

Civil and Social Department

THE MARKETS FOR OUR SURPLUS PRODUCTS.

The low state of our markets as compared with the American, from which the liberal tariff of that country practically excludes our produce, is attracting public attention to the disadvantages under which we labour; and plans partaking very much of the character of nostrums, are being suggested for relieving us from our difficulties, and establishing a reciprocal tariff, based on liberal principles, between the two countries.

It will appear evident on examination that this difference in price is not attributable to the operations of the American tariff, but to causes in a great measure extraneous, and the investigation of which must form the study of those who would arrive at a true knowledge of the nature of the evil; otherwise the application of the supposed remedy will be the imp-impard, reckless bungling of the quack.

So long as we have large quantities of wheat and flour to export, their value in the Canadian markets must be governed by the value of the article in those countries that have a short supply, and whose Government will evince a willingness to admit it at a low rate of duty. The only countries to which the Canadian people may with any degree of certainty calculate upon having as profitable customers for their surplus agricultural products, are Great Britain, the United States, and the West India Islands.

convey these products to the English market at a less cost than we can. When the period arrives that they can no longer do so, Canadians will have no incentive to seek admission to the American market, except in the event, which has no place in the chapter of probabilities, of their having generally a short harvest and we a redundant one.

We have been much puzzled at the following singular reference to this subject, put forth with an air of authority in a journal published in this city, bearing the name of the Provincial Advertiser:—

At the late Provincial Agricultural Exhibition at the city of Hamilton, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:— Resolved—That from the experience of 1835, 36, and 37, and the present Autumn, it appears that when bread stuffs are higher in Europe than America they are higher in the United States than Canada.

Resolved—That a committee consisting of the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Provincial Association, be appointed, and authorised to adopt any measures they may deem expedient to obtain access to the best market, and thus secure the best prices to the Canadian grower.

In conformity with the above resolutions the committee have authorised the receiving of subscriptions, in aid of the above object, to be remitted to Mr. G. W. Edmondson, editor of the British American Cultivator, at Toronto, on or before the 15th December next. Subscription lists, to raise a fund to aid in bringing about the above important result, are now in progress of being extensively circulated. They will be sent to some of the principal farmers, and others friendly to the cause, in each township of Western Canada, in the hope that those who are desirous of securing the best market for our agricultural products, upon the most advantageous terms, may contribute a small portion of their means for the purpose of securing that object.

The only thing that strikes one in reading the above, apart from the execrable, the worse than school-boy mutilation of the English language, is the total absence of all definiteness of purpose except the general invitation to farmers to remit money to a certain person, for an uncertain, undefined, and so far as regards the resolutions, an unauthorized object. It is not within the limits of probability that so respectable a body as the Provincial Association, intend to countenance such a hoax, such a monstrous fraud as a reading of the above would suggest to the scrutinizing or suspicious mind. Here are two resolutions published in a very unbusiness-like manner, unattested by a single name. The second resolution forms a committee of certain members of the Association, who are authorized to adopt any measures which they may deem expedient to obtain access to the best markets, and thus secure the best prices to the Canadian grower."

Beyond this the resolutions authorize nothing. We have next the authority of a newspaper paragraph for the statement that a certain individual, the reputed editor of that paper, is authorized to receive money for an object, the intended plan of carrying out which is left a profound mystery. At the risk of exposing ourselves to the charge of captiousness, we must say that we find it incompatible with our duty to the Agricultural public to restrain the expres-

sion of our regret that so rude a scheme, so thoughtlessly or disingenuously mystified, so studiously or carelessly left unexplained, should have been suffered to go to the public, with the sanction or apparent sanction of the Provincial Association. How do the committee intend to effect their object? Will they send a deputation to wait on Mr. Polk's Cabinet at Washington? Such a deputation would have no authority to do any thing, and would not be listened to for a moment. No less authority than the Legislature of the country can form a commercial treaty.

We have a serious apprehension that if the above resolutions and the accompanying paragraph should find their way to Washington, the members of the cabinet there would escape a fit of hysterics, only because they are not old women. The Provincial Association should explain the mode they intend to adopt to secure their object; they may then claim public assistance with a better grace. They should also state whether or not they are willing to be held responsible for every thing that appears in the newspapers owned by their secretary, written with a demi-official air. The idiosyncrasy of the Secretary is associated with an unhappy Organomania, which if not timely checked, will assuredly damn the Association.

The writer in the journal from which we have quoted should not have ventured to meddle with commercial questions till he had acquainted himself with the fact that England has not only "evinced a disposition to admit our grain at a low rate of duty", but that she has passed a law for admitting, duty free, the grain of every country in the world. We can ask no more liberal terms of admission to the English market. What our interests require are the repeal of the Navigation Laws; and thus the English Government appears willing to concede (so far at least as they affect us), and the completion of our public works.

Our intercourse with the United States should be as unrestricted as possible; not because they have any market to offer us, but because restriction cannot be otherwise than mutually disadvantageous.

EDUCATION IN LOWER CANADA.

We have lately observed with regret that, certain portions of the Common School Law of Lower Canada are so unpalatable to a portion of the inhabitants, as to lead to open resistance to the school tax. We give the following extract from the Quebec Gazette on this subject, on account of its historical importance:—

"Some of the Montreal papers are quarrelling about education and the opposition to the School Acts.

"There cannot be a greater error than to believe that the descendants of the first colonists of Canada are averse to Education, or a more injurious imputation, to accuse them of such an aversion.

"More was done for general education in the first years of the settlement than in any other colony. The Jesuits' College at Quebec is a striking monument of an early attention to the education of the male youth of the country, and Nunneries, of female education. The old inhabitants of Quebec still recollect well educated tradesmen, navigators, and others, who were educated at the Jesuits' College. Persons there were qualified to teach in all parts of the country, and there are parishes where every individual can read, and many can write and possess the elements of arithmetic, the same having been transmitted by their parents who had received education. The Jesuits' schools were closed about the time of the American revolutionary war; and their place voluntarily supplied by the Seminaries. The Provincial House of Assembly applied for the estates of the Jesuits for Education, in the first session after the Act of 1791. In 1810, a member had prepared a School Bill for the whole Province, when he was cast into prison in consequence of the political disputes of the times. Several School Bills were introduced after the peace of 1814; but it was not till 1829 that the inhabitants were authorised to hold property for School Houses, and pecuniary encouragement was granted. In four or five years there was 44,000 children at school when the population was hardly what it is at present: but the appropriations expired during the

wretched political contests which followed, and gave a check to elementary education. Since the Union of the Provinces, the School Acts have been constantly changing and every thing thrown into confusion by offensive and unconstitutional attempts at taxation, without representation and without the control of the tax-payers, and virtually placing the management out of the hands of the inhabitants."

THE CHOLERA AND ITS PREVENTIVE.

This scourge of the human race is again spreading over Russia, has extended to Germany, and will probably re-visit the whole Continent of Europe, and cross the Atlantic to visit the Western World. The means of preventing it, stated in the following letter to the London Times, will, if really efficacious, be invaluable wherever the dreadful scourge appears:

To THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES.— Sir—The steady advance of the cholera westward appears to have called public attention to its probable re-appearance in England before long, and a paragraph in one of the London papers, of Friday, leads me to believe that the majority of persons will depend for protection upon any preparation which is advertised as "disinfectant," erroneously believing that all disinfectants have the same power over the virus which creates disease as they have over unpleasant smells. Allow me to correct this error by detailing the results of my experience during the visitation of this horrid malady in 1832, when, as a chemist, I laid myself out for a close examination into the cause, mode of propagation, and check for it. For this purpose I obtained information of, and visited in person all the earliest cases which showed themselves, in this city generally, and in each great establishment in particular. For some time I attended almost daily at the cholera hospitals, and experimented in every way I could think of, upon the dead and the living subjects, their contents and excreta, the atmosphere surrounding them and their articles of clothing. The conclusions I arrived at I forward for the information of those who have not had the same opportunities.

- 1. That the cause of cholera is a putrid animal poison capable of being recognised by the smell by some, emanating from and surrounding the dead or living cholera subjects, or articles of clothing.
2. That it is not sulphuretted hydrogen or hydro-sulphuret of ammonia, as it does not decompose salts of lead or zinc, and when passed through nitrate of silver it only forms a red solution when exposed to light.
3. That it is only received into the living body through the lungs, and cannot be propagated by inoculation.
4. That infection can be conveyed by articles of clothing, bedding, &c. and that washerwomen are more subject to infection than ordinary persons, from that cause.
5. That all persons are not equally liable to infection from equal exposure, and even the same individual becomes more sensitive under certain circumstances.
6. That the poison is destroyed by chlorine gas and a heat of 300 deg Fahrenheit.

As the object of the present communication is merely to give the public opinion a right direction, so as to help the future boards of health to combat with this insidious and powerful enemy, I must at once state that the two most popular disinfectants of the day—the chloride of zinc and the nitrate of lead, known as Sir W. Burton's and Ledoyen's, will be of no avail, although they will promptly remove ordinary putrid effluvia. The only chemical preventive I depended upon in my numerous exposures to the virus was chlorine gas, and this I believe to be a perfect one if the fumigation is complete. I invariably passed thro' an atmosphere on my return home, and kept it escaping into my residence during the continuance of the disease in this city. I also placed large quantities of the substance necessary for the evolution of this gas in the hands of a Bristol druggist, who was kind enough to distribute 1,200 quantities of it gratuitously to applicants during 3 days with instructions for the use. A man happily says that during that time the deaths fell from 10 to 1 per day, and I have but little doubt that if every ship arriving in England from an infected place, should be exposed to a perfect fumigation with chlorine, we shall be preserved from the infection. If the disease should pass this cordon, by any accident, then every house in the infected district should be simultaneously fumigated with it—say three times a day; unless done in all houses at the same time, it would be useless, or nearly so; and to do it effectually, a mixture of three parts common salt and one of black oxide of manganese, should be placed just inside the outer or street door of the dwelling house, and a little common vitriol poured upon it. The inward current of air will convey the chlorine gas in every part of the interior, and wherever it can be smelt the effect is produced—the miasm is destroyed. If articles of clothing are infected, and the colours likely to be injured by the gas, they may be heated in an oven or on a kiln, to 250 or 300 degrees, (about the heat of baking bread,) when they might be hauled or used with perfect impunity.

I am, Sir, &c., WILLIAM HERAPATH.

Bristol, October 11.

THE BUTTER TRADE.—As an evidence of the progress of the butter trade of Canada, we notice with satisfaction, that 2500 firkins have been shipped recently by a single vessel from this port, and understand that she had to refuse some parcels for want of room. The Board of Trade have also procured the appointment of a butter Inspector, whose directions and remarks will be very valuable to the trade.—[Montreal Witness