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PEMBINA, October 31st, 1869.

Captain D. R. Cameron, Royal Artillery.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that information has reached me, of the truth of which I can have no doubt, that the road to Fort Garry is barricaded, and in possession of a party of insurgents, who threaten to arrest and turn back the representatives and officials of the Canadian Government. I have determined to await at this place, communications from the local authorities at Fort Garry, who advise that any attempt to force a passage under present circumstances would embarrass their proceedings.

As you will probably be regarded as an official of the Canadian Government, I am of opinion that you will incur some personal risk, and may cause some embarrassments to the loyal and peaceably disposed in their efforts to quell the outbreak, by provoking a collision at the present moment.

I do not make any order in your case, as I have no authority to direct your movements, but I wish to relieve myself of all responsibility for the consequences of your attempt to proceed immediately to Fort Garry.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. McDougall.

OTTAWA, 19th November, 1869.

*The Honorable W. McDougall, C.B.,
Pembina.*

Received by Mr. McDougall, 6th December. SIR,—I had the honor to receive this morning your Despatch of the 31st ult., covering Colonel Dennis' Report and other papers, relating to the obstructions opposed to your progress through the country lying between Pembina and Fort Garry.

Those papers were promptly submitted to the Privy Council, and I am instructed to convey to you their entire approval of the judgment and prudence displayed by you in the trying circumstances in which you were placed.

At this distance from the scene of disturbance, any instructions that could be sent to you, would only embarrass you, and restrain your freedom of action. You will, therefore, exercise your own judgment, and decide on the instant, as circumstances change, what is best to be done.

The Government entertain the hope that the opposition presented will be withdrawn when the prejudices aroused have been allayed by frank explanations, and in the meantime they would deeply regret that blood should be shed, or that any hasty or intemperate exercise, even of lawful authority, should, in the transfer of the country, array the feelings of any large portion of the people against your administration.

As matters stand, you can claim or assert no authority in the Hudson's Bay Territory, until the Queen's Proclamation, annexing the country to Canada, reaches you through this office. It will probably be issued on the 2nd December, and will be forwarded by a safe hand as soon as received. You had better inform Governor McTavish that you are only proceeding to Fort Garry on the assumed consent of the Company, and its officers, and having stated the facts, await his answer. If he either declines to admit you, or is powerless to give you safe conduct, stay where you are till further advised.