

in prison the second time. The report they had in January that a military force was fitting out in Ontario for their relief was premature, as not till the end of May did the force start, consisting of 1200 men, mostly volunteers, part of the 60th Reg. commanded by Col. Garnet Wolseley, picked men, none but the soundest and strongest. Many delays occurred; boats and waggons to be built, workmen hired, delays of all kinds, so that not till three months after did they reach Fort Garry, only to find Riel and his companions fled. This was one of the most remarkable military expeditions of which we have any record remarkable for its personnel, for the immense difficulties encountered, for the way in which these were met; chiefly remarkable that it was accomplished without the aid of liquor. Col. Wolseley, in his farewell address, gave the most unstinted praise to the force; recounts some of the difficulties of the last 400 miles, roads to make, no less than 49 portages, carrying their boats, stores, barrels of pork, flour, through rain, mud. Out of 94 days there was rain 45 days. All this work from daylight to dark, shared by officers and men willingly. The good conduct and good feeling shewn was remarkable. There had been no sickness or death. A very good account of the expedition was published by Capt. Huyshe on the staff and another by Major Bolton.

The welcome given them on their return was most hearty. I can not refrain from quoting the inspiring lines written by Isabella Valencey Crawford, who is facile princeps our best Canadian poet, dying, alas! before she was so well appreciated as now. They appeared in the Toronto Telegram at the return (Alas! they did not all return) of the force in 1885 from the North West Rebellion, when it was proposed to give a grand dinner on their arrival. She pleads that they be allowed to first go to their homes and meet wives, children, sisters, mothers. These lines I cut out and saved long before the name of Isabella Valencey Crawford was much known. They do not appear in her published poems and express no doubt to us the feelings of pride in the return in 1870 as well as in 1885.