

necessary steps for securing that territory to Canada. The English Parliament passed the "Rupert's Land Act," by which the Hudson's Bay Company was empowered to surrender its territory to the Crown, which, by proclamation, could annex it to the Dominion so soon as the usual address of request had been passed by the Canadian Parliament. The latter passed a Bill containing the request, and granting £300,000 sterling to the Hudson's Bay Company in exchange for its rights of possession, but allowing it to retain its trading privileges. Early in the next year surveying parties were sent out to the vicinity of Fort Garry for the purpose of laying out portions of the country in townships and lots, preparatory to its further settlement. But the unwise conduct of these parties awakened fears among many of the inhabitants that they should lose their lands and homes. This and other causes united to arouse feelings hostile to Canada, and to its acquisition of the territory. A large portion of the population armed themselves for resistance, and, under two leaders, Louis Riel and M. Lepine, formed a government of their own, and made prisoners of all persons hateful to them. One of these prisoners, Thomas Scott, who persisted in being loyal, was shot in a brutal manner, during March of 1870. This act caused intense excitement throughout Canada, and especially in Ontario. On the 4th of May, the Parliament at Ottawa passed a Bill for the annexation of the North-West, and in July it was formally ceded to Canada by the Home Government. In the meantime, a force of twelve hundred men, composed of British regulars and Canadian volunteers, under the command of Colonel (now General Sir Garnet) Wolseley proceeded to Fort Garry only to find the rebels scattered and the colony quiet. The "Manitoba Act" passed at Ottawa described the limits of the province