

THE LAST TRIAL
PART ONE

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The sun rises over a vast prairie field, casting long shadows over the dew-kissed grass. A lone blue and white Métis flag flutters in the wind, its infinity symbol a quiet but powerful statement against the clear sky. The flag's fabric ripples with defiance, whispering the echoes of a people's enduring fight for recognition.

Intense orchestral score swells, resonating with the land's solemn history.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"History is the unwavering legacy of the Métis people—a truth no power can erase. Louis Riel was condemned for treason against the Crown in what was deemed the trial of the century. A trial that captivated attention from around the world, yet the deeper betrayal runs as thick as blood."

The sound of chains clinking disrupts the stillness, drawing the moment into the cold reality of a prison. The whispers of the wind fade, replaced by the rhythmic march of boots against stone floors.

CUT TO:

The narrow cell is dim, the walls cold and unforgiving. Louis Riel sits on a wooden bench, his hands clasped in silent prayer.

RCMP Officer unlocks the door to the cell, and two RCMP Officers stand at the entrance.

Louis Riel, calm, rises from his bed. He glances one last time at a letter and the Bible on the table.

RCMP OFFICER

It's time, Mr. Riel.

Riel lifts his head slowly, his eyes filled with an unspoken weight. He stands without a word, the chains on his wrists jingling softly.

The officer steps aside, gesturing toward the corridor.

RCMP OFFICER

They're waiting.

Louis Riel follows Father McWilliams. Riel adjusts his stance, his chains heavy but his resolve unbroken. He steps forward, his shoes echoing on the cold stone floor. The officer follows closely, his footsteps steady, as they walk down the narrow, dimly lit corridor toward an uncertain fate. They get to a set of doors.

The doors open, and Louis Riel walks into the courtroom.

CUT TO:

3 INT. COURTROOM - REGINA - DAY - (1885)

3

The courtroom buzzes with an air of historical significance. Christopher Robinson, representing the Crown, stands with a focused and determined expression, ready to argue his case. Opposite him, Charles Fitzpatrick prepares to humanize and defend his client, Louis Riel.

The room is packed with spectators, journalists from all over the world, and legal officials, all eager to witness the trial.

At the bench, Judge Richardson, stern and authoritative, clears his throat, commanding the attention of the jury. The jury all white Anglophones, dressed in their best attire while their eyes are sharply focused on the defendant.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

Gentlemen of the jury, history will remember what transpires in this courtroom. The fate of a man and the integrity of the Dominion of Canada rest in your hands. Gentlemen of the jury, you are convened here to deliberate on the case of Louis Riel, a man charged with the grave crime of high treason against Her Majesty, Our Sovereign Lady the Queen. It is your solemn duty to examine the evidence without prejudice, to apply the law with fairness, and to render a verdict that upholds justice. Do you fully comprehend the instructions and terms laid before you? Do you understand that this trial is of the utmost importance, not only for the accused but for the very fabric of our nation's unity? The weight of this decision demands your clarity of thought and steadfast dedication to the principles of justice.

Judge Richardson shifts in he's seat.

JUDGE RICHARDSON (CONT)

Let the opening statements begin.

Prosecutor Christopher Robinson and Defense Attorney Charles Fitzpatrick, alternate their statements through the courtroom as they deliver their opening statements. The stark contrast between their words underscores the gravity of the trial, presenting Louis Riel as both a traitor and a

leader. Each perspective shifts the narrative, revealing the battle between conviction and compassion, justice and betrayal.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

Gentlemen of the Jury, we are gathered to address the grave matter of treason. Louis Riel orchestrated an uprising against the Crown. His actions disrupted peace and order, threatening the very fabric of our nation. He declared himself a political leader, defying the government, and directly challenged the Queen's sovereignty.

CUT TO:

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

It is crucial to understand the context of Mr. Riel's actions. He was not a mere agitator; he was a leader compelled by the dire circumstances of his people—the Métis. They faced marginalization and dispossession of their lands without representation. Riel sought justice and autonomy for his people, standing as their voice.

CUT TO:

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

The law is clear. Regardless of his intentions, Mr. Riel led an armed resistance that resulted in the loss of lives, including that of government officials. Such actions constitute high treason, punishable by the severest measures to deter such threats to our democracy.

CUT TO:

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

We argue that Louis Riel's mental state was compromised. He believed himself divinely inspired to lead his people—a belief that clouded his judgment. This man was driven by a profound sense of duty and spiritual conviction, not by a desire for rebellion.

CUT TO:

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

While we may ponder the ethical dimensions of his actions, we must uphold the rule of law. To allow such actions to go unpunished would set a dangerous precedent.

CUT TO:

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

I ask you to consider the plight of the Métis. Consider a man torn by his obligations to his heritage and his visions. This trial transcends the person of Louis Riel; it is about recognizing the voice of a marginalized people the half breeds. Mercy here speaks not of weakness, but of a deeper strength and justice.

The jury, caught in the moral and legal complexities of the case, looks towards the judge, who nods for the proceedings to continue.

Riel discusses strategy with Fitzpatrick, his voice low but intense.

LOUIS RIEL

We must make them see that I acted for the welfare of my people. It's not just my life at stake but the dignity and rights of the Métis.

Fitzpatrick nods, understanding the gravity of the situation.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

We'll do everything we can, Louis. You have to trust us. Your cause is just, and your voice will be heard.

LOUIS RIEL

Will it?

Louis Riel looks around at the jury and knows they weren't hand picked for him. The courtroom is filled with a palpable tension as Charles Nolin stands in the witness box. Before the questioning begins, he locks eyes with Louis Riel, who is seated with his defence team. The two men share a long look at each other.

Mr. Casgrain, a prosecutor, approaches Charles Nolin.

MR. CASGRAIN

Mr. Nolin, please state for the court your place of birth.

Charles's response is poised, his voice steady. He taps his

heavy hands on the chair.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (French with Subtitles)
 I was born in the Red River
 Settlement.

The sound of children's laughter begins to overlay the courtroom, blending with the faint notes of a fiddle. The background murmur fades as the visuals transition to the vibrant Red River Settlement.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - MORNING 4

The Red River Settlement awakens with life. Smoke rises from chimneys of log homes, blending with the soft golden light of dawn. A group of women gathers near the riverbank, washing clothes and exchanging warm smiles as children play nearby, chasing each other through the tall grass.

5 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - MARKETPLACE - DAY 5

A vibrant marketplace hums with activity. Traders exchange goods, shaking hands and sharing brief nods of respect. Métis artisans display colorful beadwork, leather goods, and woven sashes on wooden stalls. A young girl carefully threads beads onto a sash as her grandmother watches with pride.

6 EXT. BLACKSMITH SHOP - DAY 6

A blacksmith hammers red-hot iron on an anvil, the rhythmic clang echoing through the settlement. Sparks fly as he shapes a horseshoe, his apprentice eagerly watching and learning. Outside, a farmer waits patiently with his horse, chewing on a stalk of grass.

7 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - FIELDS - AFTERNOON 7

Métis farmers tend to their crops, some guiding oxen to plow fields while others carry baskets filled with freshly harvested vegetables. In the distance, a group of men repairs a wooden fence, working in unison and pausing occasionally to laugh and share stories.

8 EXT. RIVERBANK - EVENING 8

The river glistens under the setting sun. Families gather to fish, their laughter mingling with the sound of flowing water. A young boy skips stones across the surface while his father casts a fishing line with practiced ease. Nearby, a woman sits with her infant, gently rocking the child as she

hums a soothing melody.

9 EXT. COMMUNITY GATHERING - NIGHT 9

Under a canopy of stars, the community gathers around a large bonfire. A fiddler plays a lively tune, and couples take to the makeshift dance floor, their movements graceful and joyous. Children sit cross-legged on the ground, watching intently as an elder tells a story, gesturing animatedly and drawing laughter from the crowd.

10 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - QUIET STREET - LATE NIGHT 10

The settlement winds down. Windows glow faintly from oil lamps inside homes. A dog barks in the distance as a lone figure walks down the quiet street, carrying a lantern. The sound of a door closing and the soft creak of wooden steps fill the air as the village settles into stillness.

11 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - SUNRISE 11

The first light of dawn touches the rooftops, painting the settlement in soft hues of pink and gold. A rooster crows, and the faint sound of a fiddle being tuned drifts through the air. The camera pans over the settlement, capturing its harmony and resilience as life begins anew.

FADE OUT.

12 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - FIELD - DAY (1855) 12

The vast expanse of the prairie stretches under a wide blue sky. A young Charles Nolin, 15 years old, works diligently beside his father in a sprawling field. They are both busy tending to their crops, indicative of the Métis reliance on agriculture and land.

MR. NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Charles, make sure the furrows are straight. It helps the water flow better when it rains.

YOUNG CHARLES

(French with Subtitles)

Like this, Father?

Charles tries his best to align the furrow as his father instructed. Mr. Nolin watches, a mixture of pride and patience evident in his demeanour.

MR. NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Just like that.

(MORE)

MR. NOLIN (CONT'D)
You've got a good hand for the
land, son. It's important to know
how to work it properly.

Charles beams at the compliment, his young face flushed with
the effort and the warm sun.

YOUNG CHARLES
(French with Subtitles)
Why is the land so important,
Father?

MR. NOLIN
(French with Subtitles)
The land is like our family,
Charles. It feeds us, shelters us,
and keeps us together. Just like I
look after you, we must look after
the land.

Charles absorbs his father's words, looking around at the
vast fields.

YOUNG CHARLES
(French with Subtitles)
So when I grow up, I'll look after
it too?

MR. NOLIN
(French with Subtitles)
Yes, and maybe one day, you'll
teach your own children the same.
It's our way, Charles. Our land,
our culture, it's all tied
together.

They continue working side by side, the father teaching the
son the ways of the field.

YOUNG CHARLES
(French with Subtitles)
I'll protect it, Father. Just like
you.

Mr. Nolin places a gentle hand on Charles's shoulder,
guiding him along.

MR. NOLIN
(French with Subtitles)
I know you will, son. I know you
will.

Young Charles Nolin works alongside his father in the golden
light of the late afternoon, their hands moving in unison as
they tend to the farm. The quiet rhythm of their labor
speaks to a bond built through shared effort. As the sun
dips below the horizon, seamlessly to the two of them
walking along a dirt path under the cool glow of moonlight.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT MEETING HOUSE - DAY (1857)

13

Alexis Nolin and Louis Riel Sr. walking purposefully up a dirt path toward a modest meeting house. The sun is setting, casting long shadows over the settlement. Both men wear expressions of determination. Their sons, Charles and Louis follow a few paces behind, engaged in quiet conversation.

LOUIS RIEL SR

(French with Subtitles)

Louis, you stay outside. This meeting is for the men, but you can listen from here. Remember, listen carefully to understand what we're fighting for.

ALEXIS NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Same for you, Charles. Wait out here. Pay attention, but don't get too close. You'll learn more than you think by listening.

LOUIS RIEL

(French with Subtitles)

Yes, Father.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

I understand, Father. I'll listen.

ALEXIS NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Look after Louis, we're all family here.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Always father.

Alexis and Louis Sr. enter the meeting house, the door closing behind them with a heavy thud. Charles and Louis exchange a look, then quietly move to the side of the building, finding a small window slightly ajar. They crouch down, peering through the glass, side by side.

Inside, the murmur of men's voices fills the air as the meeting begins. The boys watch as their fathers join the circle of men, the room lit by the glow of lanterns. The atmosphere is tense, the discussion turning to the Hudson's Bay Company's tightening control over the land.

LOUIS RIEL SR.

(French with Subtitles)

We cannot sit idle while the Hudson's Bay Company dictates our lives. They see us as mere tenants on our own land! We must stand together to protect our rights and our way of life.

ALEIX NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

It's not just about the land. It's about our livelihood. The Company's restrictions are strangling us as farmers and traders. If we don't act now, we'll have nothing left for our children.

Outside, Charles and Louis Jr. listen intently. Charles leans closer to Louis, his voice barely a whisper.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

They're right, you know. If the Company keeps pushing, there won't be anything left for us. My father says it's all about power and money. They don't care about us.

LOUIS REIL

(French with Subtitles)

But why can't they just share the land? We could all live together. I don't get why they want everything.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

They're greedy Louis. But if they take it all, what happens to us? Where will we go?

LOUIS RIEL

(French with Subtitles)

Father say you fight for what's yours. I want to be like my father when I get older.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

We have to remember this, Louis. One day, we'll be the ones making these decisions.

LOUIS RIEL

(French with Subtitles)

I will fight for our family.

Charles laughed at Louis. Inside, the discussion heats up, the men's voices rising with the intensity of their

emotions. The boys continue to listen, absorbing every word, their faces reflecting the gravity of the moment. As the meeting progresses, they both start smiling as though they are inside and part of the meeting.

Louis Riel Sr. is addressing the group. Outside, Charles and Louis Jr. remain by the window, their young faces illuminated by the flickering light inside, as they witness the legacy of leadership and struggle that they are destined to inherit. The two boys' faces transition to them older and in the Courtroom.

CUT TO:

14 INT. REGINA COURTROOM - DAY (1885) 14

The courtroom atmosphere is charged, every eye focused on Charles Nolin, Mr. Casgrain, the prosecutor, steps forward, intent on unraveling the complex web of the relationship.

MR. CASGRAIN

Mr. Nolin, could you please explain to the court your familial connection to Mr. Louis Riel?

Charles clears his throat.

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Louis and I are cousins by marriage. My wife, Marie Ann, was Louis's first cousin. Our families are deeply intertwined, not just by blood but also through the shared history of our community.

Charles pauses, his gaze drifting toward the windows of the Courtroom as his thoughts turn to Marie Anne.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - DAY 1851 15

16 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - DAY 16

A young Louis Riel, 7 years old, stands thoughtfully by the riverbank. He runs his small hands over the tall grass, his fingers digging into the rich earth. The river sparkles under the sun, and a gentle breeze carries the scent of the land. His older cousin, Marie Anne, 15 years old, approaches, curious about his quiet stance.

MARIE ANNE

(French with Subtitles)

What are you thinking about, Louis?

LOUIS RIEL
 (French with Subtitles)
 Mom says God made all of this.
 Isn't that amazing, Marie Anne? It
 belongs to us because we're God's
 children.

Marie Anne looks out at the expanse of land, the river glistening, the trees swaying gently. Her youthful face shows a mix of awe and the beginnings of understanding.

MARIE ANNE
 (French with Subtitles)
 All of it?

LOUIS RIEL
 (French with Subtitles)
 Every bit. And it's our job to
 protect it.

Louis crouches down, scooping up a handful of dirt and letting it fall between his fingers. His eyes are filled with wonder.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
 (French with Subtitles)
 This earth... it's part of us,
 Marie Anne. Just like we're part of
 it.

Marie Anne kneels beside him, her hands mimicking his. She presses her fingers into the soil, feeling its texture.

MARIE ANNE
 (French with Subtitles)
 It feels alive.

The soft, melodic voice of Julie Riel calls from a distance.

JULIE RIEL (O.S.)
 (French with Subtitles)
 Louis! Marie Anne! Time to come
 home!

Marie Anne glances at Louis, a playful glint in her eyes.

MARIE ANNE
 (French with Subtitles)
 Race you back!

She bolts, her laughter ringing through the still air. Louis hesitates, taking one last look at the river and the vast landscape of the Red River Settlement. Then, with a grin, he takes off after her, their footsteps fading into the horizon.

The sound of running feet and laughter fades, replaced by the soft murmur of a courtroom. The image of Louis as a child fades into Adult Louis Riel walking to the Courthouse.

17 EXT. COURTHOUSE-DAY-1885

17

Now in his 40s, walking slowly but resolutely towards the imposing courthouse. His shadow stretches long across the dusty street, echoing the determination of the young boy at the riverbank.

Focusing on his back as he approaches the building. The sound of the chapel bell fades, replaced by the distant murmur of the courthouse crowd.

CUT TO:

18 INT. COURTROOM - DAY (1885)

18

Charles Nolin is on the witness stand, his hands gripping the edges of the wooden bench. Across from him stands MR.Casgrain, a sharp, calculating lawyer representing the Crown. The room is sparsely filled with onlookers, their whispers barely audible.

MR.CASGRAIN

Mr. Nolin, you have known Louis Riel for many years, have you not?

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Yes, since he was a boy.

MR.CASGRAIN

And in that time, did you ever notice anything... unusual about his behaviour? Particularly regarding his beliefs?

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Louis has always been a man of strong faith. He believes deeply in God and in our people. That faith is what drives him.

MR.CASGRAIN

Faith, yes. But has his faith ever crossed into something more? Has he claimed to be... divinely chosen?

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

He's said he had visions, yes. He believes they are messages from God, guiding him to lead the Métis People.

MR.CASGRAIN

Messages from God? Did he ever claim to be a prophet?

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

He sees himself as a servant of God, chosen to protect the Métis People. Louis doesn't seek glory. He seeks justice.

CHARLES CASGRAIN

Justice? Or delusion? Mr. Nolin, do you believe a man claiming to be a prophet should be leading your people? Should be making decisions that could lead to bloodshed?

CHARLES NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

Louis's beliefs have become more than just about survival. His actions at Fort Garry make me question if he's driven by justice or something far more dangerous. Calling himself a prophet doesn't excuse the choices he's made.

MR. CASGRAIN

(firmly)

And do you believe him, Mr. Nolin? Do you believe Louis Riel is a prophet?

NOLIN

(French with Subtitles)

I believe he believes it. And I believe he's doing what he thinks is right. But that doesn't mean I agree with every decision he makes.

The Jury looks at Louis Riel and he's face transition to a 13 year old boy.

CUT TO:

19

EXT. RIEL HOMESTEAD - EARLY MORNING

19

Louis Riel is running into his house looking for his bible. A modest wagon, loaded with a small trunk and supplies, stands in front of the Riel family home. Three young kids sitting in the wagon. Two sturdy horses snort and paw the ground, their breath visible in the crisp air.

KID #1

(French with subtitles)

Louis hurry up.

Julie Riel (Louis's mother) stands by the wagon adjusts a shawl around her shoulders, her eyes fixed on her son as young Louis Riel comes running back out of the house with a bible clutched in his hand.

JULIE

(French with Subtitles)

It feels like just yesterday you were learning to walk, Louis. Now you're heading off to learn things we never dreamed of. We always knew you had a greatness inside of you.

Louis fidgets with the strap of his small satchel, his youthful face seems Sade to be leaving his family.

LOUIS (YOUNG)

(French with Subtitles)

What if I don't belong there, Mama?
What if they don't understand me?

Julie kneels before him, brushing a strand of hair from his face.

JULIE

(French with Subtitles)

They'll see what we see—a bright, strong boy with a heart as big as the prairies. You carry our hopes with you, Louis.

Louis Riel Sr. steps behind Julie, leaning gently over his son's shoulder. He wraps his arms around him in a warm embrace, pulling him close. He whispers into his ear.

LOUIS SR.

(French with Subtitles)

And you carry your name. Riel is more than a name—it's a legacy. Remember that. The Lord has such big plans for you my son.

Louis nods solemnly, the weight of his father's words settling over him.

YOUNG LOUIS

(French with Subtitles)

I'll make you proud.

Young Louis Riel climbs into the wagon with the other boys, who laugh and talk among themselves. He stays silent, watching his family farm and his parents as the wagon moves down the road, their figures slowly disappearing in the distance.

20

EXT. PRAIRIE ROAD - LATER

20

The wagon creaks as it rolls down a dirt road, guided by a young DRIVER sent by the bishop, with a Nun beside him.

The prairie opens wide before him.

TEXT ON SCREEN

"In 1857, At 13, the Catholic clergy in the Red River parish of Saint-Boniface identified him as a strong candidate for the priesthood, and he was given a scholarship to study at a Sulpician school in Montreal. This journey marked the beginning of his rise as a leader of the Métis people."

CUT TO:

21 EXT. MAP VISUALIZATION - DAY 21

A map of 19th-century Canada appears, showing the Red River Settlement. A red line traces the journey eastward, winding through prairies, rivers, and forests. It crosses the Great Lakes and heads into Quebec, finally stopping at Montreal, where Collège de Montréal is marked.

The map fades into the bustling streets of Montreal, transitioning to Louis arriving in the city.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. MONTREAL CITY STREETS - EVENING 22

The cityscape grows busier as the wagon enters Montreal. Elegant buildings and cobblestone streets stretch before them, a stark contrast to the simplicity of Louis's rural home. He looks up at the towering Collège de Montréal, its grand facade imposing yet inspiring.

The wagon slows to a stop, and the driver gestures for the boys to climb down. Louis steps onto the street, gazing up at the college with awe and determination.

CUT TO:

23 INT. BOARDING SCHOOL DORMITORY - NIGHT 23

Louis lies awake in his narrow bed, the unfamiliar sounds of the city outside his window. His parents' distant figures linger in his mind as he stares at the dark ceiling.

The modest dormitory is dimly lit by the pale moonlight streaming through the tall windows. YOUNG LOUIS RIEL (14) lies asleep on a narrow bed, his face troubled, his hands clutching the thin blanket. Outside, the faint sound of a church bell tolls in the distance.

24 INT. LOUIS RIEL'S ROOM -MONTREAL - DAY - NOVEMBER 1860 24

15 year old Louis Riel is sitting at a wooden desk, scribbling in a journal. The room is modest, with simple furnishings. The quiet is broken by the sound of a knock on the door.

LOUIS RIEL

Come in.

The door opens, and a young man enters, carrying a letter. The man hands the letter to Riel, who breaks the seal and begins reading.

LOUIS RIEL

"Marie-Anne Delorme and Charles Nolin were wed today..."

Riel stares out the window, the letter resting in his hands.

LOUIS RIEL

(French Subtiltes)

I miss home.

His eyes linger on the distance, lost in thought.

CUT TO:

25 INT. METIS WEDDING TENT - DAY-NOVEMBER 4, 1860 25

The tent is adorned with colourful blankets and furs. The atmosphere is festive, with Metis Women wearing beautifully embroidered dresses and Men in decorated sashes and hats. The central area is set up for the ceremony.

Marie-Anne Delorme, dressed in a stunning embroidered dress with intricate beadwork, stands beside Charles Nolin, who wears a traditional Métis outfit with a decorated sash. They stand before a Priest, who is performing the marriage ceremony.

PRIEST

Do you, Charles Nolin, take Marie-Anne Delorme to be your lawful wedded wife, to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

CHARLES NOLIN

I do.

PRIEST

And do you, Marie-Anne Delorme, take Charles Nolin to be your lawful wedded husband, to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

MARIE-ANNE DELORME

I do.

The Priest pronounces them husband and wife. The crowd cheers, and the newlyweds share a kiss.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. METIS WEDDING CELEBRATION - DAY 26

The celebration is vibrant, with people dancing to the tunes of fiddlers and drummers. The smell of traditional Métis foods wafts through the air. A Table laden with dishes is set up: bannock, buffalo stew, and wild rice.

Guests gather around, enjoying the feast. The scene captures the warmth and communal spirit of the Métis culture. Laughter and music blend together, creating a lively and joyous atmosphere.

In the midst of the celebration, the camera pans over to show the newlyweds dancing together. The traditional dances involve rhythmic footwork and coordinated movements, reflecting the cultural heritage of the Métis people.

The rhythmic drumming and fiddling of the wedding fade slowly. The laughter and celebration grow distant, replaced by the low hum of a courtroom crowd. A Métis sash hanging near the wedding table, which dissolves into a sash on the desk in Louis Riel school room.

FADE TO:

27 INT. BOARDING SCHOOL- MONTREAL 27

Louis Riel's growth through a time-lapse, we see Louis Riel grow from 16 to 19 at Collège de Montréal, transforming from a quiet, determined boy into a confident young man, immersed in his studies, prayer, and moments of reflection as the seasons change around him.

28 INT. BOARDING SCHOOL- MONTREAL JAN 21ST-1864 28

Louis Riel, now older, kneels beside his bed, whispers a quiet prayer, and then climbs under the covers. With a deep breath, he shuts his eyes,

FADE TO:

29 INT. DREAM SEQUENCE - RIEL FAMILY HOME - NIGHT 29

The dimly lit room feels surreal, with shadows flickering unnaturally on the walls. YOUNG LOUIS RIEL sits at the wooden table, staring at the worn Bible in front of him. His Louis Riel Sr., sits across from him, his face pale but

kind. The room feels suspended in time.

LOUIS RIEL SR.
 (French with Subtitles)
 Louis, my son, the time has come
 for me to leave.

LOUIS RIEL (YOUNG)
 (French with Subtitles)
 Leave? Where are you going? What do
 you mean? You can't leave us. We
 need your guidance and strength,
 especially me.

LOUIS RIEL SR.
 (French with Subtitles)
 Even the strongest must rest. But
 my strength now lives in you,
 Louis. You must carry it forward.

Louis stares at his father, his hands trembling as he grips
 the edges of the table.

LOUIS RIEL (YOUNG)
 (French with Subtitles)
 I'm not ready, Papa. I don't know
 how.

LOUIS RIEL SR.
 (French with Subtitles)
 You are more ready than you know.
 The land, our people—they will need
 you. Lead them with your faith,
 with your courage, and with your
 love. That is your burden, and your
 gift.

Louis's eyes fill with tears as his father's figure begins
 to fade, blending into the shadows.

LOUIS RIEL (YOUNG)
 (French with Subtitles)
 Don't go, Papa! Please, don't leave
 me!

LOUIS RIEL SR.
 (French with Subtitles)
 I am always with you, Louis. In
 your heart, and in the voices of
 our people.

As his father disappears, the room shifts, the light dimming
 into an otherworldly glow.

CUT TO:

30

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE - PRAIRIE - NIGHT

30

Louis now stands barefoot on the open prairie, bathed in an ethereal light. The sky above swirls with deep indigo and fiery red, as if day and night coexist. In the distance, a CROSS made of glowing light rises from the horizon, towering over the land.

A VOICE (V.O.), calm yet commanding, echoes around him.

VOICE (V.O.)

Louis, the land cries out. The people seek a shepherd to guide them through the storm.

Louis steps forward, his bare feet sinking into the soft earth. Around him, the prairie grass shimmers as though alive, brushing against his legs.

LOUIS RIEL

I am only a young boy. How can I carry such a burden?

The CROSS grows brighter, illuminating the land. Shadows of Métis men, women, and children appear around him, their faces solemn but hopeful.

VOICE (V.O.)

You are chosen. Through faith, the strength of your ancestors, and the will of the people, you will lead.

The scene shifts again. Louis is now in a small Métis village, surrounded by vibrant community life. A older man runs to him, clutching a small Métis flag (Black with the white infinity sign which showcases a dark time), and hands it to young Louis Riel.

OLDER MAN

Don't let them take this from us. You will lead the fight.

Young Louis grips the flag tightly, nodding, though his expression remains conflicted.

The scene shifts one final time to a shadowy courtroom. Louis stands at the center, facing rows of unseeing faces.

VOICE (V.O.)

Through darkness and trial, your faith will guide you. The burden is great, but the purpose is greater.

Young Louis Riel wakes up in a sweat, his breathing quick and shallow. The face of 19-year-old Louis Riel gradually transforms into that of 41-year-old Louis Riel, now seated in a courtroom, the struggles etched into his expression.

CUT TO:

31 INT. COURTROOM - REGINA - DAY 1885

31

Louis Riel watches Father Alexis Andre, an Oblate priest in his 50s, sits in the witness chair. He is calm and composed. MR.Lemieux, the defense attorney, rises for questioning. MR. F.R.Marceau, the interpreter, stands nearby, ready to assist.

MR. LEMIEUX

What is your name and religion?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with Subtitles)

Alexis Andre, Oblate. I would prefer to speak in French. I understand English very well, but speaking it is quite a different matter.

MR. LEMIEUX

You are the superior of the Oblates in the district of...?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with Subtitles)

Carlton.

MR. LEMIEUX

How long have you held that position?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with Subtitles)

Seven years.

MR. LEMIEUX

How long have you lived in this country?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with Subtitles)

I have lived in the Saskatchewan since 1865.

Father Andre sits on the witness stand, his calm demeanor steady as he answers questions from Mr. Lemieux. Father Andre's voice fades into a flashback.

FLASHBACK BEGINS: EXT. PRAIRIE MEETING GROUND - DAY (1884)

The scene opens on a sprawling prairie, with dozens of Métis families gathered under the clear sky. Men, women, and children stand in small groups, their faces etched with frustration and determination. Father Andre walks among them, his presence quiet yet comforting.

MR. LEMIEUX (V.O.)
Do you recall the circumstances
under which Louis Riel came into
the Saskatchewan in 1884?

FATHER ANDRE (V.O.)
(French with Subtitles)
Yes, I remember clearly.

The crowd quiets as a man steps onto a makeshift stage,
raising his arms to gather attention. The camera pans to a
determined Louis Riel, who addresses the crowd.

RIEL
(French with Subtitles)
My friends, we have waited too long
for justice. The government's
silence is a slap in the face of
our people. Are we not entitled to
the land our families have lived on
for generations?

The crowd murmurs in agreement. A young Métis man holds up a
petition, the ink fresh, and approaches Riel.

YOUNG MÉTIS MAN
(French with Subtitles)
This petition lists our demands.
Land patents, river frontage, and
an end to unfair taxes. We've sent
it, but they ignore us. What do we
do now?

Riel looks around at the crowd, his voice steady yet
passionate.

RIEL
(French with Subtitles)
We must stand united. The
government will hear us—not just
through petitions, but through our
resolve. If they continue to ignore
us, we will make them listen.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

32

INT. MEETING HALL - NIGHT

32

Father Andre sits in the corner of a dimly lit meeting hall,
observing as Riel and Métis leaders discuss strategy. Papers
are spread across a table, lit by flickering lantern light.

LEADER 1
(French with Subtitles)
The Dominion Government responds
with silence. They think they can
dismiss us as insignificant.

LEADER 2

(French with Subtitles)

If they won't listen to reason,
then perhaps we must take stronger
measures.

Riel, his expression intense, slams his hand on the table.

RIEL

(French with Subtitles)

We will not take up arms lightly,
but neither will we sit idle while
they strip away our rights and
dignity. This is our land, our
livelihood, and our legacy!

Father Andre watches silently, his face a mix of admiration
and unease.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

33

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

33

The prairie is now dotted with Métis families building
barricades and preparing their homes. Children run with
sashes tied around their waists, while men sharpen tools and
gather supplies. Women work together, their determination
unyielding.

MR. LEMIEUX (V.O.)

Did the Government's silence affect
the people?

FATHER ANDRE (V.O.)

(French with Subtitles)

Yes, it caused great
dissatisfaction.

A mother, holding her child, speaks quietly to Father Andre.

MOTHER #1

They've taken so much already. If
they take the rest, where will we
go?

Andre places a comforting hand on her shoulder, his face
showing the weight of their shared struggle.

FLASHBACK ENDS: INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The scene transitions back to the courtroom, Father Andre's
voice now audible again. The room is silent, the weight of
his testimony palpable.

FATHER ANDRE

Their dissatisfaction turned to
desperation. Louis Riel gave them
hope when there was none.

MR. LEMIEUX

Are the people better off now than they were before, in terms of the rights they claim?

FATHER ANDRE

No, they still have not received the patents for their land on the South Saskatchewan.

The jury watches intently, their faces a mixture of curiosity and confusion. Louis Riel sits at the defendant's table, calm but observant. Mr. Olser stands up.

MR. OSLER

I must object to this class of questions being introduced. My learned friends have opened a case of treason, justified only by the insanity of the prisoner; they are now seeking to justify armed rebellion for the redress of these grievances. These two defenses are inconsistent. One is no justification at all. We are willing to allow all possible latitude, but they have gone as far as I feel they should go. We have allowed them to describe documents which they have not produced, and answers in writing, so that they might not be embarrassed, and that the outline of the position might be fairly given to the jury. But it is not evidence, and if my learned friend is going into it in detail, I think it is objectionable.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

Supposing they are going to produce these writings?

MR. OSLER

They could not be evidence. They would not be evidence in justification; that is admitted. It cannot be possible for my learned friends to open the case on one defense and go to the jury indirectly upon another. Of course, it is not really any defense in law, and should not be gone into with any greater particularity. If this is given in evidence, we would have to answer it in many particulars, and then there would be the question of justifying the policy of the Government.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

It would be trying the Government.

MR. OSLER

Exactly. It is, as it were, a counter-claim against the Government, and that is not open to any person on trial for high treason. We have no desire to unduly limit my learned friend, but I cannot consent to trying such an issue as that here.

MR. LEMIEUX

I do not want to justify the rebellion. I want to show the state of things in the country so as to show that the prisoner was justified in coming into the country, and to show the circumstances under which he came.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

Have you not done that already?

MR. LEMIEUX

I have, perhaps, to the satisfaction of the court, but, perhaps, others may not be so well satisfied.

(The gallery stirs slightly, whispers rising and falling.)

MR. OSLER

If you do not go any further, we will withdraw our objection.

MR. LEMIEUX

I want to get further facts, not in justification of the rebellion, but to explain the circumstances under which the accused came into the country.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

The objection is not urged until you have gone as far as the counsel for the Crown thought you ought to go.

MR. LEMIEUX

It is rather late now to object.

MR. OSLER

I warned my learned friends quietly before.

MR. LEMIEUX

Well, I will put the question, and it can be objected to.

Lemieux turns toward the witness, preparing to continue his line of questioning.

MR. LEMIEUX

(to the witness)

Will you say if the state of things in the country, the actual state of things in the country in 1882, 1883, and 1884, and if today the state of things is the same as in 1882, 1883, and 1884? If justice has been done to the claims and just rights of the people?

MR. OSLER

That question must be objected to. It could not have had anything to do with bringing the prisoner here. I object first, as a matter of opinion. Second, that it is a leading question. And third, that it is irrelevant to the issue.

MR. LEMIEUX

The most important objection is that it is leading. As to the opinion of the witness, I should think his opinion is valuable. It is facts I want from the witness.

He gestures toward the jury, speaking directly to them.

MR. LEMIEUX (CONT'D)

I suppose he can give his opinion based on the facts. If he says no, or yes, I will ask him why, and he will give me his reason why.

HIS HONOR

That will be a matter of opinion.

MR. LEMIEUX

I will put the question, and you can object to it.

The tension in the room grows as Lemieux continues.

MR. LEMIEUX

(to the witness)

Do you know if at any time the Dominion Government agreed or acceded to the demands made by the half-breeds and clergy relative to the claims and rights that you have spoken of in the preceding answer?

MR. OSLER
(interjecting)
I do not object to the question if confined to a date prior to the 1st of July, 1884, the time he was asked to come into the country.

JUDGE RICHARDSON
(to Lemieux)
Is that the way you put it?

MR. LEMIEUX
Yes.

MR. OSLER
Then we withdraw the objection.

JUDGE RICHARDSON
Then we will have his answer.

MR. OSLER
It is so general and difficult to grasp in any way I won't object.

MR. LEMIEUX
Perhaps it is difficult to you but not to the witness.

MR. LEMIEUX
Will you state if, since the arrival of the prisoner in the country up to the time of the rebellion, the Government has made any favourable answer to the demands and claims of the half-breeds?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Yes. I know that they have acceded to certain demands regarding those who did not have any scrip in Manitoba. A telegram was sent on the 4th of March last, granting the scrip.

MR. LEMIEUX
Before that time?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Yes. Regarding the alteration of the survey of lots on the river, there was an answer from the Government saying they would grant it, and that was an important question.

MR. LEMIEUX

What question then remained to be settled?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

The question of patents. That has been settled, in a certain way, because Mr. Duck was sent, and I went with him as an interpreter.

MR. LEMIEUX

What other question remained?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Only the question of wood and timber.

MR. LEMIEUX

You know now that there is a commission sitting in regard to the claims and petitions of half-breeds?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX

Do you know how many claims and demands have been settled by that commission since it has been in existence?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

In what place? Is it in the North-West or in the district of Carlton?

MR. LEMIEUX

Generally?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

I do not know. I know for my own district.

MR. LEMIEUX

What do you know?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

At Batoche, they gave three scrips.

MR. LEMIEUX

Since the rebellion?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
About three weeks.

MR. LEMIEUX
At Duck Lake?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Forty.

MR. LEMIEUX
Since the rebellion?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Yes, about the same time.

MR. LEMIEUX
Do you know of any others?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
No, not in that district.

MR. LEMIEUX
You have had occasion to meet the
prisoner between July 1884 and the
time of the rebellion?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX
What is the name of your parish?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Prince Albert.

MR. LEMIEUX
You saw the prisoner there?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX
Did you see him elsewhere?

FATHER ANDRE
(French with subtitles)
At St. Laurent several times. I
don't know how often. I also saw
him at Batoche.

MR. LEMIEUX

Have you had occasion to speak often to him on the political situation and on religion?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Frequently. It was the matter of our conversation.

MR. LEMIEUX

Do you like to speak of religion and politics with him?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

No, I did not like to.

MR. LEMIEUX

Will you give me your reasons why you did not like to speak of politics and religion with him?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Politics and religion were subjects he always spoke of in conversation. He loved those subjects. Father Andre sits solemnly on the witness stand, responding to Mr. Lemieux's pointed questions. His voice fades as the scene transitions into a flashback.

FLASHBACK BEGINS: INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The dim glow of an oil lamp illuminates a small cabin. Louis Riel and Father Andre sit at a wooden table. Papers, books, and a Bible are spread before them. Riel leans forward, his voice fervent as he speaks.

RIEL

(French with subtitles)

Father, don't you see? God has chosen me to lead our people, to restore what has been taken from us. The government's injustice is a test of our faith!

Father Andre watches him carefully, his hands folded. He speaks calmly but with hesitation.

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Louis, you are passionate, but there is a line between faith and fanaticism. These ideas... they concern me deeply.

Riel's demeanor shifts abruptly. He stands and begins to pace, his movements restless and his voice rising.

RIEL

(French with subtitles)

You don't understand! The rebellion, the politics, the faith—it's all connected. It is divine intervention! Why can't you see that?

Andre remains seated, his unease growing.

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Louis, we cannot act on visions alone. We must proceed with clarity and reason.

Riel stops, staring at Andre, his expression both intense and vulnerable.

RIEL

(French with subtitles)

Reason? Reason is a gift, but faith is greater. God has entrusted me with this mission, and I will not falter.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

34

EXT. CHURCH COURTYARD - DAY

34

The scene shifts to a bright day outside a church. Father Andre speaks quietly with a group of Métis elders. Riel approaches, his stride determined. The elders step back slightly as Riel joins the group.

ELDER 1

(French with subtitles)

Louis, we must be cautious. The rebellion could bring ruin to our people.

RIEL

(French with subtitles)

Caution is the language of those who fear change. God is with us, and His will shall prevail!

Father Andre places a hand on Riel's arm, attempting to calm him.

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Louis, your words stir the heart, but they must not cloud your mind.

(MORE)

FATHER ANDRE (CONT'D)
 Faith must guide us, not control
 us.

Riel pulls away sharply, his voice loud and filled with
 emotion.

RIEL
 (French with subtitles)
 You speak of control, Father, but I
 speak of truth! The priests, the
 elders—they fear what I have been
 shown.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

35 INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

35

The camera moves to the interior of a darkened church.
 Father Andre and two other priests sit in hushed discussion
 near the altar.

PRIEST 1
 (French with subtitles)
 His fervor is unsettling. He speaks
 as though he has direct
 communication with God Himself.

PRIEST 2
 (French with subtitles)
 It's more than fervor—it borders on
 mania. His words frighten even the
 most devout among us.

Father Andre listens, his face a mixture of concern and
 resignation.

FATHER ANDRE
 (French with subtitles)
 I have tried to reason with him,
 but he is consumed by his visions.
 There are moments of clarity, yes,
 but when he speaks of politics and
 religion, it is as though he is
 another man entirely.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

36 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

36

Back in the cabin, Riel stands over a table filled with
 books and maps. His voice is almost a whisper, trembling
 with conviction.

RIEL

(French with subtitles)

They will write about us, Father.
They will call me a prophet or a
fool. But history will know that I
acted with God's will in my heart.

Father Andre, weary, stands and gathers his things.

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Louis, I can no longer speak with
you on these matters. They consume
you. They frighten me.

Riel watches him leave, a flicker of sadness crossing his
face before he turns back to his maps.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

37 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

37

The scene shifts back to the courtroom. Father Andre sits
quietly, his voice heavy with emotion as he continues his
testimony.

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

It was as if there were two men in
him. One was rational, speaking of
science and literature. The
other... lost all control when
discussing politics and religion.
His words frightened even the
priests.

MR. LEMIEUX

In what way?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

He was a fervent Catholic,
attending the church and his
religious duties frequently. His
state of mind was the cause of
great anxiety. In conversation on
politics, the rebellion, and
religion, he stated things which
frightened the priests.

Andre hesitates for a moment, gathering his thoughts. The
courtroom grows silent, hanging on his words.

FATHER ANDRE (CONT'D)

(French with subtitles)

The priests of the district met together and put the question: Is it possible to allow that man to continue his religious duties? They unanimously decided he was not responsible, that he was completely a fool on those questions. It was like showing a red flag to a bull, to use a vulgar expression.

The tension in the courtroom rises as MR. Casgrain stands to cross-examine Father Andre. The spectators lean forward, eager to catch every word. Louis Riel, seated at the defense table, keeps his gaze steady on the proceedings, his hands clasped tightly in front of him.

MR. CASGRAIN

Father Andre, I believe in the month of December 1884, you had an interview with Riel and Nolin regarding a certain sum of money which the prisoner claimed from the Federal Government?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Not with Nolin. Nolin was not present at the interview.

MR. CASGRAIN

The prisoner was there?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Yes.

MR. CASGRAIN

Will you please state what the prisoner asked of the Federal Government?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

I had two interviews with the prisoner on that subject.

MR. CASGRAIN

The prisoner claimed a certain indemnity from the Federal Government, didn't he?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

When the prisoner made his claim, I was there with another gentleman, and he asked the Government for \$100,000. We thought that was exorbitant, and the prisoner said: "Wait a little, I will take at once \$35,000 cash."

Riel, sits motionless, his expression calm but his eyes burning with intensity. His hands grip the edge of the table as murmurs ripple through the gallery.

MR. CASGRAIN

And on that condition, the prisoner was to leave the country if the Government gave him the \$35,000?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Yes, that was the condition he put.

MR. CASGRAIN

When was this?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

That was on the 23rd of December, 1884.

MR. CASGRAIN

There was also another interview between you and the prisoner?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

There have been about twenty interviews between us.

MR. CASGRAIN

He was always after you to ask you to use your influence with the Federal Government to obtain this indemnity?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

The first time he spoke of it was on the 12th of December. He had never spoken a word about it before, and on the 23rd of December, he spoke about it again.

MR. CASGRAIN

He talked about it very frequently?

FATHER ANDRE
 (French with subtitles)
 On these two occasions only.

MR. CASGRAIN
 That was his great occupation?

FATHER ANDRE
 (French with subtitles)
 Yes, at those times.

The gallery stirs again, whispers breaking out. The judge raps his gavel lightly, and the room settles into silence once more.

MR. CASGRAIN
 Is it not true that the prisoner told you he himself was the half-breed question?

FATHER ANDRE
 (French with subtitles)
 He did not say so in express terms, but he conveyed that idea. He said, "If I am satisfied, the half-breeds will be." I must explain this—this objection was made to him, that even if the Government granted him \$35,000, the half-breed question would remain the same, and he said, in answer to that, "If I am satisfied, the half-breeds will be."

Riel's jaw tightens, his hands as they clench together. His defense team exchanges glances, sensing the weight of the testimony.

MR. CASGRAIN
 Is it not a fact he told you he would even accept a less sum than the \$35,000?

FATHER ANDRE
 (French with subtitles)
 Yes. He said, "Use all the influence you can. You may not get all that, but get all you can, and if you get less, we will see."

MR. CASGRAIN
 When he spoke of religion, the principal thing of which he spoke—was it not the supremacy of Pope Leo XIII?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Before the rebellion, he never spoke directly on that question as to the supremacy of the Pope.

MR. CASGRAIN

On that question, he was perfectly reasonable?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

On religious questions, before that time, he blamed everything. He wanted to change the Mass, the liturgy, the ceremonies, and the symbols.

MR. CASGRAIN

Do you pretend that every man who has strange ideas on religious matters is a fool?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

No, I don't pretend that.

MR. CASGRAIN

A man may have particular views on religious matters and still retain all his reason and intelligence?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

That depends on the way in which he explains his ideas and by his conduct in expressing them.

The camera pans across the jury, their faces somber and pensive as they listen. The room feels charged, the air thick with the gravity of the moment.

MR. CASGRAIN

Is it not true that the prisoner had fixed principles in his new religion?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

He had the principle that he was an autocrat in religion and politics, and he changed his opinions as he wished.

MR. CASGRAIN

Do you say he changed his religion as he wished?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

His ideas changed. Today he admitted this, and tomorrow he denied it. He was his own judge in these matters. He believed himself infallible.

MR. CASGRAIN

Is it not a fact that the half-breeds are a people extremely religious?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

I admit the fact. Very religious.

Riel's face softens at this acknowledgment, his gaze briefly lowering to the floor. A flicker of pride crosses his features before he straightens again.

MR. CASGRAIN

Is it not true that religion has a great influence upon them?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Yes.

MR. CASGRAIN

Is it not true that a man who tried to govern them by inducing them to completely change their religion or to do away with it would have no influence with them at all?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

Exactly. It was just because he was so religious and appeared so devout that he exercised such a great influence over them.

The courtroom is tense, the air heavy with the weight of the trial. MR. LEMIEUX rises for re-examination, his tone measured but firm. The jurors sit motionless, their focus unwavering. LOUIS RIEL sits quietly, his hands resting on the table, his expression unreadable.

MR. LEMIEUX

Is it not a fact that if any proposition was made to Riel, he became irascible and violent and almost uncontrollable?

FATHER ANDRE

(French with subtitles)

As far as personal experience goes he would not allow the least opposition at all. Immediately his physiognomy changed and he became a different man.

Father Andre gets up from the stand, the courthouse starts to hum and Judge Richardson the gavel slams down, echoing through the room. Judge Richardson rises, signaling the end of the day's proceedings.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

Court adjourned until tomorrow.

The gathered crowd begins to murmur and shuffle, their whispers blending into a hum of tension. RCMP Officers move toward Louis Riel, who stands slowly, his expression a mixture of weariness. They take Louis Riel through the Courtroom and out the side doors.

38 EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY 38

Riel steps out into the bright afternoon, blinking against the sun. A small group of protestors shouts in the distance, their words indistinct but fervent. A jail wagon waits at the bottom of the steps, its iron bars glinting ominously.

The guards guide him down the steps, past the murmuring crowd. A young boy darts between the gathered onlookers, his laughter cutting through the tense atmosphere as he chases after a another kid.

39 INT. JAIL WAGON - MOMENTS LATER 39

Louis Riel is seated inside, the iron bars framing his somber face. Through the small barred window, he catches sight of a young man walking down the street, his carefree energy stark against the weight of Riel's reality. He see's a himself int he 20 something year old man.

MATCH CUT TO:

40 EXT. MONTREAL - DAY - 1866 40

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"After the death of his father in 1864, 20-year-old Louis Riel left Collège de Montréal in 1865. Facing the responsibility of supporting his family, he began working in Montreal."

A 20 Year old Louis Riel, dressed in a modest but professional suit, walks briskly down the cobblestone street. The sound of horse hooves and the murmur of

pedestrians fills the air. He carries a stack of legal documents, his posture straight and purposeful.

41 INT. MONTREAL LAW OFFICE - DAY (1866)

41

Louis, now 15, sits at a desk piled with papers. The room is bustling with clerks and lawyers, but Louis appears out of place, his Métis clothing contrasting with the suits around him. He focuses on writing a letter.

CLOSE-UP: The letter reads, "Dear Mom, the work here is hard, but I do it for you and the family. I think of you every day."

A lawyer passes by and glances at Louis's work.

LAWYER
(sternly)
I don't pay you to write letters to
your family.

Louis quickly folds the letter and resumes his work, his expression determined.

CUT TO:

42 INT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - JULIE'S HOME - NIGHT

42

The warm glow of an oil lamp casts flickering shadows across the modest room. JULIE sits at a wooden table, her pen scratching across a sheet of paper. She pauses, before continuing to write. The faint sound of her children sleeping in the next room fills the silence.

INSERT: THE LETTER, (Julie Riel V.O)

"My dearest Louis,

The Lord has placed great responsibilities upon your shoulders, and I see His purpose in you. Your father believed in you, and I believe the Lord has chosen you for this journey. You will work hard and your new job, but remember, He is with you in every step.

Lean on Him when you feel weak, and let His strength carry you. Carry the land and your family in your heart, just as I carry you in mine.*

Love always,
Mama"

Julie folds the letter carefully and seals it with trembling hands. She holds it for a moment, pressing it to her chest before setting it aside. Her gaze shifts to the flickering flame of the lamp, her eyes reflecting both pride and pain.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. CHICAGO STREET - DAY (1866)**43**

Louis, now 21 walks through the crowded streets of Chicago. The city is alive with noise and movement, a stark contrast to the quiet prairies of his home. He pauses at a storefront displaying a map of Rupert's Land.

CLOSE-UP: His reflection in the glass overlaps with the map, symbolizing his connection to the land despite the distance.

CUT TO:

44 INT. BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT**44**

Louis sits alone in a small, dimly lit room. A half-eaten loaf of bread and a cup of water sit on the table. He holds a small crucifix, his lips moving in silent prayer. A knock at the door startles him. It's a LANDLADY.

LANDLADY
You've got mail.

She hands him a letter, and he opens it eagerly. It's from his mother.

JULIE (V.O.)
(reading the letter)
My dearest Louis, we are so proud
of you. Your father would be too.
Remember that no matter how far you
go, you carry his spirit and my
love with you always.
*add Louis Riel sending a letter to
his mom*

Tears well up in Louis's eyes as he clutches the letter to his chest.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. ST. PAUL - DAY (1867)**45**

Louis, now 22, walks through the streets of St. Paul. He stops at a church, gazing up at the steeple. Inside, he kneels before the altar, his face resolute.

LOUIS (V.O.)
(quietly praying)
Guide me, Father. Show me how to
honor my family and help my people.

Louis face then transitions to his 41 year old self.

CUT TO:

46 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

46

Louis Riel watches as Philip Garnot, a weary and nervous witness, takes the stand. The judge sits tall, presiding over the proceedings. Mr. Fitzpatrick gets up and walks over to the witness.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
What is your name?

PHILIP GARNOT
Philip Garnot.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
Where do you live when you are at home?

PHILIP GARNOT
At Batoche.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
And where are you living at the present time?

PHILIP GARNOT
In Regina jail.

The crowd murmurs softly. Garnot shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
Do you know Riel, the prisoner at the bar?

PHILIP GARNOT
I do.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
How long have you known him?

PHILIP GARNOT
I saw him for the first time in Helena, Montana, about seven years ago.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
Did you see him at Batoche during the course of last summer or in the Saskatchewan district?

PHILIP GARNOT
I saw him last fall.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
What time last fall?

PHILIP GARNOT
In October.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

From that time up to the month of March last, did you have occasion to see him frequently?

PHILIP GARNOT

No, I did not see much of him. I only saw him once or twice.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

During that time, did you have any conversation with him?

PHILIP GARNOT

Not that I remember.

Riel, who watches intently, his face calm but eyes piercing.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

No conversation whatever with him?

PHILIP GARNOT

I had some small conversation, but none that I can remember well.

The courtroom listens in silence as Garnot becomes more uneasy.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Do you remember during the course of last autumn and last winter up to the month of March—do you remember having any conversation with him on religious matters or on political matters?

PHILIP GARNOT

No, I never had.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

No conversation whatever up to that time?

PHILIP GARNOT

I had some conversation, but not on religion or politics.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did you at any time talk to him on religion previous to his arrest?

PHILIP GARNOT

I did. After the trouble, after the 18th of March.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Was he living at your house?

PHILIP GARNOT
 No, but he came there occasionally
 and slept there sometimes.

FLASHBACK BEGINS: INT. SMALL CABIN - NIGHT

The room is dark, lit only by the dim flicker of a candle. Louis Riel kneels on the floor in fervent prayer, his voice echoing in the stillness. His words are passionate and intense.

LOUIS RIEL
 Oh Lord, guide your servant, for
 the spirit of Elias is upon me! Let
 your will be done through me, your
 humble prophet!

Philip sits nearby in a chair, his face a mixture of confusion and discomfort. He glances toward the door, unsure whether to stay or leave. Riel's voice grows louder, almost trembling with emotion.

Philip looks concerned, his brow furrowed as Louis continues his prayers late into the night.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

47 INT. MEETING HALL - NIGHT

47

The scene transitions to a meeting hall dimly lit by lanterns. Louis Riel stands before a crowd of Métis men and women, his arms raised as he addresses them with fiery conviction. His voice carries through the room, commanding attention.

LOUIS RIEL
 The spirit of Elias is upon me! I
 am the chosen guide, sent by God to
 lead you in these times of
 darkness. Together, we shall
 restore what has been stolen from
 us!

Some nod in agreement, their faces full of hope. Others exchange uneasy glances, whispering among themselves.

In the back corner, Philip watches quietly, his expression skeptical but cautious. He leans against a post, arms crossed, taking in the scene.

LOUIS RIEL
 Acknowledge me as your prophet!
 Through me, the will of God shall
 be revealed!

The crowd murmurs, their unease palpable. A few clap hesitantly, while others remain silent. Garnot shifts uncomfortably but does not speak.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

48 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

48

Back in the cabin, Riel continues his impassioned prayers, pacing back and forth. Garnot lies in bed, staring at the ceiling, his frustration growing as Riel's voice echoes through the small space.

LOUIS RIEL
 Heavenly Father, let the prophecy
 be fulfilled! Deliver your people
 from their suffering and guide them
 through your servant, your prophet!

Garnot turns over, covering his ears with a pillow, his exhaustion evident.

PHILIP GARNOT (V.O.)
 He prayed all night, making up the
 words as he went. I'd never heard
 anything like it before.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

49 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

49

The scene returns to the courtroom. Garnot shifts in his seat, addressing Mr. Fitzpatrick.

A faint murmur ripples through the gallery. The judge silences them with a sharp rap of his gavel. Louis remains composed, his eyes scanning the room as though searching for understanding.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
 During the time he prophesied, what
 was his temper like? How did he act
 when contradicted?

PHILIP GARNOT
 He wouldn't stand contradiction.
 Had to have his own way in
 everything.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
 Was he very smooth-tempered?

PHILIP GARNOT
 No. He was not smooth-tempered.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
 Irritable?

PHILIP GARNOT
 Yes.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he make any declarations to you as to what he thought himself to be in the way of power or authority?

PHILIP GARNOT

Not to me directly, but in my presence, he declared he was representing St. Peter.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he aspire to any particular gifts, or pretend he was endowed with the abilities of a poet, musician, or orator?

PHILIP GARNOT

No.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

You did not hear him boast of his great intellectual qualities?

PHILIP GARNOT

No.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he at any time communicate to you his views with reference to the way in which the country was to be divided in the event of his success?

PHILIP GARNOT

He did in my presence.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Tell us what he said to you about that as far as you can remember.

PHILIP GARNOT

He was talking about the country being divided into several provinces; one for the French, Germans, Irish, and I don't know what else. There was to be seven different nationalities.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Do you remember anything else besides this you've mentioned? What other foreigners?

PHILIP GARNOT

Italians.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Hungarians?

PHILIP GARNOT

I can't remember particularly very well. I know it was seven different provinces and seven different nationalities.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did the plan he then stated appear to you a very feasible one?

PHILIP GARNOT

I did not believe he could succeed in that.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he say he expected any assistance from these people?

PHILIP GARNOT

Yes, he respected assistance from them. He mentioned he expected the assistance of an army of several nationalities, and I remember he mentioned the Jews. He expected their assistance and money. He was going to give them a province as a reward for their help. That is what I understood him to say.

The murmurs of the courtroom grow louder. The judge raps his gavel lightly, silencing the room.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he tell you how he had arranged that, or if he had made any arrangement with the people?

PHILIP GARNOT

He might, but I don't remember.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

In his conversation with you, or with others in your presence on these subjects, did he at any time give you any intimation that he had any doubt of his success or that any obstacle could prevent him from succeeding?

PHILIP GARNOT

No, he always mentioned he was going to succeed. That it was a divine mission he had, and that he was only an instrument in the hand of God.

Garnot's statement felt by everyone in the room.

CHALRES FITZPATRICK

When he talked of other matters than religion and the success of his plans, how did he act and talk generally?

PHILIP GARNOT

I never noticed any difference in his talk on other matters, because I never had much intercourse with him only during the time of the trouble. I met him once before that.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did he appear to be actuated by any friendship for other people, or did he appear to be wrapped up in himself? Did he appear to have any sympathy for anyone except himself, or did he appear to think of anyone but himself, I mean during these times you had conversations with him?

PHILIP GARNOT

I could not answer that question because I don't understand rightly.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

When he spoke of religion and about the country in the different interviews he had with you or others, did you understand that he had any idea of thinking of the welfare of anyone at all except himself; that he was the sole person to be considered?

PHILIP GARNOT

It seemed as if he was working in the interest of the half-breed population, and the settlers generally; he mentioned that.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Did you communicate to anyone your impression of this man, what you thought of him?

PHILIP GARNOT

I did.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

What did you think of him?

PHILIP GARNOT

I thought the man was crazy, because he acted very foolish.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK
No more questions your Honor.

Christopher Robinson gets up to question the witness paces slowly in front of him, his tone probing but steady.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
He had great influence over the half-breed population there, hadn't he?

PHILIP GARNOT
Yes, he could do almost what he wanted with them.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
And you were one of those who followed him?

PHILIP GARNOT
No, I followed him, but against my will.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
What do you mean?

PHILIP GARNOT
When a man has a stronger force than I have, I have to follow him. He came to me with an armed force and I had to go.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
Do you say you were forced to follow him by violence, is that what you mean?

PHILIP GARNOT
I don't mean to say that I was forced exactly by violence, he came and brought me from my house, he came with armed men, and I saw there was no use resisting.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
Do you mean to say you followed him because of the armed men, and that that was what influenced you?

PHILIP GARNOT
Yes.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
He had great influence over all the French half-breed population?

PHILIP GARNOT
I always thought he had lots of influence amongst the half-breeds.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

I believe they all looked to him as a leader and followed him?

PHILIP GARNOT

Yes they did.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

They relied upon his judgment and advice?

PHILIP GARNOT

They did.

The Courtroom starts to get loud

TRANSITION TO:

The clatter of courtroom murmurs fades into the hum of a classroom filled with young students. A younger LOUIS RIEL sits at a modest wooden desk, his posture erect and attentive. His well-worn books are stacked neatly beside him. The teacher, a stern figure, writes on a chalkboard.

Louis's pencil scratches against the paper as he takes notes diligently. His eyes dart briefly to the sunlight streaming through the window, illuminating the cross hanging above the blackboard.

CUT TO:

50 INT. ST. PAUL-CHURCH -DAY - (1868)

50

Young Louis Riel, around 23 years old, sits in a Church, A Priest and him are having a deep conversation.

PRIEST

As Christians, we must always strive to understand and respect the authority of the Church and the Crown. It is through this obedience that we find true peace and order in society.

Louis listens, his brow furrowing slightly. The priest continues.

PRIEST (COND'T)

But there are times when we must also recognize the suffering of others and act with compassion. To lead is to serve, and to serve is to ensure that justice prevails.

Hesitant but compelled to speak. The priest nods, acknowledging him.

LOUIS RIEL

Father, what if the laws of the Crown and the needs of our people are in conflict? Should we not stand up for our people's rights, even if it means challenging authority?

The priest pauses, considering the question. He Leans into to Louis, intrigued by his insight.

PRIEST

A good leader must weigh the cost of defiance against the greater good. It is a delicate balance, Louis. The key is to find a way to serve both God and our community, without forsaking either.

Louis nods, deep in thought, the words resonating with him. The Church fades into the background as Louis continues to listen to the Priest.

51 INT. ST. PAUL BOARDING ROOM - DAY (1868)

51

Louis Riel is sitting at his desk writing letter to his mom.

INSTERT LETTER:Louis Riel (V.O.)

Dear Maman,

It has been far too long since I last walked beside the river, felt the familiar warmth of home, and heard your voice calling me to supper. My heart aches with the distance that separates us, and not a day goes by that I don't think of you and the family.

Life away from the Red River has been a journey of learning and reflection, but it has also been one of longing. I have sought wisdom and guidance in my time here, and after speaking with a Priest at a Church here in ST.Paul, I realize that it is time to return to where I truly belong. He reminded me that one's duty to family and community is as sacred as any calling, and I feel that duty now stronger than ever.

Maman, I have grown in my time away. I hope I have become the kind of man Papa would have been proud of, the kind of man you deserve. But even as I have worked and prayed to better myself, I know that my greatest lessons await me at home, among those I love and the land that shaped me.

I will leave soon, with God's blessing, and I long for the day I see the settlement come into view, the place where my roots are deepest. Please let everyone know I am coming and tell them to keep an eye on the horizon—I will be there soon.

Until then, know that my prayers are with you and our family, as they have always been.

With all my love,
Louis

Louis looks at the window again dreaming about going back home.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - ST. BONIFACE - DAY (JULY 1868) 52

The settlement bustles with activity under the summer sun. Métis families move through the dirt streets, their carts loaded with goods for trade. Children run barefoot, their laughter mingling with the rhythmic clatter of horse hooves. The Red River itself glistens in the distance, a symbol of the land's vitality.

A lone figure approaches on horseback: LOUIS RIEL, 24 years old, dressed in modest but worn clothing. He carries little, but his posture is confident. As he nears the settlement, he pauses to take in the familiar sights of his childhood.

LOUIS RIEL
(to himself)

Home.

He urges his horse forward.

53 EXT. RIEL HOMESTEAD - LATE AFTERNOON 53

The modest Riel family home sits near the banks of the Red River, surrounded by open fields. Smoke curls from the chimney as LOUIS RIEL approaches on horseback. He dismounts slowly, hesitating for a moment before walking toward the house.

The front door opens, and JULIE RIEL, his mother, steps out. She shields her eyes from the sun and freezes when she recognizes him.

JULIE RIEL
Louis?

Louis smiles faintly, his face softening.

LOUIS RIEL
Mama.

Julie rushes forward, wrapping him in a tight embrace. For a moment, Louis is no longer the determined leader but a son returning home.

JULIE RIEL
 You've grown so much. Look at you.
 A man now.

Louis pulls back slightly, his voice tinged with guilt.

LOUIS RIEL
 I should have come sooner. After
 Papa...

Julie shakes her head, cupping his face.

JULIE RIEL
 You did what you had to, Louis.
 Your father would have wanted you
 to find your path.

They hug as though they would never let go.

CUT TO:

54 INT. RIEL FAMILY HOME - EVENING

54

Inside the warm, humble home, the table is set with a simple meal of bread, stew, and tea. Louis sits across from Julie, watching her hands move deftly as she serves him.

JULIE RIEL
 How was the east? Did you find what
 you were looking for?

Louis stirs his tea, his gaze distant.

LOUIS RIEL
 I found their cities crowded, their
 leaders distant, and their laws
 blind to people like us.

Julie sets down her spoon, her expression soft but firm.

JULIE RIEL
 And now? What will you do?

LOUIS RIEL
 (quietly)
 I see that things have changed
 here. I will follow in Father's
 footsteps.

Julie leans back, her eyes glistening.

JULIE RIEL
 Your father always said you'd lead
 our people one day. He believed in
 you, Louis. And so do I.

Louis nods, swallowing hard.

LOUIS RIEL

I know.

Julie reaches across the table, taking his hand.

JULIE RIEL

We do what we must. And you-you
have the strength of generations
behind you.

They hold hands, and both are smiling around the table.

CUT TO:

55 **EXT. RIEL HOMESTEAD - NIGHT**

55

Louis steps outside, the stars bright against the endless prairie sky. He looks out at the land, the gentle rustle of grass carried on the wind.

Julie joins him, draping a shawl over her shoulders.

JULIE RIEL

You're not just fighting for the
land, Louis. You're fighting for
our way of life, for our children,
and their children.

Julie places a hand on his arm, pride and worry mingling in her expression.

JULIE RIEL

Then make sure they remember your
name. You should go see your cousin
Marie-Anne, her husband and you
would have a lot to talk about.

Louis's face turns back toward the horizon. He's Young face transition to him older sitting in the courtroom.

FADE TO:

56 **INT. COURTROOM - REGINA - DAY - 1885**

56

Louis Riel watches Charles Nolin in the witness stand facing Mr. Casgrain, the prosecuting lawyer. Mr. Marceau stands by to provide interpretation as required, ensuring clarity in Nolin's French responses.

MR. CASGRAIN

You lived before in Manitoba?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. CASGRAIN

Do you know when the prisoner came into the country?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. CASGRAIN

About what time was it?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I think about the beginning of July 1884.

MR. CASGRAIN

Did the prisoner speak about his plans, and if so, what did he say?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

About a month after he arrived, he showed me a book that he had written in the States. What he showed me in that book was first to destroy England and Canada.

MR. CASGRAIN

And?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

And also to destroy Rome and the Pope.

MR. CASGRAIN

Did he say how he would carry out his plans?

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

He did not say how he would carry out his plans then.

A faint murmur ripples through the courtroom as Nolin finishes his statement. The Judge Richardson raps his gavel sharply, restoring order.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

The gallery will remain silent.

Charles Nolin exhales deeply, his gaze briefly meeting Riel's. The room feels charged.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. NOLIN HOMESTEAD - MIDDAY

57

The Nolin family's home is modest but well-kept, with a small barn and fields stretching into the distance. Children's laughter echoes as they chase each other near the house. Louis Riel rides up on horseback.

Marie-Anne steps out of the house, wiping her hands on an apron. She squints, recognizing Louis.

MARIE-ANNE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Louis? Is that really you?

Louis dismounts with a warm smile, opening his arms.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Marie-Anne! It's been too long.

She rushes to embrace him, her face lighting up with joy.

MARIE-ANNE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Look at you! You've grown into a fine man. I didn't think we'd see you back from the east so soon.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I couldn't stay away. There's too much to be done here.

MARIE-ANNE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Well Come inside, let me get you something to drink.

The two walk into the house.

58 INT. NOLIN HOMESTEAD - LIVING ROOM - LATER

58

Inside, the house is lively. Marie Anne serves tea while her children dart in and out of the room. Charles Nolin sits at the table, his posture relaxed. Charles gets up to embrace his cousin by marriage with a kiss.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
You were just this high when I saw you last. The east must've taught you many things. I imagine you've seen a world far different from ours.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Different, yes. But what struck me most was how little they understand about us—our people, our land. They see it as something to take, not something to respect.

Charles exchanges a glance with Marie-Anne, who sits quietly listening.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You sound ready for a fight.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Not a fight, Charles. A stand. I've heard what everyone is saying. We can't let them divide the land or our people.

Charles leans back, folding his arms.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 And what's your plan, Louis? Rhetoric? Petitions? Do you think words alone will stop them?

Louis's tone remains calm but firm.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Words can unite us. Action will follow. But it starts with us standing together—as family, as a nation.

Marie-Anne places a hand on Charles's arm, her voice soothing.

MARIE-ANNE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Charles, he just got here. Let's not turn this into a debate.

Charles lets out a deep, robust laugh, rich and hearty, reverberating through the room like rolling thunder.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You're right. Forgive me, Louis. It's just... things are changing so quickly. It's hard to know where we fit in anymore. But there is few of us that get together and through the law I think we can change things.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 We need to show them we belong
 here—together.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 And belong here we do. A toast to
 our Home.

They raise their glasses in a unified cheer as the lively sound of a fiddle begins to fill the room. One of the kids plays with infectious energy, and soon another joins in, clattering spoons in perfect rhythm. The chatter fades as everyone turns their attention to the music, their faces lighting up with joy.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. NOLIN HOMESTEAD - LATER

59

Marie-Anne walks Louis to his horse while Charles watches from the doorway, his expression unreadable.

MARIE-ANNE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 He worries, you know. About the
 children, the farm, everything.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I understand. But if we don't act
 now, there won't be anything left
 to protect.

Marie-Anne hesitates, her voice soft.

MARIE-ANNE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Just be careful, Louis. You carry
 so much weight already. Don't let
 it consume you.

Louis places a reassuring hand on her shoulder.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I won't. And I promise, I'll do
 everything I can to keep our
 families safe.

He mounts his horse, looking back at the house. Charles stands silently, his face a mask of conflicting emotions.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Thank you, Marie-Anne. For
 everything.

As Louis rides away, Marie-Anne watches him go. Charles walks up beside her, his voice low.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
He speaks like a leader. But
leaders like that attract trouble.

MARIE-ANNE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
He's family, Charles. And he's
right.

Charles says nothing, as he watches Louis disappear into the night.

CUT TO:

60 INT. COMMUNITY HALL -JULY 19-1869

60

The large wooden hall is crowded with Métis families. Men, women, and children sit on benches or lean against the walls, their faces etched with worry and curiosity. Oil lamps cast a warm, flickering glow, but the air is tense with anticipation.

Louis Riel stands at the front, his hands resting on the edge of a worn wooden table. Papers are scattered before him, but his attention is on the people. The murmurs in the room quiet as Riel raises his hand.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
My friends, my family, I thank you
for coming tonight. I know many of
you have questions—about the
surveyors, the government, and what
they call "progress."

He pauses, scanning the room.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
The Hudson's Bay Company has sold
the land we call home. Sold it to a
government in Ottawa that has never
walked these prairies, never spoken
with our people, never cared for
what we hold dear.

The crowd stirs uneasily. A man in the back calls out.

OLDER MÉTIS MAN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
What does that mean for us? For our
farms, our families?

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

It means they believe they can divide this land into squares, sell it to strangers, and push us aside as if we are nothing. But I say this: we are not nothing.

The murmurs grow louder, and heads nod in agreement.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We are the Métis people. We were here before their lines, before their laws. This land is not just where we live—it is who we are.

Cheers ripple through the crowd. Marie Anne, seated near the front with her children, smiles faintly, pride in her eyes. Charles Nolin, standing at the side of the room, watches with crossed arms, his expression conflicted.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

If Ottawa believes they can take this land without our consent, they are mistaken. We will not be silent. We will not be ignored.

He steps closer to the crowd, his tone softening but growing more resolute.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We must stand together, not just for today, but for tomorrow—for our children, and their children. We must show them that this land is not for sale. Not without our voices, not without our rights.

The room erupts into applause and cheers. Riel holds his hand up again, calming the noise.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

But this will not be easy. They will call us rebels, troublemakers. They will try to divide us. But if we stay united, if we stand as one people, they will have no choice but to listen.

The applause grows louder, the room alive with energy and determination.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. COMMUNITY HALL - NIGHT

61

The crowd spills out of the hall, people talking animatedly about Riel's words. MARIE-ANNE approaches CHARLES.

MARIE-ANNE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
You see? He's right, Charles. We
can't let them take what's ours.

Charles looks at the ground, his jaw tight.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Words are easy, Marie-Anne.
Action's good or bad has
consequences, but he's not wrong.

He walks away, leaving her watching him. The crowd is Buzzes with excitement as it fades into the courtroom.

FADES TO:

62 INT. COURTROOM - REGINA - DAY - (1885)

62

The courtroom hums as witness Father Vital Fourmond, a priest from St. Laurent, adjusts his robe nervously as the interpreter, Arthur Lewis, prepares to translate. M.Lemieux, a defense attorney, rises to begin his examination.

MR. LEMIEUX
Your profession?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I am a priest at St. Laurent, in
the district of Carlton, an Oblat
father.

MR. LEMIEUX
For how long have you been a
priest?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)
Ten years. I arrived at the place
in the year 1875.

MR. LEMIEUX
Have you known the prisoner Riel
since 1884?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)
Yes; directly since his arrival. I
knew the prisoner by what I had
heard, but I never saw him till
then.

MR. LEMIEUX

Since his arrival in the country, have you had several conversations with the prisoner up to the time of the rebellion?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

Very often.

MR. LEMIEUX

At St. Laurent?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

At St. Laurent, at Batoche, and during the war.

MR. LEMIEUX

Had you any conversation with the prisoner on religious and political subjects?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

Very often.

MR. LEMIEUX

Were you present at the meeting which Father Andre spoke of, in which Riel's judgment and sanity were questioned?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

Yes; I was present.

MR. LEMIEUX

Did you agree with the other fathers in the opinion as to the sanity of the prisoner?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND:

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

It was me who consulted the reverend fathers.

MR. LEMIEUX:

Were you personally acquainted with the facts upon which you based your opinion as to the insanity of Riel?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILTES)

I was personally acquainted with the facts upon which they based their opinion.

MR. LEMIEUX

Will you please state upon what facts you based your opinion that the prisoner was not sane on religious or political matters?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Permit me to divide the answer into two: the facts before the rebellion and the facts during the rebellion. Before the rebellion, it seemed as if there were two sides to the prisoner. In private conversation, he was affable, polite, pleasant, and charitable toward me. I noticed that when he spoke calmly about politics or government without being contradicted, he remained rational. But as soon as he was contradicted on these subjects, he became a different man, carried away by his emotions. He would go so far as to use violent language, even toward those who were his friends. Once the rebellion began, he became highly agitated and lost all control over himself and his temper. He was so consumed by his feelings that, when a priest contradicted him, he became furious and showed no respect for the clergy. He even threatened to destroy all the churches. He said to me, "There is danger for you, but thanks to the friendship I have for you, I will protect you from harm." On one occasion, I went to St. Antoine, where I met several priests. Riel said to me, "I have been appointed by the council to be your spiritual adviser." I responded, "Our spiritual adviser is a bishop, and you cannot take his place. The only way you can become our adviser is by shooting us. You can direct us only as corpses, but that is the only way." That was my answer to him.

The interpreter notes difficulty in accurately translating the testimony. Mr. Casgrain proposes the defense evidence be translated by their interpreter, and Mr. Fitzpatrick agrees the Crown's evidence should follow suit. The arrangement is accepted.

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND (CONT'D)
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

He had extraordinary ideas about the Trinity. He believed that only God the Father was truly God, denying the divinity of God the Son and the Holy Ghost. He insisted that the Virgin Mary was not the Mother of God but merely the mother of the Son of God. Because of this, he changed the wording of the 'Hail Mary' prayer, saying, "Hail Mary, mother of the Son of God" instead of "Hail Mary, mother of God." He rejected fundamental doctrines of the Church, including the divine presence. According to his ideas, it was not God present in the host but an ordinary man, six feet tall. Regarding his political views, he envisioned first taking control of Winnipeg, then Lower Canada, the United States, and even France. He claimed he would "take your country" and then proceed to Italy to overthrow the Pope, after which he would choose a Pope of his own making.

MR. OSLER

Your Honor, we would prefer the interpretation should be done by a regular interpreter. I don't think it is within the ordinary rules of evidence that it should be done as it now is; it is a question whether, even if consented to as in this case, it would be binding in a criminal case.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

The court will adjourn for lunch.

The courtroom stirs as people rise from their seats. Lawyers organize their papers, witness steps down, and spectators begin to file out. Louis Riel sits quietly for a moment before standing and leaving with the others.

63

INT. COURTROOM - AFTERNOON

63

The courtroom fills again as everyone returns to their seats. The judge enters, and the room quiets.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

The court is now in session. Louis Bourget is appointed as the official interpreter.

Louis Bourget steps forward and takes his place as the proceedings continue.

MR. LEMIEUX

Before adjournment, you said that Riel had mentioned going down to Winnipeg, then to the Province of Quebec, crossing the ocean to Paris and Rome, and having a new Pope elected. Did he say he would get one appointed or appoint himself as Pope?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, he said something to that effect.

MR. LEMIEUX

Have you made up your mind about the prisoner being insane as far as religious matters are concerned?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We were much embarrassed at first, because sometimes he seemed reasonable, and other times he acted like a man who didn't know what he was saying.

MR. LEMIEUX

Finally?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We made up our minds there was no way to explain his conduct except that he was insane. Otherwise, he would have to be too big a criminal.

MR. LEMIEUX

As the agitation was progressing, did you notice a change in his conduct or mind?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

A great change. He became a great deal more excitable.

MR. LEMIEUX

At the time of the rebellion, you formed the opinion that he was insane?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, I can tell some facts to that effect.

MR. LEMIEUX

If it is not too long, will you tell us what it is?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Once, the people asked him to explain his views on religion so they could understand them. When he realized the clergy were against him, and that he was being contradicted, he turned against us, especially me. He followed me everywhere, even into the tents. He forced me to leave the area, go down to the river, and cross to the other side. Several women came to shake hands with me there, but the prisoner had an extraordinary expression on his face. He was agitated by the opinions he gave about religion. He spoke to the women and said, "Woe unto you if you go to the priests, because you will be killed by the priests." When I reached the boat, which was not easy to board, the prisoner suddenly became very polite and said, "Look out, father, I will help you get on the boat."

MR. LEMIEUX

So, in an instant, he passed from great rage to great politeness, within minutes?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX

When you first came to Batoche, were you friends with the prisoner?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, I was.

MR. LEMIEUX

You repeat what you've already said: that in matters of politics and religion, the prisoner was not in his right mind?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX

And could not be controlled?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX

And was not sane?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. LEMIEUX

What happened at the council house
when he brought you there?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I was made to account for my
conduct as a priest and for several
other matters against the
provisional government. The
prisoner became very excited and
called me a little tiger.

MR. LEMIEUX

Why did he call you a little tiger?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I don't know. I suppose it was
because I contradicted him.

MR. LEMIEUX

And what happened after that?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

It was late, around ten o'clock,
when I asked to leave. The prisoner
became very polite and offered me a
carriage to take me away. As I
descended the stairs with a parcel
under my arm, he took it from me
with extraordinary politeness and
said, "Father, you may hurt
yourself."

MR. LEMIEUX

Did he ever show you a little book
where he wrote prophecies in
buffalo blood about the future of
this country?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I heard of it, but I never saw it.
The prisoner never spoke to me
about the book.

MR. LEMIEUX
No more further questions your
Honour.

Mr. Casgrain rises to cross-examine the witness, who sits
composed in the witness box.

MR. CASGRAIN
It was when the prisoner was
contradicted that he became
uncontrollable?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Yes, that is what I said.

MR. CASGRAIN
It was then the prisoner became
uncontrollable?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Yes, and at other times too.

MR. CASGRAIN
The half-breeds did not contradict
him upon religious matters?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Some of the half-breeds did
contradict him.

MR. CASGRAIN
A great number? Most of the half-
breeds followed him in his
religious views?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I cannot say; most would be too
many.

MR. CASGRAIN
A great number?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Yes, and several did not dare to
express their views.

MR. CASGRAIN

Before the rebellion began, he was quiet and sane in mind?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, relatively, except sometimes when he was contradicted, as I said this morning.

MR. CASGRAIN

When do you fix the commencement of the rebellion?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

The 18th of March. The prisoner came himself and proclaimed the rebellion.

MR. CASGRAIN

He made you take an oath of neutrality towards the provisional government during the rebellion?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

No, there was no oath, but there was a written promise concerning the exercise of the ministry.

MR. CASGRAIN

Was it in terms of neutrality towards the provisional government?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes.

MR. CASGRAIN

You said there was no other way to explain his conduct than to say he was insane or a great criminal. You would rather say he was insane—rather than say he was a great criminal?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I did not say that, but in my mind, it was the best way to explain it.

MR. CASGRAIN

You had naturally a great deal of friendship with the prisoner?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I could not have had much friendship because I did not know him at the beginning, and afterward, when I became acquainted with him, the friendship was broken off.

MR. CASGRAIN

Between the time when he came into the mission and the time you had a rupture with him, is it not true that you and he were friends—that you had a great deal of friendship for him?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, as I would have for you.

MR. CASGRAIN

Religion has a great influence on the half-breeds?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

In what sense?

MR. CASGRAIN

In a general way; they are a religious people by instinct?

FATHER VITAL FOURMOND
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, religion has great influence with them.

MR. CASGRAIN

No more further question your Honor. We would also like to submit this document as evidence.

Mr. Casgrain steps over to his desk, gathering the stack of papers. He glances at them briefly before walking across the courtroom and presenting them to Judge Richardson. The scene fades into another moment—the same papers now being passed from a minister's hands to John A. Macdonald in the chambers of the Parliament building

FADE TO:

The room is grand John A Macdonald sits at the head of a long table, surrounded by his cabinet Minister. Maps of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory are spread out before them,

marked with survey lines and potential settlement plans.

JOHN A. MACDONALD
(Tapping his hands on the desk)

Gentlemen, the acquisition of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company is a defining moment for this nation. We've paid £300,000 for it—a bargain for what it will bring. But it won't mean a thing unless we establish control.

MINISTER #1
Control, Prime Minister? The Métis and Indigenous peoples have lived on this land for generations. They won't simply step aside.

JOHN A. MACDONALD
The Hudson's Bay Company didn't consult them, and neither shall we. The Métis are a complication, but not an insurmountable one. We'll send surveyors to divide the land, prepare it for settlers. Once it's mapped and staked, the legal framework will be in place. The Métis can either adapt or... find other accommodations.

MINISTER #2
But what if they resist? Louis Riel is gaining influence among them. He's charismatic, and they trust him.

MACDONALD
If they resist, they'll expose themselves as rebels. And rebels can be dealt with swiftly. But first, we give them the opportunity to comply. We must proceed methodically. Survey the land, establish boundaries, and make it clear this territory belongs to Canada now.

He picks up a pen, drawing a bold line across the map to emphasize his point.

MACDONALD (CONT'D)
We'll need settlers to solidify our claim. Encourage immigration from Ontario and overseas. The Métis will find themselves outnumbered soon enough.

MINISTER #1

And Riel? If he continues to stir unrest?

MACDONALD

Then he'll be dealt with. Let him talk, for now. Words alone won't stop progress. But if he moves against us, we'll have all the justification we need to act decisively.

The ministers exchange uneasy glances. Macdonald's confidence fills the room, even as the shadows outside lengthen.

MACDONALD (CONT'D)

This isn't just about land. It's about the future of this country. A united Canada, from sea to sea. The Métis are a small price to pay for that vision.

He rises, the others following suit. Macdonald gazes out the window, the sprawling land of Ottawa a stark contrast to the vast prairies they're planning to seize.

FADE OUT.

65 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - DAY (OCTOBER 1869)

65

Vast prairies of the Red River Settlement, showing a bustling community of Métis, settlers, and Indigenous people.

Text to screen:

"In the autumn of 1869, the Red River Settlement, home to the Métis people for generations, faced an uncertain future. The Canadian government, without consulting the inhabitants, had begun surveying the land, planning to divide it among settlers and strip the Métis of their ancestral rights.

Fort Garry, a Hudson's Bay Company outpost, was the most strategic location in the Red River Settlement. Controlling it meant controlling the flow of goods and communications—and the Métis knew it."

66 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - OPEN PRAIRIE - DAY (1869)

66

The vast prairie stretches endlessly under a pale blue sky. Louis Riel and Charles Nolin ride on horseback, their expressions grim as they approach a group of government Surveyors marking the land with stakes and ropes. A small group of Métis settlers watches from a distance, their faces a mixture of confusion and fear.

Louis and Charles dismount, tying their horses to a nearby

tree. They walk closer, their boots crunching in the dry grass.

SURVEYOR

(to his assistant)

Mark this section here. The company wants it squared off by the end of the week.

LOUIS RIEL

(voice raised)

What do you think you're doing?

The surveyor looks up, startled, but quickly regains his composure.

SURVEYOR

We're surveying the land for settlement. By order of the Crown.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Tell him this land isn't his to take. And that it belongs to the Métis, to the families who've lived here for generations.

LOUIS RIEL

(Interperts)

This land isn't you're to take. It belongs to the Métis, to the families who lived here for generations.

SURVEYOR

(calmly, but firmly)

The Hudson's Bay Company sold this land to Canada. It's no longer your concern.

Louis's jaw tightens. He steps closer, his voice steady but filled with resolve.

LOUIS RIEL

It is our concern. You can't divide what you don't understand. This land isn't just property—it's who we are.

The surveyor hesitates, sensing the growing tension. The Métis settlers murmur among themselves, emboldened by Louis's words.

SURVEYOR

I suggest you take it up with Ottawa. We're just doing our job.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (French with Subtitles)
 Your job is destroying lives.
 You've got no right.

The surveyor gestures to his team, signaling them to continue. Louis places a hand on Charles's shoulder, holding him back.

LOUIS RIEL
 (French with Subtitles)
 (to Charles, quietly)
 Not here. Not now.

Charles glares at the surveyor but steps back. Louis and Charles get back on their horses. Louis turns to Charles.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
 (French with Subtitles)
 This is why we must act. If we stay
 silent, they'll take everything.
 But if we stand together, we can
 make them listen.

Louis and Charles both cast one last glance at the surveyors before riding off.

CUT TO:

67

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - DAY
(1868)

67

The modest hall is packed with members of the Métis community. Men and women sit on wooden benches, their faces a mixture of hope and apprehension. At the front of the room, a large wooden podium stands as the focal point. Louis and Charles sit at a table near the podium, exchanging glances.

Father Richot, a respected community leader, steps up to the podium. His voice carries the authority of experience.

FATHER RICHOT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Brothers and sisters, we are at a
 crossroads. The government in
 Ottawa sees our land as property to
 be bought and sold. But to us, it
 is more than land—it is our
 livelihood, our heritage, our home.

The crowd murmurs in agreement. Father Richot gestures toward Louis and Charles.

FATHER RICHOT (CONT'D)
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 It is time for new leaders to rise.
 (MORE)

FATHER RICHOT (CONT'D)

Leaders who will speak for us, who will fight for our rights. I present to you two young men who have shown both passion and promise: Louis Riel and Charles Nolin.

The crowd applauds politely. Louis stands, his hands clasped tightly in front of him. Charles remains seated, looking uneasy but resolute. Louis steps to the podium, his voice steady despite his nerves.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Our people deserve to be heard. The Métis have lived here for generations, yet our voices are ignored. If we do not stand up now, we risk losing everything—to surveyors, to settlers, to those who see us as obstacles.

The murmurs grow louder, some nodding in agreement. Charles rises, moving to stand beside Louis. He places a firm hand on Louis's shoulder before speaking.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Louis is right. This is our fight, but it cannot be won alone. We need to unite—not just the Métis, but settlers, traders, anyone who believes in justice. Together, we can show Ottawa that we are more than just names on a map.

The crowd claps louder, some rising to their feet. Father Richot steps forward, his expression one of approval.

FATHER RICHOT

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Louis Riel and Charles Nolin, you have the support of your people. Together, you will lead us as voices for the Métis. May God guide this path.

Louis and Charles exchange a solemn handshake, their partnership cemented in front of the community. The crowd grows, capturing the mixture of hope, determination, and uncertainty on their faces.

FADE TO:

68

EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - SUNSET - LATER THAT DAY

68

Louis and Charles walk side by side, the glow of the setting sun painting the prairie in gold and orange.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Well, Louis, it seems we've got our task set before us.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Yes, but we have a cause worth every sacrifice..

They walk on in silence, the vast prairie stretching before them, their journey as leaders just beginning.

CUT TO:

69

INT. MÉTIS MEETING STORE - NIGHT (OCTOBER 1869)

69

Inside a dimly lit store, a group of Métis leaders gather around a large table. The mood is serious, with a sense of urgency in their discussions. Louis Riel, a young and charismatic leader, stands at the head of the table, addressing the group.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Our land is being taken from us, our voices silenced. The Canadian government acts as if we do not exist, as if our rights mean nothing. We cannot allow this to happen.

Around the table, the faces of key Métis leaders: Charles Nolin, Ambroise-Dydime Lepine, John Bruce, and others. They nod in agreement, their expressions a mix of resolve and concern.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Fort Garry is the key. If we control the fort, we control the region. It's the heart of their operations, and without it, they have no power here.

CHARLES NOLIN (CONT'D)

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

But what happens after we take it? The Canadian government won't sit idly by. We must be prepared for their response, whether it's diplomatic or military.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

The fort is lightly defended. If we move quickly and with precision, we can take it without bloodshed. But we must act soon. Hesitation could cost us everything.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I've seen the fort's defenses firsthand. The men stationed there aren't prepared for an organized force like ours. They'll surrender without a fight if we strike decisively.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

And what of the people in the settlement? We need their support. We must ensure they understand we're not just taking the fort—we're defending their rights as well.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We will move tonight. This is not just about land; it's about our people's future. We take the fort, establish our authority, and negotiate from a position of strength.

Riel pauses, looking each leader in the eye, his voice firm.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

But we must be clear—this is a stand for all Métis, for our families, our children, and the generations to come. We cannot afford to fail. We need every one of you, and the people must know this is their fight too.

ELZÉAR GOULET

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

If we move as one, the people will follow. They've waited too long for justice. Now is the time to show them we are united and ready to lead.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Then let's do it.

(MORE)

JOHN BRUCE (CONT'D)

We'll send word to the community,
rally our supporters, and prepare
for tonight. Fort Garry will be
ours by morning.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Fort Garry its is then. For the
Métis, for our rights, and for our
future.

The leaders exchange determined glances, the gravity of
their decision sinking in as they rise from the table.

CUT TO:

70

INT. MEETING HALL - RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - NIGHT
(1869)

70

Louis stands, addressing the group with calm authority.
Charles sits nearby, his arms crossed, listening intently.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Gentlemen, we all know what's at
stake. The Hudson's Bay Company has
sold our land to Canada without
consulting us, and now John A.
Macdonald plans to survey it as if
we don't exist. This is our home.
We cannot let them erase us.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

But what's the plan, Louis?
Macdonald's not a man to reason
with. He cares more about his money
than the Métis. Do you really think
he'll listen to us?

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

If we don't try, Charles, we lose
before we begin. We need to show
him we're not just a voice in the
wilderness—we're a people united,
with rights that cannot be ignored.

A murmur of agreement spreads through the room. One of the
older members, FATHER RICHOT, nods approvingly.

FATHER RICHOT

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Macdonald may be stubborn, but we
have history on our side. We are
not asking for charity; we are
demanding justice.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Justice? Do you think Macdonald
 cares about justice for the Métis?
 He'll send surveyors, then
 soldiers, and take what he wants.
 Words won't stop him.

Louis steps closer to Charles, his tone firm but measured.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 And what will force achieve?
 Violence will only justify their
 actions.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 If we act with reason and unity, we
 can rally not just our people, but
 settlers, clergy—anyone who values
 fairness.

Charles shakes his head, frustrated but thoughtful.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You're an idealist, Louis. But
 ideals don't stop governments. If
 Macdonald pushes us, we'll have no
 choice but to push back.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 If we divide ourselves now,
 Charles, we'll be playing into his
 hands. Unity is our strength.
 Together, we can force him to the
 table.

The room falls silent, the tension between the two men palpable. Father Richot clears his throat, breaking the moment.

FATHER RICHOT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Charles is right. Our first step
 should be dialogue. But we must
 prepare for the worst. Macdonald's
 government will not yield easily.
 And he won't listen to Dialogue.
 It's time to push back now.

Louis looks around the room, meeting the eyes of every man present.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Then let's begin. Since Macdonald
 will refuse to listen anyway, we'll
 show him what a united Métis people
 can do. We take Fort Garry.

The men nod in agreement, and the quiet hum of conversation resumes. Charles sits back down, his expression unreadable as he watches Louis.

CUT TO:

71 INT. HALLWAY - LATER

71

Louis and Charles walk side by side, the meeting having adjourned. The lamps cast long shadows on the walls as their footsteps echo.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You're brave, Louis. I'll give you
 that. But bravery won't be enough
 if Macdonald decides to crush us.

Louis places his hand on Charles's shoulder.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Maybe not. But bravery is a good
 place to start.

Charles chuckles, shaking his head.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Alright, Louis. I'll follow your
 lead—for now.

Louis smiles faintly, and the two men continue down the hallway, their footsteps fading into the distance.

CUT TO:

72 EXT. FORT GARRY - NIGHT (NOVEMBER 2, 1869)

72

It's a foggy night. The outlines of Fort Garry loom in the distance, barely visible through the mist. The Métis fighters, led by Riel, Nolin, Lepine, approach the fort with silent determination. They are well-organized and armed, but their faces show that they hope to avoid violence.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"On November 2, 1869, Louis Riel and his followers made their move. The Métis, determined to protect their land and rights, 120 men approached Fort Garry under the cover of

night, prepared to take control."

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Remember, we do this peacefully. No
bloodshed unless absolutely
necessary. We are here to protect
what is ours, not to provoke a war.

The Métis's approach the gates, which are partially open. The fort is quiet, with only a few guards on duty. The Métis fighters slip through the gates and quickly disarm the surprised guards. They they move through the fort, securing key positions.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"The takeover was swift and bloodless. The fort's defenders, unprepared and outnumbered, offered no resistance. By morning, Fort Garry was under Métis control"

CUT TO:

73 INT. FORT GARRY - MAIN COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

73

The main courtyard, where Riel stands in the centre, surrounded by his followers. The few Hudson's Bay Company employees who remain are gathered in the corner, watching in silence as the Métis take control of the fort's armoury and provisions.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Secure the gates and guard all
entrances. We hold this fort now.
This is the beginning of our stand
for justice.

Text to Screen:

"The capture of Fort Garry marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Métis. Under Riel's leadership, they established a provisional government, demanding recognition and rights from the Canadian government. But this act of defiance would set the stage for conflict, as tensions between the Métis and their opponents continued to rise."

CUT TO:

74 INT. PARLIAMENT BUILDING - OTTAWA - NIGHT (1869)

74

The grand hall of the Parliament building is dimly lit, with candles flickering on the polished wooden desks. The Priminster sits at the head of a long table, surrounded by advisors and officials. Maps and documents are scattered across the table, detailing the Red River Settlement and Fort Garry.

JOHN A.MACDONALD
 (gazing at the map)
 This Louis Riel is a troublesome young man. His actions at Fort Garry are not merely defiant—they verge on sedition.

ADVISOR #1
 It is said he has taken the fort to safeguard the Métis and their lands. He claims to act in defence of their rights.

JOHN A.MACDONALD
 Rights? He presumes to defy the authority of the Crown under the guise of rights. His motives are irrelevant. What matters is the precedent he sets. If we permit such insolence, we risk anarchy in the West.

ADVISOR #2
 Would it be prudent to send out a detachment of troops, sir? A demonstration of force might deter further rebellion.

JOHN A.MACDONALD
 We must tread carefully. Discredit him, isolate him. Cut off any avenue of support.

He gestures to the map, tracing the route to Fort Garry with his finger.

JOHN A.MACDONALD (CONT'D)
 Riel fancies himself a leader of the people, but he lacks the resources to sustain this insurrection. Pressure the Hudson's Bay Company to withhold aid. Warn the settlers and clergy of the consequences of aligning with him.

ADVISOR #1
 And if he persists?

JOHN A.MACDONALD
 Then we shall act decisively. Let him exhaust himself in defiance. When we respond, it must be with both force and justification. He will stand condemned by his own actions.

The advisors nod solemnly.

JOHN A. MACDONALD (CONT'D)

Louis Riel imagines himself a Leader of the Métis, but he overestimates his influence. We shall remind him—and the world—where the true power lies, and its not with the half breeds.

The Prime Minister starts smiling, a calculated grin spreading across his face, savouring the moment he knows he'll crush Riel.

CUT TO:

75

EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - CANDLELIT HALL - NIGHT
(DECEMBER 8, 1869)

75

A modest wooden hall, dimly lit by flickering candles. Métis leaders, men and women of varying ages, sit around a large wooden table. The air is thick with tension, the faint sound of winter wind pressing against the walls.

John Bruce, a steadfast Métis leader in his fifties, stands at the head of the table. His voice cuts through the murmurs.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

The time has come for us to stand together as one people. To protect our land, our culture, and our families. We cannot allow Canada to swallow us without a voice in shaping our future.

The room falls silent. All eyes turn to LOUIS RIEL, late twenties, with a youthful intensity. He leans forward, his gaze piercing, his voice calm yet commanding.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Unity is our strength. If we form a government of our own, we can show them that the Métis will not be ignored. That we are a people with rights, and those rights must be respected.

Murmurs of agreement ripple through the room. The camera pans across determined faces, some nodding, others whispering their assent.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

(interjecting)

Louis, unity is our strength, yes, but we must tread carefully.

(MORE)

CHARLES NOLIN (CONT'D)
 What of the settlers who see us as
 obstacles?

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Charles, they will see us as
 obstacles whether we speak or
 remain silent. Silence will only
 grant them victory.

MÉTIS LEADER 1
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 But what of Canada's response? They
 will see this as rebellion.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 It is not rebellion to demand
 respect. We are not seeking war. We
 are seeking justice. If they call
 that rebellion, so be it.

MÉTIS LEADER 2
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 And what of our families? If they
 retaliate, we will pay the price.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 We must be prepared for every
 consequence. But I ask you, what is
 the alternative? Submission?
 Displacement?

JOHN BRUCE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 We all know the risks. But if we do
 nothing, we lose everything. Our
 land, our identity, our future.

MÉTIS WOMAN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 My husband and sons stand ready to
 defend our home. I say we fight,
 not with violence but with resolve.
 Let them see we will not cower.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Exactly. Let us show them we are
 united, not as rebels but as a
 people with a rightful place in
 this land.

MÉTIS LEADER 1
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Then let us vote.

One by one, hands are raised. The vote is unanimous. John Bruce has become the Metis Leader.

JOHN BRUCE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Then it is decided. We form a provisional government. I will serve as its president. Louis, you will serve as secretary. Charles, you will act as our advisor and liaison.

Bruce, Riel, and Nolin clasp hands. A wave of relief and resolve fills the room.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
This is our first step. But it will not be our last.

The hall buzzes with anticipation, filled with determination and a shared sense of purpose as plans to move forward take shape. The lively strains of fiddle music begin to echo, and the atmosphere shifts, transforming the hall into a vibrant Métis gathering.

CUT TO:

76 **EXT. FORT GARRY - SNOWY PATH - DAY (DECEMBER 18, 1869)** 76

A frosty winter landscape. William McDougall, mid-forties, bundled in a thick coat, stands beside a carriage. His breath forms clouds in the icy air. A handful of armed escorts linger nearby.

WILLIAM MCDUGALL
(to himself)
These people... they defy reason.
And yet, they've bested us.

He steps into the carriage. His advisor, standing by, leans closer.

ADVISOR
Sir, it's not too late to make another attempt.

WILLIAM MCDUGALL
Another attempt? With what army?
With what plan? We've been humiliated.

ADVISOR
Ottawa will demand answers. What do we tell them?

WILLIAM MCDOUGALL
 Tell them the truth. Tell them we
 underestimated the half breeds.

ADVISOR
 And if they ask what to do next?

WILLIAM MCDOUGALL
 (with bitterness)
 Tell them to send someone else.

The carriage begins to move. From a distance, a Métis scout on horseback watches. He turns and gallops away, disappearing into the snowy horizon.

CUT TO:

77

INT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - CANDLELIT HALL - NIGHT
(DECEMBER 27, 1869)

77

The hall is now more formal, lit with additional lanterns. The atmosphere is heavy with anticipation. John Bruce, pale and visibly tired, stands at the head of the table.

JOHN BRUCE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 My health no longer allows me to lead. But this cause, our cause, is too great to falter. I can think of no one better to take my place than Louis Riel.

A quiet gasp spreads through the room. All eyes shift to Riel, seated at the table. He rises slowly.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I will lead, not as one man, but as a servant of our people. Together, we will ensure our rights are heard and respected.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Louis, are you prepared for what this will mean? The weight of this responsibility?

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I am prepared. Not because I am strong alone, but because we are strong together. This is not about me. This is about all of us.

MÉTIS MAN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You have my trust, Louis. Lead us
 as you have always done, with
 courage and wisdom.

MÉTIS LEADER 2
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 And my trust as well. You have
 shown us what it means to fight for
 what is right.

MÉTIS LEADER 3
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Louis, your what we need.

One by one, the leaders cast their votes. It is unanimous.

MÉTIS LEADER 1
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 To President Louis Riel!

Cheers erupt. Bruce steps forward, placing a hand on Riel's
 shoulder. The two men share a moment of quiet respect.

JOHN BRUCE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Lead them well.

As Bruce exits, Riel takes his place at the head of the
 table. He unfurls the "MÉTIS LIST OF RIGHTS" and places it
 in the centre. The Men all start discussing, as Charles
 Nolin takes notes.

CUT TO:

78

EXT. FORT GARRY - DAY - DECEMBER 1, 1869

78

The fort is alive with activity. The Métis people gather in
 the crisp winter air, their breath visible in the moonlight.
 Fiddles and low drums hum in the background, a faint
 heartbeat for the momentous occasion. Louis Riel stands atop
 a wooden platform.

Men, women, and children stand shoulder to shoulder, bundled
 against the cold, their faces of hope and resolve.

Riel raises his hand, commanding silence. The crowd quiets,
 hanging on his every word.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Brothers, sisters, children of the
 Red River! Today, we stand not as
 scattered voices but as one people
 united by purpose, faith, and the
 sacred bond to this land.
 (MORE)

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
 Our voices shall be heard, our
 rights defended, and our way of
 life preserved.

A murmur of agreement ripples through the crowd. Riel's
 voice grows firmer, filled with conviction.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 The Dominion of Canada seeks to
 stretch its hand over this land,
 claiming it as if it were a mere
 commodity to be traded. But we are
 not commodities! We are the
 guardians of this land, Métis and
 settlers alike. Together, we demand
 our rightful place in
 Confederation!

He pauses, letting the weight of his words settle. From the
 crowd, a young Métis girl steps forward, holding a Métis
 Flag with Gold French Fleur-de-lis with a Green Shamrock on
 a white background.

YOUNG MÉTIS GIRL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Monsieur Riel, I helped my mom make
 it.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Its perfect.

Riel takes the flag, his face softening for a moment before
 regaining his solemnity. He unfurls the banner, raising it
 high.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Under this Flag, we claim our
 voice! Which symbolizes The Métis
 and Fenian unity against a common
 foe. Now we do not seek rebellion,
 but we will not yield to
 oppression. We demand our rights:
 our language, our land, our faith!
 And in doing so, we demand the
 birth of a province—a home for us
 all.

The crowd erupts in cheers, their voices echoing into the
 cold night. The fiddle music swells, mingling with the sound
 of hope.

Charles Nolin, standing among the council members, leans
 toward Father Ritchot, whispering.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Do you believe this will lead us to
 peace, Father?

FATHER RITCHOT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Sometimes, Charles, peace demands a
 storm to clear the way.

Riel looks out over the crowd, his voice rising once more.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Let it be known this night: the Red
 River is not conquered. It stands
 proud, resolute, and unyielding.
 From this day forward, we claim
 Manitoba as our own—a province of
 our making, where the Métis and all
 peoples shall live in dignity and
 harmony!

The crowd roars, fists raised in unity. Fireworks suddenly
 explode in the distance, casting colors across the dark sky.
 The MÉTIS fiddlers play a triumphant tune, and people begin
 to dance in celebration.

Riel steps down from the platform, the young Métis boy
 following at his side. As he moves through the crowd, hands
 reach out to touch him. The cheers of the Métis fade into the
 winter wind, carrying the spirit of their fight into the
 future.

CUT TO:

79 EXT. FORT GARRY - WINTER NIGHT 79

Snow crunches under heavy boots. The gray sky looms over the
 Red River Settlement, shrouding it in a tense stillness. A
 ragtag group of armed Métis soldiers led by Louis Riel
 marches through the snow toward the outskirts of a small
 camp.

80 INT. MAKESHIFT ENCAMPMENT - SAME TIME 80

A handful of men sit around a fire, their voices low and
 tense. Thomas Scott (30s, brash, and defiant), clad in a
 thick coat, sharpens a blade. Beside him, JOHN Schutltz
 (40s, wiry and calculating) studies a crude map of Fort
 Garry.

JOHN SCHULTZ
 (whispering)
 They've left the south gate
 undefended. If we strike before
 dawn—

THOMAS SCOTT
 (interrupting, smug)
 Forget their gates. Riel's nothing
 but a loudmouth preacher playing at
 war. We storm the fort, drag him
 out, and be done with it.

JOHN SCHULTZ
 (lowering his voice)
 You underestimate him. The Métis
 are loyal. He's dangerous because
 they believe in him.

Scott scoffs, tossing his knife into the snow.

THOMAS SCOTT
 Belief won't stop a bullet.

Suddenly, the faint crush of boots is heard. The men freeze.

GUARD
 (from the perimeter,
 shouting)
 Riders!

The camp erupts in chaos. Scott grabs his rifle, barking
 orders.

THOMAS SCOTT
 (to the men)
 Get your guns! Hold your ground!

CUT TO:

81 **EXT. MAKESHIFT ENCAMPMENT - CONTINUOUS**

81

Through the swirling snow, Riel and his soldiers emerge,
 their breath fogging in the cold air. André Gault his cousin
 turns to him.

ANDRÉ NAULT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 They're outnumbered. They'll break.

Riel steps forward, calm but commanding.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 No bloodshed unless necessary.
 They're not our enemy—they're just
 lost.

CUT TO:

82 EXT. ENCAMPMENT - CONTINUOUS

82

Scott peers through the snow, spotting Riel at the head of the group.

THOMAS SCOTT
(spitting)
Riel. That holy fool. He's mine!

He cocks his rifle, aiming it at Riel. Schultz pulls the barrel down.

JOHN SCHULTZ
Are you mad? They'll slaughter us!

THOMAS SCOTT
Let them try.

Riel's voice cuts through the rising wind.

LOUIS RIEL
(calling out)
Thomas Scott! You've trespassed on
Métis land and defied the
Provisional Government. Lay down
your arms, and no harm will come to
you!

Scott sneers, stepping forward.

THOMAS SCOTT
(shouting back)
You think you're in charge here,
Riel? You're a nobody! A half breed
playing general!

The Métis soldiers advance, their rifles raised.

ANDRÉ NAULT
He won't surrender.

LOUIS RIEL
Then we must take him.

CUT TO:

83 EXT. ENCAMPMENT - CHAOS

83

A tense standoff breaks as Scott fires the first shot. The bullet grazes one of Riel's men, who falls into the snow.

The Métis charge. Scott's group scrambles, but they're quickly overwhelmed. Riel strides through the Métis soldier's disarms Schultz.

Scott swings his rifle like a club, but Riel steps in, catching the barrel. With surprising strength, Riel wrests it away and forces Scott to his knees.

LOUIS RIEL
This is not your land, Mr. Scott.

Scott glares up at him, defiant.

THOMAS SCOTT
You'll regret this, Riel.

Scott spits in Riel's face, Riel tips the spit from his face.

LOUIS RIEL
Perhaps. But not today.

He motions to his men. Scott is bound and dragged toward Fort Garry. The snow begins to fall heavier, muffling the sound of retreating footsteps.

CUT TO:

84 EXT. FORT GARRY - LATER

84

The gates close behind the Métis party as they return with their prisoners. Riel stands on the ramparts, looking out over the snowy plains.

CUT TO:

85 INT. FORT GARRY - COMMAND ROOM - LATER

85

The leaders are in the command room inside the fort, where Riel, Nolin, Lepine, and the other Métis leaders are gathered around a table covered with maps and documents. They are discussing plans for their next steps.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
We have taken the fort, but our fight is just beginning. We must prepare for negotiations, but we must also be ready to defend what is ours. The Canadian government will not take this lightly. God is on our side.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
We have the fort, and we have the support of our people. We must use this advantage wisely. We'll need to secure our borders and ensure that no one can challenge our authority here. The Canadian forces will come eventually, but we must be ready.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

There is nothing Lord can't give us that we can't handle. We have made our stand, but the path before us is filled with trials. Taking Fort Garry is just the beginning of a greater fight that will shape the future of the Red River Settlement—and our destiny. For now we will give the prisoner a fair trail.

CUT TO:

86

INT. FORT GARRY - MAKESHIFT COURTROOM - DAY (1870)

86

A cramped room serves as the courtroom. Louis Riel sits at the head of the table, flanked by the Métis party. Thomas Scott, disheveled and defiant, stands before them. The room is tense, filled with a small but charged audience of Métis community members.

THOMAS SCOTT
(angrily)

This is a sham! You call this justice? You're nothing but rebels pretending to be a government.

LOUIS RIEL
(calmly)

Mr. Scott, you've been charged with treason against the Provisional Government of Red River. Your actions endangered not only our leaders but our entire community. Do you deny these charges?

THOMAS SCOTT
(sneering)

I deny your so-called authority. This land belongs to Canada, not to you half-breeds playing at politics.

The room erupts in murmurs. One Métis party leader stands up, pointing at Scott.

MÉTIS LEADER 1

This man insulted our people and threatened our families! He's not just an enemy to this government—he's an enemy to our way of life.

Riel raises a hand to silence the room. His calm demeanor hides the weight of his responsibility.

LOUIS RIEL
 (quietly but firmly)
 We are not here for vengeance. We
 are here for justice. Mr. Scott
 will have the chance to speak in
 his defense.

THOMAS SCOTT
 (defiantly)
 I don't need a defense. The Crown
 will crush you, and I'll live to
 see you hang, Riel.

Riel's face hardens, but he remains composed.

LOUIS RIEL
 Take the prisoner back to his cell.

The Métis soldiers remove Thomas Scott from the room.

CUT TO:

87 INT. FORT GARRY - PRIVATE CHAMBER - NIGHT

87

Riel sits alone, his head in his hands. Ambroise-Dydime
 Lépine enters. He hesitates before speaking.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Louis, the council is divided. Some
 want Scott executed. Others think
 sparing him would show we're
 different from the Crown.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Sparing him could make us look
 weak. Executing him could make us
 martyrs or murderers. Either choice
 could doom us.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You've always said we fight for our
 people, for their future. We cant
 have people like Scott lurking in
 the woods.

Riel looks up at Lépine.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 My heart tells me we cannot afford
 mercy—not with men like Scott. But
 it also tells me this will haunt me
 for the rest of my life.

Louis Riel and Ambroise-Dydime Lépine sit together in

silence.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. RED RIVER SETTLEMENT - DAY

88

The snow-covered settlement is quiet. A Métis mother walks with her children, glancing toward Fort Garry with a worried expression. A group of settlers whispers among themselves.

There a young Métis boy staring up at the fort, his face a mixture of awe and uncertainty.

CUT TO:

89 INT. FORT GARRY - COMMAND ROOM - NIGHT (FEBRUARY 1870)

89

A dimly lit command room in Fort Garry. The room is lined with maps and documents, reflecting the ongoing struggle of the Métis government. Louis Riel is seated at the head of the table, deep in thought. Ambroise-Dydime Lepine, Charles Nolin and other key Métis leaders are gathered around, discussing the increasing unrest among the settlers.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

The opposition is growing, Louis. There are whispers of an organized resistance forming among the English settlers. They're not content with just words anymore. We need action.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

And we know who's stirring the pot. Thomas Scott has been agitating since the day we took the fort. He's becoming a serious threat to our authority.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

He is now a prisoner here. He should be released with the other prisoners.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

I agree we should just let him go like the other prisoners.

JOHN BRUCE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

If he leaves, his influence will grow.

(MORE)

JOHN BRUCE (CONT'D)
 He was gathering men who are
 willing to fight. We need to act
 before it's too late.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 You're right, We need to make it
 clear that the provisional
 government will not tolerate
 sedition. But we must ensure that
 our actions are justified in the
 eyes of our people—and the world.
 We will have to have another trial
 to determine if this is just.

Riel's face shows the difficult decisions he must make.

CUT TO:

90 INT. FORT GARRY - PRISON CELL - NIGHT 90

The dimly lit cell is quiet. Thomas Scott, tense and determined, listens carefully as the sound of footsteps fades down the corridor. He tests the door handle—it's unlocked. He slips out silently.

91 INT. FORT GARRY - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 91

Scott moves stealthily through the dimly lit corridor, his breath shallow and quick. He spots a guard, Metis Solider #1, at the far end, his back turned. Scott edges toward a door leading to the courtyard.

The door creaks as Scott opens it. The guard stiffens, turns, and catches a glimpse of Scott.

MÉTIS SOLDIER #1
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Escape! Escape!

The guard's shout echoes through the corridor.

92 EXT. FORT GARRY - COURTYARD - NIGHT 92

Scott bursts into the courtyard, sprinting toward the outer gate. The cold air bites at him as he fumbles with the gate latch. The sound of pursuing footsteps grows louder.

Just as Scott forces the gate open, he's tackled from behind by a Metis Solder. Other Métis soldiers quickly surround them. Ambroise-Dydime Lepine walks up to Thomas Scott.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE
 It's over, Scott.

Scott struggles, and spits in Lepine's face, but he's overpowered and restrained by the soldiers. Defeated, he's dragged back toward the fort prison cell. Scott starts to yell and curse.

SCOTT THOMAS

All of you half-breeds are a pack
of cowards, You won't dare shoot
me.

Snow begins to fall, adding to the bleak, cold Canadian atmosphere.

93 INT. FORT GARRY - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

93

Scott is thrown into a dimly lit cell within Fort Garry. He paces back and forth, seething with anger. Yelling out loud. Outside the cell, Riel, Lépine, discuss the next steps.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

We must proceed carefully. He will
be given a trial, as is his right.
But we cannot allow him to disrupt
the peace we've fought so hard to
achieve.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

He needs to die, Scott has already
pushed too far.

Riel and Lépine looks through the bars of Scott's cell.

CUT TO:

94 INT. MAKESHIFT COURTROOM - FORT GARRY - EVENING

94

A group of men sits around a long wooden table, papers scattered. Louis Riel, stern and composed, stands at the head, gazing at the assembled group. The flickering light from a lantern casts long shadows, emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

Charles Nolin, a Métis leader, sits with a quill and paper, ready to take notes. He glances at Riel. Joseph Delorme and Edmund Turner, two guards, stand by the door, their faces hard.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

Gentlemen, we are here to determine
the fate of Thomas Scott, a man who
has openly defied our Provisional
Government.

Riel looks to Nolin, who nods. The guards step forward.

JOSEPH DELORME
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Scott struck one of our captains.
 He's shown nothing but contempt for
 our authority.

EDMUND TURNER
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 He even raised his hand against
 you, Louis. Tried to cause harm.

Riel's face remains impassive. He gestures to the guards.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Bring him in.

The guards open the door, and Thomas Scott is led into the room. He stands defiantly, his eyes blazing with anger. Riel watches him closely.

LOUIS RIEL (CONT'D)
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 Charles, read the evidence
 presented.

Nolin shuffles his papers, He stumbles over his words.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I... my notes are not...
 sufficient. I can't.

Riel sighs, stepping forward to address Scott directly.

LOUIS RIEL
 You have rebelled against our
 authority, struck a captain, and
 attempted to assault me. These are
 serious charges.

Scott smirks but remains silent.

Janvier Ritchot, a stern-faced man, rises from his seat.

JANVIER RITCHOT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I propose the death penalty.
 Scott's actions threaten our
 stability. He must be made an
 example.

ANDRÉ GAULT
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I Seconded.

JOSEPH DELORME
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
 I agree.

ELZEAR GOULET
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)
 As do I.

The room falls silent. Riel looks around, his expression unreadable. He turns back to Scott, who glares at him.

LOUIS RIEL
 Thomas Scott, I declare that you have been found guilty of treason against the Provisional Government. You are sentenced to death. May God have mercy on your soul, for we cannot allow your rebellion to undermine the justice we strive to uphold.

THOMAS SCOTT
 You'll regret this, Riel. Mark my words.

The guards move to take him away, and he struggles. Nolin averts his eyes, scribbling the final notes of the trial.

The room is left in heavy silence.

CUT TO:

95 INT. FORT GARRY - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT - (1870) 95

LOUIS RIEL stands by the fire, his face set with a mix of determination and sorrow. Charles Nolin paces the room, his frustration evident.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)
 Louis, this isn't justice. Scott's execution—it's a step too far. We're fighting for our people's rights, not for vengeance.

LOUIS RIEL
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)
 Charles, you know as well as I do that Scott is a threat to everything we've worked for. His defiance isn't just against us, but against our right to exist as a people. You saw everyone in the room, it's the only way. Even if I disagree the majority agree that he is guilty.

CHARLES NOLIN
 (FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)
 I understand that, but killing him? That's not the answer.
 (MORE)

CHARLES NOLIN (CONT'D)

It will bring more harm than good.
We need to show that we are better
than this, that we lead with
justice, not fear.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

I do not seek to lead through fear,
but through necessity. Scott's
actions have left us no choice. If
we show leniency, it will be seen
as weakness. And in these times,
weakness is something we cannot
afford.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

Louis, this isn't just about us.
It's about the future. What kind of
example are we setting if we resort
to killing our enemies? This isn't
what we stand for.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

Sometimes, Charles, the path to
justice is not clear. But I believe
that what we do today will secure
the future for our people. I carry
this burden, but I believe it is
necessary.

The silence hangs heavy between them, Nolin shaking his
head, his face filled with conflict.

CHARLES NOLIN

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

Then it's a burden you'll carry
alone, Louis. I cannot support
this.

Riel looks at Nolin with a pained expressions. Charles walks
to the door and turns around about to say something to Louis
Riel, but Charles shakes his head and walks out the door.

CUT TO:

96

EXT. FORT GARRY - COURTYARD - MARCH DAY (1870)

96

In the courtyard of Fort Garry. A firing squad of Métis
soldiers is assembled. Scott is brought out, his hands
bound, still defiant.

Scott is positioned against a wall. The MÉTIS SOLDIERS stand
at attention, rifles ready. AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE steps
forward, his expression stern but composed. He nods to the
soldiers, signalling them to prepare.

Scott, realizing the inevitability of his fate, lifts his head to speak

THOMAS SCOTT

This is horrible! The Queen will
avenge me! This is cold-blooded
murder!

The crowd remains silent, the weight of the moment pressing down on everyone present. Lépine raises his hand, preparing to give the final command.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

Ready!

The sound of rifles being cocked cuts through the silence. Scott's breath quickens, but he stands firm, his final act of defiance.

AMBROISE-DYDIME LÉPINE (CONT'D)

(FRENCH WITH SUBTILES)

Fire!

Only 4 rifles fired, the sound sharp and sudden in the cold air. Only two bullets find their mark. Thomas Scott jerks as he's hit, one bullet striking his left shoulder, the other lodging in his upper chest. He slumps forward, blood staining the snow beneath him.

A Métis man, nervous and eager to end Scott's suffering, steps forward with a revolver. He aims it shakily at Scott's head and fires. The bullet grazes Scott's cheek, exiting near his nose. Scott groans, still alive, his body twitching in agony.

THOMAS SCOTT

For God's sake... take me out of
here... or kill me.

The soldiers lowering their rifles, the onlookers standing in somber silence. Riel standing in the background tells the crowd to disperse. Then the Métis guards take Scott's body even though he seemed to still be alive, and they placed him in a wooden coffin and carried it in the walls of Fort Garry. Once they get him into the room. The Métis Guards shut the door and walk away.

A couple days go by and the Métis guards can still hear Thomas Scott yelling within the coffin. By the third day it is silent.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"On March 4, 1870, Thomas Scott, an outspoken opponent of the Métis Provisional Government, was executed by firing squad at Fort Garry. The decision, authorized by Louis Riel and his council, was seen as a demonstration of Métis authority but sparked outrage in English-speaking Canada.

The death of Scott became a turning point, forever altering the fate of Louis Riel and the Métis people."

CUT TO:

97 EXT. FORT GARRY

97

MONTAGE SEQUENCE - TIME PASSES

SPRING: The courtyard is busy with activity, but a somber mood prevails. People glance nervously at the approaching clouds on the horizon. Riel is seen in his office, pouring over letters, his expression growing more concerned as time passes. People who are non essential are seen leaving the fort.

EARLY SUMMER: Wheat fields near the fort begin to grow tall. The fort's gates are often shut, guarded more heavily. Inside, Riel watches from a window, the distant sound of approaching troops barely audible. More people are seen leaving the fort.

LATE SUMMER: The heat hangs over the fort, the air thick with tension. Riel is packing a small bag, his movements slow and deliberate.

98 INT. LOUIS RIEL'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

98

The room is dimly lit by a single flickering candle. Louis Riel sits at a small wooden table, his hands clasped tightly in prayer. His Bible lies open before him, but his gaze is distant, unfocused. The weight of the day—the execution of Thomas Scott—presses down on him.

The faint sound of the wind outside grows louder, carrying whispers that seem to swirl around the room.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
(whispering to himself)
Lord, have I done right by You? Or
have I led them astray?

The whispers grow louder, transforming into an eerie silence. Riel's breathing quickens as the candlelight flickers violently and then goes out.

CUT TO:

99 INT. VISION - UNKNOWN SPACE

99

Riel finds himself in a vast, barren plain. The horizon stretches endlessly in every direction, shrouded in a twilight glow. In the distance, a figure approaches—teenager Louis Riel, dressed in simple prairie clothes. His youthful face is both familiar and haunting. In his hands, he

clutches a Métis flag: a bold red with a white infinity symbol in the center, representing the hunting Flag of the Métis people.

The teenager stops a few paces away, holding the flag tightly, the fabric rippling in the wind as if alive with its own energy. His eyes are filled with urgency and caution.

TEENAGER LOUIS

(softly)

Not all hands that reach for you
will be steady.

Adult Riel furrows his brow, stepping closer, confusion mingled with unease.

RIEL

What do you mean?

Teenager Louis glances at the flag, his fingers tracing the edge of the infinity symbol. His voice is low, almost hesitant.

TEENAGER LOUIS

The weight of trust can crush a man
if given too freely. You need to
run, Louis. The wind shifts, and it
does not favour you here.

Riel's gaze sharpens, his hands twitching as though grasping for clarity.

RIEL

Run? To where? What am I running
from?

Teenager Louis meets his older self's eyes, his youthful expression unreadable.

TEENAGER LOUIS

You'll know when the time comes.
Watch the hands, Louis. They carry
more than they show. If you stay,
you cannot carry on the plans the
Lord has for you.

The wind rises, stirring dust around them. The teenager begins to fade, but the flag remains vivid, waving powerfully in the wind as his voice carries one final, cryptic message.

TEENAGER LOUIS

Some weights are not yours to bear.
Run, before the heavy hands find
you.

As the dust swirls, Teenager Louis vanishes, leaving Riel standing alone on the plain. The Métis flag flutters one

last time before dissolving into the air.

CUT TO:

100 INT. LOUIS RIEL'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 100

Riel jolts awake, his breathing heavy. The candle has reignited on its own, its flame steady and unwavering. He looks down at the Bible on the table, now closed, and picks it up, holding it close to his chest.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
(whispering to himself)
Lord, guide me... and protect me.

The wind outside dies down, leaving the room in silence. Riel sits back, and he stares into the flickering flame.

CUT TO:

101 INT. FORT GARRY - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT - 1870 101

Louis Riel is in the room dimly lit by a single candle. Charles Nolin storms in, his face a mix of anger and betrayal.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
So, this is it? You're running away, leaving us to face the consequences of your actions?

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I'm not running, Charles. I'm preserving what's left of this fight. If I stay, they'll make an example of me—and of everyone who stood by me.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
You think this is preserving the fight? You think leaving us here, after everything, will somehow protect us? You've put us all in the crosshairs!

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I never wanted this, Charles. But Scott's execution was necessary. It was the only way to show we wouldn't be trampled on.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
Necessary? You've turned us from
defenders to killers! And now
you're just walking away?

Riel's eyes harden.

LOUIS RIEL
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I'm walking away to keep this cause
alive. If I fall here, they'll
crush us completely. I never asked
for this burden, but I'll carry it,
even if it means leaving. I have
prayed to God, and I must follow
his word. I have faith that he has
a plan.

Nolin steps closer, his voice lowering but still filled with
resentment.

CHARLES NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
I won't forget how you've led us
to this point.

The two men stare at each other, years of camaraderie and
shared struggle now overshadowed by distrust and bitterness.
Riel turns away, slinging his bag over his shoulder.

LOUIS RIEL
Goodbye, Charles. May you find rest
and peace in the Lord.

Riel exits the room quietly, making his way through the
darkened fort. He passes a few close allies, offering silent
nods as he heads toward the gates. No public announcement is
made; only those closest to him understand the gravity of
his departure.

Riel slips out into the night, the fort falling behind him.

Nolin remains standing alone in the dimly lit room.

NOLIN
(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)
(quietly, to himself)
One can never rest when consumed by
delusions.

His words hang in the still air, unheard by anyone else.
Nolin exhales sharply, his gaze sweeping across the empty
room. His eyes catch on the chair—an ordinary chair that now
holds extraordinary weight, the same one Louis Riel sits in
within the courtroom.

FADE TO:

102 INT. COURTROOM - REGINA - DAY - (1885)

102

Louis Riel is sitting in he's chair in the courtroom as he watches Dr. Daniel Clark being formally sworn in to give testimony. He is questioned by Mr. Fitzpatrick, who begins the examination.

MR. FITZPATRICK

You belong to Toronto, do you not?

DR. Daniel Clark, seated upright in the witness chair, his expression composed.

DR DANIEL CLARK

I do.

MR. FITZPATRICK

What is your position there, doctor?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Superintendent of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Have you had any experience in the treatment of the insane?

DR DANIEL CLARK

A small experience.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Limited to how many years, doctor?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Between nine and ten years.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Has it been your fate to attend occasionally as an expert in cases of lunacy?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes, very often.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Have you had any occasion to examine this prisoner here at the bar?

DR DANIEL CLARK

I examined him three times, twice yesterday and once this morning.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Did you attend at the examination of the other witnesses in this case yesterday and today?

DR DANIEL CLARK

I did.

MR. FITZPATRICK

From what you have heard from the witnesses here in court, and also from the examination which you have made of the accused, are you in a position to form any opinion as to the soundness or unsoundness of his mind?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, assuming the fact that the witnesses told the truth, I have to assume that - assuming also that the prisoner at the bar was not a malingerer - that is English I believe - then of course there is no conclusion that any reasonable man could come to, from my standpoint of course, than that a man who held these views and did these things must certainly be of insane mind.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Do you consider, doctor, that a person suffering from such unsoundness of mind as you say this man is suffering from, is incapable of taking the nature of the acts which they do?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Why, the insane understand, many of them, the nature of the acts which they do, except in dementia cases and melancholia and cases of mania even; they often know what they do and can tell all about it afterwards; it is all nonsense to talk about a man not knowing what he is doing, simply because he is insane.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Do you think that that man was, in the circumstances detailed by the different witnesses, in a position to be able to say or be able to judge of what he was doing as either wrong or contrary to law?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, that is one of the legal metaphysical distinctions in regard to right and wrong...

The people courtroom start moving, but Riel remains the focal point, his solitary figure framed against the crowd. The voices of the gallery swell again, a cacophony of whispers and murmurs. Riel remains still, unmoving, like a man alone in a storm.

DR DANIEL CLARK (CONT'D)

and it is a dangerous one, simply because it covers only partly the truth. I could convince any lawyers if they will come to Toronto Asylum, in half an hour, that dozens in that institution know right and wrong both in the abstract and in the concrete, and yet are undoubtedly insane; the distinction of right and wrong covers part of the truth; it covers the larger part of the truth, but the large minority of the insane do know right from wrong. It is one of those metaphysical subtleties that practical men in asylums know to be false.

MR. FITZPATRICK

There are some lawyers who think it is false also?

Louis at the defense table. He sits motionless, his face impassive but his eyes sharp. The room seems to move around him, the faint sounds of shuffling papers and hushed whispers creating an almost dreamlike quality.

In the gallery, a Métis woman holds a small child, her gaze fixed on Riel. Her lips move as though in silent prayer, her expression a mixture of hope and sorrow.

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, the lawyers find it in the books, and they take it for granted it must be correct.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Do you consider from the knowledge which you now have of this individual that at the time the events detailed by the witnesses here took place, that is to say, in March, April and May last, that he was labouring under such a defect of reason from disease of the mind, that he did not know that what he was doing was wrong?

DR DANIEL CLARK

I think he did know; I think he was quite capable of distinguishing right from wrong.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Quote the particular acts, doctor.

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, quote the particular acts; I presume 'if you were to ask him to define what is right and what is wrong, he could possibly give you a very good definition, as far as I could judge from my examination of him.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Was he in a position to be able to say at that time, and to act that time as an ordinary sane man would have done?

CUT TO VISUAL SCENE:

103 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

103

The sky is painted in dramatic hues of orange and red as the sun dips below the horizon. LOUIS RIEL rides a powerful black horse, its hooves kicking up clouds of dust as it charges across the prairie. Riel is clad in a dark coat, his figure striking and resolute against the chaos around him. The faint sound of distant gunfire and shouting lingers in the air.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)

"Assuming the evidence given by the witnesses, he did not act as a sane man would have done..."

The camera pans to the battlefield, where a small force of Métis fighters engage with an unseen enemy. They take cover behind overturned wagons and hastily constructed barricades, their rifles firing in measured bursts. Smoke rises in curling plumes, mingling with the golden light of the setting sun.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)

"...for this reason that no sane man would have imagined that he could come into the Saskatchewan..."

Riel reins in his horse atop a small hill, surveying the battlefield below. His eyes are sharp, filled with conviction. He raises an arm and shouts a silent command to his men, the gesture authoritative and unwavering. The camera circles him, emphasizing his solitary figure amidst the chaos.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)

"...

(MORE)

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 and that he could gather around him
 such a force as would enable him to
 become monarch of this country..."

A vision overlays the battlefield: the land divided into seven regions, each marked with the flags of different nationalities. The camera lingers on Riel as he gazes out over this imagined map, his expression a mix of triumph and fervor.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
 "...that it could be divided up into
 seven divisions, giving it to
 different nationalities..."

The vision dissolves, and the battlefield comes back into sharp focus. A Métis fighter falls beside a barricade, clutching his chest, while another helps him to safety. Riel watches, his face flickering with a brief shadow of doubt before his resolve hardens again.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
 "He was not an ignorant man. He was
 not like an Indian who never read
 the newspapers and knew nothing
 about the country around him..."

The camera cuts to Riel, now galloping down the hill into the heart of the battle. He weaves between his men, shouting commands, his voice drowned out by the roar of musket fire. The fighters rally behind him, their faces lighting up with renewed determination as they follow his lead.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
 "He had travelled, he had been in
 Ottawa, he had been in the United
 States..."

As Riel charges forward, the battlefield stretches endlessly before him. The sound of galloping hooves, the clash of metal, and the cries of men echo in the background. The camera pulls back to show Riel as a solitary figure, standing apart from both his allies and the violence surrounding him.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
 "...and he knew all about the power
 of Britain and the Dominion..."

The camera slows as Riel pulls his horse to a stop in the middle of the field. The smoke clears momentarily, revealing the bodies of Métis fighters scattered across the ground. His hand tightens on the reins, his face etched with a blend of anger, sadness, and determination.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
 "...
 (MORE)

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
and for him to imagine that he
could come here and raise a few
half-breeds in the Saskatchewan and
keep up a successful warfare..."

Riel looks toward the horizon, the weight of his ambitions bearing down on him. The sky darkens, the battlefield fading into a shadowy void as the echoes of the fight grow faint. Riel remains still, his figure silhouetted against the twilight.

DR. DANIEL CLARK (V.O.)
"...and divide the country in seven
divisions, with different
nationalities, was certainly not a
thing that a man with an ordinary
understanding would ever think he
could succeed in."

The battlefield fades entirely, leaving the audience with the haunting image of Riel's silhouette against the vast prairie. The camera transitions back to the courtroom, where Riel sits motionless, his face calm but his eyes reflecting the weight of the scene.

MR. FITZPATRICK
So that you think at that time the
man was certainly insane, and of
unsound mind?

DR DANIEL CLARK
Assuming the statements made, I
think so.

MR. FITZPATRICK
To be true?

DR DANIEL CLARK
Yes.

Riel's hands resting on the table. They are steady, but his knuckles tighten subtly as the words sink in. A faint bead of sweat forms on his temple, though he remains outwardly composed.

MR. FITZPATRICK
You take into consideration, of
course, in this opinion, all the
evidence given as well by the
doctor as by the other witnesses?

DR DANIEL CLARK
Yes; and I assume, of course, as I
said before, that not only the
evidence given is correct, but that
he was not a deceiver.

(MORE)

DR DANIEL CLARK (CONT'D)

I might say, if the court will allow me, that when I come to cases of this kind, I am not subpoenaed for one side more than another. I am here only subpoenaed to give a sort of medical judicial opinion, and, therefore, I stand in that capacity.

JUDGE RICHARDSON

That is well understood, Dr Clark.

As Mr. Osler prepares for the cross-examination, he rises from his seat and approaches the witness stand.

MR.OSLER

Then, doctor, he would know the nature and quality of the act that he was committing?

DR DANIEL CLARK

He would know the nature and the quality of the act that he "as committing, subject to his delusions assuming them to be such.

MR.OSLER

He would know the nature and quality of the act that he was committing, and he would know if it was wrong?

DR DANIEL CLARK

If it was wrong, based upon his delusion; yes.

MR.OSLER

And all the facts are quite compatible with a skilful shamming by malingering?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes I think so. I think that no one - at least I say for myself, of course - that in a cursory examination of a man of this kind who has a good deal of cunning, who is educated, that it is impossible for any man to state from three examinations whether he is a deceiver or not. I require to have that man under my supervision for months, to watch him day by day, before I could say whether he is a sham or not.

MR.OSLER

Months under your supervision to say whether he is a sham or not?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes.

MR.OSLER

And really the only ground upon which you would form an opinion as to his insanity is the commission of the crime?

DR DANIEL CLARK

No, not the commission of the crime. I form an opinion of his insanity from the statements made by the witnesses both anterior to the crime and since that time.

MR.OSLER

But you told the court and jury just now that what struck you was the insane idea of seeking to take possession of the country and divide it into provinces?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes, that is one idea.

MR.OSLER

That gave you the greatest idea of his insanity?

The gallery leans forward in hushed silence, hanging on every word.

DR DANIEL CLARK

One, and then another one was he was a Roman Catholic, and among Roman Catholic people, among people attached to their priests, and he went among that people endeavouring to conciliate them, as he supposed, in order to get them educated up in any schemes he had in view, and yet he goes to work and he says at once, I want to depose the Pope.

LOUIS RIEL, seated at the defense table. He stares straight ahead, unblinking, as though the weight of the words is pressing down on him.

MR.OSLER

But did you notice also this, that he gets people to follow him?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Some of them do.

MR.OSLER

Yes, but he got people to follow him with their guns?

DR DANIEL CLARK

They followed him, on another basis.

MR.OSLER

They elected him prophet?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes, and he told me this morning he was a prophet, and he knew the jury would acquit him, because he knew what was coming beforehand.

Mr.Olser stands confidently, delivering his pointed remark to the court.

MR.OSLER

Then don't you think that that is perfectly consistent with such leading spirits as Joseph Smith and Brigham Young?

Louis Riel's brow furrows ever so slightly, as though weighing the implications of the comparison.

DR DANIEL CLARK

No, it is not.

MR.OSLER

Not consistent?

DR DANIEL CLARK

No; and I will tell you the reason why.

MR.OSLER

Well I don't want the reason, beyond your opinion?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, it is not consistent.

MR.OSLER

It is consistent, however, with fraud?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Consistent with fraud. Yes, anything is consistent with fraud that is not discovered.

MR.OSLER

You cannot say that it is not fraud?

DR DANIEL CLARK

I cannot.

MR.OSLER

And there is nothing here to show you, in the state of his intellect, that he was not able to distinguish between right and wrong, and know the quality of the act which he was committing?

DR DANIEL CLARK

No, I say that I think that he knows what right is from wrong, subject to his delusions; but, mind you, I want to add to that, that many of the insane know right from wrong.

MR.OSLER

And you know, doctor, very well, that there is a class of insanity that is held responsible to the law?

DR DANIEL CLARK

You know I am not allowed to say anything about the responsibility legally-

Dr.Daniel Clark Looks at the Judge.

MR.OSLER

You know that there is a conflict between the courts and the doctors?

DR.Daniel Clark sits composed but slightly leaning forward in his chair.

DR DANIEL CLARK

I know there is.

MR. Olsen steps closer to the stand, his movements precise and purposeful. He glances toward the jury for emphasis before turning back to Clark.

MR.OSLER

And you know that the doctors have an idea that all mental disease should be acquitted of crime?

Clark tilts his head slightly, his calm demeanour unwavering as he answers.

DR DANIEL CLARK

No, they don't all.

(MORE)

DR DANIEL CLARK (CONT'D)

For instance, Maudsley has written a small book on the responsibilities of the insane. He is a most prominent man in England.

Osler's lips press into a thin line as he listens. He begins pacing slowly in front of the witness stand, gesturing lightly with his hand as though testing the room's patience.

MR.OSLER

He brings in, and the doctors have a tendency, have they not, to bring in as irresponsible a very much larger class than the courts and lawyers?

Clark straightens slightly, his tone growing firmer as he responds.

DR DANIEL CLARK

I think not. I think, of late years, that such men as Maudsley, Buchnell and Schuch, &c., and some of these recent investigators, lean to the idea that insanity per se does not absolve from responsibility. You have got to take each case on its own merits.

Osler stops pacing abruptly, turning sharply to face Clark. His voice rises slightly, his words clipped and direct.

MR.OSLER

There is a large class of insane people or cranks?

Clark raises an eyebrow slightly, pausing for a brief moment before answering. His voice remains measured, though his tone carries a faint note of correction.

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well. No, you cannot say, or cranks, because a crank is a different man altogether. A crank is a man who is normally a peculiar man from his birth upwards. An insane man is a man who has become so, out of unusual conduct from disease.

The gallery shifts uncomfortably, faint murmurs rippling through the room. Osler smirks faintly, shaking his head as he adjusts his stance, leaning slightly closer to Clark.

MR.OSLER

I did not bracket them together, I put them in the alternative?

Clark leans back slightly, his tone calm but deliberate.

DR DANIEL CLARK
You said 'or' crank. I thought you
meant lunatic-crank.

Osler cuts him off with a sharp wave of his hand, stepping
closer to the jury as if drawing them into his logic.

MR.OSLER
I put them as coming up to each
other's border line?

DR DANIEL CLARK
I see. I thought you had an
equation.

MR.OSLER
It is so that a large number then,
I should say of insane persons,
ought to be responsible to the law?

Clark shifts slightly in his seat, his composure unshaken
but his tone more assertive.

DR DANIEL CLARK
There are some that are.

MR.OSLER
For they know right from wrong, and
know the nature and quality of the
act they perform?

DR DANIEL CLARK
When I speak about responsibility,
it is said that the court should
decide -

MR.OSLER
That is when you are examined in
chief, but on cross-examination we
have a little more liberty?

DR DANIEL CLARK
I see.

Osler's tone shifts to mock civility as he continues.

MR.OSLER
You have been an expert witness in
criminal cases?

DR DANIEL CLARK
Yes.

MR.OSLER
How frequently?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Well, I don't know, perhaps nine or ten times, perhaps more. I don't remember exactly the number.

As Dr. Clark remains on the stand, Mr. Fitzpatrick rises to re-examine him, adjusting his jacket before addressing the witness.

MR. FITZPATRICK

You said a moment ago that the conduct of this man might be consistent with the conduct for instance of such a man as Smith or Young, and you were about to make a distinction between the two, and you were stopped?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Oh! Smith and Young were religious enthusiasts. They carried out consistently their system.

Fitzpatrick nods subtly, his expression neutral but focused, as though guiding the conversation to a clear conclusion. The camera pans to the jury, a few members leaning in attentively.

DR DANIEL CLARK (CONT'D)

If you read Brigham Young's Bible, or if you read Mahomet's Koran if you like, or if you read any of those books issued by those men, who are religious enthusiasts, you will find that consistently with common sense, they have tact and discretion to carry on successfully till the end of their lives without intermission, a successful crusade of this kind, and their books contain sufficient consistency throughout to show you that these men were sound in mind as much as nature provided them with a sound mind, that is the different.

MR. FITZPATRICK

Do you find anything of that kind in the present case?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Oh, no, I don't think he would make a very good Brigham Young, or El Mahdi.

MR.FITZPATRICK

You say that he is quite capable of distinguishing right from wrong, subject to his delusions? Subject to his particular delusions?

DR DANIEL CLARK

Yes.

MR.FITZPATRICK

No more questions, your Honour.

Charles Fitzpatrick goes to sit down next to Riel. Louis Riel leans over to Fitzpatrick.

LOUIS RIEL

(Whispering)

You must stop portraying me as if I am insane. They need to hear, from my own words, the cause I was fighting for.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

I need you to trust me in what I'm doing. It's the only way we can hope to clear you of these charges.

LOUIS RIEL

If they don't hear me, they'll believe everything I did was in vain, rather than for the greater good of Canada.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK

Louis, Let us guide this—your words will come when the time is right.

LOUIS RIEL

(FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES)

They speak for me, yet they do not hear me.

Riel sits, his expression clouded with confusion and isolation. The bustling courtroom fades around him—the voices, the people, the chaos—all dissolving into silence. The scene shifts, leaving only Riel, now standing alone on a dark, barren landscape, the ground beneath him shrouded in cold, swirling mist.

CUT TO:

104

EXT. DAKOTA CANADA-U.S. BORDER - NIGHT-1870

104

The landscape is dark and barren, shrouded in shadows. The faint glow of the moon bathes the terrain in cold light. A chilling wind whispers through the empty expanse.

Louis Riel, rugged and disheveled, stumbles across the

invisible line marking the border. He pauses, his breath visible in the frigid air, his eyes scanning the desolation behind him.

Clutching a worn Bible tightly to his chest, his fingers tremble as he whispers a prayer.

LOUIS RIEL (V.O.)
"The Lord is my shepherd... He
leads me beside still waters..."

He looks ahead at the unfamiliar path, his expression a mix of defiance and fear.

LOUIS RIEL (V.O.)
"But these waters... they are not
still. They rage. They rage against
me."

Riel adjusts the Bible under his arm and walks down the path. His silhouette fades into the distance as the wind carries the faint rustle of leaves and the haunting echo of his whispered prayer.

Text to Screen:

"In August 1870, Fearing he will be lynched, Louis Riel fled to the United States, leaving behind his people to face an uncertain future. His fight for the Métis and their rights, however, was far from over."

The fiddle music crescendos.

FADE TO BLACK.