

Morin, who will hand you this letter, will tell you that it is not our correspondence which has given rise to the articles in the *Pilot* and the *Minerve*, to which you allude.

The negociation with which you have been entrusted by Mr. Draper has reached a point at which it ceases to concern me personally. I do not regret it, for it relieves me from all responsibility; and as my exclusion from a new organization of the Ministry thwarts neither my views nor my tastes, I have given my consent to it only the more readily.

There are, however, two points, in your letter to Mr. Draper, on which I must make some remarks,—

Firstly.—On account of the generality of your expressions in some parts of your letter, some persons might, perhaps, give it a meaning different from that which you have no doubt intended to attach to it—they might, perhaps, interpret your letter as admitting in principle that a political party, under our present form of Government, ought to sacrifice one of its members when the caprice of a Governor demands it. If such an opinion should be entertained by some persons of our party, I wish to seize this opportunity to declare that that opinion is not mine. A political party may demand sacrifices from one of its members, but it ought never to immolate him to the rancour or caprices of a Governor.

Secondly.—The part of the same letter in which you speak of the equity of calling the minority to the direction of affairs, seems to require explanation. From its wording, it appears to me to contradict, in some degree, what you had already said on the same subject in another part of your letter. Morin will communicate to you the objection which I made to the wording of this passage.

Your Friend,

(Signed) L. H. LAFONTAINE.

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, Nov. 19, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will, after the kind confidence you have placed in me, expect to hear again from me what, under all circumstances, I think should be attempted, in order to accomplish the single end we have proposed to ourselves, viz., to facilitate the formation of a Government which would possess the confidence of the country generally. I have reflected again and again on the matter, with an anxious desire to effect a good understanding with the party with whom you are connected, as constituting the majority of Lower Canada Representatives in the House of Assembly. The illness of Lord Metcalfe has prevented my laying the question before him. But the result of my own views I may fully lay before you.

I feel sensibly that there are obligations which as a politician and a man of honour, I cannot throw aside as regards others,—while, on the other hand, I feel free to expect from others that which, on public grounds,

I am prepared to do. Now I am, as I told you, ready to make way as regards my own office. I do not value public life enough to *cling* to it, or to take any course but that which I can openly justify to remain in it. So much for myself.

I have felt our Council required to be strengthened, and that the offices of Speaker of the Legislative Council and President of the Executive Council might be united as a public saving in furtherance of my design.

The position of Mr. Viger, I feel entitles him to every possible consideration on my part. Every regard to his feelings and his wishes should, and must be, (as I am sure you will feel,) shewn by me. But I will not conceal from you, nor indeed have I, that I have long viewed his retirement from the position he occupies as essential to the strengthening of the Government. The mode of effecting it is another consideration.

As to my other Lower Canada colleagues, Messrs. Daly, Papineau and Smith, I can state to you what I believe to be their feelings, especially the two former. They are not anxious to stick to office, to embarrass the present or any future Governor in reforming his Council. With Mr. Papineau I have often held conversations, from which I feel certain that he would not hesitate a moment between retiring to benefit his country, and remaining to create difficulty. With regard to Mr. Smith, I have held no conversation with him on the possible question of his retirement.

I can answer for Mr. Morris and Mr. Cayley, as for myself, that our holding office is dependent, on our doing so on terms which will not compromise our characters as individuals, and will be of public service. If either of these grounds fail, we would retire. No difficulty can arise with either of us in making any arrangements for a good government.

This being premised, I wish now to put to you this question, to prevent all misunderstanding hereafter, and to enable me to act fairly in the matter towards those *with* whom and *through* whom I have to act,—as I intimated to you in my last,—“What offices would require to be vacated, or what changes made in the present Administration, in order to satisfy the just expectations of the French Canadians generally, and to secure their support?” I do not ask you to name—as the time for such a proposition has not arrived, nor would this be the way to make it. But if I can state distinctly what is expected as the *sine qua non*, I am in a position to lay the case fairly before the proper parties, and to consult with them all as to what we will advise. You will, I am sure, see I cannot otherwise act an honourable part to my colleagues.

Hitherto our communications have been of a character confined to ourselves. From my esteem for your character, and my confidence in your judgment, and, from the high position you hold, I sought an explanation that I might—opening my own views—ascertain (if you felt right to communicate yours,) what prospect there was of a *rapprochement*. So far our confidence I believe has been mutual. Your last letter contains a frank and interesting *exposé* of the general view of yourself and political friends.

I can now go forward the moment I have your answer ; but as my course forward is to lay the question before the Governor and my colleagues I cannot do this, involving your name, without full consent, and, added to it, the expression of your opinion on the question I have put as to the necessary changes.

Believe me, &c.

(From the Hon. A. N. Morin to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 24th Nov. 1845.

DEAR SIR, AND FRIEND,—Our friend to whom your last letter was addressed, does not intend to take upon himself to reply to it, and that not from any motive of a personal nature towards you, for you know to the contrary, but because in the present aspect of affairs, he thinks it proper for him to abstain from taking any active part in the business ; and he tells me that he intimated as much to you in his last letter. His advice, however, I am assured, will not be withheld from us, and it is only after a long conversation with him that I write to you.

My first intention was to write you a long letter, containing the result of that conversation ; but you know that for a letter of any length, I am obliged to employ another hand ; I do so even in this instance, suffering from rheumatism at this moment.

We thought afterwards that a letter would afford a very imperfect means of communication. For this reason, in spite of the advanced season, it is perhaps of the highest importance that you should come to Montreal, more, even, for the purpose of having a clear understanding with your principal correspondent, than to learn what we ourselves think—if you cannot come, I shall be under the necessity of writing the letter I intended to write. But we think that in any event an interview with your correspondent would obviate many of the dangers which attend writing, and would afford you the means of discussing the subject more thoroughly and more amply.

Our principal remark on the whole, is that your correspondent has changed his ground, that he has almost resumed, although on a larger scale, the position which he held before your letter ; that he wishes to make us responsible for a portion of the subject with which we do not interfere, and that he proceeds still by names and exceptions, instead of placing the two contracting parties on a footing of equality, and of admitting that the position to be held by each results from the support they respectively receive from their friends.

This is the best I can say to you in brief and in this form. If you will be so good as to let me know your determination, I will give it effect with