

Riel. It may be that the report of the Medical Commissioners who were sent out to investigate Riel's mental condition would show some cause for clemency. I regret that the document does not appear amongst the papers laid before us; but I feel bound to suppose that their report was to the effect that he was not insane; and then I do not think we have any reason to find fault with the Government for his execution; but it does not seem like even-handed justice that a man of comparatively narrow mind and small ideas—who was guilty, no doubt—should expiate his crime on the scaffold, while another man who was in a greater degree the cause of the outbreak, remains at the head of the Government. There is this further thing to be said, that, although the Government may have done right in allowing the law to take its course, right things are sometimes done from wrong motives; and it is possible that before the end of the session we may have an opportunity of ascertaining the motives which led to the law being allowed to take its course in the case of Riel.

I may say that during the last summer the Lower Provinces were visited by a gentleman of distinguished position and great ability, whose connection with the leader of the Government is a very intimate one, and who went about lecturing in different important centres in the Lower Provinces, apparently preparing the minds of the people for a commutation of Riel's sentence. That that gentleman should have done so without an understanding with the head of the Government, seems to me highly improbable.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL — Who is he?

HON. MR. POWER—Rev. Principal Grant.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL — I never heard of it. He is not in the confidence of the Government, any way.

HON. MR. POWER—I have said all that I propose to say as to the paragraphs in the Speech from the throne. I shall now call attention to some omissions from that Speech. In the first place, it makes no reference whatever to the question

which is looked upon in the Lower Provinces, as the most important of all the questions which can engage the attention of the Government and Parliament—that is the question of reciprocity. Hon. gentlemen in the Upper Provinces cannot realize how strong the feeling on that subject is with us, and they cannot realize how great will be the disappointment of the people in the Maritime Provinces, when they find that the reciprocity question is kept resolutely in the back ground; and I think their disappointment is justifiable, because amongst other reasons, the present leader of the Government when in opposition moved on one occasion a resolution in which he spoke about moving through reciprocity of tariffs to a reciprocity of trade. We have moved a very long way in the direction of reciprocity of tariffs, but we seem to be farther off than ever from reciprocity of trade. The natural market of the lower provinces is in the United States. The market of Nova Scotia is almost exclusively there. They have a market in England to a certain extent, but the United States constitute the principal market for a great many productions of Nova Scotia, and the people down there must feel bitterly disappointed to find that there is no prospect of an early opening of that market to them.

There is another subject which we might have expected to see noticed in the Speech, after the eloquent and patriotic speech made by the leader of the Government at St. George's Club in London. The Speech does not say a word about imperial federation. Upon reading the right hon. gentleman's remarks, one would naturally suppose that that subject would occupy a prominent place in the Speech from the Throne.

There is another significant omission from the Speech of this year, the omission of any reference to the Intercolonial Railway. For a number of years after the change of Government, we had triumphant references to the fact, first, that we were equalizing the expenditure and the income; and then for two or three years that there was a considerable excess of income over expenditure. This year there is no reference to that road, because there is an unprecedented deficit in the Intercolonial Railway revenue. I regret to notice that

HON. MR. POWER.