

"the North-West to the Dominion of Canada. Inasmuch as the amnesty is to my mind
 "the clue of this whole mystery, I am still waiting to see in what key I must intone
 "my song.

"Accept the homage of my respect and sincere and entire devotedness."

"Yours &c., &c.,

"ALEX.,

"Bishop of St. Boniface."

"True copy except the parenthesis (N. N.)

"A. A. FORGET DESPATIS,

"Secy. to H. G. Mgr. TACHÉ,

"Ottawa, April 22, 1874."

In the month of November or December, 1871, I stated to Sir George Cartier that I now felt I had been deceived. I said the promise of the amnesty had been a positive and an absolute one, without any restriction whatever. He acknowledged this, but in the meantime said "There are such difficulties in the way that you must make up your mind to wait, but I hope you will not have to wait long." This was a verbal communication. I met Sir John A. Macdonald in the last part of November, 1871. I saw Sir George Cartier in Quebec, Montreal, and different other places in November and December. When I spoke to Sir John A. Macdonald on the subject he never denied that the amnesty had been promised, but he said "No Government could stand on that question." I told him there had been promises of amnesty frequently, and he did not deny the statement. He repeated that no Government could stand that would endeavour to procure the amnesty. I produce a letter I wrote to Sir John A. Macdonald on 25th January, 1873, to which I received no reply. His letter mentioned in mine did not touch on the subject of the amnesty.

(No. 20.)

"ST. BONIFACE, January 25th, 1873.

"DEAR SIR JOHN,—I have just received your favour of the 24th December, and beg
 "to thank you for the trouble you have taken in answering my letters, and the agreeable
 "manner in which you try to soothe the unpleasant feeling naturally experienced by me on
 "learning that you still defer the accomplishment of what I expected. You know that I
 "am accustomed to a rough school, so you will not be astonished at the frank expression of
 "the said feeling.

"When I had the pleasure of seeing you at Ottawa, you acknowledged that it would
 "not be just that I should pay certain expenses of the Government besides working in
 "its behalf. You asked me to wait until after the Session. I did so, and now more
 "than a year after, you ask me to postpone until an unfixed date. I am well aware
 "that this is not such a mighty matter that it could not be settled at once, and if you
 "are not willing to settle it, please let me know distinctly, and I will not trouble you
 "any more about it in the way I am doing now.

"The question of the amnesty is of a much more important character. You and
 "Sir George, as well as Lord Lisgar and Sir Clinton Murdoch, promised it to the dele-
 "gates. The same promise has been repeated to me, and nothing has been done.

"To serve the Government, many of your friends, and I for one, have risked our
 "reputation and suffered in many ways; and now I am accused by my own people of
 "having been a deceiver, and the accusation is becoming so widely spread that unless a
 "prompt and satisfactory solution be given, I will be obliged, for my own justification, to
 "publish on what grounds I have acted and spoken during and after our difficulties.

"Without being jealous of the favors conferred on others, it is difficult not to feel
 "the humiliation imposed upon the Government and upon ourselves by the nomination of

"Dr. Schultz as a Member of the Council of the North-West. When in your office at Ottawa, on the 7th December, 1871, I took the liberty to express the fear experienced by some that Schultz would be appointed as a Member of the said Council. Your answer was this: 'Do not be uneasy, Archbishop, such a thing will never occur under my Government.'

"Now, such a thing has occurred, and a very unfair proportion of French members is the compensation offered for the insult.

"Please remember your appreciation of Schultz to me, and recall at the same time what the Government has done for him, and you will not wonder at the feeling above mentioned, nor at the saying in the country:—

'To John Schultz,
'Honor and money, plenty;
'To friend fools,
'Scaffolds, or pockets empty.'

"Please show this letter to Mr. Langevin.

"I once more rely on you to do your best amongst difficulties already very great, it is true, but which may soon become still greater.

"Believe me, with much respect,

"Dear Sir John,

"Yours sincerely,

"(Signed,)

ALEX.,

"Archbishop of St. Boniface,

"To Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald."

"O. M. I.

"NOTE.—I never received any answer to this letter.

"(Signed,)

ALEX.,

"Archbishop of St. Boniface,

"Ottawa, April 21st, 1874."

"O. M. I.

I produce also an extract of a letter to Mr. Langevin, to the same effect, dated 27th January, 1873.

The acknowledgement contains nothing material:—

(No. 21.)

Archbishop Taché to Honorable H. L. Langevin, G.B.

(Translation.)

"St. BONIFACE, 27th January, 1873.

"Honorable H. L. Langevin,

"Minister of Public Works.

"HONORABLE AND DEAR SIR.—However disagreeable may be the habit of recrimination, I am again under the painful necessity of writing on subjects which cannot cause any pleasure. It would be far pleasanter to me to write in an agreeable strain; nevertheless the interest I take in my country deprives one of that satisfaction and imposes upon me the pain of being, perhaps, discourteous.

"I send herewith a list of those who administer in Manitoba, the several departments directly under the control of the Dominion Government. Everybody will not tell you, but everybody here feels the unjust preference exhibited by this list. Eighty-six appointments have been made at Ottawa. Out of this number five only are half-breeds; only twelve bear French names. If the Ottawa Government could not do otherwise, if they had undertaken to justify the apprehensions which provoked the resistance of 1869! you must see that since the Government look for support, in great part, to the Province of

" Quebec, they ought to have shewn more regard for the just susceptibilities of the
 " French representation of that Province. Here discontent is increasing every day ; not
 " only is it general amongst the French population, but the English population manifest
 " a like dissatisfaction. On this very day a most vexatious act has made manifest to us
 " the injustice to which we are exposed. God knows how the Land Department is
 " administered ; there is nevertheless in that Department an employee who has succeeded
 " in gaining public confidence ; but that employee is a French Canadian—a Catholic—an
 " honest man, and this morning, Mr. McMicken has discharged him. Mr. Larivière is dis-
 " missed from the Land Office without any reason whatever, without even a pretext given ;
 " thus there is great indignation amongst his numerous friends. If the Government
 " sanctions this injustice they will entirely lose many supporters. That Mr. McMicken
 " should be furious at the revelations made by the *Globe*, is a matter that can be accounted
 " for, though everything has not been revealed ; but that our friend, Mr. Larivière,
 " should be the victim of that fury, is something more difficult to account for. That the
 " whole French population of Manitoba and a large portion of the English population
 " should be forced to witness the expulsion in this way of the only man in the Land
 " Department in whom they had confidence, is, I trust, what you will not tolerate.

" Then as to the promise of an amnesty, which it is now pretended was never
 " made ; what annoyance does it not cause you ! That promise was made, not only to
 " the delegates, but to myself. They have not the courage to avow their acts for fear of
 " displeasing Ontario. Sir John A. Macdonald forgets himself so far as to join in the
 " outcry of the most violent. What has the Cabinet gained by this policy of tergiversa-
 " tion ! In Ontario, the Government are, it is said, in a minority, and I think the
 " Quebec majority would very soon be reduced, if we were forced to give publicity to all
 " the grievances of which we have to complain. For my part, and as it is impossible for
 " me to refrain from saying what I think, I now make to you an avowal I deeply regret
 " to make :—Two years ago a change of Ministry would have seemed to me a great mis-
 " fortune for the Dominion in general, and for Quebec and Manitoba in particular. To-
 " day I ask myself what we should lose by it, and whether, on the contrary, we might
 " not find it a gain. I feel the full force of these latter words, and I do not write them
 " without extreme pain. In Ontario the Conservatives have forced the Catholics to unite
 " with the Grits ; and it would be very painful if, in the Dominion, Catholics were
 " induced to cry out : '*Salvatem ex inimicis nostris.*' I am astonished to see the change
 " of opinion in this respect amongst those amidst whom I live, more particularly since
 " the elections. The efforts of every kind made for the election of Sir George E. Cartier,
 " had made us hope for something better.

" At Ottawa they do not know what takes place here, and they govern us so as to please
 " the fanatics of Ontario. The purity of the motives that animate me justify me in my
 " own eyes for the great liberty I have taken. May the same motives justify me also in
 " your own opinion.

" Accept the assurance of my profound respect.

" Your most devoted servant,

" (Signed,) ALEXANDER,

" Archbishop of St. Boniface."

" NOTE.—Nothing in the reply to this letter was of a nature to modify my impres-
 " sions.

" (Signed,) ALEXANDER,

Archbishop of St. Boniface.

" Ottawa, 20th April, 1874."

I do not remember any further correspondence with the Government than that which
 I have already referred to. As I have stated, I wrote several letters, but obtained no
 replies relative to the amnesty ; except perhaps this last September, when I heard Mr.
 Lapine had been arrested. I telegraphed to Mr. Langevin as follows :—

(No. 22.)

(Translation.)

" MONTREAL, 19th September, 1873.

" To Hon. Mr. Langevin, Ottawa.

" Lepine in gaol. Riel prosecuted. You know my duty and my position. Shall
" be obliged to publish.

" (Signed,) ARCHBISHOP TACHÉ."

I got an answer to this from Mr. Langevin by telegram of 19th September, 1873,
and letter of 21st September, 1873, as follows :—

(No. 23.)

By Telegraph from Ottawa, to His Grace Archbishop Taché.

(Translation.)

" MONTREAL, 19th September, 1873.

" Telegram received. No one looked for this event. I will see Sir John on this
" subject in council to-morrow morning.

" (Signed,) HECTOR L. LANGEVIN."

(No. 24.)

Hon. H. L. Langevin, C.B., to H. G. Mgr. Taché.

(Translation.)

" (Private and Confidential.)

" OTTAWA, 21st September, 1873.

" MY LORD,—I wished to write you yesterday, but was prevented by indisposition
" from doing so. To-day, though confined to the house, I feel that I cannot delay, and I
" hasten to speak with you on the Lepine matter." No one was more astonished than we were to learn the news in question. Sir John
" shewed me a telegram he received while we were at the Royal Commission; he manifested
" to me his great surprise, a. d. I may say, his disappointment. We all thought that in
" your Province, as here, a desire existed to see peace established between the different sec-
" tions of the population inhabiting Manitoba. But your Grace is aware that one single
" agitator is enough to create a general turmoil. It is believed that ——— is at the bottom
" of this matter. He evidently wanted to strike a heavy blow at the moment when the
" Criminal Court was about to sit. It is evident that all he will get will be an answer
" from the Petty Jury that they cannot agree, even supposing that the Grand Jury find
" a true bill." I need not tell your Grace that N. is not acting in concert with us or with regard
" to our views, and that we have taken no part in this matter." You say that you may be compelled to 'publish.' Permit me, your Grace, to offer
" a remark on this subject. You have more than once done me the honor of granting me
" your confidence, and of believing me to be sincerely desirous of doing for your new
" Province everything in my power. Having, therefore, at heart, like your Grace, the
" prosperity and peace of Manitoba, permit me to say to you that there are irons enough
" in the fire without multiplying them still more. Since your intervention at this moment
" cannot prevent what has just happened at Manitoba, or modify the judicial proceedings,
" do you not think that your intervention must of necessity merely complicate matters,
" and create national and religious difficulties which would benefit neither those whom
" you wish to protect in Manitoba nor our people in other parts of the Dominion ?

"I ask you then, in the interests of the public, and in order to prevent a greater evil, not to take action in the sense of your despatch on this occasion.

"Would you be so good as to telegraph me to-morrow where you will be this week, in case I should have to communicate with your Grace.

"I remain your Grace's most devoted servant,

HECTOR L. LANGEVIN.

"To His Grace, Archbishop TACHÉ,
"Bishop's Palace, Montreal."

There were any amount of rumours circulating about the Province about the Fenian^d raid. I was obliged to leave the country, and before doing so, I went to pay my respects to the Lieutenant-Governor, about the 22nd September, 1871, as I was to leave, and did leave, on the 3rd September, 1871. He said to me: "I am afraid you are leaving us under bad circumstances." "Why," said I. "Are you not aware of the rumours about the Fenian invasion?" said he. "Well," I said, "I have heard of it, but I do not believe it. We are blessed with so many rumours in our little Province that I cannot believe this report even if it should be true." "What would be the result if true," said Mr. Archibald. I replied: "I do not know what would be the result, but I can ascertain perhaps on my way, and if there is any real danger I may be of some help, and I will come back." The Governor then said: "In case there is danger, and you will not be back, with whom can I communicate to ascertain the feeling of the people?" I then replied: "I think you can properly address yourself to Father Ritchot; he has a great deal of influence amongst the population, and will tell you all he knows about it when you call on him."

After leaving Fort Garry I met some of those who were called Fenians. I met O'Donohue himself three days distant from Fort Garry. I made a point of speaking to him on the question, and I showed to him not only the impropriety, but the criminality of the thing. He denied to me having any intention of making an attack upon the Province of Manitoba. He said he was merely the leader of a party of emigrants who were going to Manitoba, and that he had come to an agreement with the railway companies to get a reduction in the passage for these emigrants. He also stated that he would convey them to their destination, and go back at once to secure other emigrants to Manitoba.

Previous to my departure from Red River, I met Mr. Riel at Father Ritchot's place, and I said to him, "Are you aware of what is going on about the Fenians?" He said: "Yes, I am perfectly aware that there are rumours afloat; but," he added, "I do not know anything positive about it." "I suppose," I said, "there is no doubt about your action in the matter?" He replied: "There is no doubt about my action in the matter; there is not the slightest doubt that I am not connected in any way with them; but in the meantime, I do not know what action to take, because you know perfectly well that my life is not safe. I may go in the front and fight against the Fenians, and I am sure to be killed by those behind me. So I am at a loss what I can do, but you can rest assured there is not the slightest danger of me or any one of my friends going with the Fenians. We dislike the Fenians, for they are condemned by our church, and you may be assured I will have nothing to do with them." This was on the 23rd September I told this to Father Ritchot, and he said: "I knew long ago there was no doubt about their course." This is all I know about this myself.

I came to Canada October 5th, 1871. I saw Sir George in Montreal and Quebec and he spoke to me about Riel's leaving the country, and he strongly advised me to use my influence to get Riel to leave the country for a while. This was in October or November, 1871. I told Sir George that I agreed in his opinion, but that it was extremely difficult for me to interfere, as I had been so badly treated, being deceived about the amnesty. He urged me saying, "I was the pastor of the people," and he insisted so much that I at last said I would try, but I said, "You must remember that my man is poor; his mother is a widow with four young girls and three young boys, and she has no means of support especially when her eldest son is away. He himself has

"only his labor for his support, and I do not think it is fair to ask him to leave his home without some compensation or some means of travelling." "That is true;" said Sir George, "we will see about that." He then asked me if I would go to Ottawa. "Yes," said I, "I intend to be there the beginning of December." "Then," said he: "we will settle the matter there." I came to Ottawa the beginning of December. Sir George also came, and then I saw him and Sir John. I had several conversations with both of them, but one especially I remember with Sir John; it was on the 7th December, about noon in his office. I do not remember who began, but he insisted that I should advise Riel to leave the country for a while, and added these words, so far as I can recollect them. "If you can succeed in keeping him out of the way for a while, I will make his case mine, and I will carry the point." The question of amnesty had caused me so much pain already that I thought I would be justified in using all honest means to secure Sir John's assistance in the granting of the amnesty, and it was on that ground, and on that ground only, that I promised, as I did then, promise Sir John, that I would endeavour to persuade Riel to leave Red River for a while. I made to Sir John the same observation which I had already made to Sir George, about the necessity of giving some money to Riel if he were asked to leave the country. It was agreed by Sir John that they would do something about that matter. That he would consult with Sir George and give me an answer afterwards. I got an answer, dated 27th December, 1871, from Sir John, which I produce, under the direction of the Committee, as follows:—

(No. 30.)

"(Private and strictly Confidential.)

"OTTAWA, December 27th, 1871.

"MY DEAR LORD ARCHBISHOP,—I have been able to make the arrangement for the individual that we have talked about.

"I now send you a sight draft on the Bank of Montreal for \$1,000; I need not press upon your Grace the importance of the money being paid to him periodically (say monthly or quarterly) and not in a lump, otherwise the money would be wasted and our embarrassment begin again. The payment should spread over a year.

"Believe me Your Grace's

"Very obedient servant,

"His Grace

"(Signed),

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

"The Archbishop of
"St. Boniface, Montreal."

I got the draft which is enclosed in the letter. In my conversations with Sir John and Sir George there was no allusion to the Ontario Proclamation, which indeed was not ordered till a later period.

When I saw Sir George Cartier, during my visit of October, 1871, I reported to Sir George that I had seen some of the Fenians—that they were few in number—that I thought there was no danger for the Province, and that I was entirely satisfied that the French half-breeds would not join with them. I added, what I had told to Mr. McMicken, that there might be some hesitation at first to go ahead for fear they might be killed by the volunteers coming behind them; and, if necessary, I would give proofs that their fears and mine were not unfounded. Sir George seemed to understand the position as well as myself, and entertained no fear on the subject. In the course of November or December I saw him again, and he told me that they had received the official reports from Manitoba, and that everything was right as I had expected. I indicated that the half-breeds would go forward and take arms most willingly if they were assured that they would not be killed by other supporters of the Government. This was, as far as I can remember, the substance of my communications on this subject with Sir John Macdonald also. About the last days of October it was well known in Canada that the Fenian raid was over. Nothing whatever was at any time said by Sir John or

Sir George to the effect that there was any danger that Riel, or those who had been acting with him, might join the Fenians. I had stated to both of them that there was no such danger. The only reason given for having Riel leave was to prevent any increase in the excitement at the coming general elections.

This reason was given both by Sir John and Sir George. The reason was that the presence of Riel in Manitoba during the election would be taken up by the Press, and would cause excitement in the Province of Ontario during the elections there. There was no mention or reference to Riel's possible candidature at the election, nor anything said about anything being paid in order to his withdrawal from a candidature. There was nothing that I remember said as to any excitement in Manitoba itself created by Riel's presence in Manitoba.

The question of Riel's possible candidature had nothing whatever to do with the negotiations which I have described. Sir George told me as one of the reasons to induce me to exert myself to procure Riel's departure, that by this act they would likely obtain a larger support in the elections, and would thus be better able to procure the amnesty.

In the conversations both with Sir George and Sir John, they said that the absence should last over the time of the elections. The Fenian raid, and the difficulties arising out of it, had nothing to do with this negotiation for Riel's departure.

I understood the words in Sir John's letter, "and our embarrassment begin again," to refer to the possibility of Riel's coming back before the Ontario elections, and the embarrassment caused thereby to the Government.

I left Montreal on the 2nd January, and at a station between Prescott and Sarnia, I received a letter from Sir George, which I have not with me, and I do not know whether it is in existence. In this Sir George alluded to the draft which had been sent me by Sir John, and stated that it would be advisable that Lepine should leave also, and that the money should be divided between the two. I reached St. Boniface on the 16th January. I saw Governor Archibald, but do not think that I mentioned what had passed between Sir John, Sir George and myself about the money, but I mentioned the rest. I was told by Mr. Archibald that the withdrawal of Riel and Lepine was desirable. I shortly afterwards spoke to both Riel and Lepine. Lepine said he would leave the country on no consideration, that they had made agreements with the Canadian Government, and it was for that Government to protect them and to get rid of their own difficulties.

Riel also strongly objected in the same sense, and besides he said: "You know my disposition; I am sure I am killing myself in the estimation of my friends if I do leave, because they would say that I have been bought, and I am not in the market. Besides I have no means to hand, and will accept no favor from the Canadian Government until all our difficulties are settled."

I insisted, shewing the difficulties for the country involved in their presence, and using all the arguments I could. They were together, and asked me to give them time to think over the matter.

A few days later they came to me and said that they would leave the matter altogether to my decision, but on certain expressed conditions, namely: First, that I would give them a letter, under my own signature, stating that it was at my request that they determined to leave; Secondly, that they would be furnished sufficient means to travel, and something to be given their families during their absence. I said I had \$1,000 at my disposal, and as it had been given only for one that I would add something from my own pocket to help them. Riel said "No, I will not consent that you spend one cent in this business. You have done too much already both for myself and my family. Besides, we leave at the request of Members of the Ottawa Cabinet, it is but fair they should pay the expenses. We have enough of the trouble and the risk for ourselves, and I wish it to be understood that all the expenses are to be paid by the Canadian Government, because I consider that we are going away on their behalf, and we would consider ourselves as under pay in their service, otherwise we would not accept one cent from them."

I asked him how much he thought they would require for travelling expenses. He

said he thought they could not leave without \$1,600 each, and that a certain additional amount, £8 or £10 sterling a month should be paid to the family of each. I objected at first to the amount, and they answered, "We see now and then the Public Accounts of Canada, and we know that the officials do not travel with small amounts. For instance, the Canadian officials who came to the boundary line in 1869, have expended many times that amount." I told him that having but \$1,000 in my hands, I would see what could be done for the balance before giving my answer.

It was then that I saw Lieutenant-Governor Archibald on the subject of money. There were many conversations between the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and myself on the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor called on Mr. Smith, and, in my presence, asked if he could furnish the funds, which, of course, he said would be re-imbursed by the Canadian Government. I named at first £800 sterling to the Governor as the sum required by Riel and Lepine for themselves and their families. The Governor asked Mr. Smith to lend £800 sterling. I mentioned that I had \$1,000 at my disposal, without mentioning the source, and thus the sum to be furnished by Mr. Smith was reduced to £200 sterling. I understood that the advance was asked of and made by Mr. Smith in his capacity of agent for the Company who were the bankers for the Territory. Mr. Smith said he could, and did, in fact, furnish £600 sterling. It was handed to me, and I added to the amount, out of the \$1,000 before mentioned, a little over \$200, to make up \$1,600 apiece for Riel and Lepine, which I gave them in accordance with their demand, to enable them to go and live outside the territory. The remainder of the \$1,000 I kept in the bank of the Company to be used as required for the support of their families, and it was so used. I wrote the letter which they had asked of me, and I produce a copy, dated 16th February 1872.

(No. 25.)

Bishop Taché to Messrs. Riel and Lepine.

(Translation.)

* Sr. BONIFACE,

" MANITOBA, 16th February, 1872.

" GENTLEMEN,—In the conversation we had together yesterday you decided to leave to my judgment the decision to be taken in relation to the difficulties which threaten to arise owing to fanaticism. Were it not for your well-known patriotism and disinterestedness, I should not even venture to express the opinion I have formed.

" I know that a motive of fear or the mere desire of personal safety would not influence you; hence I have given hardly a moment's consideration to the chances in that direction. Surrounded by your friends, protected by their devotedness and zeal, you are as safe here as elsewhere, and perhaps more so than you would be travelling; nor is this the question to be considered.

" I know that the line of conduct you have marked out for yourselves is rightly dear to your hearts, and that you are determined not to deviate in any way from the principles by which you are guided, much less to yield to unjust influences, how urgent soever they may be.

" Your fellow citizens love and respect you, and the influence you enjoy amongst them enables you to do them good and to be useful to them. Your presence is a bond of union amongst them. Your departure would be a trial as well as a sacrifice. I know all this, gentlemen; I know it all the better from the fact that for a long time past these matters have occupied my mind and my heart daily. Despite that knowledge, I take it upon me to utter the painful and delicate word, Go, disappear for a time; do not leave even a pretext to those who are assailing you so unjustly. They want to accomplish evil ends, to disturb the country, to ruin it if possible, and with that view they gladly make use of the pretext that you are here. Deprive them of that pretext offer this fresh sacrifice on the altar of your country; you know by experience as well as from principle that it befits good citizens to place the public welfare above the most

"legitimate individual aspirations. Shew once again that your patriotism is not confined within the narrow limits of personal advantages, but that on the contrary you are capable of forgetting self when good is to be done.

"I feel, gentlemen, the magnitude and the extent of the sacrifice I ask of you. I have seen many sincere and devoted friends who think as I do. Few, no doubt, will take upon themselves the painful task of begging you to go away. My friendship and my confidence in you have nerved me to do so. I have declared myself your best friend; this has caused me to be insulted by those who hate you, and who would treat me with the same contempt as they do you. Well, let them insult me again, for I am ready to repeat, and I do repeat, that I consider myself your best friend, and as such I venture to take the liberty of giving advice of so painful a nature. I know how painful it must be to you to go forth into exile, to go forth to expiate in a foreign land the crime of having so deeply loved the country of your birth. I know the affection you leave behind. If my friendship counsels your departure, it will also inspire me with compassion, and I shall not fail to offer a meed of consolation to those who must shed bitter tears during the days of your absence. Farewell, gentlemen, I bless you; and, awaiting your return, I pray to God to keep you and to bring you back safe and sound

"Yours, &c.,

"ALEXANDER, Archbishop of St. Boniface.

"To Messrs. Louis Riel and

"Ambrose Lepine,

"St. Vital, Manitoba."

It was delivered within a few days, and they left the country. They left, not by the stage, but by a private conveyance, and by night for fear of violence; and I was told, a few days later by Mr. Plainval, Chief of Police, that he had sent one or two of his men to protect them in case of danger. As far as I can remember in my conversation with Riel and Lepine, it was understood that they should remain out of the country till about the end of that year. I thought that the terms of Sir John Macdonald's letter as to payment by instalments were altered by Sir George's letter asking me to divide the money between Riel and Lepine. I spoke to them about payment by instalments, but they pointed out the possible inconvenience, and said they must have the money with them, except, of course, that which was retained for their families. The money was paid to them the day on which I gave them the letter; the money in the morning and the letter in the evening. I cannot remember whether I wrote to Sir John or Sir George as to the disposition of the \$1,000, or as to my success in accomplishing the departure of Riel and Lepine. I remember once Sir John writing to me and hinting that they had not complied with the conditions. This letter of Sir John's was of a much later date. I will try and find it at home. I cannot recollect exactly whether or not I had any communication with the Ottawa Government on the subject of this £600. I am certain that the Lieut.-Governor said the Ottawa Government would repay the money. That money was furnished under the directions of Governor Archibald.

When we heard in Manitoba that Sir George had been defeated, I received a letter from Lieut.-Governor Archibald either the 3rd or 4th September, 1872, which I produce,

(No. 31.)

"Thursday morning, 5th Sept., 1872.

"MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—Now or never. Do not let the chance, which will never recur, be lost. Could you see me to-day.

"Yours very sincerely,

(Signed,)

"A. G. ARCHIBALD.

"His Grace the Archbishop."

On the same day I went to him who explained to me that it seemed to him that it would be highly advisable that Riel (who was then a candidate for Provencher) should retire and allow Sir George to be elected. I said I would try and see Riel and ascertain his views. The Governor said that this would bind Sir George so tightly that he could not help doing even more afterwards than he had done towards the amnesty. I saw Riel and advised him to retire, giving him the same reasons, and also other reasons on behalf of his country. He told me that personally he would have no hesitation, that he understood perfectly well it would be for the advantage of Manitoba to have a representative in the Cabinet, but that he was not quite sure his friends would view the matter in the same light and that in order to satisfy them he must have some guarantee that the interests of the half-breeds would not be overlooked. He gave me, in writing, his conditions of withdrawal in favor of Sir George. I returned to Mr. Archibald, and stated the conditions, and myself wrote at his desk a translation made by himself, and which he was to have telegraphed to Sir George. I produce a copy of what was so translated, made by myself in Mr. Archibald's presence; I added my signature to the copy Mr. Archibald retained.

(No. 32). *

"That the settlers shall be continued in the exercise of all the rights they have been accustomed to enjoy in respect of the lands on the rear of their lots, and no sales or entries there shall be permitted till the question of their rights shall be settled and adjusted under the agreements with the delegates.

"That no person shall be allowed to enter in the townships laid aside for the half-breeds, from the date of the selection; and any person entered after that date to be removed by the Government authority."

Mr. Archibald, as he told me, telegraphed to Sir John instead of Sir George, and on the 10th September I received from Mr. Archibald a letter, which I produce:—

(No. 33).

Lieutenant-Governor Archibald to Mon. Taché.

(Private.)

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

"FORT GARRY, 10th September, 1872.

"MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—I have this moment received your note of this morning.

"Mr. Monard is now engaged in posting the proclamations in Provencher. They will be up in every public place in the County during the day, and every inhabitant will know that the nomination is to be held on Saturday.

"The telegraph lines were down on Friday. They began to work on Saturday, but so badly that the telegraph operator is uncertain whether the message could reach Ottawa till yesterday morning. There is no reply yet; but so soon as one comes, you shall have it.

"Look at the 'Globe,' of the 2nd inst., received by this morning's mail, for an article upon the Provencher election. If anything could convince the French, Metis, such an article as this ought.

"They should elect Sir George by acclamation, without stipulations or conditions.

"It would be the graceful way, and would bind Sir George quite as effectually as any stipulations, which after all are not the making, but the renewal of pledges already given.

"However, this is not my business.

"Yours very sincerely,

"(Signed.)

A. G. ARCHIBALD.

"His Grace

"The Right-Rev. the Archbishop."

The next day, I think, I wrote to the Governor that, if he wished a favorable reply, he must try and take means to ascertain whether Riel's conditions had been accepted or not.

On Thursday morning, about the 12th September, I received a note from the Lieutenant-Governor, which I produce.

(No. 34.)

(Private and Confidential.)

" 12th September, 1872.

" MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—I received last evening a telegram from Sir John, to say that he had received my message, and sent it to Sir George, and that he expected a reply to-day, and would forward it to me at once. I see that he thinks the constituency ought to elect Sir George promptly, and without stipulation. They could safely confide in promises which, being already made, can gain no strength by repetition. You shall have the answer of Sir George whenever it arrives.

" Yours sincerely,

" (Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD.

" To His Grace the Archbishop."

The same evening I received from Mr. Archibald what he said was a copy of a telegram from Sir John, as follows:—

" OTTAWA, 12th September, 1872.

" LIEUT.-GOV. ARCHIBALD,—Sir George will do all he can to meet the wishes of the parties; this statement should be satisfactory.

" (Signed,) JOHN A. MACDONALD."

" Copy of telegram just received.

" (Signed,) HENRI BOUTHILLIER."

This was communicated to the parties; and just the night before the election I received the information that Riel had succeeded in inducing his friends to support the election of Sir George, and that on the following day he would, at the nomination, retire in his favor; and he did so, and immediately after sent Sir George a telegram, of which I produce a certified copy.

(No. 36.)

" WINNIPEG, 14th September, 1872.

" To Hon. Sir George Et. Cartier,
Bart., Montreal.

" Your election in our County is by acclamation, and have reason to hope in the success of the cause trusted into your hands.

" (Signed,)

LOUIS RIEL,
" JOSEPH ROYAL,
" A. LEFINE,
" JAS. DUBUC."

I did not myself communicate with Sir George on the subject, but I received from him a telegram, dated 17th September, which I produce.

(No. 37.)

"OTTAWA, 17th September, 1872.

"To His Grace Archbishop Taché.

"Presume your Grace is one of the friends who got me elected in Provencher; I accept my sincere thanks. Give thanks for me to all friends, and specially to those who were more instrumental in securing election. Am leaving for England for brief visit for my health; will send letters of thanks before leaving.

" (Signed,) G. E. CARTIER."

In reference to communications with Members of the Government, I forgot to mention one thing that occurred on the 15th August, 1873. In an interview with Sir John A. Macdonald, in Ottawa, he told me there were some communications received from England to the effect that they were allowed to publish an amnesty to all excepting those concerned in the execution of Thomas Scott. "This," he added, "is not what you wish. I will go to England immediately after the Session, and I am sure they will settle the question of 'the amnesty.'" I afterwards wrote to Mr. Laagevin a letter, dated 16th August, which I produce:—

(No. 26.)

Bishop Taché to Hon. Mr. Langevin.

(Translation.)

"OTTAWA, 16th August, 1873.

"To the Hon. Mr. Langevin,

"Minister of Public Works, &c., &c.

"HONORABLE AND DEAR SIR.—Allow me to communicate to you the painful impression resting on my mind since my interview with Sir John A. Macdonald, yesterday.

"The Right Honorable Minister of Justice was, I must say, as kind and amiable as usual—on certain points he was even condescending. On the other hand, by way of confidence, he displayed to me a disposition which has not only afflicted me, but has wounded me in a most cruel manner. He will communicate to you what he said in relation to certain information received by Lord Dufferin from England.

"If it is as they tell me, there can be *no more formal duplicity*. If matters result in this way, I shall find myself to have been made sport of in a most disgraceful manner. They have then only made use of me to deceive and wait the time when vengeance could more easily be taken.

"Without mention of the false calculation they have made as to the latter point of view, my conduct, to my own mind, is very clearly marked out. I can only place before the public in general, and the Members of the House in particular, the game in which I have been the victim and the tool. I trust that I shall not be driven to this extremity, and that the Government will not compel me to reveal to the public all I know about the Manitoba question.

"Risking to be thought inconsiderate, allow me to ask for a second interview before my departure from Ottawa.

"With profound respect and sincere esteem,

"Your most humble servant,

" (Signed,) ALEXANDER,
"Archbishop of St. Boniface."

The next day Mr. Langevin waited on me. He requested me not to be uneasy, and said they would take some steps to settle the difficulty. I went back to Montreal on the 19th August.

When in Montreal I received a telegram requesting me to come as quickly as possible to Ottawa, dated 21st August, from J. C. Taché, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, of which I produce a copy, as follows:—

(No. 38.)

(Translation.)

" OTTAWA, August 21st, 1873.

" To Archbishop Taché,

" Father Oblat's House.

" Want you here. Come up this evening. Important. Answer immediately.

" (Signed,) J. C. TACHÉ."

I left at once and arrived on 22nd August. Mr. Taché told me that Mr. Langevin had requested him to telegraph me. Both Sir John and Mr. Langevin went to the Palace, but I was already gone to the Departmental Buildings to see them. Mr. Langevin came to me there and told me Sir John was in his office waiting to see me. I accompanied Mr. Langevin to Sir John. The conversation began on the election of Riel for the vacant seat in Provencher. They both insisted on the propriety of Riel not running for that election, but being replaced by one of his friends. I answered that I would not interfere any more, that I had been deceived too often. They insisted, and Sir John A. Macdonald said again that he would go to England after the Session and secure the amnesty. There was a long talk, and at last I told Sir John that I would not, and could not, do any thing in the matter unless he would give me a written guarantee of what he was saying; he said he could not give anything in writing, and he left the place.

After he left Mr. Langevin told me that I ought to do something under the circumstances. I said I could not, and that it was strange if they were so sure that the amnesty would be granted that they would not give me a written assurance; that, in fact I was tired with promises so often made and never performed. He said to me "I never promised you, and this time I will make the promise." I said "You may promise as your colleagues did, but you may not succeed, as they have not succeeded in carrying out the promise. I trust you individually, but I cannot in this affair trust you more than your colleagues, as I am afraid you have not more power than they."

He then pledged himself to me, and offered to pledge to the whole party of Lower Canada, to resign in case Sir John A. Macdonald would not succeed to get the amnesty or would not work for it.

I merely answered: "It is not your resignation I am working for, it is the accomplishment of the promise of the amnesty."

He insisted again and again, but I told him I could not act any further.

I withdrew, and the next day returned to Montreal.

On 18th October I received a telegram, which I produce, from Dr. Taché, and it was duplicated within fifteen minutes.

(No. 39.)

" OTTAWA, 18th October, 1874.

" To Archbishop Taché,

" At the Grey Nuns, Grey Street.

" Of utmost importance that you come to Ottawa at once. Start to-night. Do not fail. Answer by telegraph immediately.

" (Signed,) J. C. TACHÉ."

I started, and arrived on the 19th. I saw some of the Members, and thereafter, on the same or the next day, I had an interview with Mr. Langevin, and I addressed him on the question of amnesty. He told me that for his part he was ready to resign should his resignation be of any use; "but" he added, "I cannot see that it could serve you in any way. I think you had better leave the matter with us, and I will consult with all the members for Quebec on our side, and we will come to some agreement." Then I was assured that Mr. Langevin and his colleague, Mr. Robitaille, had pledged themselves to their party, as represented in the House, to give in their resignations if Sir John

Macdonald did not, on his visit to England, succeed in securing an amnesty. I was also told, but by whom I cannot say, that this was agreed to between Sir John and Mr. Langevin.

On the question of amnesty, I saw, I think, Mr. Dorion first after the formation of the present Government, I think in November last. I also saw Mr. Letellier.

They stated that the Government was not yet organized properly, and that they would not give me any guarantee, except that they were personally in favor of an amnesty, and that they hoped, especially if it could be proved to have been promised, there would be no difficulty in having it granted.

I repeatedly told them it had been promised in an interview with Mr. Letellier in his office on or about the 25th November. He said to me: "I think (or I hope) that we shall be able to give the amnesty to our Lower Canadian friends as a New Year's gift."

In one of our interviews in Montreal, which took place shortly after, Mr. Dorion asked me to furnish him with a statement of facts relative to that question, and with copies of documents in my possession relating to that question.

I complied with his request, but I did not furnish any of the confidential papers.

I saw him within a day or two after his receipt of the papers, and he told me he thought them very satisfactory, and for himself he was entirely satisfied that the amnesty had been promised.

On 30th November I saw both these gentlemen together in Montreal. I spoke again on the subject, and got about the same answers; but I was led to believe that they themselves had some guarantees about it. They were not explicit, but I was led to believe it. It was something to the effect that there was an agreement with their colleagues as to the granting of the amnesty. The words as near as I can say were these: "We cannot settle everything. It is so soon after the formation of the Government. We have hopes that the thing will be arranged in a favorable way according to your wishes; and we see ourselves the necessity of the amnesty." I remember no further words.

My impression was so strong, that I asked Mr. Dorion in what way he and I could communicate together about the amnesty, after my departure for Manitoba, without its being known. He then wrote in my memorandum book two sentences, which he explained as to what their meaning would be in case we should communicate about the amnesty.

I produce the sentences. "Communication received, matter attended to immediately," meant this: "communication received" means "amnesty," "matter attended to immediately" means "immediate promulgation of the amnesty."

Next sentence, "Communication received" (same meaning), "matter under consideration" meaning "that the amnesty was under consideration by the Ottawa Government", "you may expect early decision," meaning its inherent sense as bearing on the secret meaning of the prior part of the sentence.

It was agreed that he would add to the latter sentence the name of the month in which he expected the thing would be settled.

The date is marked on the back of this memorandum. It is November 30th. The memorandum was written about the close of our interview of that day, which was my last interview with them.

I left Montreal on the 2nd of December.

The impression made on my mind was so favorable, that on my arrival I told many people that we had every reason to expect that the new Government would carry out the promise of the old Government.

24th December I telegraphed to Mr. Dorion. I produce a copy of the telegram.

(No. 40.)

"FORT GARRY, 24th December, 1873.

"To the Honorable A. A. Dorion,
Ottawa.

"Anxious hearing from you. Is communication received. Lépine bailed yesterday.

(Signed,)

"ARCHBISHOP TACHÉ."

I received an answer, dated 25th December, which I produce.

(No. 41.)

(Received at Fort Garry, 26.)

"MONTREAL, December 25th, 1873.

"To Archbishop Taché.

"I received the gratifying intelligence contained in your telegram. Matters here are progressing slowly, but most satisfactorily. In a few days I will write result, and about some important questions.

(Signed,)

"A. A. DORION."

The letter promised in that telegram never came. On the same 24th December I wrote a letter to Mr. Dorion, which he produces.

(No. 46.)

Archbishop Taché to Honorable A. A. Dorion.

"ST. BONIFACE, MANITOBA,

"December 24th, 1873.

"Hon. A. A. Dorion,

"Minister of Justice.

"HON. AND DEAR SIR,—I send you herewith the burial certificate of Alfred Scott, Esq., one of the Delegates of the Provisional Government to the Government of Canada. I add thereto a copy of the petition which the said Alfred Scott addressed to Her Majesty jointly with the Rev. Mr. Ritchot, and which I myself attest to be a true copy. I do not know what the Government then in power at Ottawa did with that petition, it proves at least that Scott thought as Mr. Ritchot did. Mr. Black did not return here after the negotiations; in fact he started for Scotland before they were closed.

"Lépine was admitted to bail yesterday. I trust you will take steps to prevent his trial ever taking place. I am most anxious to hear from you.

"Accept my sincere good wishes, and believe me with deep respect,

"Your most humble servant,

"ALEXANDER,

"Archbishop of St. Boniface."

"P.S.—Mr. Brisebois is still the only French Canadian officer in the Mounted Police, and he is in the lowest rank.—ALEX."

I got no answer to this letter. Lieut.-Governor MORRIS had, previous to 24th December, told me that he had communicated to the old and to the new Government by letter his view that the granting of the amnesty was a necessity.

On 2nd January I received from Dr. Taché a telegram, which I produce.

(No. 42.)

"OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1874.

* * * * *

"General election immediate. Governor Morris will communicate with you. Of paramount importance for friends to comply with his request. Answer by telegraph.

(Signed,)

"J. C. TACHÉ."

On 3rd January Governor Morris' private secretary came to my place, and showed me copy of an extract from a telegram in cipher which the Governor had received from Mr. Dorion. I am now shown a copy furnished by Mr. Dorion, which is what was shown me :—

(No. 48.)

" OTTAWA, January 2nd, 1874.

" To Alex. Morris,
" Fort Garry, Manitoba.

" Will you communicate confidentially to Bishop Taché that I am particularly desirous in the interest of his people, in order to avoid excitement, that Riel should not be a candidate.

"(Signed), A. A. DORION."

After seeing this, and before calling on Mr. Morris, I answered my brother's telegram by one dated 3rd January, of which I produce a copy.

(No. 43.)

" ST. BONIFACE, January 3rd, 1874.

" To J. C. Taché, Ottawa.

" Telegram received yesterday. Communication heard of to-day in an unbecoming manner. Want at least official written instrument and conditions.

" (Signed), ALEXANDER."

At the same time, and before seeing Mr. Morris, I wrote Mr. Dorion a letter, dated 3rd January, of which he produces the original.

(No. 47.)

Archbishop Taché to Hon. A. A. Dorion.

(Private.)

" ST. BONIFACE, MANITOBA,
January 3rd, 1874.

" HONORABLE AND DEAR SIR,—I take up the pen under a very painful impression. A telegram received yesterday from my brother had given me a foreboding of what I have since learned. Mr. Morris (who affects not to hold any communication with me) sent his Secretary to show me a telegram which that young gentleman stated to have been received from you yesterday, and in which I am asked to prevent Mr. Riel from standing as a candidate at the next general election. To say nothing of Mr. Morris' mode of proceeding in a matter of such importance and delicacy, I must say that the request itself causes me the greatest embarrassment, and, in fact, the utmost pain. Is this then the whole result of our efforts and labors! Ministries succeed one another only to follow up a policy which, to my mind, is not a just one, and which most certainly will not seem generous in your eyes or in the eyes of your friends.

" The whole Province of Quebec ask you to do an act of justice in behalf of men who have been shamefully deceived, and the only answer is to request me to manage so that their leader shall not receive a proof of the respect and confidence of his fellow countrymen. This man is within two or three hours' journey of Montreal, and an eight days' journey from me, and I am to take steps to induce him to hide himself and to continue with his family in misery! What is to be offered to Mr. Riel as a recompense for the sacrifices which he is called upon to make? Misery, exile, or a jail if he returns to his native land! There is no other alternative. Your telegram received the day after Christmas poured balm into my heart, and into that of those to whom I was able to communicate

“it without indiscretion and without danger. But I must confess that the telegram of the day after New Year’s has produced an entirely different result. For four years I have been made use of, *nominally for the good of the people whom I love*, as an instrument to deceive that same people. You were pleased to form a correct opinion of my position, and to assure me that you would never place me in so false a one. Allow me to tell you that now, more than ever, my interference in the direction requested (*unless there were certain compensation*) would to me be productive of pain and difficulty. I cannot act unless, I repeat, I have something certain to offer. If you knew all the indignities to which our poor people have been subjected, you would not be annoyed at my experiencing the painful feelings which I do. I most anxiously await the letter which you promised me at Christmas. I still hope I may find some comfort in it.

“With respect and esteem,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“ALEXANDER,

“Archbishop of St. Boniface.

“The Hon. A. A. Dorion.”

I saw Mr. Morris on 5th January, and told him that I had no means at all to open the matter, that I did not know where Riel was; that he had left the country some months previous. That I knew he was somewhere near Montreal, though where I did not know; and I added that I had no will to act, for the same reason I had given Mr. Langevin in October, which I repeated in substance to Mr. Morris. I told him the name of a person with whom Mr. Dorion could communicate, and who perhaps could let him know where Riel was, and what were his intentions.

A few days later I said to Mr. Morris that I could perhaps ascertain where Riel was and that perhaps some arrangement might be made, but that I would take no action at all unless furnished with a written guarantee.

Mr. Morris, in my presence on this 5th January, wrote a telegram to Mr. Dorion of which I have not a copy. Mr. Dorion now produces a copy which I identify as correct.

(No. 49.)

“FORT GARRY, 5th January, 1874.

“HON. A. A. DORION,—Have seen Archbishop. He thinks matter can be arranged if amnesty granted, or written promise of it within short and definite period, but not otherwise. He has written. You can communicate with Riel through Father Lascomb at Montreal, who knows where he is.

“(Signed,)

A. MORRIS.”

Mr. Morris told me repeatedly that he had received no answer to that telegram.

On 7th January, my brother sent me a telegram, of which I produce a copy; I did not answer it.

(No. 41.)

Telegram from J. C. Taché to Archbishop Taché.

OTTAWA, Ont., January 7, 1874.

“To Bishop Taché.—

“Cannot understand unbecoming manner. No intention to wound your feelings; quite the contrary. No official written instrument can be given. My personal opinion not altered. I think that a friend of his be chosen and not himself for present.

“(Signed)

J. C. TACHÉ.”

I got no answer to my letter to Mr. Dorion of 3rd January. On 10th March I sent a telegram to Mr. Dorion of which I produce a copy.

(No. 45.)

"FORT GARRY, March 10, 1874.

"To the Hon. A. A. Dorion, Ottawa.

"No answer yet to my letter of January. Nothing either about the communication alluded to in your telegram of Christmas. Am publishing on promising and granting of amnesty.

"(Signed,)

ARCHBISHOP TACHÉ."

I received an answer dated 11th March, which is at home, but Mr. Dorion now produces a copy which I identify as correct.

(No. 50.)

"OTTAWA, 11th March, 1874.

"To Archbishop Taché, Fort Garry :

"Telegram received last night, not quite intelligible. I have asked to have it repeated. I can only say now that elections have delayed consideration of several questions relating to Manitoba, which are now engaging the attention of the Government in anticipation of the Session, which opens on the 26th instant. Not probable any information can be given till then.

"(Signed,)

A. A. DORION."

I received a further answer dated 12th March, of which Mr. Dorion now produces copy, which I identify as correct.

(No. 51.)

"OTTAWA, 12th March, 1874.

"To Archbishop Taché, Fort Garry.

"Telegram has been repeated. I understand you are going to publish documents ; would respectfully suggest that it can have no good effect, and should be delayed. Hon. E. B. Wood just appointed Chief Justice, is an able lawyer, and free from prejudice.

"(Signed,)

A. A. DORION."

I wrote to Father Lascomb immediately after the communication with Mr. Morris, about the first week in January, that very likely the Canadian Government would open negotiations with him about Riel's election ; that I had nothing to say except that he should act according to circumstances, and that I left the matter to his own discretion.

I got an answer from Father Lascomb to the effect that Mr. Dorion had communicated with him, either directly or through some one else, but that having no assurance himself, and having regard to the way I myself had been treated, he had no instructions to mingle in such affairs.

In November Mr. Dorion informed me that a true bill had been found against Riel, at an interview in his office, very shortly after the formation of the Government. He had telegraphed to Fort Garry, at my request, as I was anxious about the proceedings which I understood were being taken against Lepine only, and the information he obtained from Governor Morris he communicated to me by telegram to Montreal. This information was as to a true bill, not only against Lepine, but also against Riel, O'Donohoe and four others.

I communicated this to some friends in Montreal. It was not public news there when I received it, as far as I know, but it was so the next day. There was no applica-

tion made by me or by any one else, to my knowledge, to any member of the present Government for pecuniary assistance to be given to Riel, nor was any such assistance rendered to my knowledge.

I wrote Riel a letter the day I left Montreal, but never got an answer. This was the only letter, and I had no personal communication with him.

I had no communication with him, and did nothing, save what I have already described, as to Riel's candidature for Provencher, or his return to Manitoba.

I had not the acquaintance of, nor had I any communication, either verbally or in writing, with any member of the present Government, save Mr. Dorion and Mr. Letellier.

I am sure that Riel did not return to Manitoba. I believe he remained in the neighbourhood of Montreal. It was not in order to inform Riel, that I asked Mr. Dorion to find out about the proceedings. I had not at that time an idea that the proceedings actively prosecuted were against him or any one else than Lepine. I did not communicate what I learned to Riel, as far as I remember. It was for my own information, and in order to speak to Mr. Dorion about the consequences as to Lepine, that I made the enquiry of one or both of them. On hearing from Fort Garry the way the Grand Jury was formed, I expressed my surprise, and said I did not think it was justice, but truly injustice. This was because Farmer, the prosecutor, was one of the Grand Jurors, and because the proportions and number of the jurors were not according to law.

At, I think, every one of the conversations, Mr. Dorion told me that he personally could not give me any promise of an amnesty. Whether this was in answer to my question or not, I cannot remember. He added, that he was perfectly well disposed and expected he would be able to satisfy us, as hereinbefore stated.

In reply to Mr. Dorion, when he said he could not give me any promise, I said I had rather have no promise at all, than one that would not be fulfilled afterwards.

The reason he gave me for not being able to give me any promise was, as I have already stated, that the Government was but just formed and had not yet time to decide anything; and, he added, that even if there had been anything, he, of course, could not tell me Cabinet secrets; and, of course, I did not expect this. I did not make any enquiry of him as to the opinion and sentiments of his Ontario colleagues.

I enclosed, in my letter of 24th December, copy of the burial certificate of Alfred Scott, in compliance with a request made by Mr. Dorion in Montreal; and it was in compliance with a similar request, that I enclosed copy of the petition signed by the same Scott. I informed Mr. Dorion of the absence of Judge Black for the same reason.

Mr. Dorion wished to know the state of things, as to the three delegates, and I had furnished him with Father Ritchot's affidavit, and was by this letter furnishing him with the evidence of Scott, and informing him of the absence of Black.

The "hope of some consolation" referred to at the close of my letter of 3rd January, was the granting of the amnesty.

There had, up to the time of the writing of this letter, been no promise of an amnesty by the present Government or any member of it, though I had been led to expect it, as I have before mentioned.

I can give no more words which passed between Messrs. Dorion or Letellier and myself than what I have already given in this examination.

It was on these words and from the whole tenor of our conversation, that I based the expectation I entertained.

I cannot say positively whether I asked the question, but I received positive assurances from both Governments, the old and the new, that if Lepine was convicted he should be soon pardoned.

It was from Mr. Langevin or Sir John, or both, that I learned this as to the old Government; and from either Mr. Letellier or Mr. Dorion, or both, that I learned it as to the new Government.

ALEXANDER,
Archbishop of St. Boniface.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
MONDAY, April 20th, 1874.

The Reverend Noel Joseph Ritchot, deposed :—

I am the parish priest of St. Norbert, in the Diocese of St. Boniface, in the Province of Manitoba. I was in the North-West before 1869, and during 1869 and 1870. I arrived there in the spring of 1862, and remained there up to my coming here on the delegation. I always resided there. The causes of the trouble arose chiefly so far as I could see from the fact that the people had no notice whatsoever of the transactions which seemed to be treated on between the Imperial Government, the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Government of Canada, with reference to the transfer of the North-West Territory to Canada. The nature of these transactions was completely unknown in the North-West, and the people were dissatisfied from the first at being left in that position. That, so far as I could see, was the chief cause of the discontent.

The dissatisfaction was increased at first by the conduct of a certain "Canadian" party settled in Manitoba. That was in the autumn of 1868. It arose chiefly because that party treated the people with contempt in correspondence in the newspapers. They were few in number, and it was chiefly due to the action of their newspaper and a few individuals whose names were published. Only a few names were known. I do not know the probable number of the party. The newspaper was the "North-Wester." The troubles were increased in the autumn of 1868 by the arrival of a party of Canadian employées. Difficulties commenced in the course of the winter. The principal cause of the difficulty then was the rumour that these employées had made a treaty with the Indians for a certain tract of land, part of which the people of the country had claimed for themselves. I became aware of this through evidence in the Court, at the sitting of which I was present, in a case against Mr. Snow. On the occasion of that suit, the witnesses stated that on such a day Mr. Snow treated with the Indians, and gave them flour, pork and drink in exchange for the lands. I was present when that was said by the witnesses against Mr. Snow. This testimony corroborated the rumours I had heard with reference to the treaty. This was in the month of March, 1869. Subsequently to that date I had no knowledge of any special difficulty till the month of July. In the month of July, on the 29th of that month, a meeting was held at the Court House. I think it was a meeting at which all the people of the country were expected. From all I could learn of the object of the meeting, it was for the purpose of demanding the money, or a portion of the money, the Hudson's Bay Company were to receive from Canada for the country, and moreover, to overthrow the Government of the Hudson's Bay Company. I state word for word what was told me at the time. I was not at the meeting. This was told me before the meeting by the party who was to be the chairman—Mr. William Dease. I heard this on the 24th July (Saturday), and on the Sunday I warned my people to be on their guard, as to the object of the meeting, as I considered it of a dangerous character. I cannot positively state who originated the meeting; however, names were put forward. Mr. Dease is a half-breed. The chief names were Paschal Breland, W. Hallet and Joseph Genton. It was rumoured that Dr. Schultz was the prime mover in the matter. After this meeting, which failed in its object, came the discontent on the occasion of the survey by Canada. From and after the month of June, until the autumn, there were repeated difficulties with reference to the surveyors. The inhabitants demanded of the surveyors on what authority they came to survey the lands of the country. The surveyors never produced any paper or gave any satisfactory answer. The inhabitants also made enquiry of the Council of Assiniboia as to who had authorized the surveying of the lands, and were unable to get any satisfactory answer. Contrary to what usually happens, this movement originated with the people themselves—the agricultural classes. They did not consult me on that matter, and I took no part whatever in political matters at the time. These were the first causes of the difficulties to my knowledge. The discontent was increased by the news that Mr. McDougall had left Canada with an escort and a quantity of arms for the purpose of taking possession of the country. At the same time a party of Canadians, resident in Winnipeg, stated that they were going to meet and join Mr. McDougall under

arms. I have my knowledge of these circumstances merely from rumour. About the 15th or 20th of October, the news was told in the country that Mr. McDougall had arrived at the frontier of the country with an escort and a large quantity of arms. On the 19th of the same month I learned that runners had been sent to Mr. McDougall to invite him not to enter the country, and that they had been despatched according to a resolution passed at a meeting held at St. Vital. I was not present at the meeting, and was not aware of the adoption of the resolution. The old custom of the country was that when any difficulty arose in which it was necessary to take up arms, the inhabitants used to organize of their own accord, after the manner in which they organized for the hunting in the prairies. This custom was chiefly confined to such of the French and English half-breeds as were in the habit of hunting. Those meetings never had reference to municipal affairs at all, and were only held when it was necessary to take up arms to repel enemies from outside. In 1863, when the Sioux made a descent upon the country, the Council of the half-breeds organized a meeting at St. Norbert, and met a deputation of the Sioux. Governor Dallas and Mr. McTavish also met the Sioux there along with the half-breeds.

The meeting of the Metis at St. Vital was held of their own motion, as was their custom, and it is not within my knowledge that they were advised to do so by anybody.

About the 20th of that same month a party of men assembled on the banks of the River Salle, for the purpose of meeting Mr. McDougall's party if they advanced into the country. I think they did so of their own accord. I did not advise them to do so; in fact, the thing was done entirely unknown to me. The first knowledge I had of the matter was from seeing them wandering about my premises. The meeting was held about half a mile from my house. They told me that they had chosen that place because it is the first place on the Pembina Road, where they would be protected by the junction of two rivers, and by a bush on both sides of the road. They had not previously been excited by speeches and addresses at church doors or elsewhere, to my knowledge. Since the month of July, several other meetings had been held in the town of Winnipeg, the object of them being to elicit the nature of the negotiations between the Canadian Government and the Hudson's Bay Company, and to devise some means of asserting their rights. The gathering to which I have referred having taken place before my own eyes in my own parish, I made enquiries as to the origin of the movement, and what motive they had in it. The party who seemed to be the leader of the band told me that he was there by orders of his chief. I asked him where are your chiefs? "Four of them," he said, "have gone to invite Mr. McDougall not to enter the country." He saw from my countenance that I was extremely surprised, and said "Are we doing wrong?" I answered, "In order to be enabled to say whether you are doing well or ill, I must be made aware of why you are here. However, you seem to me to be engaged in a very dangerous pursuit." I said no more at that time, but from that moment I saw it was a very serious matter, and I determined to do nothing which would compromise my influence with them, as that influence could be used later. I may state that this is not the time to defend myself in the matter, but if I had not been present consequences much more serious would have occurred. I received a letter from Governor McTavish begging me to remain among the half-breeds, and at least keep them within the bounds of moderation. I recollect the arrival of Archbishop Taché at the Red River from Rome, which, I think, was about the 9th March, 1870. I saw him on the evening of his arrival. He consulted with me at my own house. I have a knowledge of many statements being made by the Archbishop to the chiefs, and I know that he spoke in public several times. He said that upon these occasions that he was sent by Canada to give assurance that the intention of the Canadian Government was not in any way to ill-treat the people of the North-West; that, on the contrary, the desire of the Canadian Government was that they should send delegates to Ottawa. He further assured them that the delegates would be well received on the part of the Government, and that the expenses of their journey to and from Ottawa would be paid. From the time of the Archbishop's arrival till the time I left for Ottawa with the delegation, I had very little communication with him or the

leaders of the Provisional Government. I was not present at any of their deliberations, and therefore did not hear whether he said anything about the amnesty for offences committed.

I was, as I have stated, one of the three delegates who went from the Red River to Ottawa. I left Red River on the 24th of March, 1870, and arrived at Ottawa on the 11th April. We had interviews with two members of the Canadian Government, who were delegated by their colleagues to treat with us. The first interview I had with any member of the Canadian Government was on the 12th, when I saw the Hon. Mr. Howe at his office. On the same day I saw Sir George E. Cartier. There was no discussion of the question of amnesty at these meetings. At the third interview, Sir George Cartier came to see me at the Bishop's palace. This was on the 22nd April. There was no reference made to the amnesty on that occasion. I saw Sir George Cartier at his own house. I was in company with Mr. Black. This was on the 23rd. The amnesty was then treated of. We treated of matters in general, but I said the first thing was the amnesty, and that without it nothing could be done. Sir John was present at the time. The hon. gentleman told me that the amnesty did not rest with Canada, but that they would find means to arrange the matter. Sir George said these were only preparatory interviews with a view to arranging the matter. (What I have given you is a summary of what took place at those interviews.) My next interview was on the 25th. I was with Mr. Black; Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Cartier were present. The interview took place at Sir George's house. They told me these interviews were semi-official. The hon. gentlemen wished on that day to treat for arrangements, but I refused, complaining that I had no written acknowledgment of my position as delegate, and I desired to know with whom I was to communicate. I desired to know how I was looked upon. The hon. gentlemen said I was sufficiently recognized by what had taken place and what had been said in the House. I then insisted on having a written acknowledgment of my status. The amnesty was spoken of on the 25th. I said we might speak on it, but we could settle nothing definitely as to that matter. I said the *sine qua non* of an agreement was a general amnesty. The Hon. Ministers said they would give me an answer on the following day. They also said we give you the means of obtaining an amnesty, but they did not state positively what those means were. We told them we knew nothing of the proceedings to be taken, and that we would not ourselves take any action, and said if the Ministers had not the power to settle all our difficulties, I had no business in Ottawa, and would return to the Red River on the following morning. They said they would give me an answer the next day. I saw them next on the 26th. At that interview there were present Mr. Black, Mr. Scott, and myself. It took place at Sir George Cartier's house, and Sir George and Sir John A. Macdonald were also present. As I entered the room on the occasion, Sir John A. Macdonald presented me with the document, which I produce with my delegation commission.

(No. 55.)

"OTTAWA, April, 26th, 1870.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, stating that as delegates from the North-West to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, you are desirous of having an early audience with the Government, and am to inform you in reply that the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Geo. Et. Cartier have been authorized by the Government to confer with you on the subject of your mission and will be ready to receive you at eleven o'clock.

"I have the honor to be,

"Gentlemen,

"Your most obdt. servant.

"(Signed,) JOSEPH HOWE.

"To the Revd.

"N. J. Ritchot, Ptr.,

"J. Black, Esq.,

"Alfred Scott, Esq."

(No. 56.)

(Translation.)

"To Revd. N. J. Ritchot, Pfr., &c :

"SIR,—The President of the Provisional Government of Assiniboia in Council, by these presents grants authority and commission to you the Reverend N. J. Ritchot, jointly with John Black Esquire, and the Honorable A. Scott, to the end that you be—take yourselves to Ottawa, in Canada; and that when there you should lay before the Canadian Parliament the list entrusted to your keeping with these presents, which list contains the conditions and propositions under which the people of Assiniboia would consent to enter into Confederation with the other Provinces of Canada.

"Signed, this twenty-second day of March, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

"By Order,

"(Signed,)

THOMAS BUNN,

"Secretary of State.

"Seat of Government, Winnipeg,

"Assiniboia."

The Minister said in reply to our questions that they were in a position to assure us that an amnesty would be granted immediately after the passing of the Manitoba Bill. The nineteenth clause of our instructions is as follows:—

"That all debts contracted by the Provisional Government of the Territory of the North-West, now called Assiniboia, in consequence of illegal and unconsidered measures adopted by Canadian Officials to bring about a civil war in our midst, be paid out of the Dominion Treasury; and that none of the Members of the Provisional Government or any of those acting under them be in any way held liable or responsible with regard to the movement or any of the actions which led to the present negotiations."

I asked that this clause should form part of the Bill, but they replied that it was not expedient that it should form part of the Bill, inasmuch as the Bill belonged to the House, while the amnesty was a matter for the administration. I asked for a written assurance, but they answered that it was not necessary, and that we might trust to their word. They also said there would be no difficulty whatever, with regard to the amnesty, and that it was a matter which rested with the Crown. We then went on discussing the other matters of our mission. That was all that was then said with regard to the amnesty. They did not speak at all with regard to the proclamation of December 6th, 1869. They told me it would be an insult to Her Majesty if they gave me a written guarantee. They said that if a written promise of the amnesty were required before the passing of the Manitoba Bill it would be imposing conditions on the Crown. They did not upon this occasion or during any of the prior conversation refer to the death of Scott as the difficulty in the way of the amnesty. They only asked me if I was present at the death of Scott and I answered I was not. They said with regard to the popular outcry respecting the death of Scott, that while regretting that event they, as men of business, could pay no attention to it, and that this matter would not prevent them from making suitable arrangements and settling all the questions. They requested me to keep perfect silence as to the communications I had had with them, and let the public mind settle down. The next interview took place on the 27th. The same persons were present on each side. Nothing was said as to the amnesty. The next meeting was on the 28th. The same delegates were present. On this occasion nothing was said about the amnesty. Sir John A. Macdonald was taken ill during the interview and left. The next interview was on the 30th. The three delegates met Sir George Cartier; Sir John A. Macdonald was still ill. We spoke of the amnesty. Immediately after the interview I took notes of what had been said. I made notes after all our interviews. The note referring to the interview of the 30th is as follows:—"A word about the amnesty all in the same sense." I remember Sir George told me not to be uneasy for everything would be granted as it

had been promised. The next interview took place on 2nd May. Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George Cartier and the three delegates from the North-West were present. There was nothing said about the amnesty. On the third of May I again met Sir George Cartier, but nothing was said about the amnesty. On the same day we had an official interview with His Excellency the Governor General and Sir Clinton Murdoch. They and the three delegates were the only persons present. His Excellency introduced Sir Clinton Murdoch as the special envoy of the Crown, and was deputed to hear us. His Excellency said, "If you can come to an understanding with my Ministers do so; but if you cannot I am ready to hear you, and Sir Clinton Murdoch has to do you justice. If you have anything to state we are ready to hear you." Thereupon we said we had consented to the Manitoba Bill, with the Ministers, but as to the other questions, particularly the amnesty, we were not satisfied because we have no written guarantee. His Excellency then pointed to Sir Clinton Murdoch, and said, "He knows it is the intention of Her Majesty to declare a general amnesty in order to establish peace in the country. Besides you have seen my proclamation, are you familiar with it?" I answered that I had knowledge of the proclamation, but I did not remember it word for word. I also said that in my opinion the proclamation of the 6th December was only promising the amnesty, and what I wanted was the promulgation of the actual amnesty promised. Sir Clinton Murdoch said, "You have nothing to fear, Her Majesty wishes but one thing, and that is to pass the sponge over all that has happened in the North-West, and establish peace. She wishes to place that Province in a position to attain prosperity like the other English Provinces." I remember particularly the expression of passing the sponge over all that had happened. It struck me at the time. I said I was pained because I had nothing in writing to show the people. He answered "When you are treating with men such as those in whose presence you are to day there is no necessity for written guarantees." Using the French expression he told me you must not ("*Tant mettre les points sur les i,*") be so particular. "You must leave us a certain latitude and you will gain by it." I then stated, "Since there is nothing to fear I trust to your words." I looked upon this Proclamation as an assurance that an amnesty would be granted. I did not look upon it as an amnesty proclaimed. We wanted a direct proclamation of amnesty. That was my view at the time.

N. J. RITCHOT.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
TUESDAY, 21st April, 1874.

Examination of Revd. N. J. Ritchot resumed.

After the interview with the Governor General and Sir Clinton Murdoch, I had an interview with Sir George Cartier, who asked me if I had not been content with the results of the interview which I had just had with His Excellency and Sir Clinton. I told him I was sufficiently pleased if what they stated regarding the granting of the amnesty were put in writing. Sir George then replied the British Government and the Government of Canada would treat our people like spoiled children, and give them more than they expected. On the 5th we had again an interview with Sir George Cartier at which Sir John Macdonald was present, the three delegates were all present also, but there was nothing done with reference to the amnesty. On the 6th there was another meeting at which the same parties were present. No reference was made to the amnesty however. We had also several other meetings, but at none of them was anything said with reference to that matter. Sometime between the 3rd and the 10th—I cannot recollect the exact date—I had a meeting with Sir Clinton Murdoch at the Bishop's Palace, at which the question of amnesty was again discussed.

I was alone with Sir Clinton upon that occasion. I cannot recollect the exact terms of our conversation, but I know that I drew his particular attention to the question of the promised amnesty. On the 18th I addressed a letter to Sir George Cartier on the subject, which I now produce.

(No. 57.)

* "OTTAWA, 18th May, 1870.

(Translation.)

" To Sir George E. Cartier,

" Minister of Militia, &c., &c.

" SIR,—We had agreed, as you are aware, to leave the selection and division of the lands to be divided amongst the children of the half-breeds to the Local Legislature; you thought proper, for good reasons I doubt not, to substitute for that mode of division the 27th section, which leaves that selection and division to the Governor General in Council. In view of our objections and observations Sir John and you promised to cause to be authorized by the Governor in Council before our departure, a Committee composed of men whom we ourselves were to propose to select these lands and divide them among the children of the half-breeds. Sir John then proposed to appoint Bishop Taché as one of the members of the Committee. In that case the Bishop of Rupert's Land might also be selected with other citizens to form the Committee.

" I trust you will be able to settle this matter before our departure.

" The fourth sub-section of section 28, which relates to lands held in that part of the Province in which the Indian title has not been extinguished should also be dealt with before we start.

" Under our arrangement these lands so held were also to be left free of charge to persons now in possession. Sir John and you promised that this should be so, and stated that it was already agreed to by the Ministry. The measure is of the greatest importance for us.

" The questions raised by the 19th clause of our instructions are of the highest importance, I trust, sir, and the past is my warrant for the future, that you will be able to secure us, before our departure, all the guarantees promised by Sir John and you in relation to these highly important questions.

" I have the honor to be, sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" N. J. RITCHIE."

On the 19th Sir George, before answering the above, came for Mr. Scott and myself, and took us to Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor, and had an interview with His Excellency. Sir George Cartier was present. We discussed specially the question of amnesty, and drew His Excellency's attention to the fact that the Ministers had promised its proclamation. I reminded His Excellency that he had himself been pleased to guarantee the granting of it, and consequently I hoped to obtain it before my departure, as I thought I had a right to expect. His Excellency then showed me his proclamation of the 6th December, telling me it had not been revoked, and consequently it would have all its effect. I called His Excellency's attention to the fact that I had never been willing to accept that proclamation as sufficient to satisfy our population, and that as a promise of amnesty had been made, it was necessary to have something more satisfactory. He replied that such a proclamation could not be long delayed, but that he could not issue it immediately as it had to come from England. I reminded him that there was a telegraphic cable to England, that it was easy to communicate with the authorities there, and that something in writing ought to be given to us. He told me that such matters were not conducted by cable, that it was necessary that the proclamation should be signed by Her Majesty's own hand, that it would be issued immediately, and that it would arrive in Manitoba before us. I observed that it would be impossible for it to get to Manitoba before us, His Excellency then said it would arrive, at all events, before the Lieutenant Governor. I again observed to His Excellency that I could not leave without some written guarantee that the amnesty would be granted. His Excellency said he would next day send us some written assurance that the amnesty would be granted, and that in the meantime he would give me something which would satisfy the people of Manitoba, that nobody would trouble them pending the proclamation of that amnesty.

After that His Excellency again dwelt on his proclamation of the 6th December, saying that it was the best possible guarantee, and that there was nothing to be feared. There was also some discussion upon the other branches of our mission.

His Excellency had previously pressed upon me to leave for Manitoba immediately, because the troops were going there, and he was afraid that trouble might occur. I said I would not leave unless having the documents promised. I accepted the assurances and explanations I have just detailed, and left.

On the 20th, 21st and 22nd nothing particular was done with regard to this question. On the 23rd I went to Sir George Cartier, and complained that I had not received the document I was expecting from His Excellency. I found him engaged writing a reply to my letter, which he gave me, and which I now produce.

(No. 58.)

Letter from Sir G. E. Cartier to Messrs. Ritchot and Scott.

(Translation.)

“DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,

“OTTAWA, 23rd May, 1870.

“GENTLEMEN,—With reference to the representations you have submitted respecting the fourth paragraph of Section 32 of the Act to establish and provide for the Government of Manitoba, in which it is stated that ‘all persons in peaceable possession of tracts of land at the time of the transfer to Canada, in those parts of the Province in which the Indian title has not been extinguished, shall have the right of pre-emption of the same, on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Governor in Council,’ I am in a position to give you the assurance, on the part of the members of the Government, that so soon as the Government can grant the necessary titles, no payment shall be required from any of the persons mentioned in that paragraph, but that they shall be placed upon the same footing as the persons mentioned in the three preceding paragraphs.

“I desire to call your attention to the interview you had with His Excellency the Governor General on the 19th instant, at which I was present, and in which His Excellency was pleased to state that the liberal policy which the Government proposed to follow in relation to the persons for whom you are interesting yourself is correct, and is that which ought to be adopted.

“I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

“Your obedient servant,

“(Signed,) GEO. ET. CARTIER,

“Minister of Militia and Defence.

“To Messrs. Ritchot and Scott.

“P.S.—You can at any time make use of this letter, in such manner as you shall think proper, in any explanation you may have to give connected with the object for which you were sent as delegates to the Canadian Government.

“(Signed,) G. E. C.

“I have, moreover, the honor to assure you, as well on my own behalf as on behalf of my colleagues, that as to the million four hundred thousand acres of land reserved by the 31st section of the Manitoba Act, for the benefit of the families of half-breed residents, the regulations to be established from time to time by the Governor General in Council, respecting that reserve, will be of a nature to meet the wishes of the half-breed residents, and to guarantee, in the most effectual and equitable manner, the division of that extent of land amongst the children of the heads of families of the half-breeds residing in the Province of Manitoba at the time when the transfer is to be made to Canada.

“I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

“Your obedient servant,

“(Signed,) GEO. ET. CARTIER,

“Minister of Militia and Defence.”

Sir George's letter at first consisted only of the first two parts, the last postscript which now appears upon it not having been then added. Immediately I received the reply, I complained that one of the paragraphs of my letter was not answered, and in consequence he added the last postscript. I also complained that, in my opinion, the answer relating to the question of amnesty was not clear enough. He stated, in reply, that it contained the whole sense of the promise of amnesty as I had understood it at the moment. He got Mr. Fuvoye to come in and copy the last postscript, and I think Mr. Fuvoye must have heard some of our conversation. Of course, I am not certain that he did. I accepted that letter of Sir George Cartier's, but still required the documents I expected from His Excellency pending the proclamation of the amnesty. Instead of that document, however, Mr. J. C. Taché brought me, in Sir George Cartier's name, a petition to the Queen to be signed by me. I at first distinctly refused to sign that petition. I was then the only delegate remaining in Ottawa, Mr. Black having left for Scotland, and Mr. Scott for New York. Mr. Taché told me, from Sir George Cartier, that this petition was only a means of bringing the negotiations for a proclamation of amnesty to a successful close, and if the Government had not wished to support it, they would not have drafted it for me to sign; that, besides, it was only a mere matter of form. I had several clauses of the petition corrected, and Mr. Taché took it back to Sir George Cartier in its amended form. I produce a copy of the document as corrected and signed by me.

I may add that I stated that, if it was the best means to obtaining the amnesty, I was prepared to sign it, but without taking any of the responsibility.

(No. 58 A.)

"To Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
"and Ireland,

"May it please Your Majesty:—

"The Petition of the Revd. Abbé Ritchot, acting as well in his own name as for and
"on behalf of the Honorable Judge Black and Alfred Scott, Esquire, most humbly
"representeth:—

"That Your Majesty's petitioner, in conjunction with his colleagues, the Honorable
"Judge Black, now on his way to England, and Alfred Scott, Esquire, now absent from
"the City of Ottawa, came, on the invitation of Your Majesty's Representative, the Right
"Honorable Sir John Young, Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, as delegates
"from the Red River and the North-West Territory.

"The subject of their mission was to lay before His Excellency the complaints and
"wishes of the settlers of the territory, and to obtain such legislation as would redress
"their grievances and meet their wants.

"That Your petitioners have to express their gratitude for the kindness and good-
"will shown to them by His Excellency the Governor General and His Ministers, during
"their intercourse with them on the subject of their mission.

"That the principal object of their mission was to obtain, for the settlers at Red
"River and the North-West Territory, such political institutions as would place them in
"a position to become part of the great Confederation of the Dominion of Canada.

"A measure has happily been passed, by which a part of the North-West Territory
"and Red River will be admitted as one of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada,
"under the name of Manitoba, with the same rights and privileges, with few exceptions,
"as were granted to the Provinces already comprised in the Confederation.

"That Your petitioners are satisfied that the passing of that measure will be received
"with joy and gratitude by the settlers and all concerned, and will meet with their
"wishes and do away with any grievance.

"That for upwards of seven months the Red River Settlement, owing to unfortunate
"circumstances, has been thrown into a state of confusion, and has been without a
"regular Government or authority.

" That in undergoing the necessity in which they were of forming a sort of Provisional Government, there was no intention to act in any hostile or insurrectionary manner towards Your Majesty's authority, but the sole object was to provide for the local wants of the Territory—left as it were without the protection of any actual ruling power.

" That during that period, acts of an illegal character have been committed by conflicting parties, each thinking they were in the right, and acting as they thought for their own protection.

" That those acts, if brought before the tribunals of justice, might perpetuate feelings of vengeance and irritation for a long period to come, and might defeat the object to be obtained by the measure intended as one of pacification, and would retard the progress of the establishment of that vast country.

" That Your Petitioners would therefore, with a view to obtain complete peace and establish good will between all conflicting parties in the settlement, earnestly pray Your Majesty to be pleased to exercise the Royal prerogative of mercy, by a remission and forgiveness of all acts partaking of an illegal character that may have been committed by any party in the Settlement during the time of the disturbances.

" That Your Petitioners, appealing on behalf of the settlers of Red River and the North-West Territory to Your Majesty's mercy, would observe that they were invited to do so by the terms of the Proclamation of His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir John Young, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, of the 6th December, 1869, in which among other things it was stated that Your Majesty was ready through Your Representative to hear and consider any complaints with a view to redress all well-founded grievances, and by which also Your Majesty was graciously pleased to announce that 'no legal proceedings will be taken against any parties implicated in those unfortunate breaches of the law.'

" Your Petitioners beg further to represent that if the disturbances alluded to in that Proclamation have not subsided sooner, it must be borne in mind that it arose from the difficulty of communication, especially during the fall and winter, between the inhabitants of Red River and the Government of Canada. They do not doubt that had they or other delegates been able to come sooner, the difficulties would have long since been settled, and they hope Your Majesty will be induced not to impute to the unwillingness of the settlers the delay that prevented them sending their delegates to the Governor and the Government of Canada, to lay before them their grievances and complaints, as they were called upon to do by the invitation of Your Majesty's Representative.

" That your Petitioners also further represent to Your Majesty that when they left the Settlement of Red River, all the inhabitants there were under the conviction and believed most sincerely that their political grievances would be redressed by a measure from the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, and that Your Majesty would be induced to crown the political measure of peace by the exercise of Your Royal Prerogative of mercy, which was so graciously offered by Your Majesty in the Proclamation.

" Wherefore your Petitioners, on behalf of the settlers of Red River and the North-West Territory, humbly pray Your Majesty to exercise Your Royal Prerogative of mercy by an act of amnesty, to remit and pardon all illegal acts that may have been committed during the time of the disturbances.

" And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray and be grateful.

" (Signed,)

N. J. RITCHOT.

" Ottawa, 26th May, 1870."

I had no other conversation with the Governor other than those I have mentioned, nor yet had I any interviews with Sir Clinton Murdoch or Sir John Macdonald, other than those I have detailed. I had a further interview with Sir George Cartier about the petition, at which he assured me I would be troubled with nothing on its account; that it was only a means to having the proclamation issued, and that everything would be as I