

# THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Second Year.  
Vol. II., No. 22.

Toronto, Thursday, April 30th, 1885.

\$3.00 per Annum.  
Single Copies, 7 cents.

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE.
First Blood in the North-West .....	337
The Insurgents make the most of their Opportunities .....	337
French Canadian Sympathy for the Half-breeds .....	337
Another Way to Fight the Rebels .....	337
The New Franchise Bill .....	338
Canadian Credit in England .....	338
The Mail and Mr. Fenton .....	338
The Montreal Herald and THE WEEK .....	339
The Anglo-Russian Complication .....	339
American Sympathy with England .....	339
The Sudan War Terminated by the Russian Difficulty .....	339
Prince of Wales's Visit to Ireland .....	339
General Grant .....	339
The Virginia Case and State Repudiation .....	340
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Letellier de Saint-Just .....	Thorpe Mable. 340
The Alcohol Question .....	G. Gordon Richardson. 341
American View of the North-West Rebellion .....	B. 342
Art Notes .....	Delta. 343
HERE AND THERE .....	343
CORRESPONDENCE .....	345
POETRY—	
May Time .....	J. Almond Ritchie. 345
On the Ice Breaking up at Belleville .....	David McClellan. 345
LORD BRAMWELL ON DRINK (Selected) .....	345
A MASTER ARTIFICEER'S HOUSE IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY (Selected) .....	346
SCRAP BOOK .....	346
MUSIC—	
Toronto Quartette Club's Concert .....	347
General Notes .....	347
PERIODICALS .....	348
BOOK NOTICES .....	348
LITERARY GOSSIP .....	349
CHESS .....	349

## The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHIER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

IN their first encounter with the forces of the insurrection, the volunteers showed a steadiness and obedience to orders worthy of veterans. They received the deadly fire of the enemy, delivered at a distance so short that buck-shot was fatal, without flinching. Concealed in a ravine, behind trees and boulders, Dumont and his men had not much to fear from rifle shots; and it was difficult for our gunners to get a position from which to shell them with effect. In the battle of Fish Creek the advantages of ground, cover and accuracy of aim were all in favour of the insurgents, by whom every inch of the surface and every spot from which a shot could be fired with the best advantage were well known. The troops were necessarily exposed to the aim of Dumont's sharpshooters, their only resource being to lie on the ground and partly rise to fire, and it is natural that they should suffer, as they did, severely. Against shells the insurgents had no adequate protection, and after a hard fight of several hours' duration they were compelled to retire. The number of horses belonging to Riel's men killed—fifty-five—shows that the men themselves were in hot quarters. General Middleton successfully guarded against a surprise; his scouts appear to have performed their duty well, and he does not seem to have made any mistake in the disposition of the forces. It is difficult to see what he could have done that would have been an improvement on what was affected. To charge a concealed foe for whom a search would have had to be made, during which the troops would have been exposed to a deadly fire, was out of the question. The coolness and self-possession of the veteran commander had a good effect on the men, whose conduct in every particular seems to have been unexceptionable. That the casualties were numerous is due to the conditions under which the fight was carried on, conditions by which the insurgents were able to profit, and which the troops had no choice but to accept. The retirement

of the advanced guard of the insurgents back to the main body at Batoche's Crossing was dearly purchased by the number of casualties suffered by the troops. It is a price which, one instinctively feels, it would not do to pay in every future encounter.

THE limitations of the resources of the insurrection have made themselves visible in several ways since the troops left the line of railway on their northward march. Though the Indians and Half-breeds are expert horsemen and good rifle shots, unsurpassed in making a sudden dash on a slowly-moving foe and then precipitately withdrawing, they never once attacked the flank of either Middleton's or Otter's column, and only once fired on General Middleton's scouts. This would seem to show that the insurgents felt the necessity of concentrating their whole strength in the neighbourhood of Batoche's Crossing. The number of shot-guns used in the Battle of Fish Creek shows that the supply of Winchester or any other rifles was very limited; for, where so much would depend upon the result, the best men and the best arms would be certain to be used in the first encounter with the troops. But that the insurgents know how to make the most of slender resources the battle of Fish Creek attests. It is probable that all through the fight the necessity of making effective every charge of a scanty supply of ammunition was present to the minds of the insurgents. They can do more with a given supply of material than civilized troops can do. They can even fast three days together without great inconvenience, and each of them could devour three white men's rations every day if the rations could be got. To starve them out nearly a whole week would be required. On a retreat they could, if all mounted, urge their horses to make about a hundred miles in a single day, though this ratio could not long be kept up. So far they have taken no extra risks, not even the slight risk which mounted men would run in harrying the flank of a moving infantry column. Whatever may be the object, their tactics are well fitted to conserve their resources in men, horses, and ammunition. Of the latter, it is quite clear they must, unless they can get new supplies, of which there is little prospect, soon run short. To manufacture powder, none of them has the necessary art, even if the ingredients were at hand. But of whatever they are in possession they may be relied on to make the most.

L'ETANDARD, a journal published in Montreal, which boasts of having the names of more than five hundred priests on its subscription list, publishes a letter on the insurrection in the North-West written by a resident of Quebec for whose high social position it is ready to vouch. The writer advances grounds for sympathy between the French Canadians of Quebec and the Indians and Half-breeds of the North-West. He tells us, in effect, that Archbishop Taché quelled the Rebellion of 1868, and that he could, if he desired, perform the same office now; but that, having been badly recompensed for his former service, he will now leave the Government and Riel to fight it out as best they may. Difficulties of race, which no one in this region had supposed to exist, are described as being of the most serious character; the French Canadians are represented as suffering contumely and wrong at the hands of the British, not oppressors but despisers; the inference being that they ought to be in the same resentful mood as the men in arms in the North-West. No bill of particulars is or could be given which would justify these vague general statements. Why is this complaint, of which nothing was heard before, made at this juncture? Why is the attempt made to establish a bond of sympathy between the French Canadians and the Indians and Half-breeds who are in arms in the North-West? When a Parisian writer recently raised the question whether, in the event of war taking place between England and France, French Canadians would fight on the side of England, the *Minerve* replied with a point-blank negative. Whatever else may be thought of the confession, it cannot be objected to as lacking in definiteness or candour.

OPINIONS may differ as to the best mode of fighting Half-breeds and Indians; but the opinion of a Roman Catholic missionary, who is familiar with the North-West, published in *L'Etandard*, has the merit of being