

Laurier Papers

151328

Ottawa, 10th February, 1908.

Dear Mr. Dumasuir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 2nd instant.

This matter is not now in my hands. A petition in impeachment has been presented against Chief Justice Hunter, by your Attorney General, Mr. Bowness, and if he insists upon pushing his petition to an issue, my conviction is that its prayer must be granted and the Chief Justice removed. I deplore as much as you do this extremity.

I notice what you say that Mr. Hunter has for some time been taken a course which he hopes will lead to a permanent cure and that he has given you the solemn assurance that he will absolutely abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor in future. I may say that I do not like at all the terms in which he has given you this pledge. You tell me that he has taken a course which "he hopes" will lead to a permanent cure. I would feel much more secure if instead of saying "he hopes", he had told you that "he will" effect a permanent cure. My own experience in these matters is that the only cure is a strong and determined will. Treatment is undoubtedly a powerful aid, but treatment without the exercise of will power is of no effect.

Over

similar pledge, ~~is~~ not in writing, but
transmitted through a friend.

You know as well as I do that
the conduct of the Chief Justice
has been a cause of scandal in
several portions of the community. I
regret it as much as any man
can regret it, because I know
the Chief Justice's great abilities.
It is our own appointee. We consider
him a friend and certainly when we
appointed him I, for one, expected
that he would be a cause of pride
to his many admirers, of which
was then one!

John C. ...