

day here would allow me to mention the foreign policy, but if I was to explain to you or if I had been allowed to make the questions to witnesses, those questions would have appeared in an altogether different light before the Court and Jury. I do not say that my lawyers did not put the right questions. The observations I had the honor to make to the Court the day before yesterday were good; they were absent of the situation, they did not know all the small circumstances as I did. I could mention a point, but that point was leading to so many, that I could not have been all the time suggesting by it. I don't wish it understood that I do not appreciate the good work of my lawyers, but if I were to go into all the details of what has taken place, I think I could safely show you that what Capt. Young said, that I am aiming all the time at practical results, are true and I could have proved it... During my life I had aimed at practical results. I have writings and after my death I hope that my spirit will bring practical results. The learned lawyers for the Crown have produced all the papers and scribbling that was under their hands, I thank them for not having brought out those papers which are so particular to myself, though as soon as they saw what they were, they should not have looked at them. I have written not books, but many things. All my papers were taken. I destined the papers to be published, if they were worth publishing, after my death. I told Parenteau, one of the prisoners, to put all my books under ground, he did not do it, at that time they acknowledged my order, that is why I say so. He did not put my books away in time, and I am not sorry. I say I thank the learned lawyers for the Crown for having reserved so many things, and if by the Almighty power of God I go free from this trial, I have such confidence in British fairness that all my papers will be returned to me, at least the originals and if copies are wanted I will be willing to give them. No one can say that the North-West was not suffering last year, particularly the Saskatchewan; for the other parts of the North-West I cannot say so much, but what I have done and risked and to which I have exposed myself rested certainly on the conviction I had to do, was called upon to do something for my country.

It is true I believed for years I had a mission and when I speak of a mission, you will understand me not as trying to play the role of insane before the Grand Jury so as to have a verdict of acquittal upon that ground.

I believed that I had a mission, I believe that I had a mission at this very moment. What encourages me to speak to you with more confidence in all the imperfections of my English way of speaking, it is that I have yet and still that mission, and with the help of God, who is in this box with me and he is on the side of my lawyers, even with the honorable Court, the Crown and the Jury, to help me and to prove by the extraordinary help that here is a Providence to-day in my trial as there was a Providence in the battles of the Saskatchewan.

I have not assumed to myself that I had a mission. I was working in Manitoba first and I did all I could to get free institutions for Manitoba. They have those institutions to-day in Manitoba and they try to improve them, while myself who obtained them, I am forgotten as if I was dead. But after I had obtained with the help of others a constitution for Manitoba, when the government at Ottawa was not willing to inaugurate it at the proper time, I have worked till the inauguration should take place and that is why I have been banished for five years. I had to rest five years. I was unwilling to do it. I protested. I said: Oh my God! I offer you all my existence for that cause and please to make of my weakness an instrument to help men in my country. And seeing my intentions, the late Archbishop Bourget said "Riel has no narrow views, he is a man to accomplish great things" and he wrote that letter of which I hope that the Crown has at least a copy. And in another letter when I became what Drs believed to be, insane, Bishop Bourget wrote again and said "Ye be blessed by God and man and take patience in your evil." Am I not taking patience? Will I be blessed by man as I have been by God?

I say that, I have been blessed by God and I hope that you will not take that as a presumptuous assertion. It has been a great success for me to come through all the dangers I have in that 15 years. If I have not succeeded in wearing a fine coat myself I have at the same time the great consolation of seeing that God has maintained my views; that he has maintained my health sufficiently to go through the world and that he has