

Hence, Art. V. of the Order-in-Council of Sept., 1881, has not the value of a contract, and does not create an obligation for the Seminary, except within the fixed limits above described. And Mr. Vankoughnet, in writing to the Superior of the Seminary, incorrectly states: "The Seminary *agreed* to erect substantial log-houses, 18 by 24 feet, &c."

We may perhaps be told that the fact of our having spent more than \$20 on each log-house is a proof that we admitted, at least indirectly or implicitly, Art. V., such as it stands.

We protest against such interpretation.

What led us to make so enormous an expenditure, was not that we acquiesced indirectly or implicitly in Art. V., such as formulated, but that in this regard as in all others, we wished to act kindly towards the Indians, and especially that we were placed under the necessity of using some means to rid ourselves of the annoyance to which we were subjected by Mr. Vankoughnet.

Thus, notwithstanding our representations, and in spite of our efforts to meet our engagements, that gentleman, from the time of the signing of the Order-in-Council, viz., from Sept. 28, 1881, up, to Jan. 13, 1885, has not ceased by letter or otherwise to annoy us with direct or indirect reproaches on the subject of the Indians' houses. As we already had grave interests at stake, and as we had everything to fear from an open rupture, considering the high position of this public functionary, and certain other influences, we decided not indeed to adhere to said article, but to strive to silence the demands of the Indians, whose complaints were always too welcome, when directed against us.

