

will reply that the thing is quite clear and natural; it is because the amnesty had been already granted as I have proved.

The silence kept by the different authorities after the events in Manitoba, in 1871, shows clearly that they consider as sufficient the proclamation of amnesty already issued.

In his letter to Messrs. Riel, Lepine and Parenteau, as well as in his Proclamation to the people of Manitoba, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province promised to "transmit to His Excellency the Governor General, the evidence of the loyalty of the "Metis" and their leaders, in a demonstration entitling them to the most favorable consideration." The Honorable Mr. Archibald did certainly not omit to fulfil this solemn engagement. On the other hand, Lord Lisgar cannot have placed in his most secret drawer, the report of such "evidence of loyalty and good faith." So the whole was necessarily made known in England, and the clemency and generosity of our Beloved Sovereign are such, that she could not have refused to accept the natural consequences of the act of her representative.

Had a renewed declaration of amnesty been necessary, the Honorable Mr. Archibald would have solicited it, at least, when he arrived at Ottawa, and had he failed to have his demand endorsed in the Capital of the Dominion, having shortly after gone to England, he would have placed his request at the foot of the Throne, and I do not hesitate to say that he was bound in honor to go thus far. Had all such endeavors been vain, his duty then, was to disengage his responsibility by making known the inutility of his efforts.

But nothing of the kind was required, as the amnesty had been agreed to, long ere then. So the superior authorities remained silent, and the Government of Manitoba quietly continued to act as before. Why has a change since taken place? In the month of December, 1872, a maladroit and unjust word fell from so high that its echo sounded louder than was expected when it was pronounced. A few months later, the general statesman that had taken the most active part in the settlement of the Red River difficulties had breathed his last. The enemies of the "Metis" thought that the assurances given were entombed with him, who, more than any other, had to protect them. The printed account of the last honors paid to the remains of Sir George E. Cartier had hardly reached Manitoba, when a new policy was inaugurated in the Province:

On the 1st July, 1873, a step was taken, that would have been merely ridiculous had it not been for some parties, the occasion of a deplorable attitude towards an inoffensive population. The organs of violence in Winnipeg afflicted with "a certain business look," easily attributing to others their own feelings, loudly published with incendiary comments: "The War of Races revived." Advantage was taken of the fact of a drunken man at *House's Tavern* to rekindle hatred, and a spirit of revenge that soon had its effect.

The election of Sir George E. Cartier had occasioned disappointment and spite. Vengeance was decided upon; and during the anniversary week of the election, warrants were issued for the arrest of Messrs. Riel and Lepine who had so largely contributed the same election.

The first stone is not always cast by those without sin. So it happened in this case. The suit was instituted by one of the Canadian employees, who, according to the appreciation of their own Government, had "joined an armed force entirely illegal," and partaken in "proceedings so reckless and extraordinary that the Governor General and Council could not disguise the weight of responsibility incurred." By one of those who, according to Earl Granville, "have certainly enhanced the responsibility of the Canadian Government."

Mr. Farmer who had sworn to an information, failed to support it in his sworn deposition; nevertheless, he was chosen as a *jurymen*, and swore to report an *impartial* presentment in a case in which he was himself *prosecutor*.

And it is in accordance with the presentment of such jurors that criminal trials are continued, that arrests are made, and that citizens have to fly to a foreign land at the risk of being declared out-laws.

The public will know later to whom we are indebted for this new case of excitement, and what has been its consequence at Ottawa. It will be an easy task to ascertain who gave the first impulse and what degree of responsibility has been assumed by violating the most solemn promises kept for three years after they had been made. Such will undoubtedly be undertaken by some one. For my part, I shall now bring to a close what I had to say on amnesty.

#### Conclusion.

Before concluding this work which would be already too long, were not such an im-