

one of these Colonies are almost entirely raised by Duties of Customs imposed by Acts of the Provincial Legislatures on articles imported into the respective Provinces, and as those Duties must by the existing Laws of the Imperial Parliament apply equally to the productions of an adjacent Colony, as well as to those of a Foreign Country, it is manifest that the Revenues of all those Colonies can only be augmented or maintained by mutual burthens and restrictions upon the intercourse with their nearest fellow subjects, between whom and them no policy can require any such distinction. The consequent embarrassments and dissatisfaction are very serious and general, and particularly in New Brunswick, between which and Nova Scotia a great and important Trade has been almost destroyed. This evil is of recent origin, and the result apparently of unforeseen effects in Laws enacted by Parliament for a totally different purpose, and may easily be remedied without in any way impairing the principle or object of those Laws. Nothing more seems necessary than in the proposed consolidation Bill, to introduce a clause of the following tenor:—

“That in any of the Provinces—Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward’s Island, and Newfoundland, upon the importation of any article of the growth, produce or manufacture of any other of those Provinces, there shall be charged no other or higher Duty than is levied upon any such article, when grown, produced or manufactured in the Province so importing the same.

“I most humbly entreat Your Lordship’s favourable consideration of this subject, and earnestly hope that the present opportunity may not be lost of removing a grievance introduced by no policy, sustained by no interest, and impugned by both, no less than by the public feeling and opinion of the B. N. A. Colonists.

“I have the honor to be, my Lord,
Your most humble and obedient servant,

(Signed)

HENRY BLISS.

“*King’s Bench Walk, Temple, 8th July, 1845.*”

The Rt. Hon. Lord Stanley,
Her M. Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

To this communication I received an answer, dated the 28th of July, informing me that Lord Stanley had referred my Letter to the Board of Trade; subsequently a further answer, dated the 30th September, has been sent to me, a copy of which I respectfully subjoin, and beg permission to refer you to it.

“*Downing Street, 30th September, 1845.*”

“SIR,—Lord Stanley having received from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, an answer to the reference mentioned in Mr. Hope’s letter to yourself, of the 28th July last, I am directed by his Lordship to state, that it is the opinion of Her Majesty’s Government, that the effect of the arrangement suggested in your letter of the 8th July last would be that (except as respects articles subject to a Duty in the nature of Excise in New Brunswick) the produce of the several other British North American Colonies would be importable into New Brunswick, Duty free; whilst the similar produce of the United Kingdom, and of the other British Colonies, would be liable to Duty.

“For this reason Her Majesty’s Government could not become parties to such an arrangement.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

JAS. STEPHEN.”

H. BLISS, Esquire.

By this you will see the nature of the objection that exists to the measure suggested. This objection, it appears to me, can only be obviated, without incurring others as great, by enumerating particularly the articles it is desirable to place on the footing of Duty free, and make the enactment extend to all other British Colonies and to the United Kingdom; for example—

That in any of the British N. A. Colonies, upon the importation of any of the articles hereinafter next mentioned, being of the growth, produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or any of its Colonies and Dependencies, there shall be charged no other or higher Duty than is or shall be levied upon any such article, when grown, manufactured or produced in the Colony so importing the same. Articles above intended, viz:—Apples, Boards, Butter, Cattle, Cheese, Cider, Corn, Horses, &c. &c.

But upon this subject, of course, great consideration will be required, and, I doubt not, duly bestowed by the Legislatures of the respective Colonies.

For the last two or three years, my correspondence with Mr. Partelow, which, until then, had been, I trust, sufficiently regular and diligent, has become infrequent and occasional; and though I would by no means have the usefulness of my services, either before or since, measured by my correspondence alone, yet I am free to confess that these services have of late become very different in their character and importance from what they formerly were. So many great questions of Trade have now been settled, and such changes in other respects have taken place, that I feel bound to communicate to you the opinion to which I have come, that the office I have so long held of Provincial Agent, has become not only for the moment, but probably for the future, an employment of too little labour and usefulness to justify or require any longer the salary which has hitherto been voted for that service; but my connexion with the Province has been of too long standing, and still is too dearly appreciated for me to take the initiative in terminating that employment. I have ever regarded it with pride, as a mark of the confidence of my native Colony, highly flattering to me; and this consideration, and the kind