

knowledge of the Political Economy (which at best is merely a science of circumstances) is not practical, or of their own experience, but merely a *knowledge of what is written*,\* insist on regarding, and would legislate for, the people as only *consumers*. They have tried (too successfully for the people's own interest) to convince the people that their whole interest is in *cheapness*, although to us, on this side of the Atlantic, it seems a self-evident proposition that the distinctive characteristic of the people is that the *labour*, and that *cheap* commodities, just mean *cheap* wages and *dear* money. We see that the great body of every people are *producers*, and have therefore as their main interest more bidders for their *labor* (which means *more* not *less* price for the commodity) for it is also self-evident that if a man's production did not exceed his consumption there would be no profit by his labor, and his employment would necessarily cease. The laborer's production being therefore the larger quantity, he is more interested in the price of it than in the price of the smaller quantity—his consumption. But it is well for Canada that she can afford to throw theories to the winds, having a certain unfailing barometer of her great interests. In her farmers, Canada has a great class, the prosperity of which secures the prosperity of all other classes; so that the *true economical policy for Canada is to promote the prosperity of the Canadian farmer*. And how this is to be done is the simple political question of the Canadian patriot. Yet—to the shame of British statesmen be it said—a question so momentous to Canada was known to have had no consideration in Britain, when she, in 1846, diametrically altered her policy, and repealed all the old distinctions between Canadian and American produce in her markets. The direct and immediate effect of this precipitate introduction of free imports (for it is not free trade) into the mother country was most disastrous to Canada, and was more likely to prove subversive of her loyalty than any thing that could have been anticipated; for it left the Canadian farmer (on the north bank of the St. Lawrence) only the English market for his produce, in which he has to compete (after paying all freights and expenses across the Atlantic) with wheat of countries where labor and money are (as I have shewn) much *cheaper* than in Canada, while it gave to the American farmer

\* And let us consider what could be written a hundred years ago, of the circumstances of the present day.