

UNE LETTRE

DE M. LATTONI

M. le pasteur Lattoni nous transmet le texte d'une lettre qu'il a adressée en anglais aux journaux de ce matin, et dont la direction du "Devoir" parle dans son article d'aujourd'hui.

Voici cette lettre, texte original :

Montreal, May 28, 1915.

To the City Editors of the

"Gazette" and the

"Daily Mail", Montreal.

Sirs :—

Regarding the reports published in your worthy papers of this morning on last night's attack against "Le Devoir" I beg to state that there is some misunderstanding.

The Committee for the Demonstration asked me to make an address in the Italian language at the Champ de Mars, and again to present the salute of the demonstrators to the Consul General of Italy. While proceeding to the Italian Consulate, I was informed that "Le Devoir" had published an article that was not liked by its Italian readers, one of whom answered it in "La Presse" of the following day. I was further told that the Italians, after the demonstration at the Consulate, intended to go and make a protest against Mr. Bourassa; in fact while we were going to the Consulate many were shouting "Down with Bourassa". Being aware of all that, I did my best to persuade my compatriots, even before arriving at the Consulate, to be calm. It was for the same reason that after presenting the salute of the Italian demonstrators to the Italian Consul, I addressed the audience in Italian, saying these exact words: "Do not shout 'Down with Bourassa' but leave him alone even if he really wrote against Italy". Notwithstanding my exhortations the crowd continued to shout "Down with Bourassa" without listening to me, so that some people may have thought that such shouts and the rest were the result of my words. I could never cause such regrettable incident because I had not even read the article in question and knew nothing about it. Then, thinking that my presence would prevent any trouble I went ahead with the marshal, Mr. J. Nassa, and the police but we could not help so big and excited was the crowd. In proof of this I can say that the police thanked me for my efforts.

You will admit, from the above facts, that while my words and my acts were intended to prevent the trouble, they have been misconstrued by the reporters who, certainly, could not understand Italian.

Thanking you for your kind cooperation in making the real truth known, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

L. LATTONI.

Voici maintenant le texte de la lettre d'envoi, toujours en anglais :

Montréal, 28 May 1915.

To the City Editor of "Le Devoir",
Montreal.

Dear Sir :—

In order to avoid further misunderstanding I beg to enclose here

with a copy of the letter I am sending to the "Gazette" and to the "Daily Mail", regarding last night's trouble. I should be very much pleased if you would publish it.

Please allow me to express my regrets for what has happened, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,

L. LATTONI.

Minister of the Italian Meth.
Church.