

Leading Wholesale Trade of Montreal

John Osborn, Son &amp; Co.,

WINE

—AND—

Commission Merchants,

1 CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING,

MONTREAL.

Sole Agents in the Dominion for

BISQUIT DUBOUCHÉ &amp; CO.,

Cognac, Brandies.

JULES MUMM & CO., Reims,  
Champagnes.DRY VERZENAY, Extra Dry,  
Private Stock and Imperial.JOHN HAURIE NEPHEWS,  
Xerez, Sherries.

OSBORN &amp; CO., Oporto, Ports.

"RIP VAN WINKLE," Schiedam  
Gin.

AND

Importers of Fine old London Dock  
Jamaica Rums, and the leading  
brands of Gins and Brandies.

The Journal of Commerce

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, JULY 7, 1876.

A FEATURE OF THE SLAUGHTERING  
PROCESS.

The manner in which American jobbers and manufacturers have managed to educate many Canadian retailers in the way of cash or short credit transactions in their dealings with them, and the consequent effect of deferred payments to our home suppliers, have often been commented on in these pages. Latterly, our enterprising cousins have discovered that they must in some degree modify this system, in order to compete with some of our merchants who are tempted by competition into an approach to the "slaughtering" process at home, and to adapt themselves to the circumstances of the times, now that cash is so scarce in the hands of retailers. Among the paper recently presented for discount at one of our principal banks, were some notes given, by country merchants to an American jobber for goods sold them. These notes were given in turn to one of our city merchants in payment for goods to be delivered in the United States free of duty, goods easily convertible into cash, thus enabling our clever cousin to maintain his usual approach to cash transactions. This ingenuity is on a par with

the march recently stolen by western lumbermen upon our manufacturers, by which the season's demands of the English market for deals were supplied almost exclusively by Americans.

Almost every retailer in Montreal and Toronto is conversant with the fact that articles, which can be bought with advantage in this market by American tourists, are largely taken across the lines free of duty, without putting the purchaser to any inconvenience or anxiety, chiefly through the connivance of railroad and other officials; and we must infer that our neighbors are not a whit less ingenious in breaking holes through our fences, for the conveyance of goods saleable in Canada. The governments of both countries should see that these leakages be stopped, thereby affording the honest dealer the advantage of fair competition, and banishing the temptation to dishonesty which such practices encourage.

It is a strange feature in human nature that the person who would scorn to do a dishonest act in the ordinary affairs of life, does not scruple for a moment to take advantage of the revenue laws of the country. This has doubtless its origin from the same source as the self-imposing honesty of the man who always gets the best of a bargain, a term which has been defined as a transaction in which each individual is under the impression that he has overreached the other, or that which stills the conscience of him who pays fifty cents on the dollar to his creditors, who, he imagines have made more than the difference out of his former dealings.

## EASY LESSONS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY FOR YOUNG CANADIANS.

## INTRODUCTION.

We begin with this number a series of articles on Political Economy, to be continued from week to week until a general review shall have been made of the subjects. For some time the want has been felt of a simple text-book on this important science,—the great works of Adam Smith, Say, Mill and others being too intricate for the young student, and their applications too general to serve for showing directly the influence of economic laws on the social condition of Canada. We have, therefore, taken care, wherever the opportunity offered, to use our own circumstances and political system for purposes of illustration. The subjects will be treated in chapters in the order of their natural sequence and apparent importance and, if, by the views expressed in the following series, we can call forth an effort of study in this direction on the part of

the young men who are destined to occupy at a future day the position of leaders in Canadian commerce, such a result will amply repay our labour.

## I. Of Governments and Law.

Society, which is the formal expression of the social instinct, adopts certain forms of government which are shaped by circumstances, and these are, according to their peculiarities, styled: despotism, oligarchy, limited monarchy or republic. Very often these styles vary in their application, and what is called a limited monarchy may be almost an oligarchy, as in the days of extreme toryism in England; or what is called a limited monarchy in Canada to-day is really more a republic than the government of the United States and still more such than the French Republic; nevertheless, the tendency of society in higher general civilization is toward a real commonwealth or, in other words, a union of interest and action in self-government. Now such a union means, in all fairness, a union in the performance of duty to the public weal, and all young Canadians should understand that no selfish motives ought to govern their public actions; that they should devote their minds to the consideration of questions of the day thoughtfully and in a manner to develop their understanding; also, that no vote should be given in obedience to orders of a caucus or party, but rather in accordance with an intelligent appreciation of the issue in its full bearings.

Law is a regulation of government for the guidance of the citizen to a protection of the common interest; it may be divided into two parts: 1st. Law developed by the past experience of nations and modified by judicial interpretation to suit our conditions of social life, and 2nd. Statutory enactments to apply the just principles of this common law to certain cases which arise peculiar to the age or the country: in statutory enactments or statutes there is the uncertainty of application which belongs often to hurried legislation as compared with a legal decision matured through centuries of trials in parallel cases; still as these statutes are necessary to good government, the young Canadian citizen should guard the commonwealth as far as in him lies from the choice of incompetent or reckless legislators.

No law should be made to protect, against the interests of the honest citizen, either the rogue, the monopolist, or any selfish or dishonorable citizen, or any combination of the same; this is one reason why laws should be few in number, simple in their framing, as far as possible