

BRINGING WAR TO AN END.

In our last week's report we left the troops in the North-West exulting over their defeat of the rebels at Batoche's and over their capture of that village. We left Riel in General Middleton's hands, very much frightened lest he should be shot by some of those whom he had held as prisoners, and whom he had threatened to massacre before Gen. Middleton had attacked his rifle-pits at Batoche's. As might be expected, these persons who had suffered at his hands bore no friendly feelings toward him, and he had cause to fear for the safety of his life even whilst in Gen. Middleton's camp. Riel is coatless, having left his outer garment in a bush. He has moccasins for his feet, a black slouch hat for head gear, a hickory shirt, a grey and dirty vest and trousers. His hair and beard are decidedly dirty, as is his person. He has a most courteous manner; his voice is rather effeminate and his gestures graceful. While declaring that every man has a mission and that his was to bring about practical results, he vehemently denies that he was the leader of the rebellion or that he wished to influence the half-breeds to take up arms in defence of their rights. We must hope that he has accomplished good practical results and that the half-breeds and Indians will be dealt with more truly in the future by those who govern them. At the same time it must be remembered that Riel is guilty of high treason and is largely responsible for the loss of three hundred lives which this war has occasioned. Riel took an active part late in 1882, or early in 1883, in the Montana territorial elections, having become an American citizen there. He created considerable excitement in the elections referred to, being an active worker for the Republicans. After the election was over he was prosecuted, being accused of having induced several half-breeds to vote, though they had not the necessary qualifications, but before the prosecution had got fairly under way he fled to his old home at St. Vital, near St. Boniface, Manitoba. He afterwards returned to Montana on a flying visit. Then, in the fall of 1883, he went up to the Saskatchewan country, where he has been ever since. He now declares that he can prove that at the beginning of the present insurrection he wanted to go back to the United States and attempted to do so but was prevented. From his books which have fallen into the hands of Gen. Middleton, the arch-rebel claims that he can prove his innocence of heading the rebellion. Notwithstanding his proclamations he expects to be hung and spends most of his time in fasting and praying. He turns everything to a religious subject, and says that the Almighty directed the fight at Batoche's. He is thought to be a religious monomaniac and Gen. Middleton himself holds this opinion concerning him. It is very generally believed that Riel was not at all insane while in the Beaufort Lunatic Asylum at Quebec and that he was taken to the United States from the asylum at his own request in order that he might escape punishment. He has been taken to Regina, capital of the North-West Territories, to be tried there and two Quebec lawyers are going to defend him. One of these lawyers has become known for having had the death sentence of the murderers, Mrs. Boutet, commuted into imprisonment for life. The defence in the case of Riel will be based on a plea of insanity. It was feared that an attempt might be made to rescue him while being escorted to Regina. In case of any such attempt he was to be immediately shot. There was no attempt made and he arrived in safety. Indeed, from reports of the feel-

ings of the half-breeds toward Riel, it would seem that his former followers are as anxious as anyone to see him punished and would not attempt to get him into their hands except to kill him. They feel vexed at having been led into such an enterprise as they have been, only to be defeated with great loss of life, and talk of petitioning the Government to hand him over to them. A large band of scouts are scouring the country in search of Dumont, who is even more desired by the troops than Riel himself. A half-breed story which is generally believed, states that after the Duck Lake fight Dumont boasted that he himself had killed seven out of the eleven of the other side killed. An evidence of his brutality is given in the following incident: After the first firing, Dumont went up to two of the Prince Albert volunteers—whose names the officer who relates the story has forgotten—both of whom were badly wounded. Dumont stirred up one with his foot and, pointing his revolver in his face, told him he was going to kill him. The poor fellow pleaded that he was not mortally wounded, that he had a wife and children of whom he was the sole support, and might recover although he would be a cripple. Dumont, with a malignant leer, applied some offensive epithet and blew his brains out, despatching the second man in a similar manner. The story has so fired the men that they would sooner shoot Dumont than Riel. A couple of hours after the capture of Riel, his lieutenant, Maxime Lepine, came into Gen. Middleton's camp and delivered himself up. He is a big, rough-looking man and pretended to be very much disgusted with the rebellion, as well he might be after the turn it had taken. Gen. Middleton asked him two questions: "Were you in the fight at Batoche?" and "Were you one of Riel's councillors?" To both of these Lepine simply answered "Yes."

The situation at Battleford was somewhat uncomfortable after Poundmaker's capture of the supply waggons, for that chief, encouraged by the stores he had seized, came closer to the barracks at Battleford and set fire to the prairie in several places not far from the town. About two hundred Indians rode round in the vicinity and their actions gave rise to the fear of a night attack. Steps were immediately taken to meet it, and forces were gathered in and around the barracks and the town put in a position of defence. It is thought that Col. Otter would have attacked these Indians and forced them to a pitched battle if he had not been so severely criticised by Gen. Middleton for having attacked Poundmaker. The General seemed to consider the attack on Poundmaker quite unnecessary, and very much to be deplored as it forced the Indians into a rebellious war which might, he thought, have been confined to Riel and his followers. The expected attack on Battleford was not made and the garrison of that place burned the bush around the town so that the Indians might find no lurking place within range. Shortly after Poundmaker and his band, amounting to about five hundred braves, had captured the train of supply waggons, they discovered a bag of newspapers which gave the news of Riel's defeat, and it was this news which deterred them from further hostilities. Poundmaker was very polite to the captured teamsters who were well treated by the Indians. On Thursday evening last week the greatest rejoicing was caused at Qu'Appelle by the arrival of a white flag from Chief Poundmaker and the hostile under-chiefs who are with him. With the flag came a large number of prisoners, and amongst them, all the captured teamsters. They stated that when within what they

considered safe distance of Battleford they were surprised by the Indians, and before they had time to do anything, were surrounded by a band of a hundred Indians and half-breeds. A letter from Poundmaker was carried to Col. Otter by one of the prisoners and in it the chief asked on what terms he would be allowed to surrender. Col. Otter told him he must treat with Gen. Middleton and accordingly Poundmaker sent to the General. He received a message in reply that he and his followers must surrender unconditionally to Col. Otter and that it would be decided afterwards what would be done with them. There is a report that Poundmaker has accepted Gen. Middleton's terms and notified Col. Otter that he would surrender unconditionally. It turns out that Little Poplar was not with Poundmaker at Cut Knife Creek and that the richly decorated and plumed horse which was captured at that battle by the volunteers belonged to another chief. Little Poplar has been with Big Bear almost from the beginning of the rebellion. Big Bear is still north of the North Saskatchewan River near Frog Lake and many young men from other tribes are joining his band. He has now eight hundred warriors under him all of whom are fairly well armed. Poundmaker before his defeat at Cut Knife Creek had sent three or four messages to Big Bear asking that chief to join him. None of these messages were answered. After the defeat of the Indians by Col. Otter, Poundmaker wished that the whole band should retire westward to the Rocky Mountains, but the chiefs of the Stoney Indians would not hear of such a thing, and were determined to try and join Riel. Now, Poundmaker, and the half-breeds who joined him at Riel's order, blame the Stoney Indians for all the trouble caused by the Indians. It is thought that Big Bear may yet cause trouble, but he has very large stores of provisions and many women and children so that he will have to stand on the defensive. He talks of putting the large number of prisoners whom he has in his hands in front of his men so that the volunteers cannot fire on his braves without killing the prisoners. Among the prisoners who are in the hands of this dreaded chief is Mrs. Delaney of Hull, in the Province of Quebec. There have been numerous reports that this person was most horribly treated by the Indians and was then hacked to pieces by the squaws. Though this report is most likely true there is some doubt about it. Another of the prisoners Mrs. Gowanlock is said to have been taken as a wife by one of the Indians. A white courier who has escaped from Big Bear says that that chief is treating his white prisoners well.

The troops in General Middleton's column are anticipating a speedy end to the troubles in the North West and are already thinking of the return home. The volunteers left a sorry sight behind them when they left Batoche's for Prince Albert. The former place presents a desolate appearance, the houses being torn to pieces with shells. White flags are hoisted in many places over broken-in roofs. There was a great deal of woe-mongering at the fear shown by the Prince Albert people who had a garrison of four hundred to protect them. The Indians north of Prince Albert, it is true, were unquiet, but Gen. Middleton was 100 thirty miles away. It is generally thought among the volunteers that the police are a cowardly set, although there are brave ones among them. It is questioned why the two hundred police lying idle at Prince Albert did not ride down and help Gen. Middleton in his fight against Riel. Gen. Middleton will require Col. Irvine, who was in charge of the police, to account for his remaining at

Prince Albert while fighting was going on for four days at Batoche's. The next movement to be taken against the rebels who are still in arms is to cut off their retreat. To do this Gen. Middleton has decided to gather as large a body of horse as possible and ride down on Big Bear and Beardsy unless these chiefs surrender. He intended to have attacked Poundmaker, but that chief has surrendered in good time. Bands of half-breeds are constantly surrendering, and the main trouble is to avoid feeding such a number of them. A great many are let off with a lecture after their names have been taken. Twenty-five prisoners, most of whom are Riel's councillors, are kept in the camp at Batoche's. Riel says the rebels lost 76 killed and 140 wounded in the last battle. The total number of volunteers killed at the battles of Fish Creek and Batoche was eighteen, while the rebels lost nearly a hundred. In the two battles there were eighty-three loyal wounded and the rebels had over two hundred wounded. Several guns taken out of the batteries will be left in the North-West for purposes of defence after the termination of the present campaign. It will also be necessary for a large force to remain at least a year to give confidence to settlers. The half-breed Commissioners are settling the claims of half-breeds to land. The latter receive scrip which gives them a right to a portion of land, but when drunk they are often persuaded to sell their scrip very cheaply to brokers and are afterwards dissatisfied.

PERILOUS SEA ADVENTURES.

This year there seems to be more danger from icebergs than usual to ships bound from England to Halifax. The number of large icebergs encountered near the Newfoundland Banks is something quite extraordinary. The new Thomson line steamer "Dracons" arrived at Halifax a week ago with her bow badly smashed. On a dark and cloudy night the steamer was going along at full speed. The watch suddenly saw what appeared to him to be a fog bank. On suspicion of danger the engines were reversed and the ship headed in a different direction. She kept on, and before there had been time to materially lessen her speed crashed into a large iceberg. The captain thinking she must surely sink, ordered the life boats out. While the steamer was slowly drifting back from the glittering ice mountain, the captain noticed that the new steel plates had only been crushed in and that there was little water entering the hold. The ship was anchored until daylight when it was found that there were icebergs on every side, making a most majestic scene.

The crew of the barque "Orion," which was bound from Havre, in France, to Halifax, had a most perilous adventure on their journey across the Atlantic. All went well till the evening of the 1st of May when the vessel collided with an immense iceberg towering out of the water as high as the ship's masts. The ship having been firmly jammed into the ice, the boats were got out to save life. Twelve men got into the first boat which was pulled away from the sinking vessel. Six of the crew who still remained attempted to get off in a second boat which, however, was filled with water as soon as it had been launched. The sailors, who had already escaped to some distance, put back as near the barque as they could on seeing the perilous position of their comrades. When they were within a short distance of the barque a rope was thrown to them and was caught. With the help of this all of those who remained on the vessel save one were saved. The captain, who was