

within wheels of a delicate political nature, involves problems of a social, ethnical, and religious character, and is altogether encompassed with numerous and variously implicated influences.

The upholders of this second theory base their explanation of the origin of the rising, as I have remarked, upon the distrust with which the French half-breed is accustomed to regard a government by aliens. They point to the circumstances attending the revolt of 1869-1870 (in which, they assert, many of the influences were identical with those now in progress) as explanatory of the revolt of 1885.

Believing that there have been undeniable examples of unconstitutional measures, they find in the present demands of the half-breeds and their leaders grave and serious ground of complaint. They lay great stress upon the French origin of these half-breeds and their consequent peculiar modes of thought, and they lay an equal amount of stress upon their notions in regard to their right to lands, and the manner in which they shall possess such lands. They thus introduce historical, we may even go so far as to say, international, elements for the support of their assertions in regard to the justice of the claims put forward by the now recalcitrant *métis*. Further, stepping down from this high ground, those adopting this view point to the provisions of the Manitoba Land Act of the 12th May, 1870, and especially to the amendment to that Act, passed in 1875. By this amendment it was enacted that:—

"Whereas, it is expedient, towards the extinguishment of the Indian title to the lands in the Province, to appropriate a portion of such ungranted lands, to the extent of one million four hundred thousand acres thereof, for the benefit of the half-breed residents, it is hereby enacted that, under regulations to be, from time to time, made by the Governor-General in Council, the Lieutenant-Governor shall select such lots or tracts in such parts of the Province as he may deem expedient, to the extent aforesaid, and divide the same among the children of the half-breed heads of families residing in the Province at the time of the said transfer to Canada, and the same shall be granted to said children respectively, in such mode and on such conditions as to settlement and otherwise, as the Governor-General in Council may from time to time determine."

They point also to the provisions of the Half-breed Lands Act of 1874. The preamble of this Act reads thus:—

"Whereas, by the provisions of the Act 33 Vic., Cap. 3 of the Statutes of Canada, known as the Manitoba Act, one million four hundred thousand acres of land in the Province of Manitoba were appropriated by the Parliament of Canada for the children of half-breed heads of families, to be granted in such mode, and on such conditions, as the Governor-General in Council should, from time to time, determine; and whereas, the Governor-General did by Order in Council, dated the 25th day of April, 1871, establish and publish the mode and conditions of the divisions of the said grant, and said Order in Council has since been specially confirmed by section one hundred and eight of the Dominion Lands Act; and whereas, in consequence of the surveys in this Province not permitting the distribution of the said lands, in manner as established by the Order in Council mentioned, a distribution has not yet been effected, and in the mean time very many persons entitled to participate in the said grant, in evident ignorance of the value of their individual shares, have agreed severally to sell their right to the same to speculators, receiving therefor only a trifling consideration; and whereas, it is expedient to discourage the traffic now going on in such rights, by protecting the interests of the persons entitled to share as aforesaid, until the patent issue, or allotment be made of their respective portions; therefore," etc.

Stepping down, I say, from the high stand of history and tradition, they point to these acts, and assert that no such reasons, the justice of which the assent to these acts had proved, have been carried out for the relief and protection of the settlers of the Saskatchewan; that these settlers have done all in their power to obtain these measures in a just, loyal, and orderly manner, and that, since no relief was afforded them, they have quite properly reverted to the sword as the only instrument by which to call attention to their wrongs. From this point of view Riel is no adventurer. He is the man who has seen furthest into the causes of the oppression, and has had the courage to rebel against it; who has already been exiled for such courage, and has once again risked his life on behalf of his fellow-sufferers.

Between these two widely-separated points of view from which to regard the recent outbreak in the north-west, may be

placed, as it were, numberless others, separated from either extreme by very different and sometimes inappreciable distances, according to the various degrees of importance attached to the different elements of the question.

Besides this, also, we must not forget that many are inclined to look upon the whole affair as far less important than probably the majority of persons are wont to imagine. They see in the recent rising merely a much-to-be-expected phase of the settlement of the country. They see in it merely the ousting of savagery by civilization; the eradication of nomads by settlers. They deem that already too much stress has been laid upon the seriousness of the whole outbreak; that the numerous questions in regard to the occupation and tenure of lands by half-breeds and Indians have already occupied too much the serious attention of legislators; that in process of time the vast and uninhabited districts of the north-west must become thoroughly settled, and that the uprising of 1885 is but the natural antagonism of the wandering and blood-thirsty savage to the steadfast and peaceable tiller of the soil. They consider the rising merely as a temporary ebullition brought about by a few fiery spirits. They consider that it will of itself speedily cool down, and that it is undeserving of any extraordinary attention.

These, I conceive, are the only points connected with the causes of the rising necessary for us at this time to enquire into before commencing the story of the manner in which that rising was quelled.

It is well, nevertheless, for Canada to regard her recent troubles in their most serious aspect, for they undoubtedly have been to her of the most serious nature. The rebellion of 1869, if as serious in the matter of the consequences at stake, can hardly, in point of magnitude, be compared with that of 1885. The Fenian invasion of 1866 was, as compared to it, but as an eddy to a whirlpool. Since the days of William Lyon Mackenzie, or indeed, we may safely say, since the days of Montcalm and Wolfe, no greater military operations have been undertaken upon the soil of Canada. The force called out was a large and powerful one. In its ranks were many of the highest in the land: men of high social standing, and brilliant intellectual attainments. They travelled in the most inclement of weathers, through hardships untold and obstacles unrivalled, over many hundred miles to meet the foe. The insurgents were no despicable enemy, skilled as they were in the warfare peculiar to their country. Canada felt at large that much was at stake, and through the length and breadth of her land came those who were anxious and willing to defend her.

THE CALL TO ARMS.

It will belong ere the Dominion of Canada forgets the eve of the quelling of the rebellion of 1885. Never, perhaps, in the history of the Dominion was there exhibited such wide-spread excitement linked with such deep-seated enthusiasm. Those who were to don the Queen's uniform and march forth on an errand fraught with danger and difficulty, were not to be compared to the ordinary soldier of the line. They were those whom we all knew, whom we were accustomed to meet and associate with in our every-day life, who were related by ties of friendship or blood to those who were known and revered throughout the Province, who had voluntarily and gladly exchanged the pleasures of the comfortable life at home, for the hardships and dangers of the camp and the battlefield, who were about to exchange profitable and lucrative occupations to the irksome, but honourable toils of active service. They came from all ranks: the humble artisan, the mechanic, the tradesman, the clerk, the student, the professional man—all were to be found, side by side, indistinguishable. It was a labour of love, and by those who remained behind this was not lost sight of. They were not professional soldiers, and they by no means took merely a professional interest in the affair.

From one point of view this was a splendid advantage. The men were many of them highly educated, all of them intelligent. They felt individually responsible for their country's honour, and their country's safety. True enthusiasm was at spring tide, and it looked as if everything would be swept away before it. From another point of view there is a disadvantage in sending troops of this description on to the battlefield. The essential attribute of a good army is discipline, and discipline democracy tends to eliminate. Much is gained by intelligent ardour; something is lost by want of subordination. It is a question whether the total efficiency of such an army in active service is increased or decreased by this addition and subtraction—whether, that is, the intellectual enthusiasm adds more to that efficiency than the want of strict discipline

takes away. In scientific warfare—such, for example as the Franco-Prussian affair—probably this democratic spirit would be a disadvantage; in the present expedition few will deny that it was an element much in our favour.

The militia and volunteers of Canada form a unique force, and one of which she may be truly proud. Its members certainly receive a money value for their service, but they are nevertheless true volunteers. The pittance received at the hands of the government is always spent for the good of the corps, and in numberless instances the holders of commissions, aided often by the non-commissioned officers and men, liberally supplement this sum out of their own pockets.

It will not be out of place here to give an extract from the Statutes showing how the Canadian militia is raised:—

"The militia shall consist of all the male inhabitants of Canada, of the age of sixteen and upwards, and under sixty—not exempted or disqualified by law, and being British subjects by birth or naturalization; but Her Majesty may require all the male inhabitants of Canada capable of bearing arms, to serve in case of a *levée en masse*, 46 V., c. 11, s. 4.

"The male population so liable to serve in the militia shall be divided into four classes.

"The first class shall comprise those of the age of eighteen years and upwards, but under thirty years, who are unmarried or widowers without children.

"The second class shall comprise those of the age of thirty years and upwards, but under forty-five years who are unmarried or widowers without children.

"The third class shall comprise those of the age of eighteen years and upwards, but under forty-five years, who are married or widowers with children.

"The fourth class shall comprise those of the age of forty-five years and upwards but under sixty years.

"And the above shall be the order in which the male population shall be called upon to serve.—46 V., c. 11, s. 5.

DIVISION OF MILITIA.

"The militia shall be divided into Active and Reserve Militia—Land Force; and Active and Reserve Militia—Marine Force.

"The Active Militia—Land Force—shall be composed of:—

"(a) Corps raised by voluntary enlistment.

"(b) Corps raised by ballot.

"(c) Corps composed of men raised by voluntary enlistment and men balloted to serve.

"The Active Militia—Marine Force—to be raised similarly, shall be composed of seamen, sailors, and persons whose usual occupation is upon any steamer or sailing craft navigating the waters of Canada.

"The Reserve Militia—Land and Marine—shall consist of the whole of the men who are not serving in the Active Militia for the time being.—46 V., c. 11, s. 6."

They are, therefore, it will be seen, no "toy soldiers" these, as our friends across the boundary occasionally somewhat contemptuously term them; and this their recent gallant acts in the North-west have abundantly proved. They have stuck at nothing, have grumbled at nothing, and have admirably achieved all that they set out to accomplish. From every part of the Dominion they responded willingly and enthusiastically to the call for their services. Many were engaged in occupations the relinquishment of which meant loss and anxiety, yet none hesitated, indeed, in the majority of cases it was only with difficulty that men could be restrained from too energetically offering their services and joining the battalions which had the good fortune to be ordered to the front. Some who held high commands in less favoured regiments accepted a lower rank in those that were chosen for the war, and others, at the last moment, without orders, fully accoutred, joined their much-envied comrades in the start for the seat of war. Not a few defrayed the whole expenses of the journey with the hope of being actively engaged. True, rumours spread of Quebec's inertia, and tidings came of apathy at Halifax; but these only served to throw into greater relief the spirit of genuine military ardour that pervaded all ranks everywhere.

The nucleus of this ardour was first naturally Winnipeg. It was from Winnipeg that the first advance was made, it was at this spot that the news of Major Crozier's defeat at Duck Lake (of which I will presently speak) first arrived and first created the state of disquiet and ferment; General Middleton had reached the city on the morning of the 27th of March; Winnipeg was the most important base from which to make a start, and here were the 90th Battalion and Winnipeg Field Battery, on whom, would in the natural course of events, devolve the responsibility of making the first move and leading the van. Immediately on his arrival General Middleton inspected the stores, clothing, magazine and supplies at Fort Osborne. The general was accompanied in his inspections by Colonel Houghton. A general alarm was rung and the bugles were sounded for the military to turn out. An hour later they were ready to embark, but it was not until 7 o'clock in the evening that the 90th rifles, the field battery and the cavalry, under General Middleton, boarded a special, and started westward toward Qu'Appelle.

This may be called the first step towards the quelling of the outbreak.

If Winnipeg was foremost in point of time, she had rivals in point of enthusiasm. Indeed every town, large and small, vied with every other town in its energetic efforts at preparation. In Toronto, the next easterly centre of military interest, the excitement was at spring

tide. The first definite news of the calling out of the city troops was received in Toronto late on Friday night. A telegram from Ottawa was received to the effect that 250 men of the Queen's Own Rifles, 250 men of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, and 80 men of the Toronto School of Infantry were to be put into immediate readiness to start for the seat of rebellion. No sooner was it received by the military authorities and become generally known, than the whole city was in a state of ferment. Colonel Miller was busy at the Armoury, Colonel Grasett was telephoning to all quarters of the town, calling up officers, ordering sergeants hither and thither; Colonel Otter was earnestly engaged studying maps of the North-west; and the streets were thronged with soldiers and civilians, eager to learn what was in reality going to be done. The Queen's Own and the Royal Grenadiers were ordered to parade, full strength, at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, and both battalions were busy far into Saturday night preparing for it. The result was excellent; 552 officers and privates of the Queen's Own reported themselves, and more than 300 of the Grenadiers. The officers and medical examiners afterwards went through the ranks and the chosen 250 of each regiment were selected. After being dismissed the men were ordered to parade again at the armoury at 8, and at that time the entire force again turned out. In choosing the men there were a few who objected to go on account of the probable loss of their situations, and a few were rejected because of their physical inability to stand the fatigues of a campaign in the North-west. However, both regiments stood the test well, and were it necessary 800 well-drilled fighting men, instead of 500, could have been procured from the two regiments.

Finally orders are issued that the men will parade at the Drill Hall at 10 a.m. on Monday in full marching order to proceed at noon to the seat of war. Now indeed there is excitement. Think for a moment, reader, of what it meant. Six hundred men—fathers, brothers, lovers, are to start at some twelve hours' notice, all of them to go through terrible hardship, many of them to receive horrible wounds, some of them never, never to return. But which were most to be pitied? those who went, or those who stayed. We all know that the tears were shed by those who stayed behind. There was a great deal to be done, however, and no time was left for hopeful encouragement or fond regret. Sunday night saw friends seeing friends for the last time, kind words passed from mouth to mouth, endearing caresses such, perhaps, as no other occasion could have evoked. Many sad expressions were uttered, but more joyful ones; for were not the brave six hundred on an errand of duty? Mothers and sisters slept not all night. There were so many little things to be looked after for the comfort of their loved ones. And Monday morning saw scenes of pathetic interest. At early dawn they commenced, preparing the outfits, packing the knapsacks, collecting the various little things that each could think of:—note paper, envelopes, stamps, needles and thread, soap, towels, thick boots, warm clothing, sandwiches, hot coffee, tobacco—till the haversacks bulged with good things to overflowing, and yet the mothers and sisters were not satisfied.

We think, many of us, that war is a thing for men only. That it is an evil that only affects the sterner sex. Man, we say, is the protection of the hearth, and home, and country. On him devolves all the suffering. All the suffering? No, not all. Perhaps there is more suffering at home than in all battlefields. Perhaps the hardships of the march do not equal the anxieties of the family circle. Perhaps camp-life is pleasanter than home-life. The warrior has hopes and aspirations that keep him up; he has boon companions and exciting duties. But those at home—they only think of what may befall those on the march. No inspiring scenes divert their minds. No gay companions bid them rejoice.

At last everything is ready. Friends unable to accompany the soldiers shake hands with tears in their eyes, and march down alongside to the drill shed. And here is a scene not often witnessed. Filling the hall from end to end are ranks of men. Officers with jingling swords and clinking spurs move hither and thither. Sergeants are busy seeing that every man is fully accoutred. The quartermaster's office is besieged with men getting various articles—this one a fur cap, that one a tunique, another an overcoat. Up in the gallery there, is a mass of people—women and children, boys and girls, and men, come to see their friends for as long as they can. They look down eagerly at the long straight lines of men—to the east the Grenadiers, to the west the Queen's Own; between the companies the ambulance. A splendid set of men, they all say, and the eyes in the gallery pick out here and there those whom they came to see and watch for. At the doors are more people—masses of them, with difficulty kept back by the police. Here, too, are the waggons, and men with white bands marked with red crosses bring out every now and then large boxes curiously labelled with medical names—ominous signs.

Now comes a change. The sergeants come to the front of the companies, and all along the lines goes the question, "You got everything?" "Got everything?" "Yes," is responded in deep, manly tones. All is ready then. The report is made, and Colonel Otter from the gallery addresses the men:—

"The hour has come," he says, "for them to leave for the discharge of the duty they are called out to perform. They are only in the initial stage of what will, no doubt, prove an arduous undertaking, but the demeanour