

RIEL, PIAPOT AND BIG BEAR.

In Riel's house, framed and covered with glass, is a large nail about four inches in length, which Pope Pius IX. sent to Louis Riel, accompanied by a medal, in recognition of his services in the rebellion of 1869. The Pope, so assert the family, represented the nail to have come out of the cross upon which our Saviour was crucified. The family thoroughly believe the story and keep a light burning constantly underneath the place where it is hanging on the wall. The nail looks ancient enough to have come out of the ark. It has a large head on it, and resembles much a nail used for hanging pictures. Louis Riel always carries the medal hung around his neck. Riel's mother is an intelligent-looking old lady, about seventy-five years old. She is still active but grieves day and night over the impending fate of her son, as she fears he will be hanged. Mrs. Riel, when asked about her son, said: "I think that he has done no wrong. I know he meant no harm to any one, and he was not working for his own interest. He has always been in trouble since 1866, and he is still in trouble, but he is in God's hands and I must leave him there. He left me when he was eleven years old, but he never forgot his poor old mother, and always when he had a cent to give he gave it cheerfully. I know he was not working for himself in this case." Madame Riel was then asked if she would like to give a more decided opinion on the conduct of her son. She thought for about ten minutes and then burst out, "My son is good, O God, my son is good, and if I was to tell my opinion of him it would only appear as if I was only foolish. I think so much of him I know he did no wrong. My sorrow is too great to talk, but God will take care of Louis." Alexander Riel, a brother of the rebel chief, is trying to raise money to defray the expenses of counsel. Louis is anxious to have good counsel in the approaching trial. It is believed that Riel's papers and books, which were kept very systematically, will reveal startling facts concerning some prominent people.

Poundmaker has acknowledged the receipt of four letters from Riel, one of which he said he had left in his tent near his reserve. A party of police were sent at once to look for it. They returned having found the letter where Poundmaker said he had left it. It will, no doubt, be a very important document at Riel's trial. It is dated from Fish Creek, the day after Gen. Middleton's fight there, and states that Riel had killed 300 police. It then orders Poundmaker, if Battleford has not already been captured, to capture it at once and kill all the white people there. The letter then goes on to say that when that has been done Riel will attack and destroy the volunteers and join Poundmaker at Battleford. The letter is signed by Riel himself. Poundmaker has been examined in a court as to the thefts of several half-breed prisoners now at Battleford. His testimony was in favor of the half-breeds, and he denied having the power to prevent the thefts being openly committed.

The Montreal Garrison Artillery, now stationed at Regina, has been honored by a visit from Piapot and his chiefs. He was quite as much surprised at the reception the troops gave him as the volunteers had been at the mode of their reception a week previously by the chief. When a volley was fired in his honor, he and his braves were almost terrified but did not like to appear afraid any more than did the volunteers at the terrible tortures they witnessed at Piapot's great sun dance. The chief was especially struck with the band and the big drum. He was permitted to have a

pound at it himself and enjoyed it immensely.

At the beginning of the Indian rising in the North-West, Big Bear sent messages to the Chippewyan Indians ordering them to join him. The Chippewyans were very unwilling to do so, but being threatened with extermination by the messengers, about two hundred warriors left their reserves with their families and joined Big Bear. They tried hard to get leave to let their families return, but this was not granted by Big Bear who wanted the women and children as hostages for the good faith of the Chippewyan warriors. These latter soon found that the Plain Crees, of whom they had been so much afraid, were great cowards. Big Bear was being closely followed up by Gen. Middleton and the Chippewyans risked a desertion. Nearly the whole band arrived in safety at Fort Pitt, and surrendered to Gen. Strange, giving up their arms. This necessitated a larger supply of provisions, which were immediately sent for. The Chippewyans say that they had purchased their freedom with cattle, but that after doing so Big Bear would not let them go. The Indian chief had not known of the defeat and capture of Riel up to the time the Chippewyans left and was at that time trying to join the rebel chief with from 150 to 200 warriors, all that remain with Big Bear of the band of 700 which he was supposed to have collected. The battle between Gen. Strange's force and the Indians occurred on the 25th of last month. Of this we have given an account. Eight days later Captain Steele with eighty men under him was attacked by Big Bear who then had three hundred Indian warriors with him. Steele opened fire, both sides fighting for three hours behind trees in a thick wood which it was impossible for horses to get through. Capt. Steele put out the white flag, and the Rev. Mr. McCoy spoke to Big Bear, asking him to release the prisoners. To this request Big Bear replied "Never; I will fight to the last." The firing then recommenced, and was kept up hot for two hours. Then the white flag was hoisted again by Capt. Steele, as he thought the Indians wanted to parley. They were then one hundred yards from each other across a small stream. Big Bear was again asked to release his prisoners, but the Indians replied with a volley at the white flag. The Indians were then forced to retreat to the top of the hill. Capt. Steele ordered a charge and the hill was cleared. Quite a number of his men were wounded and the Indians suffered some loss.

Gen. Middleton, after having followed Big Bear for some sixty miles north of Fort Pitt, had to give up the pursuit on account of the rough nature of the country. In several bogs cross-ed the horses had sunk up to their girths. There were many tracts of wooded country that had to be crossed and fifteen miles was the most that could be done in a day. The abandonment of the pursuit is known to Big Bear's scouts, and the band is now taking matters leisurely. No doubt they will be joined by discontented Indians from other bands. Their united force will be a standing menace for some time to come. It will be necessary, therefore, to keep strong garrisons at Battleford and Fort Pitt. The garrisons must also be maintained at Prince Albert and at Humboldt or Fort Qu'Appelle. Gen. Middleton's column is worn out with fatigue.

A woman in Quebec, who claims to be a cousin of Big Bear, says he is no Indian but the son of Louis Lambert, a French farmer of Levis County, in the Province of Quebec.

The Mayor of Chicago has ordered all the gambling houses in the city to be closed.

A DREAD ENEMY.

Madrid has taken advantage of her experience of cholera and every precaution is being taken to keep the city in a sanitary state. All cows and donkeys have been ordered out of the city limits and fires are kept burning nightly in the most unhealthy streets of the town. Besides this the sewers are thoroughly disinfected with lime. The opinion concerning America is that if cholera is attacked, instead of passively being allowed to attack the people, it will not reach this side of the water. Cases of cholera have appeared in fifty towns in Spain along the Mediterranean. The Spanish Government has again forbidden Dr. Ferran's system of inoculation to be used and also forbids anyone to have in his possession in uninfected provinces any microbe inoculation liquor. This shows the Government believe inoculation liable to transmit a dangerous type of cholera and foreshadows the decision of the national medical commission appointed to examine Dr. Ferran's system. The immediate report of the commission is not probable. If it is against Ferran it may lead to riots among the poorer classes, who now trust solely in Ferran and superstitious formulas.

Marseilles has kept in mind its delivery from the plague in 1720, when 40,000 of its inhabitants perished, and kept the 12th inst. as the anniversary of that deliverance. Special prayers for protection from pestilence were offered up in the presence of an immense congregation. Marseilles seems to be quite satisfied to pray without putting its shoulder to the wheel. Experience has taught Marseilles little. In most of the old streets inhabitants still pitch their animal and vegetable refuse into gutters. The sewers are foul. Everything is ready to favor the development of the epidemic if it should again break out. All the warnings of doctors seem powerless to stir the Municipal Council to the danger. The Jarret still rolls its inky waters through town, and the sanitary precautions taken to guard Marseilles against the scourge extend no further than sprinkling a little disinfecting fluid against the walls of a few houses. So far as can be ascertained only three cases of cholera have occurred in the Marseilles district within the last month. The first is that of a poor woman, the mother of sixteen children. The second case was that of a dirty old septuagenarian, Claude Guerin, who, though a landed proprietor, worth 60,000fr., blacked boots for a living and slept in a garret seven feet square, without air or windows. He had the usual symptoms of Asiatic cholera and was taken to the Conception Hospital, where he rallied. The Lady Superior having heard of his wealth a few weeks ago suggested that he ought to pay for his lodgings, whereon he discovered that he was cured and decamped. The third case is still under treatment.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

There has been another week of changeable weather, but on the whole it has been much warmer than the preceding one and more favorable for the growing crops, especially the young corn plants which were in much need of warmer weather to give them a good start. The crops are all doing well, except the fall wheat in the great wheat growing states where the prospects for a crop grow less as the season advances. In very many sections the fall wheat has been ploughed up and the ground re-seeded with corn or oats, and even where the wheat was allowed to grow unmolested, it is said to have developed more chaff than wheat in very many fields. The report for June, issued by the Agricultural Bureau at Washington,

estimates the wheat yield throughout the United States this year at three hundred and sixty million bushels, or about one hundred million bushels less than the average yield during the last five years, yet the price of wheat at Chicago is almost exactly the same as at this date last year when there were such bright prospects for an enormous yield of wheat. The continuance of comparatively low prices for wheat in view of such a prospective deficiency in the wheat crop in both Europe and America, is owing to the enormous stock of old wheat on hand and available for the coming season, as well as greatly increased yields in New Zealand, Australia and South America.

A MURDERER of a mother and two wives is being tried in Paris. The man was a watchmaker by trade but spent all his spare time in learning music and chemistry. He paid particular attention to poisonous drugs of which it is now discovered that he made free use in getting rid of relatives. His mother was his first victim. He next poisoned two servant girls. One of them ran to the hospital and was cured. In 1880 Pel married a pretty young girl, Eugenie Buffreau, who brought him a dowry of \$1,000. Mme. Pel died two months later, after two weeks of vomiting, thirst and intense pains in the intestines. Pel declared death was caused by eating poisonous mushrooms, a story that was readily believed. Nine months afterward Pel married Murat Bellisle, who brought him a dowry of \$1,500. Ten days later Pel's second wife and her mother were seized with excruciating pains in the bowels, but his mother-in-law, having a presentiment of evil, left the house and persuaded her daughter to do the same, thereby saving both their lives. Last year Pel made the acquaintance of Eliza Boehmer and the two lived together, she giving money to Pel who squandered it. When she refused to give him more he administered poison and she disappeared. Pel, however, was caught in the act of cremating her body in his furnace and he was arrested. At the opening of his trial thousands of persons could not find room in the Court House. A large china basin containing the intestines of the victims rested on a table in the Court, and Pel examined them with a diabolical smile when he entered the prisoner's box. The trial created a great sensation. The prisoner has been found guilty and been sentenced to be beheaded by the guillotine.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Church and the Church of England each receive from Government certain grants to enable them to give Indian children a school training in the North-West. The Methodist Conference in Winnipeg have asked the Government to put similar institutions to those of the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches under the direction of the Methodist Church for its Indians.

Eighty-five persons committed suicide in Philadelphia in the past year. Hanging appears to be a most popular method and drink the leading cause. America is fast catching up to the Old World in the matter of suicides. Crime of all sorts is bound to increase as long as the sale of intoxicating and poisonous drinks is licensed or permitted.

THIRTY MILLIONS of dollars were voted by the House of Commons last Saturday for the purpose of carrying on public works. The whole proceeding of passing the bill occupied three minutes; ten millions voted a minute.