

would not only not advantage, but would actually damage your case, at the same time I hope you will continue to believe, that whoever insinuated to you that I had been otherwise than your friend slandered me most grossly. I may not be able to do much for your profit, but at least I have never failed to do my best.

As to communicating with Mr. Poulett Scrope, I really must leave that to yourself. I have no intimacy with him and should certainly not wish to be the medium of informing him that you are about to bring an action against him, as Lord Sydenham, representative, nor indeed have I the information necessary to explain to him the circumstances of the case, for of what has occurred since I left Canada, I know nothing. Of course I cannot tell the nature of the legal opinions which you have obtained, but it certainly does appear a startling doctrine, that a man should be made personally responsible for the non-fulfilment of a promise made by him in his official capacity, over which, unfortunately, he could exercise no control whatever.

The only ground I presume on which such an opinion could proceed, is that Lord Sydenham had not sufficient authority to make the promise to you, which must be a question depending on the terms of his commission, and on many other circumstances which it is unnecessary to advert to.

I see a list of your new Ministry in the papers. It appears to me impossible that it can go on for a day unless indeed J. J. Papineau goes over to support it. D. B. Papineau never had any influence in my day, and as to Mr. Chabot, I never heard his name while in Upper Canada. I cannot conceive William Morris and Hamilton Merritt going on together, or any Ministry in fact putting up with Merritt as Inspector General, however, things are in such a constant state of transition in Canada, that it is impossible to trust to one's recollection of any man. Pray remember me to Mrs. Ryland and your family and believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

T. W. C. MURDOCH.