

which should bring about the confederation of the four Provinces for which they acted. John A. Macdonald, Cartier, Langevin, Galt and others took part in it. On arriving in England Sir John no longer wished for a confederation of the four provinces, with a local legislature for each of them, such as the resolutions provided for, but simply a legislative union of these four provinces. Sir John persisted nearly a month in this pretension. Cartier and Langevin found themselves alone, as representatives of the Province of Quebec, and repelled such a pretension, 'for Galt,' said Cartier to me, 'shared the opinion of Sir John A. Macdonald.' Cartier told me that he was indignant at the conduct of the latter, he who had risen to power in 1875 and had been kept there ever since solely through his majority in Lower Canada, for the majority of the representatives from Upper Canada were hostile to him. It showed on his part a lack of heart and loyalty for Lower Canada, to attempt to destroy himself (Cartier) politically speaking and to place the Province of Quebec at the mercy and under the control of other Provinces from which it differed as much in its civil and religious institutions as in its laws, its language and its customs. Sir John's object in striking this treacherous blow was to annihilate the Province of Quebec and to make of it an English instead of a French Province. Then our laws and our civil and religious institutions would have disappeared little by little to give place to institutions created according to the views and at the will of English gentlemen who disliked, as he knew, the French Canadians and Catholics with all their hearts.

"Cartier told me that seeing the bad faith of Sir John he wrote at once to Sir N. F. Belleau, who happily was then First Minister, to inform him of the misery and embarrassment stirred up by Sir John, and telling him that if he received from him a telegram conveying such information he should resign at once with a view to breaking up everything. Finally, after a month of efforts to bring Sir George E. Cartier to his opinion, Sir John put again the question—'Shall we have a Legislative Union?' Cartier, being asked to give his opinion, replied by a 'No' short enough to give Sir John to understand that it was useless to push the question any further. Then the Imperial Act was passed.

"Cartier told me that from that time he had lost all confidence in Sir John, that he had never pardoned his treacherous act, and never would pardon it. So much was this the case that he said he had interviewed Mr. Mackenzie, then chief of the Opposition, and told him not to imitate George Brown, who, in his journal the *Globe*, had without ceasing insulted, villified and injured the civil and religious institutions of Lower Canada, and who by so doing had rendered a union with him impossible; giving Mr. Mackenzie to understand that there would possibly be a means of arriving at an agreement with him.

This is exactly what Cartier said to me relative to the conduct of Sir John, and this declaration I am able, if necessary, to affirm under oath. I may add that the evening, or the evening before the departure of Cartier for England, where he had to go for the benefit of his health, I went to see him at his residence at Montreal. There he told me, amongst other things, that he left for England in ill-health, and that he thought he should never see Canada again, because the doctors here had told him that his malady was incurable. He begged of me to recall that which he had told me during the preceding session with regard to Sir John Macdonald, and added—"Have no confidence in him; he does not like the French-Canadians, he detests them. That is a warning which I give you by which you should profit."

Such were the last words which fell from the lips of the great French-Canadian leader, on the eve of his departure from Canada—never to return again.

Such was the parting advice given by our dying chieftain to an intimate friend of his, to a gentleman who had then and has now the confidence of his compatriots and who held before, and has since held, the high position of an adviser of the Crown.

Hon. gentlemen should not lose sight of the fact that the writer of this important letter refers to an old politician, Sir N. F. Belleau, Premier of Canada at the time of Confederation, stating that he knows the whole story. This precious document was published about four weeks ago and has never been contradicted.

If all these statements be true (and they cannot be contradicted) have I not a right to infer that the present constitutional agitation was foreshadowed by Sir George E. Cartier, and that it is in conformity with the views he expressed before his death?

The movement is not, then (as has often been stated by the Government themselves and by their paid organs) due to the fact that Riel was a French half-breed. No, as I have already said, the death of Riel was merely the last act of a tragic drama begun in England in 1867, and ending at Regina in 1885. The present agitation is somewhat like that of 1841. A legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada having been sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament, we had to submit, but we used all constitutional means to avert the danger which menaced us. We had then as our leader Lafon-