

something which made me think that our correspondence had got wind, and that there were mere persons in the secret than those of whom you spoke to me in the first instance. I did not take offence at this, because I see nothing that can be found fault with in what I have done; but as I was of opinion that it was better for the success of the undertaking, that the plan should be matured before it became too public, I have thought it right to retain the letter until the arrival of Morin, who has been expected here for some time, and to whom I wished to speak of the affair, and deliver the letter according to the explanation which he might give me; but Morin not coming, and your note of the 20th calling upon me to keep my promise, I do it very willingly, *relying entirely upon you as to the use you will make of this letter.*

Since Mr. Draper's arrival at Montreal, I have received from him a note, in which he acknowledges the receipt of my letter, which had reached him only after his return—he thanks me for the frankness with which I have spoken to him; without expressing an opinion, he tells me that the subject is of the highest importance, and requires the most serious consideration; that before replying with the unreservedness I had used towards him, he must take advice and reflect; that as soon as these consultations and reflections shall have taken place, I shall have a communication from him, which I will immediately transmit to you.

I shall have pleasure in communicating to Aylwin, at the first good opportunity, our correspondence, and that which I have had with Mr. Draper; I have not yet spoken to him on the subject, because it appeared to me that it would come better from you, to whom I had addressed myself, as to the chief of the former administration, and chief of the party with which there appeared to be a desire to form an alliance. But since you wish it, I will see Aylwin; I wished to see him yesterday, but could not meet him.

As for Messrs. Tasché, Chauveau and Cauchon, whom you mention in your note, it is from you or from Morin that the announcement ought to come; when that shall have been done, you may refer them to me, I will give them all the information I possess, but I object to taking the first steps; I am of opinion that the thing ought not to be concealed from them, it would be very wrong to do so; but I have my reasons for thinking that the communication ought to be made to them by you, or at least by Morin.

My letter to Mr. Draper will show you that, like yourself, I am of opinion that the administration for this part of the Province, ought to be re-constructed, and that Mr. Draper ought to insist upon the thing.

Your's,

(Signed,)

R. E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 26th October, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I have received your letter, dated the day before yesterday, and the copy of that which you addressed to Mr. Draper on the 17th of last month.

Morin, who will hand you this letter, will tell you that it is not our correspondence which has given rise to the articles in the *Pilot* and the *Minerve*, to which you allude.

The negociation with which you have been entrusted by Mr. Draper has reached a point at which it ceases to concern me personally. I do not regret it, for it relieves me from all responsibility; and as my exclusion from a new organization of the Ministry thwarts neither my views nor my tastes, I have given my consent to it only the more readily.

There are, however, two points, in your letter to Mr. Draper, on which I must make some remarks,—

Firstly.—On account of the generality of your expressions in some parts of your letter, some persons might, perhaps, give it a meaning different from that which you have no doubt intended to attach to it—they might, perhaps, interpret your letter as admitting in principle that a political party, under our present form of Government, ought to sacrifice one of its members when the caprice of a Governor demands it. If such an opinion should be entertained by some persons of our party, I wish to seize this opportunity to declare that that opinion is not mine. A political party may demand sacrifices from one of its members, but it ought never to immolate him to the rancour or caprices of a Governor.

Secondly.—The part of the same letter in which you speak of the equity of calling the minority to the direction of affairs, seems to require explanation. From its wording, it appears to me to contradict, in some degree, what you had already said on the same subject in another part of your letter. Morin will communicate to you the objection which I made to the wording of this passage.

Your Friend,

(Signed) L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, Nov. 19, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will, after the kind confidence you have placed in me, expect to hear again from me what, under all circumstances, I think should be attempted, in order to accomplish the single end we have proposed to ourselves, viz., to facilitate the formation of a Government which would possess the confidence of the country generally. I have reflected again and again on the matter, with an anxious desire to effect a good understanding with the party with whom you are connected, as constituting the majority of Lower Canada Representatives in the House of Assembly. The illness of Lord Metcalfe has prevented my laying the question before him. But the result of my own views I may fully lay before you.

I feel sensibly that there are obligations which as a politician and a man of honour, I cannot throw aside as regards others,—while, on the other hand, I feel free to expect from others that which, on public grounds,