

NO. 2.—HON. JOHN A. MACDONALD TO HON. GEORGE BROWN.

Quebec, August 4, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR,

Immediately after our conversation, the heads of which we have reduced to writing, I obtained His Excellency's permission to propose to you that Mr. Cartier, as being the Leader of the Ministerial majority of Lower Canada in Parliament, should assume the position of Prime Minister, vacated by the death of Sir Etienne Taché, the other members of the administration continuing to hold their position and offices as before. All the Lower Canadian Members of the Council assent to this proposition, so do Mr. Campbell and myself; and I am sure I can also speak for Mr. Solicitor General Cockburn who is now absent.

May I request the favour of an early reply.

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The Hon. GEO. BROWN,
&c. &c. &c.

NO. 3.—HON. GEORGE BROWN TO HON. JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Quebec, August 4, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter of this afternoon, inviting me to retain my present position in a Government to be formed under the Premiership of Mr. Cartier. In reply, I have now to state, after consultation with Messrs. Howland and MacDougall, that we can only regard this proposition as one for the construction of a new Government, in a manner seriously affecting the security heretofore held by the Liberal Party. Anxiously desirous, as we are, however, that nothing should occur at this moment to jeopardise the plans of the Coalition Government on the constitutional question, we cannot assume the responsibility of either accepting or rejecting it, without consultation with our political friends. This I am prepared to do without any delay, and to that end it will be necessary that I have clearly stated in writing the basis on which Mr. Cartier proposes to construct the new Government.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours, truly,

GEO. BROWN.

The Hon. JOHN A. MACDONALD,
&c., &c. &c.

NO. 4.—HON. JOHN A. MACDONALD TO HON. GEORGE BROWN.

QUEBEC, Saturday, 5th August, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR,

I regret to learn from your note of yesterday that you cannot assume the responsibility, without first consulting your political friends, of either accepting or rejecting the proposition that Mr. Cartier should be placed at the head of the Government in the stead of the late Sir Etienne Taché, with the understanding that the rest of the Council should retain their present offices and positions under him. I have conferred with Mr. Cartier on the subject, and we agree that, at this late hour, it would be highly inexpedient to wait for the result of this consultation.

Parliament is to assemble on Tuesday next, and in our opinion, it would greatly prejudice the position of the Government as well as the future prospects of the great scheme in which we are all engaged, if we met Parliament with the administration in an incomplete state and therefore with no fixed policy.