

The result of all this had been an extensive emigration to the States, both of farmers and lumberers—many of the former leaving their lands to their creditors without even the form of a sale. Bad as this is, it may, in Mr. Johnston's opinion, have afforded the Province its best chance of returning to a healthy, cheerful, energetic, and prosperous condition. All, he says, that is now required, is that '*the farmers mind their own business.*'

We can by no means adopt the agricultural Professor's evident coldness as to the timber industry of these regions. It seemed right to state fully the conclusions he arrived at as respects New Brunswick; but we must suggest to him that that is only a part of the question. Even in New Brunswick, it would appear from a late petition of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province to the House of Lords that, notwithstanding the severe effects of the Act of 1846, the timber trade had reformed, and to a considerable extent recovered itself. The Act, 'based on the principles of free trade, placed foreign and colonial wood in the British market upon an equality, *taking into consideration the difference of distance and consequently of freight.*' But the British Government have, in the present Session of Parliament, proclaimed their purpose to carry the war against the Colonial wood-interests much further—in short to make such a new reduction in the duties as would leave no margin whatever for the difference of distance and freight between our American ports and the ports of the Baltic. A similar petition, moreover, has been addressed to the House of Lords by the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade; which shows that exactly the same alarm has been excited in *Canada*. Are we really determined to complete the alienation of British North America?

In consequence, no doubt, of this wide-spread discontent, so closely connected, first and last, with the influence of the anti-colonialists in our Home Government, a bill has lately been presented in Congress, declaring the expediency of obtaining by peaceable means the annexation of our Provinces. A formidable symptom of 'pleasant relations!' Yet, in the face of it, we cannot quite overlook the elements of discord and disunion now at work in the Great Republic itself. We have all read enough of the rivalry and antagonism between the States of the South and North, especially in regard to the tariff and slavery questions. Even Mr. Calhoun is said to have been of opinion that the time had arrived when the Confederacy was strong enough to bear dividing into two—and that the interests of the Northern and Southern States were become sufficiently diverse to require it. Since the passing of the Fugitive Slave Bill, the animosity has been doubled. The spectacle of men,
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