

known that the Order-in-Council authorizing the appointment of a commission to investigate the residuum of the claims was passed last January, and that Riel, who had been watching for his opportunity of mischief for some time, so soon as this fact was promulgated at Prince Albert by the Lieut.-Governor, resolved to precipitate the intended rising, knowing full well that not the ghost of a pretext for discontent would remain after the commission had performed its work. Apart from the remote causes of the rebellion, which many persons will continue to believe were of a political nature, Canadians will find much satisfaction in the knowledge that it was the rebels, against whom the Dominion is now exerting its strength, who committed the first overt act of violence. Though it seems that no report from Col. Irvine, Commissioner of the Mounted Police, has yet reached the Government, and only a very imperfect report from Superintendent Crozier, the admirably graphic letter of Mr. Alex. Stewart, one of the special constables who accompanied Crozier's force as a scout, which has appeared in the *Winnipeg Sun*, renders clear what was previously involved in considerable uncertainty.

MR. STEWART tells us that on the 19th of March, Riel started his second rebellion by raiding Walters & Baker's store at Duck Lake—an act of robbery, which was duly reported to Crozier, the nearest officer of the law. Crozier set out with a detachment of Mounted Police—preservers of law and order—to investigate this outrage, as was his duty, and he came upon a number of French halfbreeds and Indians unlawfully assembled with arms in their hands. In a colloquy that followed between three Indians sent to meet Crozier and his interpreter, an attempt was made to disarm the latter by violence. Crozier threw his assailant down in the snow, and McKay dropped the rebel who attacked him with a revolver shot, scared off the other, and then killed in his own self-defence the ruffian who first assaulted Crozier. Firing had ere this been commenced by the other rebels, and then Crozier called on his men to use their arms also.

Now it is a crime for a soldier or policeman upon important duty to allow himself to be disarmed, and, morally and legally considered, Crozier and McKay did what brave and conscientious men should have done under the circumstances. It will thus be seen that Riel, and not either of the political parties, is responsible for the bloodshed, pecuniary cost, and hindrance to settlement which this rebellion occasions; and therefore the country should, as a unit, support the authorities in putting it down with stern determination and insist upon the ringleaders being dealt with as ordinary malefactors and not as political offenders.

THE HEROIC AGE NOT YET PAST!

One cannot read the modest and obviously truthful narrative of Mr. Alexander Stewart, referred to elsewhere, without one's pulse beating quicker and one's soul kindling with enthusiasm as the story is told of the gallant conduct of those who fell in the fight at Duck Lake.

"Wm. Napier's last words were, 'Tell my mother I died like a man.' William Baker's last words were, 'I am shot. God have mercy on my soul.' Captain Morton said, when one of the volunteers (Billy Harlam) lifted him up, 'You can't do anything for me. I am shot through the heart. Take care of my wife and family, and tell them I died like a man on the battle-field.' None of the others spoke except Elliott, the policeman; he said, 'Fight on, boys; don't let them beat us.'"

Now this is not an extract from the sensational report of an imaginative reporter, but the simple account of events related to his parents by a youth of whom Canada may well feel proud, and whose own connection with the affair is told with the greatest simplicity:—

"Joe McKay arrived here (Prince Albert) at 4 a.m. (20th March) and at 8.m. there was a meeting held and Moffat read the despatch to the citizens, and after a few speeches from some of the citizens, eighty men were sworn in to go to Carleton. I volunteered to go, but John Stewart wouldn't hear of it at all, and had my name scratched off the list. He wanted me to stay and attend to the business, but I didn't attend to business very long, as next morning I was sent off as a scout."

The experiences of young Stewart as a scout in this affair read like a romance in the plainest unvarnished prose. The bold lad was the first man to decry the rebels, and gave the alarm, "Enemy here!" which enabled Crozier to put his men in a position of defence behind their sleighs. Of course the adventurous scout must later on manage to get hit by a rebel ball, but happily he lives for Canada to claim his services another day. Fortunately, she has lots of gallant sons like him, for the *Globe's* correspondent at Humboldt tells us that, when Col. Denison called for a volunteer to carry an important despatch to the General at Batoche, every man in the Body Guard stepped forward as candidates for the dangerous service.

WE have not so far met with any confirmation of the statement reproduced in the *Mail* from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* that the troops who were engaged in the Fish Creek fight failed to respond to Gen. Middleton's call for them to terminate the affair by a bayonet charge. On the contrary, testimony has appeared from various quarters which tends to establish the fact that the Royal Grenadiers, who only arrived on the ground quite late in the day, volunteered to close the action by storming the enemy's rifle pits, but the General, in the exercise of a wise discretion, forbade a movement which his experience decided would involve a sacrifice inadequate to the result capable of being accomplished.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

A BRAVE SCOUTS' UNTIMELY END.

The incident represented in our frontispiece occurred on the 7th inst., after Col. Otter's engagement with Poundmaker's braves. It is narrated by the correspondent of the *Mail*, as follows:—

"Ross, with three scouts, has just returned from thirty miles up the river. When opposite Poundmaker's reserve they were seen by the Indians from Poundmaker's camp. Thirty half-breeds and Indians started in pursuit and swam their horses across the B-ttle River. The scouts discovered the pursuing enemy and retreated at full speed, the Indians firing from their horses. After going half a mile, Baptiste Lafontaine, one of our scouts, was wounded, and fell from his horse. He called his companions back, but they dared not return. When last seen, Lafontaine had his rifle in his hand as though determined to die fighting. The moment he fell some Indians surrounded him, giving up the pursuit to others.

Without knowing precisely the relative strength of the scouts and their pursuers, it would be unjust to pronounce an unfavorable opinion of the conduct of Lafontaine's comrades, who saved their own scalps by leaving him single-handed, wounded as he was, to defend his life against overwhelming numbers. May be, the odds were too great for any possibility of saving him to have existed, even if the other scouts had endeavored to cover his retreat. Still, it is by taking just such desperate chances that the coveted decoration of the Victoria Cross has been won by brave men. It is to be hoped that the gallant French half-breed did not fall alive into the hands of the rebels, who might regard him as a traitor to the cause of his compatriots; and we can but hope that he died a soldier's death, rifle in hand, with his face to the foe.

"Sharp be the blade
And sure the blow,
And short the pang to undergo!"

CAMP OF THE 7TH BATTALION (FUSILEERS)

The gallant 7th Battalion, of London, had a few days' rest in camp at Winnipeg after the toil and fatigue of the journey thither, and the local papers are unanimous in praise of the soldierly bearing and excellent conduct of the men of this corps while sojourning at the capital of Manitoba, where the photograph reproduced in this issue was taken. A

WHAT IS CATARRH?

From the *Mail (Can.)*, Dec. 15.
Catarrh is a mucous-purulent discharge caused by the presence and development of a vegetable parasite in the internal lining membrane of the nose. The parasite is the simplest living form known that lives upon organs, and is only developed under favorable circumstances, and these are:— Morbid state of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of tubercle the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxomias, from the retention of the effete matter of the skin, suppressed perspiration, badly ventilated sleeping apartments, and other poisons that are germinated in the blood. These poisons keep the internal lining membrane of the nose in a constant state of irritation, ever ready for the deposit of the seeds of these germs, which spread up the nostrils, and down the fauces, or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat; up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; narrowing in the vocal cords, causing hoarseness; usurping the proper structure of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.
Many attempts have been made to cure this distressing disease by the use of inhalants, medicated vapors and other ingenious devices, but none of these treatments can do a particle of good until the parasites are either destroyed or removed from the mucus tissue.
Some time since a well-known physician of forty years' standing, after much experimenting, succeeded in discovering the necessary combination of ingredients which never fail in absolutely and permanently eradicating this horrible disease, whether standing for one year or forty years. Those who may be suffering from the above disease, should without delay, communicate with the business managers.
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