

**THE GIBBET OF REGINA, THE
TRUTH ABOUT RIEL, SIR JOHN A.
MACDONALD AND HIS CABINET
BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION, BY
ONE WHO KNOWS**

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The gibbet of Regina, the truth about Riel, Sir John A. Macdonald and his cabinet before public opinion, by one who knows by Anonymous

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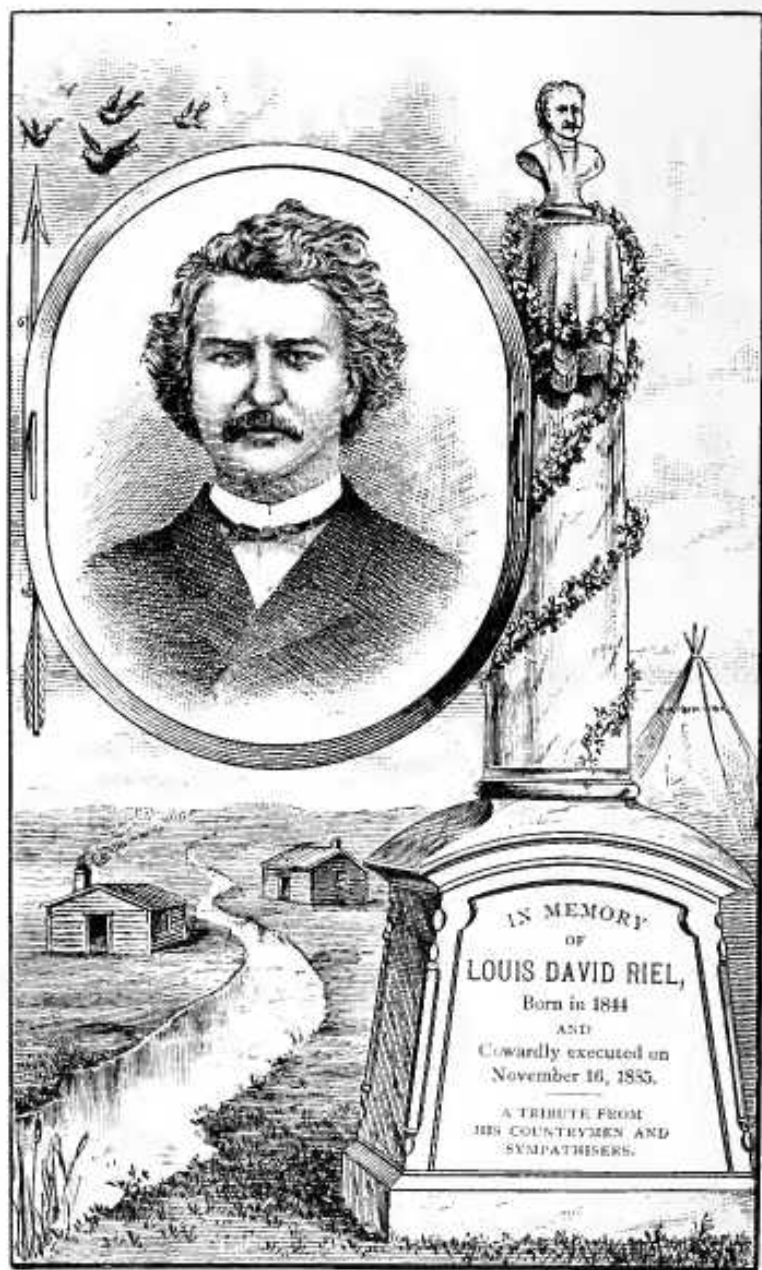
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ANONYMOUS

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IN MEMORY
OF
LOUIS DAVID RIEL,
Born in 1844
AND
Cowardly executed on
November 16, 1885.

A TRIBUTE FROM
HIS COUNTRYMEN AND
SYMPATHISERS.

THE
GIBBET OF REGINA

THE TRUTH ABOUT RIEL

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD AND HIS CABINET
BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION

BY
ONE WHO KNOWS



New York

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PREFACE.

NEW YORK, November 17th, 1885.

MY DEAR MR. THOMPSON:—

All is over!

Louis David Riel is no more!

Universal history counts in its pages a new bloody episode.

Henceforth the 16th day of November, 1885, will be for French Canadians the date of the basest insult ever inflicted upon their nationality, their race, their faith and their dignity.

Humanity and civilization have been laughed at and odiously outraged by Sir John A. MacDonal'd and his Cabinet. Justice has been baffled! Orangeism has won the day. You were still doubting a few days ago that the fiendish hatred of the *mephitic* Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada would dare follow to the end his mortal designs against Riel. To-day, doubt is no longer possible; Riel has paid with his head his ardent love for his country.

You have asked me to put down in writing some facts I mentioned to you in our last conversation.

Be it so!

You will find in the manuscript herewith, my frank and candid opinion on this painful affair, and the narration of facts I have witnessed during the five years I lived in Manitoba.

Use what I now send you to the best of your judgment, and whatever you do with it, rest assured that I am only too happy to join my voice to the general imprecation aroused by the brutal execution of the French Half-breed Louis David Riel.

Very respectfully,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

To the American public:

The above letter I received a few days after Riel's execution. Like a great number, I had hoped against hope, that what has taken place could, and would have

been avoided. But, it appears, that every friend of justice and humanity was fated to a sad disappointment; none could have anticipated that blind hatred would have prevailed against the unbiassed and unanimous opinion of the whole civilized world.

After a careful reading, I decided to publish, in the form of a book, the manuscript referred to, because it is based upon undeniable facts; because those facts and occurrences are vouchsafed for by men who have closely followed the transformation of the Canadian North-west into a conglomerant of the Dominion of Canada.

These pages, to be sure, are written with great vehemence of language; but, how could it be otherwise? The writer saw, felt and comprehended. Suavity of language could not adequately have painted criminality organized into a system.

Be that as it may, the American reader—conscientious, searching and logical by nature—will find, in these pages, matter to reflect upon.

On the one hand, he will find short-sighted policy, criminal indifference and cowardly animosity, all combined to crush vested rights, ignore solemn and oft-repeated pledges, and violate all those principles of humanity that are recognized and respected by all nations having any claim to be called civilized.

On the other hand, the American reader will find an isolated and circumscribed, but spirited race—the victim of unmitigated outrages and base misrepresentations—

fighting against large odds for the revendication of their rights and the protection of their homes and families.

Far from me the thought of making any invidious observation to the American public about the *prima facie* similitude between Washington and Riel's career.

Both were apostles of human rights! Both were arrayed against the same secular arbitrarism! Both fought the same implacable despotism!

But here the similitude ceases! And why?

Because Washington fought and conquered with the help of Frenchmen!

And because Riel succumbed, and was defeated by the help of an American Administration!

How consoling to be able to logically remark: That governments are invariably responsible to the people, but that the people are not invariably responsible for their government?

* * *

In the presence of a freshly sealed coffin, words of bitterness, to be sure, are out of place. But I beg to ask you, Americans, when you were struggling for existenece; when, later on, piratical expeditions were organized and launched from the Canadian frontier (with the knowledge of Sir John A. MacDonald, who was then, as he is now, the Premier of the Canadian Cabinet) against peaceable American villages; when you called to arms, not alone your native-born citizens, but all mankind, in the defence

of the grandest political institutions known to ancient and modern times, who answered your cry of alarm?

Assuredly not the men represented by the party in power at Ottawa, to whom President Cleveland has so courteously given the right of way on American soil, for the transportation of arms and ammunition, in order to enable the bitterest enemies of the United States to annihilate the Half-breeds who were following in the footsteps of your forefathers!

To one misguided Orangeman, or, better, to one strayed Tory disciple of Sir John A. MacDonald—who was omnipotent at Ottawa then as he is to-day—that fought for the preservation of this glorious Republic, thousands of sympathetic French Canadians can be named, who nobly and disinterestedly upheld the flag. The conflict made tombs in our nationality, and we are proud of it. Your final success threw dismay in the official circles at Ottawa, as well as in the ranks of Orangeism; but an American Administration has just been found to assuage Toryism bitter disappointment by making amends for all that!

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* * *

What is all the trouble about? Let us take a retrospective view of the matter.

The French Canadians discovered and settled the country they live in. Embroiled in a struggle not of their seeking, and over which they had no control, they