

people: Should I hesitate to aid the government in its recovery? The Intercolonial Railway was to be constructed. Nova Scotians, who might tender, should be protected. In all the Departments there was influence and patronage to be exercised and dispensed, and was I not bound to see that Nova Scotia was fairly treated?

While much influenced by these considerations, I knew that a good many persons still clung to the belief that Gladstone's Government would repeal the Act, and my determination was to return home—consult my friends—and wait till the Local Government got their answer. Unexpectedly, but very opportunely, the Despatch came while I was at Ottawa. I print it with this Letter. It is short and decisive, and gives the answer to all the nonsense written in the autumn.

I could no longer hesitate. The plain path of duty lay before me. All rational repealers had professed that the battle was to last only till the answer came from Gladstone's Cabinet. The answer was here. The battle was over. Had I come home, I must have gone back to Ottawa to be sworn in, and then returned to Nova Scotia to run my election. The Governor-General was to leave on Monday, and on Saturday afternoon I was sworn in as President of the Privy Council, to avoid a double journey, to and fro, of sixteen hundred miles.

This office, men of Hants, though the technical formalities make it mine, is in your gift, and to be of any value to me I must receive it at your hands. I could have accepted it with a seat in the Senate, and enjoyed it without your sanction. But you trusted me, and I am not afraid to trust you. On a calm review of all the circumstances, I believe that you will ratify by your suffrages my conduct and policy.

I cannot condescend to defend myself from the mean charges and insinuations with which those who have been for more than a year fattening on the public treasure, have already defiled the Press; but I shall be prepared to meet any of those persons before the Electors of Hants, to defend my own conduct, and perhaps to do what I have not hitherto done, make some inquisition into the correctness of their own.

Apart altogether from the mere personal question, you have got now to decide whether Nova Scotia shall raise £40,000 a year by direct taxation, or whether, by this negociation, ratified by the Canadian Parliament, our Roads and Bridges, and other public services, shall be amply provided for without any such necessity. You have also to decide whether there shall be a just and fair administration of public affairs, by your own Representative, who has seen some service, and gathered some experience, or whether Nova Scotia is to have no influence in conducting the Government of the