

them is written from St. Albert where the troubles began, and the other is written from Edmonton in the North-West Territories. The gentleman who writes to me is a half-breed, a young man of education who draws a parallel between the position of his country as it was some years ago, and its position to-day. He says :

"It was a sad blow, and one which has thrown us a long way behind. What disorganization in our French parishes! I can truly say that it is as if fire or war had passed over them. I have been there but once since the troubles, and I can assure you that they present a sad spectacle. What a contrast they furnish to their former condition!"

This other letter, coming from a French-Canadian gentleman established at Edmonton, is from an independent source, and this is what he writes to me :—

"I see that the Province of Quebec is still agitated over the hanging of Riel. The announcement of his execution is received by the Metis very coolly. If I might venture to express an opinion, I would say that this agitation does us more harm than good. We have nothing to gain by it. On the contrary, it is arousing race prejudices. If the people of the Province of Quebec knew what a train of evils that agitation is preparing for us—for us who are but a handful of French-Canadians lost in this vast North-West—I believe they would have sufficient patriotism not to try to destroy us completely.

I give those extracts just to let hon. gentlemen know the position in which not only Manitoba but the whole North-West Territory stands in reference to these troubles. I will not go any further than to recite the words of the hon. member from DeSalaberry—that it is not easy to impart life to what has no life in it. It is possible, however, by our patriotism, and kindness, and forbearance to restore the progress and prosperity of our country. It is for that purpose we are here ; for my own part I am quite decided to do my best to advance, as far as lies in my power, the true interest, the peace and prosperity of this Dominion.

HON. MR. POWER—I hope I may be pardoned if before referring to the Speech from the Throne I allude briefly to another matter. It will be remembered that towards the close of the last Session it was generally understood that we were to lose from this Chamber the gentleman who has so long and so ably led it ; and

I hope I shall not be considered as disloyal to my party if I take the first opportunity of expressing my sincere gratification that that hon. gentleman still remains amongst us.

HON. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not mean to say that the hon. gentleman feels happy about it himself ; but if his remaining here is his loss, it is our gain ; and I only hope that we shall have him with us for a long time to come. Having said so much of the leader of the House I may be allowed to sympathize with another hon. gentleman as to whose promotion some of us have been disappointed ; and I only hope that in due time the strenuous exertions of that gentleman in the cause of his party, may meet with the promotion to which they are entitled.

Now, a few words as to the Speech. His Excellency begins by congratulating us on the sufficient harvest of last year, and on the prosperity and substantial progress of the country. I am glad to know that throughout the Dominion as a whole the harvest has been fairly good ; but I regret to say that coming from the portion of the Dominion which I do, I cannot concur in the sentiments expressed in the latter part of the first paragraph of the Speech. Speaking only for the Province of Nova Scotia, as to which I think I can fairly speak, I believe we have no reason to be congratulated on the prosperity and substantial progress of that part of the Dominion. Taking the city of Halifax for instance, we find that one most important establishment which it was boasted had been the result of the introduction of the National Policy, has come utterly to grief—the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery—and in that manufactory there has been sunk nearly half a million of dollars, which money has been completely lost to the shareholders ; and the institution is now closed up with little prospect of being re-opened.

Then, the West India business, which it was supposed would be promoted by the change in the sugar tariff, is suffering almost as badly as the sugar refinery. The West India business of our Atlantic ports is at the present moment in a worse position than it has been for a great many

HON. MR. GIRARD.