

# The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO.

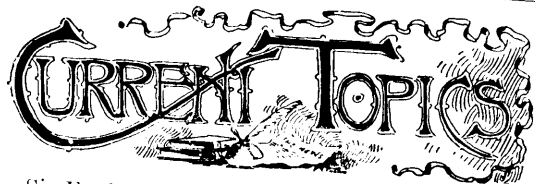
RICHARD WHITE, PRESIDENT  
ALEX. SABISTON, MANAGING-DIRECTOR,  
73 St. James Street, Montreal.

GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,  
36 King Street East, Toronto.

J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,  
Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces

London (England) Agency:  
JOHN HADDON & CO.,  
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.  
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

6th SEPTEMBER, 1890.



Sir Frederick Middleton has appealed to Caesar—that is, to the people of Canada. We have already expressed our sincere regret that an officer who had rendered distinguished services to the Dominion should have the lustre of his desert impaired in the eyes of the country that he served. It is also to be deplored that the commander of our little army should be placed in a position of ignominy in presence of the soldiers whom he led to victory. On his arrival in Canada in 1884, Col. Middleton (as he was then) was received with much satisfaction by a considerable proportion of the militia, and especially by those officers to whom Major-General Luard's manner had given offence. Like Sir James Craig, General Luard deprecated any attempt on the part of officers or men to express a judgment, directly or indirectly, favourable or otherwise, on their superiors. In accordance with this principle, he declined the invitation of the officers of the 5th and 6th Military Districts to a dinner. Such a dinner, he replied, would represent a collective expression of the opinion of officers under his command, which by the Queen's regulations is forbidden. In his valedictory, published in Militia General Orders, he thanked the officers who had done their best to improve the force in discipline and appearance, and, in conclusion, said that he had made many (he hoped) life-long friends, for whom he entertained a warm feeling of regard, and he wished to all prosperity and a hearty farewell.

Soon after reaching his destination, Col. Middleton was interviewed and was reported as commenting on some of the acts of his predecessor. He was no stranger in Canada, his wife was a Canadian lady, and altogether Canada was well disposed towards him. He had not been a year in command when the North-West troubles tested his generalship and he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of both the Imperial and the Canadian Governments, and was well rewarded for his services. There were some dissident voices, indeed, in the chorus of congratulation. It was not considered fair that all the honours and more substantial prizes of the campaign should be concentrated on one person. Sir Frederick has cleared himself (partially) of the reproach of ignoring the claims of his brethren-in-arms. But his letter, as a whole, will, we fear, make an impression more adverse than favourable to his cause. It is sadly lacking in dignity. In trying to extricate himself from the tangled web of his own weaving, Sir Frederick does not hesitate to clutch at friend as well as foe, so as, if possible, to escape by ensnaring others in its meshes. *Quid pro quo*, perhaps; still it is unworthy of a soldier. We cannot contrasting help with this appeal to the public General Luard's rejection of sympathy which, however welcome, could only be given and accepted by forgetting a soldier's duty. Sir F. Middleton committed, in the first instance, either a blunder or a wrong; or he did what he was justified in doing. If the latter, he ought not to have equivocated, but should have maintained his right

consistently all through; if the former, he should have admitted his error like a man, and, as far as in him lay, made reparation. This, above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Swinburne's poetic outburst of humane indignation against the Russian prison system is unintentionally justified by an official report of the chief director (who is also the inspector) of those establishments. This report was not, indeed, prepared for alien eyes, the last thing that M. Galkin Wrassky, by whose authority it was printed, contemplated when he brought together so many damnatory facts, was the translation of his exposure into French or English. When the recent scandals, which occasioned such an outcry against the brutality of prison overseers, were brought to light, the Government press was emphatic in its denials. But the damaging statements of M. Wrassky, which go so far to confirm them, cannot be denied. W. Wrassky, indeed, wishes it to be understood that the deplorable state of things which he has deemed it his duty to place on record no longer exists; that it was under the administration of the predecessors of himself and his colleagues in office that the prisons of the Empire were overcrowded and filthy and diseaseridden, and the scenes of lamentable mismanagement and injustice. He would have the world believe that the system of which he is an agent is a reformed system, and that the outrages that prevailed some years ago would not be permitted to-day. But, in the first place, the whole period covered by his report is only ten years. In the second place, some of the worse abuses condemned are ascribed to the years 1886 and 1887. The sickness and mortality produced in those years by overcrowding were dreadful. Typhus were rife, and in many cases the sufferers were left without medical attendance. In several prisons there was no provision for separating the sick from the well, and where such provision existed at all, it was frequently inadequate. "Most of the prisons were characterized by rottenness, dampness, want of air and light, by an improper interior arrangement and an execrable state of the cabinets. In many prisons there were no separate rooms for women," while the prison officials "could offer no moral guarantees at all." As to the exiles, "nothing was left to them but to live on stealing." The state of some of the Eastern prisons was simply abominable. Owing to overcrowding shelters had to be dug in the soil, of which the Medical Department's report said: "These dwellings dug in the soil have no dejections and the air is infected all about!" M. Wrassky's report, from which these foregoing passages are taken, is an unanswerable rebuke to those who would defend or gloss over a penal system which, in our day, has no parallel for barbarism, at least within the pale of Christendom.

We have already referred to "The case for the Colony stated by the People's Delegates" as a carefully prepared and comprehensive showing of Newfoundland's side in the "French Shore" question. With the features and the mission of the delegates to Canada, Messrs. Greene, Bowers and Morison, our readers were made acquainted in a previous issue of this paper. We have also expressed our own opinion, more than once, as to the justice of their cause, with which the people of Canada may be said to be in cordial sympathy. It may be recalled that, simultaneously with the departure of the above-named gentlemen for the Dominion, Sir J. S. Winter, K.C.M.G., Q.C., Mr. P. J. Scott, Q.C., and Mr. A. B. Morine, M.L.A., undertook a like mission to England, where they had no reason to complain of their reception by the public. In their fellow-countrymen at home they profess, indeed, the utmost confidence, and being aroused to the justice of their claims, the way will be cleared for a settlement of the question that Newfoundland can accept as fair. The

British press gave them a warm and virtually unanimous welcome, and espoused their cause with a heartiness which they consider full of promise. They express much gratitude to the Royal Colonial Institute, which fifteen years ago compiled a clear and concise statement of the whole subject. "The temper and patience of the people of Newfoundland," according to the report of the Council, "have been sorely tried for over one hundred years. But this state of things cannot be expected to last forever. The time has arrived when national policy imperatively demands that the question should be finally settled, so that British subjects may no longer be deprived of the right of fishing in their own waters and colonizing and developing the resources of their own territory. The interests of Newfoundland are seriously affected by its being kept open, and those of the Empire require that its right of sovereignty within its dominions should be maintained inviolate." If this language was justifiable fifteen years ago, it is still more so now that the question has assumed a new aspect and the situation becomes more and more complicated with the delay of its solution. The delegates, after carefully examining the question from every point of view, have reached the conclusion that every attempt at a settlement, which implies a maintenance of the spirit of the obnoxious treaties, must continue to prove abortive and can only keep alive old controversies while giving rise to fresh disputes. Only when the treaty "rights" are abolished can the hardships, anomalies and constant succession of troubles to which they have given rise be expected to come to an end. On that point the delegates represent the conviction of the population of the island as unanimous. And from an honourable and amicable adjustment of the difficulty on those terms they believe that even France will derive more real advantage than from the enforced continuance of arrangements which are the source of so many disputes alike unprofitable and discreditable to both the great nations concerned. We sincerely hope that a consummation so devoutly to be wished is on the way to fulfilment.

The anxiety that has of late been felt as the effect of recent frosts on the North-Western crops has been considerably mitigated by a letter from Prof. Saunders to the Minister of Agriculture, dated Indian Head, August 21. "Every sort of crop," writes Prof. Saunders, "looked well here up to last night, and the wheat was magnificent, and also the oats and barley. The Ladoga wheat was all harvested and will turn out well. Last night the first frost occurred. During the afternoon a change in the weather occurred. A slight shower came up with a brisk north wind, which soon brought the temperature down considerably. It gradually fell until about 3 a.m., when it began to rise again. The lowest point reached was 28—five degrees of frost. Early in the morning I telegraphed Mr. Bedford, at Brandon, and found that the lowest temperature there was 34—two degrees above frost. So I think the Manitoba crop, at least in the central and southern portions, may be considered safe, as I think there is more than two-thirds of the crop cut now. Here there is not more than one-third of the crop cut yet. There is no doubt that the wheat standing will be injured. But as most of the grain is well advanced in growth, I do not expect the depreciation by frost will be very great. The Ladoga was all harvested last week and if the bulk of the crop had been Ladoga it would have been saved. Notwithstanding this mishap, the farmers in the North-West will have very good returns. The wheat saved in first class condition will bring a high price, while the good frosted wheat will probably sell for more than good wheat has averaged in the past." This letter may be taken as setting at rest any fear which may have been felt for the Manitoba wheat. Professor Saunders had passed through Central and Southern Manitoba a few days before and took particular care to notice the progress of the harvesting and the state of the standing crops. His testimony may be relied on.