Gyere is a French Canadian, aged 22 years, from Contecœur, C.E. Now, you judicious, generous, and liberal Government, come forward and show your hands to these two men, who have exposed their lives, and destroyed a lucrative business for the purpose of delivering up to us these two big savages.

Owing to the sagacity and good military tactics of Major Hatch and his officers, the Government has probably saved several millions of dollars, for this event is looked upon as an assurance that the rest of the red devils will soon give themselves up. The taking of these two chiefs of murderers will make them feel disheartened and discouraged. In fact, many of them would already have given themselves up had it not been for these two devils. The loss of their leaders and their state of starvation will soon bring the balance to terms.

Messrs. M'Kenzie and Gyere deserve to be generously rewarded.

OBSERVATOR.

— No. 4. —

COPY of a LETTER from *T. Frederick Elliot, Esq.*, to the Right Honourable *Sir Edmund Head, Bart.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 March 1864.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint you, that he has had before him your letters of the 27th ult. and 4th inst.,* supplying further information respecting the Sioux Indians who are in the Red River Settlement, and forwarding a newspaper with an account of the kidnapping of two of the chiefs of these Indians.

I am desired to express the Duke of Newcastle's acknowledgments for the intelligence furnished to him of the progress of events in connexion with the Sioux Indians, and I am directed to state that his Grace entirely concurs in the propriety of the answer, dated the 26th of February, which has been returned by Mr. Fraser to Governor Dallas, in which he conveys the Company's approval of the Governor's refusing to apply for aid to the American troops stationed at Pembina.

I am, &c.
(signed) *T. Fredk. Elliot.*

No. 4.

T. Frederick Elliot Esq., to the Right Hon. Sir Edmund Head, Bart.

24 March 1864.

* Pages 5 & 6.

— No. 5. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable *Sir Edmund Head, Bart.*, to the Right Honourable *Chichester Fortescue, M. P.*

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, 11 April 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, two extracts from a letter of Governor Dallas, addressed to the Secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company. You will be aware of the fact that the Peace River is not within the chartered territory of the Company, as it runs into Athabasca Lake.

I also enclose a copy of the "Nor'-Wester" paper, published at Red River, which contains three articles (marked A., B., C.) on the subject of the Sioux Indians, and the agitation which they have caused. The statement in Governor

No. 5.

The Right Hon. Sir Edmund Head, Bart., to the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, M. P.

11 April 1864.

Dallas's letter, to the effect that the Sioux on the Missouri had consulted him as to their dealings with the Government of the United States, is exceedingly curious.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*, Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 5.

Encl. 1. in No. 5. EXTRACT of a LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to *Thomas Fraser*, Esq., Secretary, dated Fort Garry, Red River, 24 February 1864.

THE Sioux are still in the outskirts of the settlement; but, as the weather is unusually mild and open, and they have been very successful in catching jack-fish under the ice on Manitobah Lake, they will very probably soon take their departure to join the rest of their tribe on the plains. To prevent misconception, I may here state that, up to the present time, the Sioux have not been furnished by us with even one charge of ammunition, and that the food we gave them would not have kept them alive more than one week. Several of them have been starved to death, and the survivors have been eking out a wretched subsistence by begging, eating any and every kind of carrion, and by the recent catch of fish. They have carefully abstained from committing any depredations on the settlers, and, though some charges of pilfering have been brought against them, I have been able to substantiate only one case, and that of a very trifling nature. No doubt they have been a great source of annoyance and not unnatural fear to the settlers, many of whom have been pressing upon me to call in the aid of American troops; and Major Hatch, in command of the troops at Pembina, though precluded by his instructions from following the Sioux across the line, has intimated to me his readiness to accede to my invitation to do so; but I have seen no cause yet to justify me in resorting to such an extreme measure.

I am in communication with the chiefs of the Sioux on the Missouri, where they have one camp of 5,000 lodges, in addition to straggling bands. They ask my advice as to whether they ought to make peace with the Americans or not. I have recommended them to do so, or to be prepared for the Americans prosecuting a vigorous war against them next summer. These Sioux on the Missouri are in the midst of buffalo, well supplied with food and other necessaries.

No complaint has been made by the Americans against the Sioux in this settlement, excepting what we read in the newspapers; and, so long as they confine their annoyance to us to begging, I conceive that it would be most impolitic in us to quarrel with them, exposed as all our plain hunters and traders are on an unprotected frontier.

EXTRACT of LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to *Thomas Fraser*, Esq., Secretary, dated Fort Garry, Red River, 24 February 1864.

"GOLD-DIGGERS had found their way from British Columbia to Peace River and its tributaries, where they were obtaining at the rate of six dollars to ten dollars per man per day, which, however, did not satisfy them."

Enclosure 2, in No. 5.

Encl. 2, in No. 5.

EXTRACTS from the "Nor' Wester" of 18 February 1864.

(A.)

"NEUTRALITY."

(From the "St. Paul Press," Jan. 20.)

WE admire a neutral foe. Our admiration increases in proportion to the distance which separates us. In fact, we should like to have the distance so great that the neutral institution would never be seen or heard from.

This devout wish cannot, however, be gratified as long as Johnny Bull remains on *terra firma*. He *must* be neutral; it is his nature, and he is not to blame. He has been neutral since the 11th of April 1861, and by reading Major Hatch's Despatches, which appear elsewhere, it will be discovered that he still remains in that nondescript condition.

A band of murderers and outragers of everything which makes life dear visit Johnny in his territory, which joins the nation that has suffered so terribly from their inhuman barbarity. A demand is made upon Johnny for their rendition, under the Ashburton Treaty, but that is refused; and the next we hear is that he has given those murderers one pound of powder and a proportionate quantity of ball each, on condition that they return to the land where they committed their depredations.

How generous! how magnanimous on the part of Johnny! and, we might add, how neutral!

Our foreign indebtedness is largely increased by this action on the part of the British.

In equity, we ought to return to them as much powder and ball as they have bestowed upon

upon the Sioux, and at some future day it may be convenient to make the presentation. It should be prepared with the utmost care before being presented, and for presentation should be encased in perforated metal sheaths labelled "neutral."

(B.)

WE copy on another page an article from a late number of the "St. Paul Daily Press," and if our belligerent cotemporary is as well-informed upon other matters as he appears to be on this, we congratulate his subscribers on the amount of useful information with which they must be crammed.

In another column of this paper will be found an advertisement from the "Daily Press," inviting subscribers, upon the ground that "special attention is given to the interests and development of Central British America"—we, however, doubt if the people of this Settlement will view such "special attentions" as those premised above in a very favourable light. Another ground urged on the notice of subscribers is, that as a "medium of news" it is unsurpassed by any paper in the "Nor-West." To this assertion we give our cordial assent, especially as regards sensation paragraphs.

To be serious, however, we beg now to inform our cotemporary that no demand was ever made by our authorities, under the Ashburton or any other treaty, to deliver up the Sioux Indians; there has not been even a complaint lodged against them. They came to the Settlement as starving refugees and beggars; they received no ammunition, and not enough food to prevent some of them from dying of hunger and cold combined. In the absence of any demand for rendition or accusation against them, surely these people—the bulk of them women and children—could not be allowed to die of absolute starvation in a Christian country.

Among the sins laid at the door of Americans in their treatment of the Indian tribes we have never heard them accused of denying food, even to the worst criminals in their power. To drive the Sioux away was utterly impossible; women and children without food, clothing, or means of transport, could not, and would not, be driven by any force many miles in such a climate as this. There has been no hindrance whatever on our part, we believe, to the Americans coming and relieving us of the unwelcome guests who have been forced upon us.

Our cotemporary cannot have considered the matter when he penned the article we have quoted, and he has certainly been much misled in his statements. It is our misfortune, we fear, to have offended both parties on the score of neutrality, as we believe Little Six to be quite as dissatisfied with our conduct as our cousins across the line—and with, perhaps, better reason.

(C.)

PUBLIC MEETING—THE SIOUX.

A MEETING was held in the Court-room, Fort Garry, on Monday the 15th inst., for the purpose of considering a message sent to the people of this section of the settlement by those at the White Horse Plains.

François Bruneau was called to the chair. The object of the meeting having been explained, the resolutions adopted at the White Horse Plain meeting were submitted to a committee, who subsequently reported as follows:—

"Whereas a meeting of the inhabitants of Red River Settlement was called this day, in answer to a request from Mr. Pascal Breland, representing the inhabitants of White Horse Plain and Headingley parishes, whose names are signed, having been chosen a committee for that purpose, beg leave to make the following report:—

"1. That a meeting, largely attended from different parts of the Lower and Main River Settlement, was this day held in the Court-house, Upper Fort Garry, at 4 p.m.

"2. That the communication from Mr. P. Breland having been read, numerous speakers, representing different parts of the settlement, made remarks upon it, and resolutions having been agreed to, this committee were thus chosen to embody them in a form for transmission to the White Horse Plain:

"1st. Resolved,—That we heartily sympathise with the inhabitants of the White Horse Plains in their present state of great distress, occasioned by the presence of the Sioux.

"2d. Resolved,—That we believe that to drive the Sioux from our borders would only be a temporary suspension of the difficulty—would only gain for us their open enmity, without by any means causing an effectual riddance; and it is our belief that a measure of this kind would not result in any good to ourselves, but rather, on the contrary, aggravate the evil.

"3d. Resolved,—That we strongly advise, and would urge the seizing (forcibly, if necessary) of the Sioux, and the conveying of them to some point at which the Americans can receive them; and we promise that if the resolution be adopted, we will assist and co-operate with the inhabitants of White Horse Plains in effecting this purpose.

"4th. Resolved,—That we will furnish such number of men and of sleighs as shall make up the number deficient; when the inhabitants of White Horse Plains shall have furnished all that they can, and we agree to leave the number to be determined by Mr. Breland, whom we are willing and desirous should direct and organize the necessary force.

"We will now add, for the benefit of those concerned, such information as was brought out upon the occasion of the meeting :

"1. That we need not expect any assistance from Major Hatch; that the position of their officers is such that he cannot and will not cross to this side of the boundary line.

"2. That threats have been made that in case the Red River hunters should show themselves unfriendly to Americans, and drive the Sioux into the open country instead of into their power, that they will exert the power which they certainly possess of preventing our people from crossing the boundary line in the usual annual pursuit of buffalo.

"3. That every inducement is offered by the Americans at Pembina—promises of good treatment, of impartial trial to the Indians, and, we believe, of payment to those who bring them for their time and services, and the probable securing of the right for many years to come of free use of their buffalo hunting grounds.

"4. That permission has been given by the authorities to Major Hatch to come and take the Sioux, should he so wish, but that his orders are so strict that he does not dare to break them by coming into our country.

"We would finally urge that this view be taken by the people of the White Horse Plains, that in delivering the Sioux to the authorities at Pembina we are using the only means of securing permanent safety from the Sioux—that we are doing which is just and right—that it is the cheapest, most effectual, and best way.

(signed) . "A. G. B. Bannatyne.
Thomas Thomas.
Jno. Schultz.
Alban Fidler."

— No. 6. —

No. 6.
The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund Head,
Bart., to the Right
Hon. Chichester
Fortescue, M.P.
28 April 1864.

Copy of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., to the Right Honourable *Chichester Fortescue*, M.P.

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, 28 April 1864.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a very important letter from Governor Dallas, at Red River, by which it appears that he has felt himself compelled to allow the American troops to cross the frontier.

The enclosures will show the nature of the case and the correspondence which passed between Governor Dallas and Major Hatch commanding the United States troops.

I also enclose an extract from a Montreal paper showing the comments made upon this affair in Canada.

The Secretary of State is already aware of the view taken by the Hudson's Bay Committee of the question to which these papers relate.

It is not for me at the present moment to express any opinion as to the discretion exercised by Governor Dallas, but I feel it my duty, without a moment's delay, to submit the papers for the consideration of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

Sir,

Fort Garry, Red River, 16 March 1864.

ENCLOSED I beg to transmit copy of correspondence with Major Hatch, commanding the American troops operating against the Sioux, by which the Board will see that I have given him permission to pursue the Sioux across the boundary line.

In addition to the reasons stated in my letter to Major Hatch, there is also the apprehension that the great body of the Sioux may repeat their visit, and effect a permanent settlement in our territory, if they think they can do so in safety from the Americans. The fear of their doing so has been so great that public meetings have been held at various times during the winter, and the wish expressed that I should call in the aid of American troops. This I positively declined to do, but I did not feel justified in refusing the permission requested by Major Hatch, both as it in effect affords us the protection we require against present dangers, and guards against a contingency which would be very embarrassing, viz., the permanent domiciliation of the Sioux with us.

The Sioux chiefs have at various times alluded to old promises of protection made at the close of the American war, and to the whole country having been theirs at one time; hinting also at a desire to come and remain with us. Within the last few days I received a message from the Chiefs of the main body of the Sioux on the Missouri, asking my advice as to whether

whether they ought to make peace with the Americans or not, and expressing an intention of coming to pay us a visit in spring. As the majority of the able men of the settlement are generally absent during the summer, voyaging and hunting on the plains, the appearance of even a very small party of Sioux would cause a complete panic, and I did not hesitate to advise their making peace with the Americans, knowing that this would enable them to retire to their usual haunts and pursuits in American territory. I enclose copy of a letter which I have addressed to General Sibley upon the subject.

Though I anticipate no evil consequences from any operations of American troops beyond the limits of the settlement within our territory, yet the permission granted may possibly be distasteful to the British Government, and may, of course, be revoked at any time. I would, however, recommend that this should not be done till the Sioux war shall be brought to a close, so long as no actual disturbance is caused within the settlement. Irrespective of any opinion of my own, there was danger, had I acted otherwise, that the settlers themselves would have invited the assistance of the American troops, under an impression which has taken strong hold upon them, that they are neglected by the British Government.

The band of Sioux which wintered with us is now gradually dispersing, but a few stragglers still remain, causing great alarm to the outlying settlers, whose fears induce them to give away food which they can ill spare. The appearance even of a few American soldiers would at once relieve us of a burden which was becoming intolerable.

Thomas Fraser, Esq.,
Secretary, Hudson's Bay House, London.

I have, &c.
(signed) A. G. Dallas.

Sir,

Fort Garry, Red River, 25 February 1864.

I **HAVE** leave to inform you that within the last few days I have received a message from the Sioux Chiefs encamped near the Missouri, begging my advice and opinion as to whether they ought to make peace with the Americans or not, being evidently suspicious that the conciliatory overtures made to them may be intended to entrap them.

I have taken it upon me to advise the Sioux to make peace with the Americans, and enclose copy of my reply to them for your information.

Baptiste Gardupuis, the bearer of the message, assures us that there were 5,000 lodges of Sioux near the Missouri, not reckoning the camp of "Standing Buffalo" and straggling parties; and though I can hardly credit such a number, yet he persisted in his statement.

The band of Sioux which wintered on the Assiniboine are still on the outskirts of the settlement; but as they have of late been catching immense quantities of jack-fish, and the weather being unusually open and mild, I believe they intend taking their departure in a few days to join the rest of their tribe on the plains, to whom they have sent word to meet them by the way with provisions. This contradicts a prevailing idea that the two parties are in opposition. They will most likely both make common cause, and join their fortunes together.

I have, &c.
(signed) A. G. Dallas,
Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land.

Major General Sibley, Commanding United States Troops,
acting against the Sioux in Minnesota.

To the Sioux Chiefs, Standing Buffalo, Mah-too-wa-ka, Red Dog, Black Moon, and Wa-na-tah, camped near the Missouri.

Fort Garry, 20 February 1864.

In answer to your message received this day, my advice to you all is to endeavour to make peace with the Americans, who have assured me they are willing to be friends with all the Sioux who have not actually committed murder upon Americans.

If peace is not made, the Americans intend to follow and make war upon the Sioux with a large force next summer.

(signed) A. G. Dallas,
Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land.

COPY LETTER from Major Hatch to Governor Dallas.

Head Quarters, Independent Battalion, M.V.,
Pembina, 4 March 1864.

Sir,

I **HAVE** the honour to state that a party of murderers, belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, to avoid the just punishment for their crimes, have fled from before the Military Forces of the United States Government, and are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of "Poplar Point," on or near the Assiniboine river.

The near approach of spring, and the danger of their scattering and re-enacting in part the barbarous scenes of 1862 and 1863, urges me to make every effort in my power to secure them. I cannot, however, take any steps which may by any chance place soldiers under my command in such a position that they may appear as trespassers upon British soil.

Therefore, the locality of the 49th parallel never having been officially determined, I do not feel justified in moving in pursuit of these murderers towards the point where they are now encamped, without the consent of your Excellency.

The great desire I have to prevent the murder of innocent women and children upon our frontier induces me to trouble your Excellency with the request that permission may be granted me to pursue and capture these savages with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

His Excellency A. G. Dallas,
Governor of Prince Rupert's Land, &c.
Fort Garry.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. A. C. Hatch,
Major Commanding.

COPY LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to Major *Hatch*.

Sir,

Fort Garry, Red River, 7 March 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 4th instant, delivered to me by Lieutenant Nash, stating that a party of murderers belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, fleeing before the military forces of the United States, are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of Poplar Point, on or near the Assiniboine River, and requesting permission to pursue and capture these savages with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

In reply I beg to state, that the Sioux Indians have been refugees in this territory much against the wishes of the inhabitants, and in the face of every discouragement on our part to their appearance at all on this side of the boundary line.

It being, I believe, of the utmost importance for the safety and well-being of the civilised inhabitants of this part of the world generally, that a powerful tribe of Indians, inhabiting the borders of an undefined and unprotected frontier of large extent, should be disabused of the belief that they can with impunity commit their depredations and murders in one territory, and take refuge in the other, in safety for the time being, ready to renew their operations when it may suit their inclinations to do so. I have no hesitation in complying with your request, stipulating only that, in the event of active operations taking place within the settlements, you will communicate with the authorities, and take such measures as will prevent bloodshed or violence in the houses or inclosures of the settlers, should any of the Sioux Indians take refuge there.

Major Hatch,
Commanding U. S. Troops at Pembina.

I have, &c.
(signed) A. G. Dallas,
Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land.

EXTRACTS from a Montreal Newspaper.

THE SIOUX.

Their whereabouts and Annoyance to the British Settlements.

Indian Invasion of British Territory.

THE Red River "Nor'-Wester" is in something of a "quandary" what to do to get rid of the Sioux invaders of that portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

The means taken by the authorities of the settlement to induce their savage visitors to depart, by giving them provisions and ammunition, have thus far failed, and fresh bands are dropping in. The "Nor'-Wester" advises the immediate organization of a home guard for protection against the intruders.

Apropos of this, it says:—

Major Hatch has more than once offered to allow his troops to be placed at the disposal of our authorities to remove the Sioux. But the Major will not come uninvited. If we want the services of his battalion, we must ask for them; and should we do so, there will be no refusal. The Major has offered to allow his men to be commanded by our authorities while on British soil; and further, himself and his officers are willing to promise that should the services of their troops be put in requisition, they will, if needs be, bind themselves not to fire a shot, while carrying off the Sioux, unless in self-defence.

Captain A. T. Chamberlain came down here expressly to make this offer on behalf of Major Hatch; and it seems an extremely liberal one. But it has not been accepted; and hence there is all the more necessity for some military organization amongst ourselves.

Another article is as follows:—

The Sioux were, when we last heard, encamped at Lane's Post, in consequence of the severity of the weather; but whether they will move on, now that the weather has moderated, is, we think, very questionable. In the meantime, they have been living on charity and the proceeds of a little bartering in horses, mules, guns, &c., which they brought in with them.

A number

A number of Sioux and half-breed children have been traded away by them for provisions. At Headingley many children were purchased in this way, a young ox or heifer being an equivalent for a Sioux. Bishop Tache bought several children and adults, and has in all, eleven Sioux at St. Boniface. From one of these, a child who has been training at the Convent a short time, the Bishop lately received a letter in French, which reflects the highest credit on her kind teachers. Another of the Sioux now domiciled at the Convent, is believed to be about 120 years of age. She is decidedly a curiosity; and to look at her one could hardly doubt the story of her great age.

A short time since a party of 41, men, women, and children, went to Pembina, with Lieut. Gerald, to surrender themselves to the troops there, and they are now in good quarters and well fed, comforts to which they were strangers for months before. Mr. A. G. Bannatyne fitted out this party and sent them to Pembina, a service for which he has not received the slightest remuneration, though he certainly deserves thanks, and something more substantial at our hands for ridding us of so much of our burden.

Another batch of 54, 13 men, 19 women, and the balance children, left here on the 16th instant, to give themselves up at Pembina. They went with Capt. Chamberlain and Capt. Grosvenor, who procured the provisions for them, though they expected our authorities would have been so glad to be rid of them, as to furnish the supplies to Pembina.

The Americans offer support and protection to all Sioux who surrender themselves. Those who have been concerned in the massacres will, of course, be tried and punished; but the innocent will be provided for in some way or other. It would be well if our people would second the efforts of the troops by trying to induce the Sioux to surrender themselves. Any who hold out will receive no mercy; but will be hunted down the moment they cross the line. The officers are very confident that this Sioux war will be finished during the ensuing summer, and Major Hatch is concerting plans for the spring operations, when he will act in conjunction with a large cavalry force.

Since writing the above, we learn that the Sioux at the White Horse Plain have divided into two bands, Little Six and most of those concerned in the outbreak being left alone by the main body of the Indians, who say that they will not associate with the chief and his party. Notwithstanding this split in the camp, it does not seem as if the people of the Settlement were any nearer getting rid of either section. A messenger returned from the Sioux on the 17th, and he states that they refuse to surrender themselves to the soldiers. They told him they would not stir; and wanted to hear no more of those frequent messages, asking their surrender.

"Montreal Evening Telegraph and Daily Commercial Advertiser," Wednesday,
April 13 1864.

It will be seen from the correspondence published in another column, that Governor Dallas has given permission to the commander of the Federal forces to cross the frontier, and carry on a war of extermination against the Sioux Indians, who have sought refuge in British territory. It is hardly possible to conceive that the Governor of Red River would have assumed so great a responsibility, without instructions from the Imperial Government; yet what can we think of a Government, on the demand of a foreign power, strips itself of the highest attribute of sovereignty, abandons the hitherto sacred right of asylum, virtually hauls down the British flag in the Indian territory, and allows the armed forces of another nation to pursue and murder with its connivance, the miserable remnants of tribes which have placed themselves under the guardianship of our honour. They are called murderers, but no evidence is given that any of them were concerned in the massacres attributed to them; nor can it be forgotten that these massacres were the result of the spoliation and cruelties practised towards an inoffensive people, by the lawless settlers on the American frontier.

THE SIOUX AND THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

WE published the other day a statement taken from an American paper, to the effect that the Governor of the Red River Settlement had given permission to Major Hatch, the commander of the United States troops in Minnesota, to pursue the Sioux Indians across the boundary line. Yesterday we received the "Nor'-Wester," which contains the following information confirmatory of that statement:—

→ A meeting of the Governor and Council of Assiniboine was held on the 12th day of March, 1864.

American troops permitted to cross the boundary line in pursuit of the Sioux.

Governor Dallas informed the Council that his chief object in calling them together was to lay before them a copy of a correspondence with Major Hatch, by which they would observe that he had granted permission to the American troops to follow the Sioux across the boundary line. Knowing that in so doing he had acted in accordance with the repeatedly-

expressed wishes of the people, who had even proposed to invite the presence of the American troops, he had not considered it necessary to consult the Council before sending a reply to Major Hatch. But as the permission granted involved some responsibility he wished the Council to share the responsibility with him by confirming the act. The Council had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the Governor, in his whole dealings with the Sioux, and correspondence with the Americans, had only done what was necessary for the general welfare and safety of the Settlement, and had therefore no hesitation in confirming and approving the permission granted to Major Hatch, which they knew to be in accordance with the wishes of the people.

A Message from the Sioux.

The Governor further stated that he had received a message from the main body of the Sioux, on the Missouri, asking his advice as to making peace with the Americans, and hinting at a desire to visit the Settlement in spring. He had returned an answer advising the Sioux to make peace with the Americans, or to be prepared for a prosecution of the war with renewed vigour next summer.

Correspondence with Major Hatch.

The following is the correspondence with Major Hatch:—

LETTER from Major *Hatch* to Governor *Dallas*.

Headquarters, Independent Battalion, No. V. Pembina, D.T.,
March 4, 1864.

His Excellency A. G. Dallas, Governor of Prince Rupert's Land, &c. &c., Fort Garry.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that a party of murderers, belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, to avoid the just punishment of their crimes, have fled from before the military forces of the United States Government, and are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of Poplar Point, on or near the Assiniboine river.

The near approach of spring, and the danger of scattering and re-enacting in part the barbarous scenes of 1862 and '63, urges me to make every effort in my power to secure them. I cannot, however, take any steps which may, by any chance, place soldiers under my command in such a position that they may appear as trespassers on British soil.

Therefore, the locality of the forty-ninth parallel never having been officially determined, I do not feel justified in moving in pursuit of these murderers towards the point where they are now encamped, without the consent of your Excellency.

The great desire I have to prevent the murder of innocent women and children upon our frontier induces me to trouble your Excellency with the request that permission may be granted me to pursue and capture those savages, with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *E. A. C. Hatch*,
Major Commanding.

LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to Major *Hatch*.

Fort Garry, Red River,
7 March 1864.

To Major *Hatch*, commanding U. S. troops at Pembina.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, delivered to me by Lieutenant Nash, stating that a party of murderers, belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, fleeing before the military forces of the United States, are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of Poplar Point, on or near the Assiniboine River, requesting permission to pursue and capture these savages, with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

In reply, I beg to state that the Sioux Indians have been refugees in this territory, much against the wishes of the inhabitants, and in the face of every discouragement on our part, to their appearance at all on this side of the boundary line.

It being, I believe, of the utmost importance for the safety and well-being of the civilized inhabitants of this part of the world generally, that a powerful tribe of Indians, inhabiting the borders of an undefined and unprotected frontier of large extent, should be disabused of the belief that they can, with impunity, commit their depredations and murders in one territory, and take refuge in the other in safety, for the time being ready to renew their operations when it may suit their inclination to do so. I have no hesitation in complying with

with your request, stipulating only that in the event of active operations taking place within the settlements, you will communicate with the authorities, and take such measures as will prevent bloodshed or violence in the houses or inclosures of the settlers, should any of the Sioux Indians take refuge there.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *A. G. Dallas,*
Governor-in-Chief of Rupert's Land.

— No. 7. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., to the Right Honourable *Chichester Fortescue*, M. P.

Hudson's Bay House,
London, 5 May 1864.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, an important extract of a letter which I have this day received from Governor Dallas, respecting the Sioux Indians, and a copy of a letter addressed by Governor Dallas to his Excellency Lord Lyons, on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*, Governor.

No. 7.
The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund
Head, Bart., to the
Right Hon.
Chichester
Fortescue, M.P.
5 May 1864.

Enclosures in No. 7.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., dated Fort Garry, Red River, 24 March 1864. Enclosures in No. 7.

"THE American troops have not yet made a move against the Sioux, and I am in hopes that we have seen the last of the latter.

My object was to maintain friendly relations with the Sioux, and to interpose the Americans between them and us. The thermometer has ranged, during the past week, at 15° to 25° (below zero) every night, with cutting winds; and ill-provided, and badly mounted troops can do nothing under such circumstances."

COPY of a LETTER addressed by Governor *Dallas* to His Excellency Lord *Lyons*, and forwarded by him to the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fort Garry, Red River Settlement,
25 February 1864.

My Lord,

MY attention having been called to a correspondence which has been published in the American papers between your Lordship and the Honourable W. H. Seward, relative to the assistance said to have been rendered to the Sioux Indians, by the authorities of this place, I take the liberty of putting your Lordship in possession of the following facts for your private information, leaving you to make such use of them as you may see fit.

In the beginning of winter this Settlement was visited by a band of about 600 Sioux Indians, who arrived in a state of absolute starvation, destitute of clothing, or any of the necessaries of life. These Indians have remained with us during the winter, eking out a wretched subsistence by begging, eating any and every kind of carrion, and latterly, by an abundant supply of jack-fish, caught under the ice in a neighbouring lake. Several of them have died of starvation during the winter, and the remainder are in wretched plight. Up to the present time, they have not received from the authorities a single charge of ammunition, and not food enough to maintain the band for one week. To drive away starving women and children, destitute of clothing, in a climate with the thermometer ranging from 20° to 40° nightly below zero, and even to 52, was impossible. As they said themselves, they preferred lying down to die where they were, and that we might put their women and children under the ice. They have carefully abstained from committing any depredations on the settlers, and no crime has been charged against them to us, by the American authorities. No doubt they have been a great source of annoyance, and not unnatural fear to the settlers; who have been pressing me to call in the aid of the American troops at Pembina; and Major Hatch, their commander, though precluded by his instructions from following the Sioux across the line, has intimated to me his readiness to accede to my invitation to drive the Sioux away, but I have seen no cause yet to justify me in resorting to such an extreme measure.

So long as the Sioux confine their annoyance to us to mere begging, I conceive that it would be most impolitic in us to quarrel with them, exposed as our traders and plain hunters are on an unprotected frontier. The Sioux tribe is still very numerous, but General Pope's

reason for holding the extradition treaty inoperative is groundless, as there are about 10,000 inhabitants in this settlement, exclusive of our own Indians, Sauteaux, Chippeways, and Crees, who are all hostile to the Sioux. It might, however, be very inconvenient for us if the application* were made, a step which has not yet been taken. There is no Deputy-Governor here, but I suppose the allusion is made to Mr. Mactavish, local Governor of Assiniboia, which comprises a radius of fifty miles round Fort Garry, my own Commission extending over the whole territory of Rupert's Land.

Some of the American papers have been amusing themselves by getting up another "Trent affair," ironically, the origin of which, I take this opportunity of explaining. The principal Sioux chief, "Little Six," and one of his followers, were enticed from their camp to the house of a settler, under false pretences; they were then induced to drink to excess, and were finally drugged with laudanum and chloroform, bound hand and foot, and conveyed in the night, in sledges, to Pembina, about seventy miles distant, and there delivered up to the American authorities, by whom it is presumed the captors were well rewarded. We have, of course, no complaint to make against the Americans, the capture having been effected by British subjects. The whole proceeding is very disgraceful, as "Little Six" was simply a refugee in our Territory, against whom no complaint had been made officially, and his capture may lead to retaliation.

I enclose a copy of our only Newspaper, the "Nor-Wester," which alludes to the affair, and gives a not unfair view of our position.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. G. Dallas,*
Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land.

— No. 8. —

No. 8.
The Right Hon.
Sir Edmund
Head, Bart., to the
Right Hon.
Chichester
Fortescue, M.P.
4 June 1864.

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., to
the Right Honourable *Chichester Fortescue*, M.P.

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, 4 June 1864.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an extract from a letter, just received, from Governor Dallas, with reference to the condition of things on the frontier of the Hudson's Bay Territory and the United States.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to *Thomas Fraser*, Esq., dated Fort Garry, Red River, 19 April 1864.

"A FEW days ago, I received an express from the Praire Portage, begging assistance, and intimating that twenty-two lodges of Sioux had arrived and encamped there, and that they were very threatening in their demeanour, demanding provisions and ammunition. I gave instructions that men should be engaged to watch the Indians and protect property, and I have not since heard further. This state of alarm in which we live, will no doubt continue, more or less, until the Americans settle their differences with the Sioux, or we have a local force to protect us. The Indians being utterly destitute, are in a manner compelled to fall back upon us, their great want being ammunition, without which they cannot procure food.

"The Americans have as yet taken no advantage of the leave granted to them to follow the Sioux across the boundary line, and the garrison lately stationed at Pembina, on the frontier, is ordered to retire upon Abercrombie, about one hundred and eighty miles distant, to the south. This will, doubtless, embolden the Sioux, and there being a report that several of the latter are lurking on the road, between this and Pembina, to cut off American travellers, the communication is in consequence partially interrupted."

* Under the extradition treaty, in regard to such of the Sioux as could be proved guilty. This is referred to in General Pope's letter to Mr. Seward, the former arguing that we had no power or force to act against the Sioux; overlooking, that in the absence of official complaint, we had no justification in making use of what power we had.

