

THE TRIP HAMMER.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1885.

No. 11.

The Trip Hammer.

THE SITUATION.



Merry Christmas!

WE have all along clung to the opinion that our French Canadian brethren of Quebec, while sympathizing with the unfortunate man who lately paid the penalty of his crimes upon the scaffold, would see the necessity of not allowing their prejudices of race or religion to interfere with the just demands of the law. That "being loyal to Britain and the Confederation" they would condemn the traitor under whose seditious manipulation our fellow subjects of the North-West were seduced from their allegiance and placed in armed antagonism to the government of the country. From recent events it would seem that we held the good sense and loyalty of the French Canadians too high, and that our opinion was fallacious. In Montreal and other points in Quebec large assemblages of the people have declared with united voice that the execution of Riel was a judicial murder, that the government at Ottawa are assassins, and that nothing will satisfy the French race short of political annihilation for the men who have dared to allow the law to take its course in the case of one of their number. We say it would seem so, for we have not lost, even yet, our faith in the sober and industrious portion of the people of Quebec. It must always be remembered that in the large cities, and proportionately in the towns, there exists an element of which discontent and agitation is the very life's blood. The malcontents, the envious of their neighbours' prosperity, the political hangers on of disappointed parties, the "sore heads" of their own who are ill treated because their claims to positions have not been acknowledged; the rowdies, the dwellers in the slums—all these and many more, however differing in station and intelligence, are only too glad to take advantage of favorable events to stir up strife and ill-will, without a thought or care of the consequences. And this element will always find leaders—sometimes, we are sorry to say, among those from whom better things might be expected. The execution of Riel has been a God-send to agitators of this class. The recent epidemic in

THE TRIP HAMMER is published monthly by a Board of Editors from the employes of The Massey Manufacturing Co.

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