

measure would be totally useless to the Government at the same time that it would be very injurious (in a political point of view) to those who should become parties to it.

I think I am not mistaken when I tell you that such is the opinion of all those to whom I have spoken, and this being the case, you will find no person disposed to lend himself to the arrangement you contemplate, (that of putting new men in the seats of the two members who would retire) or, that if you find any one willing to do so, his services will be of no kind of use to you.

Such is the information I have been able to gather; I believe it to be consonant to the opinion of the great majority of those who take part in politics in this portion of the Province. The realization of the desired coalition is not without difficulty but it is *possible*,—and if it offers the only means of putting an end to our troubles, it must be accomplished. If I could contribute to bring about such a state of things, I should account myself very fortunate, and for this purpose, as for every other which may tend to the welfare of the country, you may always command my services.

Trusting that you will have the goodness to pardon the want of arrangement in this letter, written as it is in the midst of a multitude of business, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with the highest consideration and esteem, dear Sir, your very humble and devoted servant,

ED. CARON.

[From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.]

MONTREAL, 16th October, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—You may not have observed by the papers that I have been rather more than a month absent on circuit, from which I returned only yesterday, and you will, I am sure, readily excuse me that I do no more at this moment than acknowledge the receipt of your's of the 17th, and thank you most sincerely for the frank explanations it contains.

You will feel that some reflection is necessary before I can fully appreciate how far any exertions of mine are likely to be successful in bringing to a favourable result the subject of our conference. My heart is earnestly engaged in the effort to obtain a result so beneficial:—content either to share in the task or to witness its successful accomplishment by others.

You shall hear from me as soon as I can possibly devote to the subject the time its importance demands—for no one will better understand than yourself that while individually I am ready to make any effort to attain an end I consider so desirable, and for that purpose have fully opened to you my desire to learn what prospect there was of success with those with

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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