

Governor McTavish. I was furnished with a letter of "safe conduct" from an American gentleman of this place. Arriving at the barricade, River Sale, I was conducted by armed men to the Catholic Church, which I understood to be headquarters of the insurgents. In an upper room I found President Bruce, Secretary Louis Riel, Mr. O'Loan, Mr. McKinney, Jr., and five half-breeds whom I did not know. On presenting my "pass" to Riel, he read it in French to Father Ritchot and said, "It is all right, but although sorry to trouble me, must request me to show any documents I might have in my possession." None were in view. Several questions were then asked and promptly answered as to the position and design of Governor McDougall and his party. I then passed to Fort Garry, where I found means to have the despatch placed in the hands of Governor McTavish. On the strength of it, the Council of Assiniboine was called for Tuesday the 8th. Mr. Bannatyne is a member of that Council, and was present at that meeting. He told me that when Mr. McDougall's letter was read, McTavish (although sick) raged furiously, and asked what McDougall meant—that up to that moment no official information had reached them of any change having been made in the ownership of Rupert's Land, and that he would let Mr. McDougall know that no such dictation as that indicated by the letter would for a moment be tolerated.

Mr. Mulligan, a pensioner, and a police constable in Winnipeg, told me that he had warned the Hudson's Bay Company, on several occasions, that the half-breeds were to rise. This he did through Judge Black and Dr. Cowan, and suggested that the pensioners be called out to guard the fort, but that they declined doing anything in the matter. Mulligan also informed me, that on the 8th inst., after the fort had been in possession of the insurgents for several days, that he heard from one of the rebels whom he could rely upon, that the arsenal was to be broken open and the arms taken possession of in a day or two, and informed Dr. Cowan, who replied, "What can we do?" Mulligan answered, "Call out the pensioners, and others willing to join them, and let them take possession of the fort." The Judge who was present said, "A Council will be called, and an answer given to you at 3 o'clock to-morrow." Next day Mulligan was told that his services were not required, and that evening the arms were taken possession of.

I had several conversations with Mr. McKinney, senr. At first he was somewhat shy—stated that as yet he had nothing to do with the insurgents, but that he might have;—that the United States was the natural outlet for the Settlement, and the people wanted nothing else as he believed; and that they would never submit to the injustice about to be forced upon them by the Canadian Government in appointing a Council from Canada, &c.,—virtually ignoring the people of Red River—that if Governor McDougall had come alone he would have got in and would have been heard, and if his views did not suit they would have told him to go. Again, on another occasion, he corroborated what Bannatyne said about the want of official notice, &c.,—that the people would not submit to taxes—that they wanted control of their own affairs, and that he approved of the course the half-breeds had taken in keeping the Governor out—and that they had about 700 men under arms.—Our other conversations were something similar until I went in on the Saturday morning before I left, and had about an hour with him. He was reading the Imperial Act ceding the North-West Territory. He opened out frankly, and stated that a blank he saw in the Act meant neither more nor less than that after a certain time, Canadians could fill it up as they wished—that he was a delegate of Fort Garry, but that very little would be done by the Convention, unless to draw the two parties closer together—that he would like to see the country at peace, so that trade might go on as usual, but that he had no hopes as long as the Governor and suite remained at Pembina. What the people now wanted, he said, was complete control over their own affairs, and that as soon as the Delegates had closed their work, he believed that orders would be given to have the census of the people taken.—Elections to be held and a Parliament established, that the Canadian Government must respect. Why? he asked, should we be any worse dealt with than British Columbia, Newfoundland, or Prince Edward Island? Mr. Howe, he said, told us plainly that we were entitled to the same rights, and that by perseverance we would get them. He further remarked that, "if we fail in our efforts to arrange with Canada, another