

FACTS FOR ELECTORS

REFORM, RACE and REVENGE

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE RIEL MOVEMENT IN QUEBEC AND ONTARIO

During the progress of the Riel Rebellion and for months after, the Reform press clamored for the punishment of the chief rebel. He was not mad, so it was said; his crime was entirely without justification; nothing but death would expiate his crimes. In evidence, let us take the opinion of some Reform organs BEFORE the execution:

"This morning at a late hour," says the *Globe* of May 16, 1886, "the glorious news was flashed over the wires that Riel had been captured. . . . A soldier's death would have been far too good for the traitor-agitator." In June the same paper said, "We want Riel and the other ringleaders brought to immediate justice;" and in July the same organ opined that "the public believe Riel and his associates guilty of the highest crime known to the law. And public indignation would be excited did any of them escape punishment." In August the same journal said: "The crime of which Riel has been convicted is one of the most dreadful that can be imagined. It was of the essence of Riel's crime that he knew what the Indians are capable of, and what atrocities they would probably commit, when their savage nature was thoroughly excited." Still more: "As to the prisoner's guilt there has been no shadow of doubt since his letter to Poundmaker was produced. Nor as to his sanity has there been any doubt since the jury, having heard the experts' evidence, decided that Riel was responsible." The *London Advertiser* was equally clear: "Why should the Province of Quebec come to the rescue of Riel? Why should it overlook the murders of men and women, clergymen and laymen, and the consequences of Riel's appeal to the Indians?" The same authority goes on to say at another time: "The law makes treason a crime. The law has pronounced Riel guilty of that crime. The duties of the Executive are clear and simple." In May the *Globe* went on to say: "It will occur to