

*Mr. McMaster's Reply*

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Montreal, Aug. 8th. 1916.

Monsieur Henri Bourassa,

Montreal.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of the 2nd. of August, on my return to my office, on Saturday morning, the 5th. instant, after a brief absence of two days.

I would not have thought it necessary to intervene in the slightest degree in the discussion between yourself and my partner, Captain Papineau, were it not that your letter contains a considerable number of bitter remarks which are evidently directed at me.

As my attitude to you has never been other than courteous, I am driven to the conclusion that these remarks must be caused by a misapprehension and that you are labouring under the idea that this letter which my partner, Captain Talbot Papineau, wrote you was written, or at least inspired, by me. Allow me to assure you most emphatically that such is not the case, and that the idea of writing to you and the letter itself are the work of my partner.

Captain Talbot Papineau is as incapable of putting his name to another's composition as I believe myself incapable of dealing a political stroke under the cloak of another's name or from a point of vantage of relationship not my own.

That I have striven since boyhood, and never more earnestly than during these last two years, to do my humble part to draw together the different racial and religious elements which form our population cannot altogether be unknown to you, who at least on one occasion had the opportunity of witnessing my sincerity.

I will not return bitterness for bitterness for such cannot advance what should be the earnest desire of all patriotic hearts — that at this, above all other times, kindly thoughts and kindly words and kindly deeds should unite all those who call Canada their common country.

I am,

Yours very truly,

A. R. McMASTER.