

The magistrates had done so accordingly but had failed either to extract from him any rational excuse for their proceeding (beyond the assertion that the Canadian Government had no right to make surveys in the Territory without the express permission of the people of the settlement), or any promise that their opposition would be withdrawn.

Dr. Cowan stated further, that Riel was to be back at 2 o'clock, when he, the Doctor, if Riel refused to listen to reason, would bring in the influence of Governor McTavish, whose health being in a critical position, he had desired should not be troubled if it could be avoided.

WEDNESDAY, October 13th.

Dr. Cowan informed me this morning that the interview of himself and Governor McTavish with Riel, which had taken place yesterday, had been in no respect satisfactory, that Riel still persisted that injustice was being done by the Canadian Government, and utterly refused to withdraw from the position he and those under him had taken.

Dr. Cowan said he should now apply to the Father Superior Lestanc, in charge of the Diocese during the absence of Bishop Taché, and that he felt sanguine that the Rev. Father, if so disposed could put a stop to trouble at once.

It being important that I should no longer delay visiting another of my parties under Mr. Hart, engaged in projecting the meridian up near Shoal Lake (on which service, had this trouble not occurred, I would have left on the afternoon of the 11th instant). I determined to leave to-day, desiring Dr. Cowan, after consulting with Father Lestanc, to send a note to my office, stating the result, and instructing Mr. Webb; accordingly I started on the service above mentioned.

OCTOBER 14th to 20th, both inclusive.

Absent at Shoal Lake and examining country between that Lake and Lake Manitoba.

OCTOBER 21st.

Having returned to the settlement late last night, found Dr. Cowan's efforts with Father Lestanc had been without avail, the Rev. Father declining to attempt to use any influence with the party of half-breeds in question.

Dr. Cowan informed me that the Rev. Father, in explanation of his refusal, said that any such attempt in consequence of an idea that possessed the half-breeds that the Company was in collusion with the Canadian Government, would have a tendency to impress them with the idea that the Church also was in sympathy with the Government, and so might lead to weakening their influence over the people in a religious point of view.

Dr. Cowan had written a note, (see same dated 15th October,) announcing the entire failure of his endeavours to get over the opposition of the French Settlers to the survey, in consequence of which Mr. Webb, according to my instructions in such event, had withdrawn his party to the north side of the Assiniboine, and was proceeding with the surveying of the settlement north of Fort Garry, to which no opposition was offered. Such is the present condition of affairs.

SAME DAY, 4 O'CLOCK P.M.

The High Constable, Mulligan, has just come to inform me, as a matter of duty, that a meeting took place yesterday, at a house of a French half-breed, named Bruce, on the other side of the river, by a number of the disaffected French party, among whom the man Riel was conspicuous.

That at such meeting it was resolved, to send an armed party to meet the Governor, whom they expected to come in to-morrow, and to prevent at all hazards, his entering the settlement.

Under these circumstances, not wishing to identify myself with any one of the three parties into which the people in the village are evidently divided, and who have no