

THE DARK LANTERN ASSOCIATION.

It has been reported and generally well believed for some considerable time past, that a secret political association of parties unfriendly to British connection in these colonies, has existed in various parts of the Province. We have it now in our power to state that such is the fact, and submit to our Conservative friends positive information on the subject.

Some months ago, a notice was circulated through Prescott, offering a reward for the apprehension and conviction of parties who it was said had broken into Brady's Hall in that town, and abstracted books, documents, and other property therefrom, alleged to belong to the Prescott Division of the Sons of Temperance. The parties guilty of the offence were not discovered, and it was rumored through the town that it was not *Temperance documents* that had been taken, but papers and records belonging to a political club that had lately been organized there, and some of the most ultra of the Clear Grit party of Prescott and vicinity, were reported to be members. That a political club was formed, there was no doubt, and from circumstances that had leaked out by unguarded remarks respecting the mode of initiation, the society was called by outsiders, the "Dark Lantern" Lodge. By accident or otherwise, part of the documents so surreptitiously taken from the Lodge Room, was picked up in the street, and handed over to a friend, who on examination found that they belonged to the so called Dark Lantern Club, he forwarded on, we are told, the originals to the Honble. J. A. MacDonald, Her Majesty's Attorney General, and kindly favored us with a copy of some of them. We will make no further comments on the subject, but we vouch for the respectability and loyalty of our correspondent. The following is his letter to us:

SOUTH RIDING OF GRENVILLE, Aug. 26, 1861.

My Dear Sir.—As the *British Central Canadian* is justly appreciated for its independence by all Conservative readers, I herewith send you some information respecting the secret political organization called the Canadian Friendly Brothers, or Dark Lantern Society, a branch lodge of which meets in Prescott, and the neighboring County. I anticipate the Attorney General West will see the propriety of causing an enquiry to be made respecting it, and bring the leaders of such a dangerous association to justice;