

Some were disposed to submit with a good grace to what they saw was inevitable, while others were inclined to send strong addresses and petitions on the subject. This, my Lord, is the real state of the case. A petition in favour of the repeal of the Corn Laws would not, in all probability, have received a signature in Canada. But then, my Lord, those who have predicted that we would all turn rebels because the Corn Law was repealed, are greatly mistaken. There is very little despondency in Canada on the subject. The present holders of bread stuffs will suffer severely because the purchases last winter were made at a time when the delusive cry of "famine" was in every mouth. When the present stocks are worked off all will be right, and the merchants will have the advantage of a steadier market in future. The question on which the division took place in our House of Assembly was the repeal of the frontier duty of 3s., which was thought by the minority, which opposed it, to be a very incomplete measure by itself. You have given the people of England Free Trade, my Lord, and we ask you to give it to us. We demand the repeal of all differential duties in favour of British manufactures, which are imposed by Imperial acts, and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence for vessels of all nations. In no other way, my Lord, can the commerce of the St. Lawrence be sustained. The freight of a barrel of flour from Montreal to Liverpool has been 6s. 3d. during the present season, while at New York it has been only 3s. If the press can be considered as an index of public opinion, all parties in Canada are in favor of the removal of these restrictions on our trade. And, my Lord, while I do not allow myself to anticipate any opposition to our demands from a Free Trade Cabinet, I can scarcely believe that even the parties for whose benefit the present restrictions have been imposed, will endeavour to maintain them. Surely, my Lord, the British manufacturers, the Free Traders of Manchester, and the other manufacturing towns will not claim protection for their cottons, their woollens, and their hardware. If they do, let the fact be proclaimed; let the agriculturalists of Canada be given clearly to understand that though their wheat and flour is to be placed on the same footing as foreign in the English markets, they are nevertheless to be subjected to protective duties in favor of British manufactures. The case of the ship-owner is a much clearer one. He, my Lord, must compete with foreign shipping under the Free Trade system. Our products must be sent to the English markets either by the St. Lawrence or by New York, and as the English ship-owner must compete with the foreigner at the latter port, he may as well do so in the St. Lawrence. But, my Lord, even if the British ship-owners should demand the continuance of their monopoly, will a Free Trade Cabinet lend them any countenance? We Canadians trust not; we entertain a confident hope that our reasonable demands will be acceded to, in which case your Lordship need not apprehend any complaints from Canada on commercial subjects. There is, however, one monster grievance which I have left untouched, and regarding which I can assure your Lordship there is no difference of opinion among political parties—I mean the Post Office. I shall not take up your Lordship's time with any lengthened notice of this subject, especially as the remedy is a very simple one. Place the Post Office under Provincial controul. Let its head