

“ he (Sir *John*) objected to Sir *George's* letter, it had been withdrawn. I also telegraphed to Sir *John* on the same day (July 31st) to the effect that I had seen Sir *George Cartier*, and that he (Sir *John*) might return my letter or regard it as waste paper, and that I was “satisfied with the telegram of the 26th as expressive of the views of the Government.”

But any reaction in favour of the Government which might have thus set in was more than counterbalanced by the appearance of another series of letters, which I also re-
 No. 5. append, and which are now generally known as the *McMullen* correspondence. Amid these productions there have been introduced documents of a very compromising character, the one a letter from Sir *George Cartier* asking for twenty thousand more dollars (\$20,000 = £4,000 sterling), and the other a telegram from Sir *John Macdonald* demanding an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000 = £2,000 sterling). These latter I subjoin :—

“ MONTREAL, Aug. 24, 1872.

“ DEAR MR. ABBOTT.—In the absence of Sir *Hugh Allan*, I shall be obliged by your “supplying the Central Committee with a further sum of twenty thousand dollars upon “the same conditions as the amount written by me at the foot of my letter to Sir *Hugh Allan* of the 30th ultimo.

“ GEORGE E. CARTIER.

“ P.S.—Please also send Sir *John A. Macdonald* ten thousand dollars more on the “same terms.”

“ TORONTO, Aug. 26th, 1872.

“ To the Hon. J. J. C. ABBOTT, St. Anne's :—

“ (Immediate, Private.) ”

“ I must have another ten thousand ; will be the last time of calling ; do not fail me ; “answer to day.

“ JOHN A. MACDONALD.”

But for the appearance of the foregoing documents, I doubt whether so great an impression would have been produced on the public mind by the statement of Mr. *McMullen*. I myself have no knowledge of the gentleman, and have no right to impeach his veracity, but it is manifest that many of his assertions are at variance with Sir *Hugh Allan's* sworn testimony, while others have been contradicted by gentlemen whose credibility it would be difficult to impugn. Even with regard to the documents themselves, it is to be observed that they were neither addressed to Mr. *McMullen* nor to any one with whom he was associated, and that they could scarcely have come into his possession by other than surreptitious means. They do not therefore necessarily connect themselves with those nefarious transactions to which Mr. *McMullen* asserts he was privy. It is further contended by the friends of the Government that the sums mentioned or even referred to were not very large—about £12,000 sterling in all—an amount which would go but a little way to defray the legitimate expenses of the 150 Ontario and Quebec Elections, and that there was nothing to show whether they had been proffered as a subscription or as a temporary loan from a wealthy political partizan. Their sinister significance resulted in a great measure from their factitious juxtaposition with Mr. *McMullen's* narrative. Under these circumstances, though without attaching too much importance to mere conjectural pleas of this kind, I was unwilling to jump to a hasty conclusion on a matter involving both the private and the public honour of my Ministers, and above all things I felt bound not to allow my judgment to be swayed by the current of popular suspicion which this concatenation of documents would naturally produce.