

general elections; they elected their representatives; and these representatives met in legislative assembly and made and administered laws. Canada, meanwhile, acknowledging her error, sent to them commissioners with many assurances of good will and of respect for rights, and requested that delegates might be sent to Ottawa to discuss terms of agreement.

Should negotiation fail, Canada had meditated the possibility of resort to force, and had applied for assistance to the Imperial Government. The application was answered by Earl Granville on the 5th of March, who telegraphed:

*"Her Majesty's Government will give proposed military assistance, provided reasonable terms are granted to the Red River settlers."*

And on the 22d of March, by a dispatch from the under-secretary of the colonies, that

*"Troops should not be employed in forcing the sovereignty of Canada on the population of Red River should they refuse to admit it."*

On the 23d of April, Earl Granville thus informed the governor-general:

*"Canadian Government to accept decision of Her Majesty's Government on all portions of the settlers' 'bill of rights.'"*

The negotiations with the delegates were carried on by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George E. Cartier, who had been appointed by the government as a committee for that purpose. The interviews extended from the 23d of April to the end of May, conferences taking place on the 23d, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th of April and the 2d of May. On the 3d of May the governor-general was able to cable:

*"Negotiations with the delegates closed satisfactorily."*

To this Earl Granville replied (18th of May):

*"I take this opportunity of expressing the satisfaction with which I have learned, from your telegram of the 3d inst., that the Canadian Government, and the delegates, have come to an understanding as to the terms on which the settlements on the Red River should be admitted into the union."*

Some question has been raised as to whether, among the demands made by the settlers, there was included any request for separate schools. There were at least three bills of rights prepared, and the Catholics say that there was a fourth. The question is supposed to turn upon the genuineness of this fourth bill, but in the opinion of the writer the point is clear enough even if this