

7 P.M.

Mr. * * * has just come in, and reports that about eighty of the French party, who are opposed to the views of the insurgents, met by invitation at the camp of the disaffected to-day; but that their remonstrances and appeals to get them to disband, were entirely without avail.

Several priests were present; among others, Père Lestanc, the Father Superior.

Père Lestanc took little or no part in the proceedings one way or another; some of the others were less scrupulous, Père Ritchot declaring in favor of the stand taken, and called upon the insurgents to maintain their ground.

The appeals of this priest,* and of the leaders of the insurgent party, had the effect of even withdrawing them and there, some twenty or thereabouts of Mr. Dease's party over to their side.

Mr. Dease thereupon withdrew his party from the ground, and they accordingly went into camp a short distance nearer to Fort Garry, where they are at present.

Mr. Dease, previous to coming to me, states that he had an interview with Governor McTavish, in which he expressed the determination of his party to remain together, and if possible, to overawe the others, with which view he requested a supply of arms and ammunition.

He proposes, if these are granted to his party, to escort the Governor in.

His proposition is, for a number of his men (say fifteen) to ride down towards Pembina, and meet Mr. McDougall, and escort him straight to his residence on the Assiniboine, passing the "old crossing" over the river Sale, possession of which (as it is understood that there are a few men of the insurgents now at that point), should previously have been taken by another party of his men.

He does not fear that Mr. McDougall will be interfered with at any other point.

He thinks, that, once on the north side of the Assiniboine, at his own house, or at the Fort, five miles lower down, Mr. McDougall would not be subjected to any indignity.

I accompanied Mr. Dease to the Fort, and had an interview with Governor McTavish, at which Dr. Cowan was present, when Mr. Dease's proposition was discussed.

The Governor, who was very feeble, and is evidently feeling the responsibility and delicacy of his position, determined to consider the matter to-night, and call in the aid of some Members of the Council to-morrow morning, and decide what course was best to be pursued.

It is worthy of remark, that Mr. Dease expressed his conviction from what had fallen from the lips of the insurgent leaders, that it would not be a matter of much regret to them, "implying that they would feel it a relief rather than otherwise, owing to the evident division among the French elements," were the Governor to find his way into the settlement by another route.

Mr. Dease remarked to me that his party were entirely without provision, and he feared, if they were obliged to go home, it might be difficult to get them together again, and so prejudice the position in favor of the insurgents; and I agreed to send him a small supply to-morrow morning, for their sustenance, until the Council shall have decided on the course to be taken.

There was no determination come to by Governor McTavish as to furnishing his party with arms.]

I understood that there were three or four hundred stand of arms, the old "Brown Bess," with ammunition, at present in the Fort.

I may say further that I sent * * *, a man of influence among the French Half-Breeds, but favorable to our cause, up to the French Settlement on the "White Horse Plains," on the Assiniboine, yesterday, to use his influence to prevent the people there from coming down to help the insurgents. He returned to-day, and the result of his mission is given in the annexed paper.

J. S. DENNIS.

* * * another of the Dease party, testifies that, on this occasion, the priest raved and tore his gown, addressing the assemblage in the most frantic and excited manner.