

act of naturalization of Louis David Riel, as the same appears upon the records of said court now in my office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court this 27th day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five and in the year of our Independence the 109th.

B. H. TATEM, *Clerk.*

C. G. REYNOLDS, *Deputy Clerk.*

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No. 7.

*Mr. Bayard to Mr. A. Choquet.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, October 27, 1885.*

SIR: Your letter of the 23d instant was duly received, as well as that of the 15th instant, in regard to the intervention of this Government in favor of Louis David Riel, under sentence of death at Regina, in Canada.

I need not assure you that the petition of certain American citizens of French origin, which accompanied your first letter, received such careful attention as the importance of the subject required.

The friends of Riel had already made personal application at this Department to know how far the United States Government could properly interfere with the execution of the sentence of the Canadian court. They received a full verbal reply, which took into consideration Riel's alleged American citizenship. Such citizenship, however, it must be remarked, even if beyond doubt, would not secure the possessor any immunity from Canadian law, when, as it is definitely certified to this Government in the case in the present instance, the offense was committed within the territory of the Dominion.

It shall always be my first duty to see that the rights and liberties of American citizens are jealously guarded, and that they receive such treatment at the hands of foreign governments as our treaties, international law, and the claims of humanity require.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. F. BAYARD.

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