

COPY

TO MY DEAR CHILDREN AND FRIENDS  
THE HALF BREEDS OF MANITOBA AN (sic) THE NORTH WEST  
St Albert Alberta

Transcribed by David Morin

My deay (sic) Children

I write you this to day (sic) in order to make you acquainted with this plan of a common colony in favor of all the Half Breeds of this country

You have already heard for some time passed of the scheme So far in every place amongst the white people as well as the Hal Breeds (sic) this scheme has meet with general satisfaction

You all know what interest and affection have ???????? moved me in favor of your nation It is again through fatherly love for you taht (sic) I undertake to help you once more in a new way at this critical period of your existence I still remember with pleasure the happy days when under the guidance and the safekeeping of your missionaries you were living contented under your tents or your roofs in the midst of an abundance acquired by hunting and tilling small parcels of land

Everything is changed to day (sic) Misery and poverty among a great many of you have replaced that easy life of old Far from bettering your condition the new civilisation has done nothing but render it worse As well as I do you see the change of life has been fatal to you in every respect Scattered in every direction to day; having no longer steady abodes and lans (sic) to till living a wandering life around the new cities and towns a very large number of you are in a more miserable condition than the Indians who have their reservations and their missionaries Under such circumstances in the absence of the priest's control and vigilance children in too many instances are brought up in complete ignorance and oblivion of their religious duties

In the course of my travels in this part of the country how often has my heart bled with sorrow and regret at the sight of our poor Half Breeds' decline! I said to myself: "with the consent of our Bishops I will make a supreme effort to save them whose fathers were our first children in Faith " In consenquence (sic) with the divine protection I set to work To day my scheme of redemption has advanced so far:

On my request earnestly recommended by the Bishops of St Boniface St Albert and Prince Albert the Ottawa government is willing to lend to us for ever (sic) that is to say as long as the end for which the demande (sic) made is attained a territory containing four townships near Eggs Lake east of Lake Laselle

This land will be entirely under the direction of the Bishops and missionaries who alone shall have the right to distribute and turn it to use at their own will for the greatest good of the new colony

All Half Breeds are invited to take their share of the advantages proffered (sic) by this establishment However do not wish that the Half Breeds who have still lands and houses in their respective parishes should dispose of them in order to respond to the call Let such as those continue to dwell near their churches and their missionaries The establishment of our new colony is chiefly for those who have no longer any home and who do not know how to earn a living

The Half Breeds who will come and settle among us while being usufructuaries of the portion of land which will be allotted to every one of them will never be able nor will their off spring to sell alienate or mortgage that property If any of them leave the colony it will be their own business but they will carry off nothing but

their furniture and cattle This must be well understood before effecting this change of life

It is well understood that nothing is promised either in provisions or pecuniary aid clothing etc but we may say that our corporation will do all in their power to aid as effectually as their means will allow those who will be determined to work and live in good accord with the missionaries

If we can succeed we propose to go on the spot next spring with a few families who will follow us in order to make the first breaking of land to erect the first houses and to sow all the grains at our disposal We shall be compelled to go very slow at the beginning owing to the small resources of the directors of the colony

Besides the portion of land allotted to each family there shall be commons for hay grazing and wood cutting the use of which shall be regulated by the missionaries

On the most suitable place of said townships the directors will set apart two sections for the site of a church a school a priest's residence etc etc There shall be reserved as well on other sections other pieces of ground where other chapels schools etc will have to be erected by and by

It shall be forbidden for white people or Indians to settle in our colony with the exception of those who will have received from the missionaries permission to do so It shall not be allowed to any strangers to hunt cut hay or wood on our reservation For the enforcement of this prohibition we shall be protected by the government

Of course all kinds of intoxicating liquor is strictly prohibited on our territory Any Half Breed who will bring some for traffic or to give to his fellow citizens to drink shall be expelled Any white person who shall try to do likewise shall be prosecuted according to the law

As soon as possible we shall establish industrial schools for boys and girls who shall be instructed in schooling and the various trades chiefly in agriculture and cattle breeding We do not wish that a large number of families should come at once for we shall not be ready to receive them We want to begin (sic) with a few families of good will with whom we wish to obtain success and to show others that we have every reason to hope for the future

That is my dear children what I had to tell you on this scheme which is of interest to you If once more you listen to the priest who is your true friend I promise you in advance that you will again live happy and that you shall not be exposed to be at the mercy of the white people Be confident come and work with us on our reservation In a short time you will have made an establishment which will afford you an easy living and you will have the consolation to be at home near your church your school (sic) and your pastors

It will be one of the greatest consolations for me in my old age to have done before my death this good office which I beg to God to bless

Yours very devoted father in Our Lord

(Signed)

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