COMMUNICATION.

For the Standard.

FREEDOM OF TRADE.

Mr. Editor,—When a man has once made up his mind to believe a falsehood, absurdity and contradiction only serve to confirm his belief. His affirmations and predictions, tho' never so often falsified by events, are still still persisted in with a dogged tenacity and assurance, that know no shame. Detection in the fact occasions no blush. Protectionists are pertinent illustrations. Wherever commercial ameliorations have been made, the anticipations of their supporters have been more than realized, and the falsity of opposing predictions shewn. Still there is a stolid persistence in attributing results to other than the true causes, as if they hoped to supply the place of truth by boldness and impudence of assertion. In England, however, protectionists generally have come to the conclusion that false predictions must have an end, to go to the mountain which refuses to come to them In the United States, the tariff of 1840, according to protectionist oracles, was to produce a revenue of only some twenty one millions of dollars. The first year it produced thirty one milions; and has now, altho' reduced one half, more than doubled the revenue under the high tariff of 1841.

There was not to be a specie paying Bank in the United States in eighteen months after the tariff of 1846 took effect. All the world knows the result, yet multitudes have or pretend to have, faith in these pseudo prophets. In England and America, both revenue and commerce have rapidly increased since 1846, when the corn laws were abolished. The masses in England are better fed, and better clothed in consequence of cheapened articles of consumption—with increased, at least, not diminished wages. Many direct taxes have been abolished, others reduced, and a surplus revenue realized. The doctrine of free traders, admitted to be true in theory, have been triumphantly vindicated in practice.

If the race of dupes had become extinct, protectionists would have nothing to keep them in countenance, and ere this would have been effectually silenced. Their clamor will be heard awhile longer; but the time probably not distant when the wonder will be that it was ever heard at all—when the will be consigned to the category of the who would reap without sowing, and gather without strewing—as filchers of other men's labor, and treated accordingly.

The modification of the navigation laws was to ruin the ship-building interest; instead of which, new activity in England was at once imparted to that interest.

The protection croakers must have as many lives as attributed to the feline species, or they would ere this have ceased their croaking. The nutriment which sustains this vitality is the extreme gullibility of untheing and ignorant men. The soundness of free trade principles is in itself self evident, and would be universally seen to be so by intelligent persons, if they were not blinded by interest, by prejudice, or by the dogmas of a false education. Moral and political truths, altho' as unerring in their laws as mathematical truths, are not so obvious to the apprehension—not so readily seen at a glance. Men become bewildered by ingenious sophistries, and audicity of averment.—They want the power of analysis to detect the falacies; and imagine they must surrender at discretion their own intuitions, because they are unable to put them in the form of words—must yield, because they cannot answer.

The United States were told by an official organ that a loan of some thirty millions more than the available resources of the country, would be required to meet the exigencies of the current year; that the exports would greatly exceed the imports, &c.—The result is, that the imports are less than the exports—some eight millions of the national debt paid off, and a surplus of thirteen millions in the Treasury. What next? The marvel is, not that such predictions should be made, but that dupes should be found to give them credence, after having been so often falsified by events.

Trade is governed by laws as fixed as those which govern the material world. Man may mar, but cannot mend them. All trade resolves itself, directly or circuitously, into an exchange of the products of industry. The doctrine of balance of trade, drain of specie, &c. as held by protectionists, is a fiction.—If more is not brought back than is taken away, the exporting country gaine nothing—if loss, it is a loser. Specie, in a specie producing country, is as much a product of home industry as any other article. More of it than is necessary to facilitate internal exchanges, must find a market abroad, or be useless as an element of wealth. If the surplus goes into the home circulation, the effect is to diminish its value, by the amount of the surplus.

Specie is to be treated as an article of commerce, the same as corn, cloth, iron, or any thing else, which will flow, by a law of trade, where most wanted. Its value is conventional, not real or inherent. By common consent, it is made a representative of value, because it is useful in facilitating exchanges, which would be cumbrous and expensive, if effected in kind. A medium of exchange is needed having lightness, durability, portability, and scarceness, and these qualities belong to gold and silver. A commercial country, not producing specie, must purchase with the products of its industry enough of it to supply its wants for internal and external exchanges. The specie thus purchased is again exchanged for products of industry, domestic, or foreign, and so in a continuous series. Like corn, or other articles of consumption, specie will flow to the best market, and like them, a disturbed equilibrum between demand and supply will readjust itself—and all the better without legislative interference. This is impotent to help, but powerful to disturb, the heathful operations of trade. It would be just as wise to enact laws to prevent a drain of bread, as a drain of specie—and indeed more so, as bread in a time of scarcity may be needed for home consumption.

Legislative interference with trade, any further than to supply revenue alone for the common wants of a country, is a pervision of the legislative funcon, and hostile to its substantial and permanent interests. To this doctrine, England has given a national sanction, the soundness of which has been abundantly illustrated by practical results. Her example will force other countries to the adoption of a similar policy. This has been already done to a certain extent, and it may be confidently anticipated that the time is approaching, when the chimera of protection as a national benefi will be forever exploded.

M.

24th Dec. 1851.

Blasting on a Large Scale.—Galignani's Paris Messenger gives the following account of engineering operations near Welschmetz, in the Italion Tyrol:—

A quantity of stone being required for the construction of viaducts and bridges for a railway, it was resolved to use a huge rock 360 feet high and 85 wide, which rose like a wall. In two places only was this rock connected with the chain of Alps. First of all it was entirely separated from the mountain (a very difficult operation, which occupied 800 workmen for some time;) then seven or eight large openings were effected at the base, so that the immense mass supported on columns; and then trains of gunpowder were placed in each opening. Everything having been prepared fire was set to the trains. In 11 minutes a frightful explosion took place, and the mass came down. The fall shook the earth for a distance of nearly two leagues, and the pieces rock spread over nearly ten acres.

Latest from England.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

The Canada arrived at Halifax, on Friday morning, with 32 passengers for Boston and 10 for Halifax. She left Liverpool, at 3 o'clock, P. M. having been detained by a dense fog. After the third day out she had a succession of violent head gales with most terrific squalls and high seas. At 8 A. M. on the 17th, she saw the *Asia*, lat. 51, 25, lon. 27, 39. No American steamer left since the Baltic.

The State of Trade in Manchester.—The comparative cessation of violation in France has operated favorably upon business. But the apprehension felt for the tranquility of Germany has inspired extreme caution in all operations relating to trade. German and Italian houses are acting with extreme caution. The tone of trade throughout the week, however, must be considered healthy. This This feeling can be arrested but by the recurrence of disorders in France or the outbreak in Germany that too many indications would seem to portend.

The London stock market was rather active and prices had rallied to almost their former point. Consols closed, on the 12th Dec., at from 98⅞ to 98⅞, and after business hours advanced ⅛ to ¼ more. Railway Shares were strongly on the advance. Timber market less active, prices had given way a little in the face of large arrivals. Cotton—Sales of the week 31,780 bales, at a decline of about ⅛d per lb. Flour and Wheat in less request, the former declined 6d. per barrel, the latter 1d per 70 lbs. Tea—large arrivals had checked sales, and a decline had been submitted to. Sugar—a larger business done at a decline of 6d. per cwt.

France.—French affairs continud to be the great subject of attention, but there were no fresh incidents of much importance. The vote of the army so far was reported as 65,000 in favour of Louis Napoleon, and 3,500 against him. No less than five more departments had been placed in a stage of siege, but serious disturbances were few and of limited extent. The total number of arrests is stated at 1900. M. Thiers was again arrested and sent to the Frontier. Many of the members of the Mountain have fled the country. Girardin has resigned the editorship of La Presse, and is said to be going to the United States. In the Pinivre, the Socialists, during a short ascendancy, had burned registers and archives, and destroyed much property. Count De Chambord, Henry the Fifth, had an interview with Prince Schwartzenberg, at Vienna, but was told that Louis Napoleon must receive the countenance of all Monarchical Cabinets. Seventy three newspapers had to be suspended through France. A letter from Jerome Buonaparte to the President advising moderation, and a genuine appeal to the people, was published. Several legions of the National Guards were disarmed for exhibiting disaffection.

A present of 8 horses from the Sultan, to the President, arrived at Marseilles, on the 9th instant.

The Departments of the Geiss, the Var, and the Lotet Garonne, are declared in a state of siege.

The Moniteur announces the loss of the army to be one officer, and 24 privates killed; and 17 officers, 167 privates wounded.

The accounts from Toulon, on the 8th Dec. state that news reached there from Draguiglan, that 2,000 insurgents, who were marching on that town, retreated, making some hundred Bourgeois and functionaries, with chains round their necks, march at their head. In a despatch from Lue, of Dec. 7th, is a regular sheet of advice, signed by the Provincial Directors, named by the Sovereign people.

The Minister of the Interior reports that the Insurgents have attacked the public Forces, and that a sanguinary collision ensued. They attacked and took two communes, which were afterwards taken from them by the troops. More than 4 000 insurgents have infested the Chef Lien Digue. The troops at Listion endeavoured to keep the citadel, defended by only 80 men. The municipal authorities were compelled to remain, and a Socialist Committee sat in the Hotel de Ville. The two had the appearance of a place taken by assault. The Government were preparing to repress the insurrection.

The Minister of War has addressed a despatch to the Generals of Corps. He orders that any one resisting shall be at once shot.

It is said that several officers of the National Guard of Paris tendered their resignation.

The *Constitutionnel* states on authority that the whole department of the Basses Alps is in the hands of the Royalists. This is an exaggeration intended to create alarm against the enemies of order and rouse its friends.—It is learned from authentic sources that many of those communes are already free from the socialists.

Several distinguished members of the Legitimist and Orleanist parties sent in their adhesion to the Government.

On the appearance of a statement in a London Journal that the Prince De Joinville and the Duke D'Aumale were about to place themselves at the head of a movement in France, a meeting of the Orleanist party was held at which it was declared they would not support any attempt to keep up a civil war.

Spain.—On receipt of the French news, circulars were sent to all the provincial governors recommending them to adopt measures for the maintenance of public order.—A project for the construction of Railroads was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

Italy.—A monument to Columbus is about to be erected in Genoa.

Prussia.—The *coup* of the French President has met with much approval in the diplomatic and official circles: as soon as the change of Government in France is officially announced it will be recognised.

Cape of Good Hope.—Advices from the Cape to the 4th of Nov. state, that a severe chastisement had been inflicted on the enemy by the force under the command of General Somerset. The Kaffirs in Fish River Bush district had been repulsed in several skirmishes. In the Water Kloop the enemy was beaten back after several hours of hard fighting, and their camp destroyed. The British loss amounted to 40 killed and wounded.—The number of Kaffirs killed is estimated at from 400 to 500.

Sir Henry Bulwer will not, it is now confidently reported, return to Washington, but be appointed to a mission in Europe.—*Daily News*.

Two Weeks later from California.—The steam ship Daniel Webster, from San Juan, arrived at New York on the 19th inst. bringing advices from San Francisco to Nov. 16. The Daniel Webster has $78,000 on freight, $600 000 in the hands of passengers, besides $200,000 to Charleston and New Orleans.

The steamship Georgia arrived at New York on Sunday morning from Chagres, via Havana, with 390 passengers. She brought the California mails and $1,500,000 in freight, and an equal amount in the hands of passengers, which is the largest amount ever brought by passengers at any one time. The Georgia brought to Havana 450 passengers for New Orleans.

The mines continue as productive as ever.

The prosperity of California continues unabated, and things are fast settling down into that permanent state which must immediately make her one of the greatest members of the confederacy.

FIRE AT QUEBEC.

Quebec Dec. 26.—The Royal Artillery Barracks and Ordnance Stores in Arsenal street are burnt down. The fire was discovered about half past 3 o'clock this morning, by the sentry at the lower gate of the Artillery Barracks, and shortly afterwards the flames burst out from one of the men's room opposite the guard room. The fire originated beween the roof of No. 9 and floor of No. 5, and there was no getting at it sufficiently soon to arrest its progress. The most of the men living in the rooms could do was to endeavour to save their effects, in which they but partially succeeded. Capt. Franklin's company are reported to have lost all besides what they had on their backs. Water could not be got—the well was dry,—the thermometer 24 below zero, and the engines were consequently useless. In this extremity, Col. Higgins ordered that part of the officers quarters to be blown up, by which the further progress of the flames in that direction was arrested.—But they communicated to the extensive Ordnance Stores in Arsenal street which in a few minutes were hopelessly on fire. To save as much of the ordnance property as possible, a gap was made near the centre of the building by gunpowder, which it is hoped will arrest the progress of the flames.

The loss must be heavy—some say over £200,000. The houses opposite suffered considerably by the concussions.

Postscript.—We learn that the Ordnance Building is now altogether on fire.

The Capitol at Washington on Fire!

Washington, 24th December, 10 *A M*.—A fire was discovered in the Capitol at daylight this morning. The valuable Library is already consumed, and the building is still in flames.

Out of all the subscribers to the Spirit of the Times last year, only seven had to be dunned; five of whom were dead, and the money of the other two were stolen from the Post office.

THE STANDARD.

St. Andrews, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1851

As this number is the last we will issue this year, we improve the opportunity, and tender to our Readers—the compliments of the season, wishing them all "a happy new year."

To our Subscribers.—The present number completes the 18th volume of the Standard. We have "worked our way" through many discouragements, and, although we have suffered considerable loss, we have never yet failed issuing our sheet regularly.—We return our grateful acknowledgements to our patrons and friends for their liberal support, and trust that we will merit a continuance of that support so generously awarded us since our commencement.

Within a few weeks we have imported a quantity of new type, and are making arrangements to improve our office. As this is attended with expense, and we are in want of funds, we earnestly request those indebted to us for one year and upwards, to pay promptly when called upon, as we have liabilities to meet during January. Some of our subscribers must suppose that we live on air, and pay for labor in promises, or they surely would not put us off for *years*. We beg to inform them, that we do not publish a paper *gratis*—that "pay day" has now arrived, and those who do not make some satisfactory arrangement to liquidate our demands against them, will oblige us to hand their accounts immediately to a Magistrate for collection. To those subscribers who have paid regularly, we tender our best thanks. They have cheered us on in our labors; and no efforts will be spared, to render the Standard worthy of their continued support. Our thanks are tendered to Correspondents who have during the past year enriched our columns with original articles on many interesting subjects. We will be happy to hear from them as formerly.

To Correspondents.—The letter of "Blue Nose," on Railway matters, is unavoidably postponed until our next number.

Railway Meeting at St. John.—A Public Meeting was held at St. John on the 23d inst., pursuant to a requisition to the Sheriff. The object of the Meeting was to declare what route the inhabitants of St. John preferred. From one of the resolutions we gather, that they very justly prefer the route by the Valley of the St. John, as presenting the best prospect of advantage, both as respects remuneration and general convenience, and that "no other route should be entertained by the Legislature." Another resolution is as follows:—

"*Resolved*,—That in the opinion of this meeting any Representative of the City or County of St. John, who shall advocate the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railroad by way of the North Shore, will in so doing be acting adversely to the general interests of the Province."

We observe that the Meeting were of opinion, "that Railroads in this Province should not be undertaken by the Government."—What seems to us an oversight in the proceedings is, that no resolution was brought forward either approving or disapproving the policy of borrowing the two millions from the British Government to build the Railway.—Our neighbors of St. John have much to learn about Railways and Railway meetings.

Railway Meeting at St. George.—We are informed that our spirited neighbours at Magnadavic held a Meeting in that place on the 23d inst. for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of making a Railroad from the Upper Falls to L'Etang.—Several animated remarks were made, and statistical information given. An immediate preliminary survey is to be made under the direction of Major George Wightman, Civil Engineer, who left here last week, for that purpose. We know the country through which the line will run, to be level; and no doubt, a railroad can be made there, below the average price per mile of railroads in the United States, viz. £6,500. We wish the spirited inhabitants of St. George, that success which their enterprise is entitled to.

Imported Sheep.—By a notice in our columns it will be seen, that the C. C. Agricultural Society, will sell their sheep, imported last fall, from the mother Country, on the 13th January.

C. C. GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The semiannual examination was held on Tuesday 23d inst. before the President and directors of the Institution, who we are happy to state, were highly gratified with the preparation of the boys.

The books read in the classics were as follows, Homer's Iliad lib. 3rd, Virgil lib. 4, the Ars Poetica of Horace, Eutropius, &c., which list will show the Cicero's advice to his son "semper cum Graecis Latina conjungere ut par sis in utriusque oratione faculate," is not neglected.

The Mathematics consisted of Euclid as far as lib. 6th, Algebra, Mensuration, Trigonometry and Navigation, with which subjects the classes seemed quite conversant.

Although due attention is paid to these higher branches of learning, yet they are not allowed to interfere with the more generally useful and necessary subjects, such as Geography, history, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Spelling, &c.

All the classes acquitted themselves with credit to themselves, and plainly shewed that neither they nor their Master had spared pains during the past term.

The President Dr. Alley closed the proceedings of the day by prayer and an appropriate address to the boys; telling them that that he had never heard a better classical examination in the parish, but that there were still a great many little niceties and difficulties that required perseverance and study to conquer. "Labor omnia vincit." Exhorting them at the same time as to their moral behaviour both in school and out of school, to be obedient to those set over them, to do nothing that sons of gentlemen or members of the C. C. Grammar school could be ashamed of that when they enter into life, they might be ornaments of that society in which they are destined to mingle; but that neither reading nor morality nor anything else than a reliance on that Saviour that died for them, could insure them a happy immortality hereafter."

The classes will recommence on Monday January 12. (Communicated.)

Fire.—About 5 o'clock yesterday morning, the carriage-factory of Mr James E. Marsters, in Union street, caught fire, and, together with nearly all the contents, was consumed. A house and barn adjoining were also burst down.—[St. John Morning Times, Dec. 29

DEATHS.

At Johnston, North River, on the 6th inst., Mr. Adam G. Todd, formerly an officer of the bank of British North America, and resident of St. John, N. B., in his 43d year.

SHIPPING JOURNAL.

PORT OF ST. ANDREWS

—ARRIVED.—

Dec 17th—Packet Matilda, McMaster, Eastport,—provisions.

23rd.—Packet Spray, Balson, Saint John,—merchandise.

28th schr. Fame, Cole, St. John, Mdse.

CLEARED.

30th Schr. Utica, Meloney, Boston, Lime.

Cleared at St. Stephen.

Dec. 22d.—Am Ship Edward O'Brien, Vesper, Liverpool, deals—F. H Todd.

Cleared at St. George.

Dec. 22d.—Am. Ship Mary Green Everett, London, deals—F. A. Babcock.

HIBERNIAN LODGE, No 318.

THE regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening the 6th Jan'y. next, at 6 o'clock. A punctual attendance is requested.

By Order of the W M.

Dec. 31, 1851.

NOTICE.

THE Annual Meeting of the Charlotte County AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, will be held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of January 1852, at 11 A. M., for the election of Officers, and the transaction of business generally.

A full and punctual attendance is earnestly requested. ALEX. T. PAUL,

St. Andrews, Dec. 31, 1851. Sec'y.

The imported SHEEP will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Market square, at one o'clock, P. M. on the same day, subject to the terms previously advertised.

By Order of the Committe,

ALEXR. T. PAUL,

Sec'y.

Dec 30, 1851.

Exchange for Sale.

REQUIRED by the Controller of Her Majesty's Customs at Saint Andrews, the sum about £108, sterling, payable in dollars or half dollars at 4s. 2d. sterling, per dollar, or in British gold or silver at the sterling value.

Tenders will be received up to one o'clock, on Monday, the 5th of January, 1852, by the Controller, for a Bill of Exchange to be drawn by him on the Receiver General of Her Majesty's Customs, London, at 30 days after sight.

Parties tendering will state what amount of Bill they will accept for the above mentioned sum.

Tenders to be addressed to the Controller of Her Majesty's Customs, St Andrews, and to be marked outside "Tender for Bill."

Custom House, St. Andrews, Dec. 23, 1851.

Notice to the Public.

THE Post Office Act passed at the last Session of the Legislature of this Province, authorising the transmission by Post, to and from the United Kingdom, of Books, Pamphlets, &c., at reduced rates of Postage, not having received the Royal assent, the Public are hereby cautioned that all Books, Pamphlets, &c., at present forwarded through the Post, to and from the United Kingdom, are liable to *full Letter Rates of Postage*.

Due notice will be given when the provisions of the Book Post, above referred to, come into operation.

J. HOWE,

P. M. G.

General Post Office, St. John, 20th Dec, 1851.

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Best copy availa