

prepare and report the draft of an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in conformity to the said Resolution.

Mr. Mackenzie (*Lambton*) reported, from the said Committee, That they had drawn up an Address accordingly, and the same was read, as followeth :—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir *Frederic Temple*, Earl of *Dufferin*, Viscount and Baron *Clandeboyne* of *Clandeboyne*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of the *United Kingdom*, Baron *Dufferin* and *Clandeboyne* of *Ballyleidy* and *Killeleagh*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of *St Patrick*, and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of *Canada* in Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Excellency for the purpose of representing :

That from the evidence reported to this House by the Committee appointed last Session, on the questions arising out of the *North-West* troubles, it appears that the late Sir *G. E. Cartier*, Minister of Militia and Defence, and during Sir *J. A. Macdonald's* illness, acting Minister of Justice, leader of the Government, and its representative in its negotiations with the delegates from the *North-West*, at various times gave divers persons of prominence in the *North-West*, amongst whom were Archbishop *Taché*, Father *Ritchot*, the Hon. *M. A. Girard*, and the Hon. *J. Royal*, assurances that a complete amnesty would be granted by the Imperial Government in respect of all acts committed by all persons during the *North-West* troubles, and requested that these assurances should be as they were communicated to the interested parties.

That from the same evidence, it further appears that the Envoy of the Canadian Government, Archbishop *Taché*, acting in the *bond fide* belief that he was authorized to do so, assured the people of the *North-West* that the Imperial Government would grant such an amnesty; and the Canadian Government did not communicate to the people any disavowal of his action.

That from the same evidence, it further appears that the interested parties became, by means of the said assurances, convinced that such an amnesty would be granted; and that this conviction so effected their action as to facilitate the acquisition of the territory by *Canada*.

That from the same evidence, it further appears that on the occasion of the raid of Fenians, led by *W. B. O'Donohue*, one of the actors in the *North-West* troubles, the Hon. *A. G. Archibald*, Lieutenant Governor of *Manitoba*, in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, by proclamation, called on all the inhabitants to rally to its defence; and especially asked through Father *Ritchot*, the aid of *L. Riel* and *A. D. Lépine*, and in reply to a letter from Father *Ritchot* on the subject, wrote the following letter :—

“ GOVERNMENT HOUSE, October 5th, 1871.

“ REVEREND SIR,—Your note has just reached me. You speak of difficulties “ which might impede any action of Mr. *Riel* in coming forward to use his influence “ with his fellow-citizens, to rally to the support of the Crown in the present “ emergency.”

“ Should Mr. *Riel* come forward as suggested, he need be under no apprehension “ that his liberty will be interfered with in any way; to use your own language, “ ‘pour la circonstance actuelle.’ ”

“ It is hardly necessary for me to add that the co-operation of the French half “ breeds and their leaders, in the support of the Crown under present circumstances “ will be very welcome, and cannot be looked upon otherwise than as entitling them “ to most favorable consideration.