

around me, and as near as I can remember, his answer was that he only wanted to cut off the police from Prince Albert and that he thought he might deprive them of being able to communicate with the rest of Canada, and that he would probably want to use it himself. And then I asked him how he came to think he would be able to wage war against Canada with England at its back, because, I said, England would of course have come to the front at Canada being beaten; that it would have been impossible for him to hope to succeed against Canada, and he gave me very much a similar answer, that he did not expect to be able to beat them, but he thought that by dint of showing a good bold front that he would probably get better terms from the Government, and he seemed to have an indefinite idea, a sort of idea of taking everybody prisoner he could lay hold of, that he thought he could take Major Crozier, and he said he hoped to take me prisoner, and that he would then have got better terms.

Q. Taking hostages in point of fact?—A. Yes, hostages, that was the general view I think, by means of which he would obtain better terms.

Q. Is there anything else he said to you on the subject that you remember?—A. No, I cannot really remember anything more.

Q. Did he speak to you on religious subjects?—A. Yes.

Q. What were his views?—A. He often turned the conversation to religious subjects. He told me some of his views. Some of them I had nothing to say against. I used to listen to what he had to say. He told me Rome was all wrong and corrupt, and that the priests were narrow-minded and had interfered too much with the people, and other of his ideas were excessively good, he told me he thought religion should be based on morality and humanity and charity. He talked in that sense and style.

Q. You cannot remember anything else just now that he said to you?—A. No.

Q. During all your intercourse with him, did you see anything whatever to indicate any suspicion of unsoundness of mind in him?—A. No, I cannot say I did, on the contrary.

Q. Did it occur to you there was any reason to imagine the man was not perfectly sound in mind?—A. No, I should say on the contrary he was a man of rather acute intellect. He seemed quite able to hold his own upon any argument or topic we happened to touch upon.

Q. That idea never occurred to you?—A. Of course I had heard constantly before about reports of his insanity. I heard for instance one or two of the people that escaped from him, scouts, Half-breeds. One man, I remember, told me "Oh? Riel is mad, he is a fool." He told me that he was doing at Batoche." So that I really had heard it, but I came to the conclusion he was very far from being mad or a fool.

Q. That was your conclusion?—Q. Yes, that was my conclusion.

Examined by Mr GREENSHIELDS.

Q. Did that man say what Riel was doing at Batoche?—A. Nothing, he simply said Riel was a fool and shrugged his shoulders.

Q. The letters addressed to you by Riel were signed by him "*Exovede*"?—A. I believe they were.—No, I don't think they were, you have them there

Q. Of course you never had seen Riel previous to his surrender on the 15th?—A. Never.

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CHARLES BRUCE PITBLADO sworn, examined by Mr. OSLER.

Q. You live in Winnipeg and are a clergyman?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you on the boat when the prisoner was brought down the Saskatchewan?—A. I was on the *Northcote* with Riel.