

Christine M. Lean

CH 211

Toronto
March 24th 1848

My Dear Mr. Donald,

I wish I was as fond of writing Letters as you are. I should then have done a great many things in the course of my life which I fear have been left undone and amongst the rest I should have answered such of your Letters as have required a reply - But I must plead guilty to the charge of great, perhaps inexcusable, inattention in this respect and throw myself upon the mercy of my accusers - I have been always glad to receive your Letters tho' I have not always replied to them & tho' now & then I could not concur in some of your remarks I was unable to see their justice I did not feel disposed to censure because I thought the source from whence they came sound at the ^{core} and always sure to return to what was correct.

It is now about 32 years since our acquaintance commenced and certainly during that period the first part of your Letter has been wonderfully justified "that matters have taken a wonderful change in the Councils of the Nation" - Who could have dreamt in 1816 that before 30 y^r. We should have a Provincial

Cabinet whose voice should controul the Executive Power and govern the destinies of the Province - Who could have imagined that the Revenue of U. Canada then under £20,000 should now from one Post be more than half as much again? But if I were to go on to enumerate half of the things which no Person at that time, who was anxious to be considered of sane mind, could have imagined I should instead of a small sheet require a quire of foolscap to contain them - and so I shall not attempt it - One thing only I shall mention and that is that it would have been extremely difficult to conceive that your Friend Mr. Wood would at this day be representing Gungarry & apparently patronising those who then reled the Roast in that Loyal County - I have very little doubt that if there is any blame in his holding that Situation some of it may attach to me for the assistance which I gave him in his efforts to climb and if now that he has got as he supposes to the top of the Ladder he feels disposed to kick away his supports in ascending it is only what is to be met with every day in the world and therefore not at all to be wondered at - But so far as I am concerned I care but little for his movements - even if he were disposed to injure me he cannot do it - He may splutter at Public meetings & shew his independence by abusing

the Mr. Sears - but no man in Gungarry or out of it will pay much attention to such vapourings or treat me with less respect in consequence of them and if he should indulge in any flights of fancy which might come under the designation of lies they will be sure to recoil upon himself at some day - I cannot help thinking that the 'apparently confirmed' a large majority of the votes of Gungarry, the People generally have not that confidence in him that would induce them to stick to him under all circumstances, more especially if a man of talent, independent circumstances & of strict Integrity and a Highlander were to oppose him - I hope and believe that the Patent for the Market Lots will be declared void by the Court of Chancery as having improvidently issued - He will then perhaps regret that he had not followed my advice, when I first heard of his having obtained them, by immediately surrendering them - I was much surprised at Mr. Wood countenancing him in getting or retaining them - He was a Commissioner with me in erecting the old Market House, yet standing on the Lots & some of the money was paid thro' him - I was examin'd as a Wit & happening to have the vouchers shewing the expenditure for that object I was asked to put them in and they are filed - I can only ascribe to one cause Mr. Wood's support of Sandfield in this matter and I fear a rooted dislike to Bank, the most active mover in the matter had something to do with it - But We all have our weak

points and cannot quarrel with our Neighbours because they choose to adopt a course which we cannot approve - You say S - d & D. A are a curse to the District - I certainly do not think they have been sent as a Blessing - but would hardly class them together. The latter I look upon as possessing all the faults that can be ascribed to the former and with them a multitude which he may call peculiarly his own - A Man who could deliberately seduce a poor Girl whom he was bound to protect and that too when his own wife was the Companion of his Bed, and who could attempt to screen himself from the odium which ought to attach to his infamous conduct by making or getting her to swear that Don P. Mc Donnell was not the Father of her Child cannot stand very high in the scale of morality - A Man who having £750 in his hands as Adm. of an Estate who could write to the Parties interested that the intestate died possessed of very little money and who knowing that the Landed property was worth at the lowest valuation more than £1000 and then offer £750 for the whole cannot stand very high in the scale of common honesty - A Man who assisted in a Public Capacity in investigating District Accounts and declared himself satisfied after a rigid examination & who can now daily proclaim that such accounts were fraudulent for the purpose, by so base a lie of gaining Political ascend

must stand rather low in the scale of
 morality and honesty. A Man of such deep
 and damning malignity of Character is decidedly
 ten thousand times worse than I take I - d to be
 And to cap the climax a Man who could defeat
 the intention of his Father and depaund the Church to
 which he belongs of an intended benefit by hurriedly
 selling a Lot of Land devised to that Church by his
 Father and executing a Conveyance to be registered
 before the Will - might be supposed capable of any thing
 But moral character or common honesty in these
 days do not appear to be considered essential qualifications
 in a Candidate for Public favor - I should like to be
 in the Eastern District Council for a Week and I
 think the thick headed Leader of that august Body
 would hardly dare afterwards to make charges agst
 others - But all these matters will come to an end
 in due time and tho' it is annoying to see Fellows whose
 whole Lives have been marked with dishonesty prating
 about the dishonesty of Men whose Lives were
 unstained by such a crime, a few years and a
 little patience will serve to put every thing of
 that kind right - And after all what does it
 signify - the false assertions of worthless men can
 not affect the slumbers of the Graves or make
 those who have "gone to that bourne from whence

no Traveller returns any worse than they were - As to the Treasurers Books while my late Father was Treas.^r all I can say is that so far as my voice goes the Dist.^r Council are welcome to them - tho' in truth they have nothing to do with them - They belonged to the Magistrates of the District, if not to the Treasurer and they have a right to have them retained as a Record of those accounts for which they were responsible - The D.^r Council will find out by and by that they have no right to any thing but those accounts which, since they came into existence they controuled - I see by the Paper of this Morning rec^d. before 9 o'clock, that our Parl.^t was prorogued yesterday at 1/2 past 3 and the Gov.^r's Speech together with the titles of the Acts passed are also given - One cannot think of the Telegraph and its communications by means of Electricity without being profoundly impressed with the Power of the Great Ruler of the Universe - That in an instant of time a message may be sent thousands of miles is indeed wonderful - but Electricity has always possessed the same power tho' it has been reserved to the present Age, by him who gives it its properties, to make the discovery of its particular application to Telegraphic purposes I am glad to see that there is a Station at Cornwall tho' I fear it is not there in consequence of the enterprise

of the good People of the Town - still it will be very convenient and I hope will repay the expense of maintaining it - I hope you are not serious in saying that you and Mr. Wood have split - There are defections enough in Cornwall without old Friends cast out - As to the appointment of Medical Attendant at the Jail I do not see what particular right Dr Rattray or any other had to expect it - It was entirely a matter of discretion and fitness being equal the Magistrates had a right to appoint that one who was most acceptable to them - Mr. Woods vote for Rattray I am not surprised at - it no doubt arose from some sense of the service rendered to himself during his illness - tho' I have very little doubt that any such service has been more than abundantly paid - You should ascribe it to that cause and not to any desire to join the Radical Party even tho' the influence of some of the Leaders may occasionally seem to prevail - In a former Letter you mentioned that the Dist.^r Council had directed a road to be opened thro' your farm, leading I think past your door - Was not such a road long since established? If so then all that the Council could do was to order it to be opened - If it is recently established by the Council then they should pay not only for the Land but for the expense of fencing - A road from the front was certainly desirable in the vicinity - but it ought not to be taken from the Original allowance

and injuriously forced thro your property without making you ample compensation - The Public ought never to require a sacrifice of Individual property without giving a fair equivalent and whether the Majority of the Council are Radicals or Conservatives they should act honestly - What is your case to day may be their own at no distant period

You say you have a Suit, ag^t. Kinneer but that you do not know whom to confide in - Rolland thro' at St. Catharines could bring it for you by your giving him the necessary information and there are Plenty here who would be glad of the chance - But before commencing be sure that you can prove your case - "thrice is the armed who hath his quarrel just" and I am sure you would not have recourse to Law if you did not think yours so -

I heard some time since & hope it is true that the Will of the late John Yates has been set aside by the Court of Chancery in the State of New York and that all his Property will be divided amongst his next of kin, I believe equally, according to the Laws of the State of New York - The amt. invested in the Welland Canal, with Int^r. will be at least £60,000 & the other property is very large - If it be true M^{rs}. A. McDonell (Yates) & her Daughters will come in for something handsome and perhaps you may yet recover part of the amt. p^d. by you as one of the Sureties of the late Shff - I am also interested in the result as I hold a Judg^{ts} & Ex^m. for ab^t. £240 ag^t. the Estate and w^d. very

John Carter, Printer, Cornwall, U. Canada.

THIS INDENTURE

Made the tenth day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty between Donald Macdonell of Cornwall in the County of Stormont in the Eastern District and Province of Canada Esquire and Elizabeth Macdonell his wife of the first part and John Macdonald of the same place Esquire of the other part

WITNESSETH: That the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred Pounds of lawful money of the said Province, to them in hand paid by the said John Macdonald at or before the ensembling or delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, transferred, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these Presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, transfer, convey, and confirm unto the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns FOREVER, ALL AND SINGULAR that certain Parcel or Tract of LAND and Premises, situate, lying and being in the Township of Fenelon in the County of Durham in the District of New Castle in the Province aforesaid containing by admeasurement two hundred acres of land be the same more or less being comprised of the West and East Halves of Lot Number twenty two in the Seventh Concession of the said Township of Fenelon aforesaid

TOGETHER with all Houses, Out-Houses, Woods and Waters, thereon erected, lying and being and all and singular, the Hereditaments and Appurtenances to the said Premises in anywise belonging, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof; and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Claim, Property and Demand whatsoever either in LAW or in EQUITY, of them the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife of, in, to, or out of the same, and every part thereof, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, with the appurtenances, freed and discharged from all incumbrances whatsoever, unto the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns, to the sole and proper use, benefit and behoof of the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns FOREVER under the reservations, limitations and conditions, expressed in the original GRANT FROM THE CROWN. And the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife do covenant, grant and agree, to and with the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns, that they the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife now are the true, lawful, and rightful owners of all and singular the said Parcel or Tract of Land and Premises above mentioned, with the appurtenances, and of every parcel thereof, and now are lawfully and rightfully seized in their own right, of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible ESTATE OF INHERITANCE IN FEE SIMPLE, of and in the Premises hereby granted, bargained, sold, or intended to be granted, bargained and sold, without any condition or limitation of use or uses, or any other matter or thing to alter, charge, change, incumber, or defeat the same. AND ALSO, that they the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns, shall and may, from time to time, and at all times hereafter FOREVER peaceably and quietly enter into, have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy, all and singular, the said premises above mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances without the let trouble, hindrance, molestation, interruption or denial of them the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife or any other person or persons, whomsoever, lawfully, claiming or to claim, by, from or under them, or any or either of them. AND FURTHER, that they the said Donald Macdonell & Elizabeth his wife and their Heirs, and all and every other person or persons, and their Heirs having or lawfully claiming any Estate, Right, Title, Trust, or Interest, of, in or to, the said Premises above mentioned, or any part thereof, by, from or under them or any other of them, shall and will at all times hereafter, upon the reasonable request, and at the proper costs and charges of the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns, make, do and execute, or cause to procure to be made, done and executed, all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable act or acts, devices, conveyances and assurances in the law whatsoever, for the further, better and more perfect granting, conveying and assuring of all and singular the said premises above mentioned, with the appurtenances, unto the said John Macdonald his Heirs and Assigns, as by the said John Macdonald his Heirs or Assigns, his or their Counsel, shall be reasonably devised, advised or required.

IN WITNESS whereof, the parties to these Presents have hereunto set their hands and Seals, the day and year first above written, and in the fourth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

John Macdonell
John Macdonell

D. Macdonell
E. Macdonell

Received on the day and year in the above Indenture, of and from the therein named John Macdonald the sum of One hundred Pounds Sterling being the full consideration of lawful money of Great Britain, being the full consideration of money therein specified to be paid by them to me
In presence of
John Macdonell

10.06.1840

THIS INDENTURE

District, } PERSONALLY appeared before us

of the Peace, in and for the said District, two of Her Majesty's Justices
the Grantor within named, and being duly
examined by us touching her consent to be barred of her Dower of and in the Lands
within described, we do certify that she gave her consent thereto, and it did appear to
us that such consent was free and voluntary and not the effect of coercion, or fear of
coercion on the part of her husband or any other person.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty

WITNESSETH: That the said
of lawful money of the said Province, to
at or before the ensailing or delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby
and by these Presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, transfer, convey, and confirm unto
Heirs and Assigns FOREVER, all and singular the certain Parcel or Parcels of
in the County of _____ the Parish of _____
the said _____
the said _____
the said _____

John Carter, Printer, Coleraine, D. Co., 1840.

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Together with all Horses, Out-Houses, Woods and Waters, thereon erected,
anyise belonging, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders
Demand whatsoever either in LAW or in EQUITY, of
of, in, to, or out of the same, and every part thereof, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD
unto the said _____
said _____
in the original Grant from the Crown. And the said _____
do covenant, grant and agree, to and with the said _____
Tract of Land and Premises above mentioned, with the appurtenances, and of
sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible Estate or INHERITANCE in Fee Simple,
sold without any condition or limitation of use or uses, or any other matter of
necessity and quietly enter into, have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy, all and singular,
without the let trouble, hindrance, molestation, interruption or denial of
Heirs or Assigns, or any other person or persons, whatsoever, lawfully, claiming or to
the said _____
Heirs having or lawfully claiming any Estate, Right, Title, Trust, or Interest, of
or any other of them, shall and will at all times hereafter, upon the reasonable request, made
Heirs and Assigns, make, do and execute, or cause to be made, done and executed, all and every
and reasonable act or acts, devices, covenances and assurances in the law
the said Premises above mentioned, with the appurtenances, unto the said _____
Heirs and Assigns, as by the said _____
Counsel, shall be reasonably devised, advised or required.

*I certify that a Memorandum
of the within indenture was
by me made by Registered on
the twenty fifth day of
Johnson in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred
and forty two, at the
home of Mr. Robert Johnson
Albion A. Roberts & Memorandum
number 62
Ryoban*

In Witness whereof, the parties to these Presents have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written, and in the _____ year of Her Majesty's Reign
Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of _____

In presence of _____
_____ of lawful money of the said Province, the sum of _____
Received on the day and year in the above Indenture

1305

John McDonald Esq

J. Obenr Muir Dr.

1839
June 29th To a Black coat - £ 5. 10. 0
" " To a pr Do trousers - 2. 0. 0
" " To a summer frock - 4. 5. 0
" " To a pr Do trousers - 1. 11. 3
" " To a Black vest - 16. 3
" " stage 5/6 Box 1/3 - 6. 9
Sept 7 To a light vest - 17. 6
£ 15. 6. 9

Rec^d Payment
by James Hughson
pr pr Obenr Muir
Wm Muir

Montreal Jan^y 30th 1840

Montreal 30th Jun^y 1840

My Dear McDonald,

Simon McMillen's draft
in your favor has been paid, but I inform you with some
difficulty - Taylor having received positive orders not to pay
a dol for Simon, without advice from J. Geo McTurk

1229

who is by the Court appointed his Tutor - Be then
 as it will get the money over £19-19 - Taylor having
 him self settled with Helmes to whom instead of £10
 you were only over £1-1 - I enclosed you have
 two accounts receipted - the amount of which is £¹ 6¹¹ 9
 you have therefore a Balance in my hands of
 £2¹¹ 12¹¹ 3 - Instead of £500 which you supposed you
 owed them you only owed them £2 - I asked them if
 there were any arrears due he told me not -
 We arrived safe in Montreal the day after we left
 you about 1/2 past 5 o'clock - I arrived now -
 Compliments a tout le monde yours most truly

John Hughes.

John McDonald Esquire
 Gray's Inn -

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly a list or ledger entries]

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly a list or ledger entries]

Mr. H. L. L.
Lester & Co. 5
with H. L. L.
& H. L. L.
Lester

James Abner Lee Esquire

George's Cove

Essex

Wm. C. C. C.

per favor
W. A. C. C. C.

out looking

Kingston ²⁴ 29 Sept 1842

My dear Sir.

I am favoured with
your letter regarding Lt Colonel
Meredonells affair with Colonel
Turner which I deeply lament
should ever have taken place
not merely on his own
account but for the sake
of the memory of his worthy
Father, who I knew as a most
excellent Officer in the Peninsula.

I am most happy to say
the affair is totally out of my
jurisdiction and I am
heartily glad not having

anything to do with what
is so extremely unfortunate,
and must carefully abstain
from mixing myself up
with it -

I am happy to say
that one of my most recent
English letters gives me the
pleasing intelligence that
Sir Archibald and Lady
Campbell are both in better
health than when last etc

London - Sir John
and Lady Buchan were
then staying with them
on a visit at Leith -

I remain

My dear Sir

Yours most faithfully

Robert Murray
Thompson

John Macdonald Esq

to the

1261

Toronto
 Dec^r. 31st 1842

My Dear Macdonald,

When I sent you the Papers about ten days since relating to our Land matters I intended to have enclosed the Notes which I now send, in some of which you are interested - but in putting up the Papers they escaped my observation and it was only a short time since that I made the discovery - I hope they will yet be in time to answer any object you expected to serve by them -

I received the day before yesterday a Schenck's paper containing the death of poor unfortunate A. W. Howell Yates. It was probably sent to me by some of his Friends for the purpose of informing me of that event, and the information may probably reach you in the same way before you receive this - It is enough to make one melancholy to reflect on

x I mean by this that a man who destroys himself by drinking spirits is just as much a suicide as one who takes laudanum or lays violent hands upon himself. Am^d

1267

the sad fate of Wilkinson & himself two young men who with excellent constitutions and bright prospects passed thro' life miserably, at least the latter part of their days, and died by their own hands. both the victims of intemperance, leaving their families destitute and dependant on the bounty of friends after having by their irregularities and mismanagement dissipated valuable properties - It is probable that Yates' Family may be provided for by his friends or that they may relieve the property in this Province from incumbrances so as to make it available for the Children but I do not know how Wilkinson's poor Orphans may fare - I feel quite uncomfortable at the idea of Little Rich Wilkinson being allowed to decamp as he has done - if he could be recovered I would cheerfully pay the expense of his education, if his own resources are insufficient - Poor Yates and his Wife have a good deal to answer for in their mismanagement of that Boy

but situated as they unfortunately were perhaps they could not do better - I fear I shall lose £250 by Yates' death - the payment was very uncertain had he lived - but I fear it is more so now, and the worst of it is that I shall have to pay out about £130 of the amount for which I was his Security - I do not know how it has happened but certainly in a great majority of cases in which I have become Security I have been obliged to pay the amount and in many of them I have not yet been reimbursed - in some of them I fear I never shall - it cannot be helped - the world will still jog on and with me it will be all the same in a much less time than "a hundred years hence" - This is the last day of another year which will tomorrow be numbered with the past I hope the new year may prove in all respects more satisfactory to you than the present has been and I will add not as a mere compliment of the Season but in all sincerity that I heartily

wish you and yours many happy
returns - Believe me yours truly

Mr Donald Esq
Gart -

A M Lean

Richard is at Newcastle North in the evening
I am for evening post - P. M. W. W. W.
with the Richard of the Thames
with the Richard of the Thames
board him
P. M. W. W. W.
By the way
any day

- Cornwall -

Gart

John Donald Esq

man

P. S. When you write to William I wish you
would urge him to execute the deed which I sent
him for the Town Lot in Cornwall - It is time to
have it done - if it is to be done and if not I should
like to know it and the reason - Should anything happen
to Wm (his life is as uncertain as that of any person
some difficulty might arise - Ys A M L -

W. J. J. J.
Hale

John Macdonald Esq
Grays Creek

W. J. J. J.

1843
Cornwall 8th March 1843

Dear Sir

An erroneous representation
having gone forth respecting
the "Queen of Plate" presented
to me by the County of Glamorgan.

As one of the Committee, I will
thank you, as far as you can
recollect, to state all the particulars
relative thereto; and whether
the "Design" if it was changed
by Colonel Carmichael

without

1266

without the sanction and
wish of the committee.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

C. B. Turner

To

John Macdonald Esq

Gray's Inn

James Lyle et al.

Donald M'Donnell et al
Received from John M'Donnell Esq the
sum of Fifty pounds to apply on the
for for in the above Cause
Shuff's Off 19th July 1842 M^r Martin
Shuff & P

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1307

Receipt
H. J. de la H. de la
20th Aug 1842
£ 51-0