

Government House

Fort Garry 11th, Jany 1872

My dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st November last, and having heard only to day that the Packet Post of the H.B.Co. leave here during the day, I hasten to avail myself of the opportunity of forwarding a reply.

Many thanks for your attention in leaving the letters for the Judiary on your way home.

I am in receipt by last Mail from Canada of a letter from Ottawa covering a Despatch from Earl Kimberly to the Governor General containing an answer from the Queen to the address of the Indians of Prince Albert, which I have forwarded to the Revd. Mr. Nesbitt by this Packet Post with a request that he should translate and explain it. It is in general terms expressing Her Majesty's satisfaction with the tone of the address etc.

Referring to your statement about the proceedings of Bishop Grandin, he must have entirely misunderstood the conversation he had with me, if he imagined I authorized him to lay off any Halfbreed reserve. The only Half breed Claim is that which is created by the Act of Manitoba and that is confined to this Province.

What I said was, I had not a doubt, that the Government
J.C. Christie Esqr.

Chief Factor H.B.Co.

Fort Edmonton

would recognize the claims of actual settlers, to an amount of land reasonably sufficient to make a farm for each head of a family- and in reply, to the question, how the settlers could prevent interference from Strangers coming in, I told him there could be no difficulty, in the occupants marking off their land and holding by lines. How he could have supposed, that the liberty to settlers to retain their holdings and a reasonable surrounding to make up what is necessary for farms, could be construed to mean, the reservation of half a Province is something incomprehensible to me. There has been trouble enough with Half Breed Reserves in this Province, to warn us against a survival of the same troubles outside.

A claim of such a tract as you speak of, say 140 miles by 20 miles, equal to an area of 1,800,000 acres, requires only to be stated, to shew its absurdity no Government and no Government Officer could entertain such a proposition.

These people can found no claim upon their being Half breed. It is only as Settlers that any indulgence can be shewn them. How then, can one settler say to another as you say has been done out there, "my right is better than yours" No man located there can be diturbed and any settler there has the same right, whether white Halfbreed or Indian. Your own judgment will tell you this. But what has taken place proves that you were right in advising a stay of our hands about the local matters, which formed the subject of our sonversation.

Any body who goes to the Saskatchewan to settle, has

just as much right to go there and enter on unoccupied land as those had who went before them, and I shall not be sorry to see a goodly amount of immigration, for settlement there next spring.

As to the question of Legislation to which you refer, any community may make rules for its own Government, and so long as the people choose to abide by them, no harm is done. They have no power however to enforce these rules if resistance is made, and as to any regulations it may be considered desirable to be able to enforce if necessary, your best mode will be to forward a copy to me, with a certificate that they have been adopted at a meeting, where the sense of the inhabitants has been fairly ascertained, and I shall take the necessary steps to give them the force of law.

In reference to a Police or Military force for protection etc., I am urging that matter on the Dominion Government with all my power. You will be able to explain to Mr. McDougall, the substance of my commentation with you on the subject. His proposal to send a memorial urging the measure may be useful and at all events can do no harm.

I have informed the Dominion Government that the Indian fourmissions must go West next summer. I have led the Indians in the neighborhood of the Forks of the Saskatchewan, to expect him sometime, but not very early, in the summer.

I have written you freely on the subject of the lands, because it is a vital point, and no misapprehension should exist upon it. I leave it to you, however, to exercise

you discretion, and I know I can depend upon your exercising it soundly, as to the mode or extent to which the proceedings of the Bishop in reference to the Lands should be called publicly in question.

At this distance I cannot assume to judge whether mischiefs might be made of the matter, and possibly it might be the best course, so soon as I receive any official statement of what has been done, to write myself to the Bishop, to tell him he has entirely misconceived the tenor of my conversation with him if he imagined it went beyond what I have stated in this letter. I shall be glad to be favored with your opinion on this point.

Be Kind enought to Keep me informed of the progress of the mining operations in your region.

Believe me my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

A.G. Archibald

Lieut Govr.