

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Court of Revision—Jas. M. Lawrence.
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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, May 21, '85

RIEL.

General Middleton's victory at Batoche has, as he hoped, broken the backbone of the rebellion so far as the Halfbreeds are concerned. Riel is a prisoner, and scores of his misguided followers have already imitated his example in laying down their arms.

What course the Indians will pursue is hard to say. Riel's smash-up has not yet decided them to withdraw from their hostile attitude. But in a few days we shall know all.

In the meantime, what will be done with Louis Riel? Under ordinary circumstances, his fate could admit of no doubt. But the circumstances are to-day not at all ordinary. At the head of our Government is the man whose rashness drove the rebel leader into his first rebellion, whose subservency to French dictation not only secured a pardon for treason, but actually made that treason a most profitable venture. We cannot see that French influence as represented by Sir Hector Langevin and Hon. Mr. Chapleau is less potent than it was when Sir George E. Cartier led the solid Bleu phalanx. The power which saved Riel before has not waned. Well for the traitor, woe for the country, if that power is once more put forth to serve him.

And the signs are ominous. The press has teemed with reports of Riel's insanity; the announcement in the Commons of his capture was received with profound silence; already subscriptions are being taken in Montreal for a fund to provide him with the best means of defense. If French clanishness, and French intolerance of everything English show an ugly front, Riel will be safe, and in all probability a richer man than he ever was before. He, indeed, would be innocent who should suppose that the quality of the crime committed will have ought to do in settling this man's case. The only consideration with those now in power will be—what treatment will secure us the largest vote at the next election. Yet we cannot refrain from expressing astonishment at the Government viewing the matter in this light. Why trouble itself about votes and elections with the Revising Barrister almost as good as created. Surely a man should be treated reasonable even in his anxiety for the future—nay, should lay aside all anxiety when that future is assured. It is not a bad maxim that knavery should never be resorted to when honesty will suffice.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

It is now many years since Mr. Goldwin Smith became a citizen of Canada. He was already known to be a deep and brilliant scholar, a most powerful and exquisite writer, and what is of infinitely greater moment in an age whose dearest idol is Mammon, a man of profound moral convictions which must for him at all risks be put into acts. Such a one at least deserved from the enlightened part of the community all that is due to knowledge, to ability, and to spotless character. But unless Goldwin Smith is possessed of a spirit of philosophy allotted to but very few, he has found life in Canada one long storm of brickbats. For doing what every man has a right to do, for doing what every sincere and courageous man is sure to do, he is continually being assailed with torrents of abuse which would be considered grossly unjust if poured on the worst criminal in the land. His most bitter detractors, indeed, have never dared to question the wide and accurate range of his mental stores, or the purity, strength and beauty of his literary style. On these points, it is undeniable that he has no living superior, and we are of opinion, no living equal.

What then have been his sins? He could not accept all the dogmas of our Liberal Party, hence the rage of the *Globe*. He saw many flaws in our Conservative opponents, hence the frantic abuse of the *Mail*. He is connected with a journal which occasionally says things not agreeable to the C. P. R. Syndicate, hence the mad anger of the *Montreal Herald*. He objects, or at least *The Week* objects, to the slang and garbage, characteristic of a large number of American papers,

being introduced into our native press, hence the billingsgate of the *Toronto News*.

We are far from sympathizing with many of Mr. Goldwin Smith's political opinions and aspirations. To the best of our ability, we have on more than one occasion combatted them. But we should consider ourselves most remiss in our duty if we withheld our high admiration for splendid talents splendidly cultivated, and for unflinching courage in boldly and clearly proclaiming what he holds to be right. Nor can we pay him a more lofty tribute than have those organs of faction, party spleen, and party intolerance, in opening on him the vials of their insensate wrath.

BE CAUTIOUS.

Our Lacrosse team being the holders of the Western District Championship for Ontario, we may expect to be visited during the coming season by many Lacrosse clubs, and by crowds of people from all quarters. As citizens, it behooves us to do all in our power at such times to preserve the best of order that the reputation of our village may not suffer. We were sorry to notice on Saturday last, a tendency towards ruffianism springing up in our midst. In the first place, a dispute arose in the match, between two of the players, which might have passed by almost unnoticed, had it not been for the interference of one of our would-be officials, who so far forgot himself as to lay hands on one of the members of the visiting team, when it was evident that the "Young Canadian" was quite capable of taking care of himself.

Every privilege, in reason should be shown to strangers, so that even the most fastidious could not complain of their treatment, especially as it must be remembered that our boys frequently visit strange lauds, and we would be exasperated to hear of their ill-treatment.

Again in the evening, the same rowdy element manifested itself on our streets, the principal actors hailing from a town not many hundred miles to the west of us. The Reeve, and Village Constable were obliged to interfere, and restored quietness only by threatening to arrest some of the peace-disturbers. Such scenes as these suggest the advisability of erecting a Village Lock-up, which, no doubt, the Council will be obliged to do at no very distant day, and which, if such be required, will involve a large outlay of money.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

The battle on the Franchise Bill continues to rage fiercely at Ottawa. The Government and its supporters have given up all idea of answering the Opposition with argument for argument. The weapons now used to force the measure through are cat-calls, horse-laughs, and the pliancy of a deputy-speaker who is induced to forget the rigid impartiality which his position should impose by the consideration that the amount of his salary has not yet been determined. A few days ago an attempt was made to prevent members from reading the grounds on which are based the numerous petitions which continue to pour in from all parts of the country against this monstrous bill. Still more recently, at Sir John Macdonald's peremptory bidding, Deputy-Speaker Daly, refused to allow Sir Richard Cartwright to discuss the financial position of the country. Such acts of interference with the freedom of Parliament are, however, only the natural precursors of the Act which is beyond contradiction intended to vest the sole right of electing representatives to the House of Commons in Sir John, that autocrat of unsavory reputation. We are well aware that arguments, reason, indignant protest will all be lost on this man. But we still believe that things will refuse to be forever mismanaged. And however far in the future, the gallows will be erected on which avenging time will hang the cartion that now makes Canada a hideous pest-house.

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