

passage of British troops through a country, many of whose subjects are confessedly bitter enemies of Britain and all her dependencies, and who might have seized so favorable an opportunity to strike a blow at the "bloody Saxon" in the persons of Canadian soldiers; fourth, and not by any means least in determining the course of the Government, was their extreme reluctance to make a request of a friendly country which might have the effect of embarrassing the Government of that country whether they acceded to the request or refused it, and which, if granted, would place Canada under an obligation to the States which might in the future become extremely irksome. For these, doubtless, and other reasons, of which we do not pretend to have any knowledge, the Government decided to send our troops over our own road and through our own territory. The event has abundantly justified their wisdom and at the same time has demonstrated that Canadians are no "feather bed soldiers" but men who are ready, willing and able to undergo privations and fatigue, when these are necessary, for their country's sake. Thirty days have not yet elapsed since the Grenadiers and Queen's Own left Toronto and to-day (April 25th) we hear of them, the former at Fish Lake with General Middleton in his first engagement, and the latter at Battleford following close on the heels of Col. Herchmer in relief of the beleaguered garrison there. They are to-day nearly 2,500 miles from Toronto, about 300 of which they have marched on foot; and out of the whole contingent of nearly 550 men, only some four or five, we believe, were unable to pull through.

The volunteers from other sections also have gone through in gallant style, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Port Hope, York County and London are all worthily represented at the front, and we can only hope that the show of force which has been made may have the effect of bringing the rebels to their senses without further effusion of blood. The latter have not been idle. The Indians have committed acts of violence at several points, notably at Frog Lake, where several people were murdered by the red fiends, and some, among them women and children, carried off into captivity to be held, no doubt, as hostages in the event of defeat. Battleford has been relieved. Colonel Irvine still holds Prince Albert. The rebels

have retired after their first defeat at Fish Lake, and General Middleton is making preparations for the dangerous task of forcing them from their lurking places and strongholds about Batoche's Crossing. The insurgents have, we repeat, proved themselves foes not to be despised; their leader, Gabriel Dumont, especially showing himself well qualified as a leader and if they have made up their mind to fight to the end we must be prepared to hear of bloody work ere long. General Middleton has shown that if he has any failings faint-heartedness is not one of them, and the courage and dash with which our troops went at the enemy was due in some measure, no doubt, to the inspiration of his fearless leadership. What would have been the result to the expedition had the bullet he received through his fur cap gone a few inches lower is problematical, and we are somewhat inclined to question the prudence of the General in Chief (with whom, in the present instance particularly, the whole guidance of the campaign would seem to rest), who places himself in so dangerous a position as did General Middleton at Fish Creek.

It is said that Col. Otter is to make an attempt to recover the captives in the hands of Big Bear. This service, if contemplated, will be an extremely dangerous one and would seem to call for men who are accustomed to bush life and the methods of Indian fighting—mounted men who could discount the Indians at their own tricks, as the trained white hunter always can, and not young volunteers who however brave in the field and where the enemy shows himself and stands up British fashion, would be at a terrible disadvantage among the ambushes and rat-holes of the Indian and the half-breed.

At this later date (April 30th) the situation remains unchanged. Col. Otter is still at Battleford. General Middleton has not yet made a further advance, partly owing to the misfortune of inadequate supplies. This want has been caused by the grounding of the steamer Northcote on one of the many sand-bars of the Saskatchewan. As this vessel contains a large quantity of provisions and forage, besides 300 rifles and ammunition, it is to be hoped that the men of the Midland battalion, under whose escort she is, are fully alive to the importance of their charge. Her capture by the insurgents at the present moment would be a frightful disaster, and her escorts should stand ready at a