

THE SCOTT MURDER.

THE TRIAL FOR WHICH LOUIS RIEL IS DENOUNCED.

THE HELPLESS AND WOUNDED VICTIM
NAILED UP ALIVE IN HIS COFFIN FOR
TEN AND A HALF HOURS, AND THEN
KILLED BY A BRUTAL MAN.

Ex-President Bruce, of Riel's original Provisional Government, has published in a Canadian paper a long letter giving an account of the murder of Thomas Scott, which was done under circumstances of more than fiendish barbarity. The *Ottawa Free Press* believes that "the statements may be accepted as absolute facts." Mr. Bruce writes:

"On the 4th of March, 1870, Thomas Scott was shot opposite the fort, a little below the road leading to the Assiniboine River, after a sham trial, passed in the absence of him that was doomed to death. M. Riel says: 'On the third of the same month (March) we brought Scott before a tribunal of war.' He was not brought before that tribunal of assassins before his sentence of death was passed, and he was brought thither, not to plead his cause, but simply to hear the reading of the sentence already delivered against him. * * * Among the seven who formed the tribunal of war, one—only one—had the courage to oppose the sentence of death, denouncing it as a cold-blooded murder. The six others shamefully bent their heads before the petty tyrant's will. Eternal shame upon the heads of those six men. Their cowardice has written on their heads the word assassin, while the courage of the opponent makes to-day the consolation and happiness of his conscience. That man who fearlessly voted against the six others, in spite of the abusive language and threats, was Baptiste Lepine, Ambrose's brother, who, with the five others, voted for Scott's death. I said the execution took place on the 4th of March, 1870. The details of that butchery cause a human being to shudder with horror, and it is hard to conceive how it is that men's hearts can contain such wickedness, can surpass in cold-blooded cruelty the most ferocious animals. Six soldiers had been chosen to shoot Scott. I have here again to write the name of a man whose behavior in that circumstance reflects on him the greatest honor. Augustin Parisien, one of the six soldiers, declared openly that he would not shoot at Scott; and, in fact, he took off the cap from his gun before the word of command—'present'—was given. Of the five balls remaining only two hit the poor victim, one in the left shoulder, the other in the upper part of the chest, above the heart. Had the other soldiers missed the mark unintentionally, or had they willingly aimed too high, too low, or aside? It is unknown. However that may be, as the two wounds were not sufficient to cause death, at least sudden death, a man named Guillemette stepped forward and discharged the contents of a pistol close to Scott's head while he was lying on the ground. This ball, however, took a wrong direction. It went into the upper part of the right cheek and came out somewhere about the cartilage of the nose. Scott was still not dead, but that did not prevent his butchers from placing him alive, and still speaking, in a kind of coffin made of four rough boards; it was nailed and placed in the south-east bastion, and an armed soldier was placed at the door. This would seem like a story made at one's ease if there were not several witnesses full of life who heard between the hours of 5 and 6 in the evening the unfortunate Scott speaking from under the lid of his coffin, and it is known that he had been shot at 12:30. What a long and horrible agony, and what a ferocious cruelty on the part of his butchers! The words heard and understood by the French Metis were only these: 'My God! my God!' Some English Metis, and others speaking Scott's tongue, heard distinctly these words: 'For God's sake, take me out of here or kill me!' Toward 11 o'clock, that is after ten and a half hours of frightful agony, a person whose name I shall withhold for the present went into the bastion and gave him the finishing stroke with a butcher's knife according to some; with a pistol according to others. That same person after having inflicted the last blow to poor Scott, said, as he was coming down from the bastion: 'The — — — shall not speak any more; he is dead this time. (L'enfant de chien-ne cette-fois-ci.) The corpse was left in the south-east bastion a few days, being watched by soldiers, relieved each in turn. On the third or fourth night, I could not say precisely which, the corpse was taken out of the bastion, placed in Dr. Schultz's sleigh, the same in which the doctor had brought to jail Mrs. Schultz, then sick, pulling the sleigh himself, as I have stated in my second letter. That same vehicle, then drawn by a gray horse, was taken toward the Red River, and stopped about one and a-half miles from the fort, nearly opposite the River La Seine. By means of a large stone tied to the corpse, the body of Thomas Scott went to the bottom of the river to come thence no more. A few words more and I am through this horrible tragedy. It was in the afternoon of the day when the execution took place that the corpse was placed in the coffin; and it was later taken out of it in the bastion, but, in order to avoid suspicion, a grave had been dug inside the gate facing the Assiniboine River, a few steps to the right, and it is there the coffin which was thought to contain Scott's body was lowered."

The New York Times

Published: April 11, 1874

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