

before the election public opinion was so excited against the one that had taken the responsibility of advising my leaving that he called me back, and during the election I was present. I was three more years. To-day I am rewarded for what I have done through these three years. Sir George Cartier, in 1872, just in that summer, was beaten in Montreal—I speak of him not as a man of party, I speak of him as a Canadian, as a public man—he was beaten by Mr. Jetté by 1200 majority, and they came to me. My election was sure in Provencher, I had 15 or 20 men against me and they came to me: “Riel, do you want to resign your seat?” “I have not it yet.” “Oh, well, you are sure to get it, allow Sir George Etienne Cartier to be elected here”. And I said, yes, to show that if I had at the time any inclination to become insane, when I was contradicted in politics. But Lower Canada has more than paid me for the little consideration, great was my consideration, but that little mark, I consider it a little mark of consideration, a little mark of a great consideration for them.

The people of Manitoba hadn't their government inaugurated at that time, they had a sham government, it was to be erected, to be inaugurated after 1871, after the 1st of January 1871, but we went on in 1874 and it was not inaugurated, as long as Riel was there, with his popularity. If the proper institutions had been inaugurated Riel would have come in the House, the Provincial House and of course it was considered to be a damage. So to keep me back they did not give the people their rights, when it was constitutionally agreed they should have done. I struggled not only for myself, but I struggled for the rights, for the inauguration of the principles of responsible and constitutional government in Manitoba. That was considered about the time that I was banished. While I was in the United States, was I very happy? Yes, I was very happy to find a refuge, but I have met men who have come to me several times and say: “Here! Look out! Here is a man on the other side of the line and he is trying to have a revenge at you, when you go water your horse.” Because they had left stains, as much as possible, on my name, I could not even water my horse on the Missouri, without being guarded against those who wanted my life, and it is an irony for me that I should be called David. Last year, when I was invited instead of coming to this country, I could with the plan that has appeared to me, I could have communicated with the Fenian organization, I could have sent my book, I did not do it, and as a proof of it, while I have no means at all to communicate with my brother, you will see in Manitoba letters to my brother Joseph, where I speak of my book, that I could get any amount of money for that book, if I wished it to be published, but I thought that there was a better chance on this side of the line. And what chance is it? What I said, constitutionally speaking, if Riel succeeds that he should one day, as a public man, invite emigration from different parts of different countries of the world, and because the North West is acknowledged to be partly his own as a Half-breed of this population, and make bargains for this North-West here with the Canadian government in such a way, so that when the English population has had a full and reasonable share of this land, other nationalities with whom we are in sympathy should have also their share of it. When we gave the lands of Manitoba for one-seventh, we did not explain. We gave it to the Canadian Government, but in giving it to the Canadian Government it does not mean that we gave it—with all the respect that I have for the English population—to the Anglo-Saxon race. We did not give it only to the Anglo Saxon race. There is the Irish in the East and the French in the west, and their proportion in the Canadian government ought to receive a reasonable proportion of this land which is bought here, and it is hardly the same to give to some French Canadians in the North-West, and none at all to the Irish. I don't speak here to call the sympathies, because I am sentenced, I speak sound sense. I followed the line of natural and reasonable sympathies, but behind my thought, perhaps you would be inclined to believe that it is a way for me to try to work against the English. No, I don't. I believe that the English constitution is an institution which has been perfected for the nations of the world, and while I speak of having in future, if not during my lifetime, after it, of having different nationalities in the North-West here, my hope that they can succeed is that they will have here among them the great Anglo-Saxon race, as among the nations of Europe. Two thousand years ago, the Roman people were the leading race and were teaching to the other nations good