

and approval by the wild working men of Belleville, is a more remarkable incident still. When they were told that they must regard the act of the 25th February as a starting point, a first step towards the progressive and peaceful realization of the ideas of political and social justice which form the ideal of the Republican party, they cheered to the echo and pledged themselves to that sensible line of conduct. It is to be hoped that in the days of confusion and peril they will remain true to their promise.

The Scilly Islands on which the unfortunate "Schiller" was wrecked, form a small circular group about thirty-five miles southwest of Lands End. There are perhaps 110 of these Islands many of them being merely huge rocks. Six of them are inhabited: St. Mary's and St. Agnes on the east, and Tresee, Bryer, St. Martin's and Samson, further North. The rest of the group are low islands, with abrupt sides, and are separated by shallow channels. Bishop Rock, with its light-house, and the edge of Retarnete reef (on which the "Schiller" struck) are a mile to the south of St. Agnes Island, and with the exception of Poi Bank, on the southern edge of the group. The lighthouse on Bishop Rock, a tall, conspicuous structure, is half a mile from the scene of the wreck; and at St. Mary's Island, to the north, there is another lighthouse 138 feet high. Nearly every shoal in this group has its legend of wreck. An English admiral, with nine ships of the line, was wrecked here, and 2,000 men perished; and in later years the "Thames" and the "Duro" went to pieces on the same ledges, with terrible loss of life.

The excise duties collected on a gallon of spirits in Great Britain are ten shillings a gallon, or more than three times those imposed in the United States. The revenue derived by Great Britain in the year ended March 31, 1874, was \$73,000,000 from British spirits, \$26,000,000 from foreign liquors, \$9,000,000 from foreign wines, and \$38,000,000 from malt liquors. In the fiscal year 1874, the United States received \$41,000,000 from the gallon tax on spirits, \$9,000,000 from malt liquors, and \$8,000,000 from customs duties on foreign wines and liquors. From 1864 to 1874, the British revenue from excise duties on spirits increased more than fifty per cent. without any change whatever in the tax per gallon. In the fiscal year 1870 the United States derived a revenue from spirits of \$55,581,599, including license fees, and though the tax was raised to seventy cents a gallon August 1, 1872, the Internal Revenue Office has never succeeded in matching its receipts for 1870 under the fifty cent tax.

The *Times* says:—There could hardly be a more critical situation than existed in Berlin upon the arrival of the Emperor of Russia. The German Government may declare a hostile movement was never officially entertained, but a few days since there was serious danger that warlike counsels would prevail. We may suppose Prince Gortschakoff courteously expressed a determination to treat as an enemy the first State disturbing the peace. In spite of England's attitude of reserve, we believe the Government thought it a national duty in the recent crisis to express its opinion very decisively in regard to the maintenance of peace. The communication was amicably received and a most satisfactory reply returned. France has expressed acknowledgement of England's friendly attitude.

The youth O'Connor who, on the day of thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales, attempted to shoot the Queen, was arrested again on the 5th inst. The Queen was holding a drawing room at Buckingham Palace, and O'Connor was found standing in the same place on the front railings, from which he on a former

occasion pointed a pistol at the Queen. The arrest was quietly made, and O'Connor sent to the Asylum by order of Sir Thos. Henry, Chief Magistrate at Bow street Police Court, on the certificate of two physicians that the prisoner was subject to both suicidal and homicidal impulses.

In the French Assembly, a resolution was passed that no further elections be ordered for members of the Assembly until the general elections for the new Chamber are held. This action leaves the vacant seats in the present Assembly unfilled for the remainder of the season.

The pilgrims from Mayence, waited on the Pope and congratulated him on the occasion of the 83rd anniversary of his birth. The Pope replied with feeling to their congratulations. He praised the German clergy and exhorted them to steadfastness.

Le Volonté Nationale, the organ of Prince Napoleon, in a leading article declares that if the Prince Imperial should die, Prince Napoleon would never claim the throne. The principle of hereditary succession is dead.

SIX MONTHS IN THE WILDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST AND CORRESPONDENT.

XI.

On the twenty-second September, Col. French, with McLeod, Briscois, Novitt and the guide Leveille left us for Fort Benton. The Colonel was to catch up with us on the road to Wood Mountains. They took four carts with them.

After moving along for several days, we found ourselves on the banks of Milk River the bed of which was perfectly dry. We next moved to the Boundary Line and Wild Horse Lake, and camped near a marsh south of it. There we found good water and grass in abundance. Here we decided upon awaiting the return of Colonel French, a determination which was justified by the fair weather we enjoyed and the number of ducks and wild geese affording us plenty of sport on the lake. The men employed their spare hours in thoroughly bathing and the extermination of vermin, the latter operation being carried out by the aid of juniper oil.

On the twenty-ninth, the Commissioners arrived accompanied by an American guide and Leveille, a nephew of our old guide, originally from Seel and a man of some means. He had been in the North-West for twenty years. Nineteen horses were bought for the Force from the Americans at Fort Benton. We also got provisions in the shape of potatoes, syrup, &c.

On the 1st October, we moved ten miles to the west of Milk River, finding water in pools and good feed. At this point Col. French killed the last buffalo at noon halt.

On the 2nd, we moved twenty-three miles before dining and camped on the bank of a small spring fed by springs. Here a terrific fire took place on the prairie, affording us a sublime spectacle.

On the 10th, we travelled to Lake Margon, a nice large sheet of pure water. The food in the environs, however, was scanty. At this point another of our prairie experiences was repeated. A stampede of horses took place, causing a great deal of annoyance and fatigue.

On the next day, we crossed White Mud River where Sioux were encamped. Twenty-three lodges of them were encamped about nine miles on the east side. Col. French asked Doctor Kittson to accompany him to Wood Mountains while D and E Troop took a short cut to Cripple Camp. The Colonel, Dr. Kittson and myself with servants and guides arrived at Cripple Camp early in the morning of the seventh October. We found the boys and horses in fine condition.

On the 9th, we camped once more along the shores of Old Wife's Lake, from which we struck the trail to Lake Qu'Appelle. This point now celebrated for the treaty concluded there between the Indians and the Canadian authorities, was reached at length on the 15th. The spot is also memorable, because it is there that I separated from my companions after a long journey of five months. Our mission was over, the Force had accomplished the duty for which it had been sent out, and was about to be distributed in different quarters. I therefore resolved on returning to Canada. "Home, Sweet Home!"

I take this occasion to repeat to Col. French, Dr. Kittson and the officers and men of the Force my acknowledgments of the uniform kindness which I received at their hands throughout the entire march. I must express also my sense of respect for them as men and for the worthy manner in which they performed the arduous duties imposed upon them by Government.

With a number of half-breeds for companions and guides, I bade adieu to the Force at Qu'Ap-

pelle and reached Fort Pelly on the 21st October. On the 28th, I arrived at Fort Ellice and on the 5th November, at Fort Garry. I tarried some days at the latter place, and took a great many notes of certain things I observed there, but I do not care to publish them just now. With regard to Fort Garry itself, the place and its surroundings have been amply described in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS often and even quite recently.

On the 24th November, I found myself once more at Fort Dufferin where the headquarters of the Force were already established. A few days more and I was at length secure in my little cabinet, finding very little change in the six months of absence. My trip has been worth a great deal to me, in health, experience and knowledge. I would not exchange it for many a more pretentious voyage.

BOILER INSPECTION.

A correspondent writes to us a long letter, from which we make the following extracts. We can be critical, amusing and imaginative—and we may be all these and yet deal with the actual interests of the people.

My own son lately stood upon the floor of his office in this city, while the boiler, in the basement below that office, "collapsed," as the papers expressed it. Those people (the proprietors) had been warned again and again of the danger of their old 9 or 10 years boiler, and told it was unsafe. They got their voluntary mock inspection, and paid the usual small fee. This, which had taken place but a short time before was nothing but the snare it commonly is. But you will be moved when I tell you, that the reason that boiler did not shatter the whole establishment of proprietors, clerks and printers, and carry misery and desolation into a hundred homes, and shock the best feelings of a great city for a fortnight, was, that it (the boiler) had been worn so thin by long use, that the restraining pressure yielded, having only force enough from the exploding steam to quietly throw down a part of the containing walls which surrounded the boiler. A large sum was lost through having to transfer the press work on such short notice.

In another establishment I know of, (not a printer's) any one about the place who may happen to be disengaged is allowed to run the engine, and in some of these places the steam gauges are constantly allowed to be dumb through disrepair. Now, is there not a case for legislation here? and may not the hope of legislation be greatly furthered by fruitful literary statements of what is needed? My space will not allow me to touch upon the other classes of dangers to-day, but this question of a Boiler Inspection Law for these establishments and a law for certifying the fitness of the engineers entrusted with the working of engines on shore, is, I think you will admit, a matter of great urgency.

Since the disastrous burning of the steamer "Montreal" awakened the public attention, we have had regulations for our river boats in Canada which have given the country an honorable reputation abroad, and have been gratifying to the self-respect of every true citizen. Why cannot we do as much for shore operations? Your influential journal may become a great help in a really popular movement, and one which no man dare gainsay the value of, and I leave the matter in your hands with much confidence.

RHYMES OF BATTLE.

There is probably no one general subject that has given inspiration to so much powerful poetic effort as that of war and battle. A ponderous volume might be filled with the best poetry in the English language upon this theme, and it would be a volume replete with vivid coloring, with striking similes, and with stirring pictures.

Shakespeare abounds in effects of this kind. Among the most spirited are the lines commencing—

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends—once more!"

and ending with the ringing battle-cry.

—upon this charge

Cry—Heaven for Harry, England, and St. George!"

Macbeth stirs the blood of the coldest with the shout,

"Hang out your banners!—on the outward walls, The cry is still they come!"

And the battle of Bosworth is fought out in fiery language in "Richard III."

In two lines of a familiar poem by Motherwell there is a metaphor which I believe cannot be excelled:

"A charge—a charge! an ocean burst Upon a stormy strand!"

Sir Walter Scott excelled in this class of poetical composition; and I am inclined to think the battle pieces in "Marmion" and "The Lady of the Lake" the very best products of his muse.

How wonderfully expressive of the silent march of a great host are these four lines from the latter:

"No cymbal clashed—no clarion rang, Still were the pipe and drum; Save heavy tread and armors' clang, That sulken march was dumb."

Macaulay is not generally held in high esteem as a poet; but few have done better in this particular line than he in his "Battle of Ivry," commencing—

"O how our hearts were beating, when, at the dawn of day, We saw the armies of the league drawn up in proud array."

and in which he has immortalized "the white plume of Navarre."

Campbell ranks very high in battle-poetry, his best specimen being the "Battle of the Baltic." It is a poem which fairly glows with the intense spirit of the sea-fight, and its merits are so uniform that it is difficult to select any lines as superior to others. The following is a good sample:

"Hearts of oak! our captains cried, When each gun, From its adamantine lips, Spreads a death-shade round the ships, Like a hurricane eclipse Of the sun."

Byron's muse never soared to a loftier height than in his splendid stanzas on the Battle of Waterloo; he certainly wrote nothing which became familiar to so many people as did these remarkable verses. How startling is this, no matter where you read it:

"And the deep thunder, peal on peal afar, And near, the beat of the alarming drum Roused up the soldier ere the morning star, While thronged the citizen with terror dumb, Or whisper'd with white lips—the foe—they come!—they come!"

America seems to me to be lacking in this particular poetical product. We have a few good examples—notably those capital verses by an American whose name has escaped me, beginning:

"In their ragged regimentals Stood the old Continentals, Yielding not."

George H. Baker has done some passable things in verse on some of the encounters of the late war. Longfellow made an attempt in his poem on the sea-fight in Hampton Roads, but with no marked success. General Halpin's poem on the dedication of the monument at Gettysburg contains an excellent description of a battle, and "Sheridan's Ride," by T. B. Reade is known all over the continent; but the yards of magazine poetry begotten of the war very little has outlived the month of its production. It appears to me that this is comparatively a new field in American poetical literature, and that great successes are possible in it in the future.

Even so slight a reference as this to this treasuring subject would be wotfully lacking without some mention of the "Charge of the Light Brigade." There are thousands upon thousands of people who know Tennyson only by this magnificent poem, which seems vocal with the hoot-beats of galloping squadrons, the clang of sabres, and the roar of cannon.

VARIETIES.

PRINCE LEOPOLD has taken two shares in the company formed for promoting a high school for girls at Oxford.

THE Anglo-French betting establishments in Paris having been closed the agents now carry on their business in a quiet way in private clubs.

PROF. BRUGSET, during an expedition to Sinai, has found nine hitherto unknown portions of the *Codex Sinaiticus*, the oldest extant MS. of the New Testament. Something for the sensational preachers to make capital upon.

A NEW article of diet is promised from India. It is a weed called "malmunda," the seed of which makes an excellent kind of wheat. It has been officially reported upon, and said to contain as much nutriment as peas or beans. Good for the horses, perhaps.

AN Antwerp chemist has recently discovered that the vapour of chloroform will not only extinguish the flame of petroleum vapour very speedily, but will even destroy its explosive and combustible properties, if mixed with it. This discovery may prove capable of practicable application in the prevention of fires.

Is the French navy matters are rather circumlocutory. When a ship is fitted out for sea, her provisions are calculated by the day; when she returns home any of the provisions remaining are not taken back by the authorities, nor are they allowed to be sold for the benefit of the crew, still less are they given to the poor—they are sunk in the sea according to the regulations.

JOURNALISTIC statistics in the United States show that during the past year \$1,600,000 were lost in newspaper enterprises. Agent Journalist, the *New York Herald* is stated to cost \$252 per annum, or \$180,000.00 yearly. The daily expenses of the *Tribune* amount to \$200 of the *New York Times* to \$20, and of the *World* from \$149 to \$160. 57 women are now editing journals in the States.

THE body of the murdered President of Spain, Marshal Prim, still lies above ground in its coffin at Athens, awaiting the final destination. All around it lie the wreaths and floral crowns that the late King and others placed on the coffin, and strange to say that coffin is still open. An occasional correspondent says he saw the lid raised a few days ago, and the face exhibited scarcely the least perceptible traces of decay.

An old lady, ninety years of age, very wealthy and full of wit, died recently at Fontainebleau in France. Her will contained this provision:—"I leave to my physician, whose enlightened care and wise prescriptions have made me live so long, all that is contained in the old oak chest in my boudoir. The key of the chest will be found under the mattress of my bed." The heirs were much disturbed, for they foresaw a material diminution of their share of the property. The fortunate and expectant physician at length arrived. The notary delivered to him the key of the chest. It was opened, and found to contain solely all the drugs and poisons still intact which the worthy physician had given his patient for twenty years back!

CIRCULATING libraries were originated by Mr. Samuel Fancourt, of the West of England, and originally a pastor of a Dissenting congregation. When he came to London and published his scheme, he asked a guinea a year for the subscription. He was a very honest, clever man, but, like many other originators, did not succeed. He settled at last at the corner of one of the streets in the Strand, where, outplanned by a variety of imitators, and entangled with a variety of speculations, this poor man, who may be said to have first circulated knowledge amongst us, sank under a load of debt, unmerited reproach, and a failure of his faculties, brought on by the decay of age, precipitated by misfortunes. His library became the property of creditors, and he returned in poverty to Hoxton Square, where some of his brethren relieved his necessities till the close of his life, in his ninetieth year, in 1768.