

*Copy letter Joseph Howe to
W. L. Mackenzie*

Private:

London, 20th January, 1848.

Dear Sir:-

Although I have always deprecated and condemned the attempt at revolution made in Canada by you and others by which you were outlawed, and have been for these 10 years in the United States, yet I cannot forget the 18 months you spent in London as the delegate from the House of Assembly and people in Upper Canada to endeavor to put a stop to the misrule of the Clique administration of that Province, and to allay the discontent so generally existing in that Province at that time.

Of many public men deputed to promote the welfare of their constituents who have come to my acquaintance during the last 40 years of my public life, I have known no one who showed a greater desire to see the abuses of the Government of the Canadas removed quietly and in a constitutional way than you did: and I therefore, gave you every aid in my power to procure for you access to Lord Ripon and other members of the administration of the day; and I attended for hours to hear your statements of the abuses of the Colonial Government (and of the mode of removing them) by the Colonial office supporting the measures of one third of the popular assembly there.

With that knowledge, and after the declaration, or rather retarded opinion of Lord Sydenham (after he became acquainted with the proceedings in Canada) "that he was surprised the people had borne so long the oppression of the Family Clique and had not rebelled sooner", I cannot but consider you as the victim of the misrule of that Government and of the Colonial office in Downing Street, that had continued their support to that Family Clique that was the bane of Upper Canada and had caused such discontent throughout that Province.

It was to be expected that you who had been the first Mayor of Toronto, and who had been the leader of the reformers in the House of Assembly for years; and who had, before

King, Rt. Hon William Lyon Mackenzie (MG 26 J 7 volume 21) William Lyon Mackenzie - Correspondence n.d.

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