

must inevitably encounter should the present state of affairs continue. It must be remembered that they have extensive tracts of country to travel over, in which they may be exposed to many dangers and inconveniences.

However, we hope for the best; and should any deficiency arise, either financially or in any other way, we feel confident that as a society we can look again to the friends who so kindly helped us out of our difficulty last year, and started us this year with a large surplus. The Students' Missionary Society is now a recognized institution of the Church; and the work of students during the summer months is regarded as necessary to enable the Church to overtake the work in the neglected parts of the country. Still we do not wish to become an extra burden on the Church, but expect to be able to conduct the work by subscription in the several fields, and such voluntary contributions as friends of the society may see fit to give.

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THE chief excitement of the day is the North-West rebellion under Riel. It is unnecessary to give details, since the daily papers are overflowing with intelligence, wise and otherwise, and anything we could say would only be a repetition of what everybody already knows. But there are different ways of looking at such a serious affair as the present rebellion. Many read the press without ever asking the question, Have these half-breeds and Indians any reason to rebel? The rising has taken place, and the passion of revenge burns, and many suppose themselves patriotic when they give vent to such a passion, without ever enquiring whether these people have any just ground for rebellion or not. We hold decidedly that if the rebellion is persisted in it must be put down, and law and order restored before anything definite can be done towards satisfying the demands of the rebels, if these demands can at all be granted in accordance with law and justice. But while we hold this, we also believe that justice should be done, and if there are grievances, that these be righted. Perhaps if the government would inform the rebels that it was willing to treat with them on this basis, many, if not all of them, would lay down their arms and quietly return to their homes. This action, if possible, would certainly be more honorable to all parties, than shooting down men who are acknowledged to have grievances. Let bloodshed by all possible means be avoided. Human life is too sacred to be wantonly destroyed, either to gratify a mere feeling of revenge, or even with the more laudable purpose of restoring order in view, until all other means have proved futile. One of the most marked features of Mr. Gladstone's policy has been his praiseworthy efforts to avoid war, even at the risk of being charged with selling the national honor. But this cry of national honor, when raised by men governed more by feelings of revenge than by sentiments of right and justice, is very often an empty bubble. It will appear more honorable to all Christian people to preserve peace by diplomatic means than by resorting to the sword; and in almost all cases the rights of the nation can be equally well secured, and that, too, in a more reasonable manner. In this respect Mr. Gladstone is a standing example to the world, and by his Christian principle he has prevented many a bloody war, and ensured extended prosperity to the nation. But when all other means fail, then war may be considered justifiable, and nations justified in drawing the sword to defend their rights.

But have the subjects of a country the right to rebel against lawfully constituted governments? There are some moralists, such as Hobbes who deny, this right, and claim a most unqualified submission to governments, no matter