

Ritchot and Mr. Scott were promptly disposed of, and had not been renewed; and I take this opportunity of expressing the satisfaction with which I have learned from your telegram of the 3rd 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 Dominion. In giving an account of what has passed to the House of Lords, I had much pleasure in acknowledging publicly the singular judgment, decision and conciliation with which your Government has acted since this unfortunate outbreak.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

GRANVILLE.

Rt. Hon. Sir John Young, G. C. B. G. C. M. G.

What does all this mean when it is beyond doubt that the "Delegates of the North West" were the representatives authorized and accredited by the Provisional Government? All this merely denotes that Lord Granville comprehended the situation and that heedless of all the excitement then prevailing in Canada all his anxiety was to secure the prosperity of the Confederation, and above all to guard the honour of the Crown, pledged by its representative. In fact the conditions dictated in the name of Her Majesty having being accepted, it became necessary on the other hand to fulfill the promise made in her name. All this means that whatsoever ap- pelation be given to the Red River difficulties, all that occurred in connection there- with from October, 1869, until May, 1870, was pardoned by amnesty, and that using her royal prerogative, our beloved Sovereign wished the past to be forgotten and merely aimed at the future prosperity of the new Province of Manitoba.

Sir John Young and Sir Clinton Murdoch endorsing the views of the Minister for the Colonies gave the delegates the most positive assurances of the grant of an amnesty. This has been often repeated by Messrs. Ritchot and Scott since their return from Ottawa.

In February, 1872, the said delegates drew up and signed a petition to Her Majesty stating the same undeniable fact."

Below is furnished on the subject the sworn affidavit given by Father Ritchot before Narelisse Valois, Esquire, Justice of Peace for Montreal, and dated 19th November, 1873.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
District of Montreal.

I, the undersigned, Noel Joseph Ritchot,

Parish Priest of St. Norbert, County of Provencher, Province of Manitoba, being now in the city of Montreal, Province of Quebec, after having been duly sworn on the Holy Gospel, declare and say:

That the President of the Provisional Government of Assiniboia, by an order in Council dated 22nd March, 1870, delegated to Ottawa, the Rev. N. J. Ritchot, John Black, Esq., and Alfred Scott, Esq., to carry to Ottawa the bill of rights claimed by the people of Assiniboia, and to negotiate there the conditions on which the same people would agree to join in the Canadian Confederation.

That the said delegates thus empowered proceeded to Ottawa, were received by the Government in the said capacity of delegates, and transacted with Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Cartier, the two ministers authorized to that effect by their Government.

That on the 26th April, 1870, the negotiations were opened by the taking into consideration of the Bill of Rights brought by the delegates, and on which the Bill of Manitoba was framed.

That, besides the Bill of Manitoba, in accordance with the 19th clause of the Bill of Rights, the delegates required as condition *sine qua non* of any agreement, a general amnesty for all that had been done or authorized by the Provisional Government.

That the Honorable Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George E. Cartier, after stating that the Government of Ottawa had no power to grant an amnesty, declared that they were in a position to assure the delegates that the intention of Her Majesty was to grant it. That they would guarantee its promulgation, and that it would, in fact, be proclaimed immediately after the passage of the bill of Manitoba.

That on the 3d of May, 1870, before closing the negotiations, the Governor General and Sir Clinton Murdoch assured the delegates in the name of Her Majesty that the amnesty would be granted. His Excellency referred to his own proclamation of the month of December previous, as a proof of the intention of Her Majesty, and Sir Clinton Murdoch added, among other assertions:

That Her Majesty would willingly expunge the deeds in question in order to restore tranquillity in that country. The delegates objecting that they had no written document to show to the people of the Red River the said representatives of Her Majesty repeatedly assured the delegates that the question would suffer no diffi-