

Launceston Examiner,  
AND  
The Tasmanian.

Launceston, Oct 21 1897  
To Hon A J Clark  
Hobart

My dear Mr Clark

Let me congratulate you on the step you have taken, I have sometimes wondered it was not done before but I know that with you loyalty to a colleague goes a long way. Loyalty on one side however demands consideration & trust on the other & this you have not recd therefore in breaking the tie you have taken the only honorable course open.

I have opposed the Govt of wh you have been a member as keenly as any journalist in the island & sometimes a shade of regret has been experienced that in condemning the actions of the Cabinet, I had to include yourself. My thoughts sometime go back ten or twelve years to the opening of your career as a leading politician & I have sometimes wondered what combination of adverse circumstances led you to throw in your lot with the Praddon-Frysh party. If my mind ~~the~~ a mistake was made at the outset & few wd have suffered the chain to fall so long as you have. It was time it was sundered & that you formed new political ties with those whose opinion were more in accord with your own.

No doubt you feel the severance. A man of your temperament c<sup>d</sup> not do otherwise but it was the manly honest course & your influence will become stronger from the breach. As one who has always

had a warm corner ~~in~~ heart for you (despite  
sundry slating) let me assure you as man to  
man (Politics apart) that I thoroughly endorse your  
action. It may to some extent be a matter of  
indifference to you whether I do or not but at  
the same time it will do you no harm to become  
acquainted with the fact

Wishing you a happy & more prosperous  
career in the time to come

I remain

Yours faithfully

W. J. Richard