

enlighten the public mind on this subject. They could prophesy ruin most admirably, and were not to be outdone in indignant expostulations against changes that would positively come in spite of them. If protesting could have stopped Sir Robert Peel's measures, they were just the men to stop them; but protesting would not do it. The changes have come, and if the community does not altogether despair—if a way has been opened through which we may still retain our trade, and continue our British connexion, we think we may, without boasting, claim some credit for having pointed it out.

We have asked for this Colony its fair instalment of the Free-Trade measure. We have shown what is the effect of discriminating duties on our commerce, and have endeavoured by actual calculations and rigid investigation, to point out how a lucrative carrying trade may still be retained for this Colony, and our connexion with the mother country be preserved, after the tariff has been struck down. Such services might at least, we think, save us from the reproaches of snarling journalists, who either could not or would not do any of these things.

But after all, we ought not, perhaps, to be surprised at the jealousy with which our labours have been regarded by a certain portion of the press. When we consider the little consistency exhibited by some, and the little knowledge exhibited by others, we ought rather to bless our stars that we have escaped so well. Besides, there is a little revenge concealed in the fact that our angry contemporaries are compelled to follow on our trail. They have—though somewhat unwillingly—learnt the lesson we wished them to learn, and are now as eager as we could desire in claiming perfect Free Trade for the Colony. However ungrateful, therefore, their conduct may be towards the *Economist*, it is favourable as far as the Colony is concerned; and, everything considered, that must content us for the abuse and ill-nature they have at different times bestowed on us.

If, however, our contemporaries will consent to alter their tone, and, whilst they avail themselves of our arguments, cease to speak slightingly of our services, we shall certainly consider that they have gained other knowledge besides the knowledge of political economy, and are becoming courteous and polite in the same ratio that they are becoming Free-Traders!

### THE 'PILOT.'

We are pleased to see that the *Pilot* has at length formally admitted that the 3s frontier duty on wheat imported into Canada is wholly inoperative, as regards prices, to the Canadian farmer; in other words, that it cannot have the effect of enhancing prices in Canadian or English markets. We thank him for this formal admission, as we have no doubt it will have a wholesome effect upon the minds of the generality of his readers, the agriculturists in particular.

Our views on the general question of taxation, which he seems to have expected earlier, we shall place before our readers at our earliest leisure. It is a question that cannot be entered into hastily, and therefore we find it necessary to defer it.

We have a word to say, however, respecting a Free-Trade representative in the Provincial Legislature. The *Pilot* thinks we have erred in stating a candid and independent opinion on the merits of our present city representatives; but his opinions are drawn from wrong impressions. The Free-Trade Association is composed of men of all parties, who, to secure a great end, that is, Commercial Reform, agree, for the time being, to waive every other political consideration. Hence, at a future election, they will be prepared to support the best Free-Trade candidate, whatever his political biases may be on other questions. We are not a political party; we have only one single object in view, and so soon as that is attained our Association will be dissolved.

### SIR ROBERT PEEL AND MR. COBDEN.

In resigning office, Sir Robert Peel took the opportunity of doing full justice to Mr. Cobden, by stating frankly that to him and him alone is attributable the success of the Free Trade measure. The avowal was honourable to the Premier, though as far as history is concerned, it adds no strength to Mr. Cobden's claims. That he has been the leader in this great movement is notorious, and nothing could rob him of the credit. Still the announcement of Sir Robert Peel, coming at the moment it did, was evidence of a generous mind, and in keeping with the high character of the man. For Mr. Cobden personally the acknowledgement must have been very gratifying.

The following is the concluding portion of the late Premier's speech in which this reference is contained:—

"I said before, and I said truly, that in proposing these (the Free Trade) measures I had no wish to rob the others of the credit justly due to them. Now, I must say, with reference to hon. gentlemen opposite, as I say with reference to ourselves, neither of us is the party which is justly entitled to them. (cheers). There has been a combination of parties, and that combination, and the influence of Government, have led to their ultimate success, but the name which ought to be associated with the success of these measures is not the name of the noble lord, the organ of that party, nor is it mine. (cheers).

The name which ought to be, and will be, associated with the success of those measures, is the name of a man who, acting, I believe, from pure and disinterested motives, has, with untiring energy, by appeals to reason (loud cheers), enforced their necessity with an eloquence the more to be admired because it was unaffected and unadorned (cheers), the name which ought to be associated with the success of those measures is the name of Richard Cobden. (Loud and protracted cheering.) Sir, I now close the address which it has been my duty to make to the House, thanking them sincerely for the favour with which they have listened to me in performing this last act of my official career.

Within a few hours, probably, that power which I have held for the period of five years will be surrendered into the hands of another—without repining—I can say without complaint—with a more lively recollection of the support and confidence I have received than of the opposition which during a recent period I met with. (Cheers) I shall leave office, I fear, with a name severely censured by many hon. gentlemen, who, on public principle, deeply regret the severance of party ties—who, on public principles, deeply regret that severance, not from any interested or personal motives, but because they believe fidelity to party engagements—the existence and maintenance of a great party—to constitute a powerful instrument of government.

I shall surrender power severely censured, I fear again, by many hon. gentlemen who, from no interested motive had adhered to the principle of protection as important to the welfare and interests of the country; I shall leave a name execrated by every monopolist, (loud cheers from the Opposition) who, from less honourable motives, maintains protection for his own individual benefit (continued cheering); but it may be that I shall leave a name sometimes remembered with expressions of good will in those places which are the abode of men whose lot it is to labour, and earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow—a name remembered with expressions of good will, when they shall recreate their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, sweeter because it is no longer flavoured by a sense of injustice. (Loud and vociferous cheering, during which the right hon. baronet resumed his seat.)

From the *Levee* of June 27.

### VICTORY.

Our work is done. The great principle in whose name and power we leagued ourselves together, and which we undertook to see finally embodied in an Act of Parliament, has now received the seal of statutory enactment. The British Legislature has made its last Corn Law—has relinquished henceforth and for ever, the unholy office of restricting the people's food. By and with the assent and consent of the three estates of the realm, in Parliament assembled, FREE TRADE in the first article of human use and necessity is now part and parcel of the law and constitution of the country.

It has taken a long time to do. First, seven years of popular agitation; and then, five months of Parliamentary conflict! Never was a public and social wrong more deeply rooted and ingrained in the institutions, habits, and prejudices of a country, and in the pride and supposed interests of a dominant class, than was that which, in the commencement of the year 1839, we pledged ourselves to wrench from its place in the British statute-book. Future generations will marvel that it should have cost so much to achieve an end so simply right and rational—to win legislative recognition for such palpable rudiments of common justice and common sense. Yet, now that all is over, we are not disposed to complain, with any bitterness, of the tardy action, either of popular intelligence or of Parliamentary forms. Delay itself has not been without its compensatory advantages. It marks deliberation and settled purpose. It serves to indicate, to the obtusest perception, the finality and irrevocableness of a national act, which the national judgment has so slowly and cautiously matured. Nobody has been taken by surprise. All opinions have had fair play—all parties have had free speech. Neither violence nor hurry has shared in effecting this great consummation. The act to which Her Majesty's most gracious and glad assent yesterday gave the force of law is, most emphatically, the work of the national intelligence, the expression and embodiment of national conviction—of a conviction wrought very gradually, spread over many years, tested and confirmed by a long course