

CANADA.

remain at Pembina and await the issue of conciliatory negotiations, in the hope of procuring a peaceable dispersion of the malcontents.

I have only to add that, although this Letter proceeds ostensibly from myself, it embodies the views of the Council of Assiniboia, and that at a Meeting of the Council to-day, held for the express purpose, it was unanimously adopted as to the communication which I should immediately make you.

Earnestly hoping that ere long some peaceable solution of all these difficulties may be arrived at,
I remain, &c.,

The Hon. William McDougall, C.B.

(Signed)

W. MCTAVISH.

(B.)

THURSDAY, 28th October.

The situation remains unchanged. I sent down, about 9 o'clock, provisions for Mr. Dease's party, consisting of one bag flour, a quarter of beef, and a small quantity of tea and sugar. Called upon Dr. Cowan about 11 o'clock, and found with him Judge Black. Was informed that the Governor, having written a note for Père Ritchot to come down and see him, that Priest was there with him. Mr. McBeth, a Member of the Council, called at Dr. Cowan's while I was there, and the conversation turned upon the necessity of advising Mr. McDougall, from the Council or some other official source, as to the situation of affairs here; so that that gentleman would receive it before he came to Pembina. I stated that I had prepared from day to day a statement of facts and circumstances connected with the outbreak, which I had taken the opportunity to send forward so as to meet Mr. McDougall, I thought, in good time; and that, in order to let the Council see to what extent I had put Mr. McDougall in possession of the facts, I had no objection, although I had no intention when writing of making it public, to show them the statement referred to. They expressed a desire to that effect, and I accordingly sent for the statement, and read it. I was glad to find that the feeling was unanimous that the statement of facts and views which I had sent forward to Mr. McDougall was, without exception, truthful and reliable—Judge Black remarking that the Council could add nothing to the statement calculated to give Mr. McDougall a more accurate description of the state of affairs.

5 P.M.—Judge Black has just called to say that the Governor failed, after some three hours' interview with Père Ritchot, to bring him and his party to reason. He says, also, that Mr. Dease has informed him that the Insurgent party have made an overture to the effect that, if they the Peace party will join them in turning Mr. McDougall out of the Territory at a subsequent time, should he refuse to accede to their present demands, they will allow him to enter in the mean time. This, however, Mr. Black mentioned that he had advised Mr. Dease could not be consented to, as it might involve precisely the same outrage as that at present contemplated. It was understood, then, that Mr. Dease would see the refractory party again this evening, and endeavour to get them to consent to make their proposition less objectionable.

FRIDAY, 29th October.—The negotiation, spoken of last evening, ended in nothing. Mr. Dease reports that, based upon the statements which he had reason to believe emanated from Père Ritchot last evening, the assertion is made by that party that Governor McTavish is favourable to their designs. I am not sure, from Mr. Dease's manner, that I succeeded in convincing him of what I am convinced myself, that nothing is further from the fact. If Mr. Ritchot made any such assertion, he has stated it for the purpose of intentionally misleading his party, and maintaining his control over them. Sent another day's supply of provisions down for Mr. Dease's party. Was invited to meet, at the Fort, at 9 o'clock this morning, some Members of the Council; these were Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Fraser, Dr. Cowan, Mr. Dease, and Judge Black. After some conversation, it was arranged that Messrs. Fraser and Sutherland should visit the camp of the disaffected, and endeavour to impress them with the fact, that the English-speaking element in the Settlement was entirely opposed to their views and their proceedings, and see what they could do to bring them to reason. I have provided Mr. William Hallett and the Cree Chief Fox with conveyance, and they have also gone up to have an interview with the Insurgents for a like purpose.

3 P.M.—Charles Donald, an English half-breed, resident in Mapleton Parish, down below the Lower Fort, who had been instructed by Mr. Dease to notify all of the well-disposed half-breeds in his part of the Settlement to be in readiness to turn out, if called upon to join his party, has just arrived from below, on his way up to the Insurgents, to deliver them a letter, of which that on page 458 is a copy. Complaining that his horse, having been carrying him for the last two days and one night, was exhausted, he left his horse and I lent him another.

9 P.M.—Messrs. Fraser and Sutherland have called, bringing the accompanying note from Dr. Cowan. These gentlemen state that, on their visiting the Insurgent camp, they were met by Père Ritchot, who took them into a private room in his own house, in part of which was the Chapel, and, declining for a long time to bring them face to face with the Leaders in this movement, used every effort to persuade them that it would be impossible to get them to withdraw from the stand they had taken. The gentlemen insisted, however, and at length were shown by the Priest upstairs in the same building, into what he termed the Committee Room. Here were sitting, in a very formal way, the Committee, consisting of ten Members. The gentlemen announced the purpose of their visit; but were told that no business could be done in the absence of the Chairman, who came in shortly after, and proved to be the man formerly mentioned, named John Bruce. Messrs. Fraser and Sutherland then proceeded to put several questions as to the object and purposes of the party. Not a single reply could be obtained to any of these, and at length it became difficult for them to get a hearing at all; it seeming as if the leaders, Bruce and Riel—the latter also being in the room—were afraid to allow these gentlemen to speak, for