

hundred millions of Hindoos, and give them, if representation was to be proportioned to numbers, a preponderance in the Federal Councils. It may safely be said that while among British Canadians there prevails the warmest feeling of attachment to the Mother Country there does not exist in any section of our population the slightest tendency to part with an atom of our self-government, political, legal, military or commercial. The tendency is directly the other way, and diplomatic autonomy for the purpose at least of commercial treaties is being gradually added to the rest. Sir John Macdonald knows this, and, whatever he may think it polite to say to English audiences, nothing would induce him to identify himself with any movement of the kind in this country. The speeches at Montreal are said, and we doubt not truly, to have been eloquent. In eloquence the movement will end.

THAT a set of accidents, in themselves untoward, should produce the best of all possible systems is not impossible, but it is unlikely; and it was merely by a set of accidents, in themselves most untoward, that the system of petty universities in this Province was produced. Under the old regime intolerance excluded the members of all Churches but the Anglican Establishment from the privileges of the Provincial University, and obliged them to found separate universities of their own, while emancipation, when it came, added to the dispersion by causing the High Anglican secession, which gave birth to Trinity. But, having once taken root and gathered associations round it, the system, as usual, is imagined to be the birth not of accident, but of ancestral wisdom, and an affectionate ingenuity is taxed to devise rational arguments in its favour. Some of the arguments devised in the present case are curious enough. It is actually contended that poverty is a good thing for a university—a theory which would forbid us to ask for endowments. Bacon was not of this mind, for, under the form of a quotation from the Georgics, he pronounces that in the case of teacher and pupil, as in that of kine, the weakness of the underfed sire will be repeated in the offspring. Can anybody really believe that a university is blessed in lacking the means of paying a full staff of good professors and providing itself with the costly equipments demanded by the advance of science? The student is not made frugal by the indigence and inferiority of his teachers. His frugality depends mainly on his industry, which again depends on the quality of the instruction. Once more let us ask the opponents of confederation to suppose that things had taken a different course, and that all the resources of our Province were now combined in a single university, amply equipped with everything needful for the pursuit of learning and science: do they think that they would now be advocating the dismemberment of this university and the dispersion of its fragments? Would not they have scoffed at such a suggestion? The religious objection, which appears to prevail with Dr. Sutherland, is, of course, an argument apart; it almost implies the sacrifice of academical to theological considerations. But it is admirably met by Dr. Dewart. Methodists, says Dr. Dewart in effect, would complain bitterly if they were excluded on the ground of religion from the Provincial University: yet you urge them to exclude themselves. Of the accession of Queen's to the confederation there is no longer any hope; of the accession of the other colleges there is still good hope; and if the other colleges come in Queen's will in time find herself compelled to reconsider her determination.

THE insurrection in the North-West may prove to the inhabitants of that region, in one respect, a blessing in disguise. By the unfortunate policy which carried a single line of railway through the whole length of the territory and gave it a monopoly, instead of allowing a system of railways to be freely developed from the natural quarter and in accordance with the requirements of commerce, the population has been thinly sprinkled over a belt eight hundred miles in length. It has thus lost all the advantages of compact settlement, and, Winnipeg being its only centre of distribution, it has had to pay heavy freight upon all imported goods, as well as upon its exports of grain. It has occupied too great an extent of country, prematurely threatened the Indians with displacement and at the same time been rendered by its dispersion incapable of self-defence. Probably we owe in part to the error this war and all the expenditure which it will entail on us. But the tendency of these events will be to lead settlers in future to halt at a distance from the scene of disturbance and to fill up the eastern section of the territory. Around Winnipeg itself there is a great deal of rich farm land, which, having been at the time of the boom held at too high prices, was refused by the settlers, who passed onwards to the West and made a track in which others followed them without stopping to look at the land round Winnipeg. The owners of the land by this time have discovered their mistake, and are willing to sell at a reasonable price.

Incoming settlers cannot do better than purchase and remain where they will have perfect security, the benefits of a well-peopled neighbourhood, and a centre of distribution close at hand.

"If these brave lads of mine were only regulars!" General Middleton is reported to have said to one *Mail* correspondent; and he went on, according to the same authority, to explain that he would feel at liberty to risk the lives of regulars, whose trade it was to face the shot, but that he did not feel at liberty to risk the lives of volunteers. This seems to define the situation. The General, to borrow Pelissier's phrase, cannot make his omelet because he dares not break his eggs. He is in the right: the lives of the volunteers are too precious to be sacrificed, and the shock which would be given to the community by any great spilling of their blood would be too terrible. But the moral seems to be that regulars will have to be found to do the work, if the work is to be done by fighting. The hope remains that it may be done without fighting, or with very little fighting, by hemming in the insurrection, which must then expire from want of ammunition and supplies. Of the courage of our volunteers General Middleton has no doubt—nor have we.

IN the Battle of Cut-knife Creek, Colonel Otter made a dash in Pound-maker's reserve, killed several Indians, the highest number mentioned being one hundred and twenty-five, and when the enemy was closing on his flanks withdrew without disorder. The Indians were found to be poorly armed, a discovery which dispels one illusion which had been constantly kept before the public; instead of being all armed with Remingtons there were but few rifles of any kind among them, a larger number of shot guns, and several bows and arrows, presumably in the hands of boys. But the Indians are at home, on their own reserve, which is full of bluffs, hills, ravines, and poplar groves, just the kind of shelter required in Indian warfare. Behind these protections, the Indians lay flat, in a half-moon formation, which they gradually extended around the flanks of Otter's column. But the first thing they did was to make a rush for the two cannon, within twenty yards of which they advanced, when they were fired on by the mounted police, and then driven back by a charge. The execution done by the gatling bullets and shrapnel shell was apparently good; but the necessity for hastily withdrawing, the enemy being left in the position where he was found, took away much of the moral effect of the havoc which the Indians were practically taught the new weapons brought against them were capable of inflicting. To have enabled Otter to storm the position of the enemy, a much larger force than was or is at his command would have been necessary. The result, moral or physical, of General Middleton's attack on the Half-breeds at Batouche's Crossing, on Saturday, after a whole day's fighting in which the troops suffered very few casualties, was not of a kind to inspire the savages with an idea that he is invincible. Here again the nature of the ground was eminently favourable to the insurgents. Bluffs, ravines, and protecting copses present a formation of surface on which, over some three thousand acres of ground, rows of slight rifle-pits had been extemporized. The rifle-pits form three-quarters of a circle, and are apparently formed with the intention of overlapping the flanks of the advancing troops and if possible surrounding them. The difficulty is for the troops to know where to strike at the concealed enemy. That the troops lost only one man killed and had but few wounded is due to the poor weapons generally in the hands of the enemy—another proof of the inaccuracy of the sensational pictures which represented them as being all armed with repeating rifles of the latest pattern. Most of their powder, used to propel buckshot, was spent in vain. The killing of only one man by the Half-breeds, in a whole day's fight, is probably unprecedented. The Half-breeds opposed inertia and persistence to our troops and they succeeded in finding safety in concealment. Otter, outnumbered two to one, if report speaks true, had the good fortune to meet a passing success; General Middleton, whose forces outnumbered the enemy two to one, had not the same opportunity of striking an effective blow; and the result of the day's fight was to make no decided impression on the enemy. As we go to press comes a report that fighting was resumed on Saturday and continued on Sunday, the troops having achieved complete success. Batouche, it is said, was captured, and the rebels put to flight. The insurgents are, moreover, reported to be scarce of ammunition, and when that gives out, the game will be up.

WHEN certain bands of Indians, yielding to the baleful pretensions of Riel, extended the flames of the insurrection to regions beyond the control of the Half-breeds, the danger of an Indian war menaced the country. At first the Indian rising was capable of being confined within definite limits. Some of the tribes would willingly have acted as auxiliaries of