

Office of the Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, March 6, '03.

Dear Mr. Justice,—

I have gone carefully over your letter of the 2nd instant, making specific note of your extracts from previous correspondence. I have no copies of my own letters or of any of the others to which you refer, because I have made it a rule never to copy private letters sent or to retain private letters received. I have known cases in which the temptation to violate confidence became on occasions irresistible.

As I understand it, your complaint is that for services rendered in connection with the Manitoba School question you were promised consideration which has not been forthcoming. Russell's cable, quoted by you, is evidence that I did my best to secure for you the coveted Imperial honours, and I also strongly urged your appointment to the Supreme Court, but others who had a larger measure of influence thought that the professional and political claims of Chief Justice Armour and Mr. Justice Mills gave them precedence, but it has never been suggested, to my knowledge, that your religion was a barrier to your promotion.

You say that you intend sending copies of the private letters exchanged between the late Archbishop, yourself, and myself to the other members of the Government. Of the propriety and wisdom of such a course, you are the best judge. Each man must, of necessity, be the guardian of his own honour, but I am not sure that Archbishop Walsh would approve of your implied suggestion that his action in the critical juncture to which you refer was determined by a desire to secure your professional or social advancement and not to promote the best interests of our Church and people.

I am still of opinion that for the important political services you rendered to the Liberal party in connection with this question you are entitled to consideration, but you must not hastily spoil your chances.

Yours truly,

C. FITZPATRICK.

MR. JUSTICE MACMAHON.