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Dear Professor Campbell,

Your letter dated February 12 ended its adventurous wanderings to-day and as on its second flight it came by air mail, indicating a possibility that somebody is in a hurry, I shall answer it forthwith. Please allow me to do so in a very informal manner. I could deal with the whole topic very much more satisfactorily if you were smoking a peace pipe at the otherside of my fireplace.

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First ~~as to~~ my old friend, Louis Le Gare, ^{was} one of the most picturesque and remarkable men I have ever met. He told me that he was born in France but he must have come to the Prairies at a very early age. As a trader in buffalo pelts he made his headquarters at Willow Bunch which became a French-Halfbreed settlement of considerable importance in later years. Le Gare told me his creaking caravans took three months on their way to market, - Fort Garry (Winnipeg). He also ran a general store and conducted a rather extensive ranching business when I knew him.

repeated

Le Gare was almost if not entirely illiterate ; otherwise I think he could have risen to remarkable heights. He was a man of great physical vigor. He combined with characteristically French qualities of character an inflexible imperturbability (I'm sorry this damned typewriter can't spell) and a comprehension of and sympathy with Indian and Halfbreed traits that gave him a very commanding influence over an immense if sparsely inhabited territory. I never saw such eyes in anyone else. He gave me the impression that he could count your vertebrae from the front. Usually incommunicative, for a Frenchman, he would occasionally open up and I was fortunate enough to get him in (or into) a delightfully reminiscent mood once when I called on him in 1906 or 1907. I already knew from oldtimers the essential parts of his narrative but took care not to reveal the fact. Everything he told me fitted into the facts otherwise known to me and I have no reason to question the reliability of his statements, so far as they went. *Then*

You do not need to be told, however, that even honest men rarely tell the truth. In connection with the Sitting Bull episode the American officials, the Mounted Police and probably Mr. Le Gare, all had an eye to acquiring whatever glory their part in the transactions might entitle them to, so they showed no undue tendency to blow each other's horns. Le Gare himself was hampered by his inability to write for himself and we have to rely almost wholly on the Police records. That these did not wholly ignore Le Gare is indicated by my quotation from Commissioner Irvine's report of February 1882. Le Gare quite plainly thought that very cold justice had been done him, and in this view he was supported by other old settlers with whom I have talked the matter over.