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THE REBELLION IN THE NORTH WEST.

ALL our thoughts just now are with our Canadian troops who have been called out so suddenly to quell the rebellion in the North-West territory. The seat of the outbreak being so near home, and soldiers being drafted from nearly every town in Canada to assist in putting it down, it naturally takes up more of our thoughts and attention than even the most startling news coming from Europe. The Sudan trouble about which every one was talking a few weeks ago seems quite to have fallen in the shade and even the great impending struggle with Russia fails to excite us as it would do if we had not our own troubles to take up our attention. Surely the year of 1885 has burst upon us like a tornado. Only three short months passed by, and yet events, affecting England and her colonies, have followed one upon another in such rapid succession, as would fill many chapters of history. Happy for us if we can see the hand of almighty God in it all, and rest humbly and trustfully on Him who rules and orders all things: God leads individuals to Himself through the medium of adversity and trouble:—even so may He draw us as a nation to realize more than we have done hitherto the noble mission to which we may believe He has destined us, viz that of civilizing and christianizing, by just and righteous means and by the preaching of His truth, all people and nations and languages throughout the whole world.

Yes, there is trouble again in the North-West. Louis Riel and the half breeds have risen once more and have raised the flag of rebellion: all Canada is aroused, and troops from all quarters are marching to the scene of the disturbance.

The writer of this paper remembers well the last rebellion, 15 years ago, when Lord Wolseley (at that time Colonel) and 1200 men passed through Sault Ste Marie on their way to the West, and had so much trouble getting everything to the head of the rapids because the Americans would not allow them to pass anything through the canal, and then the arrival at that inhospitable looking spot where now stands the thriving town of Port Arthur. All at that time was bare rocks and burnt timber land looking black and dismal. We pitched our tent on the shore, on a spot now occupied by some of the principal wharves, and got our meals at a rough board shanty kept by a Mr. Flaherty. There was no dock: then everything had to be towed ashore on

a scow. There were only five or six roughly constructed buildings. All the troops were in camp; and on Sunday we held service, a drum with a union jack over it being the reading desk.

And now the troops are called out again. Navigation is closed, the lakes full of ice, the rivers all frozen, but happily we have the Canadian Pacific railway in a fair way towards completion, and the soldiers have all gone by that route. From Montreal to Michipicoten, north of Lake Superior, the line is sufficiently completed to be available: then comes a gap of 40 miles where they have to trudge or use sleighs, and further west are two more gaps of about 15 miles each: after that there is good railway travel all the way to Winnipeg, and for many miles west. From accounts that have come to hand the poor fellows seem to have suffered a good deal in traversing these gaps, the weather being intensely cold, the glass 22° below zero, and snow 4 feet deep: still they have pressed on heroically: one poor young fellow who had been ailing two or three days but would not give in through fear of being left behind in hospital, at length fairly sank down from exhaustion, and his comrades seeing his pale young face upturned on the snow thought he was dead. "Not yet, old man," said the youth, opening his eyes as a lantern was held to his face, "I'm not even a candidate for the hospital yet," and so he was placed on a sleigh, and went on with the expedition.

The seat of the rebellion at present seems to be between the two branches of the Saskatchewan River. Riel has some 2000 halfbreeds with him, and several Indian bands appear to have joined him. Several skirmishes have taken place and there has been some bloodshed. The cause of the disturbance appears to be as follows. When the Hudson Bay Company conveyed their territorial rights over to the Canadian Government about 16 years ago, the half breed population and Indians disputed their right to do so, claimed the lands as their own, and with Louis Riel at their head formed a provisional government: this was what led to the Red River expedition of 1870. The Province of Manitoba was at that time set out, and the halfbreeds within the boundaries of that Province it would seem had their claims attended to, and were satisfied with the lands allotted to them and to their children. But there still remained a large number of halfbreeds occupying lands outside Manitoba, in the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine Districts, whose claims had never