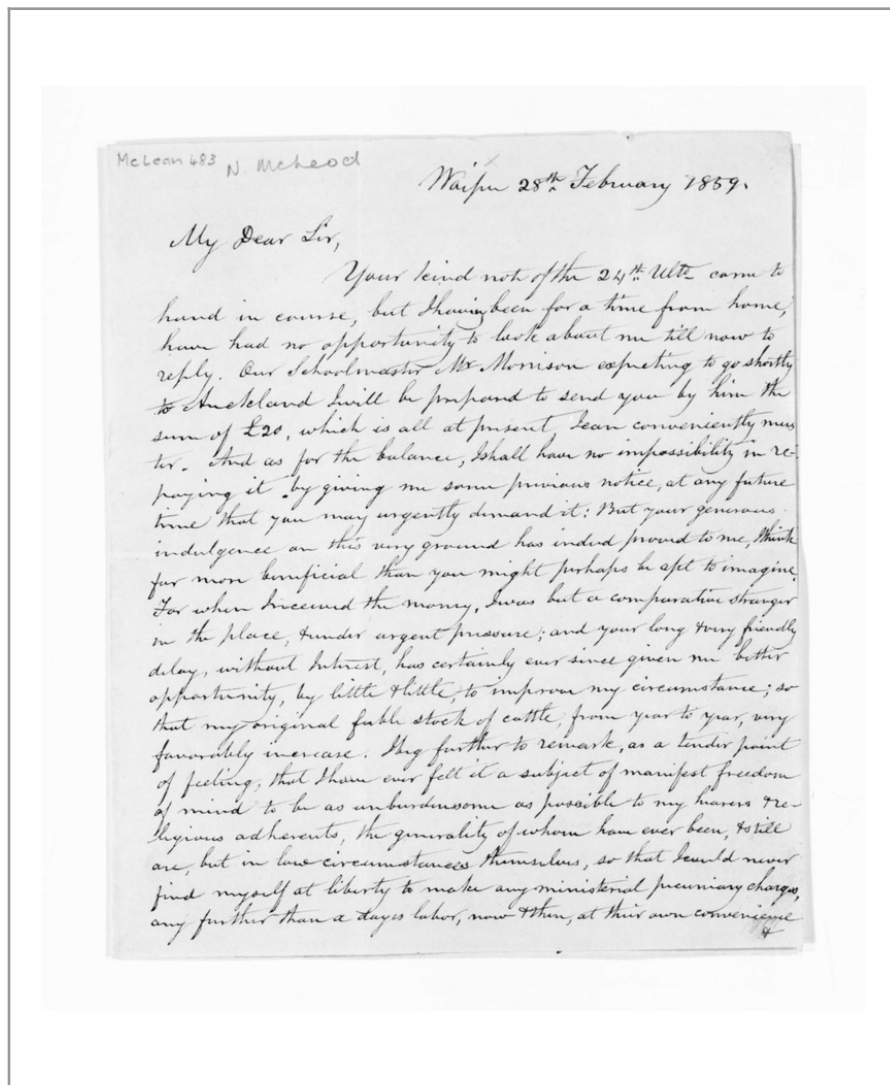


4 pages written 28 Feb 1859 by Rev Norman McLeod in Napier City to Sir Donald McLean

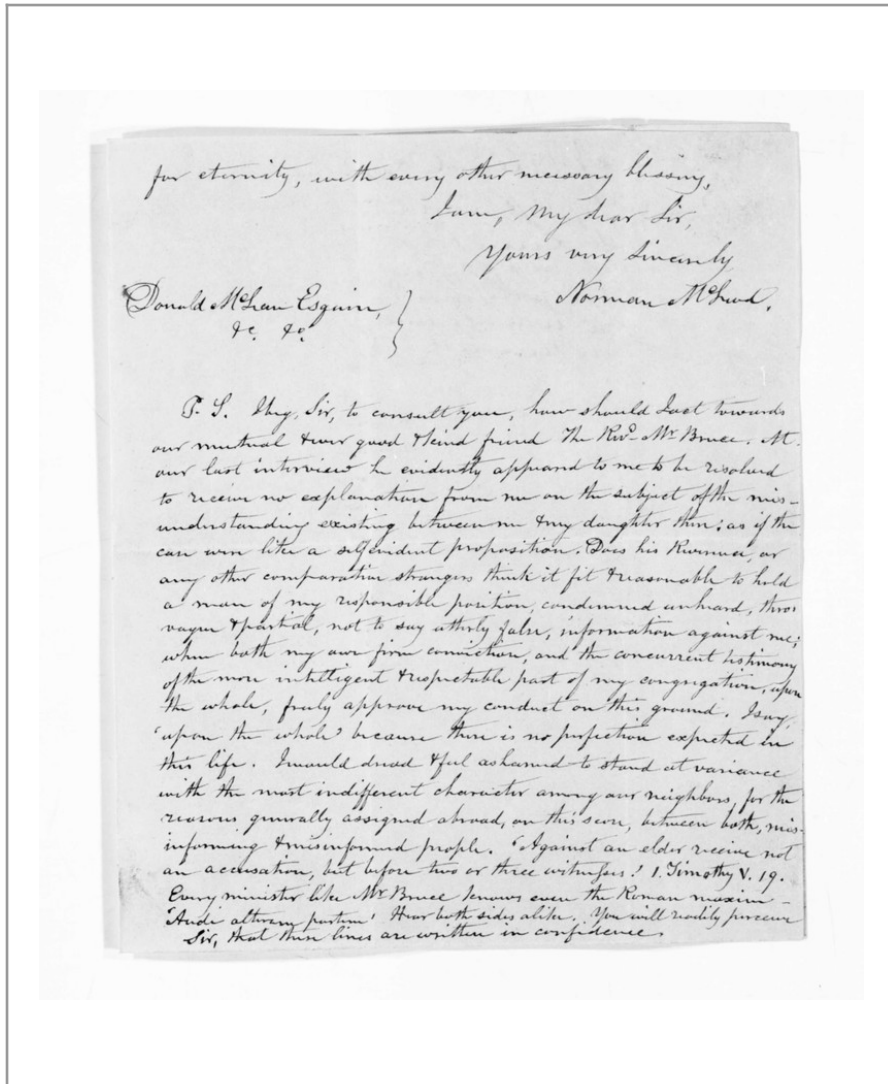


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Your will; especially in spring & harvest times, this treatment  
 evidently feel, has ever given me great independence & freedom  
 of mind & conduct, thro' all my official days. Thus shall purpose-  
 ly endeavor, by the Lord's blessing, to live as far self-sustained as  
 possible, for the measurably short remainder of my life. I trouble  
 you with these few reflections as my ever generous & kind friend  
 & benefactor, as believing it may be a sort of remuneration to your  
 generosity to have how highly, in the hand of divine providence  
 I esteem your condescension & friendship, both to myself & your Country,  
 men since ever we landed on their shores of strangers; & particularly  
 the mark of benevolence under consideration; tho' at the same time,  
 might at intervals, have seemed in your friendly company, as  
 if invading the responsibility of gratitude, in playing off some  
 bantering puns from the natural store of our Highland humors.  
 But in treating of my independent means of family support  
 should be careful to guard against any misreflection on the dis-  
 position or conduct of my dear congregation, on the subject;  
 for I feel no cause of complaint on that score, according to their  
 circumstances, whom I should find it necessary to throw my-  
 self on their assistance. My reason for troubling you with  
 these remarks, is in order to let you know that my long de-  
 lay in repaying your generous loan, has not proceeded from  
 either neglect & indifference, or any imposition on your very kind  
 indulgence, but ~~from~~ rather, as you may now understand, from  
 my singular position, & entire trust in your confidential friends  
 ship, till you should thus find good reason to make a de-  
 mand. Wishing Heaven to give you every concern  
 for

MANUSCRIPTS & PICTORIAL

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for eternity, with every other necessary blessing,  
I am, My dear Sir,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Donald McLean Esquire, } Norman McLeod,  
      7c. 7c.

P. S. My, Sir, to consult you, how should I act towards our mutual & our good friend the Rev. Mr. Bruce. At our last interview he evidently appeared to me to be resolved to receive no explanation from me on the subject of the misunderstanding existing between me & my daughter then; as if the case were like a self-evident proposition. Does his Rummel, or any other comparison stronger think it fit & reasonable to hold a man of my responsible position, condemned unheard, thro' vague & partial, not to say utterly false, information against me; when both my own conscience, and the concurrent testimony of the more intelligent & respectable part of my congregation, upon the whole, fully approve my conduct on this ground. I am, 'upon the whole' because there is no perfection expected in this life. I would dread to feel ashamed to stand at variance with the most indifferent character among our neighbors, for the reasons generally assigned abroad, on this score, between both, mis-informing & misinformed people. 'Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.' 1. Timothy V. 19. Every minister like Mr Bruce knows even the Roman maxim - 'Audi alteram partem' from both sides alike. You will readily perceive Sir, that these lines are written in confidence.

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