

three articles, one of which was in relation to the bridge, as I have already mentioned. The labor of collecting facts at that period was great; and instead of publishing the *Economist* as a sort of pleasant recreation, as Mr. Cramp seems to imply, it was done at an important era in our history, when few but those practically conversant with trade could have explained the consequences of the commercial changes about to take place, and how to meet them. Perhaps the cost of the paper, which was considerable, divided among so few, was also indulged in "for the love of the thing." We were the objects of all kinds of abuse and misrepresentations on account of our opinions, and much wit and ridicule were directed against the "Philosophers of St. Sacramento Street," as our opponents were pleased to style us.

But there were some who boldly supported us, and among these was Sir Francis Hincks, then editor of the *Montreal Pilot*. In the issue of that paper of the 27th June, 1846, he wrote:—

"What, then, do these young men, the Free Traders of the *Economist*, aim at? Let the Canadian people understand; let their revilers meet them with arguments if they are able. They desire that the carrying trade of the St. Lawrence should be thrown open to the world, so that by lessening the cost of freight, the cities of Quebec and Montreal may be enabled to have a chance to compete with New York for the trade of the West. They desire the abolishment of Imperial duties, under which the Canadian consumer is taxed 15 per cent. on every £100 of glass, and three farthings on all the sugar he consumes, and in like proportion on all imported goods. Such are some of the objects of these men, who are so basely reviled by the anonymous correspondents of the *Gazette* and *Courier*. If the majority of the merchants of Montreal are opposed to such views, then it only proves that they are greatly ignorant of the true interests of the country, and more especially of their own. The young men conducting the *Economist* and the Free Trade Association have only come forward when the success of the new scheme in England was beyond a doubt, and to advocate measures to save the Province from impending ruin. Such are the facts, and we defy any of the opponents of those measures to combat them with argument."