

THE RED RIVER DISTURBANCE.

The past week has brought serious news from the Red River settlement, but as our information comes through American channels, it may be accepted with a large margin for exaggeration. The first report that Governor McDougall had called the Indians to arms, turns out to be quite untrue. It appears that a constabulary force had been organized under Col. Dennis; that Governor McDougall, had issued a proclamation on the first December, to the people of the Territory, and that the insurgents immediately recalled their sympathisers to arms, who are said to have answered the appeal to the number of three or four hundred. The *St. Paul Pioneer* has letter from Pembina, to the 9th inst., which states that when the rebels decided to resist the assumption of the executive control of the country by Canada, they arrested about fifty persons engaged in planning a counter revolution, including Messrs. Schultz, Bown, Muir and Ross, and that Col. Dennis and adherents were retiring and Riel was sending a force to garrison the Fort near Pembina to prevent correspondence between Governor McDougall and the interior. Another, dated 9th, says Col. Dennis' attempts to organize a counter revolution have failed, but government forces occupy and hold the lower fort. Another letter, written probably by Stutman, who is one of the insurgent leaders, says Governor McDougall's landlord (Rose) and George Klin, who carried dispatches from McDougall to Fort Garry, were arrested, as also many others in the interest of the Canadian Government. 300 rebels were occupying Fort Garry, and others coming in. Governor McDougall had an interview with the citizens of Pembina, who protested against his arming Indians while he was on American soil. Mr. McDougall explained that he was appointed governor of the Territory from December 1st, and had been prevented from taking his position by men who refused to receive any explanation from him; that he was sent as a civil officer, knew little of military matters, and had armed no Indians, and did not think such a step necessary. He had corresponded several times with Fort Garry, and had organized a constabulary force to devise plans and means with regard to the employment of any force deemed necessary to restore order and suppress the revolution. He was not responsible for the action of Schultz nor Riel. If he were at Fort Garry he would know how to deal with them and secure the good behaviour of the Indians. He believed the people were disgusted with the revolutionary movement, and that Riel would soon be left alone. He concluded:—"I have received a petition signed by 1,200 inhabitants of Red River in my favor. I apprehend no danger from the Indians nor necessity to use them. I have received communications from several chiefs, and conversed with chiefs from both sides of the line, and they are well disposed to recognize my authority and allow me to enter." The latest despatch from St. Paul, dated 21st inst., is probably true as to the capture of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort; it says:—"News just received that a company of mounted insurgents appeared at Hudson Bay Company's Fort near Pembina on the night of the 9th, and on the 10th took possession of the place. The greater part of Governor McDougall's agents and emissaries were captured, Governor McDougall is absolutely without a person to support him save some swamp Indians, the remainder having deserted him."

CANADIAN SCENERY.—We give two views this week: "Cape Split," at the outer entrance of the Basin of Minas, Bay of Fundy, and the junction of the waters of the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence at the western end of the Island of Montreal. Between Cape Split and Partridge Island, which shelters the harbour of Parisborough, there is a narrow channel through which the waters of the Basin of Minas flow into the Bay of Fundy. The singular appearance of this Cape, whose detached masses of rock appear to have been shivered by some mighty convulsion of nature, and shaken from their original foundations, excites the surprise and admiration of the beholder. These views are enlarged from Bartlett's illustrations of Willis's "Canadian Scenery."

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.—Drainage bill read a third time and passed. In Committee of Supply Mr. Wood stated that after meeting the expenditure of the present year, there would remain £159,000 sterling in Canadian 5 per cents, 500,000 dollars in Bank of Montreal, 70,000 dollars in Royal Canadian. Investments previously made were 500,000 dollars, and 300,000 dollars, making a total surplus of over two million dollars. The revenue for 1870 may be estimated at 3,002,000 dollars, and the expenditure to 2,361,000 dollars, leaving a balance of 641,000 dollars. He thought by the end of 1870 another million would be added to the amount already invested. The items were agreed to, and reported at several sittings. Attorney-General Macdonald moved the discharge of the Common and Grammar School bills from the order paper, on account of the unfavourable reception with which they had met. Carried. The Attorney-General stated that girls would be admitted to the Grammar Schools on an equality with boys. Several bills passed the second reading and were considered in Committee.

QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.—The Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioned the bill respecting the constitution of the Superior Court. The following is the estimated revenues for eighteen months, from 31st of December, 1869, to 30th of June, 1871:—Allowance from the Dominion, \$1,278,691; Crown Lands, \$839,260; Law and Registration Stamps, \$180,300; Collector's Licenses, &c., \$156,000; Law Fund, exclusive of stamps, \$22,480; Education, \$11,163; Prisons and Lunatic Asylums, \$13,000; Municipal Loan Funds, \$40,000; Quebec Fire Loan, \$1,350; *Official Gazette*, \$27,200; Casual Revenue and Printing Laws, \$2,000; Fees on Private Bills, \$5,000; Interest on Special Deposit, \$27,000; Total, \$2,597,504. Estimated expenditure for same period—Estimates for six months, \$327,645; do, twelve months, \$1,891,171; unexpended under 32nd Vict., cap. 1, on 1st of December, 1869, \$1,018,601; expected to be saved on same and written off, \$393,000; difference to be expended, \$625,601; probable total expenditure, \$2,844,417,—leaving a balance of revenue of \$261,067. The public accounts, as submitted, show the total receipts for the year ending 30th of June, 1869, to have been \$1,676,152, making, with the balance last year, \$218,959, a total of \$1,895,111. The expenditure has been in total \$1,340,599, leaving a net balance of \$553,200.

It is said that the Local Legislature of Quebec will be pronounced on the 28th inst., eve of the grand ball about to be given by the Lieut.-Governor.

Mr. Rennie, a gentleman long and favourably known as a journalist, and who was recently employed on the staff of the *Leader*, died suddenly at Toronto on Thursday before last. Mr. Rennie was a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and was for many years a resident of Montreal, where he edited, in succession, the *Pilot*, the *Transcript*, the *Saturday Reader*, and more recently was engaged on the *Daily News*. Two years ago he removed to Toronto, where he was employed on the staff of the *Leader*. The immediate cause of death was the bursting of a blood-vessel, consequent upon his accidentally falling down a dark stairway.

"The Colonial Almanac for 1870," just issued by the Standard Life Assurance Company, forms a most convenient little pocket memorandum book, and in typographical appearance is a credit to the well known firm of Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh. Its sets forth the advantages of life assurance and the terms on which it may be effected in the Company.

An Album containing a selection of songs, operatic solos, and poetry; beautifully written and illuminated, and superbly bound, has been shown to us by its laborious and tasteful compiler, Mr. L. Frasse de Plainval. No more elegant New Year's present can be conceived, no more attractive ornament for the table of a lady's cosy boudoir. Mr. de Plainval intends raffling this gem, and is soliciting lovers of art to take a chance on it. Lucky will be the winner.

MISCELLANEOUS.

La Marseillaise, a new journal published by Henri Rochefort, has already obtained a circulation of 100,000 copies.

The steamship *Monarch*, with the remains of Mr. Peabody on board, sailed for America on the 21st.

General Regnault de Saint Jean d'Angely, Marshal of France, died on Tuesday last, aged 73.

Genuine Egyptian mummies are made in Paris from a skull, two filllets of veal and a dog skin.

Kaufman, a native of Germany, has been expelled from France for making violent radical speeches at political meetings.

A lover has been pithily described as a man who in his anxiety to gain possession of another has lost possession of himself.

A New York insurance agent, urging a citizen to get his life insured, said, "Get your life insured for ten thousand dollars, and then if you die next week the widder's heart will sing with joy."

Woolwich dockyard, England, is to be sold in the spring, and it is expected to realize from three quarters of a million to a million of pounds sterling, which will be carried to the credit of the navy estimates of 1870.

The professors and painters of Dusseldorf have produced paintings valued at 300,000 thalers during the year 1869. Many celebrated artists work entirely for the foreign market. The American orders for this year amount to about 50,000 thalers.

The present Board of Aldermen in Boston, have run up a bill at a noted hotel there, during the last year, of \$1,600 per month. This does not include the bill for committees, &c., which is about \$100 a month each Alderman for blue-bill pavers, champagne and cigars.

Some Roman Catholic gentlemen of Freiburg, in Baden, have obtained, it is said, permission from the Pope to re-organize the Knights of Malta. The vows of poverty and celibacy will be dispensed with. A Cardinal will be their Grand Master, and the chevaliers will wear a crimson uniform with golden epaulettes, and a Maltese cross on the breast.

The California and Oregon and Yuba Railroad Companies have consolidated under the name of the California and Oregon Railroad Company, with a capital of 15,000,000 dollars. The work on the road is being vigorously prosecuted, 350 Chinese laborers were placed at work last week. Fifty-one miles are now completed and in working order, from a junction with the Central Pacific Railroad to Roseville.

A correspondent, whose opinion is entitled to weight in the matter, says, that the new work on "Gold fields of Victoria," by Mr. Brough Smyth, of Melbourne, and published by Triebner & Co., of London, is the most complete work on gold mining that has yet been published. It embraces everything of practical interest to gold-miners that has been noted during eighteen years in Victoria, Australia; and shows how rapidly that colony has grown in wealth and independence, by fostering an important industry.

A despatch from Rome, dated 21st, says:—"The third congregation of the Council was held to-day. The formation of a committee was the only business transacted. Notification was given of the result of voting for 14 out of 24 members who are to compose the committee on questions of faith. Among the Fathers elected to this committee are the Bishop of Poitiers, the Archbishops of Pozen, Malines, Baltimore and Westminster, and the Bishops of Caen, Sion and Paderborn. The Council then proceeded to the election of 24 members of committee on the question of ecclesiastical discipline, at the conclusion of which the congregation was adjourned.

A Rumor is abroad that a reconciliation has taken place between the Duke of Montpensier and Queen Isabella. The son of the Duke of Montpensier was ill, which gave occasion for exchange of despatches between Isabella and the Duchess, and reconciliation followed. This rumour gives rise to much speculation, and should it prove true, new political combinations may be looked for. A plan is already talked of for placing the Prince of Asturias on the throne under the regency of the Duke of Montpensier. It is generally believed that the unionists will coalesce again with the progressists should the news be confirmed.

Chicago is never willing to be outdone in any thing; and has evidently been looking around for something in its vicinity as a set-off to New York's "petrified giant." Therefore it is not surprising that a startling report reached Chicago a few days ago that in the town of Milton, Dupage County, a wonderful discovery had been made—in short, nothing less than the bones of an immense mastodon, twenty feet long and sixteen feet high. A farmer was digging a well when he came across these strange bones; the matter was investigated, and the lovers of anatomical science eagerly inspected the gigantic specimens. Now, half a dozen men are digging to see what else they can find, and scientific curiosity is intense.

Eugénie, during her late visit at Constantinople, took special interest in the costly curiosities collected in the Harem, or Imperial Treasury of the Sultan. The ancient costumes of the Sultans, covered with gold and rare jewels; vases of immense value; daggers, swords, and shields, richly wrought and ornamented; children's cradles of solid gold, inlaid with precious stones—all tell a story of wonderful wealth and grandeur when the Ottoman power was in its zenith. The divans and cushions formerly used in the throne-room of the Sultans were carefully inspected by the Empress and her ladies. The stuff of which the cushions are made is pure tissue of gold without any mixture of silk whatever, and they are embroidered with pearls weighing each about 3600 drachmas.

Recently a young man finding himself short of funds sufficient to pay his hotel bill in Detroit, hit upon a novel plan for raising the required amount. He purchased a quantity of the best bar soap, which he cut into pieces of an inch square, and putting a drop of perfume on each, and wrapping the whole in tin foil, proceeded to a prominent street corner, where he announced "an important discovery that would eradicate grease, tar, paint, pitch, wax or rosin, or any other stain, from linen, woollen, silk, satin, cotton, shoddy, and every other fabric—all for the low sum of 25 cents—only a few more left." Before bed-time the hotel bill was paid, and the speculator had nearly \$10 on hand beside.

Mr. Elizar Wright prints in the Boston *Daily Advertiser* a highly interesting article on the influence of trees on the public health. His position is that taken by German physiologists, that, "as air purifies, every dense population must have trees or die too fast by half." He is for converting all the marshes in the vicinity of a great city into forests, and he is also for planting trees upon the public streets. Mr. Wright gives many historical evidences of the purifying influence of forests in absorbing atmospheric poisons, and concludes by calling water closets "the abomination of desolation," and is altogether very enthusiastic and amusing.

It is now asserted that the use of coal as fuel is injuring all mankind. We are filling the whole atmosphere with choke damp, or carbonic acid gas, the very substance which renders the air of cities less invigorating than that of the country, and which, when too abundant, causes suffocation and death. The French savant who has been studying the subject, points out that the coal burnt in Europe produces 800,000 millions of cubic metres of carbonic acid gas annually, which lies in the lower region of the atmosphere, and is not absorbed by great forests as it would have been in the earlier ages. In his opinion, disease and weakness will be the consequence of the new composition of the atmosphere, which will ultimately become unfit for human life.

BIRTH.

In Ottawa, on Tuesday, 14th inst., the wife of Mr. James Wood, of a daughter.

TEMPERATURE in the shade for the week ending December 22, observed by John Underhill, Consulting and Practical Optician, 387, Notre Dame Street, next to Charles Alexander & Son:

	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
Thursday, Dec. 16.....	28°	14°	21°
Friday, " 17.....	40°	28°	34°
Saturday, " 18.....	35°	30°	32° 5
Sunday, " 19.....	28°	20°	24°
Monday, " 20.....	26°	18°	22°
Tuesday, " 21.....	24°	14°	19°
Wednesday, " 22.....	36°	10°	23°

CHESS.

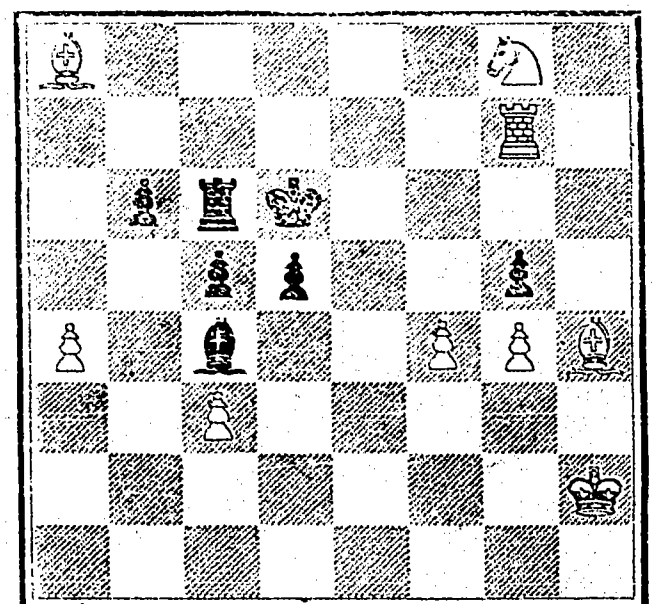
SCOTCH GAMBIT.

(PLAYED IN QUEBEC CHESS CLUB.)

Attack.	Defence.
1. P. to K. 4th.	P. to K. 4th.
2. K. Kt. to B. 3rd.	Q. Kt. to B. 3rd.
3. P. to Q. 4th.	P. takes P.
4. B. to Q. B. 4th.	B. to Q. B. 4th.
5. P. to Q. B. 3rd.	P. to Q. 6th.
6. P. to Q. Kt. 4th.	B. to Kt. 3rd.
7. Q. to Q. Kt. 3rd.	Q. to K. B. 3rd.
8. Castles.	P. to Q. 3rd.
9. P. to Q. R. 4th.	P. to Q. R. 3rd.
10. P. to Q. R. 5th.	B. to Q. R. 2nd.
11. P. to Q. Kt. 5th.	Kt. to Q. sq.
12. P. to K. 5th.	P. takes P.
13. R. to K. sq.	R. P. takes P.
14. R. takes P. ch.	K. Kt. to K. 2nd.
15. B. takes P. ch.	P. to Q. B. 3rd.
16. B. to K. Kt. 5th.	B. to K. 3rd.
17. Q. to Q. R. 3rd. wins.	

PROBLEM No. 1.

BLACK.



WHITE.

(White to play, and mate in three moves.)