

most heinous crimes of which a man in any country can be guilty. I consider that he deceived his people, that he tried to sell them and to carry out blackmail by consenting that if money were given to him by the Government, he would give up their cause, would retire and allow them to fall back upon their own resources. In doing this, I think he is not deserving of the sympathy of men who wish to go into this question calmly and dispassionately, who consider it from the standpoint of the interests of the country, from the standpoint merely of a duty which had to be performed by those who occupied responsible positions as advisers of the Crown. When we consider, reading as we have read, the history of these Indian wars, what might have been their result if these Indian tribes, who fortunately kept quiet to a very great extent, and who, if they did keep quiet, did not do so because Riel had not endeavored in every possible way to get them to help him in fighting the Government of his country—who, after considering what might have been the consequences of an Indian war, can for a moment have any sympathy with the movement which had been inaugurated by Riel? We know perfectly well that at the very beginning of the outbreak, when he had succeeded by his machinations in getting the Metis to withdraw their allegiance and their confidence from their clergy, from the missionaries who during so many years had been laboring so disinterestedly in the interests of the Metis nation—when we come to consider that at the beginning of the outbreak the first victims of Louis Riel and of his agitation were the two missionaries, Father Marchand and Father Fafard, I ask myself how it is possible to afford to Louis Riel the sympathy which in some quarters it has been attempted to make believe existed. When all the circumstances of this outbreak are fully gone into, when we come to consider the manner in which it was prepared and organised, when we come to consider the number of lives which it has cost the Dominion, the treasure that has been expended during the revolt, I say it was time for us to consider whether the most energetic possible means should not be taken to prevent the recurrence in the future of any such troubles as we had in the North-West. But, Sir, I hope that within the precincts of this Parliament we shall not find any hon. gentleman who will say that, in allowing the law to take its course, in not interfering with the execution of the sentence legally passed on Louis Riel the Government has sacrificed a martyr and a hero. I do not see how this is possible, although I have been reading, for the last several months, articles in newspapers which would really indicate that some of those who edited or wrote them must have considered that this man was a great hero and great martyr. I ask myself, reading the evidence which has been taken in his case, knowing the circumstances which attended the rising, knowing everything he did for the purpose of getting up the troubles in the North-West; I ask myself how it is possible that any person having at heart the interests of his country, should consider that the example of Louis Riel is one which should be held out to the admiration of the people of any country, or that he should be considered a hero and a martyr. Is he not the man who stirred up an Indian war with all its horrors? Is he not the man who wrote to Major Crozier that he wanted to commence without delay a war of extermination; and, Sir, upon that one point, I should like to read a very short extract from the evidence which has been taken during the trial and published in a pamphlet by the Government. At page 168 there is this letter which he addressed to Major Crozier:

"ST. ANTONY, March 21st, 1885.

"To Major Crozier,

"Commandant of the Police Force at Carlton and Battleford.

"Major,—The Councillors of the Provisional Government of the Saskatchewan have the honor to communicate to you the following  
Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

conditions of surrender: you will be required to give up completely the situation which the Canadian Government have placed you in, at Carlton and Battleford, together with all Government properties.

"In case of acceptance, you and your men will be set free on your parole of honor to keep the peace; and those who will choose to leave the country will be furnished with teams and provisions to reach Qu'Appelle.

"In case of non-acceptance, we intend to attack you when to-morrow (the Lord's Day) is over, and to commence without delay a war of extermination upon all those who have shown themselves hostile to our rights.

"Messrs. Charles and Maxime Lépine are the gentlemen with whom you will have to treat.

"Major, we respect you. Let the cause of humanity be a consolation to you for the reverses which the Governmental misconduct has brought upon you.

LOUIS DAVID RIEL,  
*Ex ovede.*

"RÉNÉ PARENTEAU, *Chairman.*

"CHARLES NOLIN.

"GABRIEL DUMONT.

"MOÏSE OUELLETTE.

"ALBERT MONKMAN.

"BAPTISTE BOYER.

"DONALD ROSS.

"AMABLE JOBIN.

JEAN BAPTISTE PARENTEAU.

PIERRE HENRY.

ALBERT DELORME.

DAM. GARRIÈRE.

MAXIME LÉPINE.

BAPTISTE BOUCHER.

DAVID TOUROND.

PH. GARNOT, *Secretary.*"

Here, Mr. Speaker, is this man who is held up as a hero, writing this letter wherein he states that his object is to get up a war of extermination. Can the signification of this letter be misunderstood? Can it be contended that that man, being carried away by his devotion to his people, wanted merely to agitate for the purpose of having rendered to them the justice which he had tried to get for them, when we see among the papers which have been produced, forming part of the evidence which has been taken in that case, that his object was to get up in the North-West a war of extermination? It was his purpose to get up a war the most horrible of all wars, an Indian war; and more especially so, among a population like that of the North-West which is so widely scattered over that country, not living together compactly like the population of the older Provinces of the Dominion, but where the settlers are living at considerable distances from each other, and where it is almost impossible for them to give help or succor to each other. It was under these circumstances that he intended, as is established by his own letter, by evidence which cannot be controverted, that he intended, as he states here, to get up a war of extermination. He took all the means that were at his disposal to get up such a war; he tried everything in his power to make his nefarious project a successful one; he used every means he could to get up a war which, so far as it went, had the most disastrous results for Canada, and which, if it had been complicated by an outbreak of the Indian population, would have been more terrible and more disastrous still.

I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

It being six o'clock, the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 18th March, 1886.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CASE OF LOUIS RIEL—PETITIONS FROM ORANGE LODGES.

Mr. TAYLOR asked, 1st, Were any, and how many, petitions sent by Orange lodges to the Government praying that the sentence of death passed upon Louis Riel for high treason be not commuted; and if any, from what lodges, and