

At the present time our trade is chiefly with New York. Out of a total value of \$5,305,235 of the four chief articles of consumption—tea, sugar, coffee and molasses—imported into Canada in 1858, no less than \$3,709,359 worth, or considerably over two thirds of the whole, were imported through the United States. The whole of this amount must have been purchased in the United States market. This of itself affords us a proof that the legitimate market of Canada—that is the best, cheapest and most convenient, with her present commercial capacity, is to be found in New York. The trade of a country will always regulate itself in this respect, if not distorted by undue influences and restrictions; and it is simply in the natural order of events that the Upper Canadian merchant finds it to his interest to deal in this great commercial mart of the United States. The reason is obvious enough: it is the largest, and consequently the best market on the continent—the center of trade of upwards of thirty millions of people. Here our merchants find, at every season of the year, immense assortments of every commodity of consumption. They may here select, from every variety and growth, precisely the description of goods they may require for their own market. They may purchase in any quantity, from a few hogsheads of sugar or a hundred chests of tea, to the whole cargo, with equal facility and advantage; the market is open to them at all seasons of the year; they import without risk, and in fact enjoy all the numberless advantages derivable from a large, steady, and well-assorted market. Besides these paramount considerations, there are of course business relationships necessarily established between our merchant and the New York houses, by long intercourse in trade that it would be impossible to dissolve at a moment's notice, without inflicting incalculable injury upon the weaker party. In short, by all the laws of trade, by all the bonds of commercial intercourse, and all the considerations of public and private interests, New York is, and must continue to be for many years to come, the chief trading mart of Canada, as it is of the whole of the northern continent.

To suppose that Montreal can legitimately compete with New York, as a primary market, even for the trade of Canada, is simply absurd. Neither Boston, Philadelphia, nor even New Orleans, have yet been able to do it for their own States, and there is little hope that such a revolution can take place in favor of Montreal.