

Can we not see already in this letter Riel's real plan? To gain a recognition of his claim against the Government. He was not ignorant, however, that his claim had no longer any foundation, not only because he had taken the character of an American citizen, but also because he had been condemned for contumacy in the trial for the execution of Scott.

"But," some will say to us, "you do not see then, that this man is animated by peaceful sentiments, and that he speaks of returning to his home in the autumn?"

Certainly! But let us not forget that among the delegates Gabriel Dumont only knew of the comedy being played, and that there was great risk of this latter being spoiled in the first scene if Riel committed the stupidity of exposing his batteries. Here, as in the latter course of events, we see him meriting well the praise of his accomplice G. Dumont. "He is more cunning than all the others put together."

Riel did not cause his own recall, some people protest. This is only the supposition of ill-natured people. Have the goodness to explain to us then how it was that this opinion was generally accredited among the half-breeds as is stated by the superintendent, Wm. Peirce, in his report dated 24th December, 1885? Explain to us how it was that several weeks before he received the deputation of half-breeds Riel was able to announce his coming departure to a half-breed of Montana, and promise him the payment of a debt of \$200 on his return from the North-West, as the fact has been proved? These facts are proof enough, it seems to us, to make it unnecessary for us to seek others.

Riel arrived at the Saskatchewan about the 1st of July. He begins at once his work of proselytising with calmness and moderation, for he knows that opinions are divided as regards him, and that he has need to act prudently.

On the 12th of December he speaks for the first time to Rev. Father André of his claim against the Government, and he does so in such terms that there can be no doubt that he has no sympathy for the cause of the half-breeds, and that he wishes simply to raise money for himself personally. On the 23rd of the same month he again insists on the point. He says to the Rev. Father André, who draws his attention to the fact that his claim for \$100,000 is exorbitant, "*Wait a little and I will take \$35,000 cash down,*" and at this price he was ready to leave the country; adding, "*If I am satisfied so will the half-breeds be.*"

Do not these words lay bare the motive of the rebel, and at the same time give the key to the enigma? If Riel could affirm thus that the half-breeds would be satisfied if he was, does it need a very great effort of the imagination to find in these words the proof that he had himself raised this comedy of delegation and agitation? He knew that he was the soul, the pivot of that fermentation, and that if he were once away the country would be calm again.

"THE OBJECT OF RIEL," says again Father André, "WAS TO PERSONIFY THE CAUSE OF THE HALF-BREEDS, TO SELL IT AND TO BE HIMSELF BOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT."

On the 27th of February Riel went to Nolin, accompanied by Gabriel Dumont, who pressed him to retire in favor of Riel a tender which he (Nolin) had introduced for the enterprise of a telegraphic line between Edmonton and Duck Lake, "*in order,*" said he, "*to frighten the Government, because it had not responded to his request for indemnity of \$35,000.*"

But when the news arrived from Ottawa that the Government granted the scrips to the half-breeds, without making mention of Riel's claims, the latter became angry, and decided to precipitate events.

We shall see by what follows with what cunning, with what a diabolic spirit he executed his plan, and how, in his infernal combination he did not falsify the appreciation of his lieutenant. "He is more cunning than all the rest put together."

A DIPLOMATIST AT WORK.

We have seen in contemporary history statesmen greatly eulogized for the cleverness with which they knew how to conduct a political intrigue, and draw from events apparently the least propitious, the most incredible advantages. But we do not hesitate to say that Riel required no lessons from these great diplomatists.

It is perhaps monotonous to keep repeating the saying of Gabriel Dumont, but the more one examines the actions of the half-breed agitator, the more one is convinced that the lieutenant had correctly judged the chief.

Before leaving Montana—to which place, let it be said in passing, he had condemned himself by the troubles he had provoked—Riel went to the missionary priest, and he and his family received the blessing. Arriving in the North-West, the first thing he does is to throw himself at the priest's feet, and implore his benediction, and, as Father André says, in his deposition before the court, "*He was a fervent Catholic, frequenting the church and fulfilling often his religious duties.*" Testimonies abound of his religious inclinations. However, the