

## REBELLION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The fear that the Indian tribes would be induced to join the half-breeds has to some extent been realized. The tribes under the chiefs Pipot, Poundmaker, Little Pine, Lucky Man, and others, in the Reserves in the neighborhood of Battleford, and the course of the Battle and the North Saskatchewan Rivers, are reported to be on the warpath.

The few white settlers at Battleford have taken the precaution to retire within the walls of the Police Barracks, and as a result, the lawless and idle half-breed and Indian have ransacked empty houses, and have killed their farm instructors.

The fact of the few settlers retiring to the Police Barracks for safety in itself was sufficient to induce these lawless ones to follow their natural instincts. At the best of times there is always a given amount of restlessness, and inclination to defy authority beyond that which in the tribes is exercised by the chiefs. The attempts that have been made by the Government to encourage and teach the Indian element to live a life consonant with civilization by cultivating the soil and providing for the future, is a mode of life so devoid of that incident and excitement peculiar to their previous nomadic life, that on an opportunity presenting itself, no wonder the savage nature should for a time be allowed, unrestricted, to sway their actions. A great number of the reports are no doubt but the fervid exaggeration of people who are more or less influenced by interest, or difficulties by which they are surrounded. One thing is certain to everybody of a dispassionate judgment, that an amount of mismanagement and bad government has been exercised at Ottawa, and by the Ministers' nominees in high authority in the North-West. Six months back was the time to crush the revolt. The Police and settlers from Prince Albert to Edmonton (West), and to Qu'Appelle (South), have been fully acquainted with the strained condition of matters, and the deep-rooted feelings of discontent prevailing amongst the classes now up in arms. Yet Governor Dewdney reported all quiet, and the reports published of any discontent were false; this is Sir John A. Macdonald's answer in Parliament at Ottawa. The public knows now "that some one has blundered." At Ottawa there is a new phase in the difficulty. The Quebec Bleus are protesting and threatening Sir John for permitting such a state of things, and whether Sir David Macpherson or Governor Dewdney be sacrificed to satisfy the Quebec supporters, will not relieve the responsibility from the Ministers.

The expression of Mr. Lowe in the Imperial Parliament during the discussion on the Franchise Bill, in 1866, "What will 'Our Masters' say," is very applicable to this difficulty: "Our Masters" are those fathers and sons called away from comfortable homes, and leaving wives and children at a moment's notice at such an inclement season, without any preparatory training, to fight a semi-barbarous savage, on a boundless and trackless prairie, a quarrel that will be devoid of all civilized mode of warfare, with a foe gifted by instinct and nature and training for such an internecine war; who is tireless and unwearied in the carrying out of his strategy or tactics; is rapacious, wanton and cruel; accepts nor gives any quarter.

It is as grave a mistake as the fact of the neglect already seen to have characterized the North-West policy, to send out half-trained men, and particularly infantry, as the larger number are, to fight in an Indian war. American experience tells us that it is only by cavalry that any success can be attained against Indians or half-breeds. It is a guerrilla and irregular cavalry, with the Mounted Police as the basis of formation and equipment and training, that will be of any service at all. Yet with all the experience and teachings of American border warfare, the Government, by their inactivity and bungling and injustice, have allowed

to come about a state of things to cope with which they have not made any arrangement. Enthusiasm goes a long way, but is a poor substitute for training, or departmental preparation.

The French sang through the streets of Paris, "*A Berlin!*" but it is a matter of history how complete and disastrous were they repulsed, defeated and destroyed at Saarbrücken and Woerth—never invading their enemy's territory at all. There is not a single regiment or company of irregular horse that has as yet gone away to the North-West, that are fitted by either training, experience or knowledge of the tactics or movements necessary in such a contest. The infantry will be very little use—only to garrison strategic points, and by which to overawe the rebels.

There is another phase that cannot be overlooked. The French-Canadian population in the Eastern provinces are very lukewarm in the whole thing. They would be fighting against a French element in the half-breeds, which to some extent they sympathize with. If Ontario can only be relied upon to defend the Dominion from lawlessness, rapine and plunder, it is time for a proper understanding to be arrived at on this point. What with the bungling incapacity of Ministers, backed by a following from Provinces that evidently have but a limited Dominion enthusiasm, and prompted by Provincial interests and jealousies, to be got at the expense and interest of the remainder of the Provinces of the Dominion.

Selfishness and vile corruption appears to be at the very bottom of everything. Then where are "Our Masters?" Can this state of chronic decay and disruption exist much longer? It ought not to do. Equal rights and privileges, just and honest Government, faithfulness and truthfulness to the trust imposed upon the Ministers by the suffrages of the people, should be the guiding beacon lights of Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., and his servile Ministers at Ottawa. Instead of which, we are groaning under burdens of unjust taxation, extravagant expenditure of the large surpluses of revenue, bartering the Dominion credit to carry out a scheme which is characterized by jobbery and rascality in nearly all its dealings. All this reacting upon the trade of the Dominion—money scarce, workmen on reduced wages and reduced hours of labor; merchants crying out carrying heavy stocks, and no profit upon transactions; industries closing up, or shutting down to save expenses, because they cannot sell their manufactured goods but at most ruinous prices; foreign markets, except for the farmer, hermetically closed as far as making any profit by exportation, on account of the largely increased cost of production, caused by a bad fiscal policy.

Nova Scotia threatening to withdraw from the Confederation; Newfoundland still refusing to join the Dominion—to her credit and safety be it said;—rebellion in the North-West; Manitoba in a chronic dissatisfied state; increasing taxation upon necessities of life, when reduced incomes by all classes is the cry; starvation threatening thousands of our humbler brethren, which private charity cannot successfully meet—all these evils following close upon the heels of each other, threatening a national disaster too serious to contemplate with any satisfaction! Who is to blame for all this? is the question in the mouth of every inquiring lover of his country. The Ministers at Ottawa must some day answer for these deeds done in their political capacity.

VERAX.

## AFGHANISTAN AND RUSSIA.

The long expected meeting of the two greatest territorial grabbing powers in the world is "un fait accompli."

England carried her conquest to the borders of South Afghanistan fifty years ago. Russia has achieved her conquest of Khiva, Bokharia and Merv during the past ten years, and arrived