

be offended if I tell him and the Province of Quebec, through him, we thank you for your sympathies, but we do not look for any change. Although the Government was in fault on some important points, there was nothing to justify the insurrection, and we do not want to put down the present government, because they have done great things in their day; they have introduced many reforms, and we have nothing better to expect from a change of administration. The hon. gentleman in his speech refers to the expiatory victim of the 16th of November last. I think we all regret what happened at the time. For my part, I would prefer to see that victim living to-day. If he were alive we would not have much difficulty in appreciating him at his true value; but dead he is everywhere. The only question is whether he had any sufficient reason to justify the course which he adopted. I think it would have been possible for the Government to have acted another way; but he was certainly not justified in plunging the North-West into an insurrection, and bringing upon his fellow-citizens the trouble and loss which they sustained, and which we all so much regret. We know that for years he laid his schemes in that new country through which he hoped to preside over a new world. He did not succeed. If he had succeeded, perhaps it would have been quite different; but he failed and had to suffer the penalty of the law. We all regret it; but at the same time I do not think there is sufficient cause for ill feeling against the Government for what has taken place. That man had certainly caused a great deal of suffering amongst the settlers of the North-West. The Government to-day are repairing as much as in their power lies, the wrongs that have been done; but it will take many years before the people are placed in the same position they held before the rebellion. I think that to-day the people are satisfied. They seek redress in a legal and constitutional way. They claim their rights as British subjects are entitled to do. I find in to-day's *Gazette* a dispatch from Winnipeg, which shows exactly the position in which affairs now stand in those parts of the North-West Territories where the troubles occurred last year.

With the permission of the House I shall read it:—

WINNIPEG, Man., February 27.—The half-breeds held a public meeting to-day at St. Laurent, when leading men from all the French parishes were present. Resolutions were adopted thanking the Government in warm terms for the humane manner in which the half-breeds had been treated since last spring. It was decided the half-breeds should ask the Government for a free grant of their lands, basing the claim on being the original possessors. They will also ask that an industrial school for half-breed children be established in the district, that the amnesty be extended to the half-breeds in the prison and across the border, that naturalization be made more accessible, and that electoral districts be erected in the French settlements. Riel's name was not mentioned.

I shall now take the liberty to read some extracts from letters which I hold in my hand as giving the opinion of some of our public men in the province of Manitoba and the North West. As far as Manitoba is concerned, I would direct the attention of hon. gentlemen to the manifesto of the Archbishop of St. Boniface, which has been recently published in Quebec:—

"Everything which affects Quebec, everything which affects Manitoba and the North-West Territories, touches me keenly, and, therefore, in view of an agitation which cannot fail to be attended with danger, I take the liberty, as respectful as affectionate, to say to my friends not to let themselves be drawn into a movement which may be most prejudicial to themselves, and to the cause which they have embraced with so much generosity.

"Amid all that has been said and written in the past three weeks, I have admired the noble promptings of a generous patriotism. Now, to be sincere, I should declare that I have deeply deplored impulses which, in my humble opinion, are not the echo of that sentiment, or do not in the least exhibit that extreme prudence which the true patriot imposes on himself in the crisis which occur in the history of a nation.

"Quarrels of race and above all of religion, are instruments most dangerous to handle, above all in a country where men of different creeds and origins are in daily relations with one another. Between different nationalities there is something of the spirit displayed between political parties. Each contents itself with seeing its own good aspirations, without taking into account those of others; just as it closes its eyes to its own defects, only to open them excessively to those of the other side."

I shall now read to the House the letters to which I have referred. One of