

whom you are more particularly connected, I have to secure, much co-operation, as well as to enter into much consultation, with those *with*, as well as those *under*, whom I am acting, ere I shall be able to reply to you in the same spirit as you have so kindly addressed me.

Believe me, my dear sir, with every sentiment of respect, sincerely
your's,

W. H. DRAPER.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 20th October, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—You promised to send me a copy of your letter to Mr. Draper, I have not yet received it. *I should like to see it in order not to expose myself in conversation, to saying any thing which might make the contents known.*

Mr. Draper has been in town since the beginning of last week.

If you have no objection, I should much like you to communicate to Mr. Aylwin the nature of this correspondence, at least of my answer. Although I should have nothing to do with the reorganization of the Ministry, if that takes place, and that consequently, I am free from all responsibility in that respect, yet I think it is right that Mr. Aylwin should know my views on the subject. I assure you I should like also to have them communicated to Messrs. Tasché, Chauveau and Cauchon. I must, however, leave that to your decision.

Mr. Draper ought to insist on the entire reconstruction of the Ministry for Lower Canada, or resign; otherwise his step is a blunder.

Your's,

(Signed,)

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

QUEBEC, 24th October, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—The public meeting held here yesterday, on the subject of a rail-road between Halifax and Quebec, having lasted longer than I expected, it was out of my power to write to you, as I had said in my note of the day before that I would. I acquit myself to-day of this promise, as well as of that which I made you some time ago, of transmitting to you a copy of the letter which I wrote to Mr. Draper, in answer to the communication which he had made to me, and which I have already imparted to you. If I have not sent you this copy sooner, it is that I have seen in the *Pilot* and the *Mineræ*

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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.