

ing, procuring and publishing interesting documents and useful information in connexion with the natural, civil and literary history of British North America," in which researches it has already achieved distinguished success.

#### THE WAR.

During the past week the position of the Prussian army has been materially changed. The movements of McMahon have been such as to compel the Crown Prince to relinquish for the present his intention of marching upon Paris, and concentrate his forces in the neighbourhood of Metz and Montmédy, where the French general was attempting to proceed to the relief of Bazaine, who, notwithstanding contradictory reports, was still shut up at Metz. The report of Bazaine's escape is now explained as having its origin in the fact that Marshal Canrobert, with one or two divisions, succeeded in getting away after the battle of the 18th. A despatch of the 26th ult., from a Prussian source, states that Bazaine was surrounded in Metz by the Prussians, and was expected to be compelled to capitulate, as he was running short of provisions. His effectual force was estimated at about 19,000 men, while that of the besiegers was computed at 253,000. Add to this that typhus was raging in Metz and some 15,000 wounded men were shut up in the city, and it will be seen in what a perilous position he was placed, if this report is to be relied upon.

McMahon, after his defeat at Woerth, had retreated through the Vosges to the Moselle, to Nancy; thence to Toul, and to Châlons, where he received reinforcements. His object was evidently to bar the advance of the Crown Prince on Paris. The Prince, however, affecting to disregard him, moved on his left flank past Châlons, offered battle, which McMahon declined, retreating to Rheims, and leaving Châlons to the Prussians. At Rheims McMahon was joined by the Emperor, and thence marched north-eastwards to Metz, and south-eastwards to Sedan and Montmédy, between which he is now stationed. His forces are placed at 100,000 really good troops, the remainder being raw. He was now not very far from Metz and would undoubtedly have effected a junction with Bazaine, had not the Prussians suddenly stopped the march to Paris and massed their forces northwards, to surround, if possible, McMahon's army.

The towns which, at the beginning of the week, held out against the Prussians were Metz, Toul, Plafbourg, and Strasbourg. It is stated that the siege of Toul has been abandoned, owing to the vigorous resistance of the garrison. Plafbourg was still invested by the Wurtemberg army, and the siege of Strasbourg was being prosecuted with vigour. At the close of last week, the garrison of the latter city commenced reprisals, shelling the town of Kell on the opposite side of the river, and almost entirely destroyed it. On Friday week the position of Prussians was as follows:—One corps of the first and second armies still confronted Bazaine at Metz; the remainder of the besieging force, consisting of some 100,000 men, had been sent forward to reinforce the Crown Prince, their place being afterwards filled up from the reserves. Gen. Falkenstein, with his army, recently occupying Hanover, was also moving down to join the Crown Prince. Three new reserve forces had been formed, one on the Rhine, one at Berlin, and one in Silesia. The Prussian cavalry occupied Doulevant, St. Rémy, Brienne and Château Thierry—in a line from the latter place, 50 miles from Paris, extending in a curve to the south of St. Diziers, the King's headquarters. Nancy, Vitry and Châlons were occupied by Prussian troops, and the King and Crown Prince were marching leisurely on Paris by the way of the Seine and Marne. The whole of the department of the Marne, from Châlons to Vassy, was under the control of the Prussians. A despatch from Berlin thus gives the disposition of the various corps:—There are eighteen corps containing 40,000 men each. The first army, under Steinmetz, has the First, seventh, and Eighth Corps at Metz. The second army, under Prince Frederick Charles, consists of the Second, Third, Ninth, and Tenth Corps, and is at Metz. The third army, under the Crown Prince, consisting of the Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh, and two Bavarian Corps, is marching on Paris. The fourth army, under the Crown Prince of Saxony, has the Fourth and Fourteenth Corps and the Saxon and Prussian Guards. The fifth army, under General Werder, has the Wurtemberg and Baden Divisions, and is engaged in the siege of Strasbourg. The sixth army, under the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin is on the Rhine, and the seventh army, under Generals Castein and Lowenfeld, is at Berlin. Three of these armies are in reserve.

Such was the position of the Prussian armies when McMahon reached Reims, on his road to relieve Bazaine by way of Montmédy and Thionville. The march to Paris was instantly discontinued, and the various corps pushed northwards to intercept the junction of the two French generals. The forces in the department of the Aube abandoned their encampments and marched to Pont de Somme Vele, west of Châlons. The troops on their road to Paris deployed from Stenay to Sivry; those around Troyes made for Romilly, south of Sezanne; those around Châlons for Suippe, and those between Stenay and Varennes, in Ardennes, went north-westwards, in the direction of Reims, by Grand Pré and Vouziers, while a strong force was posted at Dun observing McMahon's left at Stenay. Meanwhile strong Prussian columns were advancing from Lunéville and Joinville to St. Dizier. McMahon's headquarters were at Sedan, and his line extended from Reims eastwards to Stenay, thus occupying the ground west of the Meuse. He had received a reinforcement of 50,000 men from Paris, and was confident of achieving a great victory over the Crown Prince, whose forces had failed to effect a junction with those of Prince Frederick Charles. French rumours state that a great battle was fought on Sunday the 27th (sic) in which Bazaine and McMahon gained an immense advantage, but they omit to state with what corps the two French generals were engaged. No confirmation of this report has been published. On the contrary, a despatch of the same date says that the French are making great preparations for the reception of the wounded, in the next battle, at Charleville, in rear of McMahon's position. On the morning of Tuesday cannonading was heard in the neighbourhood of Esch, on the Luxembourg frontier, and a despatch from Luxembourg states that 150 Prussians were surprised by 500 French, who were driven back to the frontier. Another despatch from Burgundy dated the same day, says:—The Prussians attacked McMahon's army to-day near Beaumont, (five miles north-west of Stenay) defeated it and drove it back upon the Belgian frontier. The French camp fell into the hands of the Prussians. The pursuit of the French troops was continued for several miles, and was

at length interrupted by the number of cannon and prisoners which were taken. The extent of the battle-field was so vast that it is impossible to obtain further details at this moment. The Prussians conceived that it was McMahon's aim to gain the frontier to effect a junction with Bazaine's advance on three lines. A telegram from the King to Queen Augusta, dated from Varennes, says:—The Crown Prince has been in action with the 14th, 12th and 17th corps and the 14th Bavarians. McMahon was beaten and driven beyond the Meuse. Twelve guns, one thousand prisoners, and materials of war were captured. On the other hand the London *Sun's* correspondent telegraphs:—The French defeated the Prussians here. Fighting is now going on at Amiegny. McMahon retreats, or seems to retreat, on the department of the north.—This despatch bears no date.

The following are the latest despatches received up to the time of going to press:

New York, Aug. 31.—A special to the *Herald* dated Bovillon, Belgium, Aug. 30, 7 p. m., says:—A fearful battle was fought yesterday by the Prussian armies of the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles, with the forces of Marshal McMahon. Yesterday morning McMahon commenced a general movement towards Montmédy, when he was attacked near Beaumont and driven back, after an obstinate resistance, towards the Belgian frontier. The Prussians occupied the line of the road, and captured a large amount of camp stores. They drove the French from position after position until night closed.

Early this morning the battle was renewed and continued all day. During the night a large number of French reinforcements came up, but they failed to turn the scale of victory. The Prussians were also reinforced largely and attacked in overwhelming numbers. McMahon retreated to Sedan with the remnant of his force.

The slaughter was immense; it is impossible at present to estimate the losses on each side. The Prince Imperial is said to be in Belgium. The population is flying in great terror. The wounded and stragglers of both armies are said to be thronging over the Belgian frontier, where the Belgian troops are massed in considerable force to defend the neutrality of their territory. There is a rumour even that the sixth Leopold Belgian dragoons charged and captured a body of Prussian infantry this morning, after warning their commander to withdraw.

A special London despatch says:—It is said the Emperor has ordered McMahon to resist to the last, and that it is the determination of the French in Ardennes to exhaust every measure for securing time to the defenders of Paris.

While these events are transpiring on the frontier Paris is preparing actively for a siege. Gen. Trochu, the governor of the city, has decreed that all individuals devoid of means of subsisting, and whose presence contributes to the danger of public order, and to the security of persons or property, or whose acts tend to impede the measures of the authorities for the defence and general safety, are to be expelled from Paris. Provisions are being stored in the city, the Bois de Boulogne is filled with cattle for the use of the inhabitants, and the government has taken active measures to prevent any rise in the price of necessities. A call has been made for a national loan, the lists being eagerly filled up; further conscriptions have been made, the police have been enrolled as a corps of defence, and the National Guard and Garde Mobile have been incorporated with the regular army. A law has been adopted providing for the enrolment of able-bodied men between 20 and 35 years of age, without the liberty of procuring substitutes; and new armies are being raised beyond the Loire and at Lyons. An injunction has been issued ordering all strangers to quit Paris; the hotels are consequently empty, and many of them, together with the palaces, will be converted into hospitals for the use of the wounded. It is expected that the government will remove to Bourges, the capital of the department of Cherbourg, which is now being fortified.

There appears to be but little hope of peace for some time to come. The French authorities announce their determination of prosecuting the war to the last extremity, and declare that no proposals looking to peace will be entertained so long as the enemy is on French soil. The Prussian Government, on the other hand, has addressed a note to all Prussian envoys regarding the flag of truce sent to the French asking a cessation of hostilities to bury their dead, which truce was refused and the flag insulted on three occasions. Prussia, therefore, declares its resolution to offer no diplomatic negotiation to the French people until the empire is at an end.

At sea the French have made some half-a-dozen or more prizes of German Merchant ships. The blockade of German ports is reported to have gone into practical effect on the 19th of August. No naval engagement of moment is yet reported, though, as a matter of course, the mercantile marine of Germany is virtually driven from the seas, the German vessels being nearly all under shelter in the ports of neutral States.

#### RED RIVER AFFAIRS.

The news from Fort Garry for some time past has not been of a very exciting character. Business generally throughout the Red River settlement has resumed its wonted activity. The terrible grass-hopper invaded only the Scotch settlement, and the Scotch by some singular fatality put in very little or no crops for this year, so that the invader was robbed of his expected plunder and his victims relieved of their usual spring work. In other parts of the settlement the crops are good. There is great demand for tradesmen and machinists in the country. A correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* says:—There is a good opening here for tradesmen, especially tailors, shoemakers, tanners, blacksmiths and waggon-makers. There is a growing desire for English shoes among the people. Common store boots sell now at 10s., and the fashionable tailor just arrived from the States charges £3 for making a suit. Of course, the high prices obtained for the above mentioned labor is because there are so few to do the work. A few good tanneries are very much needed in the country, also a carding-mill and small woollen factory. A portable steam saw-mill would pay well, as there is only one mill now in the settlement, which cannot supply anything like the amount of lumber needed. Match, soap, pail, and broom factories also pay well; and a person who understood salt-making, could build up a large business, there being splendid salt springs in various parts of the country, and the salt made by the half-breeds sells at 10s. per bushel. In these and many other things the capitalists of Canada would find profitable investments for their money.

The provisional government held a consultation as to the propriety of resisting the entry of the military expedition, in view of the fact that the long-talked-of amnesty had not made its appearance, but finally concluded that resistance would be useless, and as a compromise the few remaining guards of the redoubtable President Riel turned to plundering the Fort of what little property it contained which was not their own. A sale was also held of some stores belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company and to private parties who were plundered during the winter, and the proceeds are doubtless held to give Riel, O'Donohue, and others, a safe passage to the other side, in case of danger. By the way, Messrs. Ross and Coldwell are reported to have recently made their way to Toronto; now it strikes us that the former was, to a great extent, *particeps criminis* with the Fort Garry executive of last winter, and if there is to be punishment meted out to any, save and except for the execution of Scott, that gentleman ought not to be spared.

Many of the parties to the late troubles have left the settlement, some for the plains, others for the States; and we notice by the letters which occasionally appear in the papers of Ontario and Quebec, written from the settlement, that the feeling of sectarian bigotry is rampant at Winnipeg to a degree that forebodes trouble. The British troops on the expedition, it is understood, are to be recalled at once, and Col. Jarvis, the senior officer of the Canadian Volunteer force, will take the chief command at Fort Garry, as successor to Col. Wolseley. It was expected that the expedition, which left Fort Francis in the first week of August, would have reached Fort Garry by the 20th or 25th of that month. Though all idea of resistance is abandoned, it would be a wise precaution on the part of the Canadian Government to strengthen the small Volunteer force in the new Province, after the withdrawal of the regulars. The work on the road from Fort Garry to Lake of the Woods, at the expense of the Dominion, had a large force of labourers employed during the last two months in order to prepare it for the passage of the expedition. Many more workmen would have been engaged upon it but for the fact that large numbers of the people had left for the plains. Governor Archibald moved forward in the wake of the expedition with the expectation of overtaking it before it reached Fort Garry. Bishop Taché returned by the American route via St. Paul. It is probable that Col. Wolseley will in the name of the Queen formally hand over the Government of the country to the Lieut. Governor, after which he will return with all possible despatch to Canada.

Since the foregoing was in type, we learn that Col. Wolseley, with the detachment of the 60th, arrived at Fort Garry on the 24th ult. The fort was closed and a few parties, trying to escape, were made prisoners. Riel, O'Donohue, and about fifty followers, fled about an hour before Col. Wolseley arrived.

The annual Match of the Dominion Rifle Association commenced at Fredericton, N. B., on the 1st inst.

A terrible fire took place at Calais, Me., on Saturday last, destroying large piles of lumber, twelve vessels in the St. Croix, fifty stores and dwellings, Post-office, &c. Fears were at one time entertained for the safety of St. Stephen, N. B., on the opposite side of St. Croix, but the fire did not cross the river.

The Dominion Government have authorized Postmasters and Collectors of Customs and Inland Revenue to receive the copper tokens of the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Upper Canada, Banque du Peuple and Quebec Bank at one and two cents for the half-penny and penny respectively. This is a good move, but should be followed by a complete reform in the copper coinage of the country, so as to render it uniform.

Many will regret to hear that Mr. James W. Finlay, well known as the founder of the *Scottish American Journal*, drowned himself lately in Halifax harbour. He arrived in that city on the 1st of last month, and on Friday, the 5th, his clothes were found on the beach near the North-West Arm, as were also letters that left no doubt as to the premeditation of the rash act. His body was not discovered until last Saturday. In the letters found, the reasons assigned for the suicide were—disappointment through business projects, and inability further to struggle with the world for a living.

The London *Illustrated News*, speaking of the secret treaty, says: "The real truth we believe to be, that Bismarck played with Napoleon and his Ministers while the war with Austria was in progress—held them in hand, as it were, and amused them with vague expectations, so as to keep France neutral; and then, when success was achieved, laughed in their faces, quizzed them about acquisitions in Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and, finally, flatly refused everything they asked, carefully preserving M. Benedetti's draught treaty to be produced when occasion required, as he foresaw it would be. This explains the whole transaction: not very creditably, it is true, but quite sufficiently."

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The council of the Royal College of Surgeons (Eng.) have decided for the future to receive certificates of professional education for the fellowship and membership of the college from the following medical schools in Canada, viz: the University of Toronto; the University of Victoria College, Toronto; the University of McGill College, Montreal; and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston.

INDIA.—An ominous movement is taking place in the Sutlej district, similar in every way to the chupattie distribution that preceded the mutiny in 1856. For the last two months a circular from the Mahomedans has been passing from village to village in the Jullunder Doab. The paper is called a "Durshutnama," or "Note of Warning;" it is principally religious, but there are a few sentences that imply sedition in it, warning people that there will be a complete change in the rule during this year. The paper professes to come from Mecca, but it has not been traced further than Delhi or Mynpoorie, and there seems every reason to suppose that it has emanated from one of those places. The objectionable feature in the case is the way in which it has been copied and silently passed from village to village.

#### DIED.

At Toronto, on the 23rd inst., ARTHUR WELLESLEY, only surviving child of Captain and Mrs. Bridgewater, aged 1 year and 8 months.