

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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it is really worth, and not according to reports which must be more or less false and erroneous.

I am therefore now of opinion, that it would be an act of justice to me, and for the interest of all those who have taken part in this correspondence that it should be at once published,—and that it should be so at my instance rather than in any other way. I flatter myself that you will coincide in opinion with me, and that you will give your consent to a proceeding which I had not anticipated and sincerely regret, but to which I am driven by circumstances.

In effecting the publication, I propose to leave out all that does not bear upon the principal matter;—I have looked upon many of your notes as destined for my eye alone; they have never been shewn, and have never gone out of my hands. These will be omitted, unless you express your wish to the contrary, of which you will please to inform me.

Waiting your answer, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your very devoted servant,

E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

MONTREAL, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I delayed answering your note of this morning from the necessity of consulting some friends, as to the course I ought to take. A new feature has just presented itself. Mr. Lafontaine has, a few minutes ago, given Notice that to-morrow he will communicate the correspondence he has to the House. I do not know what portion of the correspondence between you and myself is in his hands—I assume that all that has been written is not. My consent to publication is now quite unnecessary, and I am, on the contrary, obliged to ask you to allow me to make public any thing you and I have interchanged, which Mr. Lafontaine either may not choose, or may not be able, from not possessing it, to communicate.

I am told that it has been asserted that some letter of Mr. Lafontaine to you was sent or communicated to me, and that I answered it. I wish your authority for stating that you never communicated to me, either Mr. Lafontaine's letter, or that of any other person relating to this matter, otherwise than your letter of the 17th September last may be considered communication of them.

Your answer before the House meet to-morrow will oblige

Your, my dear Sir,

Very faithfully,

W. H. DRAPER.