

(Copy.)

Government House,
Kingston, Sept. 13, 1842.

Sir,

Correspondence
between His Ex^y
and M. Lafon-
taine.

Having taken into my most earnest and anxious consideration the conversations which have passed between us, I find my desire to invite to the aid of and cordial co-operation with my Government, the population of French origin in this Province unabated, and have, therefore, not waited for the result of your deliberations, but, on the contrary, have been considering how far I can possibly meet the views of those who have the confidence of that part of the population, so as to make their accession to the Government satisfactory to themselves, and at the same time accompanied by that mutual confidence which can alone make it beneficial to the country.

I have accordingly come, not without difficulty, to the conclusion, that, for such an object, I will consent to the retirement of the Attorney-General, Mr. Ogden, from the office which he now holds, upon its being distinctly understood that provision will be made for him commensurate with his long and faithful services.

Upon this retirement, I am prepared to offer to you the situation of Attorney-General for *Lower Canada*, with a seat in my Executive Council.

The office of Solicitor-General in *Lower Canada* has long been kept vacant, in the hope of some arrangement, by which the object which I have always had in view might have been assisted; and I shall be happy to listen to your suggestion of the name of any gentleman of British origin, whose co-operation in the Government will aid us in the attainment of one common object.

I have reverted carefully and anxiously to your expressed wish of being joined in your adherence to the Government by a sufficient number of supporters to ensure the confidence of those whose interests you represent.

I find that one of my own plans for the advantage of *Lower Canada*, viz.—the distribution of a portion of too crowded population of your frontier settlements over a larger extent of territory, may be made to coincide with your views.

Mr. Girouard has been represented to me as a gentleman possessing administrative faculties of a high order, and at the same time the confidence of his countrymen.

He can mutually assist in forwarding my object in this respect; and I have therefore determined, if I shall be successful in inducing you to accept my proposition, on offering to him the situation at present held by Mr. Davidson, together with a seat in the Council, on the understanding that the latter gentleman shall also be provided for in a manner suitable to his just pretensions, and that Mr. Girouard shall be elected by some constituency a Member of the Assembly.

I have further determined to offer the confidential post of Clerk of the Council to some gentleman of your recommendation; and I would suggest that the reputation enjoyed by Mr. Morin or Mr. Parent would designate them as perhaps among the fittest persons for your recommendation.

Mr. Baldwin's differences with the the Government having arisen chiefly from his desire to act in concert with the Representatives of the French portion of the population, and as I hope these differences are now happily removed, I shall be willing to avail myself of his services.

Mr. Draper has tendered to me the resignation of his office. I shall always regret the loss of such assistance as he has uniformly afforded me, and shall feel the imperative obligation of considering his claims upon the Government, whenever an opportunity may offer, of adequately acknowledging them. This will leave the office of Attorney-General, with

a seat in the Council, at my disposal, and I am prepared to offer it to Mr. Baldwin.

The absence of Mr. Sherwood deprives me of the opportunity of ascertaining how far he might be willing to accede to this arrangement, or of knowing whether he is ready to fulfil one of the conditions of his appointment by obtaining a seat in the Assembly.

The disposal of his office must, therefore, be left as a matter for future consideration.

From my knowledge of the sentiments entertained by all the gentlemen who now compose my constitutional advisers, I see no reason to doubt that a strong and united Council might be formed on the basis of this proposition.

In this persuasion, I have gone to the utmost length to meet, and even to surpass, your demands; and if, after such an overture, I shall find that my efforts to secure the political tranquillity of the country are unsuccessful, I shall at least have the satisfaction of feeling that I have exhausted all the means which the most anxious desire to accomplish this great object enabled me to devise.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed.)

Chas. Bagot.

L. H. Lafontaine, Esquire.

(Copy.)

Kingston,
16th September, 1842.

Mr. Lafontaine, having respectful reference to the letter which His Excellency, the Governor-General, addressed to him on the thirteenth September, instant, and to the several audiences to which he was invited by His Excellency yesterday, has the honour to communicate to His Excellency, that he accepts His Excellency's proposal to come into office on the arrangement to which he understands His Excellency to have assented, that is to say, as contained in His Excellency's letter, modified as follows:—

Firstly.—Mr. Lafontaine respectfully conceives it to be understood that the offices of Attorney-General of *Lower Canada* and Solicitor-General of *Upper Canada* are immediately to become vacant.

Secondly.—That the proposition to make provision for the retiring officers, Mr. Ogden and Mr. Davidson, is to be considered an open question.

(Copy.)

Memorandum of the Governor-General.

The Governor-General has received Mr. Lafontaine's communication of this day's date, by which he accepts office upon the terms offered in the Governor-General's letter of the 13th instant, subject to the modifications stated in the communication.

The Governor-General concurs in those modifications.

And also, a Return to an Address to His Excellency, *Lakes St. Francis and St. Louis*, the Governor General, of the 19th instant.

Return to an Address of the House of Assembly, praying the Governor General to order the proper officer to lay before the House the Estimate made by Mr. Keefer, of £255,900, alluded to in the late Lord Sydenham's message of last Session, (in a memorandum of the Chairman of the Board of Works,) with any plans, surveys, reports, or estimates, relating to the connexion of *Lakes St. Francis and St. Louis*, by means of a Canal; with a copy of such parts of any Despatch or Despatches from the Colonial Secretary, referring to the same subject.

S. B. Harrison,

Secretary.

Kingston,
20th September, 1842.

Estimate