

[F.]

PEMBINA, 2nd November, 1869.

Governor McTavish, &c., Fort Garry.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by the hands of Col. Dennis, of your letter of the 30th October, announcing the assemblage of a body of armed men upon the public road near Fort Garry, for the avowed purpose of preventing my entrance into the settlement. Col. Dennis had already apprised me of the movements and designs of these people, and, as you state that his communications to me had been shown to, and approved as to the statements contained, by the members of your council, I have no doubt that I am now in possession of sufficient information to enable me to understand the origin and nature of the outbreak which your Government has been unable to prevent, and which obstructs, for the present, my further progress into the country.

I have acted upon the suggestion of Col. Dennis (repeated and confirmed by you), that I should delay a few days at Pembina, in the hope that the measures you have taken may result in the withdrawal of the armed parties from their present position. As you are aware, the transfer of the Territory and the powers of government entrusted to you is to take effect on a day to be named in Her Majesty's Royal Proclamation, until that day arrives (which I am informed will be about the 1st day of December next), you are the legal ruler of the country, and responsible for the preservation of the public peace. My commission authorizes and commands me to assume and exercise the powers of government from and after that day. I am instructed to proceed in the meantime to the Territory and report on certain subjects, and make preparations for the new state of things.

In these circumstances you will see that the legal authority to resist any lawless exhibition of force which may occur previous to the actual transfer of the powers of government, is in other hands than mine. You have not, it appears, felt justified in calling upon the loyal and well-disposed inhabitants of the country to aid you in the suppression of the outbreak of which you have notified me. I must, therefore, conclude that your better knowledge of the disposition of the people and of the means at your disposal to enforce your authority, convinces you that such a call would prove ineffectual; but I cannot help thinking that a proclamation from your Government, explaining the provisions of the late Imperial Act respecting the Territory, and the authority under which the new Government will exercise its powers, at the same time warning the malcontents of the serious nature of the crime they meditated, and the grave consequences to all concerned, that must result from its commission, would have been well-timed, and perhaps sufficient to prevent the designing men at the head of this movement from accomplishing their purposes. I understand from Col. Dennis that no proclamation or warning has as yet been published at Fort Garry, under official sanction.

I am unwilling, at this distance from the scene of action, and in the circumstances by which I am surrounded, to make any other suggestion. Perhaps the measures you have taken may prove successful.

I sincerely hope they may, and remain,

My dear Sir,

Very faithfully, &c., &c., &c.,

W. M. McDUGALL.

[G.]

PEMBINA, 4th November, 1869.

Governor McTavish, &c., Fort Garry.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since my letter of the 2nd instant was written, and before I found an opportunity to send it forward, events have occurred which alter somewhat the situation of affairs. In the afternoon of that day, a body of horsemen (armed), to the number of fourteen, galloped up to the Hudson's Bay Company's post at which I was