

return of details of the import and export trade should be published,—such an arrangement having been recently adopted by the Government of the United States. It will be remembered that the meeting of the “Intercolonial Board of Trade,” proposed to be held in this city in June, 1866, was, at the last moment, postponed in consequence of the invasion-excitement. It hardly admits of doubt that an organization such as was contemplated by the gentlemen who suggested it, might be serviceable in promoting commerce among Provinces, between which tariff-barriers are now, probably, for ever removed. It has also been mooted that an “Industrial Exposition” for confederated Canada would contribute largely to that fraternal and commercial intercourse, which it is the interest of the people of the Provinces to cultivate.

Only those who are accustomed to statistical research can estimate the difficulties attendant on preparing such reports as are given here. It is hoped that the information now presented may be useful to those into whose hands it may come;—all that need be said on behalf of this **FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT** is that, whatever its imperfections, it is the result of much care and labor, and that the sole object had in view by the Compiler, now and formerly, was to be serviceable as far as possible, in his capacity of Secretary to two important Commercial Corporations.

It only remains to be gratefully acknowledged, that much valuable information was kindly supplied by gentlemen in various parts of the Maritime Provinces. It is hoped that they will pardon the omission of their names in this preface; to give them here might by many be deemed idle parade. They will all be held in very grateful remembrance, by

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. PATTERSON,

Secretary.

MONTREAL, *April 20th*, 1867.