

ON THE
CHANGED OPINIONS, SINCE 1848,
OF THE
MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE,
RESPECTING
A CANAL
TO CONNECT
LAKE CHAMPLAIN WITH THE ST. LAWRENCE.

THE following extracts from the records of the Montreal Board of Trade, since 1848, will show how uniformly consistent the merchants of Montreal have been since that time, in every Report and Resolution adopted by them, through the Board of Trade, up to the date of its last meeting, in February, 1866, in reference to the necessity for the construction of a Canal to connect the waters of Lake Champlain with the St. Lawrence; and how inconsistent was their action at that meeting in disapproving of that work, (by a vote of 36 to 11,) with all of their action during the previous eighteen years.

The collecting together of the opinions, thus expressed by the Board of Trade on this subject, will not only be useful, as shewing what has been done, but may also tend to dissipate any erroneous views or prejudices which many hold in reference to the effect which the construction of this Canal will have on the commerce of this city.

The first action taken by the Montreal Board of Trade was at a meeting of the Council, held on the 18th April, 1848, of which the following is an extract:—

“ The Secretary reported having addressed the Provincial Secretary, requesting he would favour the Board with the inspection and perusal of any Plans and Reports which might be in the possession of the Government respecting the construction of a Canal from the neighbourhood of Caughnawaga to Lake Champlain, and read the reply granting the same; but the Council, thinking it would be more satisfactory to have copies of the same, he was requested to apply to the Board of Works for them. The Map and Report being obtained, Mr. Geo. Elder, at a meeting on the 11th June,