

minority in Manitoba, and protect them against the iniquitous persecution inflicted upon them by the majority at the instigation of a few fanatics.

In my humble opinion this is a far more serious matter than the Riel question, inasmuch as it involves a direct violation of sentiments dearest to the heart of man, his love for his native tongue and his religion.

Trusting that no Catholic French-Canadian member of the Government will, in the face of the country, take the responsibility of supporting a law so evidently unjust and hostile to our nationality,

I remain, &c.,

L. F., Bishop of Three Rivers.

No. 7.

To the Right Honourable Sir FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Knight Grand Cross, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

To allow the undersigned Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manitoba, to lay respectfully before Your Excellency the following observations and requests:

Previous to the transfer of the North-West Territories to the Dominion of Canada, there prevailed a great uneasiness amongst the inhabitants of the said territories, with regard to the consequences of the transfer. The Catholic population especially, mostly of French origin, thought they had reason to foresee grievances on account of their language and their religion, if there were no special guarantee given, as to what they considered their rights and privileges. Their apprehensions gave rise to such an excitement that they resorted to arms, not through a want of loyalty to the Crown, but only through mere distrust towards Canadian authorities, which were considered as trespassing in the country previous to their acquisition of the same.

Misguided men joined together to prevent the entry of the would-be Lieutenant Governor. The news of such an outbreak was received with surprise and regret, both in England and Canada. All this took place in the autumn of 1870.

I was in Rome at the time, and at the request of the Canadian authorities, I left the Ecumenical Council to come and help the pacification of the country.* On my way home, I spent a few days in Ottawa. I had the honour of several interviews with Sir John Young, then Governor General, and with his ministers. I was repeatedly assured that the rights of the people of Red River would be fully guarded under the new regime, that both Imperial and Federal authorities would never permit the new comers in the country to encroach on the liberties of the old settlers, that on the banks of the Red River as well as on the banks of the St. Lawrence, the people would be at liberty to use their mother tongue, to practice their religion and to have their children brought up according to their views. On the day of my departure from Ottawa, His Excellency handed to me a letter, a copy of which I attach to this as Appendix A, and in which are repeated some of the assurances given verbally. "The people," says the letter, "may rely that respect and attention will be extended to the different religious persuasions."

The Governor General, after mentioning the desire of Lord Granville, "to avail of my assistance from the outset," gave me a telegram he had received from the Most Honourable the Secretary of the Colonies, which I attach to this as Appendix B, and in which His Lordship expressed the desire that the Governor General would take "every care to explain where there is a misunderstanding, and to ascertain the wants and conciliate the good-will of all the settlers of the Red River."