

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 10th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I am on the point of going into the country, from which I shall not return until Thursday evening. Thinking that perhaps you would like to have, before that time, my answer on the subject which occupied us on Sunday, I write you these lines, which contain what I think of the proposal you then made me to give publicity, either in my own name or otherwise, to the entire correspondence between Mr. Draper and me, and between you and me, since the month of September last.

I have given much attention to this proposal, and I have done so with a sincere desire to be able to come to the conclusion which you seem to wish, namely, that of giving my consent to such publication; but I regret to say that I have not yet been able to convince myself of the propriety of such a step, and of the advantages which might result from it. As to doing the thing in my name, I see nothing which could, on my part, justify such an action; as to ever giving my consent to it, the circumstances and the understanding in which this correspondence was begun and continued, make me think that I cannot do so with propriety.

I have not failed to reflect on the pretence which you put forth, that the correspondence in question having been conducted by me as an intermediate party only, was rather yours than mine, and that you have, therefore, a right to make such use of it as you think proper. I must admit that I would find this unanswerable if, in opening this correspondence with me, you had not yielded, tacitly at first and afterwards expressly to the condition imposed by me, that in case of failure the matter should remain between ourselves. Notwithstanding this, you may be right, and I leave you to judge. If your position is correct, you have no need of my consent; *if you make the publication in virtue of the right you pretend to have, I reserve to myself that of saying that you have acted without my sanction and against my advice.* If you decide on publishing, there are in my letters several parts which should be left out, your excellent judgment will point out these to you. Whatever may be the determination to which you come, I flatter myself our mutual friendship and esteem will not suffer in the least, and that you will consider me as heretofore.

Your devoted confrère and friend,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 11th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your letter of yesterday's date, was not handed to me until quite late the same day, that is to say, after the adjournment of the Court of Appeals, where I had the pleasure of seeing you.

Before answering this letter at length, in the event of my thinking proper to do so, as well for the purpose of rectifying some inaccuracies, as for that of asserting a claim to that justice which is due to my friends and to myself; permit me to request you to inform me, if your refusal to consent to what you call the *publicity* of the correspondence in question, extends to all possible cases in which I might, in accordance with constitutional usages, especially in my capacity of Member of the House of Assembly, be called upon to speak of this correspondence, and if, in a case of that kind, you think you have a right to require that I should preserve silence as to the contents of this correspondence, so absolutely as to have no discretion to exercise in this respect, either in my own personal interest, or in that of the party to which I belong.

Your's

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

TRANSLATION.

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

MONTREAL, 16th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—After the conference we had on Sunday last, I think we understand each other perfectly, as to the use which you may make of our correspondence; therefore it is scarcely necessary to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 11th, called forth by mine of the day before, that the refusal on my part, contained in the latter, to consent to what I might have called *publication* instead of *publicity* of the correspondence in question, does not extend to the possible cases in which you might, according to constitutional usages, and especially in your capacity of Member of the House of Assembly, be called upon to speak of this correspondence, but that it is distinctly understood that in such a case I by no means claim the right to exact that you should preserve silence as to the contents of this correspondence, that on the contrary you have full liberty to exercise in this respect a judicious discretion, as well in your own interest as in that of the party to which you belong.

Your's,

ED. CARON.

(From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

PRIVATE.

MONTREAL, 19th March, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received your note of this date, informing me that in reference to certain communications, partly verbal and partly written, which had passed between us in relation to the administration of public affairs in this Province, and the introduction into office of gentlemen, like yourself, of French Canadian origin, that you had, from the necessity of consulting with the chiefs of the party with whom you were connected,

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