

THE REFORM PARTY AND CANADA'S FUTURE

TORONTO, 12th Dec., 1891.

To the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, M.P., etc., etc.:

MY HONORED AND DEAR FRIEND :—

You and I are among the oldest Canadian Liberals still in public life. Throughout our time, and for long before, the principles of the Liberal party have been British connection, special interest in all that concerns the masses of the people, justice to all classes, creeds and nationalities, pure and economical government, a revenue tariff, and the freest trade with our neighbors practicable and consistent with our position as a self-governing people forming part of the British Empire. Underlying all these has always been the principle of "Canada first." We perceived, and we are glad to know or believe, that in order to be for Canada first it was necessary to be for British connection also. The two things were not incompatible. On the contrary, they were bound up together. As Premier of Canada you had an opportunity, which no other Canadian Liberal has had, of showing the principles of the Liberal party in practice for five years under a Liberal Government and a Liberal Legislature; and all Liberals, and very many Canadians who are not Liberals, are proud of the record which you then made.

Had the result of the elections in 1878 been different we should not now have our present difficulties. We should have had a pure administration of affairs for the last thirteen years.