

these distant regions, it became necessary to take part in the incidents connected with the first insurrectionary movement since 1837. The history of this war, if it can really be so styled, need not be told here. The *dénouement* was not long delayed. The Metis were crushed. Their leader was arrested, tried on a charge of high treason, and found guilty. Louis Riel paid the penalty of his offence on the scaffold ; but his death was the beginning of a series of grave troubles throughout the country, and nowhere more than in the Province of Quebec.

The history of the movement, known as the "national" movement, can be written when its principal leaders shall have been judged before the tribunal of posterity, more impartial and less under the influence of passion than ourselves. We are too near the events to be able to appreciate them. Even now, it would be rash to hazard an opinion which would be hotly discussed and which would infallibly be condemned as influenced by political prejudices.

But we will be permitted to say that it was a hurricane, or, if the word is preferred, a kind of cyclone. The whirlwind of dust which accompanied it, darkened everything. Carried off their feet by the violence of the tempest, many men neither could nor knew how, until later, to steady themselves and regain their footing. The Ross Cabinet had resolutely decided upon a policy of non intervention, a position which to me seems to have been a logical one, since its responsibility did in no wise extend to occurrences happening a thousand leagues away from Quebec. But it was merely raising the storm. At the time of the elections of 1886, the tempest was still raging, though its violence had lessened somewhat. Mr. Taillon was one of its victims. He fell at the hands of his constituents of Montreal East, who thitherto had never failed to acclaim him. It was difficult to appreciate the general result of the election ; so many men of new shades emerged from the electoral testing machine, that the judgment of the Legislature had to be waited for. The day preceding the opening of the Session, Mr. Ross resigned his portfolio, and Mr. Taillon, who had been elected in Montcalm, formed a ministry, which was shortlived, since its members resigned two days later, on January 27th, 1887, following an unfavourable vote in the