

kept me from bullets when bullets marked my hat. I am blessed by God. It is this trial that is going to show that I am going to be blessed by man during my existence, the benedictions are a guarantee that I was not wronged when by circumstance I was taken away from my adopted land to my native land. When I see British people sitting in the court to try me, remembering that the English people are proud of that word "Fair play," I am confident that I will be blessed by God and by man also. Not only Bishop Bourget spoke to me in that way, but Father Jean-Baptiste Bruno, the priest of Worcester, who was my director of conscience, said to me: "Riel, God has put an object into your hands the cause of the triumph of religion in the world, take care, you will succeed when most believe you have lost." I have got those words in my head, those words of J.-B. Bruno and the late Archbishop Bourget.

But last year, while I was yet in Montana, while I was passing before the catholic church, the priest, the Revd Father Frederick Ebeville, curate of the church of the Immaculate Conception at Benton, said to me "I am glad to see you, is your family here?" I said yes; he said "Go and bring them to the altar, I want to bless you before you go away" and with Gabriel Dumont and my family we all went on our knees at the altar, the priest put on his surplice and he took holy water and was going to bless us I said will you allow me to pronounce a prayer while you bless me; he said yes, I want to know what it is. I told him the prayer, it is speaking to God "My father bless me, according to the views of thy Providence which are beautiful and without measure." He said to me: "You can say that prayer while I bless you" Well he blessed me. I pronounced that prayer for myself, for my children and for Gabriel Dumont. When the glorious general Middleton fired on us during three days and on our families and when shells went and bullets went as thick as mosquitoes in the hot day of summer, when I saw my children, my wife, myself and Gabriel Dumont were escaping, I said that nothing but the blessing without measure of Father Frederick Ebeville could save me, and that can save me to-day from these charges. The benediction promised to me surrounded me all the time in the Saskatchewan and since, it seems to me that I have seen it. Capt Deane, corporal Prickart and the corporals of the guard who have been appointed over me have been so gentle while the papers were raging against me show that nothing but the benediction of God could give me the favours I have had, in remaining so respected among these men.

To-day, when I saw the glorious General Middleton bearing testimony that he thought I was not insane, and Captain Young prove that I am not insane, I felt that God was blessing me and blotting away from my name the blot resting upon my reputation on account of having been in the lunatic asylum of my good friend Dr Roy. I have been in an asylum, but I thank the lawyer for the Crown who destroyed the testimony of my friend Dr Roy, because I have always believed that I was put in the asylum without reason, to-day my pretension is guaranteed and that is a blessing too in that way. I have also been in the lunatic asylum at Longue-Pointe, and I wonder that my friend Dr Lachapelle who took care of me charitably, and Dr Howard are not here. I was there perhaps under my own name.

Even if I was going to be sentenced by you, Gentlemen of the Jury, I have this satisfaction that if I die, I will not be reputed by all men as insane, as a lunatic. A good deal has been said by the two Revd Fathers André and Fourmond. I cannot call them my friends, but they made no false testimony, I know that a long time ago they believed me more or less insane. Father Fourmond said that I would pass from a great passion to great calmness, that shows great control under contradiction and according to my opinion and with the help of God, I have that control.

Mr Charles Nolin when he went into the box did not say that he was sworn with me in all the affairs, that I did far from taking them as insane affairs; he was in them under the cover of an oath with four of us, he did not say that in the box. My word is perhaps not testimony but if he was asked in the box to say if there was an oath taken, he could not deny it and he would have to name the four men and would have to name himself.

When he speaks of resigning a contract in my favor, I did not ask it, the Government would not give it to me, besides he was engaged in a movement against the Government, and to take a contract from the Government was certainly a weakness upon his pa