

Private. ^{C4/C 307}

he ... action
20 Sept. 1878.

Dear Andrew

I thought I would
just drop you a line to say that
I was pleased to see you halting
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; discouragements
~~must~~ 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 perusal, especially as it coincides with your own views.

I notice you have helped the parsons in represbytery bill. If I understood its aim, it means, Government by the parsons, & for the parsons. It looks somewhat strange in this age of disestablishment 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 centralization of power.

You know pretty well my private
statements 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 & lasting objection
to their being the custodians
of power. They wield it with
deadly effect upon all who
have the boldness to dispute
their sway. Xtianity has lost
too losing much of its benign
influence in the hands of these
combinations of men, and
my opinion (now in the
formative stage) is fast
going round to that indulged
in by large numbers, (viz):
that if the salt is to retain

its reasoning power it is to
be done by the hands of
men of the Varley stamp -
men who work outside
the "loaves & fishes" consideration.
When the old Scotch divine who
was late an hour was told
that the flock was returning
home, over the distant hill
of tired waiting - replied
naively, "Aye but do you
see the shepherd going too." This
sentiment is the type of many
more. These remarks in a journal
way. I am not interested in
the Scott-cum-Badge repine in
any way. If I were, I am afraid
from what little I have seen of it,
I should be found peculiarly
Yours truly
Marshall