

liament to assemble on Thursday, and it is to be hoped that patriotism rather than party will take the reins and guide the chariot of state, on what now bids fair to prove a rough and dangerous way.

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QUEBEC.

THE agitation in the Province of Quebec over the Riel matter seems to have settled down, but we are assured that its subsidence is merely temporary, only the calm before the storm. Time will tell. One thing is certain; if the French Canadian members, who profess to believe that Riel was unjustly dealt with, have determined to wreak their vengeance on the Government who refused to obstruct the course of justice in that matter, by defeating them when Parliament meets, the gravest issue ever placed before the people of this country must immediately arise. And it will be a plain issue. Politicians may endeavor to becloud it, may think to surround it with a mist of verbiage so dense that its true significance shall not be apparent to the people, but they will fail. If the Government should be defeated by the vote of the French Bleus, combined with that of the legitimate opposition from Ontario and the other provinces, there can be but one meaning drawn from their fall. They will have fallen because they dared, in support of authority and law, to run counter to French Canadian ideas on the subject of the late rebellion, because they declined to stand between a criminal of a particular nationality and his just doom. There can be nothing plainer than this. If it be said that the Government will not necessarily be tried solely on the question of the rebellion and the execution of Riel, but that their policy prior to these events will form an important count in the indictment, we reply that their arraignment comes too late. Up to a certain day in March last it was open to the most consistent patriotism to have found fault with the North-West policy of the Government, and to have condemned them if they deserved condemnation, but its voice must have been silenced in a moment by the rifle shots of Duck Lake and the tramp of our citizen soldiers. Principally by the action of the French Canadians themselves the smaller question has been so merged in the larger that it is impossible to separate them. Depose the Government now by the votes of French recalcitrants on any question relating to the North-

West and you depose it because Riel was executed.

In such a contingency the questions will immediately present themselves, and must be answered:—Are the French to rule this country? Is there to be a law which the English speaking race are bound to obey, but which may be overridden by the people of any other nationality when it suits their purpose? We believe the people will answer with no uncertain voice, and will be prepared to sustain their opinion, if necessary, to the death. This is the extreme view. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that French Canadians are so blind to their own interests as to drive their fellow countrymen to the necessity of a choice between evils of such magnitude—race domination, or resistance. We trust, therefore, to see the Government sustained. Whatever be their sins they are entitled to gratitude for the manner in which the insurrection was stamped out, and while there may be room for difference of opinion as to the expediency of hanging Riel, there can be no honest difference as to the justice of his punishment.

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SCOTCHED, NOT KILLED.

THERE are rumors of further trouble in the North-West with the approach of spring. Letters from Battleford and other points agree in the statement that the Indians are acting in a suspicious manner, and that there is something wrong among them. There is said to be about 75,000 Indians in the North-West, of whom some 20,000 are capable of bearing arms in the field. United action on the part of such a number against the power of the Dominion would be a serious matter, and is rendered more so by the possible contingency that the enemies of the Dominion are not all within sound of the Saskatchewan. It is to be hoped the Government are on the alert, and that any indications of rebellion will call forth prompt and decisive action. The Indian, it is said by one authority, sees that he is doomed, and is resolved to make a last effort to prolong his existence. Another asserts that the red man's misery has become insupportable. His country is lost to him—he is almost naked—he is poor, wretched, cold and hungry. Death would be to him a welcome change, and it may come sooner and more honorably on the war path than amid the throes of starvation. This last would be indeed a pitiable