

"Mais, dit le Dr. Nelson, j'ai tâché de mettre M. Papineau à cou- Chap.
vert; j'ai voulu le traiter avec indulgence en ne dévoilant pas sa xxxix
conduite.—Si c'étaient là vos motifs, M. le Dr. Nelson, vous n'au-
riez pas dû traiter si durement le Dr. Côte, qui, si vous dites la 1837.
vérité aujourd'hui, la disait également à Corbeau. S'il disait la
vérité, il était tout au plus indiscret, nullement méprisable: il ne
méritait pas d'aussi sévères reproches; s'il disait faux, c'est vous
qui les méritez aujourd'hui."

Doctor Nelson, it would appear by the above, vindicated, down
to a certain epoch, Mr. Papineau against the foul imputation of
having deserted him at St. Denis, alleging, in his defence, that he
(Doctor Nelson) had insisted that Mr. Papineau should not take
part in the contest that was about to take place with the Queen's
troops, but absent himself; and that he accordingly did so at his,
the Doctor's, special desire. Mr. Papineau's reappearance in pub-
lic life, which Doctor Nelson thought might be prejudicial to his new
patron, Mr. Lafontaine, induced him, however, to give a very dif-
ferent version of the matter. It is the general opinion, I believe,
that he would have evinced a wiser and more manly, as well as more
consistent course, by observing silence on this head. His subse-
quent acceptance of office, it is also to be observed, at the hands
of Mr. Lafontaine—an office created, as some have thought, with
an eye to reward him for the antagonism to his former leader, Mr.
Papineau—has, however worthily he fills the office, and all admit
that he worthily does so, finally divested the zeal, with which he
signalized the onslaught upon his old chief, altogether of the pre-
stige of disinterestedness and patriotism that seemed, at first, to
surround it, and subjected the Doctor to the suspicion of venial
motives in the tergiversation alluded to, if such really there were.

For my part, with equal good will and personal regard for
both, I cannot decide between them—

"Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites."

Quebec, January, 1853.

R. C.

MR. PAPINEAU.

(Referring to page 466.)

It was, perhaps, this sort of adulation, or at least undue homage
to the talents, most certainly of a high order, of Mr. Papineau in
the meridian of his career, that may have inspired him with an
over confidence in his moral power and resources, and proved the
ruin of himself and the cause he had embraced, viz., the "*natio-
nalité*" of his compatriots of French origin, and independence of his
native country, in unison with their desires. This, there is reason
to believe, he expected (very absurdly, I must say,) to achieve by
moral means and the force of public opinion only, without coming