

important question at stake. I shall recapitulate the proofs on which my assertions are based.

The amnesty is no longer an open question that one would disregard or accept without scrutiny or attention. The question is not free since public honor is pledged both by the Imperial and Federal authorities, as well as by the Provinces I.

#### SEC. I. IMPERIAL AUTHORITIES.

The Imperial Government is bound to grant an amnesty for all the reprehensible acts committed during the whole period of the Red River troubles, whatever they may have been the nature of these acts or by whomsoever committed. This obligation is imperative because,

I. The British Cabinet having ascertained that Canada had given occasion to the troubles of the Red River, had joined to exhaust all means of conciliation, to pacify a population that had not risen against the authority of Her Majesty the Queen, nor to withdraw from her allegiance.

II. The most solemn promises have been made by the legitimate representatives of the Imperial authorities. The promises have never been revoked and have been accepted in the greatest good faith.

III. The Imperial Government has acted in a way to convince everybody that those same promises were being carried out. The British Cabinet asked for delegates, manifested great interest about them, granted them their demands, and did not permit the movement of the troops until after having received the assurance that the Red River insurgents were satisfied with the arrangements. In consequence of this, the Imperial troops received but a mission of "peace and civilization."

The indiscretion of an officer of the Empire is but another reason for granting an amnesty.

#### SEC. II. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.

The Canadian authorities are as much committed to amnesty as the Imperial authorities, because,

I. It is Canada that occasioned the troubles, and its responsibility was enhanced not only by the acts of private individuals or inferior employees, but also by the conduct of superior officers of its Government, and even of its Parliament.

II. Solemn promises have been given both *viva voce* and by writing—promises given by and in the name of Federal ministers, often repeated and never denied, at least to whom they had been made.

III. The conduct of the Federal Government binds them to the amnesty, since, during the troubles, and even after the

death of Thomas Scott, they treated, officially with the delegation asked for by themselves. Now, this delegation was uncontestedly sent and accredited by the Provisional Government. This mere fact constitutes not only the obligation of granting amnesty, but even necessarily implies the acknowledgment of the amnesty granted, as Canada has admitted by taking no action against the authors of the movement.

#### SEC. III. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES.

The amnesty cannot be an open question with the authorities of Manitoba, because,

II. So far as the conditions of federal union are concerned, the Provincial Government should necessarily respect the arrangements made and reflect the policy to which superior authorities have pledged themselves. The Manitoba Government owing its existence to the very arrangements made with the delegates of the Provisional Government had no promises to make for the part, and could be, but the echo of those made, and secure the fulfilment of all the obligations contracted.

III. The conduct of the Provincial authorities from the very beginning of its administration, evidently shows that they believe themselves under the obligation to draw the practical consequence of the grant of amnesty.

Finally, I have given the last proof in support of my argument, and it is not the least, since it is the one that by its nature obliges all the orders of the constitutional hierarchy, which governs the country, and which, by itself alone, makes the amnesty a debt of honour for all who can co-operate to its granting. This proof is, the call to arms, in time of danger, that was made individually to the very men that are pretended to have no right to the benefit of an amnesty; the official correspondences of the authorities with these same men, the acceptance of their military services, and the inspection of the force under their command.

The reader who will take the trouble to peruse my work, will find numerous and unexceptionable documents in support of the different assertions I have made.

I add to my conclusion the amnesty which had been proved, not an open question, is not even an indifferent one. Since four years, the mere mention of it is a cause of excitement, not only in Manitoba but throughout the Dominion. It has been too much for one Administration, and can only embarrass its successors. Two general elections have been conducted partly with regard to this topic. Many complications might have been avoided if, as it had been agreed upon, a positive and