

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

GOODEVIC, April 11, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—You will much oblige me by

giving insertion to the enclosed. The inhabitants of the County ought to have an opportunity afforded them of knowing the manner in which the acts of their Representatives are appreciated at Home; it so seldom happens that any notice is taken by journals in Britain of the acts of public men in this country, that when such is the case, be it for good or bad, (bad in this instance), such notices should be made as public as possible. Because when an opinion is expressed in Britain with reference to the affairs of this country, it may fairly be considered as entirely unbiased by party feeling, a thing so much desired but so seldom to be met with. I trust that hereafter we shall not be told that upon the possession of power by such gentlemen as Mr. Cayley and his colleagues depends the existence of the connexion between the Mother country and the Colony.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

JOHN GALT.

To the Inhabitants of the County of Huron.

GENTLEMEN,—The outcry of excessive loyalty raised by Mr. Cayley and his friends, and the efforts made by him and them to throw a slight upon the loyalty of his opponents, must be fresh in the recollection of many in this County.

Much was said on the hustings and at public meetings by Mr. Cayley himself, against the advent of the Liberal party to power. You will recollect that he told you that should they (the Liberals) succeed, they would place Upper Canada at the feet of a Lower Canadian or French Canadian party, and that their measures would have a tendency to sever the connexion existing between the Mother Country and the Colony. As a set-off to these flights of fancy with which he and his friends were pleased to favour you at the time of the election, (for that they are so ignorant as to believe the nonsense they then gave utterance to, I do not credit), I have much pleasure in laying before you the remarks of an able journal published in Scotland on this, Mr. Cayley's own pet measure—the Customs Bill—for which he considered himself as most entitled to consideration. I extract also the petition of the merchants, manufacturers, shipowners, and other inhabitants of Glasgow, to the right Hon. Earl Grey the Colonial Minister. I am proud to say that those who were opposed to Mr. Cayley on that occasion, are fully borne out by the opinion herein expressed, when they stigmatized that measure as the most anti-British that had ever been submitted by any government.—It is Conservative (do nothing), or Liberal (Radical)—for the consideration of the Legislature of a British Colony—even any legislature of the late colonies now composing the United States.

I propose in a future communication to revise the Act itself, and to point out to this community their interests as agriculturists have never been allowed to weigh with their representative when he concocted this anti-British, anti-Agricultural, anti-Commercial, anti-Liberal measure.

Gentlemen, your obedient servant.

JOHN GALT.

THE PROPOSED CANADIAN TARIFF.

From the North British Daily Mail, Feb. 5, 1848.

The gentlemen of Manchester should have been served with a copy each of "the table of Customs duties, under the Act 10 and 11 Victoria, chap. 31 and 32, for repealing and consolidating the present duties of Customs in the Province of Canada, and for other purposes therein mentioned, to take effect on the 6th January, 1848." The document, of which we copy the voluminous title, would have been evidence that, under our existing system, free trade is making crab-like progress. The Canadian Legislature are ingenious in the construction of tariffs, and also in the adoption of titles. The description quoted by us in this document is, however, deficient in important respects. The Act repeals duties, for the purpose of re-imposing them with interest, simple and compound. It consolidates duties and thereby increases their weight. This characteristic is not catalogued in the descriptive title; and if that had been read at the Manchester banquet, the reporters would have whispered to each other that things are getting better in Canada. The representatives of the Province do not merely legislate, but also prophesy. They intimate the coming in force of this Act on the 6th of January last. We rather think that the event did not then come in force, and probably never will be in operation without revision and reconsideration. The Canadian Legislature omitted to take any account of "the golden link," which the late Mr. O'Connell always used in the peroration of his repeal speeches—"the golden link of the Crown." They had not apparently considered the consent of the crown as an obsolete form. They seem to have dreamed that they were the House of Commons, and that their stoppage of the supplies would oblige the Crown to raise money on the jewels in the Tower, or come to terms.

In all these assumptions the Canadian Representatives were mistaken. We have the utmost respect for their acts and attitudes, so long as they continue to be distinguished by rational characteristics; but, in this instance, the common shrewdness ascribed to the west has deserted them, and exposed the crooked way in which they understand free-trade.

The table of Custom duties is entirely protective. The duties are evidently not so much devised for revenue as for protection. The promotion of home manufactures is the object pursued from A to Z and X, in every class. Raw materials taxed one per cent. *ad valorem*, except in the case of Colonial products. The variation of the duties is from one to twenty per cent. *ad valorem*, but occasionally the tax is taken by weight, measure, or number, and sometimes both elements are combined.

In order properly to comprehend the table of duties, it will be necessary to understand Canadian use and wont. One of the "institutions" as it were, is the motive of "wading the pound" for the purpose of taxing. The importer may protest that he must pay the sum charged, but the Customs Officer may take ten per cent. under the pretence of meeting freight and charges—*sempiterna* which the commodities bear in the way of building, or of gold, silver, and gold watches. For the purposes of this table, therefore, one hundred pounds in Glasgow is counted as one hundred and ten pounds in Montreal. Thereafter, and just exactly when the uninitiated importer imagines that addition is done, and the charge is to commence, another officer begins his calculations. The object of this second accountant is to turn sterling into currency. He is appointed by law to do that very thing which Sir Robert Peel abhors—namely, to depreciate the coin of the realm. That depreciation most unfortunately operates against the merchant, who finds out that each successive process only digs farther and deeper into his pocket. The transmutation of sterling into currency is effected by counting each sovereign as at the value of £1.40, and thus the original £100, by the aid of the intervening, £10, becomes, for taxing purposes, £138 16s. 8d., and thereupon the per cent. *ad valorem* begins.

Generally speaking, when the Legislature of Canada, in their wisdom, propose to lay on the tax by both modes on a single article, they fairly express that intention thus: "Clayed sugar (10 per cent. *ad valorem*) and per cent., 15s. 3d.; Bastard, per cent., (and £10 for every £100 value) 12s. 6d.; but on other occasions they are less explicit, as in the case of "nuts," which, under the head of fruit, are mentioned as chargeable with a duty of 1d. per lb.—"nuts of all kinds, the lb., 1d." And again, berries, nuts, vegetables, and woods used in dyeing, are under the one per cent. *ad valorem* head.

The protective nature of the tariff is exhibited at every step. Thus iron, pig, bar, rod, and scrap is under the one per cent. duty, along with steel in bar, but axes and axes are to be charged twelve and a-half per cent.; the difference being levied for the protection of sundry bracksmiths in the Province, who could not probably make a good scythe under penalty of having to work a bad one for the harvest.

The severity of the protective duties, in some instances, exhibits a determination to place the Mother Country in a far more unfavourable position than the very Colonies under her dominion, namely, "the other British North American Colonies," the native produce and manufactures of which are proposed to be admitted into Canada free of duty, provided said Colonies shall receive Canadian produce and manufactures on the same terms.

That the said Colonial Act proposes to place the Mother Country in a more unfavourable position than the United States of America, in so far as it repeals the differential duties hitherto maintained in favour of British manufactures.

We shall deem it a hardship if, as British subjects, paying duties on their imports, we are to be placed in a more unfavourable position than those of the Colonies, our goods shall be admitted on less favourable terms than those of the United States manufacturer, who contributes nothing to that expense, and who may thus, in our competition, be enabled ultimately to drive the British merchant and manufacturer out of that Colonial market.

For these reasons, as well as for the maintenance of the "British connection" in America, your memorialists pray that similar competition be enabled ultimately to drive the British merchant and manufacturer out of that Colonial market.

Among the list of articles to be charged 7 1/2 per cent., we find cotton, linen, woollen, and silk manufactures, and hardware. The greatest portion of the Canadian imports are therefore debited 7 1/2 per cent., but under such circumstances that the amount is really 10 per cent. The scale of duties is adopted by Colonists indebted to this country for all that they possess. Their land originally, and very recently, was almost entirely gifted by the Crown. The hill in which they assembled was paid for by the Imperial Treasury. For the roads, and bridges, and canals through which their produce is transmitted to the port of shipment, we have paid. A considerable part of their civil, and nearly all of their military, outlay is charged on the taxes of Britain. And yet this magnificent country, as has been called—"tasting to the general carelessness exhibited for the details of commercial laws, while enjoying the benefits of absolute free communication for all its products with our markets, excepting those on which legal discriminating duties have been established in its favour—propose to levy a sweeping tax on our manufactures—not so much for revenue, which it does not require, as for protection to its manufactures! There are several other particulars in this table of duties which we shall notice. It forms altogether one of the warnings, now too common, that our colonial system is enclaved; unless, indeed, the farce is closed in this country, and a fair mode of dealing be established between its dependencies and its people. The executive have hesitated to authorise an act so adopted exclusively with the view of discouraging our manufactures. They have not yet adopted the limit of Canada, and endeavoured to limit the connexion and the traffic between our parts and the colonies. The subject meanwhile will be brought before the various parties interested here in the operation of the tariff. A copy of a petition against its provisions has been shown to us, which we shall publish to-morrow.

There can be no doubt that the petitions against it will be numerous signed here; and we presume that the evil will be checked; but the attempt may show the error of those who imagine that any policy adopted here will secure free-trade, which makes no provision for its observance elsewhere, when even our own Colonies endeavour to tax our productions.

The Right Honourable Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Memorial of the undersigned Merchants, Manufacturers, Shipowners, and other Inhabitants of Glasgow.

LUMBLT SWEETH.—That your memorialists are interested in the manufacturing prosperity of the United Kingdom, and in the export of commodities to the Colonies.

That the Provincial Government of Canada, in their last session, passed an act, viz:—"The 10 and 11 Vic., chap. 31 and 32, for repealing and consolidating the present Duties of Customs in the Province of Canada, and for other purposes therein mentioned, to take effect on the 6th January, 1848," but now awaiting the Royal Sanction.

Your memorialists observe with regret and alarm the formidable augmentation of Import Duties on British products and manufactures, proposed by that Act, as specified in the "Table of Customs Duties," published by Her Majesty's Printers in Canada.

That while the Mother Country admits the staple products of Canada, either duty free, or at discriminating duties, that Colony proposes to levy duties on Canadian manufactures, varying from 5 to 30 per centum *ad valorem*; and that the average rate of said duties is equivalent to 12 1/2 per cent., the complex character and numerous different rates proposed to be levied on Canadian manufactures, rendering an exact estimate unobtainable.

That the other great Colonies in the East and West Indies and Australia, have hitherto imposed low duties, averaging about three or a half per cent. Your memorialists are desirous to place the Mother Country in a far more unfavourable position than the very Colonies under her dominion, namely, "the other British North American Colonies," the native produce and manufactures of which are proposed to be admitted into Canada free of duty, provided said Colonies shall receive Canadian produce and manufactures on the same terms.

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We shall deem it a hardship if, as British subjects, paying duties on their imports, we are to be placed in a more unfavourable position than those of the Colonies, our goods shall be admitted on less favourable terms than those of the United States manufacturer, who contributes nothing to that expense, and who may thus, in our competition, be enabled ultimately to drive the British merchant and manufacturer out of that Colonial market.

For these reasons, as well as for the maintenance of the "British connection" in America, your memorialists pray that similar competition be enabled ultimately to drive the British merchant and manufacturer out of that Colonial market.

Consent of the Crown.



HURON SIGNAL.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1848.

THE MOVEMENT.

We have long entertained, and even sometimes ventured to publish the opinion, that a rather coarse method of settling the national accounts of Europe was fast approaching, and would probably be adopted during the lifetime of the present generation. And we fear the blow is now struck. A blow which shall decide the destiny of ages—which will establish a reign of freedom or a rod of iron for coming generations.

We read the issue. We think the popular attack upon the noisy chieftain of corruption in the present stage of Canadian Legislation, is a recommendation of an organization "of the skeleton remains of the political monster, and we would just as anxiously direct public attention to the current report from Ireland, as the appalling consequence of factional organizations.

We know little of Colonel Prince, but from his unmanly conduct towards Mr. Brown of the Globe, we think "gentleman" is the last epithet in the English language which should be offered him. We do know something of Mr. Brown, and we feel little hesitation in asserting that he has done more for Canada's welfare than nineteen twentieths of all the glib-tongued and respected members of the Ontario Legislature.

REFRIGERANT CONDUCT.—The learned and gentlemanly "English gentleman," taking advantage of the peculiar privileges enjoyed by Members of Parliament, made a cowardly and disgraceful attack upon Mr. Brown, of the Globe, during the debate on the Oxford Election. If Col. Prince fancied that his present attachment to the Conservatives, will prevent the press of that party from vindicating their order, or if he think that an insult offered to a political opponent, on account of his connection with the press, will be quietly passed over, he will find himself as much mistaken as upon the occasion when he endeavoured to establish personal popularity, and a character for bravery, upon the execution of a few defenceless prisoners which were captured by brave men.—Hamilton Spectator.

then, is that country prepared for political freedom. We have an opinion, and it would be difficult to change it, that intelligence alone is capable of overturning the most inveterate despotism that ever had an existence; therefore we believe all violence is just so much unnecessary evil; and the people who either employ it or tolerate it, are deficient in the necessary amount of intelligence; hence there is a probability that their attempts at national revolution will ultimately be productive of only partial benefits.

From late reports it almost looks as if a pre-concerted scheme for a simultaneous movement towards republicanism, had been entered into by all the nations of Europe. They have moved at the same instant, as if by a previous systematic arrangement, and the manner or character of the motion, in the different countries, is very much alike. But we do think that the movement in the present stage of Canadian Legislation, is apparently doomed; but we are afraid that such revolting butchery of human beings may be regarded as the signal of universal revolution.

The Provincial Parliament stands prorogued to the second of May, and although it is prevalently supposed that it will not meet for the despatch of business, we think it is both probable and desirable that it may. Some slight alterations are likely to take place in the Cabinet which may occasion a little delay; but as regards the preparation of measures, we think there is not a man in the new ministry who has not, long since, familiarised himself with the nature and tenaciousness of every measure of importance that is either likely or necessary to be brought forward in the present stage of Canadian Legislation. We entertain the highest opinion not only of their good intentions and political integrity, but also of their wisdom, judgment, and ability in colonial-stationship. They are not green half-bred aspirants for political distinction.—They are men of experience; men who have made the subject of Canada's prosperity the study of the best portion of their lives; who have endured with patience and unflinching firmness the good and evil reports, the reverses and vicissitudes of political life; men who have made Canada their country, and made her what she is. They are capable of doing much—much is expected from them, and as good things cannot come too soon, we hope they will avoid all unnecessary delay.

With the exception of Oxford, we believe the elections are over; we have not heard from Kent, but there can be little doubt that the Hon. Malcolm Cameron was returned on Monday without opposition. The Reformers have now carried the suffrages and confidence of the United Province without a struggle, which shows that if Toryism is not exactly dead it is, like the generality of evil-doers, growing wiser towards its latter end. The "British Canadian" is anxiously recommending an organization "of the skeleton remains of the political monster, and we would just as anxiously direct public attention to the current report from Ireland, as the appalling consequence of factional organizations.

First then—as to their origin and intention. Building Societies on the principle now adopted in Canada, were invented (if I may use the expression) and first set in operation about 30 years ago, in some of the populous manufacturing districts in England. They have been there attended with almost incredible success, and such are the facilities offered by these societies, or to the industrious poor man, or others of limited incomes, to better their condition by small savings, that many persons have within that period risen from very humble circumstances to independence, and even opulence; principally by their connexion with them; individuals, who could never have hoped for such improved fortune from so small beginnings, in any other way.

"Building Societies" were however formed on a very different principle in some parts of Scotland. Their object was by periodical subscriptions to raise a fund for the purchase of land, to build houses, and then, to sell or rent them as opportunity offered. It will not be wondered at by any one who will consider the matter, that such a scheme was subject to much vicissitude by speculation, and such expense for management as to become at least unprofitable, if not utterly impracticable,—and that they should consequently fall to the ground. Nor will the matter

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

GOODEVIC, April 11, 1848.

SIR,—Having been informed that an attack has been made upon me as Superintendent of Education for the Huron District, in your paper of last week. I beg to trouble you with these few lines, to this effect. That I am prepared and anxious to answer any attack that has been made upon me, as a public servant, and that I should have done so in your edition of this week, if I had had an opportunity of seeing the Signal, but unfortunately I trusted too much to the kindness of personal friends, and to myself as Editor of that Journal, to furnish me with the paper which I have not yet seen. I shall certainly answer the attack when I can obtain a copy of your last publication.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, your most obed't ser't,

JOHN BIGNALL.

S. C. S. HURON DISTRICT.

We love to be charitable, and therefore we are willing to suppose that Mr. Bignall did not see the Signal of the 31st March. We are more inclined to this supposition from certain corroborative circumstances within our knowledge; the first is, that on the first issue of the Huron Signal, we sent copies to all whose names or addresses we were acquainted with, requesting that such as were not inclined to patronize us, would signify so by returning the paper. Out of one hundred and eighteen copies distributed in the town of Goderich, six were returned; one of these rejected half dozen bears the following inscription—"REVISED, J. BIGNALL." Now, we do not know how many J. Bignalls may be in and around Goderich, but certain it is that the District Superintendent of Education declares that he did not receive the first number of the Signal, and considers himself slightly by the neglect!

We forbear to give further corroborative circumstances, as we deem this single one sufficient to establish at least the possibility that Mr. Bignall did not receive or even see the Signal of the 31st ult.; and we would have contented ourselves by merely stating the fact, that at the time we mailed our issue of that date, we gave Mr. Bignall's own hand a copy addressed to "John Bignall, Esq.," which Mr. Kydd declares he gave to Mr. Bignall's boy on the first opportunity. But Mr. Bignall has not contented himself with merely intimating to us that we had neglected to send him a copy of the Signal according to promise, he has published a letter in the Huron Gazette, which intimated either a public impeachment of our veracity, or as an insinuation that we were afraid of incurring his displeasure. With regard to being afraid, we may just state, that in the open avowal or advocacy of truth, we have never known and never will know fear; and as to our veracity in such matters it is perhaps equal to that of Mr. Bignall. We fulfilled our promise, but we had not the slightest inclination to chase Mr. Bignall on his tour twenty or thirty miles down the London road, in order to accommodate him with a personal of the Signal. His note is dated "Education Office Goderich," and Mr. McTavish's letter requires no other answer than a bare intimation of the whereabouts of that Office.

BUILDING SOCIETIES—NO. 1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

GOODEVIC, 11th April, 1848.

SIR,—Nothing but my sincere conviction that the establishment of a Building Society in this District would be of incalculable benefit to those who may become shareholders; and also the hope that I may be able to remove the doubts of some parties not yet satisfied as to their benevolent character—and thereby induce them to become members—could have overcome my reluctance, to put myself before the public through the medium of the Press; even at the solicitation of some friends who also take a warm interest in the prosperity of Goderich and the District generally, as well as in the success of the Society; and the more especially as I feel my own inability to do justice to the subject.—And further, that I may very probably put forth statements not sufficiently clear and correct to parties residing in it, and more especially to those who may become shareholders; and also the hope that I may be able to remove the doubts of some parties not yet satisfied as to their benevolent character—and thereby induce them to become members—could have overcome my reluctance, to put myself before the public through the medium of the Press; 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