

THE HONBLE. FRANCIS HINCKS'

VIEWS

ON THE

COMMERCIAL POLICY OF CANADA,

In 1846 and 1847, and in 1852.

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The opinions of the leading statesmen of a country at different periods of its political history are always a matter of importance, and therefore those of the Honorable Francis Hincks in the years 1846 and 1847, are now presented to the reader. At that period Mr. Hincks was Editor of the *Montreal Pilot*, and an influential Member of the Reform party. He was moreover a free trader in the fullest sense of that word—opposed to differential duties at once with Mr. Merritt and the now Inspector General on the question of Reciprocity, and clamorous in his demands for the free and unrestricted navigation of the St. Lawrence. Mr. Hincks has changed his views on all these questions, and it is important that the public should be put in possession of the reasons now given by himself for doing so. In order to arrive at this, it is necessary to go back to the explanations offered by the Honorable Mr. Young in the House of Assembly in September last, on his retirement from the Ministry. On that occasion Mr. Hincks explained his reasons for advocating a policy entirely opposed to the views he professed in 1846 and 1847. In giving these extracts, there is no desire to prejudice Mr. Hincks. There is