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DEAR MR. MACLEAN:

When you had sufficient confidence in my poor ability to intrust me with the task of preparing a catalogue of the books belonging to the Attorney-General's Law Library—a library which, particularly from the standpoint of usefulness, has, under your able fostering, assumed a high state of perfection—I was not aware of the serious nature of the work I have since had to cope with. And when the last page had passed from my pen to the printer's room, I shared some regrets upon reflecting that my efforts and pains would not be expressed in the printed page; and it is because of this thought that I have not, as was my original intention, asked your permission to dedicate to you the result of these my labours.

I trust that you will be lenient in your criticism of my work. As my master in the law, exacting, albeit always most kind, I remember how you would not tolerate even the faintest semblance to a mistake; and if this work is to be subjected to the official scrutiny of your ever-watchful eye, then have I indeed much to fear, for I doubt not that the book has many imperfections. If, however, you peruse the work—as I hope you will—in a manner not too vigilant, the result of my labour will not cause me so much uneasiness.

With regard to the arrangement of the work, you will observe that the catalogue is divided into two main portions, the Author Index and the Index of Subjects, the former being placed at the beginning of the book and the latter at the end. In the Author Index, the whole title page of a work is, in every case, given verbatim, so that, in most instances, by referring to a certain Author, the whole subject division of a work will be apparent without referring to the work itself—an extremely pleasing feature to one who may be searching for some particular point, the exact bibliographical position of which may not be known. The letters "A" and "L," which appear after each work indicate whether the work is in the Attorney-General's Library or in the Library of the Legislative Assembly (the law books in the last-mentioned Library being also included in this catalogue), the letter "A" having reference to the first, and the letter "L" having reference to the last-mentioned Library. Where the two letters appear together, thus (A.L.), they denote that the work will be found in both libraries.

The Digests, Reports of Cases, Statutes, etc., form the middle portion of the book, it having occurred to me that reference might be facilitated by grouping separately the matter pertaining to these subdivisions.

The Index of Subjects has had careful attention, and I trust that it will prove as useful as my efforts have endeavoured to render it. The scheme thereof is simple; taking, for example, the title "Foreshore," we see the following: "Moore, S. A. Wilcock." Upon turning to the Author Index under either of these names, we are presented with the full name of the