

very act, they have been spurred with fresh vigour to complete the grand canal, and to project others, in order to turn the trade of their Western territory from its natural channel, the St. Lawrence. Had our legislature enacted permanent laws regulating the commercial intercourse between the two countries, these gigantic undertakings of canals had never been thought of.

The trade bill should have been so framed as to allow us a free intercourse with the States, laying a moderate duty on all articles imported to protect British manufactures and our farmers; a drawback equivalent to the duties paid at Quebec should have been allowed on all articles exported from hence to the States, and we would (should) have seen our imports of dutiable articles nearly double in two years. these drawbacks would not hurt the revenue a penny, (except as to salt,) and our merchants would acquire a great accession of benefit, and we should not see our hard specie go out of the provinces.— Our extent of frontier is so great, that I consider it an utter impossibility to prevent smuggling; notwithstanding the prohibition of all articles not enumerated in the schedules annexed to the trade bill, our stores are filled with them, and they are hawked daily through our streets, to the injury of the revenues; and in defiance to all the laws, and even the resolves, of an honourable gentleman against smugglers and smuggling. Of teas alone, upwards of ten thousand chests are yearly brought in: the consumption of the two provinces is estimated at 12,000 chests, and only 1846 were imported last season. The amount of East India and French goods brought in clandestinely from Boston and New-York, exceeds any idea we can form; these are facts which are too well known and can not be denied. Why the provinces should not derive some benefit from the trade, which, as I have said, it is impossible to check or prevent, is to me astonishing, and leaves an impression on my mind that these Unionists have a wish to reduce the revenues so as to force the legislature to have recourse to direct taxation, for the supply of the wants of the province, and thereby create discontents to verify their assertions.

I consider the trade-act of more serious injury to the provinces and the merchants, than of real benefit; and the unionists themselves admit of it; still you will not find any one bold enough to come forward and complain publicly of its injustice, for fear, I suppose, of displeasing some one whom they consider a great man.

I fear that I have encroached too much on your valuable paper and time. I shall continue the subject when time will admit.

ANTI-COMMERCIAL.

28th April, 1823.