

wick, being greatly alarmed at a report which has reached this Country, of an intention entertained by Your Majesty's Ministers, so to alter the duties upon Wood imported into the United Kingdom, as to destroy the protection afforded to Colonial over Foreign Wood by the existing system of duties—a measure (if carried into operation) fraught with consequences ruinous to all your Majesty's North American Colonies, and to New-Brunswick more extensively than to any other, beg leave to lay at the foot of the Throne, this our humble representation.

“ Under the protecting system, originally adopted for the purpose of rendering the Mother Country independent of Foreign Nations for a supply of Wood, a trade of vast magnitude has grown up, in which British Capital alone is engaged, and British Interests alone are promoted.

“ We have not at command the documents from which we can accurately ascertain the actual extent of this trade, but from the information we possess we are induced to believe, that the number of Vessels employed in the whole trade with the Canadas and these lower Provinces, does not fall short of two thousand annually, and that the number of Sailors required for navigating them amounts to twenty five thousand.

“ This is the Staple Trade of New-Brunswick. In its two branches of Ton Timber and Deals, nearly the whole commercial industry of the Country is interested, while the commercial establishments and outlay of capital are altogether arranged with a view to its prosecution.

“ We have as yet no articles of export which would find a market in the United Kingdom but the produce of the Forests, and if our means of paying for British manufactures cease, the importation of these manufactures must cease also.

“ With a sinking commerce, our credit with the British merchant must wear away—the revenues of the Country must dwindle—internal improvements be stopped—and the settlement of the wilderness Lands in a great measure suspended.

“ That the commercial intercourse between the United Kingdom and these Northern Colonies, especially this Province of New Brunswick, would be very greatly reduced, if not altogether annihilated, by withdrawing the protecting duties on our Wood, and the consequent increase of supply of this article to the Mother Country, from the Northern powers of Europe, we fear, is too evident to need any proof; and we therefore contemplate the disastrous consequences of such a measure, with no small degree of discouragement and dismay.

“ But the commercial evils which would ensue to these Colonies, are not the only ones which we apprehend; we very much fear that the ruin of the Wood Trade with the United Kingdom, following so soon after the opening of the West India Colonies to the United States, would be viewed, by all the North American Colonists, as such an abandonment of their interests in Your Majesty's Councils, as could not fail to excite discontent, and have a strong tendency to shake the loyal affection, which they have hitherto cherished with such honest zeal towards the Parent State; and there is no political evil which the inhabitants of this Province would more seriously deprecate than a weakening of their ties to that country, which they, and their fathers before them, have so steadfastly adhered to, throughout every change of fortune, prosperous or adverse.

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