

THE DUTIES ON TIMBER.

acquainted, by the recent arrivals from England, with the announcement by Mr. Stanley in the House of Commons, of his proposed measure regarding the Lumber Trade.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Aylmer.*

(Enclosure.)

LETTER from Mr. *William Price* to Lord *Aylmer*, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD, Quebec, 8 January 1831.

I AM directed by the Committee of Trade, earnestly to entreat your Lordship that you will have the kindness to address a Despatch to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to represent the extreme anxiety and consternation which exists in these Provinces, in consequence of its having been proposed in the Imperial Parliament to make alteration in the Duties on Lumber, to the prejudice of the North American Trade; that any such change will be attended with the most disastrous consequences to the Colonies; but more particularly I am directed to implore that your Lordship will warn His Majesty's Government, in the strongest terms, of the overwhelming Ruin and Misery which an immediate and sudden change would spread, far and wide, throughout the country; and to entreat, that if the Imperial Parliament, in its wisdom, should consider the proposed change necessary for the general welfare of the empire, that it will, in its mercy, grant a continuation of the protection which the trade at present enjoys, for a term of five, or at least of three years, that those, who, relying on the existing laws, have invested their capital in lumber establishments, in saw-mills, in stocks for spring shipment, and in preparations for new supplies, may be enabled to realize some portion of their property, so fearlessly embarked, which, in the *Canadas* alone, cannot amount to less than £. 1,250,000. at the present moment, and which a sudden or immediate change would render almost a total sacrifice.

Your Lordship must feel how dreadful would be the consequences to this young Colony of such a visitation and loss of capital; and the Committee rely with confidence on your Excellency's representations and intercession in their behalf, and in the justice and mercy of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Price,*
Acting Chairman.