

THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



SAMUEL WATTS, EDITOR.]

"Our Queen and Constitution."

[A. C. & J. A. McLAUCHLAN, PUBLISHERS.]

VOL. IX.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1857.

NO. 48.

General News.

INDIA.—MUTINY OF NATIVE TROOPS, AND MASSACRE OF EUROPEANS.

By the last Overland Mail intelligence of a most painful and exciting character has been received. The mutiny in the Bengal army has spread in the most alarming manner. The facts of this outbreak, with some incidents immediately anterior thereto, as gathered from the various despatches, are briefly as follows:

A troop of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry at Meerut (as announced by the preceding mail) being ordered on parade to load and fire with the cartridges supplied by the Government, under distinct assurances that no such material had been used in their manufacture as the men seemed to suspect, only five men out of ninety obeyed. The eighty-five men who refused, were at once ordered to their lines, and a court-martial being assembled to try them they were severally sentenced to a term of imprisonment varying from five to ten years. On Saturday, the 9th May, a brigade parade was assembled at the station, and the prisoners were ironed on the parade ground, in presence of the troops, and marched off to the goal. No suspicion seems to have been excited that a rescue would be attempted; but towards the evening of Sunday, 10th, while Meerut was wearing the quiet, dull aspect of an Indian station on the Sabbath day, a sudden and furious rise was made by the regiment, in which they were joined by the bazaar and sowas people, and by the two native infantry regiments, the 11th and 20th, also cantoned in that place. They at once liberated their comrades in the goal and 1200 other prisoners, and now commenced their bloody work. Meerut is one of the largest stations in India, and before the European part of the force, consisting of her Majesty's 6th Dragon Guards, the 60th Rifles, and the Artillery, could be assembled, half the station was in flames, and the terrified women and children of our soldiers were in the hands of the savage and infuriated crew who murdered them under circumstances of unheard-of barbarity. Each officer, as he rushed from his bungalow to call the men back to their allegiance, was shot down, and ere the European force could reach the lines the bloody work was pretty well completed. At the second volley of the 60th Rifles, the mutineers and the whole crew ran, and were followed some miles out of Meerut by the dragoons, who sabred a considerable number.

They were, however, not conquered, but fled to Delhi, which was less than 100 miles distant. Here the seeds of revolt among the Bengalese troops had been already widely scattered. Although they entered the city as fugitives, the mutineers were immediately joined by three other native regiments, the 38th, 54th, and 74th, who were stationed in Delhi, without any European troops to keep them in check. The consequences were most deplorable. The revolted soldiery found themselves in full possession of the city, and, with that rapid transition from abject docility to brutal ferocity which distinguishes the Hindoo character, they commenced an indiscriminate massacre of the European inhabitants of Delhi, without regard to age or sex, plundered the bank, and proclaimed the son of the late Emperor of Mogul King of India.

The Governor General in Council, on the 16th May, issued a proclamation in which, referring to the reports that the religions of Hindoos and of Mussulmans were threatened by the acts of the Government, he emphatically proclaims that "the Government of India entertains no desire to interfere with the religion or caste, and that nothing has been or will be done by the Government to affect the free exercise of the observances of religion or caste by every class of the people."

In some other districts troubles of similar character had arisen with the native regiments, though not attended with such terrible results. At Ferozepore disturbances had broken out, but were said to be suppressed when the last intelligence was dispatched.

As matters stood when the mail left Calcutta, eight regiments had already become thoroughly disaffected. Two, the 19th and 34th, were disbanded, and six others held rebellious possession of Delhi.

Respecting the origin of this disaffection, there is little certainty in the accounts hitherto transmitted. The ostensible ground of offence was based upon some alleged outrage to the Indian spirit of caste. Some new rifle cartridges served out to the sepoys were sent direct from England, and the men

were told that the grease with which they were smeared was made of the fat of unclean animals.—The gradual and stealthy diffusion of discontent, and the disastrous occurrences at Delhi, seem to show the existence of a deep laid and thoroughly-organized conspiracy, whose ramifications have still to be discovered. It was evidently not by accident that the mutinous regiments at Meerut, finding themselves unequal to cope with the Europeans at that cantonment, fled to Delhi. They must have previously known the sentiments of the three regiments stationed in that city, and been assured that, on arriving there, they would find friends and confederates in revolt.

Prompt measures had been taken to suppress the revolt and to punish the rebels. A force was marching sufficient to overwhelm the mutineers in every quarter. From the north, General Anson, who was at Simla when the mutiny broke out, sent down her Majesty's 75th Regiment and the 1st Bengal Fusiliers to Umballa. A force consisting of her Majesty's 75th, her Majesty's 9th Lancers, and a troop of Horse Artillery, together with some irregular troops, sent by the Rajahs of Jheend and Patealla, were marching towards Delhi. In the meantime, troops were advancing from Agra, and the Rajahs of Bhurpore, Gwalior and Patealla, with their tributaries, were sending in their contingents. It is, therefore, probable that the next mail will bring news of the suppression of this dangerous outbreak, and the condign punishment of the offenders, without any aid from the force of 14,000 men which (as announced on Monday in both Houses of Parliament) is to be sent to India forthwith.—*London News.*

IRELAND.

IRELAND IN 1857.—After a brief reference to the social state of Ireland some 10 years back, the *Banner of Ulster* then describes the position and prospects of the country in 1857:—"We hear much of the difficulty of procuring hands at our door labour, and those whose vocation it is to grubble wax eloquent in describing the great scarcity of work people; but who, recollecting the melancholy state of things in Ireland 10 years ago, will not sing of '57? On Jan. 1, 1849, there were 620,000 persons in all the union workhouses and on the books of our door relief. On the same date of the present year Ireland's pauper population was only about 65,000, or say one pauper to every 100 of the population. Surely the Saxon as well as the Celt should exult in this, the greatest miracle of modern days, that Ireland is fast becoming one of the least pauperized countries in Europe. The vast influence which successful or depressive agriculture exercises on the financial condition of any nation is very fully illustrated by the relative returns of Irish banks in 1849 and in 1857. We give the figures of note circulation at all the Irish banks, as well as the amount of bullion held in September, 1849: and those of the last month's account: 1849, note circulation, £3,840,450; bullion £1,625,000. 1857, note circulation, £7,150,000; bullion, £2,492,000. 1857 promises more than any other year for the last 20, to give effect to industrial prosperity in Ireland. Large additional tracts of soil have been placed under the plough and spade. Hundreds of acres of land in Ulster which had not been broken up for half a century are now sown in grain or planted with potatoes. The effect of these improvements can hardly be estimated at their full value. Not only have they increased the productive powers of the soil, in many cases fully one third, and in some instances one half, but they made land so much more easily cultivated that during the recent push to get in the oats and potatoes there was more work done in a single week than was usually performed in a whole month. While farming operations were thus pushed on, the process of vegetation seemed to rise in proportion to the emergency, and the result has been that here, on the 2d day of June, the potato lands planted early last month are as well forward as those of the same period of last year and when the finish had been three weeks earlier. Oats never appeared better, and wheat lands exhibit continued luxuriance. Absence of those frosts which acted so severely on the potato lands last year has done good service to the young plants and if the present splendid weather continues the early crop of potatoes will be ready for market much earlier than could have been anticipated. During the four months ending the 30th of April there were imported into the United Kingdom 9,157 horned cattle, 4,368 calves, 11,788 sheep, and 287 hogs. This would tell of what the Duke of Richmond calls "ruinous competition." At present

however the "ruined" agriculturists are obtaining for all descriptions of farm stock nearly 100 per cent. above the quotations of 1842. So much for the state of the country, free trade, and foreign competition. Who could not sing of Fifty-seven?"

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

Not since the Imperial Crown of France was placed on the head of Napoleon III. by the vote of 1852 has any political event unconnected with foreign affairs so roused the attention of the world as the elections which have just taken place. The results are now sufficiently known. In Paris the Government has been defeated in three districts out of ten. Gen. Cavaignac, formerly Chief of the Republic and the opponent of the present Emperor in the contest for the Presidency, has been chosen in the third district, though, on account of the insufficiency of his majority, he must go through another election. In the fifth and sixth districts MM. Carnot and Goucheaux, names well known in former days, have been returned by large majorities. It is true that in the other seven districts Government candidates have been returned, yet we cannot but look upon the result of the elections in Paris as a moral blow to the Government. At Lille, Bordeaux, and Lyons it is also said the Opposition candidates have triumphed. The struggle, therefore, is not unlike that which seated Louis Napoleon, nearly nine years ago, in the Presidential Chair. Then, as now, the great mass of the people supported him through confidence in his personal qualities and veneration for his family name. But Paris, Lille, Lyons, and some other centres of population and disaffection, protested, perhaps, even more strongly than now.

It appears that in the present instance the number of Opposition candidates returned is very small—the Ministerial papers say there are not more than nine or ten; so that the Emperor may well assert that the great body of the people which chose him is still ready to support the legislators of his choice. So far, then, the Government have been successful, and no one can doubt its success. But it is not at all improbable that from the elections of 1857 may be reckoned a period very different from that with which the Empire commenced. Undoubtedly, the policy of the Empire is, as it always has been, to appeal from Paris to France, from the fickle, critical, and keen witted inhabitants of the capital, to the more domestic, affectionate religious and money saving provincials. No one can doubt the determination of the Emperor not to be dictated to by mobs or meetings as long as he possesses the steady adherence of those whose votes placed him on the throne. Yet an adverse election in Paris must exercise much influence both at home and abroad. In the first place, Paris is not only to Frenchmen, but to the world in general the representative of France. English travellers who visited the country prior to the first Revolution observed the complete dependence of mind which distinguished the people of the provinces, and the character is still the same. The very farmers and vine-growers who supported Government candidates this week will begin to doubt their own wisdom when they hear that a Cavaignac and a Carnot have been returned by a district of enlightened and witty Parisians. Furthermore, Paris and the large towns are the only places, or are thought to be the only places, where electors are not intimidated and the ballot boxes are not tampered with. In the rural districts the Prefect and the Bishop, the *Maire* and the Priest, may be said to constitute society. The peasantry and small proprietors, acute and hard fisted enough in their way, are the most acquiescent of mortals so far as regards dynasties and constitutions. They will follow the lead of government officers and spiritual advisers, and their votes may always be counted on for the support of existing authority, excepting when, as in the case of the Presidency 1848, the clergy are ranged against the civil power. It is likely, then, that both to France and the world the elections of Paris, Lyons, and Lille may stand for the legitimate expression of the country's will. There is every communication and co-operation; the votes, though given by ballot, are no secret, and the opinions of each elector are known to a large body of friends. So they may be considered free, and the result of a more instructed choice than the decision of any body of provincials. The conduct of the Government officials must also add to any distrust with which the course of this conflict has been regarded. It is now plain to the world that the Emperor and his advisers set their hearts on returning every man of their own party. Paris was especially the object of their solicitude; so eager were the

Tuilleries and the Hotel de Ville that even in this most solemn procedure, in this first essay of the rights guaranteed by the Imperial system, the most intolerable interference was practised. Nor was it successful. Men who live under despotic power become disposed to respect courage and unshaken confidence above any other qualities of a ruler; and in this affair such sets as the warning of the *Siecle*, the publication of M. Haussmann's intemperate address, and the undignified manifesto of M. Billault may well have prevented thousands from voting for the Government candidates, and swelled the lists which gave the opposition candidates a seat in the Legislature.

Now, however, we must look to the future. The new Legislative Body is chosen. It is, as before, devoted to the Government, but has among its number a knot of men who, under the various names of Constitutionalist, Liberal, and Republican, are hostile to the system which is now established in France. The question is, What will these new representatives do? The Minister of the Interior has declared that they are merely *frondeurs*, who have sought election under the present constitution in order that they may publicly express their contempt for it, and refuse their allegiance to the Throne. A great body of Frenchmen, and probably thousands who voted for the Opposition candidates, think so too. We cannot doubt that many a workman who has smelt the powder of the barricades, and whose friend and brother has disappeared either to the grave or to Guiana, after some insurrectionary movement, voted in the hope that the candidate of his choice would indignantly refuse the oath to obey the usurper, and quit the Chamber, exclaiming "*Vive la Republique!*" But we cannot think that the Opposition members will be so ill advised as thus to play the game of the Government, and acquire for themselves the reputation of factious and theatrical disturbers of the peace. Even if they do not recognise the legality of the means by which the Emperor mounted his throne, yet he is on it, and a majority of the nation has not only condoned but approved the excesses of 1851. Napoleon III. is Emperor of the French; the elections have taken place under the Imperial Constitution; and to accept the part of a candidate is to accept the Government which authorised the election. For the few Liberals who have been returned to quit the Chamber with an affected protest against the *regime* which alone allowed them to enter it, would be a display highly detrimental to their cause. It would justify all that the Government organs have said respecting the vanity and intemperance of the opposition, and would furthermore be a betrayal of those who have endangered their prospects in order to restore to the constitution an element of vitality. We have said that possibly these elections will be the beginning of a new period. This may be so, if the Liberal candidates whose claims have been supported by the people go into the Chamber with a determination to play the part of honest and independent legislators. Without speeches treasonable or seditious, without protests against the methods of past days, they may effectually, if they desire, check the self-will of the Court, and the insolence of its functionaries. Even a dozen men if they hold together, and make moderate and well timed speeches about matters which they are sure to be right, must in a few months exercise a moral control over any number of benches filled with the puppets of a Government. The small end of the wedge has been forced into the fabric of the Imperial system; whether it will be driven home depends on the judgment of the men to whom the Opposition has confided its cause.—*London Times.*

FREDERICTON BANK ROBBERY.

The three men arrested on suspicion of being the parties who entered the Fredericton Central Bank some weeks ago, and stole about £5,000 in gold, and American and other Bills, have, after a tedious examination, been fully committed for trial, and it is thought will be removed to Fredericton by Habeas Corpus to-day. Their names are Savage, Watter, and Davenport, alias Barton. Watter is the man who brought the horse and wagon to the Yorkshire Tavern, and when he heard that the police were on his trail, disappeared so suddenly. He was some days after arrested in Amherst, N. S., on suspicion, and was there fully identified by Mr. Grieres of Fredericton, as the party who put up at his house on the Sunday of the robbery. It was also proved that he hired the horse at St. Stephens, stating that he wanted to go some twenty or thirty miles; that he had with him at the time a travelling bag which, when he laid down, many persons