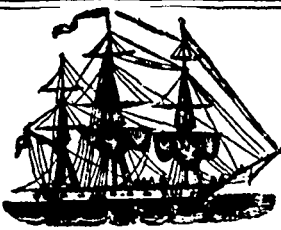


# CANADIAN ECONOMIST.



## FREE TRADE JOURNAL, AND WEEKLY COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Vol. I.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 1846.

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## THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST.

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### MONTREAL GAZETTE.

Three entire columns of the *Montreal Gazette* devoted to the *Economist*, with a sort of promise to return to the subject in a day or two! Really we feel highly honoured by such a notice of our publication, especially from one who has apparently rested so long wrapped up in the garment of self-sufficiency, occasionally, and at intervals, propounding *ex cathedra* opinions on Free Trade and the Navigation Laws, replete with all the ambiguity of the oracles of old. But at length the Sibyl is inspired; and no longer satisfied to be rated as a hairless old woman, gives vent to her sacred fury, and pours out the vials of her wrath on our devoted heads!

Such a hurricane of vituperation it was never our lot to encounter, and how we have "bided the pelting of the pitiless storm" we are really at a loss to conceive. We had some inkling of the tempest which was brewing, when we ventured last week to call for the reasons of the Editor; and he has fully verified our prophecy; amply supplying his dearth of argument by a most copious flood of abuse. As the latter commodity is one in which we do not wish to deal, we shall leave to him the monopoly of the market, and pass to the consideration of such passages in his remarks as we may consider at all worthy of our notice, and this we shall do as much as possible without reference to those extraneous ornaments with which he has thought fit to load his observations.

In the first instance, we endeavoured to give a different meaning to the passage in his paper of the 21st ultimo, which we refuted in our last. His original assertion was, that we quoted with approbation from the *Miner*, "that it is a just and moderate demand that the colony should regulate its own tariff, without being subject to the delays and inconveniences of the royal sanction." In reply, we stated, that we made no such quotation from the *Miner*, nor any allusion to its being "a just and moderate demand, &c.," but that we extracted a letter which had appeared in that paper, and introduced it by some laudatory remarks. How does the *Gazette* reply to this direct contradiction? Forced to shift his ground, he now says, that because we characterized the letter in question as admirable, and because the writer of it asserts "that it is a just and moderate demand that the colony should regulate its tariff without being subject to the delay and inconveniences of the royal sanction," we therefore unreservedly espoused, "not only the commercial, but the political sentiments of the writer." To use the expression of this admirable logician, could a more "contemptible sophism" be uttered? How did we make ourselves responsible for every expression in that letter? The editor of the *Gazette* knows well we did not, nay we could not, since in the same letter there is to be found a distinct disclaimer on the part of the writer of agreement with all our principles. We should insult the understanding of our readers were we to enlarge on this subject; we have said enough to show the shameless manner in which the editor of the *Montreal Gazette* seeks to cloke his former misrepresentations.

The next topic calls down the especial ire of the editor: and at this we do not wonder, since a more complete exposure of impudent quackery and pretension has seldom been made than that which we presented to the derision of the public, when we irrefragably proved

that he was not the first to raise his voice against the repudiation of the public debt, but that we first stood up in defence of the public credit, even when assailed by that Government of which he is *par excellence* the organ,—in other words, the subservient hireling! We well know that his masters winced under the castigation they then received at our hands; and from that epoch we date the hostility, at first latent, but now avowed, which the *Montreal Gazette* evinces to the *Economist*. It would not have answered at that time to have stigmatized our observations on the Governor's Despatch as "libellous": public opinion went along with us too strongly in the opinions we gave, and he therefore discreetly reserved the display of his angry feelings to a more convenient season.

We will not stop to notice the special pleading by which this notorious despatch is attempted to be palliated—defended it could not be, even in this age of brass—but we pass to the accusation made against us of "insulting and grossly misrepresenting the Queen's Representative, and, indirectly, his Ministers." The best answer we can make to this calumny is to be found in our own words in commenting on this very despatch, and which will we trust satisfy our readers that the editor of the *Gazette* is as ignorant of constitutional law and usage in Great Britain, and of the true operation of Responsible Government within this colony, as he is of the ordinary courtesies which ought to obtain in the discussion of questions such as those which form the difference between him and us. Our remarks (see *Economist* No. 10, of 4th July last) were as follows:

"It is, we presume, unnecessary to remind our readers, that this document must be considered, in a constitutional point of view, as the production, not of His Excellency, but of his responsible advisers; and consequently that the freedom we shall use in examining it, dictated as it will be by a sense of duty to the cause which we advocate, will not be construed by any as disrespectful to the Representative of our Sovereign. We also request our readers to give credit to our assertion, that in commenting with some severity on the Ministers' Despatch, we attack them, not as a Ministry, but as the opponents of Free Trade. For political parties in this Province we care not a rush, except in so far as they may respectively conduce to obtain for us the objects of our confederacy,—namely, the removal, so far as is consistent with a due regard to the public revenue, of all restrictions on our commercial intercourse with all nations."

But we find another railing accusation brought against us, namely, that we have since changed our course on this subject of the repudiation of the public debt, and winked at, nay, tacitly encouraged, its advocacy by others who are designated as our "allies of the press," and especially by Captain WILLIAMS, the Member for Durham.

To this, our answer shall be brief and conclusive. In the first place, we are linked to no party amongst the public press, and the editor of the *Gazette* well knows that the Free-Trade Association enlists amongst its members persons whose opinions on political subjects are "wide as the poles asunder," the only bond of union being that for which they are publicly associated. We therefore disclaim the responsibility of any articles which may emanate from any other press than our own. We are happy, however, to be able to add, that the doctrines maintained in our answer to the Governor's Despatch have been repeated on more than one occasion during that time when we are accused of letting them sleep, and more especially when, to use the words of the *Gazette*, "the Member for Durham [Captain WILLIAMS] proposed relief from the debt as a reasonable thing,"—as the following passage from the *Economist*, No. 17, 22nd August, will prove:—

"In respect to the practical measures recommended by Mr. Williams, we need scarcely say that they are, generally, those which have been advocated by the *Economist*. We must except, however, the remarks which appear under the head 'Thirdly,' respecting the loan to Great Britain. We cannot agree with Mr. Williams that we are 'morally and equitably exonerated from the responsibility of this engagement,' and deny, as we have before denied, that the improvements of our internal communications were undertaken solely on the strength of our protected trade with the mother country."

Are you answered now, Mr. Editor of the *Gazette*? You have, either ignorantly or wilfully, misrepresented our conduct—take either horn of the dilemma; and your readers will now judge of your fitness to guide and direct the public mind. Be advised by us: imitate the example of your brethren of the Press—*whom you do not name*—but who, you say, have "blushed and repented."