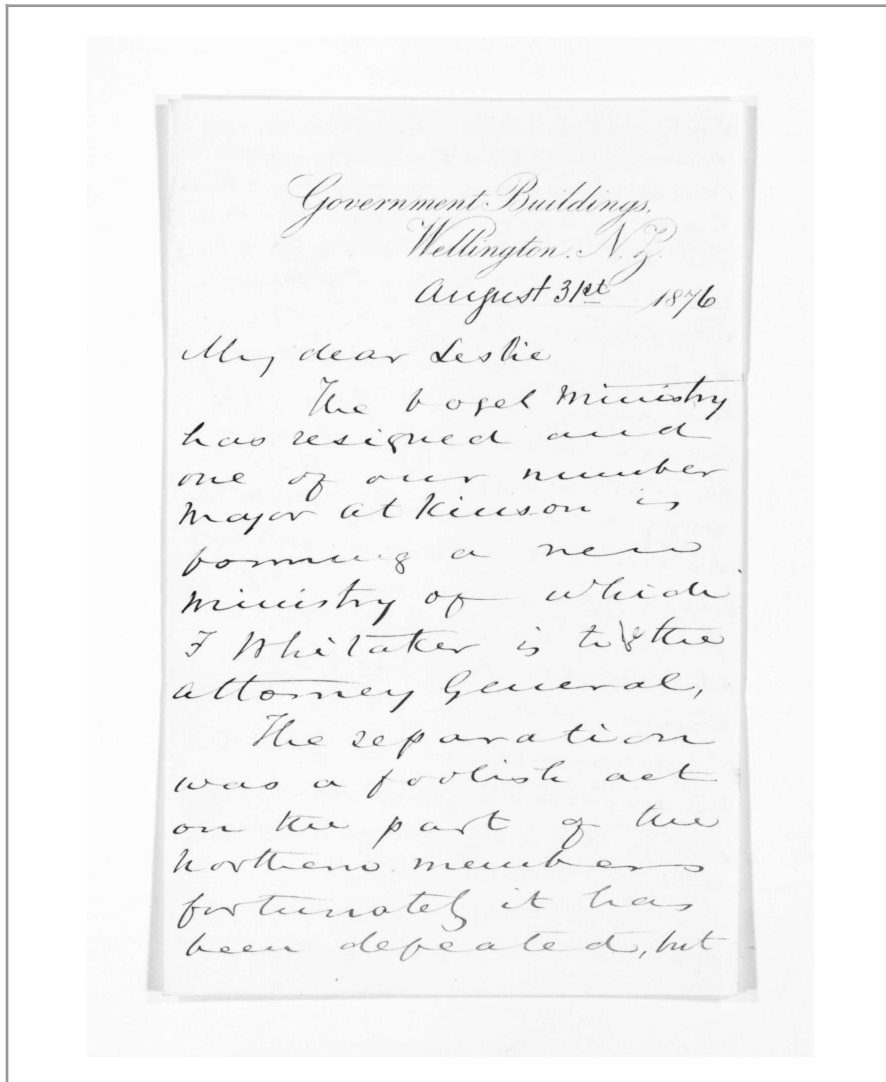


3 pages written 31 Aug 1876 by Sir Donald McLean



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I should like to know
 whose decisions would
 have been if separation
 had been granted
 in 1866 when formerly
 moved by Whitaker.
 I believe the North
 Island would long
 we are now have
 been asking for
 reunion with the
 more wealthy Middle
 Island. From your
 long experience of
 political matters
 it will be more
 than obvious that
 separation is quite
 a mistake financially,
 politically and in
 any other aspect
 in which it can
 be considered.

new Ministry proposed
 a Kinsman Premier
 Whitaker Attorney Genl
 & McLean Customs
 Richards as Post Office
 Brown Justice
 Pollen or Hale Col Secy
 Omond ~~Genl~~ ^{with decisions}
 D. McLean Native Affairs

It is with my intention
 to hold office longer
 than the time required
 for settling a
 few outstanding
 questions affecting
 your own and
 other districts in
 the North Island

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I think I have done
my share much to
my own disadvantage
but I have always
held that my first duty
as a public man
was at all hazards
through good and
bad report to do
all that lay in
my power for my
adopted country
With kind regards
to Mrs Leslie Leonard
and all the youngsters
always yours sincerely
Donald McLean