

VI:

LOUIS RIEL—THE ELDER.

Perhaps no name connected with "The Selkirk Settlement" is better known than that of Louis Riel. The name, however, applies to two men—father and son—senior and junior. They were both men of distinct mark. Louis Riel senior figured largely in the strike for freedom led by Sinclair, Isbister and others. Riel the Elder was proverbially known as "The Miller of the Seine." The Seine is a small tributary of Red River that flows in opposite to what is known as Point Douglas—(Douglas so called from Lord Selkirk's family name). The Seine empties within the limits of St. Boniface—the eastern suburb of the City of Winnipeg. Riel the Elder was always said to have been of Sioux, Irish and French descent. He was noted for his fiery temper, his dashing bravery, and his fearless opposition to "The Company." His water-mill ran during the spring and early summer, when the water was at high mark. His triangular descent left no doubt as to his fierceness of temper or manner. In the great Sayer affair which disturbed all Assiniboia to the very heart, it was the senior Riel who gathered his French compatriots in St. Boniface Cathedral on Ascension Day, 1847, made a fiery oration at the doors of the Church, dashed across the river at Point Douglas, and took five hundred men across on Sinclair's ferry boats who fired volleys from their guns, rushed to the Court House, and liberated Sayer—shouting "*Le Commerce est libre! Vive la liberté!*" Violent although the eruption was, it settled for all time the fact that to the Autochthons of Red River Settlement, there was freedom of trade as far as hunting and using and exporting natural products of the soil and river, both as regarding use or trade.

VII.

LOUIS RIEL—THE YOUNGER.

The fiery leader of the Metis revolt in 1869-70 was Louis Riel, Junior, who though sprung on the mother's side from a respectable Metis family, carried a more violent disposition even than his father, and having a good education—a part in St. Boniface College and a further training in Montreal—added to his inherited disposition a megalomania unknown to the "miller of the Seine." It is not the purpose of the writer to discuss the rights and wrongs, the blunders and mistakes, the rashness and the stupidity, the cruelty and the cowardice on the part of both parties, who opposed each other in the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70. It was a melange of grossly despicious