

After a lengthened discussion, Mr. Taylor obtained leave to withdraw both of the above Resolutions, and moved that the following Resolution be substituted in lieu thereof, which was seconded by Mr. Robert Chesnut:—

Resolved, That this meeting heartily concur in the Resolutions adopted at a public meeting of the merchants and inhabitants of the city of St. John, held on the 31st day of May last, relative to the extension of our commercial intercourse, with a view to seek a market for our exports.

This Resolution being put, was carried by a large majority.

On motion of J. A. Beckwith, Esq., the Chairman was requested to leave the chair, and Charles Macpherson, Esq. being called thereto, a unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair was passed; and the meeting dissolved.

(signed) *B. Wolhaupter*,
Chairman.

Wm. Grigor,
Secretary.

— No. 2. —

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart.,
to Earl *Grey*.

No. 2.
Lieut.-governor
Sir E. Head to
Earl Grey.
3 July 1848.

My Lord,

Government House, Fredericton, 3 July 1848.

(Received 20 July 1848.)

Enclosure.

1. I HAVE the honour to enclose the Resolutions passed at a meeting of the merchants and inhabitants of the city of St. John, held on the 31st of May last. I regret that I was not enabled to transmit these Resolutions to England so that they might have arrived in time for the discussion of the Navigation Laws in the Imperial Parliament, but the proceedings were communicated to me in an official shape only on the afternoon of the 23d of June, after the English mail was made up.

2. I need not observe to your Lordship, that counter-resolutions and petitions in a different sense may be expected from St. John's, inasmuch as no place would appear at first sight more deeply interested in upholding the privileges of British colonial shipping. Indeed, I perceive by the public papers, that a meeting opposed to the Resolutions now transmitted has lately been held.

3. Upon the whole, I think, the most intelligent men in this Province whom I have had an opportunity of seeing, are of opinion that the city of St. John's and the Province generally would gain more by opening the American market for sawn lumber the produce of New Brunswick, than they could lose by any competition with the American shipping. My present information leads me to think that a ship can be built and rigged in St. John's at a cheaper rate than can be done in any part of the United States, and therefore, with proper care in the selection of the masters and crew, I do not see that the ship-builders of St. John's will have reason to fear the competition of foreign vessels. Your Lordship knows, however, that my experience in this Province is as yet very imperfect, and I should be sorry to speak dogmatically on so important a subject without more detailed information than I at present possess.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

At a Public Meeting of the Merchants and Inhabitants of *St. John*, called by the Honourable John Robertson, President of the Chamber of Commerce, on the 31st May 1848, in compliance with a requisition presented to him, the following Resolutions were moved, and carried unanimously:—

1. *Resolved*, That the recent change in the policy of the British Government as respects the protection to colonial goods in the home market, has materially affected our trade with the mother country, and wholly destroyed that with the British West Indies; it is therefore desirable that we should endeavour to extend our commercial intercourse with a view to seek consumption for our exports.

2. Whereas