

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

MONTREAL, 7th April, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—Before replying to your note of yesterday evening, I must inform you that at the same time that I wrote to you in the morning to inform you of my wish to publish our correspondence, I wrote also to Mr. Lafontaine, not for the purpose of asking his consent, for I knew that he wished for such publication, but to let him know that I had decided, under the new circumstances of the case, to do of my own accord, what I had before declined to permit.

In a note received from Mr. Lafontaine, in answer to mine, he has given me to understand, that my determination myself to publish it, was regarded as an abandonment of my opposition to the publication of the correspondence by others. It is, in all probability, in consequence of this mode of looking at the matter, that Mr. Lafontaine, now considers himself at liberty to do that which he was not at liberty to do before, and it is for this reason, I suppose, that he has given the notice of which you inform me in your note. However this may be, I have thought it right to put you in possession of the facts, and to acquaint you that I have no participation in this proceeding.

I pass now to the contents of your letter.

The portion of your correspondence which is in Mr. Lafontaine's possession, consists, if I mistake not, in the following documents:—

1st.—Two letters written by me to that gentleman, and dated respectively, the 7th and 8th of September, containing the substance of our conversation at Montreal, in the preceding August.

2ndly.—Your letter of the 16th October, in answer to mine of the 17th September.

3rdly.—My own letter of the 17th September.

4thly Your other letter of the 19th November, being a further reply to mine of the 17th September.

5thly.—The letter I wrote you on the 26th November.

The rest of my correspondence which is out of my possession, consists of several letters written by me on the subject in question to Messrs. Lafontaine and Morin, or which I have received from them. These letters have in fact formed the basis, in part of the communications I have made to you, and these gentlemen were the friends of whom I spoke in my letters to you;—but you never saw their letters, or mine to them, and their names were never mentioned to you, except that of Mr. Lafontaine in my letter of the 17th of September.

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I therefore willingly give you the authority you ask for, to contradict in my name, any report which may tend to induce a belief, "that some of Mr. Lafontaine's letters were sent or communicated to you, and that you "replied to them." The letter of the 17th September contains all the information derived from them, which has been communicated by me to you. That letter speaks for itself.

You are also authorized to make public such portions of our correspondence as you may think proper, and which Mr. Lafontaine may not wish or may not have it in his power to publish.

Hoping that this answer will be satisfactory to you, I subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your very devoted servant,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

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

TRANSLATION.

TUESDAY MORNING, 7th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, only for the purpose of preventing your inferring from my silence that I acquiesce in the doctrine it contains.—I am, on the contrary, of opinion that you give to my letter of Monday an interpretation of which it is not susceptible, and that you claim the benefit of an imaginary admission which is not to be found in that letter.

This is not the first time we have differed in opinion, I wish most sincerely that it may be the last.

In this hope I subscribe myself,

Your's,

R. E. CARON.