

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE NORTH RIDING.

What claim has Mr. La Fontaine upon the confidence and support of the constituency of the North Riding, seeing that he is of French origin, and resides in Lower Canada?

Before answering this question, let us refer to every day experience and common sense. A man engages a servant on account of his character and his ability to discharge the duties of his station, without much regard to his origin or place of residence. Again, if an important legal question is to be settled, he never thinks to enquire where his lawyer was born, or complains because his residence is remote—but enquires is this man celebrated in his profession? Is he an able and talented advocate? Is he a man of good reputation? In England, and all countries, where representation in Parliament is enjoyed, every constituency selects the best men from all parts of the Kingdom or nation, and the absence of suitable persons in some constituencies, renders this absolutely necessary; while the fact that an eminent man has retired into private life, sometimes induces the freeholders to put aside an honest but an untalented representative, to make room for one, that is both honest and highly gifted, for the station. Thus it is with Mr. La Fontaine.

He is a gentleman of unblemished moral character and has for nearly 20 years been a steady and faithful friend of the people's cause. He is a BRITISH subject, born and educated in Canada, and knows well the wants and wishes of the country; the causes of our difficulties and means of their redress. He is not only a man of tried political integrity, but of superior education, intelligence and ability, and has long been one of the most distinguished leaders in the Parliament of Lower Canada.

He was the representative of the very large constituency of the county of Terrebonne, in Lower Canada, but by the most high-handed despotism had been driven into private life. There he intended to remain, quietly enduring the wrongs heaped upon him and his country, until the requisition from one of the most independent constituencies of Upper Canada, induced him, solely on public grounds, to change his purpose.

He presents a high claim to the confidence of Reformers because, on a late occasion, he scorned to barter away the liberties of the People for the bribe of a high and lucrative office, under a government which has not the confidence of the country.

He further presents a claim upon the constitutional friends of Reform in the Riding, because through his known influence in the Legislature, and by the fact of his being returned from an Upper Canada Constituency he might effect a much greater degree of unanimity and combined strength among the Reformers, from both sections of the country, and thus secure to all equal justice, prosperity, and peace.

Lastly. He justly claims the hearty support and sympathy of the people of the North Riding, because with them he has participated largely in similar wrongs and sufferings. By Imperial power, the franchise of the people of Lower Canada was curtailed nearly one-half—by Executive power the remainder was greatly abridged; and of the small portion of constitutional liberty which remained, the constituencies of Terrebonne, and other counties, were shamefully deprived by bands of desperate men led on by the magistracy and militia officers—and that too, under the nose of a government, whose professed design was “to govern the country according to the well-known wishes of the people.” “O, Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name.”

The Electors of the North Riding have the strongest reason to support Mr. La Fontaine, because by his Election will be given to the Province and the nation at large, the first effectual and strong testimony, by the people of the Western section of the Province, against the injustice and cruelties inflicted upon their brethren in the Eastern section,—and also, against the irresponsible system of government, from which all such evils naturally and necessarily arise. The scenes of THE DURHAM MEETING were but a faint representation of those outrages against life and liberty in Lower Canada—and are yet fresh in your recollection, but where is your redress?

Reformers, be not divided; rally round the friend of the cause who has been nominated by your committee—come forward in your strength, early on the first day of election—he prepared to assist in keeping the peace—avoid all intemperance—give no cause for disturbance, but as British subjects, maintain your rights fearlessly and firmly.

What claim has Mr. McIntosh upon the North Riding?

Having once served the Riding in Parliament to the best of his ability, he has a claim to the respect of his constituents as an honest straight-forward Reformer.

What claim have the People of the North Riding upon Mr. McIntosh?

1st. That he shall redeem the pledge given by him on his first nomination, which was to give way to any person whom the Reformers might, on any future occasion, select as a more suitable candidate than himself.

2d. That as a patriotic man he will not allow any personal feelings towards individuals to lead him to any measures that will tend to injure the great cause he has so long professedly espoused.

3d. That he will not allow the advice of some misguided men, or tools of the Tories, to induce him to become the instrument in creating division, discord, and animosity among the Reformers of the Riding.

4th. That as a man of honor, he will fulfil the promise he had made to many Reform friends in Toronto, viz: that he would not oppose Mr. La Fontaine, but rather give him his support.

5th. The Reformers of the Riding having chosen Mr. La Fontaine to be their candidate by an overwhelming majority at five or six public meetings, on account of his superior qualifications to serve them in the Legislature Mr. McIntosh, in order to maintain his reputation as an upright and consistent Reformer, should make common cause with the people, in support of Mr. La Fontaine.

6th. If Mr. McIntosh should do otherwise, and consent to be the agent of strife and division in a constituency, hitherto distinguished for its harmony and strength, he cannot avert the plain conclusions of every honest mind, viz: That he will become a Traitor to his party and to their principles. He will violate a sacred public pledge. He will, in short manifest, that to gain some unworthy end, he was willing to sacrifice the political rights—the social happiness and peace of an entire community—and he will have to bear the bitter consequences of an act which would forever be fatal to his public reputation; whereas the former course would establish and confirm his claim to the continued respect and confidence of the people.