

you without fear of my letters being opened, and myself put in danger by what might be written therein.

“Since I wrote you last, I have passed through many strange and trying scenes. I was imprisoned all last winter, and, by the goodness of God, delivered from that fearful time, but with shattered health. All last spring I lay trembling on the die between life and death; but, after a while, it turned up life, and I am now, thank God! slowly, but surely, I think, regaining my wonted health.

* * * It is a struggle of civilisation and light against Jesuitical fanaticism and darkness; and, instead of the Hudson's Bay Company being fought against, were to all appearances instigating the movement. There is no doubt but that, to all appearance, the first prime movers in the affair were the Roman Catholic priests, aided and abetted by the Hudson's Bay Company. The thing stood on this wise:—This country was ceded to Canada, unwillingly, by the Hudson's Bay Company. Light—Christian light—and civilisation was about to enter that down-trodden country, and the Jesuits were not slow in comprehending that, by the influx of Protestantism, it would be the death-knell of their soul-destroying superstitions; and, on the other hand, the Hudson's Bay Company saw that by the same cause the fur trade was destroyed. The former saw that their ‘craft was in danger to be set at nought;’ and the latter, that ‘the hope of their gains was gone.’ Therefore, if these could show to the outside world that Canada was the cause of trouble in Red River, and that the country was hitherto tranquil, until the advent of Canadians, as a natural consequence the transfer of the country would be stopped, and the land handed back to the Hudson's Bay Company—they being the only power capable of governing the country in peace and quietness. But they were both egregiously sold in their expectations. That miserable caitiff, Riel, the creature of the priests, only wanted power, and when he got that, he went farther than was good for the Hudson's Bay Company. An Irish Fenian priest, who threw off his gown to join the rebellion,