

not only a despot, but with having introduced into the country the hydra of the fable and the least with seven heads. That is indeed a strange fashion of eulogizing one's leader. But let us proceed. In another number *Le Pays*, speaking of Mr. Lafontaine's retirement, says:

"Messrs. Lafontaine and Baldwin, the two most backward men in the late Administration, have both gone back to private life. Mr. Lafontaine, the greater tactician of the two, feigns ill-health; as to Mr. Baldwin, he was simply shown the door."

If the Liberal party do not understand the interests of the country, no party understand better how "to show the door to their leaders."

"Now, we are of those who believe that Lafontaine retired from public life simply because he had abandoned all hope of being able to continue his system of restricting the rights of the people, of invading the privileges of the House, and of increasing the prerogatives of the Ministers..... The *Journal de Québec* acquired its Conservative ideas at the school of the Baldwins and the Lafontaines."

On the 24th August, 1853, we also find:

"It is notorious that Mr. Lafontaine, notwithstanding the silence of his retirement, stood as a perpetual skeleton in the cupboard of the present Ministry. For us, we had no cause to fear Mr. Lafontaine, for his return to public life was an impossibility, owing to the principles with which he had tried to inculcate the Legislature during the last Parliament. We do not wish to say that Mr. Lafontaine would not have found an electoral division to return him to Parliament, but he could never have found in the House the elements wherewith to reconstitute the despised party which governed us from 1847 to 1851. Mr. Cauchon is the only member of that party who has remained in the House; and this small individuality, embodying in itself the *debris* of that party, could not send forth the slightest ray of hope."

Now, let us see the opinion expressed by *L'Avenir*, of the 5th October, 1850:

"The cause of Democracy is nothing new. From the day when these reactionary men (Baldwin and Lafontaine) shall fall, swept away by the flood of light of public opinion shed upon their deeds or by one of those occurrences in appearance accidental, and which no one can foresee, but which are so justly called providential, from that day our programme (that of democracy) will again be that of the mass of the French Canadian population."

I may observe here, that it is not surprising that our opponents should try to steal our mighty dead, when we see prominent members of the Liberal party eulogizing now the late lamented Sir George Cartier, whom they disparaged, whom they maligned in his lifetime, and even represented as the assassin of his nationality. But there is another reason why the Grits of Ontario and the Rouges of Quebec cannot claim Baldwin and Lafontaine as the founders of their party. These two great men would never, to rise to power, have attempted to kindle civil discord in our midst. Their whole political life was devoted to unite two races which had been so divided in the past.