

unquestionable declaration of amnesty had been proclaimed at the time of the transfer of the country. Undoubtedly reorination would have been heard; but with less bitterness, violence, and danger than it has been since four years served by a portion of the Canadian press to their readers. The word of our Sovereign, beloved and revered by all her subjects, would have been received with respect and submission. Such has not been the case. Federal Ministers after having pledged themselves shrank before agitation and clamours, abandoning the high standing in which duty invited them to remain. They failed in presence of a danger, perhaps, only imaginary, that threatened their solicited existence, and I am sorry to say feeling their weakness, they feared to speak.

Their political opponents had watched them closely enough to understand the position. They easily detected the weak point and directed thence a battery so much the more dangerous that it played under the shelter of laudable pretences.

The death of a man became a party question. The corpse of the unfortunate was shown forth and spoken of so repeatedly that it brought excitement to a kind of frenzy. The public mind was thus over excited by a portion of the Press on both sides, each thinking to serve the interests of its own party.

The things went so far during the contest for the general elections in 1872, that the Right Hon. the Premier forgot himself in delivering speeches that ought to cause him regret, especially if he takes the trouble to compare them with others of his words and his general mode of acting. Everything of nature to excite violence and implacable hatred has been said and written. Strangers must entertain a queer idea of the manner in which political contests are followed in Canada. I know that a great many Canadians, true patriots of all origins, deplore such a practice which can only be prejudicial to our beloved and common country. It seems to me as well as to many others, that it is more than time to put an end to all this; the weakness of some, the violence of others have prevented calmness. All parties are nevertheless equally bound by public honor. The late Government had promised the amnesty, so it was obliged to make good its obligations; the Government of the day, although the opposition of the time has inherited the duty of protecting a national engagement.

Once more I urge to let us get rid of this irritating question. To violent men and to persons blinded by prejudice, I will say "What is your aim?"

Is your hatred not yet sufficiently and loudly expressed to remain at length silent? Is not your vengeance long enough exercised to be fully satisfied? What more do you want? Blood! Alas! Too much has been already shed! What do you wish for? Lives? Five have been already sacrificed! If the death of a friend (that pains me myself deeply) irritates you, let the remembrance of the death of four others appease you, or rather may it remove from your mind, the cruel idea of keeping this Province in trouble any longer. Allow me to ask you, friends, under what law do you live? Christians, do not forget the precept of charity that commands the pardon of offenders!

You come to this country with the pretence of civilising it; you call the old settlers, you so blindly despise, semi-barbarians and an uncultivated race. Allow me to make known a lesson given by natives of the country a few days after the installation of the Canadian authorities in Manitoba. A murder was committed at Winnipeg; it belonged to me to console the afflicted mother of the victim! The widow in her bereavement, the relatives in this most cruel calamity! My tears were mingled with those of the desolate, but christian family! I was encouraging to resignation and forgiveness, when amid the sobs, I distinguished the following words "Monsieur, we willingly pardon! while praying for the one that is no more, we will also pray for those who have killed him! May God forgive them! May he have mercy on the victim, and spare his murderers! We offer the sacrifice of our feelings that peace may be restored in our unfortunate country, and that our relative may be the last victim!"

The so deeply afflicted family declined any pursuit against those known as having contributed to the assassination, and went so far as to request that nothing would be done against them.

Oh! You who seem to live but to hate. You who have so unjustly reviled the poor "Metis" of the North West, be savage and barbarous as those I have just mentioned, and our dear Canada will not be the worse of it.

To come to a final close I shall take the liberty to address those in power, using a sentence of the most generous and noblest sufferer during the troubles of Red River. I will say with my lamented friend the Honourable W. Macdowall, speaking his last word as Governor of Assiniboia; Having "formed a Government, for God's sake restore peace and order in the settlement."