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The Montreal Newspapers have occupied lately a considerable portion of their columns in discussing the subject of Free Trade, and the English Navigation Laws—and though these subjects may not be the most suitable for the pages of an Agricultural Journal, we think it due to the interests we attempt to advocate to submit some observations upon them also, convinced as we are, that the recent changes in the English Custom House Laws, will have a very great influence, for good or for evil, upon the Agriculture of Canada. The proposition of allowing all to “buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest markets” is very plausible and reasonable in theory, and upon paper, but we deny that it can ever be practically and fairly acted upon, until all civilized nations consent to adopt the principles of free-trade in every article bought and sold. We do not now, and never did, object to the principle of free-trade, if generally and honestly acted upon, but we never gave our humble support to any partial measure short of general free-trade in all the productions of the earth, and of men’s industry. We believe that this would be for the general good of mankind, but nothing short of this can be just towards all classes and interests, and how this general free-trade can be adopted in the British Empire, and raise the necessary revenue, is altogether beyond our humble comprehension. So far as regards Canada, we are perfectly convinced that the agricultural population cannot under the existing laws and the further changes contemplated, “buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets”—but that the exact contrary will be their case, that they will have to “sell in the cheapest and buy in the dearest markets” all they may require. This is what we complain of, as being unjust towards the Canadian agriculturists. If all obstructions upon trade and commerce were removed, agriculturists could buy cheap, if they had to sell cheap. There is, in our humble judgment, a very great mistake in supposing it possible, that we could “buy in the cheapest while we could sell in the dearest markets,” until free-trade is established all over the world. A home trade is considered in almost every case, to be the most profitable and must be much the most extensive in every country—in a home trade, we would ask, how could it be possible to sell dear to those from whom we would buy cheap? If such a thing could be done, it would be simply transferring by degrees the property of the seller to the buyer, until the former would have no more to sell. We can only continue to sell cheap and buy dear, while the property we may have will be able to sustain such a constant diminution. The whole proposition is a false one, and is utterly impracticable, until, as we before observed, free-trade is generally established all over the world. If trade and commerce had a free and unobstructed circulation over all the earth, we might, perhaps, “buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets”—but certainly not otherwise, and we defy all the free traders that ever existed, to prove the contrary, or to prove the practical truth of the proposition which they have so long cherished and pretended to believe possible, namely—“to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets.” So unequal and unjust a sort of trade must soon produce its own cure, because our means would not afford us to continue very long to sell cheap and buy dear. So far as agriculturists are concerned, we trust they shall never object to sell as well as to buy in free and open markets, and take their chance. They have no desire to sell dear and to buy cheap; they only wish for the establishment of an equitable principle that will give them “a fair field and no favour” in transacting business with other classes. The agriculturists did not desire the recent changes; and those who desire further changes in protective laws, should commence with those that protect their own interests, to do them a way first; they will then be better entitled to call for the abrogation of all other protective laws. As to the English Navigation Laws, there appears an actual necessity for a great change in them so far as regards British America, and we, agriculturists, disclaim all participation in the measures that have produced these necessary changes, and those who forced them upon us must abide all the consequences of what may follow. Notwithstanding all the plausible reasoning to the contrary, we