

get the present laws altered, that is, we must make the legal rate of interest, where no bargain is made to the contrary, 7 per cent., and where one man has money to lend and another wishes to borrow, it must be left to the borrower and the lender to make the best bargain they can with each other, as they do in buying and selling wheat, sheep, oxen, or any thing else.

3rd Farmer.—When your laws allow you to do this, you will have lots of money in Canada, and when the British capitalist finds out, which he will soon do, that Canadians do not believe in or practice repudiation, but pay their debts regularly, as they do in England, they will be glad of an opportunity to take your freehold farms or house property as security, and loan you their money.

1st Farmer.—I wonder what could have been the origin of the usury laws? They are very ancient, for the Scriptures curse those who lend money on usury.

3rd Farmer.—That is true, but it must be recollected that in those days money was a very different thing from what it is now; and in this case, as in the case of Christ's instruction to his people, "that when a man smite thee on the left cheek, turn to him the other also; or if he will take thy coat, give him thy cloak also," neither is intended to be understood literally, but in both cases it is intended to inculcate the adherence to a principle of forbearance, and in the case of a lender not to be extortionate, and to take no undue advantage of the necessities of the borrower, or in the other not to show a vindictive resistance, but rather to submit to aggression than do so.

2nd Farmer.—I have heard it said that in England the law on this subject has been greatly altered of late.

3rd Farmer.—Yes, this law in England would long ago have been repealed altogether, but for the fear on the part of the old aristocratical families that their young and inexperienced sons may be induced to borrow large sums of extortionate Jews, and reduce them to poverty. The English law still says that upon bonds and mortgages the lender shall not receive more than 5 per cent., but lately the English law permits holders of bills of exchange to make any bargain they may see fit, by which in these cases the usury laws become a nullity.

2nd Farmer.—I understand all this now: I see how it is that Canada has not got along better or faster: these usury laws keep the farmer poor; and if the farmer is poor, nobody else can be rich; whereas if the farmer be rich, nobody else can be poor. Let us get up a Township meeting and talk these matters over, and it will go hard if we don't get up a petition to Parliament to alter the law, and if our members won't support our petition, why we will choose two that will do so.

We agreed, Mr. Editor, to have a Township Meeting, and I will trouble you with an account of the proceedings, and I hope you will oblige your numerous subscribers by giving an account of it.

A FARMER.

In the last number of the "ECONOMIST,"—in the article on that "great gun" of Protection, the Hon. Mr. Moore,—an error occurred which even the editor of the *Gazette* would consider to be rather a considerable one—that is, in a small way. It was occasioned by the compositor reading "epilogue" for "prologue,"—making that first which should have been last. As the Hon. Gentleman to whom our remarks were addressed could not possibly discover the mistake, and that he may not himself be led at any future time into error, we now beg to assure him that an epilogue is a speech addressed to the spectators at the conclusion of a play, (in his case a farce,) whilst a prologue is an address delivered before.

"THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER."—Here, in Montreal, the *Gazette*, the last of the *Protectionists*, has been quite "used up" by what he calls "that obscure print," the *Economist*.—*Pilot of yesterday.*

PROVINCIAL, LOCAL, AND GENERAL NEWS.

The Provincial Parliament is prorogued to the 24th April; but it is not called for despatch of business.—The Mayor and Town Council of Cornwall have addressed the Governor General. In his reply His Excellency says—"I am deeply impressed with a conviction of the great natural resources of Canada, and most anxious that the government and the people should co-operate for their development. To this object my strenuous exertions will always be directed, and I trust that before long I shall be able to render myself, by personal observation, more intimately acquainted with the fertile districts of the West, and their enterprising inhabitants.—The *Quebec Mercury* announces that there will be twenty vessels (now building at that port) ready for sea by the 20th May, capable of taking 150,000 barrels of flour.—Various reports of ministerial changes continue to excite the *quidnuncs*. It is stated that Sir Allan MacNab and Mr. Sherwood are about to join the ministry, and that the arrangement is unpalatable to a portion of the Conservative party. In the meantime, Mr. Cayley has proceeded to the Upper Province, but whether to arrange his new tariff (rather an important matter) or no, we cannot say.—A correspondent of the *Colourg Star* writes from Montreal, as follows:—"I have just learned from a source to be relied on, that our Navigation Laws are to be partially abolished; that the Parliament will for this purpose assemble about the 27th April. The Rail-Road from

Halifax to Lake Huron will also be brought before the House, and introduced with an assurance that Great Britain will supply the cash to build it. This is great and glorious news, and will completely smash agitation in all political matters."—St. Patrick's Church—a new Roman Catholic place of worship,—was opened in Montreal on Wednesday last. It is a very handsome edifice, and is capable, it is said, of containing five thousand persons.

There is no very important or decisive news from the United States. Mr. Benton, who was to have gone to Mexico, as a kind of civil and military dictator, demanded powers so extensive, indeed, so extravagant and unprecedented, that they were refused. The reports of a general engagement between Santa Anna and the Americans, are premature; but there is every reason to believe that one was not far distant. In the mean time, the Mexicans had cut off several small detachments of the enemy.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK. 13th March, 1817.

ASHES.—Pots, \$4 81½c. Pearls, \$6 2c.
 COFFEE.—Market quiet. Sales, Brazil, 7½c. to 8c. Java, 8½c. to 10c. Sumatra, 7c., and St. Domingo, 4½c. to 6½c.
 FRUIT.—Sales, 8,000 boxes Bunch Raisins, \$1 85c. 400 half boxes at 95c. 2,400 drums Turkey Figs at 8c. to 13c., cash.
 FLOUR.—Market inactive. Sales to a moderate extent, of various brands, at \$7. Sales, to arrive, of 15,000 barrels deliverable during the year—at the option of the seller, at \$5;—also for delivery in May, at \$5 87½c. to \$6.,—and \$5 50c. in July. Corn Meal is heavy, and sells at \$5 to \$5 00½c. Rye Flour, \$4 87½c.
 GRAIN.—Jersey Red Wheat sells at \$1 40c. to \$1 42c. Northern Rye scarce at 90 to 92c. Last sale of Barley, at 75c. Oats, 42c. to 45c. Corn is dull at 92c; sales to arrive in April and May, at 87½ to 91c.
 Exports from 1st to 9th March.

Corn. 402,786 bushels.
 Wheat 33,444 do.
 PROVISIONS.—Market quite firm, at an advance over the last week's prices. Sales of 2,000 barrels Prime, \$11 75c. to \$12 25c. 600 barrels Mess \$14 37½c. to \$14 50c. New Mess, \$15 to 15 25c. Lard, 9½c. to 10c. in barrels. Kegs, 10½c. to 10½c. Cheese, 7c. to 7½c.
 TALLOW.—Sales for home use, at 8½c. to 9c.
 TEA.—The public sale of two cargoes lately arrived, went off with spirit at full prices.
 FREIGHTS.—To Liverpool, London and Glasgow, 7s. for Flour and 25d. for Corn.
 EXCHANGE.—On London, 3¼ to 4¼ per cent. premium, and rather dull.

MONTREAL. Friday Evg., March 19.

ASHES.—Pots are firm at 27s. 6d. Pearls are dull, but no sales under 27s. 6d.
 GRAIN.—Wheat for the last week has come in freely from the country, and the price from sleighs has varied from 5s 10d to 6s. 3d. per minimot, according to quality. A sale of a large parcel has been made at 6s. 6d. per minimot, for delivery in May.—Barley would command 3s. 6d. per minimot.—Oats have been sold for May delivery at 2s. 6d. per minimot.—Pease, from sleighs, bring 5s. 5d. per minimot.
 FLOUR.—Country flour, in bags, sells on the market at 14s. 6d. per cwt. and the little barrel flour, which is bought by bakers, sells for 32s. 6d. Contracts of best brands have been made, for May delivery, at 31s. 6d., and 3000 at 30s. 3d. to 30s. 6d. for delivery on or before 25th June.—Other large transactions have taken place during the week at similar rates.
 PROVISIONS.—Hogs in carcase continue to come in, and sell freely at \$5½ for hogs weighing 150 lbs. and under; \$6¼ for 200 lbs. and under; and \$6½ for 200 lbs. and upwards. Mess Pork, \$18½ to \$19; very little selling, except at retail. Prime and Prime Mess are nominal at \$13½ and 15½.
 FREIGHTS.—Some contracts of vessels building at Quebec, to be ready at opening of navigation, have been made 5s. 3d. there. An offer of 6s. 3d. from here has been made and refused, for one of the new ships at Quebec.
 EXCHANGE.—Dull. Private Bills on London, at 90 days, have been sold at 6 per cent. prem. Bank rate, 7 per cent.

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