

## PREFACE.

---

THOMAS RIMMER, Esq., *President,*

*And the COUNCIL of the Board of Trade ;*

AND

IRA GOULD, Esq., *President,*

*And the COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT of the Corn Exchange  
Association :—*

GENTLEMEN,

It is matter of regret that this publication is several weeks later than was intended. This is to be attributed partly to the necessity for procuring corrected returns of receipts and shipments of Produce during the past year by railway ;—the *totals* now given are official and differ materially from those published elsewhere. The greatest delay, however, was incident to procuring statements respecting the trade of the Maritime Provinces for the year 1866. Had all the information been supplied sooner, a fuller comparative statement of intercolonial commerce for last year would have been given. But at best, it would not have been quite satisfactory, owing to diversity of method in recording trade statistics,—a serious defect which will doubtlessly be remedied under Confederation.

Difference of plan, however, is not the most perplexing inconvenience that has been encountered. The same care is not manifest in collating for publication the imports and exports of the different Provinces ;—at any rate, the same fact is sometimes diversely represented in the figures published by different officials. Take one of some examples that might be adduced :—The “Trade Returns,” of Nova Scotia, for year ending, 30th September, 1866, show that the exports to Canada during the twelve months amounted in value to \$574,762, being an increase of 31 per cent. over 1865 ; while, according to the “Trade and Navigation Returns” of Canada, for year ending 30th June, 1866, the imports from Nova Scotia amounted only to the value of \$379,817. It can hardly be imagined that the discrepancy in these values is attributable to the different periods embraced in the several