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The observations we submitted in our last, respecting the probable effects of the late change in the Corn-laws upon our future prospects, were made in order to show, that there was no alternative for the agriculturists of this country but to encourage manufactures here for our own wants, unless all restrictions and duties were taken off all articles that we purchase, as well as off agricultural productions. This is the only fair and equitable principle to establish that will afford all classes and interests equal justice, to be allowed to buy, as well as sell, in a free market of competition. Indeed we cannot imagine upon what principle any statesman or legislator would attempt to remove all protection and encouragement from the productions of agriculture while other productions are encouraged and protected, directly and indirectly, under the pretence of making revenue, it may be, but nevertheless it is protection to some interests that is denied to another. The navigation laws of England secure a complete monopoly to the commercial classes, and act indirectly in taxing to a large extent every article bought and sold by Canadian agriculturists. This monopoly is the greatest discouragement to our trade with the British Isles in the productions of our lands and labours. It reduces *unnecessarily* the value of all we sell, and enhances the price of all we may require to buy. We would not complain of these laws, if they were necessary to the power and safety of the Empire, so long as we enjoyed a favorable encouragement for our productions in the British Isles, but now that all such encouragement will be at an end, we will have to complain that we are indirectly taxed by the navigation laws, and that we shall be in rather a worse position than foreigners. We have constantly been taunted with taxing the people of the British Isles for our benefit, but this charge we unequivocally deny. It is time that this question should be fairly understood, and that a charge that is so utterly groundless should be no longer made. We shall not pretend that our connection with England was more beneficial to that country than to us, but we will take leave to say that the advantages were perfectly reciprocal and the con-

nection fully as profitable to the British Isles as to us. If we have been injuriously burdensome to the mother country—then must the desire for “Ships, Colonies and Commerce” be a complete delusion, for if any colony was valuable for ships and commerce, Canada was the one, and also for providing for a surplus population that was burdensome to their father land. This burdensome population provides for themselves here, and are able to buy and pay for the protected manufactures of the British Isles. The agriculturists are not to be any longer imposed upon by the statistics of commerce. They are able to make a balance sheet that will satisfy themselves that their occupation is unprofitable, so long as the cost of production is greater than the price they receive for those productions, allowing for their own time in proportion to what other classes wish to obtain for theirs. A want of steady demand for produce deranges all the business, and system of the farmer. If there is not a remunerating price for grain, hay will be raised; and it becomes a drug, because cattle cannot be fattened with any certainty of disposing of them in a limited market that will be free to foreign competition. We know that it is expected at this moment in Montreal that hay will be sold for 10s. to 15s. the hundred bundles this winter, a price that is not sufficient to pay for the expenses of taking it to market, including road and city charges, and not allowing one penny to the farmer for the expenses of cutting and saving, or for the land which produced it. Are other articles which a farmer may require to purchase, reduced in price to correspond with this reduction in the value of what he has to sell? Certainly not, nor is there any disposition to do so. Matters cannot remain long in this state; they must be more equal, by balanced or all prospect of general prosperity will be at an end. We will have to introduce that sort of bartering system of buying, selling, and paying wages, that they find so convenient in the United States, and which we believe to exist to a great extent in Western Canada. We will have to pay our revenue also in produce. In fact our whole system will have to undergo a change, and the advocates of free-trade will find they shall have very