

Toronto 17 Dec 1841

My dear Sir

I saw the article you allude to with much pain and the second one in the last Examiner referring to your letter in the "Series" with still greater pain - Yours afforded me the opportunity which I should have been happy to have seen him improve of saying something of a healing tendency in reply - I am as you know I have always been most unwilling to believe that a complete break up is to take place in the party - But if it must be so it cannot be helped - The consequences will be most injurious, but I have no doubt Providence will bring good out of it in the end - At the same time I shall I confess feel deeply mortified - Not on my own account but on that of my country -

I saw the Proclamations you speak of - No doubt it has raised a swarm of expectants - They however cannot all be gratified and while an Administration having well founded hold on public confidence may be strengthened by the honest and judicious distribution of legitimate patronage I am inclined to think that one having as Mr. Buchanan says "no character at all" and which instead of being able to make use of its patronage as a source of additional strength has to lean upon it as its only or chief support will find the time arrive when the exercise of that very patronage will prove no main support

L. H. de Fontaine Esq  
M.P.

Agent in bringing about its ruin - I am well, then  
we are with us looking for the appointments of wardens  
with anxiety. It will be found I am persuaded that these  
appointments will be in a great measure from among  
those who have lately joined the ranks of Reform or  
who have but lately come to the country - In Hastings  
they have appointed Mr Hutton - It is true he was a  
supporter of mine at the last election but he has been but  
5 or 6 years in the country and has no influence which would  
point him out as peculiarly fit for being thus selected -  
at the same time I dare say he will make a good warden.  
Dr Widmer has been offered the appointment for this  
Dist. and has it is said declined - He belongs to the second  
class of persons whom I have mentioned - Mr Powell of  
Norfolk it is said has been appointed for that Dist. He  
was returned as a Reformer but having supported the  
Coalition is thus rewarded for that support - In this  
there is probably nothing but what is to be expected - It  
is those of course who approve of an administration who  
will be employed by that administration -

Although I am not aware of the manner in which the  
changes in your judicial system works injuriously I can  
easily understand what confusion may be introduced  
by persons familiar with one system of law undertaking to  
"reform" another - particularly if they be imbued not  
only with a strong prejudice in favour of their own and  
against the opposite system but happen to entertain a  
particularly exalted opinion of their own ability for such  
work - And such of I understand might have been your  
misfortune in respect to the changes you refer to - I  
should I confess feel great alarm were I to understand that  
a body of Civilians were about altering the machinery of

an system with a view to adapt it to that of the civil  
law - And that without ~~with the least~~ undervaluing in  
the least that celebrated body of laws or without even  
entering upon the question of its merits - as compared  
with the English Common Law - But the two systems  
founded originally upon different principles require  
different machinery for making them respectively  
effective for the accomplishment of their common  
object - And this I fear has been too much overlooked -

We have not yet received the parcel you were good  
enough to send by W. Drum - he has not been at Toronto  
since his return to Kingston and is I suppose keeping  
it for some safe opportunity - I am  
sorry to say he met with an accident  
in his way up but by the last accounts  
he was better - Maria deems me in  
the mean time to thank you and  
Mrs de Montarville for the trouble you have taken on  
her account -

The Statutes came to a good deal but as there is no al-  
ternative I must submit to the consequences of this  
monopoly of Her Majesty's Printers - An unexpected  
blessing of the new order of things appears to be that we have  
got such a batch of them now that there may be some  
hope of competition among the gentlemen themselves -  
Though I shall not benefit by it on the present occasion - If  
you will therefore be good enough to get the copy you speak  
of including the "Edits &c" & have them packed up and  
left at B. Hart & Co's to be forwarded (if possible during  
the winter) by some safe opportunity to Toronto I shall  
be obliged to you And when I know the amount in-  
cluding packing &c I will send you a bill for the  
same or you may draw on me at sight whichever  
you please -

I shall be happy to attend to the distribution of

the Journals for the Matt Reding as you desire  
With best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> La Fontaine in which my  
father mother & all our house join  
Believe me  
very truly  
Yours Matt Reding

2  
L. A. La Fontaine Esq  
M.P.  
Montreal

Dist. Ke



19 Dec: 1841  
P. Reding  
Esq