

by the provisions of the late British Corn Laws, has not been fully realized by them; the exorbitant freights and heavy rates of insurance paid on shipments from the port of Montreal, added to other disadvantages connected with the navigation of the River St. Lawrence, having been found nearly adequate to neutralize the remission of duty intended by your Majesty to operate in their favour.

3. Your Petitioners have, with much pain, frequently had occasion to observe that, when the state of the British markets has been most propitious to the export of Canadian wheat and flour, the combination of a few shipowners, or their agents, has completely blasted all their hopes, and intercepted the boon designed by your Majesty's paternal Government for the benefit of your Majesty's faithful subjects in the interior of the Province—the rates of freight insisted upon having sometimes been as high as 7s. 6d. sterling per barrel of flour, and very frequently averaging from 5s. to 6s. sterling; whilst, at the same times, freights have been obtained from the port of New York in vessels of a superior class as low as 1s. 6d., and seldom higher than 2s.: and insurances at 50 to 80 per cent. less than by the St. Lawrence.

4. Your Petitioners most humbly submit that, during the past months of the present shipping season, the position of the holders of flour and wheat in the port of Montreal has been most distressing. Large quantities of produce were forwarded to that city from the interior, where it had been purchased during the preceding winter at prices seriously enhanced by the exaggerated reports which reached Canada of the scarcity of bread-stuffs throughout Europe. On arrival, it was found impossible to obtain shipment for it at less than 6s. sterling per barrel. The holders were threatened with insolvency, alike from its shipment or its retention; and perceiving, most distinctly, that the chief cause of their difficulties was to be found in the present navigation laws of your Majesty's kingdom, a feeling of deep disaffection therewith has arisen in the minds of your Majesty's Canadian subjects. The people of Canada now feel convinced that, deprived of that protection formerly extended to their products in your Majesty's kingdom, by means of which the heavy burthens imposed on their trade by the navigation laws were neutralized, they must, in the event of these laws being continued in force, be reduced to a position much inferior to that of the people in the adjacent States of America; and they contemplate, with profound mortification, their only alternative in the conversion of their export trade into a valuable branch of the resources of their republican neighbours, who will not fail to avail themselves of so opportune a juncture for demonstrating to the people of Canada, by the removal of every obstacle standing in the way of a free egress through their territory, that they possess the means and have the desire, to advance their interests.

5. Your Petitioners further most humbly submit, that your Majesty's Canadian subjects have incurred a heavy debt, in the constructing of canals capable of giving passage to vessels of large dimensions, under the expectation that, by these improvements of their internal navigation, they would not fail to secure to themselves a large share of the carrying trade of the rich agricultural countries bordering on the great lakes of Canada. The repayment of the debt thus incurred is an object from which your Petitioners feel convinced no consideration can ever divert the intentions of the people of Canada; but it is quite manifest that in the event of the export trade of Western Canada, and the states adjacent to the lakes, being forced out of the waters of the St. Lawrence, the outlay upon the improvements, from Lake Ontario to the ocean, will have become a dead weight on the resources and energies of the Province, the trade of the recently flourishing cities of Quebec and Montreal will have disappeared, and the mercantile capital of their enterprising citizens will have been transferred to the commercial emporia of the neighbouring country. These are evils which your Petitioners cannot contemplate with other than the most gloomy apprehensions; but they feel convinced that in the wise foresight of your Majesty, they may rely with entire confidence for the prompt adoption of every practicable means by which they may be averted.

6. Your Petitioners have further most humbly to submit to your Majesty that the trade of Canada labours under weighty disadvantages resulting from the imposition of protective custom duties under authority of imperial statutes. This class of duties, your Petitioners are pleased to observe, by the declarations of your Majesty's advisers, as well of the recently existing administration, as of the present, is no longer held to be in harmony with the recognised principles of British commercial legislation; and your Petitioners are disposed to believe, that a pressure of other more absorbing measures has been the only cause which has prevented your Majesty's government from proposing to parliament, the repeal of the imperial customs laws authorizing the levying of protective duties, for the purpose of securing to the manufacturers of your Majesty's kingdom a preference in the supply of the Canada market, which they no longer consent to extend to the people of Canada in the supply of the British market. Several of the protective duties referred to are found by your Petitioners, not only to be burthensome upon the resources of the Province, but also to be totally inoperative in effecting the purpose contemplated in their devisal, as they are levied, in their maximum extent, on some articles of general consumption—as window-glass, sugar, and

coffee,—which at present do not come into competition with the same description of goods of British origin.

7. Your Petitioners observed with much gratification that your Majesty's late Secretary for the Colonies, in a despatch, No. 32, dated Downing Street, 3rd March, 1846, in referring to the then proposed measures of Government, for the removal of commercial restrictions, expressed his desire "that the efforts of the British Legislature in this respect may be seconded, their range extended, and the example rendered yet more impressive, not only by the acquiescence, but by the approval and active co-operation of the Legislatures and the inhabitants of the Colonies." And your Petitioners would cheerfully have sustained the Provincial Legislature in that co-operation, in preference to the course adopted by it, of remonstrating against the passage of a measure which circumstances had rendered no longer resistable.

8. Your Petitioners therefore believe, that in submitting to your Majesty their convictions of the expediency of repealing the present imperial customs laws, authorizing the imposition of protective, or differential duties, within this Province, they are not preferring to your Majesty a complaint, the red-ress of which will not be in accordance with your Majesty's wishes and intentions.

9. Your Petitioners therefore, in view of the premises herein set forth, most humbly pray that your Majesty will be pleased to recommend to Parliament, an immediate repeal of the Navigation Laws of the United Kingdom, so far as the same relate to the River St. Lawrence and inland waters of Canada, and also such alterations in the present Imperial Colonial Customs Tariff as may render the Trade of this Province with the Mother Country one of fair reciprocity.

FREE TRADE.

Ho for Free Trade! Ye slumbering people wake!
Down with the tottering bulwarks of old wrong!
Thus let your voice go forth, like torrent strong,
When from its wintry prison it doth break.
Do not your wind-swept hills and rocky strand,
Your leaping rivers, teach you liberty?
Is not your granite stamped by God's own hand
With sacred Freedom's name? Oh then be free!
Go, heal anew the wounds of human kind,
Bid Love and Concord through all lands increase;
Let your white-winged ships, that greet the wind,
Be to all nations messengers of peace.
No gyves upon our Commerce!—let her be,
Like our swift eagle, fetterless and free!

—Boston Chronotype

COBDEN AS A MANUFACTURER.—Richard Cobden commenced his industrial life at an early age as clerk in a London merchant's counting-house, where he commended himself to his employers by his industry and devoted attention to business. By and by he removed to Manchester, where he became the commercial traveller for a house extensively engaged in the cotton trade; and gradually rose in the estimation of all who knew him. In Manchester, the progress of men of business, who are up to their work, is generally rapid; and we soon find Cobden, with an elder brother, engaged in a manufacturing enterprise of his own, to which he brought to bear the fruits of much experience, and a judgment as apt and skillful as that which he has since displayed in public affairs. The beautiful prints of the Cobdens soon commanded the very highest prices in the market. An instance of their attractiveness has been publicly mentioned, which we may here repeat. A gentleman was some time ago in Mr. Cobden's warehouse in Manchester, and was there favored with the sight of some new printed muslins of a peculiar pattern, about three days before they were issued to the public. In less than a week from the day these dresses were despatched from the warehouse, the same gentleman was at Clchester, and walking in the direction of Goodwood, he met some ladies of the Duke of Richmond's family wearing the identical prints; and in a few days after, the same gentleman was at Windsor, and saw the Queen walking on the slopes wearing a dress of the same kind—so instantly did the "Cobden prints" take the lead in the fashionable world. For Mr. Cobden studied public tastes, as he has since studied public opinion; and rarely, if ever, made a speculation (and this branch of trade is always exceedingly precarious and hazardous) in which he was not completely successful. It may be added, that the print-works of the firm, at Chorley, are now amongst the most extensive and liberally conducted in Lancashire; and give regular employment to a large population. But we pass from this part of the subject to Cobden as a public man and a leader of the people.—*From a Memoir in the People's Journal.*

THE MILLS OF LEEPS.—Think for a moment of the runes and wonders imaged forth in all this pageantry of Manufactories, Mills, Workshops, Smithies, Chimneys! What a strange centre of eventful life it is! What cunning and capital are at work here. Ragged men and women making textures for the robes of kings and queens; and supplying the marts of all climes with staples and luxuries. Ragged men, I say, with heads like Gods, and hands married to nature by art, her wisest high priest—under the foot of capital—serving apprenticeship to a slavery that shall one day free the world. Ye noble toilers see it not, know it not, but work out your days embowled in fire-light darkness for wages that may enable you so to work. But hear me when I say, that not the meanest stoker and floor-sweeper amongst you but is a link in the mighty chain of being which reaches to the end of the world, and binds