

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, TORONTO.

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SIR,—I address you in consequence of an allusion made, at your recent meeting, to the Usury Laws, and the copy of a petition for their repeal, transmitted by Mr. Sherwood for the consideration of your board, and which appeared in a late number of the *Colonist*.

It is gratifying to every enlightened and liberal individual, to find that this important subject occupies the attention of our worthy representative ; and I sincerely hope that it will receive from the members of the Board of Trade, and also from the public, that unbiassed consideration which its extreme importance deserves.

On entering into the merits of a question upon which parties have long been at issue in opinion, it may be necessary to endeavour to disabuse the public mind of some of the many fallacies which interest, prejudice and selfishness, have conspired to create and maintain. The subject being one of vital interest to this colony, it requires a fair and dispassionate investigation of all its bearings.

It is not, however, necessary, and especially at this period, to go into the history of the establishment of laws against Usury ; or to enter upon an inquiry *why* they were enacted. It must be perfectly obvious to