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Confidential

June 21. 1866

My dear Macdonald

I am getting so uneasy at the inaction in Parlt with respect to the completion of our portion of the Union plan that I feel compelled to put you in possession of the strong opinion I entertain on the question and of the course of conduct in reference to it which I have marked out for myself -

It is not merely that no step has been taken in either House of Parlt for the arrangement of the plan of local governments, but the subject of Education in Lower Canada which ought to be settled before the passing of the Union Act appears to

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have also dropped out of sight I cannot help thinking that valuable time is being lost, & a great opportunity in the temper and disposition of the House is being thrown away by the adoption of this 14th item of delay -

I see a great many accidents, as I have already mentioned to you in conversation, which might change the mood of the House and so render it impossible to keep the members together to complete the scheme this session.

I entertain so many apprehensions of the sort which might flow from such an occurrence that I should feel bound to take the strongest measures to dissociate myself personally from all responsibility in it.

Under ordinary circumstances

my Constitutional course would be to break up the Ministry and have recourse to other advisers -

I am quite aware how soon that I have it up to my power to adopt this line if I were I formed the present administration that my last card in that suit had been played and that if it did not win the game would have come when I ought to give up the attempt to manage the affairs of Canada -

After reviewing all the circumstances of my position here with the most anxious care I have come to the deliberate conviction that if from any cause, this session of Parliament shall be allowed to pass without the completion of our portion of the Union scheme, a succession crisis in

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My career will have been  
reached, and that my  
sense of duty to the people  
of Canada and to myself  
leave me no alternative  
except to apply for my  
immediate recall -

I do not mention this  
to you by way of threat. I  
do not such an extent as to  
imagine it could have any  
significance in that way -  
and I think too highly of  
you to suppose such a mode  
of treatment would affect  
your determination - but  
looking to the relation in which  
we stand to each other I  
think you are entitled to  
be informed when I have de-  
liberately resolved on a  
course which may exer-  
cise some influence on  
the public business of the  
Province, and it is in ad-

2021900

that you may not be  
taken by surprise that  
I make this communi-  
cation to you in the same  
plain & friendly spirit  
which I continue to flatter  
myself has always marked  
me in the course with  
each other.

Believe me to be  
yours most truly

Thos

The Hon

J. A. Macdonald

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