

Harris

May 16/69

Montreal 28 May/69

Sir

At intervals for several years past it has occurred to me to make a suggestion to you as to the starting of a Review (similar to the "Quarterlies") that might take the lead in the thought & exercise a beneficial influence on the destinies of our Country. I have long felt that no one could more appropriately or with greater chances of success inaugurate such a work as yourself - the more especially considering that an unoccupied field would thus be filled by one who would eminently direct such an enterprise on a soundly religious & moral basis and tho' I know your hands are full enough of work all under

direction of such motives yet in view
of the great influence for good that
may reasonably be expected to result
from a work of this kind conducted
under such auspices it might
present itself in such force to your
mind (as it does to mine) as to
induce you to give up minor enter-
-prises to one of more extended in-
-fluence & consequent greater utility.
Such a work must of course be adapted
to the peculiarities of our national
wants & circumstances & could scarcely
be expected or require to be conducted
on the established rules obtaining in
older & more regulated forms of society
- as in the Old Country for instance -
our wants & circumstances in com-
-parison with theirs being in most
things more elementary & as yet in
a more active state of development
& growth. The attainments to be aimed

at are as in a general form they
occur to me

1st A higher state of public & political
morality, & knowledge in social sciences
including political economy

2nd A higher state of general know-
ledge in literature & sciences

and 3^d. A better general knowledge of
the commercial resources of
our country.

To any one who gives the least thought
to the subject we are lamentably de-
ficient in all of these particulars
— more especially in those comprised
under the first head. Not to speak
of morality how many are there in
the councils of our country utterly
unable from pure ignorance to give
an intelligent opinion on such subjects
as Confederation, our Banking system
&c leaving out of view many other
subjects which from political or
interested bias it is impossible

get a fair & impartial discussion
from the Press & yet which are
of vital importance to our national
wellbeing.

I need not occupy your
time in further pointing out
objects that lie so evidently on
the surface of our social con-
dition & if "He that is higher
than the highest regardeth
the perversion of justice & judg-
ment in a province" surely
it is the doing of a good work
to endeavor the abatement of
such evils.

Should the enterprise not
appear to be self-supporting
could there not be found among
our wealthier citizens those
who would esteem it a
pleasure to aid it.

Commanding the subject
to your careful thought
I am respectfully

Your obt. servt.

W. Harris

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