

PRIVATE.

Amis
Rinowski,

2655

May 24th, 1884.

My dear Sir John,

I duly received your letter of the 12th instant, and asked my trusty friend Grant to quietly ascertain the feeling of our friends in regard to the prospects in Halifax and how Millar's appointment would be received. I enclose you his statement in response and from all I could learn I concur in his opinions. I send you a letter from Mr. Freeman our candidate at the last election in Queen's to show you what I find to be the prevailing sentiment in regard to my retirement from the Government. The alarms of our friends and the hopes of our opponents are greatly exaggerated, but just show they exist and will for a little time weaken our position in N.S. and strengthen the enemy who will make unwonted exertion. We had a most successful banquet at Anherst, and I have no doubt that Townshend the local member who is a good man will be elected. The only danger he runs is in connection with filling the local seat which he has vacated. Charlie's speech at the banquet and subsequently at the meeting of the party roused great enthusiasm, and if necessary he will go to the county during the contest and do almost as much as I would if there. Dr. McLeod has written to say that he will support our nominee in Cape Breton, and I have asked him to support McDougall the nephew by marriage of Bishop Cameron, so we will have no trouble there. I am for the reasons before stated still of opinion that you should ask Miller to take the seat in the Cabinet with the understanding that it would be given to a member of the Commons before the General Election.

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