



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., APRIL 25, 1885.

NEW SERIES—VOL. V. NO. 238.

EVERY READER!

Every reader and every subscriber to TRUTH should not fail to read our great BIBLE COMPETITION announcement, to be found in the Publisher's Department. As the advertisement has now been out some time, and the middle prize is a fine city residence, the questions should be answered, and with the dollar, sent in at once. We would like some old subscriber to get the residence in question. The middle correct answer of the whole competition will take it. Many other large and costly prizes are also offered, the smallest of which are well worth the dollar, even if the matter of a four months' subscription to TRUTH were left out of the question. You can't help being pleased anyway. Prizes will go to some one. Why not you?

WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

President Cleveland seems determined to carry into practice at Washington the much talked of and much longed for policy of Civil Service Reform. For years and years it has been the practical cry of each great party in the United States that "to the victors belong the spoils." It happened, in consequence, that whenever there was a change in the party triumph there was a sweeping change made in nearly all the offices of the country. Under such a system every office holder became necessarily a deeply interested worker in each election; his official existence depended on the result. There are some hundreds of thousands of office holders in the United States, and the state of things at an election where all of them combined, and all their friends were at their backs, can well be imagined. President Cleveland has not given the old Republican office-holders notice to quit in order to make room for the hungry ones of his own party. Of course the party wire-pullers are disappointed and indignant, but the men hungry for the sweets of office clamour in vain. Probably this is the most important step for the political well-being of the country that has been made in this generation. Let U. S. office-holders but know that the result of an election will not affect their tenure of office, just as office-holders in Canada and England know, and one-half of the worst features of a U. S. national election will at once pass away. The American people are to be congratulated on the election at last of a President possessing sufficient firmness of purpose to act on his convictions. Several former incumbents of the White House would gladly put a bar to the spoils system, but they did not appear possessed of sufficient courage to resist the clamour of their political friends.

Nearly all the reliable information from the North-West goes to show that for the past eight months Riel and his fellow-agitators had been openly at work stirring up

dissatisfaction and insurrection. Evidently the Dominion officers in the Territory have been caught napping. Is it possible that they were in the performance of their actual duties and were not aware of what was going on? Is it possible that they know these things and were too indifferent in regard to them and in regard to their duties to give the necessary alarming information to their superior officers at Ottawa? Is it possible that the Ottawa officials received such information and kept the country in ignorance of the facts of the case? There was a great deal of laxity somewhere, and the results of all this are now of the most serious character to the whole country. The Hon. Minister of the Interior and his colleagues owe it to the country that the real blame for all this should be laid bare; otherwise they can hardly expect the country will repose the same confidence in their safe guardianship in the future. It is now as clear as noon-day that had one tenth the effort and expense been made half a year ago that is now being made in the North-West much of all the bloodshed, and pillage, and disaster befalling the people there could have been averted.

El Mahdi seems to be pattering out. His audacious presumption worked for a time, but even the people of his own professed religion have come to regard him as a charlatan and robber. The British are already preparing to evacuate the Soudan, and this most unpopular war may now be said to be practically at end. In the event of trouble with Russia all the British forces will be withdrawn, and Suakim, Cairo and other places will be garrisoned by Italian troops.

England is fortunate in having a man like Lord Dufferin as its representative in India at this important juncture. Few men possess such skill as diplomatists, and probably no other man is in possession of so much information necessary to success in a time like this. Lord Dufferin was for years the British Ambassador to Russia, and also the Ambassador to Turkey, and in these important positions he must have obtained an amount of information in regard to both these countries of incalculable value to Britain at a time like this when her relations to both countries have assumed the very important character they have. We may rest pretty well assured that their will, probably, be no diplomatic blunders committed, so far as Lord Dufferin is concerned in the present complications with Russia. Gladstone, as a lover of peace, will not consent to war so long as there are hopes of any peaceful settlement, and Lord Dufferin, as a well informed and skilled diplomatist, will not allow the nation to be out-generaled in the matter of diplomacy. There may not be war between England and Russia just now, but should it unfortunately come it is evident that England will engage in it only after all efforts have failed.

The weak point of all British military expeditions is the commissariat. The reputation of the nation in this respect is not

likely to suffer in the prosecution of our own little war. Already Gen. Middleton has experienced several vexatious delays through this service going at fault, and if the providing of supplies is not placed in the hands of reliable and experienced parties, the movements of the troops toward the besieged points will be seriously impeded.

Acting upon the example set them by that ardent hater of newspaper correspondents, Lord Wolseley, the several officers in command of the forces now in the North-West, have inaugurated a system of severe military supervision over all dispatches sent from the front. Every precaution will be taken to prevent a repetition of the error which Capt. Crozier made in giving an account of the Duck Lake affair, who gave a truthful report of his own loss, but made no mention of that sustained by the rebels.

A respected correspondent, who has spent many years of the best portion of his life among the people of the North-West, hands TRUTH the following information about the race to whom Riel belongs: The term "Halfbreed," having of late occupied the public mind pretty extensively, it has become a question, with some of the more erudite, as to whether the euphonious sobriquet, "half castes," might not be substituted, and thus the refined portion of our race be spared the humiliating surroundings of mere animal life. Be that as it may, however, the aforesaid designation has been for more than two centuries employed in the Great North West, to define, principally, the descendants of the French Canadian *voyageurs*, as such have, from time to time, been allied to the natives, and thus a distinct race has been perpetuated. These have been, and still are, Romanists; and, so far as observation and experience goes, may at any moment give trouble to the constituted authorities, especially when subject to the chieftainship of a Riel, whose name and nationality will be handed down to posterity as immediately associated with the present rebellion. *Métis* is a synonymous term. It is true that there have been mixed marriages amongst other nationalities; but the term, "Halfbreeds," appears to have been, to a very great extent, confined to the French-Canadian element, though occasionally used in regard to others.

TRUTH notices with satisfaction that the ministers of Philadelphia have arranged, by special request, to preach a sermon each on the duty of cleanliness. This is done in view of a threatening indication of a visit of the cholera next summer. Sermons on such a subject are always timely. Much of the sickness and consequent misery in the large cities especially, is the result of the non-observance of the proper rules of cleanliness and health, either on the part of the victims themselves or of those with whom they are nearly associated. A great deal of all this could be easily avoided. In many cases the sufferers are not well acquainted with sanitary laws, and suffer in consequence. Surely the pulpit ought to instruct the pew in regard to the laws of God regarding the health

of the body as well as the health of the soul. It ought to be much more generally taught than it is that the wages of sin against nature's laws are disease and pain, as verily as the wages of sin against moral laws are punished. A proper knowledge of sanitary laws ought to be a part of the education of every minister. Indeed, without such an education he ought not to pass his necessary examination.

The question of the future of the Indians of the North-West is, just now, one that must occupy a very large share of attention in Canadian politics. Every precaution must be taken to secure the peace and safety of the pioneer Canadians in the Great Lone Land. They have a large number of hardships and privations to endure without being exposed to danger from disaffected Indians. The letters of Rev. E. R. Young, now being published in TRUTH, give some of the important reasons why the Indians are disquieted. Probably the writer's suggestion of providing a large and suitable Indian Reserve beyond Lake Winnipeg is the best practical solution of the future Indian problem. Mr. Young was for many years a resident Methodist missionary in the North-West, and he is familiar with the country and of the habits and wants of the Aborigines. It can hardly be expected that the Indians will look with quietness on the continued inroads of the whites on their soil so long as they well know that all such immigration means the destruction of their buffalo and other means of subsistence. It is a well understood fact that if these Indians can be taught agriculture at all it must be done very slowly, and during all the intervening years they must have a fair chance of securing their food by their former hunting methods, or else be fed at the expense of the Government. It may as well be fairly understood that the North-West Indians need not be expected to starve in their own territory and remain contented and quiet while doing so.

The Arabian papers publish the full text of the manifesto which the Mahdi has issued in reference to his claims to the Caliphate. In this document the Mahdi says: "I testify before God and the Prophet that I am drawing the sword, not for the purpose of founding an earthly empire for myself, nor to amass wealth, nor to live in a magnificent palace, but in order that I may afford help and consolation to the faithful, with a view to their liberation from the slavery imposed on them by the infidels, and in order that the power of the Moslems may be restored in all its ancient splendor. I am therefore resolved to carry my sword, first from Khartoum to Berber. Thence I shall proceed to Dongola, Cairo, and Alexandria, restoring Moslem rule and government in all these cities. From Egypt I shall march to the land of the Prophet to drive out the Turks, whose Government is no better than that of the infidels, and I shall restore the land of Arabia, with its two sacred cities, to Islam. Sons of Ismail, you may depend upon my soon making my appearance in your midst with the sword of faith."