

linen or woollen made of their own spinning, they should not be abridged of the same liberty that they now make use of, namely to carry a weaver who shall be licensed by the Government, and have a wrought up for the use of the family, but not to be sold to any person in a private market, nor exposed to any market or fair, upon pain of forfeiture."

"That all sitting mills and engines for drawing wire, or weaving stockings, be put down." "That all negroes shall be prohibited from weaving either linen or woollen or spinning or combing of wool, or working at any manufacture of iron, hither than tacking it into pig or bar iron. That they also be prohibited from manufacturing hats, stockings or leather of any kind. This limitation will not abridge the planters of any liberty they now enjoy. On the contrary it will then turn their industry to promoting and raising these rough materials."

"2nd The advantages to Great Britain from keeping the colonies dependant on her for their essential supplies."

"If we examine into the circumstances of the inhabitants of our plantations and our own, it will appear that not one fourth part of their product redounds to their own profit, for out of all that comes here, they only carry back clothing and other accommodations for their families, all of which is of the merchandize and manufacture of this kingdom."

"All these advantages we receive by the plantations, besides the mortgages on the planters' estates, and the high interest they pay us, which is very considerable, and therefore very great care ought to be taken, in regulating all the affairs of the Colonists, that the planters are not put under too many difficulties, but encouraged to go on cheerfully."

"New England and the Northern Colonies have not commodities and products enough to send us in return for purchasing their necessary clothing, but are under very great difficulties; and therefore any ordinary sort sell with them, and when they have grown out of fashion with us, they are new fashioned enough for them."

Now, if Canada be substituted for New England in the last extract, Joshua Gee's remarks are just as applicable as they were 100 years ago. What purchaser of goods in England, when examining the contents of their warehouses, has not been asked, For what market are you purchasing? Canada. Oh, Canada—step this way, and here are goods better suited to your market, at half the price. Yes, true it is, their old shopkeepers, their refuse stock, are good enough for Canadians, and when they are out of fashion in England they are new enough fashioned for us. The fact is, they know little about us in England, and care less; witness the total abandonment of our interest on the repeal of the corn laws. It has been repeatedly stated in this house, and with great truth, that one word previous to that repeal would have insured us free ingress for our raw products into the markets of the United States; one single clause retained in the Navigation laws, (its repeal of no consequence to them) would have insured to this city the largest shipbuilding trade in the world. Our interests were too contemptible to be remem-

bered; that one word was not spoken—that clause was repealed. Twelve months after the repeal of the Corn laws we were permitted to repeal the differential duties, now declared by the Hon. Inspector General to have been a false step. Was that overlooked in England? Oh, no; Lord Grey, absent in the words of Joshua Gee, tells us what we should do. Mr. G. then read from the despatch as follows:—"In advising the Queen to assent to Act No. 479, which has been passed for the twofold purpose of repealing the Differential Duties of Customs, payable under the Possessions Act, and for a new tariff of Custom duties, her Majesty's Government were not unmindful of the objections which would probably be urged by the manufac-

tures and others in this country to the increased rates of import duty to which many articles of British manufacture are made liable. But aware of the importance attached by the Provincial Government to an early decision on the act, and that the Colonial revenue for the present year was in a great measure dependent on the duties to be levied under this tariff, we were unwilling to offer any impediment to the Act receiving Her Majesty's sanction, preferring to leave these objections to be considered and dealt with by the Provincial Legislature."

"The duties more particularly complained of are those imposed on leather and leather manufactures, on paper, on the staple manufactures of cotton, linen, woollen, hardware, and on some specific articles, such as silk dresses, scythes and axes."

"Her Majesty's Government acknowledge readily the propriety of leaving to the Colonists the task of raising the revenue which they may require by such methods of taxation as may appear to them most expedient; and in the present case we disclaim any wish to interfere with their liberty of action in this respect for the sake of protecting the exclusive interest of the British manufacturer. But if, as has been alleged by the complainants, and as in some instances would appear to be the case, any of the duties comprised in the tariff have been imposed, not for purposes of revenue, but with the view of protecting the interests of the Canadian manufacturer, Her Majesty's Government are clearly of opinion that such a course is injurious alike to the interests of the mother country and to those of the colony. Canada possesses natural advantages for the production of articles which will always exchange in the markets of this country for those manufactured goods of which she stands in need. By such exchange she will obtain those goods much more cheaply than she would manufacture them for herself, and she will secure an advantageous market for the raw produce, which she is best able to raise. On the other hand, by closing her markets against British manufactures, or rendering their introduction more costly, she enhances their price to the consumer, and by the imposition of protective duties, for the purpose of fostering an unnatural trade, she gives a wrong direction to capital, by withdrawing it from more profitable employment and causing it to be invested in the manufacture of articles which might be imported at a cost below that of production in the colony; while at the same time she inflicts