## CANADA

# MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

#### JUNE, 1886.

### Original Communications.

## MEDICAL HISTORY OF LOUIS DAVID RIEL DURING HIS DETENTION IN LONGUE POINTE ASYLUM.

By HENRY HOWARD, M.R.C.S.L., Eng., Medical Superintendent, Asylum St. Jean de Dieu, Province of Quebec.

According to my physical idea, an intellectual, moral man is a physiological man, a sane man, and a non-criminal.

According to my physical idea, all criminal men are either insane from pathological defect, or fools from teratological defect, of the psycho-physical organization, the materia cogitans.

According to my close observation of the insane, a large majority of them know right from wrong. Therefore, a man's knowledge of his idea of right and wrong is no proof of his sanity.

The law's definition of sanity and responsibility is, that a man who is a criminal, and knows right from wrong, is a sane man, and responsible for his conduct.

According to my observation, Louis David Riel had a perfect knowledge of what he believed to be right and wrong, but being a great criminal, and guilty of bad conduct, I considered him a fool, in virtue of a teratological defect in his psycho-physical organization.

I think his friends knew my idea of him, and therefore it was that they did not bring me to give evidence in his case when he was on trial. My evidence would have been that I believed him a teratological fool, but that, according to his idea, he knew right from wrong.

As I have already explained, I consider every criminal to be

.11