

have been in the habit of growing potatoes and maize. The water in the lake is nearly lukewarm, being from 70° to 78° Fahr.; it is, except at a very few places, of a dark green color, and almost opaque from a profuseness of conservoid growth. These conservoids are minute, needle-shaped organisms, of a bright-green hue, and about half an inch in length. They abound throughout the lake, and are in such quantities at places that the water resembles green pea soup. When pressed between the teeth they have a pungent flavour like mustard. Our musquito-nets were here very useful for straining the water; but even after that process had been gone through, it was not fit for drinking until boiled. A few of the long, deep bays receding from the lake are free from this substance; and upon their banks lived the majority of the Indians who belong to this neighbourhood.

To lose one's way upon an expanse of water like the Lake of the Woods, and to wander about in a boat, as the writer did, through its maze of uninhabited islands, where no sound was to be heard but the dip of the oars at regular intervals, or the distant and weird like whistle of the loon, is to experience the exquisite sensation of solitude in all its full intensity. There are trees and rocks, and earth and water, in all their varied and united beauty, but no sign whatever of man's handiwork anywhere. Oh! if it was not for the trouble of having to cook one's own dinner, how delicious would be existence passed in the society of nature!

The drainage of an immense country is collected in the Lake of the Woods, which flows into Lake Winnipeg by the river of that name. This river begins in the former lake, flowing from it by several channels, all more or less romantically picturesque in their scenery, and at the entrance to each of which there are falls about thirteen feet high. Upon one of the central islands thus formed is the Hudson Bay post of Rat Portage. It is approached by a most intricate channel winding round islands in such a manner that a stranger would have very great difficulty in finding it. There is a nice little farm there, and a good garden, the vegetables of which were a great treat after our journey of so many days through a wilderness. There was a most striking difference between the climate of Shobowadwan and on the shores of this great lake; every day's journey from the high level of the former place brought us into a more genial temperature, humming birds having been seen for the first time at French Portage before we reached Rainy Lake; and the corn was being cut as we left Fort Francis, where the summer is very early. The post at Rat Portage consists of a few log houses surrounded by a high wooden palisade. It stands on a bank some fifteen feet high, and when viewed from the river, bears a strong resemblance to a Burmese village. As you ascend the bank to enter the post, you are surrounded by a pack of the leanest-looking and most cur-like dogs, who are always quarrelling amongst themselves, and have starvation written on their countenances, as well as evidenced by their bone-protruding flanks. They are to the Indians, or the dwellers in the backwoods, during winter, what canoes are to them in summer. These dogs drag their *traîneaux*, or *toboggans* as they are indifferently called, and are capable of lengthened exertions over snowtracks where no horse could travel. In summer they are turned loose about the post, and pick up enough to eat as best they can among the Indians encamped around it; but in winter they are regularly fed upon fish.

The gentleman in charge of Rat Portage had been there for thirteen years, without having had, during that period, any further glimpse of civilization than what could be obtained at some of the other posts. He was a half-breed married to a squaw. It is next too impossible that any man could lead such a solitary life and still retain the intelligence and enlargement of ideas imparted by even an ordinary country-school education. Men's minds are too prone to assimilate with the minds of those with whom they are exclusively associated, to retain, after a series of years spent amongst ignorant heathens, many traces of education or civilization. Great, therefore, was our astonishment at finding the table neatly arranged with breakfast things, laid on a clean table cloth, when we entered the house the morning after our arrival. Thrice blessed is the man who first discovered the pleasures of eating. Your gourmet in refined life really knows nothing of them; nor has he ever enjoyed the rapturous sensations which broiled fish, boiled potatoes, and tea, afforded us that morning. *En route* our daily meals were always cooked and eaten in a hurry. A picnic once a year is very pleasant to the man accustomed to eat his dinner for the following 364 days in a white cravat, and with his legs under an artistically decorated table; but to eat one's breakfast, dinner, and salt pork, beans, and biscuit, sitting on a log or stone, day after day for months together, is, to say the least of it, rather monotonous, and makes one appreciate the luxury of a chair, table, and clean table cloth in a remarkable degree.

(To be continued.)

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE SAINTS CHARLOTTE LEADERS.

(From the New York Herald.)

We publish brief sketches of the leaders of the Paris insurgents whose names have been made public. As will be seen all belong to the red republican party.

GENERAL DUCAL.

This officer who appears to hold the position of commander-in-chief of the insurgent forces is a soldier by profession. He entered the French army in the second quarter of the present century, and was one of the first to agree to the overthrow of Charles X. Soon after the accession of Louis Philippe he gave evidence of his republican sentiments, and immediately after the overthrow of the "Citizen King" gave his adhesion to the republic. He opposed the presidency of Louis Napoleon, but retained his position in the army until after the *coup d'état*, when he sent in his resignation. From that time until the overthrow of the empire in September last he remained in private, taking no part in politics, but recognized as an unswerving republican. After the 3rd of September he again took up arms, was commissioned a general and served during the siege of Paris. He seems to have been one of the leaders of the Montmartre insurgents from the start, and his recent proclamation a synopsis of which we published yesterday, indicates that he is a communist.

GENERAL CREMER.

It is a difficult matter to state what are the politics of General Cremer. As will be seen in our cable despatches he has been summoned to appear at Versailles for trial by court martial, for participation in the insurrection. At the outbreak of the war with Prussia he was a *capitaine de Viat*-major (staff officer) of the imperial army. After

Gambetta went to Tours, Cremer and a captain of engineers, named Bretolles, had an interview with him, which resulted in Bretolles' appointment to a major generalship and to Cremer's receiving a brigadier general's commission. It appears that this sudden promotion resulted from the two young officers laying before Gambetta a plan of campaign which that fiery official at once adopted, and recognized in the planners officers of the first military genius. Cremer was placed in command of a brigade of some 7,000 men forming part of Bretolles' division. The troops lay near Dijon and one fine day Cremer, in disobedience of the order of his superior, marched them to Dijon. Bretolles hurried to Tours to complain to Gambetta, but before he could reach that place Cremer had telegraphed a report of a victory he had gained over the Prussians. It was a trifling affair, but victories were scarce, and Gambetta at once promoted him to a major generalship in army of Bovrbaki. Cremer's division did good service during the fatal campaign to relieve Belfort, and fought hard during the retreat which it covered. After the preliminary treaty of peace Cremer went to Paris, and has since been there. He is said to be both ambitious and unscrupulous and is altogether a dangerous man.

M. ASSY.

Almost every reader of the *Herald* has heard of M. Assy, one of the leaders of the Workingmen's International Society. He is a native of southeast France, and was at one time an employee at the great iron works at Creuzot, belonging to M. Schneider, late President of the Corps Legislatif under the empire. Some years ago he drifted in politics, and soon became prominent in the political and social questions which have agitated France. While Secretary to the association Internationale des Ouvres, the politico-social disturbances at Creuzot took place, and he was arrested and tried for complicity in them, and was committed. Subsequently he left Creuzot and took up his residence in Paris, where he has been since conspicuous for his participation in public matters affecting the workingmen. Personally he is said to be a most agreeable man, but politically he is regarded at one of the ablest and most dangerous demagogues in France. He is a socialist, and holds with Blandqui, Flourens, and the rest all the absurd and Utopian social and political theories of his party.

Promotion in the British army by purchase still continues for the present. An interdict, however, has been issued from the War Department to prevent first appointments being made under this category.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. *THE CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTE* remarks.—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which not only saves us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 4lb., 1lb., and 1lb. tinned packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England.