

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,

transmitted t
actually in t
that you are
cipating that
communicat
come public
your hands.

Our comm
with you, in
place that c
into office g
said that un
ance on eac
dentially on
respective o
possible. I
sed with yo
sibility of b
would exer
aware that
probability
rence, how
of the part
me, was m

The lett
were, on n
as I under
mistake no
strongly as
be left, to

The cor
ters, may
that public
character,
uc. It of
observe th
ever intim
you, out o
any third
my part,
tions with
rise, to se

I have
nion I en

transmitted to them my letters addressed to you ; that these letters are now actually in the possession of your friends, to whom you had sent them ; that you are ignorant what use they may intend to make of them, but, anticipating that they may possibly make them public, you felt it your duty to communicate the fact to me, that, in case our correspondence should become public, I might know under what circumstances it had passed out of your hands.

Our communications began by a conversation, sought for on my part with you, in which I expressed my desire to ascertain (if you thought fit to place that confidence in me) whether the obstacles in the way of bringing into office gentlemen such as yourself were not to be surmounted, and I said that unless gentlemen of opposite parties could place sufficient reliance on each other's honour and character, to converse frankly and confidentially on such a subject, there could be no means of ascertaining their respective opinions, or whether any "*rapprochement*" between them was possible. I understood you to assent to this proposition, and I then discussed with you my views as to the state of political parties, and the possibility of bringing the French Canadian party into a position by which they would exercise a just share in administering public affairs. You made me aware that you must confer with others before you could inform me what probability there was that any result could be attained. To such conference, however, I was no party—to this moment I do not know the names of the parties with whom it was to be held—nor, so far as you informed me, was my name to be made use of.

The letters which I addressed to you, in furtherance of our conversation, were, on my part, certainly written in the same spirit of confidence which as I understood was to govern our conversation. They were all, if I mistake not, marked in a manner unequivocally to shew this,—in fact, as strongly as is consistent with a proper regard of what is due, and should be left, to the honour of a gentleman.

The course which your friends, in whose hands you had placed these letters, may take in forcing you into the position of being a party to making that public which was confidential, and communicated in reliance on your character, is a matter in respect to which I do not feel I have anything to say. It of course, rests between you and them. As regards myself, I must observe that I never supposed, nor did you, until your note of this morning, ever intimate to me that you had placed the letters, which I addressed to you, out of your own control, or even that you had put it into the power of any third party to violate the confidence we had placed in each other. On my part, I can assure you, I had invariably taken care, in all communications with others to which the subject matter of our correspondence gave rise, to secure that your name should not be brought into question.

I have felt it due to myself to make this reply to your note, that the opinion I entertain of the character of our communications may be known to

you as soon as possible after I am apprized of the position in which you are placed with your own friends in regard to it.

Believe me, &c.

W. H. DRAPER.

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

TETU'S HOTEL, 19th March, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—The object I had in view in the communications which have passed between us, was,—as I have frequently told you in writing and personally,—to make you acquainted with the views and opinions of my political friends, in order to see whether it might not be possible to come to an arrangement with them—in order to fulfil the mission I had undertaken, it was absolutely necessary to consult the leaders of the party with whom I had to negotiate. As many of them lived at a distance, I adopted, as the easiest and most open mode of communication, the plan of sending to them both your letters and my own, as they were exchanged between us. It thus happens that the important part of our correspondence is now in the possession of the friends to whom I sent it. I am not aware what use they intend to make or can make of these documents, but anticipating the possibility of their using them and making them public, I think it my duty to mention the fact to you, in order that if our correspondence should become public you may know under what circumstances the thing took place, and how and why the papers that compose it passed out of my hands.

I am, as ever,

Dear Sir, your's,

E. CARON.

[Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.]

SUNDAY, 22d March, 8 P. M.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I called at your hotel—you were not in—I leave with you a *summary* which I have just drawn. I have not read it a second time, expecting to read it with you. Do me the favor to return it to-morrow morning early, and to state whether his mode suits you—I believe it is the best.

Your's truly,

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

(From
TRANSLATION.

MY DEAR F
at all; the fo
little in accor

I repeat it,
before the pu
thought of its
that you have
public, I pre
point of style
things which
to an intimate

These thin
the justice to
because all tr

(Fr

TRANSLATION

MY DEAR
lend me yest
of publishing

What has
indispensabl
taken part in

I would no
ing, before p
opinions of t

In making
and importa
notes excha
would like t

I would s
part in whic
of several in