

# OUR CITY GOVERNMENT,

AND

## OUR CITY MEMBER.

HAMILTON, 24th December, 1861.

*To the Citizens of Hamilton.*

FELLOW-CITIZENS,—You are all aware of the violent and ruffianly assault committed upon me in the Macnab Street Presbyterian Church, on the last sabbath-day in May last, by two of our city constables—namely, William West and Robert Graham, and the Office-bearers of that church, by which I nearly lost my life, and by which my life is still in danger; and *solely* from which, it is with great pain and effort I can occasionally walk to my office.

The very great and felt sympathy I received from all classes of you (saving a few members of that church) on that account, might warrant me in addressing you in respect of the following matters; but I much prefer as a citizen addressing you as citizens, upon public grounds, namely, the necessity of purifying our city government by the removal of improper and unfit characters therefrom.

Whilst we are all very anxious to devise ways and means to lighten our burdens in respect of our city debt, we ought not to forget that one of these ways and means—and one of the chief thereof—is the future permanent increase of the population of our city, and thereby its extension in trade and commerce, by which the debt will be distributed amongst a larger number of persons, and thereby rendered lighter to us. But we must be able to assure each person thus coming to our city, that not only his property will be safe from depredation, *but that his life will not be endangered by the unprovoked brutal conduct of members of our city Police*, as otherwise we cannot expect them to come amongst us.

I know that owing to the said assault upon me, and the grossly false manifesto of the Office-Bearers of that church, signed by Andrew Skinner, as their Secretary, and published in the *Spectator* and other newspapers both in and out of Canada, our city is looked