

he is to act, and is, moreover, acquainted with the leading men of the Settlement,—stands well in their estimation, and knows the country. I have every confidence that he will execute his orders with promptitude, discretion, and success. I do not deem it prudent to forward by this mail a copy of my Commission to him, as there is some danger that it might go in a wrong direction.

It will be seen from the paper "A" herewith, that the English and Scotch settlers and half-breeds, have at last discovered that they must choose between Riel and his American allies and advisers, and the authority of Her Majesty and the Canadian Government. Meetings have been held, with more or less secrecy in all the parishes, except those exclusively French, and a "Committee of Public Safety" organized. The movement has been much aided by the Canadians connected with the road and survey, the only persons of intelligence and apparent authority to whom the poor but well disposed settlers could look for advice. Mr. James Ross, a Scotch half-breed, recently from Canada, and mentioned in a previous report, as apparently in the confidence of the malcontents, has been exceedingly active in refuting the false stories that certain influential traders and other *traitors* have been busy in circulating. Captain Boulton, who was present at the meeting of the representatives of three parishes when the enclosed letter to me was agreed upon, has also shown zeal and discretion, as well as courage in his efforts to arouse the loyal people of the Settlement. Colonel Dennis was charged with my answer to these people, in the shape of a Commission, which on and after the first December, he could make known to them. The Proclamation itself, so anxiously looked for by the friends of Canada, will, I trust, settle all doubts in the minds of the well-disposed, and dispel the false, preposterous, but nevertheless dangerous rumours, sent out from day to day by the conspirators. One point of considerable importance in the minds of the English and Scotch settlers—hinted at in the enclosed paper, but more explicitly stated in other messages which have reached me—is the view which will be taken by Government of the claims of Loyalists serving against the Rebels for any losses to person and property which may result. I have not ventured to make a specific answer to this question, as any *rule* on the subject would be liable to abuse, but I have told Colonel Dennis to assure those who agree to serve under his order, that the Government will treat them in the same way, and with the same liberality as in Canada, or in any other parts of the empire. I have, moreover, authorized him to allow the same rates of pay, &c., as are allowed under the Canada Militia Act, to Volunteers called out in aid of the civil power.

Yesterday evening, after finding that the road was clear, I took with me Messrs. Richards and Provencher and four others of my party, and proceeded to the Hudson's Bay Company's Post near Pembina, and in order to execute on British soil, and so far in a public manner, the Proclamation and other documents which are to take effect within the Territory. I have resolved to do no *official* act on American soil, and have made arrangements to occupy the Hudson Bay Company's Post, and if necessary repel by force the attack of any such party as the one that drove us from it on the 3rd of November. It is surrounded by a high fence, and with a little improvement may be defended against a considerable force, by a few resolute men with breech-loading rifles. Fortunately we have with us a few such rifles and a small supply of ammunition. We number about a dozen, and are all good shots. I shall not openly take this position and attitude unless I hear from Colonel Dennis that he has a force in the field and is thus given Riel and his party something to do at Fort Garry. In the meantime we go to and from the "Post" well armed and prepared against surprise. The American officials and ex-officials here are a little less jubilant and swaggering in their tone since they have found that the English, Scotch, and Indians have refused to join Riel, and that resistance is being organized. I enclose a slip, cut from a St. Paul's newspaper, which shews the feelings and designs of these people. They assume in their correspondence the air of lookers-on merely, but they are in truth the chief counsellors and directors of the movement. Stuttsman is still at Fort Garry, but will probably move south very speedily when the loyal settlers with Colonel Dennis at their head come upon the scene.