

which his lordship declared that Mr. Lafontaine, the leading member of the Administration, had expressed certain opinions; which he felt it necessary to communicate to the Imperial Government. Mr. Lafontaine has positively denied that he ever expressed such opinions. From an authorized statement made in one of the administration papers it appears, that the despatch was founded on a report made by Mr. Higginson of a private conversation with Mr. Lafontaine, which was entirely misrepresented, and which was communicated to the Colonial Secretary without Mr. Lafontaine having been offered any opportunity of explanation. And yet, Lord Metcalfe pledged himself for the truth of this report.

It is right that you my Lord, should be made acquainted with facts now universally admitted in Canada. I shall not go into detail but shall state briefly the system of conferring offices in Canada under Lord Metcalfe. There were two channels for applications for office, one through the Governor's Private Secretary, Mr. Higginson, the other through the Responsible Ministers of the country. I need scarcely inform your Lordship that the opponents of the administration generally made use of the former channel and its supporters of the latter. A constant correspondence relative to these applications and other public business was kept up between the Private Secretary and those who chose to correspond with him. The Responsible advisers of the Governor were kept in total ignorance of this correspondence and neither knew the names of applicants for office nor their chances of success until the Governor had determined on their appointment. Such my Lord is the naked truth. Let me shew the operation of this system by reference to a case with which Lord Metcalfe had nothing to do, but which is an admirable illustration of its working. An office became vacant in one of our Districts. Application was made either to the Governor personally or through his Private Secretary on behalf of a gentleman whose connections were all known to be opposed in politics to the administration. This application was not communicated to the Ministry, but the Private Secretary addressed a letter to one of the leading members of the opposition, in whose office the applicant had been a student, enquiring into his qualifications. The answer was of course in the highest degree favourable, and the appointment was determined on without the Ministers who were held responsible for it, and who were supposed by the whole country to have recommended it, hearing one

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