

rence there must be in the sale of articles of English manufacture in the Northern countries of Europe, and those of our portion of America, whose Inhabitants must consume more of them. I leave these considerations, and some others of the same kind, to those who have more leisure for enquiry, and more knowledge of the details than I have myself upon those matters. But, in fine, it appears to me that, independently of these, which may not be without importance, I have adduced reasons that are pretty strong to prove that the principle of exception I have invoked is not devoid of foundation.

We now come to another consideration which is connected with the essential principles of justice on the part of the Mother Country towards the Colonies, and as one appertaining to political economy. The prosperity of the commerce of a country can only be built upon a reasonable certainty, a well founded hope of profit to be made upon the capital employed. If the measures adopted by the Government be changed from one day to another, such changes may in the same way produce the loss of those profits or even of the capital itself. It is evident that commerce would be destroyed, that the nation must suffer as much as individuals, and that a common and universal ruin would be the consequence.

The Province of Lower Canada demands from Great Britain to guarantee them from this danger, in the course of exercising her right to make laws and regulations which effect the interests of the trade and commerce of her Colonies. A fluctuation in the measures adopted by His Majesty's Government would expose the Merchants of the Colonies to very fatal consequences; the apprehensions alone of this danger would suffice to paralyze the efforts of industry. Let us remark, with regard to the timber trade, that the system of protecting duties has had the effect of causing many individuals in the Colonies who are engaged in it, to invest considerable sums, in matters connected with it, among others, in the construction of saw-mills, of establishments for squaring, sawing, and dressing the timber destined for exportation. What would be the result of sudden changes in the laws which have established that system upon the permanence of which they had a right to depend? The loss of the capital invested and perhaps the ruin of a great number of them who had engaged in these speculations. It is useless to enter into further details on this subject. That I have confined myself to speaking of the timber trade, is because it has been the subject of a warm debate during the last Session of Parliament, and that it has drawn the attention of the Government and of the public, on this side of the Atlantic, and that of the Inhabitants of the Colonies themselves, especially of those who are engaged in this important trade. The reflections which have here been made are equally applicable to all the other regulations, which are within the province and jurisdiction of the Imperial Parliament, with relation to the commerce of the Colonies. I will add that even if that which has now been in question, should itself be regarded as subjected to an exception with regard to the principles I invoke, they would not the less, in general, be deserving of the attention of those who direct the operations of Government, that is, as to all the other objects to which these principles may be applicable.