

The winter is severe, but we hope the harvest is over now. The family health is not good as in warm weather, though there is no distemper amongst us. We are doing most without meat, except what the forests furnish. Before the sugar-time comes on some of us must visit the settlements, and bring in potatoes, flour, tea and a few other necessities.

not always bring help, yet one is so naturally
doubt one-self and to put confidence in the
whose study has been the healing art. This
is a touching story told of the wife of an
early settler whose husband met with a terrible
accident,—I think by the limb of a tree fall-
ing on his head. The poor man's skull was
fractured, but still there was hope for him.
A surgeon could be procured. This family

MISS PILKINGTON.

folk were a grave, domestic set of people given to quiet tea-drinkings and eschewing public amusements, except an occasional

people, were always open to each other. Indeed the
g all seemed more enjoyment on these quiet even
onal than on those which the captain spent

eral times a week at a club which they established at a respectable, though humble tavern in that locality, no great distance

months." The steward went and asked should receive this sentence. The lady told that the *khansaman* enquired if he should

"I am Count K—," "Well, then, Prince H— and Count K—, be so good as to arrange my transportation!" With cheeks as red as their lingerie

"I am Count K—," "Well, then, Prince H— and Count K—, be so good as to arrange my tr—

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All persons are warned against paying subscriptions to the WITNESS, or any other publication, to persons they do not know, unless such persons are able to show the clearest possible evidence of being authorized so to collect.

ISSUED LAST WEEK.

Number copies of WEEKLY WITNESS, 28,200

DAILY WITNESS, 78,289

Total, 106,489

The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1879.

OUR INDIAN POLICY.

The time for the inauguration of a new and lasting Indian policy is at hand in Canada, and the nature of the future relations of the Indians and the whites, as well as the welfare of both in the North-West, depends in a great measure upon the settlement of the present difficulties. The time for the settlement has been hastened by the Indian wars of the United States, which have driven the "hostiles" of that country within our borders for safety. While with us they have, as they promised, been peaceable and friendly, have maintained good order amongst themselves, and have depended entirely upon their own efforts for a subsistence. Until a few months ago they managed to live comfortably enough and appeared contented in their new home, but the northern hunting grounds have been swept of game, which is not wonderful considering the number of strangers who have shared with our own Indians. They are variously estimated at between three thousand and eight thousand souls. Last winter the Indians, both friendly and hostile, followed the buffalo south of the boundary line, and were not interfered with by the United States authorities, but this summer complaints have been made by agents and by those settlers who are unfriendly to the Indians, and troops were despatched to prevent their hunting on United States territory. A small skirmish took place about the middle of last month, and the hostiles, as Sitting Bull and his Sioux are termed, being really desirous of peace and also desirous of keeping their promise with the Canadian Government to preserve it towards the United States, have moved back sixty miles north of the boundary line, where they are now in a half-starving condition. That they will have to be included in our settlement with our Indians there can now be little doubt, as the intentions of the United States Government are avowedly to "crush out all resistance by Indians, whether just or unjust." "What we want," said the Secretary of the Interior, in conversation with a journalist, "is to crush Sitting Bull's party, and it is known that the force under General Miles is by no means sufficient to accomplish such a task. He would need a much larger force than can be readily concentrated at that point in a short time; hence our anxiety not to be drawn into conflicts such as engaged our troops in small numbers." It will be clearly seen from the above that no humane motives prevented General Miles last month from wiping out the Indians who were looking for food, not for revenge. Despatches received within a few days state that this "best friend of the Indians," as the Dakota territory settlers call him, is at present engaged in preventing the buffalo from going north, which means that he is doing his best to compel Sitting Bull to move south, and run the chance of being, with his band, exterminated by bullets, rather than of dying from starvation. Major Welsh, of the Mounted Police, who, while a faithful servant of the Canadian Government, has shown himself to be a real friend to the Indians, is at present engaged in pleading their cause with General Miles. It is not probable, though, that he will succeed in accomplishing much in that direction, and it may be taken for granted that these "hostiles," as well as our own Indians, who are also starving, but who are loyal notwithstanding, will have to be provided for, not merely temporarily but permanently. The Canadian Government appear to recognize the urgent necessity of doing so, and are not inclined to shirk the matter, and the only question appears to be as to the best means of accomplishing it. Former treaties entered into by the Government since the North-West passed from the control of Hudson Bay Company and became a part of the Dominion, have been very defective, and have led to misunderstandings, though not of an alarming character, yet serious enough

to serve as a warning to our authorities in negotiating new and we hope more satisfactory and more permanent treaties. In the first place these treaties were negotiated on behalf of our Government by agents who knew very little of the character and understood less, if that be possible, of what was necessary to the future welfare of these children of the Great Mother. It appeared to the humane agents that it was better to satisfy the mere desires of these "children" and thus please them for the time, than to do what would be of most benefit to them in the long run. It was in this benevolent spirit that Mr. Morris, with the best intentions in the world no doubt toward the Indians, actually in 1871 rejected the proposals of certain Indian chiefs which were calculated would have been of great benefit if carried out. These chiefs thought that it would be of immense and permanent benefit to them if they were taught the science of agriculture, and for this end proposed that instructors be provided them by the Government. Mr. Morris adopted only enough of the scheme to defeat its purpose. He agreed as to the desirability of their learning agriculture, and thus fitting themselves for another mode of life, but he rejected the valuable idea of providing them with teachers. He promised them implements and seed, and these were provided for them, and, if we remember right, he provided the chiefs with fine carriages, and when in token of their thankfulness they kissed him on either cheek, he presented them with a suitable flag and medal, but instruction was more than he could promise. The implements were probably sold at once, and the live stock eaten during the first fit of laziness, so that nothing permanent was accomplished, and what now remains to be done is to treat again with the same tribes, who have since become, however, more debauched through drunkenness and idleness, which were made possible to them by the annuity then granted them. Like the United States Indians they failed to understand the meaning of the treaties; the words of a treaty did not convey the same ideas to the minds of the Indian that they did to the mind of the agent, who did not understand their modes of thought. The treaties made with tribes running over wide prairies and following in the wake of the great herds of buffaloes were similar to those entered into with the tribes living on the shores of great rivers and who, while living in permanent bark huts, only fished and hunted in their vicinity. The consequence was that the treaties with the Crees, Blackfeet and other tribes of prairie Indians were totally unsuitable. Thus a great deal of dissatisfaction has arisen not unreasonably among our Indians, and yet though starving and badly off in other ways they have made no disturbances of any consequence, and are said to be loyal and well disposed. With the hot-blooded young warriors of Sitting Bull's tribe among them, however, this cannot last, and the fact has been recognized by our Government. Food is now being forwarded in sufficient quantities, and other supplies are also being sent. The Government is also correcting the error as far as possible committed by their agent. Instructors are being sent with implements and live stock, and what might have been commenced eight years ago by desire of the Indians themselves, is about to be commenced now by the Government. It is to be hoped that the Indians have not changed their minds in the meantime. One of these instructors is said to be of the same character as the agents who represent the United States Government, a class of men to whose unrighteousness the Government owe in a great measure their troubles and the Indians their misery. It is said that this appointment has been already cancelled; if so it may be taken as an earnest of the wise intention of the Government to avoid in every way the mistakes into which our neighbors have fallen. Already some charges of misappropriation of funds are insinuated in connection with the purchasing of the live stock and implements, which are said to be of the sorriest description possible. It is to be hoped that the matter will be looked into. If wise treaties are now negotiated there is little room for alarm for the future. Settlers in Canada have a wise reverence for law and order, and our laws are vigorously enforced in favor of all, and both whites and Indians believe this and the feelings of the press and people both east and west are of the kindest toward the Indians. Under these circumstances it should be easy for the Government and the Indians to agree upon a permanent settlement which will promote the best welfare of all the people without distinction of race or color in the North-West.

MR. LETELLIER'S DEFENCE.

That the dismissal of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier was not necessarily unconstitutional we have before stated on the grounds of the analogy of his relation to the Government of the day in the Dominion and that of the Governor of any colony, who is subject to recall by the Imperial Government. As we then pointed out, it is only in appearance that the case of a Lieutenant-Governor dismissed by the Dominion Government is similar to that of a Governor recalled by the Imperial Government, but the similarity was alone noticed in the framing of our constitution, if we are to accept the interpretation of Lord Lorne, which is doubtless correct and wise from an Imperial standpoint. Experience has taught Great Britain that any strengthening of the Royal prerogative, so far as the colonies are concerned, should be demanded by the residents of the colonies, not established by precedent through the power of the Crown. The wording of the Act in providing for the dismissals of Lieutenant-governors for cause is such, whether by accident or design, that a precedent in favor of the powers of the crown could have been established, and that with so much of justice as to have merited and, we believe, gained the approval of the people. But while the constitution has not been violated the differences which in reality exist between the cases referred to is so great, that in one case the danger of an injustice being done is about as small as it is great in the other, and

as we believe, the present case proves. However, if the Lieutenant-Governor in the Dominion is, while in power, not in so advantageous a position as a governor of a colony, when dismissed he has in some respects the advantage over his brother officer who has been recalled by the Imperial Government. While in power both have to use in their own defence cold official language which hides rather than reveals their true sentiments; when released the Lieutenant-Governor has not only the power but the inclination to set himself right with the people, while the Governor having little inclination to do so, and no object which appears of any consequence to him, mostly departs without any attempt to clear up the misunderstandings which have arisen. The ex-Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec is in an exceptionally good position, for he has not only the inclination to place himself right with the people, but he has very little to set right, as he already possesses their sympathy, and, we believe, their confidence. At a mass meeting called in the capital of the province which he has ruled, for the purpose of presenting him with an address, this sympathy and confidence found means of expression, and the Lieutenant-Governor was given his first opportunity for a personal appeal to the people. His defence, if that can be called a defence where no defence is required, was one suited to the occasion, and one that no one was ever in a better position to adopt. While in his official capacity he could appeal to the Crown on the constitutional question, as having merely exercised the prerogative which had been entrusted to him by virtue of office. Now that he is freed from official ties, he appeals to the people on the same question on the ground that he exercised the undoubted prerogative of the Crown, but not in defence of any of the privileges of the Crown, but in defence of the rights of the people. All attempts to prove unconstitutional acts on the part of the Lieutenant-Governor have miserably failed. The wisdom of his course, viewed from the mere standpoint of its advisability in the interests of the province, has never been and never will be doubted by the people most interested. They have time and again approved of it since. The following, spoken by Mr. Letellier at the meeting in Quebec, is the language of a man who, having been placed in a very difficult position, was true alike to the prerogatives of the Crown and to the rights of the people. "In my capacity as Lieutenant-Governor I have always used the power of the sovereign for the due administration of the affairs of the province, and for the protection of the rights of the people of the province. For a long time my policy has been to give to the Crown the right of the Crown, and in exercising the prerogative of my office I did nothing to interfere in any way with the rights of the people, and the moment I found my Ministry were acting against the people I dismissed them from their positions. It was said by doing so I injured the people, and I determined to leave it to the people to decide the question. It was not the people I feared, and if the verdict had been against me, I would have descended from my position of Lieutenant-Governor."

THE BANK TROUBLES.

The system which can stand a strain such as that to which our banks have been subjected during the past four years, and particularly the past six months, must, one would say, be an exceptionally good one. A period of commercial depression so great and so protracted, that it has upset all calculations and annihilated an incalculable amount of wealth, would certainly have brought on universal bankruptcy, or, at least, paralyzed the whole commercial life of the country if it had not been founded on a very solid basis indeed. It is in order just now to condemn our banks without discrimination and without qualification, because some of them have had to close their doors, and all have met with heavy losses. It is true that in the four years five banks have failed, but the reasons for these failures are so obvious that any one can see that it was not in any one case the fault of our banking system, but of the individuals who first established banks which were not needed, and then managed them, or allowed them to be managed with an excess of carelessness or ignorance which would have ruined the Bank of England itself in a very short time. The very existence of these institutions arose from the fact that our older banks had, as a rule, been so successful and had gained so completely the confidence of the people that it seemed as if it was only necessary to get up a bank to become both rich and influential. Everybody who had the faculty for organizing had as good a right to get up a bank as anyone else, and everybody who had any money had as good a right to subscribe for stock as any one else. What could there be to such a state of things? No possible end but that which we now begin to see, except that if the prosperity which the country enjoyed some years ago had lasted much longer, the calamity would have been all the more severe and protracted when it did come, for more banks would have been established, and higher bids for business would have been made by each new aspirant for financial fame as a bank manager, until legitimate business would have been next to impossible. After all the revelations of the last three months, we are not at all sure that there is a banking system in the world which would meet the requirements of this country better than that we have. We are not even sure that on the average there are more capable or careful bank managers anywhere than those who control our currency to-day.

The apparent apathy with which the people of Montreal have listened to rumors of the difficulties which were besetting some of the banks, and even to the news of their failure, has been the cause of not a little surprise, not only to outsiders, but even to many amongst ourselves. Three or four banks of Montreal have listened to rumors of the difficulties which were besetting some of the banks, and even to the news of their failure, has been the cause of not a little surprise, not only to outsiders, but even to many amongst ourselves. Three or four banks of Montreal have listened to rumors of the difficulties which were besetting some of the banks, and even to the news of their failure, has been the cause of not a little surprise, not only to outsiders, but even to many amongst ourselves. 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