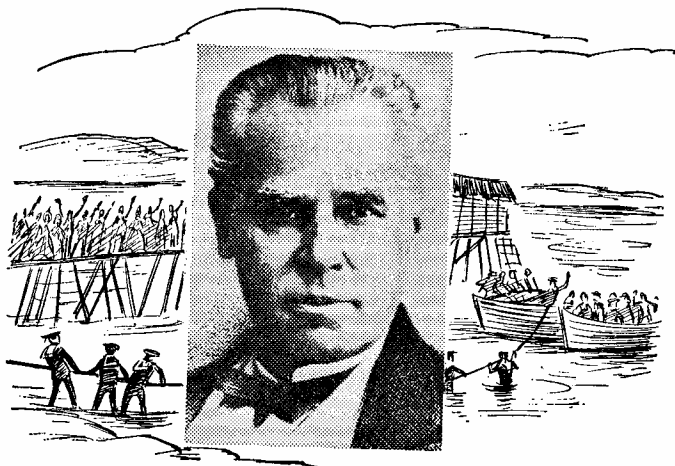


## ~~~~~ FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY ~~~~~



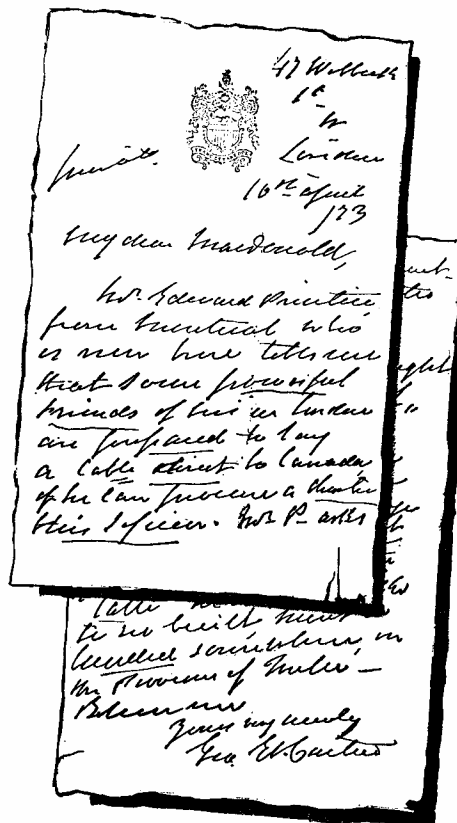
### Cable Link

The first permanent telegraph connection between North America and Europe was in use the year before Confederation.

This imaginative feat had captured the fancy of the world and promoters on both sides of the Atlantic tussled for a chance to cash in on the interest.

When Sir George Etienne Cartier wrote this letter to enlist support of Sir John A. Macdonald there were already five trans-Atlantic cables in operation.

Sir George, who was to die in London the following month, was one of the partners with Sir John A. in the government which preceded Confederation and was credited with a major role in bringing Quebec to accept the terms of Union.



Like others who were to help make Confederation work, he had been one of the active "patriotes" in the Rebellion of 1837 and fled briefly to the United States. He came back to a career which was climaxed by his part in the union negotiations.

### Cartier Writes to John A. on Charter

London, 16th April/73

My Dear Macdonald:

Mr. Edward Prentice from Montreal who is now here tells me that some powerful friends of his in London are prepared to lay a cable direct to Canada if he can procure a charter this session.

Mr. P. asks me to write you about this matter in order you should assist him in getting the charter. I now comply with his wishes in writing you for views knowing that if the thing be possible you will give such assistance as may lay in your power.

Not the least doubt another cable from here direct to Canada would be of great use to our

country. I have, however, warned Mr. P. that perhaps the session now is too far advanced to enable any company to obtain the charter he wants and that besides this thing will be rendered more difficult as no notice has been given according to the rules of our Parliament. The "Standing Committee on Orders" might perhaps dispense with the rules. I brought also under the eyes of Mr. P. that the cable could not be landed in Newfoundland or on Nova Scotia on account of the privilege granted to the first cable company so the cable he would like to see built must be landed somewhere in the Province of Quebec.

Believe me, yours very sincerely,

GEO. ET. CARTIER.