

House of Commons,
Ottawa, 27th February, 1871.

My dear Sir,—

You see, Sandfield is pressing forward his elections with the greatest energy. He is, no doubt, expecting to succeed by a kind of *coup d'état*. My own impression is John A. is soon to receive an Imperial appointment, and if Sandfield can carry the Local elections he will prepare the way for himself as leader of the Conservative party here. He will also, if he succeeds, prepare the way for the success of Ministers at the Federal elections. I have no idea that Hincks or Morris or J. H. Cameron would serve under him, but once John A. is out of Canadian politics I have no doubt he will care but little about the success of Sandfield or anyone else. I hope Dawson will get the nomination in Kent, as he certainly will if McKellar looks after the matter in time, as I hope he will.

I saw him in Toronto and urged him by all means to see that Dawson's nomination was made safe in Kent.

I think it would be a good thing if you and Cameron could go down to Chatham when the Reform convention meets. It would show that the Catholics were generally acting with us in this election, and the certainty of success under these circumstances would everywhere increase the *clan* of the party, which is of great consequence in elections as well as in war. I have always felt that this alliance was a natural one, and one necessary for the country, and it afforded me great pleasure when I received your first letter, for I felt the first step was taken, and the reunion of a divided party was a matter of certainty, and should the restoration of our former relations now take place, as I believe it will, I am sure it must be equally gratifying to you, to whom it is so largely due.

I hope we shall have the pleasure of both being members of the next Parliament of Canada.

I send you a copy of the Public Accounts.

HUGH MACMAHON, Esq.,
London.

Yours truly,
DAVID MILLS.