Dear Andrew,

I thought I would just drop you a line to say that I was pleased to see you holding well for an improvement in the method of holding elections in public places. I noticed in your reply that you intimated a loss of faith in protests when they were deficient in action. You will no doubt meet with much of this sort of thing in the political arena in particular. But however, discouragement must come, and they do a young political politician good if he be made of the right stuff. Did you read...
Parker's speech at the great liberal meeting in Sydney on Gladstone's policy in the Eastern business. If not, it is worth formal, especially as it coincides with your views.

I notice you have helped the Parsons in your by-election. If I understand its aim, it raises, Government by the Parsons, for the Parsons. It looks somewhat strange in this age of disentanglement and the like in the old world institutions, that legislation in the new countries should take the shape of rendering existing systems more secure by centralisation of power.
You know pretty well my private sentiments as to religion, and I never speak with other than respectful tones as to the message which ministers of religion have to convey to mankind, but I have a deep feeling against the being the custodians of power. They wield it with deadly effect upon all who have the boldness to dispute their way. Extremity has lost its losing much of its benign influence in the hands of these combinations of men, and any opinion (now in the formative stage) is fast going round to that indulged in by large numbers.
its reasoning powers it is to be done by the hands of men of the barley stamps - men who work outside the "loaves and fishes" consideration. When the old rector divine who was late an hour was told that the flock was returning home, over the distant hill of terror of waiting - replied awkwardly. "Aye, but do you see the Bishop going too?" This sentiment is the type of many more. These remarks in a round way. I am not interested in the Scott - ern. Budge regime in any way. If I were, I am afraid from what little I have seen of it, I should be found peculiar. Yours truly

[Signature]