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We have so often denied that the poor of England pay a tax upon bread for our advantage that it requires some proof from us in explanation. From the returns submitted to the Imperial Parliament, it appeared that the average duty paid on foreign wheat from the passing of the Corn Laws in 1815 to the year 1843, was five shillings and some pence per quarter. Canada grown wheat was, we believe, during all that period subject to a duty of five shillings sterling per quarter. The amount of encouragement, therefore, to the Canadian farmer was very trifling indeed, not amounting to one penny per bushel. During the same period there was a heavy duty on Colonial salted-meat, cheese and butter, nearly equal to a prohibition of these articles. But in addition to these duties, the high freights paid for exports of agricultural products from this country to the protected shipping of Britain enhanced the value of food to the poor without profiting the Canadian farmer. It is easy to make assertions, and denounce the Corn Laws as an injurious and oppressive tax upon the poor in favour of farmers, but if the state of the case was properly investigated, there is a class of persons that comes between the farmer and other producers, and the poor laborer, that are the true taxers of the food and other necessities of the poor, and we hesitate not to say, that the free-traders generally belong to this class. It is not at any time the prices that farmers obtain for produce, except in case of failure or shortness of crops; that would be found oppressive upon the poor, but it is the large profits that other parties require, who come between the farmer and consumer, and who would desire to purchase in an open market of free competition, and sell in a protected one. When men come honestly forward and call for the total abolition of every law that restricts the free circulation of the productions of the earth and of man's industry, we shall be disposed to give them credit for their pretensions to be free-traders, but certainly not before. Maintaining duties for revenue, or any other pretence, upon one article, and taking it off another, is contrary to the very terms—free-trade and to every principle of justice and equity. A bushel of wheat when finally converted into bread, sells for more than double the price the farmer obtained for it, and thus the miller and baker, who are free from foreign competition, obtain more for their labor than the farmer gets for his labor, land and seed, and we cry out against the farmer for his covetousness in making bread dear for the poor. The brewer sells the proceeds of barley and hops at the same increased price over what the farmers obtain for these articles. Every article of produce and manufacture is in the same or greater proportion enhanced in value by those who traffic in them between the producer and consumer, and yet the farmer is accused for desiring to have food dear. There is not a class of the community, here or elsewhere, so ill-paid as the farmer; and the only advantage he has to make up for hard work and small pay is, that he enjoys the clear pure air of the country, and is continually surrounded by the beautiful works of the Creator, instead of the impure air of cities and towns, and the works of man. This is certainly an enjoyment that is not to be valued by pounds, shillings and pence, or that would be exchanged for pounds, shillings and pence by any true admirer of the beautiful works of God. We should not occupy so much of this Journal in the discussion of this subject, but that we apprehend that the contemplated changes in our laws and system will produce great confusion and embarrassment; because nothing short of totally abolishing every restriction on trade, commerce and industry will be doing justice to all classes and interests, and how that is to be effected, and a sufficient revenue raised, is beyond our comprehension. As we have repeatedly observed, it is the most unqualified injustice towards the principal interest in every country, to do away with every species of protection to agriculture, while there is protection continued to other interests. There is another product of Canada—timber—that is said to have been protected at the expense of the people of England, but if the real state of the case was examined it would be found that this protection was not of much advantage to the poor Canadian lumber-