

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Extract of a Letter from the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, Sept. 7, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I deem it my duty to give you in writing, the substance of a conversation I had some time since in Montreal with Mr. Draper, in which he intimated to me the desire he had that some of our friends should join the Administration. The following is the substance of it.

As early as last summer, Mr. Draper, without being as explicit as he was on this occasion, had given me to understand that he would be very glad to see some French Canadians form part of the Administration, other than those who already composed it. He had mentioned Morin as one of the former, and at the same time intimated that he considered as impossible your forming part of it, owing to the personal differences existing between yourself and the Governor; he gave me to understand that there would be some means devised of removing the obstacle, by providing for you otherwise. As to Mr. Baldwin, he seemed to be under the impression that he would be disposed to retire unsolicited, and appeared to be, indeed, possessed of some information on the subject. I considered all this at the time as merely confidential, and to be kept to myself, inasmuch as he had not authorized me to communicate. A few days before my departure for Montreal, I received from him a note, recalling to my recollection the conversation alluded to, and begging of me to inform him what were the difficulties that stood in the way of a reconciliation, in order to ascertain whether some plan could not be devised to remove them. I answered that as I was about going to Montreal, I should there see him and give him an answer. Having accordingly met with him, he strongly insisted upon the advantages that would result to the public in general, and particularly to the French part of the population, by having in the Council of the country, persons knowing the wants of all, and able to provide for them. After having represented to me the injury which our isolated position inflicted upon the whole of Lower Canada, but more particularly our portion of the population, he told me that there were difficulties in the way, but that we ought to consider whether there were no means to overcome them. The first difficulty was to find situations for those who were to be introduced. Thereupon he told me that Mr. Viger could be easily prevailed upon to retire, and that Mr. Papineau desired nothing better; that both these situations should be filled up by French Canadians; he seemed desirous that Morin should be President of the Council; but he wished at all events to see that place filled by a Canadian. He spoke of the office of Solicitor General, which, he said, ought to be filled by one of our origin, and who, although not forming nominally part of the ministry, would, nevertheless, exercise great influence in the conduct of affairs.—He also spoke of the Assistant Secretaryship, the incumbent to which ought to receive handsome emoluments, and who should have, or be able to obtain a seat in Parliament. This was about all that he could for the

present offer to our friends, who, when in power, might themselves strive afterwards to made their share more considerable.

Another difficulty which he pointed out was in reference to yourself.—As regarded you, he said that nothing would afford him greater pleasure than to have you as a colleague, but that as the Governor and yourself could not meet, the idea of seeing you form part of the administration must be given up so long as Lord Metcalfe remained in power; but that it would be unjust to sacrifice a man of your influence and merit; that your friends would be highly censurable if they did so; but that this difficulty could easily be made to disappear, by giving you an appointment with which you would be satisfied. I understood, or rather he told me the intention was to place you on the Bench.

As to Mr. Baldwin, he said little about him; but I understood, as I did in my first conversation of which I have spoken, that he thought he would retire of himself. He said that there were other details, upon which he felt very sure that we could agree. All this was told me with full permission to communicate it, and indeed with an earnest request that I should do all in my power to bring about a junction of parties, and to induce some of our friends to accept of such seats in the Council as could, for the present, be vacated for them. I cannot forbear telling you that I am of opinion that the present state of things cannot last. What is offered is indeed little, but it might be a beginning of something better. It is very possible that I may not view the matter rightly; but it does seem to me that the overtures made are worthy of consideration. I communicate them to you, that you may consider of them, and you are at liberty to communicate on the subject with your friends, but this must be done with discretion.

I am, &c.

R. E. CARON.

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

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 8th Sept. 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—You will receive with this, the letter I wrote you yesterday, which, although written in great haste, contains, in substance at least, a correct account of what passed between Mr. Draper and myself, and also a succinct but sincere *exposé* of my general opinions on the important subject which gave rise to it.

Whatever may be your views of the subject, whether they agree with mine or not, I trust you will do me the justice to believe that the motives by which I am actuated are honest and disinterested.

All that I intended to do was to communicate to you and Morin the overtures that had been made to me, fully determined not to urge the thing

further; if you
which might
impossible,—
shall submit a

With regard
even allude
upon this m
personally.

It is unne
confidential
other friends
be without a
between us
done.

[F]

TRANSLAT

MY DE
not wish t
result of t
not very
now, lest
attend to
Since my
we had t
the way
desiring,
out serio
cular, an
belong-
those pe
the obj
whom
within
write a
reply.
decisiv
depend
with t
of tre
have
was a