

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. A. N. Morin.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 25th November, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR AND FRIEND,—I have received your two letters dated yesterday; they informed me of the departure of the Governor as to-morrow. This event, which I expected, and which could not have been delayed, confirms me in the line of conduct which I had proposed to myself to follow. I have told you from the beginning, and I think I have written it, that all I intended to do in receiving the communications which were made to me was to transmit them to those whom I considered most likely to know the opinions of the party which it was desired to win back, and to which overtures were made. I willingly undertook the office of a mediator between the recognized leaders of that party and the administration, or rather one of the members of the administration, because I thought I perceived temporary difficulties which prevented these communications from being made directly. I never understood that I was charged with the formation of an administration, and in fact I have never been charged with it, either directly or indirectly; and I think also I told you that if the thing were proposed to me, I should refuse it, and certainly I should have done so. On receiving the last letter from Draper, I immediately transmitted it without comment to Lafontaine, in order to know from him and from you what answer was to be given to it; but as I foresaw what has happened, the departure of the Governor, I was quite determined not to go any further in the business for the moment, feeling sure that the reasons which had caused me to figure in it were soon about to disappear, and that the present administration could very soon treat without any difficulty with the persons who alone are competent to make the necessary changes in it, I allude to Lafontaine, to you, and to the rest of your former colleagues to whom the satisfaction is due, and to whom it belongs, to say how it should be made. For me to remain longer on the scene would be to retard and complicate your operations, it is you, now, who must be applied to, and I am so convinced of that being the course to be pursued, that I shall write immediately to Mr. Draper to that effect. I act thus in justice to you, assuring you at the same time that if you think my assistance can be of use to you in any way, it shall not fail you, and that you will always find me ready to help you by all the means in my power.

According to these views, you see that my presence in Montreal would be useless, and besides, I could not leave this before two or three days; you see also, by what precedes, that you have no cause to fear my spoiling things by going too fast or too far.

In the steps which you will have to adopt, it will perhaps be of some use to you to know that in the letters which I have written and in those which I have transmitted or communicated to you, is found all that has passed between Mr. Draper and myself on the subject which has occupied us.

In the first of our letters you ask me to make known to you my determination, I will tell you that I had not formed any, that that which I might have formed would no longer be suitable, and that now I do not think it necessary to form any.

I thank you for the confidence you shew me when you say that if I am to be the principal in this affair you will rejoice at it, and it is without flattery

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and in all sincerity that I tell you that the thing can only go on well if conducted by you and Lafontaine, and that it is this conviction which has brought me to the determination not to meddle with it in any way, unless it be to assist you if it is in my power.

I am, &c., your's,

(Signed,)

ED. CARON.

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, 26th Nov. 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—The departure of Lord Metcalfe took place this morning. Although this change in no respect alters the opinion I entertain on the necessity of strengthening the local Administration, it materially alters the position in which I am and may be placed, and still more the powers I may have to effect anything beneficial and satisfactory.

I felt it my duty on Monday—the day on which I had the first official communication of His Lordship's intention—to apprise you of it, and in the same spirit I mention to you how I feel my position affected, as you have a right to expect from me the earliest intimation of every thing which may influence your own opinions and actions in this matter.

Believe me, &c.

W. H. DRAPER.

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

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 26th November, 1845.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your note of the 24th. At the same time that you inform me of His Excellency's departure, you say, that you hasten to give me the information, because the news may perhaps change my views as to the nature of the last letter you wrote me. The opinion you have formed is perfectly correct, and the departure of His Excellency must indeed change my position.

You know that in the communications which have passed between us, I have not acted as the leader of a party; I have only lent myself, and that most willingly, as an intermediary between those whom our party regards as its *leaders*, and yourself, in order to forward to them the communications you made to me, and also to transmit to you their views and their ideas upon the subject on which we were engaged. In per