

Wm Abbott. et al

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To Archibald McDonald Esquire
C. E. J. P. &c &c &c

Dear Sir

Having learnt that you intend to leave this Country, permanently, for British Columbia, we beg, from sentiments of friendship and esteem, to express to you, and to say, for the information of such as your lot may be cast among, that in the course of our acquaintance with your worthy and late lamented father and yourself, for many years past, we have remarked, with much interest and pleasure your early promise and steady progress in the world.

We can, (and we do so with the exultation of fellow-citizenship) testify to the fact, that notwithstanding your comparative youth, you have been already entrusted with, and have well and satisfactorily accomplished, the running of the two most important Railway Lines in this Section of the Province - Having, from personal interest, kept an eye on your operations in these works, we thus speak of you, as to them, from personal knowledge - We are aware also, that you have been professionally engaged on other Railways, and on Public Works, of considerable difficulty and magnitude, for the development of the lumbering resources of the St. Maurice Region, in this Province, the latter being on your personal account under contract with the Government.

In these, as in every work in which you have been engaged under a personal responsibility, you have, we have every reason to believe, fulfilled, so far, the high promise of your early steps in your professional career - and have ever maintained that character for steadiness, perseverance and energy, together with professional skill, which marked you, out of a host of applicants, for the important works alluded to - works involving the proposed expenditure of millions of pounds &c.

You hold, and for about three years past have held, from the Crown, the Honorable Commission of a Justice of the Peace - Still, we believe, under thirty years of age, you are, we presume, the youngest Magistrate in the Country - The fact speaks for itself - Truly, Sir, we are proud of you, as being of us - We would, that you stay with us; but if you will, and must go hence, to distant and more hopeful fields, for the exercise of your talents, heartily, though regretfully, we pray, "God speed you" -

We remain - Dear Sir & Fellow Parishioner

Your sincere friends & well wishers

Wm Abbott Rector of St. Andrews.
Ant. Thibaudier Curé p.p.

American Merchant Agent of
the Steaming of Acadia
Robert Simpson Mayor

James D. Woodruff
Malcolm McLeod

Malcolm McLeod Barrister (Elderly son of late John McLeod Esq. of 112, rue St. Louis, Montreal, in charge of the property of the late John McLeod Esq. in 1824-5)

St. Andrews, Ottawa, Canada -
14 September 1858.