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No. 30 St. Sulpice, & No. 379 St. Paul Streets  
MONTREAL.

1879. PREPARING 1879.

**FOR SPRING TRADE.**

The last four steamships have brought us the following shipments of Dry Goods:

POLYNESIAN, Jan. 1st.....	67 packages.
AUSTRIAN, " 8th.....	65 "
SARMATIAN, " 15th.....	167 "
MORAVIAN, " 22nd.....	163 "

With weekly additions to follow.

**T. JAMES CLAXTON & CO.**

No. 37 St. Joseph Street, Montreal.

**The Journal of Commerce**

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 31, 1879.

**OUR FOREIGN TRADE.**

Two letters have been recently published in the *Montreal Herald* over the signature of "A Canadian," headed "The Situation," which are calculated to create dissatisfaction in the public mind on the subject of our political institutions. The writer does not affect to conceal his predilection for a separation from Great Britain, although he is either blind, or affects to be blind, to what in the opinion of statesmen of all parties would be the inevitable consequence,—annexation to the United States. "A Canadian" has discussed the question of independence from a wholly new standpoint, viz., the exclusion of Canadian products and manufactures from the various European markets, an exclusion which he attributes to the fact that Canada is a Colony of Great Britain, and he assures us that "in six months from the day of 'Canadian' independence our Minister 'of Foreign Affairs will have opened 'every frontier to the importation of our 'goods on the terms of the most favoured 'nation.'"

We are bound frankly to admit that the writer on "The Situation" has presented a grievance of considerable importance, but one which has hitherto attracted very little attention, if we except the special complaint of the Quebec ship builders on the subject of the exclusion of their ships from the French market. The recent exhibition of Canadian manufactures at Paris has had the effect of directing attention to the obstacles presented by the tariffs of the European States to the admission of various articles of Canadian manufacture, which it is alleged could be advantageously exported. Reference is made to a number of articles which under the French tariff are practically excluded, and "the French tariff" is given "as an example which repeats itself in every other country in Europe." Instances are cited of the effect of the French tariff. "Mr. Malcolm, of Toronto, "had to refuse orders for his very superior "saddles from the best sportsmen in "France because coming from Canada "they were prohibited, while his more "favored rivals from other countries "paid only 10 per cent." Again a large clothing firm in Paris would have ordered 6000 pieces of Canadian tweed, but that it was prohibited, although admitted from other countries at a duty of 10 per cent. The same obstacle was found in the way of mowers and reapers, cheese, and other products of Canada. We are assured by "A Canadian" that "this very day, if the "Canadian manufacturers could supply "Europe with ships, woollen and cotton "goods, boots and shoes, sewing machines, "iron ware, wooden ware, implements "and other productions, our workshops "would be kept busy, and with renewed "employment prosperity would once "more dwell among us." We do not by any means indulge in the sanguine expectations of "A Canadian," but we readily admit that he has presented very fairly a grievance of considerable magnitude, and one that, unless redressed, will give rise to much public dissatisfaction. Having admitted so much, we are bound to express our entire dissent from the conclusions at which "A Canadian" has arrived. Those conclusions, we are persuaded, are not justified by any act of the Government of our much beloved Sovereign.

The commercial policy of France, and probably of other European States, is to make treaties with other nations as to the admission of the products of the respective countries. Can it be alleged with truth that Canada has made any effort to secure such a treaty, or that it has expressed any desire to the Imperial Gov-

ernment that it should endeavor to negotiate one? We happen to know that when Canada was desirous of reciprocal free trade with the United States in certain articles which were produced in both countries, the Imperial Government appointed the Earl of Elgin as a Minister Extraordinary, superseding Her Majesty's representative at Washington, for the express purpose of negotiating a treaty, and that members of the Governments of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were invited to take part in the deliberations. We know further that on a later occasion the Hon. Senator Brown was, at the request of the Canadian Government, duly accredited by the Imperial Government to the Government of the United States, and that the negotiation did not fall through from any laches on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

"A Canadian" seems to be of the opinion that, as a small independent republic, we should have a better chance of negotiating treaties with European States than we should have when supported with the influence of Great Britain. He seems likewise to have formed an opinion that the manufacturers of Great Britain would be so much alarmed at Canadian competition that they would influence the Imperial Government to place obstructions in the way of our negotiating treaties, rather than to facilitate them. We are persuaded that such opinions are wholly erroneous. "A Canadian" refers to the late report of the Dominion Board of Trade, from which we learn that "the Board has been praying "the Dominion Government to obtain a "reduction on the French tariff of the "differential duties imposed on Canadian "shipping," and that "only a formal acknowledgment of the petition has been "received from the Canadian Government." Now on this statement we would remark that the Members of the Board of Trade, which clearly ought to be active in the representation of any grievance suffered by those whom they represent, do not seem to have made any complaint, except on the subject of the differential duties on shipping, whereas shipping is only one industry that is injuriously affected by the French tariff. And we have as yet no information as to what the Government has done. We are not informed when the Board of Trade began to pray for the interference of the Government.

Great stress is laid by "A Canadian" on what he terms Mr. Patterson's report, but which we presume the Board is responsible for. Admitting, as we have pleasure in doing on all suitable occasions,