

effected, we might be able to convince the farmer in a short time that he was no worse off than before ; but Mr. Merritt's resolution will be for the next ten years perhaps, a bugbear to frighten all the silly protectionists in the country. They will be made a clap-trap "cry" at the elections, and will be imagined often times of more importance than they really are. Our deliberate conviction is, that we should legislate *for ourselves*, and leave the Americans to *themselves*. They will neither take off, nor put on, duties to please us, nor with any reference to what we do. Let Mr. Merritt take the bull by the horns, and state plainly to the country what he means. Is he for the present agricultural duties or not ? To state our views on this subject would occupy more space than we can command at present, and it may not be necessary to resume the subject, although we have no desire to shrink from it. We want to say a few words on a question of infinitely more importance, and which seems sadly neglected in the House. Are we to have an address—an unanimous address, for the free navigation of our inland waters ? What are our Boards of Trade about ? Now is the time to be active. Bold measures may yet save them. They have great advantages in their position, if they only would realise them. We really could hardly have believed that at such a crisis, Ministers would have occupied their attention with such a trumpery point as that of making Montreal a free port. They must, however, be pushed on these really important questions, before which, Mr. Merritt's resolution on reciprocity sinks into utter insignificance.

From the Pilot of 9th November, 1848.

THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE.

(From the Missisquoi News.)

If anything was required to establish, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the proverbial selfishness of Montreal, the Report of the Board of Trade has supplied the deficiency. The merchants of Montreal may now be fairly regarded as the embodiment of a passion, potent in its influence, mean in its nature, and disastrous in its results. But we must except from this unenviable category the *bona fide* Free Traders. We have the right, however, to infer that the Board of Trade speaks the sentiments of the majority of the mercantile community of Montreal, and unless the project recently promulgated is protested against, the merchants of Montreal generally, must bear the odium it will excite throughout the country. This project we shall proceed briefly to set forth :—