

4 pages written 19 Nov 1872 by William Kentish McLean

19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1872

Dear Sir I must ask you to  
give me "carte blanche" to  
get your accounts put right.  
I can't explain to you minutely  
all that is required to be  
done, but a great deal is  
necessary to bring everything  
into shape. You must re-  
member that the materials  
I have been working on from  
the very commencement have  
been much scattered and  
have required a great amount  
of care to work them up  
even so far as I have got.  
I feel that it is neither

4 pages written 19 Nov 1872 by William Kentish McLean

just to you or myself to  
allow the accounts to  
remain any longer in  
an unfinished state.  
~~and~~ what I propose to  
do is to stick at them  
in paper no matter what  
time may be occupied  
(for it is impossible for me  
to fix the time) until a  
proper result is obtained.  
Any person acquainted  
with accounts if they only  
know what was required  
to be done would tell  
you that I am not making

4 pages written 19 Nov 1872 by William Kentish McLean

an unreasonable request —  
I don't wish to be relieved  
altogether of public work  
but I should like to be  
allowed as much freedom  
of action as possible for  
a few days so as to  
give me a fair chance  
of applying myself to  
the work in hand. If  
things go on much longer  
as they are it may appear  
to you that I had failed  
in the task, but failure  
is a word I dislike very  
much and I must quote

4 pages written 19 Nov 1872 by William Kentish McLean

it altogether in this case.

I know I can bring every  
thing into ship shape  
if I am allowed the  
necessary time for doing it.

It would be more  
convenient for me to work  
in Napier and if you could  
keep St. John with you until  
you leave here I would  
go in by the first opportunity  
and get on with the work as  
fast as I can. I could not  
do much here while he is  
knocking about. Yours truly

W. McLean