

Truth's Contributors.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH RIEL?

BY EDWARD COLLINS.

Since the date of the capture of this murderous crank every one has been asking: What is to be done with him? At first the question was answered in this way: "He will be declared insane." Then some wiseacre in the editorial columns of a Toronto newspaper said that owing to lack of evidence the rebel will more than likely find a loop-hole for escape. Some declare that "Sir John has him now and does not know what to do with him." One and all seem to be pretty generally agreed that the arch-traitor will escape the tolls.

Now with due deference to all these wise people, I do not think that he will escape. I know of nothing more humanly probable than that this man will die the death of a felon and traitor. It must be remembered that his escape after the first rebellion was due to a technical difficulty arising out of plenipotential powers claimed by Monseigneur Tache. That gentleman had been called home from the Ecumenical Council in Rome, and dispatched to Red River, delegated with authority by the Canadian Government to grant an unconditional pardon to one and all, Riel included, concerned in the uprising. When these powers were conferred the murder of Scott had not been perpetrated; and, with strange short-sightedness, Sir John Macdonald and Joseph Howe, neglected to impress Monseigneur that it was possible some crimes had been committed of which they had not heard, or might be committed, for which they could not offer an unconditional pardon. While the bishop was on his way to Red River, Riel caused Thomas Scott to be taken out on the snow and shot like a dog. The Bishop felt disposed to be shocked at the occurrence on arriving at his Riviere Range, but *perce* Richot, a very violent clergyman, assured him that shooting served the rowdy Scott just right. His Lordship at once proclaimed an amnesty. Subsequently the Fenians threatened an invasion of Manitoba, and the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Adams Archibald, became terribly alarmed and lost his head. Riel promptly offered to call out the whilome rebellious Metis to assist His Honor in repelling the invaders. "I accept your offer *avec le plus grand plaisir*," replied the Lieutenant-Governor. And when the panic was ended his Honor went out in front of the rebel lines and shook hands with Riel and with his bloody Lieutenant, Lepine. In the face of the amnesty then, and of the acceptance of the man's aid by an executive officer of the crown, it was found impossible to proceed to the end of the law against the traitor.

The case is very different now. He has been once again guilty of high treason, and without amnesty or promise of amnesty has fallen into the hands of our officers. Various foolish surmises have been published as to how the man is to be tried. He will simply be tried for high treason. It has been said that it may be difficult to prove that he incited to revolt, or had any part in leadership; and that, therefore, it may be impossible to regard him as a prime offender. This is nonsense. In high treason everyone concerned is a principal. His presence among Dumont's men, or among rebellious Indians, with the function of powder-monkey, would make him as amenable to the vengeance of the law as if he had been proclaimed president of the whole gang of blood-hounds. But there will be very little difficulty in proving virtual leadership against him, should evidence of formal

leadership fail. Contemporaneous with his prowling through Prince Albert last summer were the first mutterings of revolt. And the other day when news reached the painted savages that Riel was captive, terms of capitulation at once came from the insurgents, and the war whoop ceased. Within a few hours after the skulking chief had been placed in Middleton's camp, there was not a half-breed—save the few under Dumont—who was not scurrying off to surrender himself. No; it will be impossible for Mr. Landry, M.P., or *Le Metis*, or the expert in Beauport to wipe out these facts.

Once more, it may be asked, does this man's offense constitute high treason? Treason consists in this: "If a man do levy war against our King in his realm. This may be done under pretense to reform religion or the laws or to remove evil councillors or other grievances whether real or pretended." It is war against the sovereign, even though no designs be entertained against his person.

As to the plea of insanity, this Dominion is not going to tolerate any such subterfuge. It is provided, in case of a plea for insanity, that, in order to establish innocence, there must be "a total deprivation of reason." Riel is a deep, wily villain, whose intellect is perfectly sound, save for a diseased vanity which, among other things, is always seeking for notoriety. Let justice, now, dispose of its business as quickly as possible.

THE CANADIAN HOME OF ROBERT DE LA SALLE.

BY JOHN FRASER, MONTREAL.

NO. IX.

Sometime between the years 1609 and 1615, Champlain, then Governor of French Canada, established three fur trading posts, one at Tadoussac, one at Three Rivers, the other at the head or the Rapids, at Lower Lachine, eight miles above Montreal. This was done thirty years before the foundation of Montreal in 1642, by Maisonneuve, and a dozen to fifteen years previous to the formation of the company of the "One Hundred Associates."

The post at Lachine, being just below the junction of the Ottawa with the St. Lawrence, became the most important trading post in the colony, and was periodically visited, spring and fall, by the various tribes of Indians living on the shores of the Upper Ottawa and the Lakes emptying into the St. Lawrence, to sell or to exchange their furs.

About fifty years after the establishment of the post at Lachine, there landed, sometime during the year 1668, on the spot where the foundation of Montreal had been laid some twenty-five years previous, a youth from Old France, in his 24th year, of manly form and noble bearing, whose calm exterior bespoke one who would shrink from no danger, and who would cling with unflinching tenacity to any course he might espouse. This youth was Robert de La Salle, who for twenty-one years acted a most conspicuous part in the early history of Canada, and of this whole northern continent of America.

La Salle, in quest of new discoveries and with the hope of finding a Water Way through Canada to China, travelled and retravelled over the then unbroken forests of the great west, and traversed and retraversed—or rather coasted—in his frail Indian canoe, all of our vast inland lakes, and westward and southward by the Ohio, the Mississippi and the then other unknown rivers, in search of the great object of his ambition, until he met his death, in March, 1687, somewhere, we believe, on the banks of the Missouri.

The present article is not to deal with La Salle's discoveries or explorations—these are matters of history—but simply to point out a spot, an old landmark, nearer our own home, of which few, probably not one in a thousand of the inhabitants of Montreal, is aware. It is the Canadian home of Robert de La Salle—the home in which he had lived for some four years of his early Canadian life, and in which he planned and matured the great schemes which engrossed the last sixteen years of his life.

Champlain died in 1635, and about the year 1644, the gentlemen of the Seminary of St. Sulpice acquired, or had granted to them, the Island of Montreal as Seigneurs. La Salle, shortly after his arrival, acquired from the Seminary of St. Sulpice a grant of land at Lower Lachine, as Seigneur, which included the trading post established by Champlain; this served him for the purpose of a Seignior house, a trading post and a fort. On the Lower Lachine Road, two miles above the Lachine rapids, just at the head of the "New Inland Cut" of the Montreal water works, on the "Fraser Homestead Farm," adjoining the old "English King's Posts," (which was also part of the La Salle estate) stands an old stone building, sixty feet fronting on the road, and some thirty feet deep, one storey and a half high.

The inside has a cellar, two floors and a garret, the walls are pierced for over thirty gun or loop holes, which are quite perfect inside, but the outside of them (the gun holes) has, from time to time, been plastered over to keep out the cold, to protect it for the uses to which this old building has been turned in later years. The first floor is a good deal broken up, having been used for many years as a cider house; the old mill and cider presses are still there. The outside walls still present a fair appearance, except the east gable end which is a little separated at the top from the main building. The inside timbers are nearly as sound today as when built, except where rain has reached them.

This was the home of Robert de La Salle! A name dear to all Canadians. How few now know of its existence, and fewer still of its whereabouts! Its walls have withstood the rough blasts of nearly three centuries. The waters of the St. Lawrence still glide quietly by it as of old—but the rich furladen fleets of Indian canoes no longer visit that spot—nor is the merry song of the Canadian voyageur now heard there. Those days are gone!

This post at Lachine was the semi-annual resort of the Indian tribes from their far distant hunting grounds to exchange their furs with La Salle, and it is on record that a band of Seneca Indians, with their chief, spent a whole winter with him at his home. The tread of passing armies, French or English, with their contingents of Indian warriors, "all painted and feathered," on their march westwards or homewards to Montreal, was a familiar sound there, and of frequent occurrence in the olden time. This was the point of embarkation by batteau or canoe westward, before the building of the Lachine canal, and resulted in the establishment of the English "King's Posts" there shortly after the cession of Canada.

Connected with his home La Salle reserved 420 acres of land as a homestead for himself. This comprised the present Fraser Homestead and the two adjoining farms, which also, until lately, belonged to the Fraser Homestead. He also reserved a common of 200 acres. This common remained intact until the year 1835. When it was parcelled out and divided among the neighboring farmers.

As a protection from the Indians, La

Salle built, or possibly in the days of Champlain, there was built a stone wall ten to twelve feet high, three acres in front, fronting on the road, and about five acres, running north, on the east side of his home. The remains of this old wall may still be seen. Within this enclosure was planted an orchard of the choicest pears, apples, and other fruits from old France. This old orchard only fell into decay within the past fifty years; its final destruction occurred in 1859, during the intense cold of that winter.

The foregoing is a short description of one of the most interesting landmarks of Canada. It is the oldest building now standing in Canada. The writer's grandfather visited this old place over one hundred years ago, and some twenty-five years later became the purchaser of the Fraser Homestead farm, on which the Canadian home of Robert de La Salle still stands and may be seen.

This old building has a history stretching far into and over the bygone centuries of early Canadian days. Long before the foundation stone was laid in the queenly city of Montreal, with its now noble structures and princely mansions basking under the shade of our stately Mount Royal—long before a parish church bell was heard in the ancient town of Ville Marie, summoning the little bands of devout worshippers to their early matins—long before those early days of Canadian history, did this old building stand, as it now stands, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, two miles above the Lachine rapids.

TO BE CONTINUED.)

EARLY TIMES—NOVA SCOTIA.

BY DR. J. W. HANFORD, QUEBEC.

The fall of Louisburg was the last throes in the struggle which gave birth to New Scotland. And contemporaneous history shows what a terrible time it was all over the world, when the first efforts were being put forth by the French to make something permanent of Acadia. Perhaps there is no period in the history of modern times so full of historical phenomena as the first half of the seventeenth century—the epoch during which the pioneers of New France were undertaking the severe task of laying the foundations of a new principality in the west. For instance, in England there was to be witnessed the great contest between liberty and prerogative, ending with a scene the darkest in English history—the execution of a king of England on the public scaffold. In France, the assassination of Henry IV. by the fanatic Ravalliac opened the way for the ambitions of Richelieu and the terrible wars which they excited. In Germany, the thirty years' war, in ruin the trade of the country and in crushing the people under a burden of taxation, crippled the already debilitated power of the emperor and cut up the empire into a multitude of petty states. And so it was in other countries. Spain was in an unsettled state from the cruel eccentricities of Philip II. Sweden was all excitement, under the brave Adolphus, who had need of all his bravery in checking the simultaneous aggressions of three powerful states: Russia was convulsed by the murder of the Czar, by the appearance of several pretenders to the throne and by the horrible outrages of the invading Tartars; Poland was being overwhelmed by the united attack of six of her most dangerous enemies, and saw her king forced to flee to a neighboring state for protection: an even little Denmark, who hardly dared call her mind her own, in the midst of such turmoil all over Europe, was violently disturbed by the unseemly strife between her nobles and the common people. Nor is this all. The commotion did not confine itself