

THE FREE PRESS.

VOL. I.] MONTREAL, THURSDAY, 3d APRIL, 1823. [No. 24.

— *Graviorem amissa dolorem*
Quam necdum quaesita, movent. CLAUDIAN.

If wealth and liberty have once been our's,
 'T is worse to lose, than never to have had them.

Intending to take up the questions both of the anti-commercial spirit that has been imputed to the Canadians, and that whether commerce ought or ought not to be an object of the first consideration in these provinces, I inserted in No. 18 a letter relative hereto which had appeared in the Canadian Spectator; and in order to keep the object in view, and enable me in a future number, to enlarge upon it, with more data before my readers, I now copy a second letter of the same writer from the same paper.

MR. EDITOR,

In my last communication which you was kind enough to insert in your useful and interesting paper, I alluded to the injurious consequence to this province from the want of the fur-trade; even as it was before the junction of the two companies. To give you and your readers an idea of the injury to the provinces that the loss of the fur-trade has produced, I have made a hasty, but, I believe a pretty correct, statement of its value. If incorrect, the error will be found to be against the provinces, and I will leave the commercial unionists to say, whether the movers of the union-bill have not gained sufficiently by that law, without giving them an opportunity of seizing upon some other parts of our exports in the same manner.

In comparing the exports of furs for several years back, I find that of the year 1813 to come nearest to an average: the imports solely for that trade, the year preceeding, I shall state from the best information I have been able to collect.

Value of exports by custom-house returns at Quebec, amount in London	£	s.	d.
	101,995	15	7
Imports by the North West Company in 1812, for these returns	22,000.		
Imports by other individuals for the supply of posts not depending on that concern	5,000		
	<hr/>	27,000	0 0

In our favour with England.

£ 74,995 15 7