

had been strictly confidential, and I had no authority to consult my friends. The next morning Sir Allan MacNab informed me that he was prepared to form a Government on the basis proposed. And he then authorized me to see my friends, and made another appointment for the evening, when I was to communicate the result. Almost immediately after leaving Sir Allan MacNab, I met quite accidentally my friend Mr. James Smith, M. P. P., for Victoria, with his brother the member for West Northumberland, and after a few minutes conversation I asked Mr. J. Smith to accompany me to your lodgings, feeling that in your position I ought to lose no time in consulting you. I was with you within half an hour after my interview with Sir Allan MacNab. I entered fully and frankly into the subject in the presence of Mr. Smith, and I find that we both understood you in the same way. You admitted all the difficulties of our position as a party, you condemned the course of those who had forced the resignation on the Government, you said that you could not blame Mr. Morin for forming the coalition with Sir Allan MacNab on the proposed basis, but you further declared that there were reasons which would prevent you from becoming a party to such an arrangement and you would go into opposition, but you added that if any of your friends for the sake of the measures felt inclined to join in supporting the coalition Government, you had no objection to their doing so. Such in substance was your communication and you expressed yourself in similar terms to me yesterday in the presence of our mutual friend Mr. Niles. I subsequently saw other friends, and the result was that the great majority of the Upper Canada members of the liberal party who had adhered to the ex-Ministers, were of opinion that we would not be justified in opposing a Government formed on the basis proposed. It is to be observed that Mr. Foley and Mr. Merritt had separated from our party on your being appointed leader, so that our strength was diminished though it is still about the one half of the entire liberal party from Upper Canada. It is