

[No. 3.]

MONTREAL, 15th May, 1878.

*To the HON. JOHN HAMILTON, Montreal.*

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this afternoon, of your letter of the 14th ult., acquainting me of the unanimous opinion of the Committee appointed by certain shareholders of the *Graphic* Company, of which you are Chairman. In reply, I have to state that I never proposed to select the *personnel* of the Committee. I objected to the names of two individuals, who, from their proceedings heretofore, I am of opinion, have no desire to restore harmony among the shareholders. You affirm that these gentlemen "have the confidence of the shareholders." I beg to deny the correctness of the statement. The requisition submitted at the late meeting was signed by the holders of 157 of 2,500 first preferred shares, of 149 out of 2,390 second preferred shares, and of 1,105 out of 2,610 ordinary shares. With a view, if possible, to promote harmony, the Directors will meet a Committee, composed of any Shareholders of the Company, with the single exception of Mr. Prentice, with whom they can hold no intercourse after what has passed. I must repeat my assertion, which can be confirmed by several in the room, that Mr. Prentice was most discourteous in his language before I interrupted him. I admit that I did refuse to give him the circulation of the paper, and Mr. Stewart, one of your own Committee, admitted that it ought not to be given. That refusal did not justify the use of discourteous language, and you make no reference to the gross language used at the previous meeting, which alone would prevent the Directors from meeting Mr. Prentice. I am willing to accept the responsibility, under the circumstances, of declining to meet Mr. Prentice, and am ready, as are my co-Directors, to defend ourselves against any legal pro-