RIEL'S DEFENCE.

Letter Written From Regina Jail to His Counsel.

HIS STORY OF THE REBELLION.

How He Returned to Canada, and Why He Surrendered When He Could Have Run Away.

THE HOME-COMING OF THE TROOPS.

A Letter From Riel.

A Quebec despatch says: The following is a translation from the French of a letter addressed by Riel to Dr. Fiset, ex-M. P. for Rimouski, and his lawyers, Messrs. Fitzpatrick and Lemieux, of this city, and just received here:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph pray for us.

"REGINA JAIL, 16th June, 1885.

To Dr. Romuald Fiset

"DEAREST FRIEND,—Your letter of the 22nd May went to Prince Albert, but did not find me, as I was not there. It only reached me at Regina. I only received it last week. I am at a loss for words to express how dear to me is your friendship. Those who have met in committee to show that I am not wholly deserted, and to help and assist me, must be very devoted. There is not a fibre of my heart that does not vibrate with gratitude to each of them, and to the two gentlemen who have undertaken my defence. On my behalf warmly thank the committee and its members individually if you can. My letter is addressed to you, but it is equally intended for Messrs. Lemieux and Fitzpatrick. My dear friend, I never expressed a wish to have my trial at Prince Albert, and the question was never broached to me.

ON THE DAY AFTER HIS VICTORY

over us, the 13th of May, General Middleton wrote me as follows: 'Mr. Riel,—I am ready to receive you with your Council and protect you until your case has been decided upon by the Dominion Government." I was with our Metis in the woods and the mountains, doing all in my power to save our families from the excesses which we apprehended. I might have easily escaped from the General, and taken a sufficiently roundabout route to get to the United States, but I preferred to give myself up, though I was advised not to do so until I had something more explicit on the head of my personal safety. But as the troops were scouring the country, and negotiations would have consumed two or three days, I was afraid that during the delay great harm might result to the population, and I consequently decided to surrender right off to the General. I had received his note on the 15th, towards 1 o'clock in the morning. At 4 in the afternoon of the same day I was in his tent. After saluting him and producing his note, I said, 'General, if you have any immediate punishment to inflict I surrender at once to beg of you to let it fall only on me. But if there is any means of getting fair play that is what I want and I desire that my trial should take place in Old Canada.' My dear doctor, I never entertained any other desire than this, which is the same I embodied in my despatch to you the other day, and which is the only one I expressed towards the General as regards my trial. My kind defenders, Messrs. Lemieux and Fitzpatrick, can accordingly begin to urge upon the Government that

I WAS NOT MADE A PRISONER,

but that I deliberately gave myself up; that I did not ignore the General's note when I might have done so; that I preferred to comply with it; that if I had withdrawn to the United States the circumstances would have kept the Dominion in a certain state of uneasiness at least for some time; and that, having of my own accord abstained from taking such a step, I have thereby earned a certain claim to public consideration. The bearer of the General's note to me was one of my friends, Moise Ouellette, who had consented to carry the message only on the condition that he was allowed loyally to seek me out, that is to say, that he should not be followed, and this was agreed to. And when the General's note reached me, I still had the amplest opportunity to escape into the woods and mountains. The trouble I was taking to bring about the surrender of such of our people as would not do so except upon my advice might also, by pacifying the country around me, have facilitated my return beyond the frontier if I had wanted to turn my steps in that direction. It seems to me that these reasons should have some weight in permitting me to have my trial pefore the Supreme Court and in Lower Canada, for it is only thus and there that I can secure all my witnesses. Moreover, the good committee who have undertaken my defence would in this way incur less expense, which is a thing I would be very glad of.

"My dear doctor, I hope that our friends will not blame me for surrendering without having sought to obtain more guarantees for my personal safety. My immediate surrender has contributed, I think, to give a greater chance of peace to the half-breeds, and has done them good, I believe.

"I desire that my trial shall take place on the merits of my acts alone.

"I was in the United States; I was laboring there to create a future for myself, when parties from the Northwest came to invite me to go among them to help them in directing public opinion, telling me that they were making

PETITIONS TO THE OTTAWA GOVERNMENT,

and that they needed my assistance. You will probably find my reply to them in *Le Manitoba* of July, 1884. I worked peacefully at petition making from my arrival on the Saskatchewan to the hour when arms were taken up there. Bishop Grandin, of St. Albert; Father Andre, Superior of the Oblats at Saskatchewan; Mr. Forget, Secretary of the Northwest Council, and Gov. Dewdney himself saw what I had drawn up for the half-breeds as setting forth what they wanted from the Government. Mr. McDowell, one of the members of the Northwest Council, who had an interview at which Rev. Father Andre was present, knew and can state what, through his medium, I asked from the Government. And how could we dream of going to war unprovided as we were with arms and ammunition? But the times were hard, especially on the Saskatchewan; there was nothing doing, no money, and the crops had missed, as you may have seen by the newspaper reports. The traders in difficulties, half ruined or on the verge of being wholly so, and not knowing what to do, intrigued to get as many of the Mounted Police sent into the place as they could. Other sworn enemies of the rights of the half-breeds went so far as to threaten us with a war of extermination. It is averred even that letters bearing false names were mailed at Prince Albert to the address of Winnipeg dealers, asking the wholesale prices of arms and ammunition. A reply was sent to these letters and was hawked for several days around Prince Albert. Imagine the effect produced on the minds of evil-disposed persons. The public officials on the Saskatchewan, not all, but certain among them, do not appear, too, to have suspected the object of these machinations.

"The police were on the *qui vive*. At this stage of affairs I asked my people to assemble in public meeting at St. Antoine. There in the presence of Fathers Tourmand, Moulin and Vigreville I laid the situation before them, telling them that things were becoming critical, and that having made their petitions and my own to the Government, I wished to return to the United States, that it would be for the best that I should do so. But all of them declared that they wanted to keep me, and the fathers themselves begged me to stay with them. This was on the 24th February. On the 2nd March another meeting was held among the English half-breeds, when I made the same statement and implored them to let me return to the United States. But

THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN

to any proposition of the sort. They all insisted strongly that I should remain, and it was then and then only that I consented to stay. But no sooner had I done so than certain men in high places in the Saskatchewan began to swear in special constables and talk of arresting me. I think that if the Government had been well informed—if the political situation of the Saskatchewan had been better explained to them—they would not have allowed matters to proceed as they did.

"The half-breeds stated that they had brought me among them, that they were in danger themselves, and that in defending themselves they would defend me.

"Doctor, I cannot write the whole affair, as you can well understand that the story is long. But for the moment all you need is a broad sketch of the situation.

"On the 18th March we went to St. Laurent to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. You are, perhaps, aware that the half-breeds of the Saskatchewan, while cherishing St. John the Baptist as their patron saint in token of their deep and indissoluble sympathy with the French Canadians, have chosen at the same time St. Joseph as their special protector and patron. And though, by Bishop Grandin's decision, the national holiday is only to be celebrated on the 24th June in each year, the half-breeds love dearly to venerate St. Joseph on each of his feasts. This explains the solemnity with which they desired to honor the 19th March. In passing by St. Antoine, which lay on their way to St. Laurient, the news reached them that

FIVE HUNDRED POLICEMEN

were coming by forced marches to disperse them and imprison their leaders. It was Mr. Lawrence Clarke, of the Hudson Bay Company, who gave them this news as certain. He was coming from Troy, and told them that the police would be at St. Antoine on the morrow, as he had passed them *en route*. This was, to my knowledge, the false report which did the most damage. When the half-breeds heard this statement they at once came to a halt in their journey, making prisoner of an Indian agent who happened to be on the spot, and also effecting one or two other arrests. I was not present, and these arrests were resolved upon and executed without my participation. They sent, however, to notify me of them. I went to the place and found in effect that our people had decided upon defending themselves. As far as I was concerned at this time I had not appeared in public for ten days. In twenty-four hours the whole population was up in arms. On the 26th March Major Crozier advanced with 120 men, armed and with cannon, to within ten miles of our settlements. The half-breeds went out to meet him, when he ordered his men to fire on them. The half-breeds waited, and when the police had nearly all fired their volley they defended themselves in the name of God. The fight lasted about forty minutes. The Major

LEFT US THE BATTLEFIELD.

Passing among our assailants' dead, I noticed a man on the ground still breathing. I went up and spoke to him; he was wounded, but could sit up. I then took him by the hand, saying, 'My friend, God's moment has passed. Providence has preserved you. I rejoice and congratulate you. We are going to take you with us, and to care for you like our own wounded.' I never inquired this man's name, but Gen. Middleton told me that he knew him, that he heard of the circumstance, and that he intended to call it to the favorable attention of the Dominion Government.

"On the day after the fight I went with vehicles to remove the bodies of those whom the Major had the misfortune to lose. We placed them in a little building near at hand until they should be claimed by their friends. I mention these things to show you in what spirit I acted.

"On the 24th April the half-breeds accepted the honor of crossing swords with General Middleton only when he had actually invaded the soil of their settlements. The coulee which the papers style Fish Creek is at the threshold of our people's lands. It is better known among us as Tourond's coulee, because the numerous half-breed family of that name are located along it. We made no aggressive military movement. At Batoche, our people defended themselves for four days, during the whole of the 9th, 10th and 11th. On the 12th the battle began at 9 a. m., and still our people defended themselves until dark.

"If the Government knew the facts well, if you showed them my letter, I am confident that they would place no difficulty in the way of granting me a trial before the Supreme Court. I humbly ask not to be treated like a murderer, and especially not to be chained before the jury have pronounced, and I am confident that they will not find me guilty.

"I therefore pray the Government to grant me a fair play trial.—Your grateful friend, LOUIS RIEL.

"P. S.—Those who have me in charge are doing all they can. I have no complaint to make against them. But public opinion is perhaps so excited with respect to me that it is not easy for them to soften the rigor of the orders they have received. My sedentary life is telling on my health.

"What you do for me do for the love of God so that He may reward you in this world and the next, which is my humble prayer.

"All my respects and thanks to my friends. L. R.

TEACHERS OF MUSIC.

Five Hundred of Them from all Over the Country Meet to Discuss.

A New York despatch says: The Music Teachers' National Association began its annual session in the Academy of Music yesterday. Five hundred of the 900 members were present. The meeting will continue three days. The choir of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Chapel, led by Leo Koffer, opened the meeting with a chorus entitled "The Golden Year." Then President Sanger, of the Board of Aldermen, welcomed the teachers.

President S. N. Penfield, of the association, organist of the Broadway Tabernacle, then made an address. He said the object of the association is to further both creative and interpretative musical art in America. One object is to give the musician something to think about, outside of his special instrument. He continued:

Of course, as a justification for practising eight to twelve hours a day on the piano, it is pleaded that it is a life's work to achieve success in one branch of music. Yet how few of these students do we hear from as successful artists. Musicians are too apt to limit themselves to their special work. Many teachers, some in normal institutions, are extravagantly pretentious, while they ought to be members of the class beginning counterpoint, or even in the harmony class. How many are piano teachers who never play, and have no conception of music beyond dance forms and inspired melodies. How many pretend to be building voices when they do not know the difference between abdominal breathing and abominable singing. A good many organists have just three voluntaries or interludes in their repertoires. For all such deficiencies we are held responsible, for the profession at large is judged by its average. We must detect the charlatan and strip off the masquerader's mask. This is done by our systems of examinations and conferring certificates.

A TERRIBLE FALL.

Lottie Watson, "The Woman of the Iron Jaw," Fearfully Maimed.

An Albany, N. Y., despatch says: Lottie Watson, the "woman with the iron jaw" with Van Amburgh's circus, met with an accident yesterday afternoon that will cause her retirement from the ring. To exhibit her great strength in the jaw she has been in the habit of holding suspended from her mouth a cannon, which is discharged while in mid-air. The daring of the performance is increased by the fact that the woman is hoisted from the ground and hangs head downward during the feat. Yesterday she was assisted by the Freeman and Rice brothers, athletes, who superintended the apparatus and had raised her to the proper height for firing the cannon, when one of the pulley-ropes suddenly broke. The heavy piece of ordnance and Mdlle. Watson were precipitated to the ground, a distance of about six feet. She struck the cannon head first with terrific force, and was picked up unconscious. For a time the wildest excitement prevailed in the circus, but it quickly subsided, as the injured woman was removed, and the show went on according to programme. When taken to the hospital the lady was found to be seriously injured. Her forehead was crushed in, the wound taking the form of a star; her mouth was cut and two teeth knocked out. The right hand was badly bruised and some internal injuries were received about the stomach.

STARVING INDIANS.

Deplorable State of Affairs on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence—Rumors of Cannibalism.

A Quebec despatch says: A correspondent writing from Bersimis, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, relates most harrowing distress among Indians there, and says the reindeer, which has been most plentiful in the large domain of the Montagnuis Indians of Labrador, is almost extinct. The result of this, coupled with the unusual severity of last winter, was that some of the Bersimis Indians on their island hunts, to avoid starvation, were obliged to eat their furs; that in one camp three died of hunger, and that there are dark rumors of their having committed cannibalism ere succumbing to their terrible fate. In addition, bad luck of the direst kind attended the efforts of the hunters to secure furs, and out of more than one hundred who started out from Bersimis not ten on their return were able to pay their debts. In view of this deplorable state of affairs, the new Grand Chief Morse Bacon, and a delegation of the leading men of his tribe, are about to proceed to Ottawa to interview the Department of Indian Affairs.

Chloroformed and Robbed.

A Chattanooga, Tenn., despatch says: A daring robbery was perpetrated last night at the post-office in Retro, Tenn., a town in this county, of which W. S. Goodon is Postmaster. The burglars first entered his house and chloroformed the entire family. Every room was rifled, it being thought that he had a large sum concealed. All the money in the post-office was stolen and the mail indiscriminately scattered. The family are quite ill from the effects of the drug.

A gentleman, fishing in Lough Currane, Ireland, landed a pound and a half trout, whose stomach appeared unusually distended. Upon ripping it open he found a fully fledged sparrow, quite perfect, without even a feather disturbed. Let fly fishermen take the hint.

TOSSED IN A BLANKET.

Brutal Treatment of a Woman at the U.S. National Encampment.

UNPLEASANT REBELLION REMINISCENCES.

A Philadelphia telegram says: There was a serious disturbance at the National Encampment in Fairmount Park last night, which has resulted in one of the visiting officers being held to bail for assault with intent to kill. Some of the Kentucky troops were amusing themselves tossing one of their number in a blanket. A woman came along and began making jocular remarks nd as she seemed inclined to join in the fun she was pitched into the blanket and well shaken up. As they tossed her for nearly half an hour and tore off nearly all her clothes, upon being released she ran for the Park police. When the police returned with her she was unable to identify her assailants, but the police kept her watching at Belmont Mansion, a hotel in the park. After a while she picked out Capt. Curtis, of the Indianapolis Artillery, and declared that he was one of her assailants, and Capt. Chasteau, of the park guard, proceeded to arrest him. It was undoubtedly a case of mistaken identity, and as the park police insisted on arresting him Capt. Curtis, in his indignation, drew his sword. The militiamen crowded forward to prevent the arrest. The police called upon the citizens to help them, and for a time the greatest confusion prevailed. Finally Capt. Curtis drove back his own men and said he would submit to the authority of the police. He was taken to the guard-house and afterwards held in $600 bail on the charge of assault with intent to kill. There has been considerable ill-feeling aroused between the Northern and Southern troops caused by the singing of sectional songs while parties of the soldiers have been carousing at Belmont Mansion. Several evenings since a large number of Southern troops, together with some of the Ohio militia, joined in singing such melodies as "The Star-spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle" and others of a patriotic nature. When the Ohio men suddenly struck up "We'll Hang Jeff Davis on a Sour Apple Tree" the Southerners were silent, and some of the more intoxicated showed open disgust at the discourtesy of the act. As the song was repeated over and over again several of the angry listeners hissed, and it was with great difficulty that the cool-headed members of both parties kept their companions from coming to blows. The matter has been kept as quiet as possible.

LADY AYLESFORD BEATEN.

Her Son Declared Illegitimate—The Duke of Marlborough's Promise.

A London cable says: In a peerage, more than anything else, possession is nine parts of the law, and it is a most difficult thing to wrest from she hand that holds it the staff of power. This was again proved yesterday in the conclusion of the Aylesford succession suit, which was commenced on Wednesday before the Lords' Committee for Privileges. After hearing all the evidence the Lords gave their decision in favor of Hon. Charles Wightwick Finch, brother of the late Hon. Heneage Finch, the seventh Earl of Aylesford. The decision brands young Guy Bertrand, born to Edith, Countess of Aylesford, after her separation from her husband, with illegitimacy, and supports the deceased Earl when he declared that he was not the father of the boy.

There is a rumor that it is the intention of the Duke of Marlborough to marry Lady Aylesford. It will be remembered that Lady Aylesford left her husband's home in Kent in 1867 to accept the protection of the Duke of Marlborough, then Marquis of Blandford. She pleaded her husband's intolerable conduct and Blandford's promise to marry her as soon as divorced. She had a child three years ago, which, although the Earl of Aylesford was not the father, she called it by his second title. The courts found so much blame on both sides that neither was entitled to a divorce. Aylesford died on his ranche in Texas, U. S., last January. Many persons in society here have thought the Duke of Marlborough is mean enough to refuse to keep his promise to marry Lady Aylesford. The Duke of Marlborough is the brother of Lord Randolph Churchill, and is trying to defeat the latter's re-election.

DISASTERS IN KANSAS.

Six People Drowned and Much Property Destroyed by Floods.

A Fort Scott (Kansas) despatch says: As a freight train on the Kansas City, Springfield & Memphis Railroad was passing between Arcadia and Liberal, about 25 miles south of this city, a bridge gave way and the engine and 16 cars were precipitated into the water. Conductor Thompson was in the cab at the time, and he, with Engineer Ross and Fireman Reynolds, went down with the engine and all three were drowned.

While Master Mechanic Phillips, of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, Morris Ross and Jake Jones, of Parsons, were attempting to cross Labelle Creek in a skiff last night the boat was drawn under a culvert and all three were drowned.

A Leroy (Kansas) special says all the harvested wheat has been swept away. Much live stock was drowned and the loss will be very heavy.

Leprosy in Wisconsin.

A Madison, Wis., despatch says: The annual session of the Dane County Medical Society was held here to-day, and was the most interesting in its history. The striking feature of the session was the presentation of John Iverson, a Norwegian, 19 years old, who is suffering from leprosy. Iverson was reared near Stoughton, this county, and inherited the disease, though it had not developed in the family for fifty years prior to his case. Two years ago he was first attacked with what seemed to be rheumatism. Soon his nostrils closed, and he was hardly able to breathe, while at the same time he became partially deaf. Bloating of the face and the entire body followed, and to-day they present a horrible appearance, small sores existing here and there in exposed places. The case is the first ever seen here, and creates a great sensation.

The earnestness of life is the only passport to the satisfaction of life.

A MAKE-BELIEVE BATTLE.

Brilliant Sham Fight at Sea Between British War Vessels.

GALLANT REPULSE OF A BRILLIANT ATTACK.

A London cable says: The naval manœuvres off the west and south coast of Ireland, which have been in progress for the past five weeks, culminated on Tuesday in a sham battle for the defence of Bantry Bay. The special squadron organized for this purpose included sixteen of the finest British naval vessels now in commission. The orders which sent them to Ireland were issued at a time when everybody supposed that a war with Russia was imminent. Their destination was kept a secret for weeks, and their preparation for sea was accepted as a proof of the alertness of the Admiralty Office. The squadron was under the command of Admiral Sir Geoffrey P. Hornby, with Rear-Admirals Sir Anthony H. Hoskins and Wm. Henry Whyte commanding the two wings into which the squadron was divided. In the sham battle on Tuesday, the problem was to force an entrance into Bantry Bay in the southwest corner of Ireland. The defence of the bay was entrusted to Admiral Whyte, and the attacking fleet was commanded by Admiral Hoskins. The former naturally chose for his base Bear Island, which occupies a commanding position on the north side of the entrance to the bay. He so disposed his fleet that every practicable channel on the bay was covered with heavy guns and awaited the attack. This began at midnight, and was adroitly planned by making a feint of a flank attack at Fairhead, while most of the advancing fleet was closely hugging the shore off Sheephead on the other side of the bay. The idea was to compel the defending fleet to attenuate its line, so that if the coasters could not get through on the south side of the bay, the reserve vessels could be formed in eschelon and driven wedgewise through the defending cordon. The attack was splendidly managed, and at first seemed certain of success. Observers on Bear Island believed at one time that Admiral Hoskins had effectually forced the lines, and despatches announcing that the attacking fleet had won were sent to the Admiralty Office. The bay was covered with smoke, and it was difficult to discern either the signals or the movements of the two fleets, but at last the flagship of Admiral Hoskins was seen to be in retreat and signalling to withdraw the other vessels of the fleet. At the moment when victory seemed secure to the assailants, the defending fleet had opened an enfilading fire which promised to cut off the flagship altogether and leave the rest of the eschelon to be battered to pieces at the leisure of the defenders. The victory thus rested with Admiral White, and he promptly followed it up by an attack upon the scattered vessels of Admiral Hoskins' fleet, which would have sent some of them to the bottom if the guns had been shotted. From a naval point of view the manœuvres and the sham-fight have been highly successful, but the people of Bantry Bay do not want any more of such pageantry. The natives declare that they have not slept a wink in a week for the noise of the big guns; that the fish in the bay are all killed by the shocks, and that the best service the English admirals can do to Bantry Bay is to keep away from it.

THREE PERSONS FATALLY BURNED.

A Young Lady About to be a Bride Among the Dead.

A Cleveland despatch says: A disastrous fire occurred at 347 to 351 Broadway this morning at 3 o'clock. Two families occupied the ground floor apartments. Mr. Cohen, with his wife and four children, occupied the front rooms. Cohen jumped from the burning building, and his wife dropped the children on bedding she had thrown out. Mrs. Cohen was slightly burned. Mrs. Rosenberg, with her three girls and Miss Rosa Meisel occupied the rear part upstairs. Mrs. Rosenberg escaped with her 14-year-old daughter, while two younger children, Fannie and Beckey, aged 9 and 11, and Miss Meisel perished in the flames. Mr. Trau, a travelling man who boarded with Mrs. Rosenberg, jumped from his window and had his arm broken and his face badly cut. He and Miss Meisel were to have been married next Sunday. Mr. Trau was almost insane when he learned the fate of his intended bride. The fire was incendiary.

EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHT PATENTS.

Opinion of an Electrical Monthly as to Three Leading Ones.

A New York despatch says: The July number of the *Electrician and Electrical Engineer*, in an article on the patent litigation between the principal incandescent electric lighting companies of the country, expresses the opinion that the three patents which are mainly depended upon by the Edison Company to establish their exclusive rights to manufacture and sell incandescent lamps are invalid, having already expired under the statute of limitations respecting inventions which are represented abroad before being patented in this country. Strong evidence is also produced in support of the position that the Edison patents are also invalid for want of novelty. The question is a very important one and involves enormous money interests.

The Highest Viaduct in the World.

A Winnipeg despatch says: Sir Henry Tyler has returned from his visit to the Rockies. He said they had gone to the end of the track and had seen Stoney Creek bridge, the highest viaduct in existence, now in course of construction. It will be 290 feet high and 450 in length. They rode down on horseback into the valley, some 900 feet in depth, and thence up to the summit of the pass through the Selkirk range, about 1,000 feet, and saw the process of construction. Sir Henry returned to the East by way of Port Arthur.

He—"You don't sing or play. Then I presume you write or paint." She—"Oh no I'm like the young men we meet in society. I simply sit around and try to look intelligent."