

were willing to support the Government; and, in the middle of their preparations to do so, left them in the lurch, without even paying them their four shillings due. The insurgents have taken possession of the safe containing the Hudson's Bay treasury, and are paying the soldiers with it. They gave a receipt to the Company for all the goods and money taken. Dr. Tupper describes Riel as a very shrewd, intelligent, determined man. English friends, who left Fort Garry on Sunday, report they would all have taken arms for McDougall if Col. Dennis had not left them during the night; that the English and Scotch half-breeds all feared (favoured?) the Governor's entrance, and when called upon were enrolled in different parishes, and awaited Col. Dennis's order; that the statement is false, that when the French list of rights came out they refused to assist Dennis; that the latter was frightened; and although the English and Scotch have outnumbered the French three to one, Dennis neither gave them arms nor the pay of four shillings a day. My informant is from St. Paul's parish, a half-breed, and says numbers of the French half-breeds are opposed to Riel's movement there. The thermometer here this a. m., at eight o'clock, 35° below zero; bitter cold, and a fearful storm on the prairie.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis writes to the *Toronto Globe*—
 "A very important duty under my instructions was to assure people in the territory, occupants of land, and particularly those who were natives of the country, that they need be under no apprehension whatever of being disturbed in the possession of their property; that, on the contrary, the incoming Government having first extinguished the Indian title by a treaty, just in its character, and which would be honourably carried out, would then immediately take steps to confirm by "Letters Patent" the title of all such parties; and further, that this would be carried into effect as soon as possible after the formation of the Local Government. I made a point constantly of mentioning this as a part of the policy in land matters of the Government, explaining over and over again, that should surveyors make their appearance during this winter, surveying the settlement on the Red River and Assiniboine, the object of such survey would be to obtain plans and descriptions, so as to enable the Government to issue deeds to the occupants, and not in any way with the view of disturbing those in possession. It was conceded by everybody that, inasmuch as at present the title of parties consists of a mere entry, in many cases in pencil, of their names in a book kept by the Hudson's Bay Company (lately by the way taken forcible possession of by the French party), it would be a great boon to have their titles put in such satisfactory shape. With regard to surveys proposed to be effected outside of the Settlement up to the close of the season, it was explained that it was for the purpose of locating the principal meridian and base lines, so as to place the Government in a position to prepare, by the laying out of a couple of townships, for the emigration which might be expected next season; but that under no circumstances would lands be granted for settlement until the aboriginal claimants to the title had been arranged with. This policy and no other I kept constantly before the people, and as the gentlemen under me were similarly instructed, I have no reason to believe, and do not believe, that they ever mentioned any other course as likely to be taken by the incoming Government. As evidence of my desire to remove any possible misapprehension in the minds of people on this head, I may say that the day following my arrival at Winnipeg in August last, I waited upon the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church at the Palace of St. Boniface, and made them thoroughly aware of the above as the intended policy of the Government. The priests whom I saw—Bishop Taché having left for Rome—expressed their satisfaction with my statement, and in compliance with a request to that effect, promised to explain the same to their people. I made the intentions of the Government, in this particular, known also to the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Garry, and was indebted to the courtesy of Governor McTavish for office accommodation of one of the clerks, employed for some weeks (indeed till his work was seized and himself turned out by Riel & Co.) in copying the maps and records of the Company, so as to facilitate the future confirming of titles. I procured the insertion of a paragraph in the only newspaper published at the time in the Territory, explaining the above as the policy intended in land matters, which you may see by referring to the files of the *Nor-Wester* for the latter part of August or the beginning of September. Lastly, I informed Mr. Louis Riel, in person, fully on this head. Mr. Riel, whom I had not before seen, called at my office one day about that time, saying that as a native of the country, and one feeling much interest in the change about to take place, and regretting, he said also, that there seemed to be a doubt in the minds of some of the French people, as to the manner in which these lands were likely to be dealt with by the Canadian Government, he would be glad if I could enlighten him, so that in turn he could explain matters to these people. I thanked him for the straightforward course he had taken in coming to me as he had, and gave him the same assurances I had given to everybody previously. He expressed himself as delighted to hear of the just and even liberal intentions of the Government towards the occupants of land, and left me, promising that he would take every opportunity of making those intentions known among the class mentioned. The next thing I heard of, Mr. Riel was heading a party of men and stopping Mr. Webb's surveying party; and again, on the Monday following this, his making an inflammatory speech at the church doors, exciting and urging on the people to resist the entry of the Lieut.-Governor, and, as one of his arguments, asserting that the government intended "to take their farms from the French half-breeds and give them to the Canadians."

Finally, no survey whatever of the settled farms had been made or commenced at the time the outbreak occurred. Mr. Webb's party, at the time it was stopped, was upon a town-ship line outside of the settlement.
 So much for myself and staff having caused the present troubles.
 Allow me to say a word or two more. There has been what may fairly be called a tolerably free expression of opinion in certain of the Canadian newspapers as to my proceedings lately in connection with affairs in Red River. Unfortunately, these papers drew their information from sources unworthy of confidence. During the most critical period, the first ten or twelve days in December, none but French sympathisers, or men like "Justitia," perched on the Hudson Bay fence, could entrust anything to the mail, and the public here were therefore, to a great extent, obliged to put up with news

manufactured and sent on twice a week from Pembina by "Stuttsman & Co." to St. Cloud and St. Paul, where in turn it was served up with comments warranted to suit the American market. This Stuttsman I may say, furnished the "Sacred honour" and other materials of which the French "Declaration of Independence" is composed, put them together, and then generously went down to Fort Garry to float the "Provisional Government." As to myself, I am content to wait, and be judged by the publication, in due time, of the official papers, which will show that some of the comments to which I refer above were not alone in bad taste, but were positively unjust to me."

GENERAL NEWS.
 CANADA.

The Militia department has issued an order directing the Volunteers to return their rifles to the several armories.

Alderman Murison has been elected mayor of Hamilton; Ald. Harman is selected for Toronto, Ald. Robinson for Kingston and Ald. Rochester for Ottawa.

It is said that Prince Arthur will be present at the opening of the Dominion Parliament on the 15th proximo and that a ball will probably be given in his honour.

It is estimated that the projected wooden railway from Sherbrooke to Weedon will cost \$165,000; and towards this \$157,000 in subscriptions and government aid have already been secured.

It is rumoured that the Dominion Government will ask for an appropriation, next session, to enable it to improve the entrances, &c., of the Welland Canal, (leaving over the question of its enlargement until another year) as also for grants for the Grenville Canal and the construction of harbours of Refuge on Lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron.

The last election in British Columbia resulted in the return of an ardent Confederate—Hon. Mr. DeCosmos, a Nova Scotian, by the way. He was defeated last year in consequence of his advocacy of confederation. This year, in the second electoral district of the Colony, he has obtained his election by a majority of nearly three hundred.

The Reverend Messrs. Champoux and Gratton, and Messrs. Brisebois, Valois and Leclaire, late of the Papal Zouaves, arrived in town yesterday on their return from Rome. The ex-privates brought a large number of letters from their comrades in the Pontifical Army, the most of which they posted shortly after arriving.—*Telegraph*.

A Quebec despatch says of the proceedings of the Legislature since its re-assembling after the holidays:

Very little of real work has been done as yet in the lower house. The Privileges and Immunities bill, which received its first reading on Thursday, causes very little remark among the members. The current rumour is that it has been approved by both Sir John and Sir George. The \$30,000 for a residence for the Lieut. Governor was voted without opposition. Mr. Joly alone, taking advantage of the opportunity, offered to make a little speech, in which he ridiculed the government for passing a "bill for a uniform system of Police," which applied only to the city of Quebec; and congratulated the city of Quebec as representing the whole Province. The Council since it re-assembled has been unusually busy. Several bills sent up from the lower house have already received their second reading; and the Notarial bill has been passed through committee. The work has been faithfully performed, and the few remnants of the objectionable clauses have been removed. It will probably receive its third reading on Monday, when one or two ambiguous clauses will be cleared up.

UNITED STATES.

The wife of a Methodist Minister at Hingham, Mass., supplied her husband's pulpit recently, when, on account of sickness, he was unable to officiate.

Port au Prince advices to December 25 state that the revolutionists demanded the surrender of the refugees who had taken shelter in the American Consulate, but they were compelled to apologize by the British and French men-of-war summoned to the assistance of the American Consul.

The Congressional Committee of Ways and Means refused, by a vote of 2 against 6, to make bituminous coal free. They rejected the motion for 50 cents per ton by a vote of 3 against 5. The proposition for \$1 per ton was lost by a vote. Coal, therefore, remains as now at \$1.50 per ton.

A telegraph line is in course of construction between New York and Washington, which is to be opened with Little's instruments, which are said to be capable of transmitting 200 words a minute over a single wire, which is ten times the speed of the Morse system. The inventor anticipates being able to reduce the tariff for messages to one cent per word for all distances.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nelaton is to introduce a bill in the French Senate, making the attendance of physicians in the night-time compulsory.

Grego and other conspirators against the life of the Emperor, who were tried and sentenced to transportation in 1864, are to be comprised in the general amnesty to political offenders.

The two garters which reverted to the crown on the death of the Earl of Derby and Marquis of Westminster, have been conferred on Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe and Earl de Grey and Ripon.

It is said that Bismarck thinks seriously of resigning his position as Premier of the Prussian Ministry, and devoting his attention entirely to the foreign affairs of the Northgerman confederation.

There is a piece of news from that curious old city Rouen, which should interest all readers of English history. The "lion heart" King Richard the First of England, Duke of Normandy, has just been removed from the treasury of Rouen Cathedral, and placed in a new tomb in the choir. "Hic jacet cor Ricardi, Regis Anglorum," is the inscription.

Letters from Constantinople state that much satisfaction is felt in that capital at the pacific solution of the dispute between Turkey and Egypt. Server Effendi, as a recompense for the active part he had in the negotiations, has received the Order of the Medjidie of the first class. The *Memorial Diplomatique* attributes the principal merit of the settlement to Baron Beust.

Bishop Twells, of the Orange River colony, South Africa, who was accused of an unnatural crime some months ago, and fled from his bishopric, forwarded his resignation to the metropolitan of Cape Town, without either confessing or denying the charges. The Bishop of Cape Town does not accept the resignation, but insists upon an investigation.

Lady Harriette Cowper, widow of Count d'Orsay and wife of Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper, has just died in Paris. She was a daughter of the famous Lady Blessington, and her separation from Count d'Orsay soon after marriage was attended with circumstances which involved her mother in very ugly scandal. Lady Harriette was highly respected and well known so the English community in Paris by her charitable and religious works.

The Suez Canal is becoming more and more a reality. M. de Lesseps telegraphs that the steamer *Stirling*, from Glasgow, left for Bombay immediately after her arrival at Port Said, and passed through the Canal in twelve hours. Other English steamers were following, and on the Tyne steamers are being built for the Indian trade, *via* the Canal, "specially constructed for the purpose."

On Monday last in the Corps Législatif Rochefort made a brief but bitter speech in reply to the Minister of Justice, and was frequently applauded by the spectators in the galleries and lobbies. Immense crowds gathered in the Place de la Concorde and on the Quay of the Tuileries, opposite the hall of the Corps Législatif. The guards were doubled. The police prevented the people from crowding around the Legislative Chamber, and the public were not permitted to cross the Place de la Concorde, which leads directly to that point. The debate in the Chambers was closed at one o'clock, and a vote was taken. The Chamber decided to grant the demand of the Government for the arraignment of Rochefort by an overwhelming majority. The vote stood, 226 for, and 34 against the prosecution. As soon as the vote was announced, Deputy Gambetta arose and protested against the sudden termination of the debate, which he charged was brought about to prevent a proper consideration of so grave a question. The Chamber then adjourned. When the news of the result of the vote was received by the crowd waiting outside, a great demonstration was made in favour of Rochefort in the Place de la Concorde.

In the afternoon another popular manifestation of sympathy with Rochefort took place in the Boulevard Montmartre.

A correspondent of the *London Times* says:—
 "From various sources lamentable accounts reach me of the present state of things in Madrid—great misery, much vice, and starvation among the poorer classes, want of work, trade at a stand still, the necessaries of life exorbitantly dear, a gambling fever rife among those classes of the population that have anything left to stake. Meanwhile, General Prim has taken the Regent and some of the Ministers on a shooting excursion to his fastness in the mountains of Toledo. He possesses a sort of feudal fortress there with extensive hunting-grounds, where he entertains his friends in princely style. We hear marvels of the good cheer prepared and of the incredible sums *per diem* for which Lhardy, the French cook of Madrid, celebrated for the exorbitant length of his bills, has undertaken to supply creature comforts to the guests and their retinue. Some fifty persons are said to have been invited, including the French ambassador. The difficulties of locomotion are considerable, for the Chateau Prim is situated in a very uphill country, several leagues from Toledo, which itself is a place poor in everything except antiquities and the picturesque, so that vehicles have to be sent by rail from Madrid to convey the guests on their uphill journey. Doubtless the hero of Castillejos will do the honors well, and the eight days sport and banqueting will add to his already well-established reputation for splendor and hospitality; but it may be questioned whether all this luxury and lavish expenditure will produce a good effect among the hungry multitude in Madrid."

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