

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

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further ; if you are of opinion that the proposed, or any other, arrangement which might place our friends in power, is, under the circumstances, impossible,—should such be the case, I should sincerely regret it, but I shall submit and await more favorable circumstances.

With regard to that part of the transaction which regards you, I do not even allude to it, being of opinion that in your position, you ought to look upon this matter as if it had reference to another, and not to yourself personally.

It is unnecessary for me to state that my letter of yesterday's date is of a confidential nature, and is to be communicated only to Morin, and such other friends as you can rely upon ; for if the proposed arrangement should be without any result, it would be better for all parties that it should remain between us. Write me immediately, and say what you think is best to be done.

R. E. CARON.

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

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 8th September, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have always put off writing to you, because I did not wish to write without having something certain to tell you as to the result of the mission I took upon myself at your request. Although I am not very far advanced in the business, I must nevertheless write to you now, lest my very long silence should make you think that I have failed to attend to a matter, which is certainly far too important to be neglected. Since my return from Montreal, I have thought much of the conversation we had together ; and I began by convincing myself that the difficulties in the way of an understanding though great were not insurmountable ;—and desiring, as I do, to put an end to a state of things which cannot last without serious injury to the country generally, and to Lower Canada in particular, and more especially to that portion of the population to which I belong,—I immediately determined to place myself in communication with those persons whom I regarded as able and willing to assist me in promoting the object we had in view. But one of those persons, and the one on whom I most relied, has been absent since my return and came back only within the last few days ; another to whom it was necessary that I should write answered me only yesterday, and from a third I have as yet had no reply. Notwithstanding this, I should probably be now able to give you a decisive answer, but that those on whom the success of our plan mainly depends reside in the District of Montreal,—it is necessary to communicate with them by letter, and you know how slow and disagreeable this method of treating any difficult and delicate business always is. I should certainly have gone to Montreal, had I not been so much occupied that the journey was almost impossible for me.