

Mr. McLeod gives publicit to a rumour, which I have never seen or heard elsewhere, and which he refers to as if he believed it also might be true, viz. : that a member of the Government had "breathed out threatening and slaughter upon all Presbyterians after the next election." Now, it does seem to me that anyone who could believe that rumour must, for the time, have been in a state of mind to believe anything against us. As head of the Government I should have to be a consenting party to the "slaughter." I am myself a Presbyterian, by birth, education, and choice, and an older Presbyterian than Mr. McLeod himself. One of my colleagues also is a Presbyterian. Presbyterians have always been and still are amongst our strongest supporters and warmest friends. Mr. Fraser, the only Roman Catholic member of the Government, is, I suppose, the member referred to by Mr. McLeod. Like the rest of us, he has always had, and still has, the political support and personal friendship of the great majority of the Presbyterians of his Riding, where he has lived all his life; and he has many relatives who are Presbyterians. Independently of all this, no man is less likely than Mr. Fraser to talk such nonsense as Mr. McLeod's informant has ascribed to him. I may say here that I have never heard from Mr. Fraser, or any of my colleagues, one word of unfriendliness or disrespect towards Presbyterians, and I have heard from them all many words of gratitude and confidence. It would have been very strange if it were otherwise; without the confidence and active support of Presbyterian electors, in common with those of other Protestants, the Liberal party would cease to exist.

If it is said, that so far as concerns me personally, the facts may be as I have stated, but that I have spoken in this letter for my colleagues also, and that I cannot know what has been said to or by them, bearing on the charge of injurious Romish influence; to this objection let me say that, where in this letter I have spoken for the whole Government, I have done so because I have learned from my colleagues the facts which I do not know personally, and because my experience of them all, ever since we have been colleagues, enables me to place implicit reliance on any statement which they make to me, for not one of them has ever deceived me yet.

I wish that before Mr. McLeod permitted himself to believe us altogether over to Rome, and to dishonesty and double-dealing and every thing bad for the sake of Rome, it had occurred to him to consult with me in order to receive and to consider my version of matters. There would have been a special propriety in taking this course, where two of the persons to be condemned unheard were members of his own church (not of his congregation), and of his own political party, occupying prominent places