

ADDRESS

OF THE

"ASSOCIATION FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HOME INDUSTRY,"

OF MONTREAL,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA.

In pursuance of the objects of our Association, we deem it essentially necessary to make you acquainted with our views, in the hope, that you will co-operate with ourselves, in endeavoring to procure for our common country, those valuable and enduring advantages, which will inevitably result from the profitable employment of the labour of our own people.

We ascribe the present depressed state of the general interests of the Province—Agricultural and Manufacturing, as well as Commercial—to the want of Legislative encouragement, in behalf of the labour of this country, and particularly to the absence of that proper and judicious discrimination, which would, if wisely exercised in the apportionment of the Duties required for Revenue, not only have the effect of promoting the prosperity and extension of those Branches of Industry which are already established, and also stimulate the creation of others, throughout the Province, but would, at the same time, by enlarging the field of employment for the labouring classes, materially contribute towards the general amelioration and advancement of their social condition.

We deprecate the idea which has been industriously circulated, by those who advocate the doctrines of Free Trade, to the effect that, when the interests of Canada have been protected, such protection has invariably been attended with a sinister effect.

We deny the allegation that Canada has, at any time, been protected, exclusively with a view to her separate and individual interest; and, we affirm, that any protection heretofore extended to the products of Canada, in the markets of the Mother Country, has been more than counterbalanced by the advantage which Great Britain has enjoyed in return.

To guard against the misapprehension of our views, and to separate from each other the two questions of protection, Imperial and Colonial, we distinctly avow that, while we admit the advantages accruing to this Province from the protection at present extended to some of the products of Canada, in the markets of the Mother Country, it is, nevertheless not our intention to interfere with the internal Commercial Policy of Great Britain, by supplicating for Imperial protection, in behalf of the productions of this Province; claiming, as we do, that the inhabitants of this Country possess the local right to protect their own industry, by every fair and reasonable means.

In view of the connection existing between Great Britain and this Colony, we feel that it would be injudicious to recommend the augmentation of the aggregate amount of that portion of the Revenue derived from Custom Duties upon Imports, beyond the sum which is indispensably required for the general purposes of Government; while, therefore, we condemn the mode of raising the