

We leave the Editor to reconcile his own inconsistencies, but if we wanted an argument against the *Spectator* of October, we need only refer back to the files of the same paper for August last.

On one point, however, we must set our contemporary right. He says:

"To add to the misfortunes of the Free-Traders, a division has sprung up in the camp. While one portion of the League would be satisfied with a reduction and equalization of existing duties, another demand their total repeal, and the substitution of a direct tax upon property instead."

Now if he has taken the trouble to read the *Economist*, he must be aware that not one single expression has ever appeared in that paper which would lead to the inference that the opinion of its writers is in favour of a property tax, or indeed any other modification of the existing duties than such as would tend to their more equal distribution.

The following remarks on the effects of the American tariff are from the new work entitled "Hochelaga, or the New World." The author is not, we suspect, a Free Trader in the full sense of the word, but he has too much good sense not to see the injustice the Americans are inflicting on themselves as well as others, by adhering to their present protective system.—

"The establishment of any sort of manufacturing industry here, from shoes upwards, appears to me an error. The men so employed could get higher wages in the agricultural labors of the West, where they would be free from the danger of contamination in crowded cities. If the English Corn Laws be materially relaxed, the cultivation of these grain growing districts will be still more profitable; while, by a removal of the American prohibitory duties, all articles of clothing could be obtained at one-third less price than that now exacted, and paid for in food to England.

"Without giving an opinion on the advantages of free trade for ourselves, I cannot see the possible cause of its being denied to the people of the United States, where there is no vital interest to be endangered, no great mass of people or capital to be put out of employment; for who can doubt that a few months would absorb the scanty manufacturing population of New England among the millions of the new States, and that, in all probability, their condition would be thus very much improved? I have said before, that they can in some coarse cloths rival the English factories; but why should they try, when they would be so much better off elsewhere? I have not the least doubt that, if my friend from Chicago and his western neighbours could sell their corn in England, they would not for any length of time allow the interests of the Lowell capitalists to stand in the way of their barter."

#### EXTENSION OF THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH IN THE UNITED STATES.

	Miles.
From New York to New Haven, Hartford, Springfield and Boston,	265
From New York to Albany, Utica, Auburn, Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport, and Buffalo,	507
From New York to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington,	249
From Philadelphia to Harrisburg,	105
From Boston to Lowell,	26
From Boston to Portland (110 miles—half finished),	55
From Ithaca to Auburn,	40
From Troy to Saratoga,	31

The question of Free Trade will be a subject of discussion whenever a general election takes place. Upon one of the most practical parts of this question—we may add one of the simplest, viz:—whether the 3s. on the importation of breadstuffs intended for the re-exportation should or should not be repealed, the ex-ministerialists and their supporters voted for the continuance of the duty, and almost succeeded in throwing out their opponents. At present the whole of the press of this party is out in favour of the movement. This is something like a sign of the times.—*Herald*.

#### PROVINCIAL, LOCAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Quarantine establishment, at Grosse Isle, was closed for the season on Thursday se'night. About 1600 sick emigrants have been admitted in the hospital at that place during the season, out of whom nearly 100 have died.—A substitute for the Potato has been proposed by Dr. Gesner, of New Brunswick. It is a plant used by the Indians, and called by them in their language *Mus-qua-sete*. This plant has a number of bulbous roots (attached to each other by a small fibre,) about the size of a pigeon's egg. In the raw state, the *Mus-qua-sete* smells and tastes like a potato, and when boiled is dry, and white as the finest flour. The vine which it sends forth is delicately slender, running from three to six feet high, bearing branches of rich purple blossom, resembling the pea; the leaf resembles that of the passion flower in shape and color. It is said that this root is not confined to any particular district, but is to be found commonly over all the Lower Provinces. Four bushels of them have been sent to the Agricultural Societies of Great Britain, and hundreds of farmers in Nova Scotia, it is said, prepared seed for cultivation in the spring. It is well known that the potato when first discovered was not larger than the root in question, and that cultivation gave it size, it may therefore happen that the *Mus-qua-sete* will offer a substitute for this plant, whose decay throughout the world is creating so much alarm.

—The *Montreal Gazette* says, "Among the many improvements of our navigation, we may notice one effected by Jacob De Witt, Esq., of great interest to the dwellers on Lake St. Louis. That gentleman has put a new steam ferry-bont on the station from Lachine to Beauharnois. It is a very great improvement, 175 feet long, with powerful engines and capital accommodation. It performs the trip between the two places, on an average, in an hour each way, while the old one which it replaces occupied three to four hours."—Mr. Evans states, in his agricultural report for last month, that the disease in the potatoes appears to have been checked by the very dry and warm weather in August and September.

—Another of the "Markham Gang" of robbers has been convicted at the late assizes for the Home District. He was a well-known criminal, named Johnson, and was tried and convicted on several indictments, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.—We perceive by the reported proceedings of the Toronto City Corporation, that that body has passed a bill entitled "An Act to facilitate the erection of an Electric Magnetic Telegraph."—The weather during the past week has been of the mild and beautiful kind known as the Indian summer.

—Mr. Tate, proprietor of the steambot *Sydenham*, has denied that the loss of life by the late accident exceeded five, three of whom belonged to the crew, and two passengers.—There has been a terrific storm at the South, by which great injury has been done to shipping, and many lives lost. It extended to the Havana, where it is said fifty ships were lost in the harbour. Altogether it is said that there never was in the annals of American commerce a season so disastrous to shipping as the present autumn.—A man named Joseph Roberts, a labourer, who was found guilty at the late Criminal Term for Three Rivers of the horrible crime of violating the person of his own daughter—a girl of ten years and a half old—is to suffer the extreme penalty of the law on the 21st instant.—The English packet of the 19th, now due, has not yet been heard of, but is expected hourly.

## THE MARKETS.

### ENGLISH.

No later intelligence since our last.

[The United States mail not having arrived yesterday, we are deficient in our New York and Cleveland Prices Current for the past week.]

(Reported for the Economist)

### CLEVELAND.

Oct. 21, 1846.

**WHEAT.**—The sales during the early part of the week were at 69 to 70c. per bushel. On Thursday the price declined to 65c., since which, however, rumours of the arrival of the Caledonia with later English advices quoting a material advance in the price of breadstuffs, has for the time suspended operations, and the market closes quite unsettled. Receipts 110,168 bushels.

**FLOUR.**—Several parcels have changed hands at \$1 12½ to \$1 25 per bbl. for good brands. The news will probably advance these quotations next week. Receipts 19,710 bbls.

**CORN.**—The article has been dull at 37½ cts. Receipts 12,797 bushels.

**PORK.**—Sales of 100 bbls. Mess at \$9 50, and 150 at \$9 88½.

**EXCHANGE.**—The Banks do not allow any premium on sight drafts on New York

**& FREIGHTS.**—To Buffalo, on Wheat, 12c., Flour 40c.; to Oswego, Wheat 20c., Flour 80c.; to New York, Wheat 45c., Flour \$1 50; to St. Catherine's, Wheat 7c.; to Kingston, Wheat 10c., Flour 40c.

C. McDONALD & Co

MONTREAL. Friday Evening, 6th Nov.

**ASHES** have declined to 22s. for both Pots and Pearls, from the high rates of freight.

**FLOUR.**—The sales during the past week have not been extensive. Prices have been at 31s. 6d. to 32s. for Fine, 32s. 6d. for Extra Fine, and 33s. to 34s. for Superfine. To-day there has been rather more animation, but no change in price.

**WHEAT.**—Large quantities offering and market very dull. To-day there have been some transactions at 5s. 6d. to 5s. 7½d.

**PEAS.**—Dull sale at 4s. 6d. to 4s. 7d. per minot.

**PROVISIONS.**—The business done has not been extensive. Mess is selling at \$14 to \$14½, Prime Mess \$11½ to \$12, and Prime \$9½ to \$10. New Beef sells at \$3½ Prime, and \$3½ Prime Mess. Butter is worth 7½d. to 8½ per lb.

**FREIGHTS** are scarce for grain, and rate is high as 1½ per qr.; Ashes 50s. per ton. For Flour, on the other hand, they are dull, the quantity in market being so limited. 5s. 3d. may be considered the extreme rate.

**EXCHANGE.**—Merchants' Bills dull at 8 to 8½ per cent premium.