

The late Hon. Robert Baldwin, in a speech delivered at Dundas, in 1846, in alluding to the *Economist* and its objects, said, among other things:—

“ But what he should feel bound to contend for was, that the
 “ farmers of the country were not, on the one hand, to be deprived
 “ of the advantages of differential duties in their favour in the
 “ markets of Great Britain, and, on the other, be saddled with such
 “ duties for the mere advancement of the separate interests of any
 “ other class of the community, either in the Parent State or the
 “ Colony itself. Let no one, therefore, persuade us to exhaust our
 “ energies in any attempt of the kind to which he referred; but let
 “ us learn to depend on ourselves. Let us shake off the imbecility
 “ of childhood, and stand erect like men, and he felt assured that
 “ Canada would be found fully equal to the emergency.”

I quote these extracts to show that in the eyes of those most capable of forming a judgment of its merits, the *Economist* was a journal engaged in the greatest work of the time, and that its conductors did much to shape popular opinion on the new commercial policy of England, and its influence on this and the other Colonies. And since Mr. Cramp recollects so well the doings of 1846 and 1847, he should know that the difficulties and enmities which had then to be met, could only have been encountered from a grave sense of duty, and not “for the love of the thing.” However, I ought, perhaps, to thank him for having given me the opportunity of making good my claim of being the projector of the first bridge across the St. Lawrence, near where it now stands, of defining Mr. Keefer's position in connection with it, and of proving the right of my able and lamented friend, the late Alex. M. Ross, to be regarded as the “real architect and designer” of the Victoria Bridge.

Some persons, I repeat, may object that I enter too largely on this subject, and give it undue importance. I cannot, of course, agree with those who think so. If a man like Robert Stephenson declared that one of the proudest incidents of his life was his “being called upon