

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

MONDAY MORNING, 23d March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your abstract of my two first letters does not please me at all; the form which you give to these communications is too solemn—too little in accordance with the tone of mind in which they were written.

I repeat it, I shall regret the necessity which will have forced you to put before the public a correspondence conducted, on my part, without the least thought of its being destined for publication; but if, in the judicious discretion that you have to exercise on the subject, you think proper to make my letters public, I prefer that they should be shown such as I wrote them, although in point of style they may not be what I would wish, and although they contain things which they would not have contained if they had not been addressed to an intimate friend, out of whose hands I did not expect they would pass.

These things, which you will easily distinguish, you will perhaps do me the justice to omit, not because I think I have written what is not true, but because all truths are not to be spoken at all times.

I am, dear Sir, your's,

(Signed,) R. E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

MONDAY, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—In returning you the papers which you had the kindness to lend me yesterday, I must inform you of the determination to which I have come of publishing myself and in my name the correspondence in question.

What has passed within these few days causes me to look upon this step as indispensable, both as regards myself and in the interest of those who have taken part in it.

I would not have adopted this determination without consulting you and obtaining, before putting it into execution, your consent and that of Morin, if the opinions of both of you on this subject were not perfectly well known to me.

In making this publication I shall confine myself, of course, to the serious and important part of our correspondence, leaving out the private and familiar notes exchanged between us; unless indeed there should be some that you would like to make known, and which in that case I beg you to point out to me.

I would submit to you also the propriety of leaving out of your first letter the part in which you cite, in support of the principles you put forth, the example of several individuals occupying elevated stations in society and for whom it

might be disagreeable to be thus dragged before the public, and that without any great necessity, since your principles are sufficiently incontestable to have no need of being sustained by the examples which you cite. I will do, however, as you please in this respect.—I will publish the whole if you do not authorize me to leave out the part in question.

I am very sincerely,

Your's,

E. CARON.

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

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your letter of this day's date relieves me from a great embarrassment. Although the correspondence in question appears to me more than ever of a parliamentary public nature, I saw with much regret that you had latterly looked at it in another point of view. If I have differed from your view, notwithstanding all that has taken place in Parliament and out of Parliament, among the friends of the party to which I belong, \* \* \* \* \* You admit, now, the principle on which I had proposed to myself to act; you even claim a right to do it independently yourself—a right which I do not deny you. I think, then, that it is not fitting to multiply details as to the way in which you may give effect to your way of thinking, and leaving you entirely free, I note the fact that by your own admission I become equally so on my part, even if I was not so before.

I am, very sincerely,

Your devoted Servant,

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

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

MONTREAL, April, 6, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—The correspondence which passed between us, and, as a necessary consequence, between me and some of my friends to whom I was obliged to communicate it, has lately given rise to some debates in your House; the newspapers have taken up the subject, and it has become the theme of public discussions in which it is represented as altogether different from what it really is.

I have always thought that the publication of this correspondence, would be of no advantage, and have done all I could to prevent it;—but from the turn the business has taken and the state in which things now are, it seems to me preferable that the matter should appear in its true light, and should be judged of and appreciated according to its true merits and at what

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