

they had brought their friends together, he met them, congratulated them, shook hands with them, and enlisted them to serve against an enemy of Her Majesty who was then invading the country. He communicated all those facts to the Canadian Government by his memorandum, No. 90.

Referring to the matter in his evidence, he says: "On looking back, I see "nothing in the course I took that gives me any doubt as to its correctness. I "would take it again under the like circumstances. If the Dominion have at this mo-
"ment the Province to defend, and not one to conquer, they owe it to the policy of for-
"bearance," etc.

Now, can it be maintained that after Her Majesty's Government had requested and accepted the services of these men, whose conduct, in those days of excitement, prevented a large portion of the North-West population from joining the invaders, and thus contributed to discourage and repel the enemy, and "to keep that Province in the Domain of Her Majesty," according to Mr. Archibald's own expression,—that they are still to be treated as rebels, and refused an amnesty which has already been promised to them? I cannot believe it; such a policy would be unprecedented in the history of England, and, in my opinion, a misfortune.

When Lord Kimberley sent his despatch of the 24th of July, 1873, offering, in the name of the Imperial Government, to issue a proclamation not applying to all the parties implicated in those troubles, he, undoubtedly, considered the case as an ordinary one, and, like many Canadians, had no knowledge of the facts disclosed by the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the North-West difficulties; for had he known such facts, he would certainly have acted otherwise. I have no doubt that it is the duty of the Canadian Government to submit that evidence to the Imperial Government, and to recommend the adoption of the policy to which Canada has been pledged by the acts of her representatives. I doubt not that, after full information of all the circumstances, the Imperial Government will find it their duty to proclaim a general amnesty, extending to all parties implicated, and covering all acts perpetrated by them as insurgents in the North-West disturbances during the years 1869 and 1870, without exception or restriction, for the above mentioned reasons.

Moreover, it appears, both from the evidence of many of the English settlers before the Committee, and from the addresses unanimously adopted by the two Houses of the Manitoba Legislature, in their session of 1872, and upon which is based their petition to Her Majesty,—that the two races and the inhabitants of Manitoba generally, understand that an amnesty was promised, and are anxious that the matter should be definitively settled, and, as they say in their petition, *that all questions connected with those troubles should be set at rest.*

In my opinion, and under the present circumstances, this is a strong additional reason in favor of the granting of a general amnesty, even as a mere question of policy.