

PROT

between the delegates of the fully ratified, and as far as I in the House the act was ac- all the mem- of Assiniboin, to be new to actual fact and s. Bunn, will Report, page gned by him:

June 23rd, 1870.

You that the this day for the the delegation made, of which the President in- you did not at account of bad -and secondly, arrival of at least fore reporting (Journed till the assured of either your report in that they are ex- your mission to ce in your good to request you person if your

Sir,
Lieut.
Brux,
Secretary."

request, Rev. fore the Leg- ve his report, encountered, ed from him bers, on," the only e in full the elated in the given to the ce Assembly.

t important e body here, ublicly of As- Legislature for the 23rd till the fol- chot, one of before the Government, sion to Ot- proceedings d the little us giving a before next

his report, e of thanks ublicly and discharged then mani- in the name Act should at the com-

try should enter the Dominion on the terms specified in the Manitoba and Confederation acts. This conclusion elicited loud and enthusiastic cheers."

The vote of thanks, I may observe, was moved by Hon. Mr. Bunn himself, and seconded by Hon. Mr. Bannatyne. In those days all the members of the legislative assembly were favored with the title of honorable.

On the 28th of the same month, the Rev. Mr. Ritchot wrote as follows on the subject to Sir George Cartier. (Report, page 81):

"ST. BONIFACE, June 28th, 1870.

To Sir George E. Cartier, Minister of Militia, etc., OTTAWA.

SIR, On Friday last, the 24th inst., I was summoned before the Legislative Assembly of the Provisional Government to give some explanation in the matter of the Manitoba Act. All declared themselves very well satisfied. Their fears are disappearing. Sympathy with Canada is lively and sincere. Mr. Riel wishes to see the Governor arrive as soon as possible, in order to relieve himself of the responsibility which weighs upon him.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(signed), N. J. Ritchot, Ptre."

It is evident that the delegates reported, that their report was accepted with enthusiasm, that the treaty was ratified by representatives elected by the people. Consequently, that the negotiations including those concerning the Upper House, and separate schools, instead of being ignored by the population of the Red River, were accepted by them, even if unknown to individuals who seem to think that not being known to them means not to exist.

INACCURACIES.

I take the liberty to say that the paragraph of your letter beginning with the words "Now regarding our delegates to Ottawa, etc.," is full of inaccuracies. You say that shortly after the first interview Judge Black was hurriedly called away from Ottawa; such was not the case. Judge Black remained in Ottawa from his arrival on the 21st April to the 18th May; he took part in the negotiations at every meeting held during that period. I have on my table a letter of Judge Black's, written at the Russell house, Ottawa, the 17th May; the same day he bade good bye to the Rev. Mr. Ritchot, telling him that without his efforts they would not have obtained the half of what was conceded by the Government. "The people of the Red River," English and French, said he, "as well as Canada owe you a great deal, etc., etc." Miss Black, a sister of the judge, joins with her brother in the expression of the same sentiment, adding that "she felt happy in being able to say that she will long remember the generous efforts made by the Rev. Father in favor of the people of the Red River, without distinction of origin or creed."

Again you say that "Alfred Scott was taken ill." There was no such sickness as would prevent the delegate Mr. Scott from taking an active part in all the deliberations to the very last. I ascertain that from the diary of the Rev. Mr. Ritchot, and I heard it also from the lips of Mr. Scott himself who, after his return, was taken sick. During his illness I

often visited him in the hospital at St. Boniface where he died in May, 1872.

You add, "Sir John A. Macdonald was continually indisposed." The indisposition did not prevent him from going himself to Sir Geo. E. Cartier's residence, where he met the delegation on the 23rd April, twice on the 25th, and again on the 26th, 27th and 28th; he met them all also on the 2nd, the 5th and 6th May, so that you are not justified in stating "that the business on behalf of this country was really transacted between the Rev. J. N. Ritchot and the late Sir George E. Cartier."

The acceptance of the Act of Manitoba by the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboin as mentioned above, is a complete answer to your accusation. "Our delegates were not loyal to our cause, etc.," and to all the arguments founded thereon, more especially to the affirmation that "Col. Wolesey and his expedition, at the point of the bayonet, forced the present constitution upon us."

I was so much the more surprised to read that statement in your letter, that, a few lines after, you contradict the same by the following assertion: "Your Grace is truly aware of this fact that the Wolesey expedition was not sent to Fort Garry, for the purpose of fighting Mr. Louis Riel." I am well aware of that, but you are also perfectly aware that the enemies of the half-breeds repeatedly affirmed that such was the object of the expedition. You add: "Your Grace is also aware that the beloved wife of Col. Wolesey could have entered Fort Garry one month at least before the arrival of the gallant Colonel." Yes, I know it very well, and I could even give a little bit of information that this was contemplated and very nearly became an accomplished fact.

When at work and before coming to a close I beg leave to add a few words more. The extraordinary language to which I will be forced to allude is not yours, for your letter, I am happy to say, has nothing of the kind.

A MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.

I am confident that your fairness of disposition will convince you that after all "my Bill of Rights" is not such a mysterious affair; true, it mentioned and obtained an Upper House; for my part I confess I have a leaning for Upper Houses, and I am not alone, as most of the constitutions of countries, both in the old and new world, admit its utility, and I am sure that being, as you are, aware that the Upper House of Manitoba, at its very outset, had five English speaking members against two French, you will not, as some others do, come to the conclusion that it was invented "to give the French the control of Manitoba."

You say that separate schools are not mentioned in your Bill of Rights, but the fact that they are cared for in the Manitoba Act is if anything a proof that your Bill of Rights was not the one considered; I will add it is a very bad action to try to excite ill feeling on account of the demand to have separate schools alter the "model of Quebec," and that by treaty.