

of the General that, after the capture of Batoche, one of his objects was the capture of Riel. We can easily understand that. As long as Riel was in the field the rebellion was not ended, and there was a possibility that he might organize guerilla bands, and more lives and treasure would have to be spent before the rebellion was suppressed. The Genstates in his report :

"May 14th.—We marched for Lépine's Crossing. Having halted for dinner, I received information that Riel was somewhere in the vicinity, so determined to make for Guadapui, or Short's Crossing, which was some miles nearer, and camp for the night."

You see the General is obliged to alter his course, because Riel is in a certain direction which he had not anticipated. Then when Riel surrendered, the least the Government could do, was not to treat him as they would have done if he had been taken on the field of battle. We have in this matter the precedent of General Lee and General Grant. On the 2nd April, 1865, Richmond, which had so long withstood the Union forces, surrendered, and General Lee commenced his retreat with the object of joining his forces with those of General Johnston. He was followed closely by the victorious army, and, on the 7th of April, General Grant sent him a letter, not inviting, but simply suggesting to him to surrender. General Lee refused, and continued to fight; but, two days afterwards, finding that his situation was hopeless, he sought a conference with General Grant, and accepted the invitation to surrender. General Grant dictated his terms, and here they are :

"APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA,

9th April, 1885.

"GENERAL,—In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th instant, I propose to receive the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given by an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until pro-

perly exchanged, and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of his command. The arms, artillery and public property to be packed and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside."

U. S. GRANT.

General R. C. Lee.

There you see that the surrendered army were paroled. They were not confined, but allowed to go at liberty so long as as they did not take up arms again and violate the laws of the United States; but some authorities in the United States held that this did not prevent the Government from prosecuting the leaders for treason; for guilty of treason they certainly were. The new President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, took steps to bring General Lee, and several of the most prominent officers to trial. This was steadily opposed by General Grant.

### The magnanimity of General Grant's character

then came out, and he threatened to resign his position in the army if General Lee and the other prisoners of war were tried for treason. A few months afterwards a committee of Congress sat upon the question. General Grant was brought before the committee and gave this evidence :

"I frequently had to intercede for General Lee and other paroled officers, on the ground that their parole, so long as they observed the laws of the United States, protected them from arrest and trial. The President, at that time, occupied exactly the reverse grounds, viz., that they should be tried and punished. He wanted to know when the time would come when they would be punished. I told him not so long as they obeyed the law and complied with the stipulation.

"Eldridge.—You looked on that in the nature of a parole, and held that they could only be tried when they violated that parole.

"Grant.—Yes, that is the view I took of the question.