

where situate? 2nd. Were any, and how many, copies of resolutions sent to the Government passed by either the Grand Orange Lodge, district, county or private lodges, to the same effect; and if any, by what lodges, and where were they located?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. There have been no petitions sent by Orange lodges to the Government; there have been no copies of resolutions sent to the Government passed by either the Grand Orange Lodge or by district or county lodges to the same effect. The only things that have come to the Department over which I preside are: A letter from a member of Parliament transmitting certain representations from an Orange lodge, two petitions from the North-West, transmitted by Nicholas Flood Davin, and a private letter from a person of the name of Charles O'Hara, of Cranbourne, Quebec, which I lay before the House.

EXECUTION OF LOUIS RIEL.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Landry (Montmagny): "That this House feels it its duty to express its deep regret that the sentence of death passed upon Louis Riel, convicted of high treason, was allowed to be carried into execution;" and the motion of Sir Hector Langevin: "That this question be now put."

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourned, I was expressing the hope that within the precincts of this Chamber no hon. member would be found who, upon his responsibility, would say, as I read in some newspapers, that Riel was a hero, and that the Government had allowed him to be sacrificed and to be made a martyr. In the course of my remarks I read a letter which was addressed by Riel to Major Crozier, to show what kind of a hero Riel was—a letter in which he was expressing his determination to carry on a war of extermination. I shall to-day, Sir, supplement the information which that letter conveyed to us by reading another which Riel addressed to Poundmaker, and which proceeds to say:

"Since we wrote to you, important things have occurred. The police attacked us. We met them. God has given us a victory. Thirty half-breeds and five Crees stood the fight against one hundred and twenty men. After fighting during thirty-eight or forty minutes the enemy took flight.

"Bless God with us for the success that he has had the charity to give us. Rise up. Face the police. If possible, if it is not done yet, take Fort Bataille. Destroy it. Save all the provisions and goods, and come and join us. You are in sufficient numbers to send us a detachment forty or fifty strong.

"All that you do, do it for the sake of God Almighty, under the keeping of Jesus Christ, the Holy Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Jean Baptiste.

(Signed) LOUIS DAVID RIEL, *Excoedé*."

This letter shows what kind of a hero Louis David Riel was. Now, Sir, with your permission I shall read a letter which was addressed to me some time ago by His Grace Archbishop Grandin, and which I now read to the House with his permission. The letter is dated the 12th of July, 1885. To avoid reading the original and translating it before the House, I have translated it myself, and I shall read to the House the translation I made. The original, however, is here, and can be given to *Hansard*; but so as not to inflict upon the House the reading of the letter in French and English, I thought it might be more convenient and more acceptable to the members if I read from the translation:

"HONORABLE AND DEAR SIR,—Assuredly the troubles in the North-West did not fail to worry you a great deal, and it seems to me that Your Honor must breathe more freely now that they are subdued. I fully share your satisfaction. However, I must add that, as to me, it is far from being complete. The rebellion has particularly wounded my heart; I have suffered when I saw our good half-breeds—deceived and terrified by a miserable maniac—despise our advice, mistrust our devotion, declare against the Government, against the Church and against God. Above all, I have been painfully affected when, at the voice of that sort of po-essed man, I saw the Indians rise and go to the extent of murdering persons who had never done them any wrong, who had never done them aught but kindness—persons who, like our dear missionaries, had sacrificed for them their very existence.

"The murders, the almost entire destruction of our settlements, the absolutely complete destruction of many others, the poverty, the uneasiness, the anguish of mind, the fear, the discouragement among the vanquished, the hatred and despair among many—this, above all, is what frightens me and causes me almost to forget my personal disasters. No doubt every one suffers more or less from this uneasiness and these sad forebodings; but it seems to me that I suffer therefrom more than any one."

Here is another extract from that letter, which I beg also to read:

"I forward to the Minister of Justice a petition in favor of the half-breeds compromised in this lamentable rebellion, not that I approved of it, far from this, but I positively know that these poor rebels have been shamefully deceived; their simplicity was prevailed upon, they were made to take up arms almost without being aware of it. A wretched man had carried their confidence by holding himself up as one Divine. They were convinced that he enjoyed a power almost Godly, they feared his anger and his threats; had his hand held the thunderbolt, they would not have dreaded him more. He did not reach this of a sudden. He has turned everything to his advantage, his former popularity, his reputation, the affection and the confidence his countrymen had for him, their truly religious and sometimes superstitious spirit, and, above all, their grievances against the Government. Well aware that in order to master them he absolutely needed the help of religion, he at first tried to secure the help of the clergy, whilst he was attempting to incite the half-breeds against the Government. It was but too easy for him to succeed upon the latter point, but he failed with the priests. To obviate this loss, he labored a long time to earn from his countrymen the reputation of being a saint and a great saint. He spent in prayers both days and nights. He would fast often and told everyone that his was a truly Divine mission. He wound up by giving himself as a man of God, and from that moment there was nothing to hinder him. Enjoying a Divine authority, he was superior to the clergy and to all religions; these words were always in his mouth, 'the will of God must be done.' Many of his countrymen were frightened at his excesses; as the priests had done, they wished to resist him; in the debates, he would conquer them with abuse, lies and threats; he caused them to be imprisoned, and even condemned them to death. Understanding that it was impossible to resist him, many took refuge either in Prince Albert or in the bush. When they returned they found themselves ruined as well as the others. So it is, honorable and dear Sir, that the greater part of the prisoners at Regina are victims specially of terrorism. They are more stupid than guilty, and, therefore, I claim indulgence towards them. When I asked this favor, I can say that I would be borne up by all reasonable persons in the country, of all nationalities and of all religious denominations."

The Bishop goes on to speak of the councillors who also were prisoners at Regina:

"As regards the councillors of this new Mahdi, how can they be justified. Alas! dear Sir, these poor people have positively been chosen on account of their ignorance and of their timorousness; in the meetings they dared not open their mouths, resolutions were passed in their name; when they did not even know what was the matter. To-day terror reigns amongst all the half-breeds of the district, nay, through all the nations, although they praise the noble conduct of General Middleton, who—said to me poor mothers and the missionaries—acted more like a father than as a conqueror."

These letters go to show what kind of a man Riel was. It is almost impossible, the more one goes into the history of this rebellion, the more one reads the documents and papers relating to it, to understand how even an attempt could be made to convert Riel into a hero. Not only have we got these letters which I have read, but we have got letters which I will not read, because they have been already submitted to the House, from Fathers André, Moulin, Vegreville, Lecoq, and Frère Piquet, who states positively that the rebellion was entirely the work of Louis Riel, and that he was perfectly sane. We have got, if it were necessary to complete the testimony adduced, evidence to show the disastrous plans entertained by Riel, and to show that he was perfectly capable, from the state of his mind, of carrying out his nefarious schemes. His own writing which he published, his last will and testament, his letters to his mother and to his wife, his farewell letters, his retraction of his religious errors—all these go to show that he was really in a sane state of mind and perfectly accountable for the acts of which he was found guilty. We have also evidence to show what his intentions were, for he tried to induce the Indians to join in his rebellion, and we have an interview, which was published in the newspapers, establishing beyond the possibility of doubt