

LETTER from *J. Young*, Esq. to the Hon. *Dominick Daly*, Civil Secretary, Montreal.

Sir,

Hamilton, 7 May 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit through you to his Excellency the Governor-general, the enclosed Petition to Her most gracious Majesty, from the Board of Trade of this town, against the measures now before the British Parliament relative to corn and timber, and to request that his Excellency would be pleased to forward the same at the earliest possible period, to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Young*,
President Hamilton Board of Trade.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Petition of the Board of Trade of the Town of Hamilton.

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT great alarm has been occasioned in your Majesty's province of Canada, as well as in your Majesty's other possessions in North America, by the measures recently brought before the British Parliament by your Majesty's Government, proposing the reduction and abandonment within a short period of the protection now afforded us on our staple articles of export.

That these provinces are the nearest colonies that can supply the mother country with corn and timber, and in return take British manufactured goods to an extent greater, according to our population, than any other colony, and four times greater than any foreign country.

That, should free trade in corn supersede the protection now afforded to this great staple of our export, we shall be no longer in a situation to continue as importers of British manufactured goods to an extent worthy of consideration, and the attention of the colonists must unavoidably be directed to the encouragement and extension of domestic manufactures.

That, encouraged by the protection afforded us in the British market, and the benevolent intentions of Your Majesty towards the colony, as expressed in the determination to regard Canada as an integral portion of the empire, and in her intercourse with the mother country to place her in the position of an English county, we have been induced to borrow on the credit of Great Britain a loan of one million and a half sterling to improve and complete our internal communications, which, should this protection be withdrawn, will be comparatively valueless, the means by which we hoped to liquidate the principal and interest being diverted into other channels.

That, in addition to the above, your petitioners would beg to present to your Majesty's notice the following facts.

That the trade to these colonies employs a most numerous and important portion of the British mercantile marine.

That British shipping is subject to additional expense by Imperial Acts in its intercourse with these colonies.

That we suffer considerable natural disadvantages, owing to our distance from the mother country, and to our ports being from their northerly situation closed to an export and import trade for nearly six months of the year.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Majesty to continue to this colony the protection now afforded, or at least such a modification thereof as may still enable us to compete with European growers of corn in the British markets and thereby enable us to import and consume British manufactured goods.

Or that, should the measures lately introduced by your Majesty's ministers become law, your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend to this colony such relief as may enable us to sustain the disastrous consequences which we apprehend will follow the adoption of the policy now advocated by your Majesty's Government.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *John Young*, President.
William Atkinson, Secretary.

— No. 4. —

(No. 74.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *W. E. Gladstone* to Governor the Earl *Cathcart*, K. C. B.

My Lord,

Downing street, 1 June 1846.

I HAVE laid before the Queen the Petition to Her Majesty from the Board of Trade of the town of Hamilton in Western Canada, which accompanies your Lordship's despatch of the 13th May (No. 58). Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously; but, much as I regret my inability to advise the Queen

No. 4.
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone to
Governor Earl
Cathcart,
1 June 1846.
to