

thing has come to my knowledge, tending to contradict the word given by Her Majesty's Representative speaking officially and solemnly in a proclamation drawn up in accordance with the message received directly from the Colonial office, Downing street.

1. Glance over the documents referred to, at least in as much as they denote clemency and define the manner of treating the insurgents. The first to which my attention was called is the following telegram sent by Lord Granville to Sir John Young, dated the 25th November, 1869:

"The Queen has learned with regret and surprise that certain misguided men have joined together to resist the entry of Her Lieutenant Governor into Her Majesty's possessions in Red River.

"The Queen does not distrust Her subjects loyalty in those settlements, and must ascribe their opposition to a change plainly for their advantage, to misrepresentation or misunderstanding. She relies upon your Government for taking every care to explain where there is a misunderstanding, and to ascertain the wants, and conciliate the good will of all the settlers of the Red River. But at the same time, she authorizes you to tell them that she views with displeasure and sorrow their lawless and unreasonable proceedings, and that she expects that if they have any wish to express or complaints to make, they will address themselves to the Governor of the Dominion of Canada, of which in a few days they will form a part.

"The Queen relies upon her representative being always ready on the one hand to give redress to well founded grievances, and on the other, to repress with the authority with which she has entrusted him any unlawful disturbance."

It is obvious that Her Majesty's Government desires in the first place that "every care be taken to explain where there is a misunderstanding and conciliate the good will of the settlers of Red River." All this denotes benevolence; it is more than the pardon of past offences. It is the offer to meet the wishes of the mal-contented. His Lordship goes so far as to say: "If they have any wish to express or complaints to make, they will address themselves to the Governor of the Dominion of Canada."

Still greater stress is given to the expression of this favorable disposition in another message of Lord Granville, notwithstanding the knowledge that the insurrectional movement has assumed greater proportions, that arrests had been made, that prisoners were kept at Fort

Garry, and that the insurgents mastered the position. In this emergency the noble Lord, Minister for the Colonies, does not hesitate to say on the 8th of January, 1870:—"I observe with great satisfaction the anxiety manifested by the Canadian Government to avoid any collision with the insurgents in the Red River settlement, and to exhaust all means of explanation and conciliation before having recourse to force."

This language, that of a member of the British Cabinet, it would astonish elsewhere than in England, but it does not belong to Canadians to complain of the views of the Mother Land, especially when the Minister for the Colonies, clearly affirms that the Cabinet of Ottawa had given occasion to (the) 'outburst.' His despatch of the 30th November, 1869, reads as follows:

"The Canadian Government in anticipation of the transfer, now agreed on by all parties, undertook certain operations in respect of land, subject in the first instance to a faint protest from the company, and directed the future Lieutenant Governor to enter the territory. The result unfortunately, has not met the expectations of the Colonial Government."

"Mr. McDougall was met, it appears, by armed resistance, and the disturbances caused by his presence seem to have resulted in the plunder of the Company's stores and the occupation of Fort Garry by the insurgent portion of the population.

"But the Canadian Government having by this measure given an occasion to an outburst of violence in a territory, which they have engaged to take over, now appear to claim the right of postponing indefinitely the completion of their engagements to the Company, and of imposing on Her Majesty's Government the responsibility of putting down the resistance which has thus arisen."

This assertion already tending to lessen the responsibility of the dissatisfied parties is still more strongly expressed in the following from Earl Granville to the Right Honourable Sir John Young, dated 26th January, 1870.

..... "I much more seriously regret the proclamation put forth by Mr. McDougall, and the commission issued by him to Colonel Dennis. The proclamation recited that Her Majesty has transferred Rupert's Land to Canada, which has not been done; assumes the authority of Lieutenant Governor, which did not legally belong to him, and purported to extinguish the powers belonging to Mr. McTavish, who is in fact the only legal Governor of the territory,