

Stone Buildings

22nd August 1884

A. Inglis Clark Esq
 Macquarie Street

My dear Sir

You directed my attention this morning to the following passage in the speech of The Honble the Attorney General which is reported in the "Mercury" newspaper of this days date namely = "He had the authority from his colleague the Premier to say that there was no foundation in fact for Mr. Clark's statements in regard to the formation of the present ministry. Mr. Clark had been entirely misinformed on the point and there was no warrant whatever for saying that any overtures had been made by Mr. Douglas in forming the present administration to the opposition in order to enable him to carry out the object he had in view."

In fairness to you I deem it my duty to say that ^{such} overtures were in fact made by Mr. Douglas in forming the present administration to the opposition. But you may form your own opinion from the following facts. Mr. Douglas stopped me in the street and informed me that he had just called at my chambers

for the purpose of seeing me. He then asked whether
the opposition would assist or cooperate with him
in forming the new administration. I replied that
the opposition were tired of coalitions. He said
"Oh very well one word is as good as a thousand"
implying as I understood that having regard to my
answer it would be useless to make any further
proposals in detail.

I informed several members of the opposition of
this interview shortly after it took place.

Upon a subsequent occasion Mr. Douglas again
spoke to me with reference to the above interview.

I may mention that I called at Mr. Douglas'
office this morning, but he had left for Linton.

You are at liberty to make what use you
please of this letter.

Yrs faithfully

Alfred Dobson