

MUTTERINGS AND GROWLINGS.

So the miserable hound Riel is at last the captive of our bow and of our spear, and already the beginning renders the end all too plainly discernible. Already he who runs may read the preparation for a course of shuffling, dodging, and eventual truckling to the detestable French influence to which we have periodically to bow down, like unto that which a fortnight ago this mischievous and craven cur free to be the instrument of shedding a sea of blood, every drop of which was more precious than that of Riel and his whole mongrel crew to boot.

The *Week* was abused some time ago for hinting that General Middleton was trammelled from the first by instructions from Ottawa as to the disposal of this incarnation of Impudence. It mildly adhered to the possibility that it was not mistaken, and the event proves it to have been right. It is a disgrace to the conduct of the campaign that the General should have been compelled to offer any terms or promises to the rebel. He should have been left free to court-martial him as soon as caught.

It is not creditable that he should be allowed to speak in the General's tent, in the way of offering remarks, as he is reported to be permitted to do. He should not be allowed to open his mouth except in answer to the sternest questions. He should be treated as one treats a rattlesnake, and in no way else. I neither know nor care how many are likeminded with myself (in the North West and in Ontario they might be counted by thousands) but I have not a shadow of hesitation in saying that nothing but Riel's life, worthless as it is, can furnish atonement for the incalculable evil he has brought to pass. I would hang him for poor Scott's murder alone; to say nothing of the sixty or seventy valuable lives of Canadian soldiers which have been sacrificed on the altar of his French presumption and vanity. To say nothing of the Half-breeds he has deluded to their death—the homesteads ravaged—the priests and civilians murdered—the women enduring the agonies of Indian captivity—the setting back of the rapid rise of the Territories towards wealth and comfort. If there is any paltering with justice (as there assuredly will be) in dealing with this murderous ruffian, I trust it will be remembered against the Government at the next election. I know some who will not forget it.

One thing satisfactory, which, in all reason, and by all right, should evolve itself out of the exigencies caused by Riel's uprising, is a more wholesome state of public feeling with regard to the Militia. It is always the unexpected which occurs, and who shall say when some other occasion shall arise at which the absolute necessity of an efficient domestic military force shall make itself felt. It may be remembered that occasion has, in fact, existed before now. About eight years ago, when the railway people struck, the Queen's Own had to be sent to Belleville. There rioting had begun, and the presence of that excellent regiment had the best effect.

Henceforth, in view of the altogether admirable behavior of the troops in their maiden field, subjected to the most trying kind of fighting to which men can be set, I suppose people who do not happen to have a turn for soldiering will have the decency to refrain from sneers at the Militia of their country.

I have always maintained (and I have been thirty years a volunteer officer, twenty-eight in Canada) that the world had no finer material for soldiers than Canada. I have ever endeavored to lead officers to think highly of their position and of their men, and I am rejoiced (however unhappy the occasion) to find my opinions so unmistakably confirmed. I am infinitely glad that no Imperial troops have been present to overshadow the conduct of our own forces in a campaign which ought to give us full confidence in them; and I trust no decorations will mar the sense of the simple performance of duty. I think we do not want to see a fresh army of K. C. B.'s and C. M. G.'s. We have more than enough already.

It has always been my endeavor to instil into the corps to which I have had the honor to belong, a sense that the Canadian Militia is an institution *per se*—a national army of the best sort, which, properly supported, will always obviate for us the necessity of any considerable standing army, and not a gaping copyism of Imperial military traditions, many of which are cumbrous and conventional to the last degree, and entirely unfit for Canadian naturalization. The red-tape complications of "war office forms," and modes of payment, stoppages, etc., we are happily free from to a great extent, and our discipline can never in the nature of things, be of the distant character of that of the Imperial service, nor is it in the least desirable that it should be. But I do hope that the present emergency will result in a proportion at least of every battalion, being supplied with efficient necessaries for taking the field at a moment's notice. If our splendid Militia had been well provided, a large portion of the expense of the present campaign would have been saved, and it should always be borne in mind that the expenditure for militia training goes out of one pocket of the country into the other.

The *Evening Mail* of the 15th, has nearly two columns of very interesting matter on the "Revised Old Testament." It is suggestive of a few remarks which I may be able to send you next week.

FRANC-TIREUR.

CORNER.—A Yankee editor announces that he will take corn in pay for his paper, and that he will take it in the ear if he can't get it otherwise. Either this editor publishes a very cheap paper, or he has very large ears. An ordinary ear will not hold three ha'porth of corn.

RECEIPTS.

A PLATE POWDER.—Polishers' putty and burnt hartshorn, of each four ounces; prepared chalk, eight ounces.

REMEDY FOR LOOSE TEETH.—When the front teeth become loose without any apparent cause, a diseased state of the gums may be suspected. Sometimes—nay, often—the teeth may be set firm again by washing out the mouth three or four mornings running with tincture of myrrh, about a teaspoonful in a third of a tumbler of water. The following is also a good mouth wash:—Infusion of roses, six ounces; borax, one ounce; honey of roses, one ounce.

RUMP STEAKS AND OYSTER SAUCE.—Wash the oysters free from grit, strain their liquor, and put some of it, with as much water, into a saucepan, with a blade of mace, some lemon peel, and ground white pepper; add butter and flour, rubbed together, and boil up; take out the mace and lemon peel, put in the oysters, and a spoonful of mushroom ketchup; simmer a few minutes, and pour into a tureen. If too much of the oyster liquor be used the sauce will be too salt. A little cream is a fine addition. The sauce should resemble thickened gravy rather than melted butter.

TANNING WITH GLYCERINE.—The property of glycerine to preserve leather has been known for a long time; it is now proposed to employ it in tanning, to increase the elasticity and resistance of the leather. This system of tanning is particularly adapted to straps and belts of machinery, as it keeps them from drying and cracking. It is only necessary to immerse the leather, tanned in the usual manner, in a bath of glycerine, and to leave it for several weeks, when the pores will be impregnated with a greasy substance, and the leather will be found to be much more elastic and tenacious.

CLEANING SILK.—Use potato-water for all colours and kinds: grate some potatoes into cold spring water, say a large potato to every quart of water, of which five or six will do for a couple of dresses. If for very light silk, pare the potatoes: if any very dark, merely wash them clean. The pan of water must not be stirred in the least for forty-eight hours; then very slowly, and steadily pour off the clear liquor, but not a particle of the sediment, into an open vessel—a bath, or such like. Dip the pieces of silk into this liquid up and down a few times, without the least creasing them; then wipe them on a flat table with a clean towel, first one side, then the other. It is as well to hang each one as dipped upon a line to allow the drops to drain off a little before wiping. Have a damp cloth to cover them in till they are done, then iron one way on the soiled side. It is astonishing to see how nice a dress looks done in this manner.

HEARTLESS WOMEN.—It is a great mistake to suppose that a woman with no heart will be an easy creditor in the exchange of affection. There is not on earth a more merciless exactor of love from others than a thoroughly selfish woman; and the more unlovely she grows, the more jealously and scrupulously she exacts love to the uttermost farthing.—*Mrs. Stowe.*

WRITERS AND THEIR CHARACTERS.—Great writers change themselves into each one of the characters that are to be represented, and speak in them like ventriloquists, now in the hero, and then in a young, innocent maiden, with equal truth and naturalness, as Shakespeare and Goethe. Writers of the second rank change the characters to be represented into themselves, as Byron; whence the secondary characters are as lifeless as the main characters in the works of the mediocre.

CIRCASSIAN SLAVES.—The persons who desire to buy them come and make their choice, and often some of the most beautiful are bought by the rich pashas, beys, and ladies, to be sold again in the palace. The sister of the Sultan also makes an annual present of one to her brother; so that there are scarcely ever less than five hundred of these charming creatures in the imperial harem, besides his majesty's wives. They are employed in domestic service and to wait on the Sultan. Then there are the dancing girls, the secretaries, &c.—in fact, they all have their assigned places and occupations. Should any attract the favor of the Sultan, she becomes his favorite. These Circassian girls become very sad at the loss of their liberty (for they rarely go out), they feel so much the want of some one on whom they can bestow their affections, and have them reciprocated, that they become melancholy and die at an early age.

STRINGENCY OF PASSPORTS.—An illustration of the stringency of the Russian passport regulations was recently given in the *St. Petersburg Gazette*. The village of Volotchik, on the Galician frontier, was a week or two ago surprised by a fire. Of course there was no engine in the place. Prompted by a feeling of neighborly charity, the Austrian town of Brody despatched its corps of firemen with all speed to the assistance of the distressed village. They made for the frontier at a brisk gallop, but on arriving there they were stopped by the Douane soldiers, and gruffly reminded of their omission to provide themselves with passports for the nocturnal trip. They could not, therefore, be permitted to cross the frontier, but had to return to Brody, their way home being lighted up by the flames which they had set out to quench.

A DOLLAR FOR A KISS.—A Western traveller came up to a log cabin and asked for a drink, which was supplied by a good looking young woman. As she was the first woman he had seen for several days, he offered her a dollar for a kiss. It was duly taken and paid for, and the young hostess, who had never seen a dollar before, looked at it a moment with some curiosity, then asked what she should do with it. He replied what she chose, as it was hers.—"If that's the case," said she, "you may take it back, and give me another kiss."