

For this reason I have supported that policy. But I wish distinctly to say to you that I am not the bond-slave of Sir John Macdonald or of any member of his Government, and that I would not accept any position in life in which I could not within reasonable bounds exercise my own judgment as to how I should discharge my duty.

My first duty is to the people who appoint me by their votes to represent them. I have endeavored in the past to discharge that duty. If you conscientiously think I am not able or worthy to represent you, then you should reject me. But if, on the other hand, you think I have honestly tried, according to the best of my ability and opportunities, to represent you, I appeal to your sense of fair-play to see that justice is done me in the contest in which I am now engaged. I have no reason to doubt that you will. I see the old and warm friends to whom I am indebted for so many favours enthusiastic and active in my behalf.

I see the young men whose hearts are not poisoned by political malice—now casting their first votes—vigorously working in support of my candidature. I see men of the highest place and station among you, whose ability and character have gained your respect, giving me on personal grounds their prudent counsel and generous support, though their votes and political sympathies in the past have been in opposition to me. And better still, I meet in your homes—and there is no home in Glengarry where I am not kindly welcomed—greetings and good wishes that come from true and pure hearts. Surely these forces work for good.

I am deeply sensible of the obligations such support implies and if elected I feel that a battle fought on such lines means something more than a mere political tussle, and that I am bound to consider and respect the honest sentiments of those who have combined to secure my success.

I wish I were more worthy of the great confidence I see on every side. I regret I can never make any sufficient return to those who at much personal inconvenience are freely devoting their time and best efforts in support of my candidature.

The honor-roll of Glengarry's distinguished representatives has been and ever shall be dear to me, and I have felt a pride that you will pardon, in being an humble member in a line of Canadian representatives that has no equal in our country's history.

Wherever I have been I have felt proud of the sons and daughters of Glengarry, among whom and with whom I have spent the happiest days of my life. The very fields, trees, roads, hills and shores of the old county, speak to me in a language that recalls the past, and of associations and friendships that went to make me what little I am.

The very name of the county is to me a password of honour, and I have never heard the word "Glengarry" uttered without an ever fresh consciousness of pride at being born and brought up within its bounds.

I do not desire unduly to press my candidature upon you; but if it is your pleasure to grant me a continuance of your generous confidence I shall regard it as the greatest honour that could be conferred upon me, and if my life is spared it is my hope and will be my endeavour to restore to you the honoured credentials of the county as stainless as I received them,

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient and faithful servant,

DONALD MACMASTER.

Williamstown, Feb. 14th, 1887.