

youth were the only ones he could buy or borrow—these were the academical training, distinction, and degrees, with the assistance of which Burns passed to the front rank of poets. Yet of him, Lytton says:—"If a judicious reader were to take the trouble of comparing some of the most familiar of his stanzas with the most elaborate lines of THE POLISHED POPE OR OF THE FASTIDIOUS GRAY, the merit of superiority would, in nine cases out of ten, be awarded to Burns." Drawing at once inspiration and art from the most familiar sources, his images are always correct, and his tone that of one of Nature's truest and sweetest singers. Some other poets are bold in their flights, but in their diction slovenly and faulty; others, again, are, in one sense, masters of language, yet cannot make it paint a picture; but in Burns, inferior as was his education, imperfect his knowledge of the square and measure of the architects of verse, the wording is ever accurate, the picture complete, because, faithful as he could be to Nature and Truth, he is uttering simply what he has closely observed, or expressing passionately what he has keenly felt; and real criticism "dies without a sign" upon his descriptions of Nature and his revelations of sentiment.

SARTOR-RESARTUM, JR.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]
RANDOM SHOTS.

Mr. Addison F. Browne, writing in the *Week on Repose* in Nova Scotia, says: "The challenge of Mr. Fielding was issued with such reckless brilliancy that the Conservative gentlemen were somewhat disconcerted." Undoubtedly if there was any "brilliancy" in the challenge it was that of recklessness, a recklessness which borders on criminality. It is the fitting consummation of the factious disloyalty which showed its mean and ugly countenance during the North-West troubles of last year, and vainly scowled at the patriotic militia of Halifax with malignant but futile grins. I trust no militiaman, officer or man, will forget the tone of the local government organs on that occasion, when he goes to the poles next Tuesday, but that every militiaman with a vote will contribute to the defeat, which I devoutly hope awaits the enemies of Nova Scotia on that day.

Apropos of the militia, would it not be a pleasant thing if the officers of the Halifax force were to start a club for militia officers, active and retired? I do not mean an institution on the scale of the Halifax Club, but a modest room or two where some of the best papers and periodicals might be kept, and perhaps facilities for a light luncheon. Such an institution, which need involve only a very moderate entrance fee and subscription, if its beginnings were strictly limited, would, it seems to me, be a great convenience as a place where a man might go in and rest himself and write a letter if he wished to do so, besides that it would bring militia officers together.

I have just received, by the courtesy of the Militia Department, General Middleton's Report on the North-West Insurrection. It is illustrated with several sketches made by Capt. Haig, R. E., who was assistant quarter-master General of the force, and by an excellent map showing the localities from which were drafted the various corps which took part in the expedition. It is altogether an extremely interesting Blue Book. The General's reports are clear and simple, and he is no niggard in his praise of the conduct of the troops. The severity of the service, endured with exemplary fortitude and cheerfulness by all hands, is abundantly evident, and it is a record of which the militia of Canada may well be proud. The losses in action total as follows:—

	Killed.	Wounded.
Duck Lake	12	12
Fish Creek	10	40
Batoche	8	46
Cut Knife Creek	8	17

If the deaths of the priests, of Col. Williams, and others are added, the number of loyal lives sacrificed to the vile ambition of Riel would probably amount to fifty.

But this is not all. The machinations of the scoundrel cost his misguided followers dearer than his foes. The General reports 11 killed, and 18 wounded rebels at Fish Creek; and it was reported to him, chiefly by priests, that 51 were killed and 173 wounded in the four days fighting at Batoche. Col. Otter mentions 8 Indians killed at Cut Knife Creek, and this, it was thought, does not even approximately represent their loss. General Strange also reports one or two Indians shot by the men of his column.

The Deputy Minister of Militia points with justifiable pride to the numerous offers of service sent to the department both by individuals, and by bodies of Canadians resident in the United States, who, though living in a foreign country, many of them for years, had not yet come to think of their compatriots as "foreigners," or to adopt the *facon de parler* of the Nova Scotia Secessionists.

The mystery of the ill-feeling between the General and Col. Irvine, is not made clear by the reports of either of those officers, though its existence is manifest. But the beginning of it seems to appear in General Middleton's complaint that exaggerated reports from the Police Commander at Battleford of the danger at that place led him to direct Col. Otter's column thither instead of to Clarke's Crossing, from whence he had intended Otter to move along the west bank of the South Saskatchewan, while he (the General) moved along the eastern side to attack Batoche. "Had I," says the General, "been able to carry out this movement, the taking of Batoche would have been much easier and effective; and I regret the more as I afterwards found out that this imminent and immediate danger of the situation at Battleford had been tremendously overstated."

The alleged error in judgment of the Commander of a detachment does not, however, explain the hitch with the Commissioner, Col. Irvine, who has since resigned.

The *Newcastle N. B. Union Advocate* says that the North-West medals are apparently but little valued by some of the volunteers of Montreal, thirteen having found their way to the pawnbroker's. A man who pawned his medal ought to be dismissed from his corps.

FRANC-TURPIN

POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, June 1.—After routine business Sir John referred to the charge made against him by Cameron (Huron) of being interested in trade limits, and denied the truth of the statement.

The house considered the amendments made by the Senate to the bill amending the act respecting fishing by foreign vessels.

On the second reading of the subsidies to railways bill, Mr. Kinnear spoke at length upon the Western Counties railway, explaining the position of the road. Vail and McDougall (Pictou) also spoke on the subject. The bill passed through several stages, and was read a third time.

White (Carleton) moved the second reading of the railway land subsidy bill, and stated that the total public lands promised in aid of railway amounted to nearly 35,000,000 acres. The bill, after considerable discussion, passed.

The land subsidies to railways bill was read a third time.

Wednesday, June 2.—The house went into committee on the resolution respecting bounty on pig iron manufactured in Canada, which, after some discussion, passed.

McLellan moved the house into committee of supply to consider the supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1887. The total amount is \$2,065,850, of which \$970,000 are chargeable to capital, and \$1,095,850 to income. Among the amounts chargeable to capital are:

Intercolonial Railway claims	\$ 20 000
Short Line Railway claims	25 000
Cape Breton Railway	500 000

Among the items chargeable to income are:

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Lunenburg, Customs House, etc.	4 000
Kentville, Customs House, etc.	4 000
Dorchester Penitentiary	20 000
St. John, Post Office	1 400
Fredericton, Post Office	1 400
Woodstock, N. B. do	5 000
St. John, Customs House	4 850
Maritime Experimental Farm	30 000

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES.

Coast Telegraph System	4 300
Steam Communication between Montreal, Halifax, and Hamburg	24 000
For Protecting the Fisheries	50 000
For the encouragement of the production of Cod Liver Oil and Guano	4 000
In connection with Polariscopes	5 000

BREAKWATERS, PIERS, ETC.

Economy, Colchester	15 000
Canada Creek, Kings, (repairs)	700
Arisaig, Bayfield, McNab's Cove	19 000
South Ingonish	2 000
Boulardie	2 000
Cow Bay	9 600
Great Tancook	2 500
Indian Island	1 000
West Pubnico	1 000
Beaver Cove	1 000
Cap laRonde	5 000
Surotte	1 000
Petite Riviere	600
Sheet Harbor Wharf, Halifax County	5 000
Bay St. Lawrence, C. B.	2 000
Great Village River	3 900
White Point, Queens	1 000
Fox Island, Lawrencetown, Halifax Co.	2 500
Chipman's Brook, Kings	300
Digby (pier)	1 250
Yarmouth	2 000
Margaretville, Annapolis	8 500
Harborville and Kingsport	4 500
Lesmire, Pictou	2 500
Port Groville	6 000
Blue Rock	4 000
Broad Cove, C. B.	000

Sir John stated that a commissioner will be appointed to look into the whole subject of the treatment of the Indians of the North-West during the year. He also stated that he had received a mass of documentary evidence in rebuttal of the charges made by Cameron (Huron) in respect to North-West matters. He would have the evidence as widely disseminated as the charges.