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CONTENTS:

PAGE.	PAGE.
FIELD AND FARM YARD—	Richmond County—Red Islands Agricultural Society.....118
The Coming Cloud and its Silver Lining.....113	VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDEN—
Cultivation of Mangel Wurzel in Nova Scotia, by J. Northup, Esq., of Bel Air.....114	The Cabbage and its varieties.....118
New Ice Cogs.....115	Prof. Owen's mode of Rose Growing.....119
Mushrooms—Toad Stools—Pearls of the Field.....115	Angelica Sativa—Tom Thumb Lettuce—Gladiolus.....119
General Statistics of Farm Crops in the United States in 1865.....116	ARTS AND MANUFACTURES—
On Planting Trees and Shrubs.....116	Improvements in Manufacture and Use of Coal Gas.....120
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—	Alloys of Manganese.....120
Abstract of Reports, &c., of Agricultural Societies—Digby Co.—	MISCELLANEOUS—
Clare Agricultural Society.....117	Domestic Receipts:—New England Chowder—Tomato Sauce—
Hants County—Windsor Agricultural Society.....117	Turnips—Carrot—Eggs and Sausages—Prices of Cattle keep up—
	Sweet Cider.....120

The Reports of Societies have recently occupied so much of our space as to exclude other matter. Now that our columns are again available for communications and correspondence, we shall be glad to receive such from our agricultural friends throughout the Province.

THE COMING CLOUD, AND ITS SILVER LINING.

The Tide of Commerce that has been flowing so freely around our coasts, with yearly increasing strength, is about to be disturbed in its course; whether its force will be lessened or merely its direction changed is at present the subject of anxious enquiry. Agriculture has been especially referred to as likely to suffer by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. Let us therefore, endeavor to ascertain what are our precise commercial relations with the United States as regards agricultural produce.

The Trade Returns for the year 1864 show that our gross exports of all kinds to all countries amounted to seven million dollars, and our imports to twelve millions, an excess of imports over exports of five millions. This

does not include gold produced and ships sold; and, inasmuch as the prices actually obtained in foreign markets for fish and other shipped goods, are usually in excess of recorded export prices, the apparent excess of imports over exports is to a large extent fictitious, not real. Yet it is obvious that we have at home a market for produce and manufactures that is but very partially met by our own producers. We are a buying rather than a selling people, as regards many kinds of produce and manufactures that might be produced in the country.

We have, in the same year 1864, sold to the United States *two and a half* millions' worth of goods, and have bought from them upwards of *four* millions' worth. It is not to be supposed therefore, that were we to cease to trade with the states we should simply lose a good customer for our produce. The case is rather that of our being turned away from a shop which we have been in the habit of largely patronizing, paying our bills partly with our own produce and partly with gold.

Our agricultural produce supplies very partially and imperfectly the daily increasing wants of our own people, a large proportion of whom are engaged in the fisheries and mines. Of agricultural productions

alone we have imported from all countries (during the year) to the extent of more than *two and a half* millions of dollars, and have exported less than *one* million. At present then we are, upon the whole, consumers of agricultural produce, not producers for other markets. It is true that our farmers, in certain counties, have found it convenient (encouraged by a foreign market) to raise potatoes, &c., for export; and individual inconvenience, as well as some loss, may be felt for a season, as is usually the case when a sudden interruption, or a radical change in the commercial relations of trading countries takes place; but we fail to see any national calamity in the closing of the United States markets against us as regards farm produce. We want to buy not to sell. When the man over the way becomes saucy, we may supply our wants at a neighboring store. Canadian flour may not continue to reach us by way of the American canals and railways, but the strong tide of the St. Lawrence sweeps down to our shores with a will for the burden.

Limiting our attention to the trade in agricultural produce with the United States, we find that they buy from us less than a *fifth* of a million of dollars' worth (in the year) and we buy from them ten times that amount,