

PREFACE.

NEW YORK, November 17th, 1885.

MY DEAR MR. THOMPSON :—

All is over !

Louis David Riel is no more !

Universal history counts in its pages a new bloody episode.

Henceforth the 16th day of November, 1885, will be for French Canadians the date of the basest insult ever inflicted upon their nationality, their race, their faith and their dignity.

Humanity and civilization have been laughed at and odiously outraged by Sir John A. MacDonald and his Cabinet. Justice has been baffled ! Orangeism has won the day. You were still doubting a few days ago that the fiendish hatred of the *mephistophelic* Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada would dare follow to the end his mortal designs against Riel. To-day, doubt is no longer possible ; Riel has paid with his head his ardent love for his country.

You have asked me to put down in writing some facts I mentioned to you in our last conversation.

Be it so !

You will find in the manuscript herewith, my frank and candid opinion on this painful affair, and the narration of facts I have witnessed during the five years I lived in Manitoba.

Use what I now send you to the best of your judgment, and whatever you do with it, rest assured that I am only too happy to join my voice to the general imprecation aroused by the brutal execution of the French Half-breed Louis David Riel.

Very respectfully,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

To the American public :

The above letter I received a few days after Riel's execution. Like a great number, I had hoped against hope, that what has taken place could, and would have