

The Affairs of '87.
To the Editor of The Globe: I know how valuable is every line of your space, especially when there are current Parliamentary sessions at Ottawa and at Toronto, but I hope you will allow me to say that "K.C.'s" letter is not an attack upon the rebels of 1837 so much as a defence of those Reformers who in spite of official tyranny and sore injustices refused to rebel. Against these, the great majority of the party, the false charge of disloyalty has been often and vigorously made. I have myself had to meet it in many political campaigns, and on more than one occasion, even so recently as the General election of 1868, it did our opponents no harm at all. Yet its falsity is easily demonstrable, and the "iniquitous" argument is complete. Three points seem to be clear: (1) Responsible Government as we have it to-day was won for us in spite of every opposition) by Reformers, led by such men as the Hon. Robert Baldwin, the Hon. Marshall Spring Bidwell and Dr. John Rolph; (2) It was not the aim of William Lyon Mackenzie; what he desired was "freedom from the baneful domination of the mother country" (Colonial Advocate, May 22, 1834) and "independence from European tyranny" (proclamation of Nov. 1837) and "emancipation, for a new and gallant nation, hitherto held in Egyptian thralldom by the aristocracy of England" (proclamation of Dec. 13, 1837); (3) this was not the aim, nor were these the sentiments of Reformers generally (see Kingston, "History of Canada," Vol. IX, pp. 371-373; Dent, "Upper Canadian Rebellion," Vol. I, pp. 370-371).

● King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG 26 J 7 volume 22) William Lyon Mackenzie - Clippings n.d. ●

National Archives of Canada
 Archives nationales du Canada

000016