

Private.

(74)

Monte 17<sup>th</sup> June 1840.

000102

My Dear Sir

I was much gratified by the receipt of  
your valued favour of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst; and I have since had an  
opportunity of conversing at some length with Mr Merritt whose  
general views I am happy to find accord with your own.  
You are doubtless aware that Mr Merritt is a recent convert  
to Reform principles and one in whom many of our friends are not  
disposed to place confidence. My own opinion is that Mr Merritt  
is sincere and I think it had policy to show distrust of those  
who come at the eleven hour see the error of their ways.  
I have given Mr J. Mr Boswell of Coburg a letter of introduction  
to you. Mr B. has always acted with the Reformers but is  
a very moderate man. I have however a good deal of  
confidence in his sincerity. I fully admit the truth of all  
your late remarks. You may depend that the Reformers of U.C.  
look in the United Legislature act towards you & your friends in  
perfect good faith. At present we are terribly cramped. How  
-ever we avoid a split with the for. general until after the



elections, we shall run the risk of Orange violence at the  
meetings and the Reformers will be afraid to go. Rely upon  
it, when we come to meet in Parliament we will give you full  
satisfaction. You must see the advantage of getting a Reform  
Majority in the Province as well as in your so as to silence  
all cavilling on the score of national origin. I feel assured we  
shall have such, and by a little management we shall get  
good men and true. We shall have to support a few persons  
in whom we have little confidence in order to avoid splits  
and to keep out the Tories but in every place where the  
Reformers have a decided majority, undoubted men will be returned.  
I believe what you say about the use of the French language  
in the proceedings of the Legislature. You do me and my friends  
no more than justice when you express your conviction that  
we do not participate in the illiberal sentiments expressed  
by the Tories of both provinces. I am not prepared to say what  
course it may be desirable to adopt on the subject of the  
language. It will be difficult to get the Union bill repeated  
but not impracticable. You are of course Archives de la Ville de Montréal



obstante exists as to your speaking French in the Legislature.  
would it answer to have an order of the House to translate  
and publish all proceedings in the French language and to  
have a French translator to copy any motion that might  
be submitted? I merely throw this out as an obvious method  
of loading the clause, and would like your opinion. I feel  
assured however that the desire of all my friends will be  
to maintain our position in this as well as all other points  
and to act towards you with perfect  
sincerity and good faith. The object is similar. Why  
should we dispute on minor points? You must recollect  
that if we as a party had identified ourselves prematurely  
with your party in L.C. we would only have afforded a  
pretext to the Tories to make greater injuncts on our  
liberties & God knows they have done enough. You cannot  
rate the civil list more than I do, as Time will prove.  
I have already told you that I have always supported  
the Union without reference to details because by it alone  
I felt convinced we would have a majority that would  
make our tyrants succumb. After what has taken



Give it whether they like or not. I cannot tell you how much it  
would gratify me to see you in Trants. As to such cases  
I believe and understand me and his views in connection them  
better. They rate me soon, and above all things do not give  
confidence in the sincerity of your Brother's Reproof of me. he will  
not deceive you!

Yours very truly  
J. H. Hunt

17 June 1840  
J. H. Hunt, Esq  
Trenton



J. H. Hunt Esq  
Trenton



place your confidence would never show that right is a wrong cause  
their reputation. You want our help as much as we do yours. There is  
a prejudice in England against the French as Opponents of the United and  
even less than you must admit. Smith has laid down broad ground  
points to sell into the present error. Our letters cannot be read  
but by the Union. I know you want we shall never get together for  
that the printing are necessary us to practice. But we could make them



Toronto  
17th June  
1840

F. HINCKS A L.H. LAFONTAINE.

Toronto 17th June 1840.

Private

My Dear Sir,

I was much gratified by the receipt of your valued favour of the 2d Inst, and I have since had an opportunity of conversing at some length with Mr Merritt whose general views I am happy to find accord with your own. You are doubtless aware that Mr Merritt is a recent convert to Reform principles and one in whom many of our friends are not disposed to place confidence. My own opinion is that Mr Merritt is sincere and I think it bad policy to shew distrust of those who even at the eleventh hour see the error of their ways. I have given Mr G.M. Boswell of Coburg a letter of introduction to you. Mr B. has always acted with the Reformers but is a very moderate man. I have however a good deal of Confidence in his sincerity. I fully admit the truth of all your late remarks, You may depend that the Reformers of U.C. will in the United Legislature act towards you & your friends in perfect good faith. At present we are terribly cramped. Unless we avoid a split with the gov. general until after <sup>the</sup> this elections, we shall run the risk of orange violence at the <sup>h</sup> meetings and the Reformers will be afraid to poll. Rely upon it, when we come to meet in Parliament we will give you full satisfaction. You must see the advantage of getting a Reform Majority in this Province as well as in yours so as to silence all cavilling on the score of national origine. I feel assured we shall have such, and by a little management we shall get good men and true. We shall have to support a few persons in whom we have little confidence in order to avoid splits and to keep out the Tories but in every place where the Re-



have a decided Majority, undoubted men will be return. I observe what you say about the use of the French language in the proceedings of the Legislature. You do me and my friends no more than justice when you express your conviction that we do not participate in the illiberal sentiments expressed by the Tories of both provinces. I am not prepared to say what course it may be desirable to adopt on the subject of the language. <sup>It</sup> will be difficult to get the Union bill repealed, but not unpracticable. You are of course aware that no obstacle exists as to your speaking French in the Legislature. Would it answer to have an order of the House to translate and publish all proceedings in the French language and to have ~~to~~ have a French translator to copy any motion that might be submitted? I meerely throw this out as an obvious methode of evading the ckause, and would like your opinion. I feel assured however that the desire of all my friends will be to meet your wishes on this as well as all other points and to act towards you with perfect sincerity and good faith. Our OBJECT IS similar. Why should we dispute on minor points? You must recollect that if we as a party had identified ourselves prematurely with your party in L.C. we would only have afforded a pretext to the Tories to make greater infringments on our liberties & God knows they have done enough. You cannot hate the civil list more than I do, as Time will prove. I have already told you that I have always supported the Union without reference to details because by it alone I felt convince we would have a majority that would make our tyrants succumb. After what has taken place your countrymen would never obtain there rights in a Lower Canadian Legislature. You want our help as much as we do yours. There is a prejudice in England against the French as oppressors of the British and even Lord Durham whom you must admit has laid down sound general principles fell into the prevalent error. Our liberties cannot be secured but by the Union. I know you think we shall



never get Responsible Govt. that the Ministry are deceiving us - granted - But we wil; make them give it whether they like it or not.I cannot tell you how much it would gratify me to see you in Toronto.It is so much easier to explain and understand one another's views in conversation than by letter. Pray write me soon,and above all things do not lose confidence in the sincerity of your brother Reformers of U.C. We will not deceive you.

Ever my Dear Sir

Your faithful & obed Servt.

F. HINCKS