"Canadian Champion."
The Official Paper of the County.
MILTON, 9TH APRIL, 1874.

RIEL.

HE DOES NOT TAKE HIS SEAT.

OTTAWA, April 9th, 1874.

Last evening a great crowd was in attendance, the galleries being densely packed, to see Riel, but he did not appear, and nothing definite is known about him. The order for his attendance was postponed until to-morrow, when he is commanded to appear.

Reports from Calcutta give assurance of a greatly improved situation in the famine-oppressed districts of India. It is stated that the Government measures for the relief of the people have proved effective in restraining the violence of the evil, and that the cases of actual starvation are confined to the Tirhoot District, and are limited even now to a very few. The Tirhoot District covers an area of about 11,000 square miles, and contains a population of 2,000,000 souls. It includes the important city of Patna, of the rich rice district of that name, the smaller town of Lohar, and a few miles from the town of Benares, the centre of Benares, with its population of 300,000. This is therefore one of the most noted districts of Hindostan, being watered by the celebrated river Ganges, and historically noteworthy from its contiguity to the scene of the famous mutiny of 1857, and of the siege of Lucknow and Cawnpore.

WEST DURHAM ELECTION.

The noble constituency of West Durham, which the elevation of its late member, Hon. E. B. Wood, to the Chief Justiceship of Manitoba had left unrepresented in the Dominion Parliament, has again proved true to the principles of Reform by electing Mr. Buck by the handsome majority of 262 over his opponent, Mr. McCuaig, Opposition to "redeem" the seat, but vote heavily for a general enactment on the subject are opposed to a measure return one whom they considered an honest and intelligent representative, unsuited politician, to represent them in Parliament. Mr. McCuaig is, we believe, a man of excellent private character and considerable popularity, but his allusion, in the fortunes of Sir John A. Macdonald, and his attempted palliation of his chief's political faults, doomed him to deserved defeat.

RIEL.

Before this reaches the readers of the CHAMPION, it is probable that the Commons will have pronounced a definite judgment in the case of Riel, who has been returned to Provencher. If he obeys the summons of the House to be in his place, we presume that his seat will be at once effected; if he disobeys, the other commissioners to believe that the offences committed in the Provisional Government would be confined. So far as the offences of a political nature are concerned, there would be no blame to such an amnesty. But assuming that the executive have power to pardon a criminal trial, there is no palliation for the murder of Scott, and no pretense for a promise of pardon by the late Government. We do not believe that the late Government bound themselves or their successors in office to grant Riel, and if the present administration do so, the responsibility will rest upon them alone. It is to be regretted that party spirit in Canada runs so high that a political opponent, given, though it may be, a fair trial, let him have his full rights as a British subject.

With regard to the question of an amnesty having been agreed on by the late Government, there is no evidence of a definite promise having been given, though it is highly probable that Sir John gave Bishop Taché and the other commissioners to believe that the offences committed in the North West during the brief time of the Provisional Government would be condoned. So far as the offences of a political nature are concerned, there would be no blame to such an amnesty. But assuming that the executive have power to pardon a criminal before