

were shamefully abandoned and finally sacrificed to the sensual proclivities of a king who had more love for the gown of a courtesan than for the flag of France. Notwithstanding, they secured, first by treaty, and compelled, later on, through legislation, the granting of all those rights which Riel and his Half-breed brothers sought to revendicate, because they had been systematically trampled upon by the Ottawa Cabinet.

The Half-breeds are the descendants of those hardy French Canadian pioneers, whose love of travel and discovery, took them into the wild prairies of the Northwest, where they finally settled into a semi-hunting and semi-agricultural life—following, in this last occupation, the customs and the idiosyncracies of their ancestors, who had made a garden of both banks of the St. Lawrence.

These Half-breeds belong to that race of energetic men who were the first settlers of the Western States, at a time when colonizing in those wild prairies meant something more than breaking the ground and raising a crop for shipment to Eastern ports; moreover, they are the kindred of these courageous pioneers who have either christened or given their own names to the most important cities of the West.

They are acknowledged to be a hospitable, mild, peaceable and law-abiding people. Selfishness is unknown to their vocabulary; with them, faithfulness, providency and thrift are heirlooms which have never been bartered by the humblest of the race.