

which has been adopted for a long period in this country as the standard of a nominal duty upon corn, ought to be removed. But the language which I employed had reference to the trade of Canada as affected by laws applicable in her own markets and on her own waters. Indeed, if the allusion had been to a rigid and perfect equality of trade in the ports and markets of this country, its first and most important bearing would, I apprehend, have been, not upon the nominal duty of 1*s.*, which it is proposed to retain upon colonial in common with foreign corn, but rather upon the very considerable duties of 15*s.* and 18*s.* respectively, which, as against nominal duties of 1*s.* and 2*s.* on Canadian timber and deals, it is proposed to continue to charge on the corresponding foreign articles.

Her Majesty's Government, in the discharge of their duty to the Crown and to the people of this country, and likewise to the empire at large, have not felt themselves to be at liberty to advise Her Majesty to pass by the address of Her Canadian Assembly with a brief or merely formal answer, although the advanced stage at which the deliberations of Parliament have now arrived might have afforded at least a technical justification for such a course. They have thought a more frank and full exposition of their views of this great question in its bearings upon Canada was due to the important body from which the address proceeds, and from which they are well assured may be anticipated the most candid consideration even of arguments opposed to their own. It is due especially on account of the importance of that body and of the province of Canada; but, even in the case of the smallest portion of Her subjects, I have it in command to say that it would equally have been the desire of Her Majesty that such a frank exposition of the policy of Her Government should be made. Her Majesty does not recognize the distinction between Her nearer and Her more remote subjects with reference to a matter so nearly touching Her relation towards them, and the duties and the sentiments of consideration and affection which it involves. Nor can she recognize in this view any distinction between the more and the less powerful, particularly at a time when Her Parliament is engaged in the discussion of measures which are recommended to its notice especially upon the ground that they tend to improve the condition of the most numerous and the least opulent classes of Her people.

It would indeed be a source of the greatest pain to Her Majesty's Government if they could share in the impression that the connexion between this country and Canada derived its vitality from no other source than from the exchange of commercial preferences. If it were so, it might appear to be a relation consisting in the exchange not of benefits but of burdens; if it were so, it would suggest the idea that the connexion itself had reached or was about to reach the legitimate term of its existence. But Her Majesty's Government still augur for it a longer duration, founded upon a larger and firmer basis,—upon protection rendered from the one side, and allegiance freely and loyally returned from the other,—upon common traditions of the past, and hopes of the future,—upon resemblances in origin, in laws, and in manners,—in what inwardly binds men and communities of men together, as well as in the close association of those material interests which, as Her Majesty's Government are convinced, are destined not to recede but to advance, not to be severed, but to be more closely and healthfully combined under the quickening influences of increased commercial freedom.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. E. Gladstone.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 53.)

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

No. 3.
Governor Earl
Cathcart to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
13 May 1846.

Sir,

Government House, Montreal, 13 May 1846.

AT the request of the Board of Trade of the town of Hamilton in Upper Canada, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the purpose of being laid at the foot of the Throne, a Petition to Her Majesty from that body, praying that the measures now before the Imperial Parliament relating to corn and timber may not become law.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Cathcart.*

LETTER