

The lower story of the house in question we have been permitted to retain throughout the winter, and have consequently been enabled to preserve our books.

We hope within a few days to be enabled to recommence business throughout the district, and when the proper time arrives to send perhaps eight boats to Portage La Loche instead of the usual number of fifteen. I shall, as soon as practicable, forward the furs in store here to Saint Paul. We hope to be able to carry on our summer trade, but in consequence of the dreadful pillage we have sustained we shall do so in a very crippled condition. Indeed we shall probably require to import some articles during the summer, of which we have been rendered destitute by the drain of the past winter. These articles may, however, be obtained at St. Paul.

I hope soon to be able to address you finally on a few matters affecting the trade. I have felt unwilling to do so for some time past, as the mails are known to have been unsafe. This deficiency has now, I think, been got over. This letter I forward to St. Paul by Mr. Hill of that place, who has been here on a visit for a few days and returns to-morrow. Meanwhile I may say I consider the position of the Company in this country to be most critical, and I cannot advise the Board to allow any fresh importations of merchandise until some guarantee shall have been obtained from the English or Canadian Governments for our protection. The arrangements just concluded may enable us to export our returns and pursue the more necessary business of the approaching summer, but beyond that time the prospects are quite impenetrable and even during its continuance they are very uncertain.

Mr. Malmross, the American Consul, on quitting this place, lately appointed Mr. Henry M. Robinson, ex-editor of the *New Nation*, as Vice-Consul. In handing over the newspaper business to Mr. Thomas Spence, the new editor, some difficulty rose which induced Riel to send for Robinson who refused to answer his summons. Finally, after undergoing an act of violence at the hands of the person sent to apprehend him, Robinson came to the Fort, and after about one hour's detention was suffered to depart. The Vice-Consul now asserts he has reported the matter to his Government in a manner which will secure the presence of American troops at Pembina for the protection of Americans and their property against more serious outrages in summer.

To Mr. Wm. McTavish,

Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in the North-West.

[*Translition.*]

SIR,—With reference to our conversations in relation to the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company in this country, I beg to assure you that my great desire is to re-establish as soon as possible, in the interests of all parties, a free course of trade.

The people, by rallying to the Provisional Government with unanimity of sentiment, prescribe to both of us our course.

The Provisional Government, based upon justice and reason, will accomplish its work.

The Hudson's Bay Company in its commercial interests may be spared, but that is your business and depends entirely on the company itself. I have had the honor to state to you that arrangements were possible, and they are so on the following conditions:—

1. That the whole Hudson's Bay Company in the North-West acknowledge the Provisional Government.
2. That you subscribe, in the name of the Hudson's Bay Company, to a loan to the Provisional Government of the sum of £3,000 sterling.
3. That on the demand of the Provisional Government, in the event of the arrangements with Canada being impeded, you shall guarantee a supplement of £2,000 sterling to the sum above mentioned.
4. That there be granted by the Hudson's Bay Company to the military department of the Provisional Government, provisions and merchandize to the value of £4,000 at current prices.