

allowed to overshadow the before mentioned political advantages. Self-preservation is the first law of the body politic as well as of the body natural.

The objections against the timber trade, as it bears on the colony, are chiefly of a moral character. It is not to be supposed that wood cutters are paragons of temperance and chastity; but if every department of commerce, that has an immoral tendency, is to be abandoned, a dangerously wide gap will be made in the trade of the world. The argument against the lumber trade is neither more nor less than the fallacious principle of the temperance society, that of confounding a thing with the abuse of it. On the subject of the timber trade I have been, perhaps unnecessarily diffuse from a sense of its vast importance in promoting the agricultural interests of the Canadas and in relieving the United Kingdom from the pressure of a redundant population.— Being the only kind of manufacture, if I may so speak, it gives rise to consumers of agricultural produce, and being pursued on the farther verge of civilization, carries a market to the doors of the remotest settlers. Being almost the only species of rural employment, that can afford to bear the high wages of hired servants, it has enabled many an industrious emigrant to accumulate the means of clearing and cultivating a farm of his own and of thus extending the triumph of art over the wilds of nature.— But the most important feature in the timber trade is that by raising the bulk of the homeward freights far beyond that of the outward ones, it gives a large majority of vessels the alternative of losing half the Atlantic trip in ballast or of carrying emigrants at an almost nominal charge. Thus are almost realised the ancient fables of Deucalion and Cadmus, for forests are endowed with vitality, and slain trees are converted into the living limbs of human beings, free, industrious and happy. The timber trade furnishes the finest and most ratifying illustration of the beneficial in-

fluence of commerce. Men and trees, which are actually drugs in their respective soils of Britain and Canada, become, when exchanged, the conquerors of unreclaimed nature and the bearers of the invincible thunder of the proud isles of the ocean. Compared with any other colony, Canada affords unrivalled inducements to emigration, as being more cheaply accessible than New South Wales or any other distant settlement, and as surpassing both in agricultural and commercial advantages the lower provinces of British America. But it is not merely to the poorer class of emigrants that Canada holds out peculiar inducements. She has latterly received into her bosom men of capital and intelligence, and has thus strengthened her legal connexion with the mother country by the moral tie of mutual regard. But another view may be taken of the connexion between Britain and Canada, founded on its beneficial influence on the colony itself. The colony is at this moment reaping the fruits of that connexion in the common appeal of the contending parties to the Imperial Parliament.— Nothing but external interference can cure our political maladies. Canada is altogether unfit to govern herself. Too ignorant for internal concord, and too feeble for foreign defence, Canada, if nominally independent, must wade through a civil war to an aristocratic despotism or to foreign servitude. A connexion with the United States or with any federation of the neighbouring provinces may well be termed foreign servitude, when compared with her present position under the mild and nearly nominal sway of Britain.

To the French Canadians the connexion of Canada and Britain is eminently advantageous. It is only by the solemn guarantee of the mother country that their privileges can be long respected or their institutions long preserved, for it is an undeniable fact that their cherished privileges and institutions, whether right or wrong, sound or unsound, would meet with little sympathy

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