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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In the matter of subscriptions some of our friends have responded promptly but a great number are putting the matter off for a more convenient season; we ask such to remember that subscriptions are due *in advance*, and the amount is so low as to make promptness in paying not only desirable, but absolutely necessary.

THE TIMES.

The result of the elections is a surprise to everybody. I expected the Liberals would have gone back with a small majority—but on the contrary the Conservatives have swept the country, and the Liberals will have to return to their place in Opposition which they knew so long before. I do not profess to mourn on account of it—for in the main my sympathies are with the majority of the electors. Sir John A. Macdonald is the one man in this country who should be at the head of its political affairs, for he is a statesman, and personally honest. The Pacific Scandal was a great scandal—but Sir John did not pocket the money—he did what many another has done—that is, he lent himself to evil for the sake of party and power. That sin lies at the door of the violent party spirit of this country, which the *Toronto Globe* has been fiercely active in keeping alive. The Liberals have built themselves a pretty big glass-house during the last five years, and it would have been all the better for them if they had not thrown stones about so recklessly.

My predictions with regard to Montreal have become facts, Messrs. Coursol, Gault and Ryan being returned, and that in spite of the unholy tricks practised by Mr. Devlin at some of the polling-booths and the shameful falsehoods circulated with regard to Mr. Gault's mission to the Oka Indians, and Mr. Coursol being a Freemason. Such tactics deserved to fail as they have.

But I am heartily sorry that Mr. Darling will not have a seat in the House, for with his strong common-sense and general business abilities, he would have been an acquisition. He may rest assured that the vote was not cast against himself, personally, but only against the party he aspired to represent. The truth is that being in desperately bad times, the country is anxious to try if by a movement in the direction of Protection they can be mended. The feeling is abroad that, while Free Trade is the best in theory and the best in all matters ethical, it is made impractical to us in Canada on account of the way our big neighbour looks at things. To that anxiety Mr. Darling must most of all attribute his defeat. I hope he will try again some day, and somewhere else, and succeed.

I am glad Mr. Thomas White is elected at last. He deserves it—for although he may have done some trimming in his day—as what politician in this country has not?—he is an able man—a good speaker—and well up in the politics of the country. I shall expect to find him playing a conspicuous part in the administration of affairs. He should be placed at the head of the Postal Department at once.

Sir John has had to part company with his old friends at Kingston. This seems strange to the ordinary observer of things and men, for this constituency to which he has been faithful for a period of thirty-five years endorsed him when he had to quit office on account of the Pacific Scandal, but has deserted him when the whole country has pronounced for him and his policy. But I am told that he will be offered an accommodation seat at Ottawa. He is not the first leader of a party, and head of a Government who has had to accept such doubtful honours, and this change will not affect matters much as Sir John is not of a desponding turn of mind.

But I hope he will be cool and moderate in the hour of triumph. In the matter of readjustment of the tariff something may, perhaps, be done, but any violent change would work disastrously, so that caution will be needed. And we can hardly hope that a triumphant party will take into consideration the possibility of softening party bitterness. But if Sir John would make an effort in that direc-

tion he would be a benefactor of the country. A coalition government could hardly be effected now—the Conservatives having so strong a majority, and so many friends to please—still, as there is little or no reason for government by party in this country, and as Sir John is not a man to bear malice, or nurse an ill-temper—some step might be taken in that direction. For example, Mr. Blake should not only be in the House, but should be there as Minister of Justice. And some other desirable things I could suggest equally as good.

The course Mr. Mackenzie should pursue is the subject of much debate in the circles of the interested and the knowing—but the thing is plain and simple: he should hold himself ready to resign so soon as the Conservatives are ready to take office. That is the course Mr. Gladstone followed when he and his party suffered a crushing defeat in 1874. I think I am correct in saying that he sent a letter to Mr. Disraeli intimating that he would only carry on the Government until such time as the victors were prepared to form a Cabinet. Mr. Mackenzie should do something of that sort.

The *Montreal Herald* has behaved very well under the trial which has happened to it—but the *Toronto Globe* is struck dumb. It has spluttered a few words in an agonized way on the first page—but Wednesday's leader was on "Prison Dietary." Is the Hon. George Brown trying to anticipate the future?

A good story is told me: a Reformer going to town on Wednesday met a workingman on his way to the Sugar Refinery at Griffintown—who on being asked why he was going there, made for answer: "Sir John is in, and of course the Refinery is open." That explains the Conservative victory.

The Orange case, after long and weary and vexatious examinations is taken *en delibere* by the Police Magistrate, who has promised to give his decision next week. Many of us thought that the examination before the P. M. was too long—but more of us are asking "what on earth does he want a whole week or more to deliberate on this matter for?" The P. M. is only a P. M. and not a Judge. The P. M. has only to decide whether there shall be a trial or not; and I humbly submit that three hours should have given him sufficient evidence upon which to base a conclusion. I suggest two improvements in the conduct of those preliminary proceedings,—employ a competent short-hand writer—and exclude Counsel.

Only a man with a fertile imagination could fancy the Orangemen committed for trial. But it is to be hoped none the less that the whole question will be brought before the Civil Courts. It certainly would have been more dignified if the gentlemen, who fenced and refused to answer, had declared themselves Orangemen, and said, "if the institution is illegal, the institution, or the law, must be changed." Now the prosecution is able to say, "these men are either ashamed or afraid to confess that they belong to the Orange Order," a point that might be used effectively in an appeal to a jury. Already the counsel for the prosecution has had the luxury of applying to the Government for a pardon for any who might be induced to confess that they are Orangemen.

The Sentinel, and Orange and Protestant Advocate is a peculiar paper. It has sent forth a second article on "Rev. Mr. Bray and Orangeism," which is just as stupid as the first. The writer is evidently some broad-minded brother who "often went to hear that truly-evangelical man," Dr. Wilkes, in the olden times, but "left as the grand organ and the Brussels carpets came in." He imagines "utilitarian" to mean "will it pay;" he is unable to distinguish between a sermon delivered on the Sabbath and a lecture given on a week-day; he is so well-posted as a newspaper writer that he imagines an article specially addressed to Orangemen should be full of abuse of their opponents; he, an Orange writer, has the consistency to say that lectures in criticism of "churches differing from our own must be subversive of that Christian humility which should lead us to think of others as better than ourselves." If I could supply that writer with a little common sense I would do so, but I can't. He is beyond the reach of reason, but he is not past praying for.