

quartered, and demanded an interview with me. Two of their number, apparently recognized as leaders, who gave their names, at my request, as Lépine and Lavallée, stated that they had been sent to tell me to go back—that I must not remain in the post later than nine o'clock the next day. I asked them who sent them, and by what authority. They said their leaders sent them, and their authority was the *Government*. I asked, what Government? They replied, "The Government we have made." I told them I could not obey the orders of their Government, as I was sent by the authority of the Queen, to administer the Government in her name, at the same time exhibiting my commission under the Great Seal, and explaining its terms. The captain of the band looked at the seal and parchment, and made an effort to read the document, but soon handed it back with the remark, that if I had come on and shewn the Queen's Commission to his leaders, he thought they would not have opposed me—that they did not wish to oppose the Queen's authority. He added, that I could have done so without any risk. I added, that I was going on as fast as I could, when I was notified by his so-called leaders not to proceed further, shewing him at the same time a letter from the "National Committee," by order of John Bruce, President, and Louis Riel, Secretary, which was put in my hands at Pembina, immediately on my arrival. He seemed a little nonplussed by this, but merely said he was not present when the letter was written. I asked him what he was ordered to do in the event of my refusal to quit the Territory. He said he had no orders, and his companion having left the room a few minutes before, took his leave somewhat abruptly.

Noticing the effect of the exhibition of my Commission, and the remark that his party did not wish to oppose the authority of the Crown, I determined to invite the whole party (by this time increased to twenty by the arrival of those who escorted Mr. Provencher and Captain Cameron) to a friendly conference, in order to make known to them the truth as to my position and their own. But they excused themselves to the messenger, by saying that the party was scattered and tired, and would see me in the morning. As it drew near eight o'clock in the morning, they, seeing no preparations for our departure, surrounded the gateway, and vociferously demanded that we should leave before nine o'clock. The leader stated that his orders were positive, and he would not be answerable for our lives, if we remained. They had, in the meantime, made a prisoner of Mr. Hallett, who went out to speak to them preparatory to the proposed conference, and seeing that they were not disposed to hold any parley, and might possibly commit some further outrage, I ordered my horses to be got ready, and without waiting for breakfast, proceeded across the line towards Pembina, escorted by a portion of the party, with arms in their hands. On reaching the post which marks the international boundary, they stopped, and warned me not to return beyond that point, remarking that they did not know me as Governor, but only as Mr. McDougall.

Col. Dennis was told that he must accompany me, which he accordingly did, and remains with me. Mr. Hallett, who for some time had been tied to a cart, and was forbidden to speak with any of my people, was sent off towards Fort Garry, under armed escort.

I am now encamped a short distance from the boundary line, on the farm of Mr. Hayden, and intend to remain in the neighbourhood till I learn what action your Government and the loyal people of the Territory may have taken on receiving intelligence of these events. I need only say that if the people now in the Territory tamely submit to the Government these half-breeds have, or pretend they have established, I have no force at my command, and at present no authority, to resist it or them. The operations, military or otherwise, which must ensue, you can guess without any suggestions from me. I have reported the facts as they have reached me to the proper authorities.

I may add, for your information, that I have good reason to believe that there are persons on the American side of the line actively engaged in fomenting these disturbances, and that there are, also, persons of some influence in the settlement in correspondence with them. Their avowed object is to bring about annexation of the Territory, or some part of it to the United States. I cannot learn that the French half-