

Business card

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Black and white photograph of Joseph-Amable Berthelot (1815-1897).
Lawyer and Superior Court judge.

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Fabricant / Éditeur William Notman & Son

Period 2nd half of the 19th century

Medium and Support silver print, paper; cardboard

Technique glued, printed

Historical context

This is a photograph of Joseph-Amable Berthelot (1815-1897), son of Amable Berthelot (1777-1847). Joseph-Amable was adopted by his single father, who never married, a rather unusual situation for the time. His sister Adèle was also adopted and married Louis-Hyppolite La Fontaine in 1831. He practiced law alongside his brother-in-law (La Fontaine) and later became a Superior Court judge (1859-1876).

Although he supported the Patriote cause, Joseph-Amable, like his father, preferred argumentation to fighting.

His father, Amable Berthelot, was also a lawyer by training. He also devoted his life to writing (grammar essays) and politics. Among other things, he was a member of parliament for Trois-Rivières, representing the Parti canadien and then the Parti patriote. He distanced himself when the situation escalated. He is a moderate nationalist who does not seek confrontation. He did, however, take part in the Saint-Eustache insurrection in December 1837. He cast bullets for the rebel troops. As a result, he was incarcerated in Montreal's Pied-du-Courant prison on charges of high treason.