

hundred and sixty-nine, and in the thirty-second year of Her Majesty's reign.

"By command,
" (Signed), JOHN YOUNG.

..... " (Signed).
SEAL. " H. L. LANGRISH,
..... " Secretary of State."

Among other things, this proclamation contains two paragraphs, the one inviting the dissatisfied parties to "address themselves" to His Excellency, the other promising, in case of submission, "to give orders that no legal proceedings will be taken against any" of them.

Furnished with these documents, which I know to be genuine, brought forth with the utmost good faith, and necessarily implying their effect, being the echo of Royal tidings, I immediately set out.

Notwithstanding all possible diligence, the difficulty of the route, and the absence of any speedy mode of conveyance through the plains, prevented my reaching St. Boniface before the 9th March, five days after the execution of Thomas Scott.

It was only after my arrival that I ascertained all the danger of the situation. I studied it to the best of my judgment. I conferred with the persons mentioned in the Governor General's letter, and together we came to a perfect understanding as to the gravity of events and the means of averting misfortunes incomparably greater than those that had already happened.

Circumstances did not seem to dictate a different course of action than that suggested in England and advised anew by the Governor General, as the first remedy to evil.

I produced His Excellency's proclamation, inviting a delegation and promising an amnesty. I assured the insurgents and their leaders that their just reclamations would be listened to, and I shewed them the signature of the representative of our Gracious Sovereign, promising to give order that no legal proceedings would "be taken against any" of them.

As foretold by Lord Granville the false proclamation issued by Hon. W. McDougall had the effect to "detract from the weight of any subsequent proclamations." I came forth as guaranty of the genuineness of the one that had been handed to me, and affirmed upon my honor that it would be fully executed; and, that all, without distinction would be benefitted by the promise made to them.

In a word, guided by my verbal and written instructions, and considering myself

as the Governor General himself had said "fully in possession of the views of" the representative of Her Majesty, I transmitted the pledge of amnesty entrusted to me.

Have I done wrong? Have I frustrated the expectations of the representative of our beloved Sovereign? Have I made a rash and indiscreet promise? No. Since after my explanations the honourable Secretary of State wrote to me on the 27th May, 1870, as follow:—

"MY LORD,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to express his sympathy in your anxieties and his warm acknowledgments of your exertion in the cause of peace and moderation."

I have besides, other direct and official proofs that I was not mistaken in believing that the events that had occurred while I was on the way between Ottawa and Fort Garry had not modified the views of the Imperial Government.

The desire to open negotiations with the delegates was fully realized. The delegates were not only listened to, but were received officially; meanwhile, bringing forth as condition *sine qua non* the 19th clause of their instructions requiring a full and complete amnesty.

It is true that on their arrival at Ottawa, two of the three delegates were arrested, but this merely turned to prove that the said event of the 4th of March had not changed the policy of the Imperial Government, as it clearly appears in the following despatches interchanged between Earl Granville and Sir John Young.

On the 17th March, Lord Granville had sent the following telegraphic message: "Let me know by telegram when you know delegates have started from Fort Garry."

On the 4th of April, the following telegram was sent by Sir John Young: "Smith came here on Saturday from Fort Garry with bad news. A Canadian called Scott—was by Riel's orders tried by court martial and shot, with the view it is supposed of compromising Riel's followers before Tache had arrived. They say the delegates are coming, but it is quite clear Riel will yield to nothing but force. Things now look, I think very bad."

On the 7th April, Sir John Young again, "Last of the delegates is expected at St. Paul on Thursday, the 14th, the others arrived there to-day, and may reach Ottawa on Saturday, the 9th."

Notwithstanding "the bad news and apprehensions expressed by Sir John Young in his despatch of the 4th April, on the