

"The people may rely upon it that respect and protection will be extended to the different religious persuasions—(loud cheers)—that titles to every description of property will be perfectly guarded—(renewed cheers)—and that all the franchises which have existed, or which the people may prove themselves qualified to exercise, shall be duly continued or liberally conferred.

"In declaring the desire and determination of Her Majesty's Cabinet, you may very safely use the terms of the ancient formula, that 'Right shall be done in all cases.'

"Wishing you a prosperous journey and all success in your mission of peace and good will,

"I remain, faithfully yours,

"JOHN YOUNG."

Mr. Riel—It is not signed "Governor."

Mr. Smith—It is written and signed "in my capacity as Her Majesty's representative."

Mr. Riel translated the letter into French.

An altercation then ensued concerning certain letters with which Vicar-General Thibault had been entrusted by the Government, but which had been taken possession of by Mr. O'Donoghue, and given to Secretary Schmidt. After a stormy discussion in which Judge Black (Secretary) and Mr. Riel exchanged sharp compliments, it was agreed that the letters be hunted up and produced at the adjourned meeting. Mr. Riel moved that Mr. Smith should proceed with reading the other papers he had; to which Bishop Machray, seconded by Rev. Mr. Black, moved in amendment that he be allowed until the arrival of the document he wanted.

Mr. Smith—The paper I want is a proclamation from the Governor-General, copies of which came into the Settlement, but where they are I do not know.

Archdeacon McLean said that if Mr. Smith was willing it might be well to hear what he had to say at once.

Mr. Smith—One of the documents I have is a copy of a paper delivered to me. It is a communication from the Queen, our Sovereign. It is the telegraph message referred to in one of the papers addressed to me, and which was put into my hands in Canada, very shortly after being received from England. It is a message from Earl Granville to Sir John Young, dated "Nov. 26."

"Make what use you think best of what follows:—The Queen has heard with surprise and regret that certain misguided persons have banded together to oppose by force the entry of the future Lieutenant-Governor into our territory in Red River. Her Majesty does not distrust the loyalty of her subjects in the Settlement; and can only ascribe to misunderstanding or misrepresentation their opposition to a change planned for their advantage.

"She relies on your government to use every effort to explain whatever misunderstandings may have arisen—to ascertain their wants, and conciliate the good will of the people of Red River Settlement. But in the meantime she authorizes you to signify to them the sorrow and displeasure with which she views the unreasonable and lawless proceedings which have taken place; and her expectation that if any parties have desires to express or complaints to make respecting their condition and prospects, they will address themselves to the Governor-General of Canada.

"The Queen expects from her representative that as he will be always ready to receive well-founded grievances, so will he exercise all the power and authority she entrusted to him, in the support of order and the suppression of unlawful disturbances." (Cheers.)

The meeting then adjourned till the following day, when it re-assembled at noon, the crowd in attendance being larger than before.

Father Lestane came forward and said, amid cheers:—"We have been good friends to this day in the whole Settlement; and I want to certify here that we will be good friends to-night."

Mr. Riel translated the remarks into French and Rev. H. Cochrane into Indian.

Mr. Smith again came forward to finish reading the documents. This, he said, is a letter from the Governor-General to Mr. Macnab:

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,
"Dec. 6, 1869.

"W. MACNAB, Esq., Governor of Assiniboia.

Sir,—I had the honour to address you in my capacity as representative of the Queen and Governor-General of Her Majesty's British North American possessions, and enclosed for your information a copy of a message received from Earl Granville, in reply to the account which I sent officially of the events occurring in Red River Settlement. The message conveys the matured opinion of the Imperial Cabinet. The proclamation I have issued is based on it; and you will observe it refers all who have desires to express or complaints to make, to refer to me, as invested with authority on behalf of the British Government. And the inhabitants of Rupert's Land, of all classes and persuasions, may rest assured that Her Majesty's Government has no intention of interfering with, or setting aside, or allowing others to interfere with, the religious, the rights, or the franchise hitherto enjoyed, or to which they may hereafter prove themselves equal. (Loud cheers.)

"Make what use you think best of this communication and of the enclosed.

"I have the honour to be,

"Your most obedient and humble servant,
"JOHN YOUNG."

Mr. Smith—The next document I will read is a communication from Mr. Howe to Mr. McDougall. I read it, not because I have any connection with Mr. McDougall, but because it is referred to in my commission:—

"OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
"STATE FOR THE PROVINCES,
"Ottawa, Dec. 7, 1869.

"Sir,—I had the honour to address to you despatches from the 19th and 20th November, but for fear they have miscarried I duplicate them to you. I have the honour also to send you an Order-in-Council, passed this day, on the subject of Customs duties.

"You will now be in a position to assure the residents of the North-West Territories:—

"1. That all their civil and religious liberties will be sacredly respected.

"2. That all their properties, rights and privileges of every kind, as enjoyed under the government of the Hudson's Bay Company, will be continued.

"3. That in granting titles to land now occupied by the settlers, the most liberal policy will be pursued.

"4. That the present tariff of Customs duties will be continued for two years from the 1st of January next, except in the case of spirituous liquors, as specified in the Order-in-Council above alluded to.

"5. That in forming your Council the Governor-General will see that not only the Hudson Bay Company, but the other classes of the residents, are fully and fairly represented.

"6. That your Council will have the power to establish municipal self-government at once, and in such manner as they may think most beneficial for the country.

"7. That the country will be governed, as in the past, by British law, and according to the spirit of British justice.

"8. That the present government is to be considered as merely provisional and temporary; and that the government of Canada will be prepared to submit a measure to Parliament, granting a liberal constitution, so soon as you, as Governor, and your Council, have had the opportunity of reporting fully on the wants and requirements of the territory.

"You had, of course, instructions on all the above-mentioned points, except the tariff, before you left Ottawa. But it has been thought well that I should repeat them to you in this authoritative form.

"Trusting that before long you may be enabled to carry these liberal propositions into practice, in administering the affairs of the North-West,

"I have the honour, &c.,

"JOSEPH HOWE,

"Secretary of State for the Provinces.

"Hon. W. McDougall, Pembina."

Mr. Riel translated the above.

The instructions which the Hon. Mr. McDougall took with him from Ottawa were then read, but they merely contain a more detailed statement of the general policy sketched in the papers already quoted.

Business being resumed, Mr. Riel, seconded by Mr. Bannatyne, moved that 20 representatives shall be elected by the English population of Red River, to meet 20 others, representatives of the French population, on Tuesday, the 25th inst., at noon, in the Court House, with the object of considering the subject of Mr. Smith's commission, and to decide what would be best for the welfare of the country.—Carried.

Cheers were then given for Father Lestane, Bishop Machray, Father Richot, Mr. Riel, Mr. O'Donoghue, and the Commissioners.

A Voice—That resolution seems to cast a doubt on Mr. Smith's commission. We do not doubt it.

Mr. Riel and Mr. O'Donoghue—We accept the commission as genuine, and are merely to consider what is to be done under it.

On motion of Judge Black, seconded by Mr. O'Donoghue, it was resolved that a committee consisting of Thos. Bunn, Rev. J. Black, the Bishop of Rupert's Land, John Sutherland, and John Fraser, be appointed to meet and apportion the English representatives for the different parishes in the settlement, and to determine the mode of election. Committee to meet to-morrow at noon, at the Bishop's.

Father Richot said that he was glad to be present with the Bishop of Rupert's Land and the clergy of various denominations. All, he believed, came there with the best interests of the people at heart. They came there to see that order and good feeling prevailed, and to influence the people as far as they could in the direction of what was right and just. (Loud cheers.) The clergy were also citizens, and as such, they were glad to be present and promote these objects. (Cheers.)

Bishop Machray was sure that every one would heartily respond to the kind feeling expressed, and do what was possible to promote union and concord. (Loud cheers.) The rights of all present were the same, and on all reasonable propositions there could not be much difference of opinion. (Cheers.) For his part he had the greatest hope that their coming together on that occasion, and their gathering next week, as proposed, would lead to a happy settlement of public affairs. (Cheers.) And therefore he hoped we would be as united in the future as we had been in the past. (Loud and repeated cheers.)

Mr. Riel then addressed the meeting as follows:—Before this assembly breaks up, I cannot but express my feelings, however briefly. I came here with fear. We are not yet enemies (loud cheers)—but we came very near being so. As soon as we understood each other, we joined in demanding what our English fellow-subjects in common with us believe to be our just rights. (Loud cheers.) I am not afraid to say our rights; for we have all rights. (Renewed cheers.) We claim no half rights, mind you, but all the rights we are entitled to. Those rights will be set forth by our representatives, and, what is more, gentlemen, we will get them. (Loud cheers.)

The meeting then adjourned.

The following, from St. Paul, dated Feb. 12, gives the result of the Convention held on the 25th January:

The *New Nation* of the 28th ult., just received, contains a full report of the proceedings of the Convention of the English and French on the 25th, to consider Smith's Commission. On the first day some of the delegates not having arrived, nothing was done. On the second day the Convention organized; Judge Black was elected Chairman, Wm. Coldwell and Lewis Schmidt, secretaries; Messrs. Ross and Riel were appointed translators. The proceedings of the Convention were carried on with closed doors, except to the clergy.

Mr. Bannatyne contested the election of Scott, but referred the matter to the English delegates who decided Scott was elected.

On the motion of Riel, Smith's papers were brought in, and it was agreed to translate them into French.

On the third day the Convention proceeded to consider the Commission, and the letter from Howe to Smith, which was read in French and English. Riel then addressed the Convention, calling attention to the importance of Smith's Commission, saying, "there were ample grounds in that document for the belief that Canada was disposed to do us justice." Riel called attention to the expression occurring near the close of the Commission, that as the communication with Canada was necessarily imperfect, and the circumstances in Red River continually changing, Mr. Smith was to act according to the best of his judgment, to which Riel attached great importance. In connection with this paper, Riel asked that the paper No. 5 be read. It would seem, he said, that at first the Canadian Government forgot to speak to them of certain of their rights; but later events refreshed their memory, and caused them to remember what they were ready to do for them. He here allu-

ded to the Customs duties, &c., document No. 5, from Howe to McDougall.

This was commented on by Mr. Ross, who said, "this document coming through Smith, and not McDougall, afforded hope, and was welcome. From its tone it was clear Canada requests them to ask all that was reasonable to ask as British subjects. If Howe said all that was written here, some guarantee was given for their confidence; for the Canadian Government would never promise in that full and explicit manner what it was not ready to fulfil." (Cheers.)

Riel moved that Mr. Smith be requested to come before the Convention and state what he could do for them as Commissioner, and also state what was best in his judgment to be done to secure their rights.

The Chairman and Mr. Ross urged the reading of the Government of Canada's proclamation as to their duty as British subjects.

Riel and others objected, saying, although British subjects, yet they had to do with the Commission.

The proclamation was not read, and Mr. Smith entered the room, being loudly cheered by the Delegates.

After some explanations made by the Chairman to Mr. Smith, Riel spoke in substance as follows:

"This Settlement has long been in a state of commotion and doubt with reference to the transfer to Canada. If I could regard Mr. Smith as in a position to concede all the rights we desire or deserve, or assure us that we would get even the most important of them, I would welcome him heartily. (Loud cheers.) But we must be firm as a rock in the defence of the rights and liberties of the people. Now that Canada begins to respect us, we are not unwilling to meet her advances and consider them fairly and justly. (Cheers.) Being now in a position to obtain our rights, we heartily welcome Mr. Smith in this country." (Cheers.)

Mr. Smith said:—"As Canadian Commissioner I will gladly give you all the information I can. Canada is disposed to respect the people of this country, and desirous of according them any privilege enjoyed by any Province of the Dominion, and all the rights of British subjects enjoyed in any portion of the Dominion. I shall answer any questions asked me, and after ascertaining the desires of the Convention, will point out, as far as I can, how far Canada will accede to them." (Cheers.)

In answer to a question he said that he had seen the French Bill of Rights; but did not remember clearly what the demands were.

Riel explained that the Bill of Rights was drawn up by himself and his friends. It was not final: it might be curtailed or extended; it simply showed what was aimed at.

After much discussion whether the old Bill of Rights or a new one should be submitted to Mr. Smith as a basis of the demands, Riel moved "that a Committee composed of three English and three French meet at the Court House on the 28th to draw up a Bill in accordance with the wishes of the people; ample time being allowed to the Committee to frame such a Bill well." Carried.

The following Committee was then appointed:—Thomas Bunn, James Ross, Dr. Bird, Louis Riel, Louis Schmidt, and Charles Nolan.

"O, HOW GLAD I AM THAT I GAVE HIM THAT FLOWER!"—One evening last summer, as General Windham was proceeding along St. Catherine Street in the car, it stopped to admit a little girl and her nurse. The General called the child to him, and, taking her on his knee, said, "Sit by me," remarking, "what beautiful eyes you have, and what pretty flowers (observing she held a little bunch of white flowers), will you give me one of them?" She handed him the flowers, and attaching one of them to his breast, among his medals, he said, "Whenever I look at this flower I shall think of the little girl with the beautiful eyes," adding, "I have a little boy, who is now in the country, just your size." On Saturday evening last, as the child was going to bed, she said to her nurse, "General Windham, that was buried to-day—was it him that I gave the flowers to in the car?" On being answered that it was, she exclaimed, "O, Marion, how glad I am that I gave him that flower when he asked me!"—*With-as.*

THE BYRON CONTROVERSY.—It would seem that the disagreeable discussion opened by Mrs. Stowe ought to be considered now as closed. The *London Quarterly Review* contains an examination of that lady's "Vindication," in which considerable new matter is brought forth. The writer says he has seen the memorandum which Lady Byron lent to Mrs. Stowe, and he positively asserts that it does not contain one syllable from which any sane person, without having what Lord Bacon calls a "prejudiced opinion," could say that Lady Byron ever made the charge in question, or any charge involving crime, at any time. New letters from Lady Byron to Mrs. Leigh are also published, showing the greatest intimacy and regard subsisting between Lord and Lady Byron. Even the very scandal, now so well-known, was communicated to Lady Byron in February, 1816, by a lady of high social distinction, a friend of Mrs. Leigh. Lady Byron, in her reply of the 20th of that month, deeply regrets the reports in circulation relative to the separation, and says that none can occasion her more sorrow than that reflecting on Mrs. Leigh. She adds: "During my residence under the same roof with Mrs. Leigh, all my friends have heard me express the most grateful and affectionate sense of her good offices towards me; and before I left the house I wrote of her and spoke of her in these terms to every one who was intimate with me." The *Quarterly*'s article is by no means complimentary of Lady Byron. The writer, however, appears to have complete access to all the facts in the case.—*Boston Journal.*

"UN VRAI GAMIN DE PARIS."—A boy of about ten years of age was brought before the Commissaire of the Odéon, charged with vagabondage in the quarter of the Luxembourg. "What have you been doing since you left your home?" enquired the magistrate. "Governor," replied the boy, "I have been at Neuilly at the funeral of Victor Noir." "Who took you there?" "A tall man whom I do not know. He had a grey coat and long boots. He made me cry 'Vive la République! Vive Rochefort!' and said that in returning we must break up the iron chairs of the Champs Elysees to beat the police. Ah! it was fine fun, I can tell you." It appeared that the juvenile revolutionist was a P. D. in a Paris printing establishment. He was restored to his distracted parents, who live in the Rue du Champ-d'Asile.