

be a direct tax on property. To carry out these views, every Custom-house should be swept away with the numberless tribe of officers of all kinds. In this opinion it is probable that the *Economist* would concur with us. But every practical statesman must be aware that this is at present impossible. Believing then, that the time has not yet arrived for abolishing duties altogether, the question is, how is the tariff to be adjusted. Our difference with the Montreal merchants, and their various organs is simply to this extent. We are for a revenue duty, of course incidentally protective, on all commodities brought into the Province, save and *except raw materials* of manufactures. It was upon this ground, and this alone that we defended the duties on agricultural produce."

27th June, 1846.

"The Courier says—

"The Free Trade notions advocated by these young men in the *Economist*, meet with no sympathy here, or in any other portion of Canada. Their whole object appears to be, to shake the confidence of merchants abroad, and to turn the trade out of its present channels, by endeavouring to persuade the Upper Canadians that they will do much better both to buy and ship in New York."

Now, what are the real facts? The object of the free traders, is to obtain for us the advantages of Free Trade, by way of compensating for the loss of protection. The free traders have never advocated the removal of protective duties in England. No petition ever emanated from them on such a subject—what then do these free traders aim at? Let the Canadian people understand—let their revilers meet them with argument if they are able."

They desire that the carrying trade of the St. Lawrence should be thrown open to the world, so that by lessening the cost of freight, the cities of Quebec and Montreal may be enabled to compete with New York for the trade of the West—they desire the abolition of imperial duties under which the Canadian consumer is taxed, as we have shown elsewhere in this number, £15 on every £100 of glass he uses, and nearly three farthings on every pound of sugar that he consumes, and in like proportion on nearly all imported articles. Such are some of the objects of the men who are reviled by the anonymous correspondent of the *Gazette* and by the *Courier*. If the majority of Montreal merchants are opposed to such views, then it only proves that they are grossly ignorant of the true interests of the country, and more especially of their own. It is highly probable that many, or even all of the free traders may think the people of England right in demanding the repeal of the corn laws, but it