

“In their investigation of the affairs of the Penitentiary, the
 “Commissioners have availed themselves, to a limited extent, of
 “convict evidence, and important testimony, adverse to the
 “management, has been given by several convicts, whose gene-
 “ral conduct has been meritorious; of these Deblois is one.
 “The Commissioners have in consequence deferred for the pre-
 “sent, bringing such cases under the notice of His Excellency
 “the Governor General, to avoid misconstruction, or prejudice
 “to the officers on their defence. Should His Excellency see fit
 “to extend to Deblois the Royal pardon, the Commissioners
 “would respectfully submit whether the intimation of it might
 “not be advantageously suspended, until the officers of the
 “Penitentiary have closed their defence.”

“I have, &c ,

“ (Signed,) GEORGE BROWN.

“Secretary.”

Which means simply this: This man was a useful witness; here he is on 1st September giving secret evidence against Mr. Smith, and immediately after telling two other persons that he has been promised his pardon by the Commissioners; almost immediately after a petition comes up from Montreal praying for the pardon of this man, and referred by the Government to the Commissioners; on the 7th October the answer is sent down to the Government reporting favorably on the petition, and adding that the prisoner must not be yet acquainted with the fact of his pardon; on the 9th of October he was again brought before the Commissioners to give testimony, and in November after they had extracted every admission from him, and he had been kept up to that time under their thumb at their control and at their mercy with the promise of pardon held out but not granted, they dismissed him. Let me recapitulate: Deblois was first sworn on 1st September, 1848, and gave startling and tremendous evidence against the character of Mr. Smith; a petition came up from the Government at Montreal, asking for his release on 14th October. Mr. Smith swore that Deblois had told him on 1st September (on the first day he gave evidence) that he was to be pardoned. Mr. Brown wrote to the Government that he was a