

and hopeless continuance came over him. A new purpose and courage took possession of him. He would not only take heart himself and in some way keep her from want and get the homestead clear, but he would have courage for both her and himself and make her feel that she was going to be taken care of. As they sat down to supper Rodney said:

"Ma, don't you 'spose that Riel has scouts just the same as the Government has?"

"'Course. I sh'd think so, anyway. Don't the paper tell?" she answered, absently.

After a moment's reflection, she added:

"Why?"

"Oh! nothing;—only I just heard one of 'em telling old 'Two-cent' that the Government paid 'em five dollars a day and furnished their rifles an' rations."

"Goodness! Well, if Riel does that he might better take the money that it costs an' buy the settlers' claims for 'em, outright. He might a good deal better never have begun the fight, anyway. 'Taint no use, an' everybody'll be poorer an' worse off when it's over; an' there'll be more widows an' hungry children in these valleys than they is now. It would be a mercy all 'round, if Riel should be captured an' the whole thing ended before it goes any further."

This suggested a new line of thought to the young would-be Rebel scout and he said no more until the evening meal was finished and he picked up his hat from the door step.