

THE LAST REVIEW.

The following lines were published in the Philadelphia Press on the morning of Decoration Day by W. W. Nevlin, late Assistant Adjutant-General U. S. Volunteers, with this introduction.

"This morning, when the country reviews its sleeping legions memory instinctively turns to their last parade on earth—the marching review before battle. When action is imminent, it is the custom and rule of the army, as nearly before the expected hours as possible, to hold a final inspection and review, at which time all the troops to take part pass in column before the general, and literally "those who are about to die salute" their chief."

MORITURI TE SALUTANT.

The bayonets flash, the sabres drop, the line
tramps slowly by,
With colors drooped the men salute the men
about to die;
With bronzed cheek and grim moustache, and
visage stern as fate,
Out of this world those brave men march, and
near the eternal gate.

The nodding plumes, the masle's swell, fade from
the eye and ear,
The glories of the earth dissolve, the end ap-
proaches near;
Their duty done, their watch well kept, the last
grim honors paid,
With sure and unrelenting step they pass into
the shade.

Trailed be the sweeping banners, let wondrous
music roll and wall,
With solemn rites and reverence our hearts the
heroes hail—
The defiant, dying heroes, who have conquered
fate and time;
It is holy ground they tread on, and the shaking
field sublime.

Make the plain a temple—with Misereere, chant
and mass,
Intone the grand procession as from life to death
they pass,
'Tis the nation's blazing altar, let the freighted
censers swing,
And the people bow in awe before the sacrifice
they bring.

Nevermore that stately column in its serried
strength shall form,
The ranks this evening broken in to-morrow's
fire and storm,
Shall melt as in the fervent heat of God's con-
suming breath,
When the dread avenging angels reap the harvest
field of death.

No more aligned breast to breast, that undulating
mass,
With equal step and rhythmic sway before its
chief shall pass;
Nevermore those long-ried comrades with sup-
porting touch shall tread,
Till they join the close battalions of the armies of
the dead.

The last roll-call is answered here, life's final tat-
too blown;
The reveille to-morrow summons to a land un-
known.
Accoutred full, their armor tried, their house in
order laid,
Faithful they wait approaching fate with hearts
all undismayed.

Still heaven above and earth beneath, they lay
them down to sleep,
That earth must soon their bodies take, pray
Heaven their souls to keep;
For with the grey of morning the warning shot
shall come;
And the long tumultuous rolling of the battle-
throbbling drum.

REPORT

BY LIEUT. BUTLER, (69TH REGT.) OF HIS JOURNEY
FROM FORT GARRY TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN
HOUSE AND BACK, DURING THE WINTER OF
1870-71.

GENERAL REPORT.

[CONTINUED.]

The Hon. Adams G. Archibald, Lieut.-Gov
ernor, Manitoba.

"At the breaking out of the disease, early
in the month of August, the population of
Carlton numbered about 70 souls. Of these
32 persons caught the infection and 28 per-
sons died. Throughout the entire period of

the epidemic the officer already alluded to,
Mr. Wm. Trall, laboured with untiring per-
severance in ministering to the necessities
of the sick at whose bedside he was to be
found both day and night undeterred by the
fear of infection, and undismayed by the
unusually loathsome nature of the disease.
To estimate, with anything like accuracy,
the losses caused among the Indian tribes,
is a matter of considerable difficulty. Some
tribes and portions of tribes suffered much
more severely than others. That most
competent authority, Pero LaCombe, is of
opinion that neither the Blood or Blackfeet
Indians had in proportion to their numbers,
as many casualties as the Crees, whose
losses may be safely stated at from 600 to
800 persons. The Lurcees, a small tribe in
close alliance with the Blackfeet, suffered
very severely, the number of their tents
being reduced from 50 to 12. On the other
hand the Assinaboines or Stonies of the
plains, warned by the memory of the former
epidemic by which they were almost annihi-
lated, fled at the first approach of the dis-
ease and keeping far out in the South East-
ern prairies escaped the infection altogether.
The very heavy loss suffered by the Lurcees
to which I have just alluded, was I appre-
hend due to the fact that the members of
this tribe have long been noted as persons
possessing enfeebled constitutions as evi-
denced by the prevalence of goitre almost
universally amongst them. As a singular
illustration of the intractable nature of these
Indians, I would mention that at the period
when the small pox was most destructive
amongst them they still continued to carry
on their horse stealing raids against the
Crees and half-breeds in the neighborhood
of Victoria Mission. It was not unusual to
come upon traces of the disease in the corn
fields around the settlement and even the
dead bodies of some Lurcees were discovered
in the vicinity of a river which they had
been in the habit of swimming while in the
prosecution of their predatory attacks. The
Rocky Mountain Stonies are stated to
have lost over 50 souls. The losses sus-
tained by the Blood, Blackfeet and Peagin
tribes are merely conjectural, but as their
loss in leading men or chiefs has been heavy
it is only reasonable to presume that the
casualties suffered generally by those tribes
have been proportionately severe. Only
three white persons appears to have fallen
victims to the disease; one, an officer of the
Hudson's Bay Company service at Carlton,
and two members of the family of the Rev.
Mr. McDougall at Victoria. Altogether I
should be inclined to estimate the entire
loss along the North Saskatchewan, not in-
cluding Blood, Blackfeet or Peagin Indians,
at about 1,200 persons. At the period of
my departure from the Saskatchewan, the
disease which committed such terrible havoc
among the scanty population of that region
still lingered, in many localities. On my
upward journey to the Rocky Mountains I
had found the Forts of the Hudson's Bay
Company free from infection. On my re-
turn journey I found cases of small pox in
the Forts of Edmonton, Victoria and Pitt-
cases which, it is true, were of a milder des-
cription than those of the autumn and sum-
mer, but which nevertheless boded ill for
the hoped for disappearance of the plague
beneath the snows and cold of winter.
With regard to the supply of medicines
sent by direction, of the Board of Health, in
Manitoba to the Saskatchewan, I have only
to remark that I conveyed to Edmonton
the portion of the supply destined for that
station. It was found, however that many
of the bottles had been much injured by the
frost, and I cannot in any way favourably

notice either the composition or general
selection of these supplies.

Amongst the many sad traces of the epi-
demic existing in the Upper Saskatchewan
I know of none so touching as that which is
to be found in an assemblage of some 20
little orphan children gathered together be-
neath the roof of the Sisters of charity at the
Settlement of St. Albert. These children
are of all races, and even in some instances
the sole survivors of what was lately a nu-
merous family. They are fed, clothed, and
taught at the expense of the Mission; and
when we consider that the war which is at
present raging in France has dried up the
source of charity from whence the Missions in
the North West derived their chief support,
and that the present winter is one of un-
usual scarcity and distress along the North
Saskatchewan, then it will be perceived
what a fitting object for the assistance of
other communities is now existing in this
distant orphanage of the North.

I cannot close this notice of the epidemic
without alluding to the danger which will
arise in the spring of introducing the infec-
tion into Manitoba. As soon as the prairie
route becomes practicable there will be
much traffic to and from the Saskatchewan
—furs and robes will be introduced into the
Settlement despite the law which prohibits
their importation. The present quarantine
establishment at Rat Creek is situated too
near to the Settlement to admit of a strict
enforcement of the sanitary regulations. It
was only in the month of October last year
that a man coming direct from Carlton died
at this Rat Creek, while his companions, who
were also from the same place, and from
whom he caught the infection, passed on into
the Province. If I might suggest the
course which appears to me to be the most
efficacious, I would say that a constable
stationed at Fort Ellice during the spring,
and summer months, who would examine
freighters and others, giving them Bills of
Health to enable them to enter the Province
would effectually meet the requirements of
the situation. All persons coming from the
West are obliged to pass close to the neigh-
borhood of Fort Ellice. This station is
situated about 170 miles West of the Pro-
vincial boundary, and about 300 miles South
East of the South Saskatchewan—forming
the only post of call upon the road between
Carlton and Portage La Prairie. I have
only to add that unless vaccination is made
compulsory among the half-breed inha-
bitants they will, I fear, be slow to avail
themselves of it. It must not be forgotten
that with the disappearance of the snow
from the plains a quantity of infected mat-
ter—clothing, robes, and portions of skele-
tons will again become exposed to the
atmosphere, and also that the skins of
wolves, etc., collected during the present
winter, will be very liable to contain in-
fection of the most virulent description.

The portion of Your Excellency's instruc-
tions which has reference to the Indian
tribes of the Assinaboine and Saskatchewan
regions now claim my attention.

The aboriginal inhabitants of the country
lying between the Red River and the Rocky
Mountains are divided into tribes of Sal-
teaux, Swampies, Crees, Assinaboines, or
Stonies of the Plains, Blackfeet or Assina-
boines of the Mountains. A simpler classi-
fication, and one which will be found more
useful when estimating the relative habits
of these tribes, is to divide them into two
great classes of Prairie Indians and Thick-
wood Indians—the first comprising the
Blackfeet with their kindred tribes of Bloods,
Lurcees, and Peagins, as also the Crees of
the Saskatchewan, and the Assinaboines or