

ing of hostility to Britain. Of course, I cannot pledge myself for others; but if I believed it possible to maintain the existing connection, and at the same time had a reasonable hope that our country would not thereby be doomed to poverty and ruin, I for one would oppose what I now advocate—a peaceable and friendly severment of the political connexion between Canada and England, and annexation to the United States. We are told by those who have protested against the address, that the evils we complain of may be overcome by legislative enactments. Do they tell us, in their wisdom, what those legislative enactments are to be? No, that is left to fancy. But we are assailed and condemned in strong language, and misrepresented by those who dare not, while condemning, submit our address for the consideration of their own partisans and supporters. On looking over the list of signers to the protest, we discover among the few well known names which appear therein, the salaried officers of Government, a number of their clerks and dependents, some twenty or thirty known monopolists and protectionists, with five or six names, hitherto the strenuous advocates of free trade. He might remark upon the equivocating phraseology of the protest, but he did not come here to condemn or abuse others—our object is rather to invite argument—by organising an association which will submit to the farmers, mechanics, merchants and traders of Canada the reasons for advocating annexation, and leave them to determine whether the arguments are worthy of their support or not. It is admitted, I may almost say at all hands, that Canada must eventually form a portion of the Great American Republic,—that it is a mere question of time; but is said by those who assume to be exclusively loyal, that we ought, before mooted the question to exhaust every argument—make every effort to induce Great Britain to return to her Protective Policy. Some, also, affect to believe England, may by threats and fear of losing the Canadas be induced to return to her exploded system—they flatter themselves she will, for the benefit of the people of Canada, again enact Corn Laws; and again consign her working millions to the starvation from which they have latterly escaped by the repeal of those odious laws—laws which ground the labouring classes to abject misery, to increase the Revenues of a landed aristocracy. There may be some who deplore the abrogation of the Corn Laws of England—he trusted there were few in Canada. The industrial classes on this Continent, thank God, are not yet so debased, as to rejoice at, or seek to impose, a protective tax on the food of the poorer classes of England, even if it did advantage Canada. I believe, moreover, it is the height of folly to expect protection; and I believe, also, that no statesman in England would hazard the consequences, or assume the responsibility, of imposing again, a tax upon the food of the people of Britain, who, for the last 18 months have been quiet, contented, and comparatively happy, even surrounded and excited, as they were, by the Revolutions of Europe. During that period, the great mass of her population have enjoyed the advantages of free trade in provisions; will her masses consent quietly to starve again? I think not, even though it might increase the Revenues of the Landlords of England or benefit 1,500,000 Colonists in Canada.—Much has been said on the subject of the recent repeal of the navigation laws—that the changes incidental to that act of justice to this colony will be important, I have no doubt—it will relieve us from the monopolising tax of the British ship owner—and we shall, in all probability, by that change, be enabled to send our flour and timber to England at half the charge hitherto exacted from us; but the change we advocate presents something even better, (which is, a better market near at hand), a market to which the cost of transport is not a quarter of what, under the change anticipated, even with the repeal of the navigation laws, it will be to send our produce to Great Britain. We have immediately upon our borders, a people anxious for an unrestricted intercourse with us—he meant the people of Vermont, New York, Maiu, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire—they want our wheat and flour, our timber and other products; but they belong to the great confederacy of 23 millions, and cannot receive our products unless we pay a duty of 26 per cent thereon into the treasury of the United States; consequently, we are deprived of our best market—and, until we are annexed, we must pay that tax in support of the great Republic, for the honor of being connected with Great Britain. It is notorious that wheat, which is selling at Toronto for 3s. 9d., is, across the line, worth over 6s. per bushel. In Montreal, a barrel of the best superfine flour is worth 20s. 6d.; across the line it is worth 20s. Our farmers are selling their oats at 1s. the minot; at Burlington they are worth 36c. Peas, another considerable portion of the product of our farmers, are in Canada to be purchased at 2s.; they are worth, in New York, 75c. or 80c. Is it reasonable then that the farmers of Canada are to be deprived of the

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