

To the Free and Intelligent Electors of Glengarry :

Gentlemen :—

For some years I have had the honour of being your representative in Parliament, and I have been asked by a very large number of the people to be again a candidate for the representation of the county.

I would have been quite willing, with the consent of my many friends, to see any other of the many respectable men in the county nominated in my stead, and to use all my humble influence to secure the return of the one who was the choice of the greatest number. But two circumstances prevented this: my friends wished that I should be the candidate, and my enemies very plainly intimated that I was to be kicked out.

If there was anything more powerful than the demand of my friends that I should be the candidate, it was the threat of my enemies. The two influences determined me to enter upon this contest and make it hot for the kickers. I must do them the justice to say that since the campaign opened I have not seen many of them around, though I am informed that they are industriously and courageously attacking me behind my back.

In order to settle some little outstanding accounts between my accusers and myself, I, at the beginning of the campaign, sent a formal notice to my opponent (of which I enclose a copy) inviting him to come to an arrangement with me to hold joint meetings, in order that the candidates might face to face discuss the public questions of the day before you—the grand jurors of the county—and that you might be spared the trouble and the infliction of attending two sets of political meetings. A ghastly silence has been the only response to this invitation. To this moment my loud-mouthed accusers have not dared to meet me in fair and open fight. Need I say that there is a sense of fair-play among the people that condemns the arts of the slanderer and the liar; and that cowardice has no favour in the eyes of the sons and daughters of Glengarry.

You all know my record while in public life, and many of you know me well in private life. I am not a believer in professions of political sinlessness. There is not now, and never will be, a perfect Government. The frailties of individual men will be reflected in any combination of men. What is needful in the National Executive is what Sir Walter Scott called the "Divine right of man. The wit to plan and the strength to execute." The old Novelist crushed all political philosophy on this subject into one short sentence.

Under our free institutions it is the people who rule. But as every man cannot take his place at the council board of the nation, he exercises the valued privilege of casting his vote for the man he thinks worthy to represent him there. From the men thus chosen, a few are selected who constitute the Administration—and these, with the assistance of their supporters, propound a policy for the Government of the country.

I am free to confess that I conscientiously believe the National Policy, planned and executed by the Government of the Right Honourable Sir John Macdonald, is not only for the temporary but for the permanent benefit of this country. Under it an era of prosperity and national development has commenced which I sincerely believe is but a mile-stone in the march of progress upon which our people have set out.