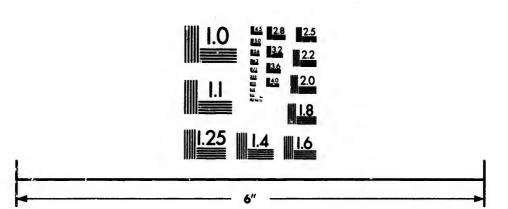


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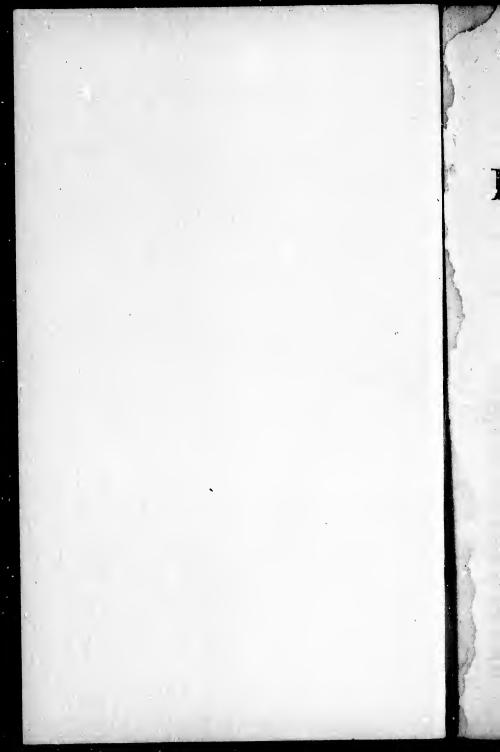
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THE CLIMAX.

ON

PROTECTION

AND

FREE TRADE,

CAPPED BY

ANNEXATION.

TRUTH IS GREAT AND WILL PREVAIL.

Osean Dum.

Montreal :

LOVELL & GIBSON, PRINTERS, ST. NICHOLAS STREET. 1849.

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THE CLIMAX

OF

PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE

CAPPED BY

ANNEXATION.

CHAPTER FIRST.

We have not unadvisedly assumed the doctrine that orderly and peaceable separation from the Mother Country, and subsequent Annexation to the United States, were essential to the salvation of Canada; we ranked among the warmest admirers of British Connexion, although, for a lapse of time, pre-admonished, by the complication of ills our country was heir to, that a change was impending. The timal adoption, however, by England of Free Trade—rendered imperious by the wants and growing necessities of her People—was at once the knell of Protection, and the signal for that change; while it demonstrated that with England, at least the two systems became from thenceforth incompatible.

It is one of the peculiarities of the English Constitution and its primary mainstay, that all the great political changes in the Laws, Fiscal or Elective, are preceded by years of patient, indefatigable and laborious discussion; hence it is that the body politic is duly prepared for these changes, which at maturity are silently incorporated by Parliament among the institutions of the country.

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We have seen this course prevail in a remarkable degree, in the several Constitutional questions of Negro Emancipation, of Catholic Emancipation, and of the Reform Bill; in each and all of them, adverse interests and prejudices were arrayed and pitted against each other, years previously, with all the tactics and regularity of a Peninsular campaign, until popular rights and human freedom gained the ascendancy, and recorded their victories in the pages of the Statute Book.

The People of England seem to wage the War of Words and Opinions with the same vehemency and indomitable courage they pursued in the Field, by which means their fearless independence of character is preserved, and their confidence in the adaptation of their well tried Institutions, to meet every popular exigency, remains unshaken and unshakeable.

To attempt, in England, to abrogate Statutes, that have passed through this popular ordeal, in order to restore Slavery, Catholic disabilities and limited suffrage, would be a moral, not to say a physical impracticability.

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It is the same, we take it, with the fundamental principles of Commerce; the battle of FREE TRADE against PROTECTION has been fought and won by the PEOPLE, they have garnered it into the Archives of the Constitution, where it will continue to reign supreme, while it influences the future Commercial and Political destinies of England.

There are none so blind as those who will not see, is an old and true adage, but to those willing to see, we hold it is quite clear, that the material interests of Canada are involved in those destinies, inasmuch as that system of Statute, Commercial Protection, which shielded the Landlords and Farmers in England, and the Produce Growers in the Colonies, from competition in the Home Market, is now de jure a dead letter.

The People of Canada, so long as that system endured, would have slumbered on, without any particular desire to go a-head faster than they were going; they saw that that system gave them an advantage, oft times merely nominal, in the English markets, over Brother Jonathan, and were soothed, although they periodically burnt their fingers in speculations, caused and aggravated by that very system.

As the opponents, in England, of FREE TRADE, now that it is the LAW of the LAND, obey its decrees, so do we obey them, and earnestly advise all Colonists to do likewise, but we go further, being de facto in Canada and not in England, and main-

tain, that it is well for Canada and her Inhabitants, that Protection has been withdrawn; for we now record our firm belief that infinitely more prosperous days are in store for them, than any they have hitherto experienced, or rather, preconceived, and we would not therefore willingly retrograde to PROTECTION, for which England has and can have no equivalent to offer-but were any such offered, we should with filial fondness supplicate her for permission to follow the course marked out for us in our Geography, by the inflexible Laws of Nature, which point to Annexation, and legibly inform us that it will cause our now comparatively noiseless and deserted Streets, Wharves, Harbors, Canals, Rivers, Farms and Forests to resound with the busy hum of HUMAN INDUSTRY, producing to the Laborers, year after year, progressively, abundant FRUITS.

Are these truths or fictions? we ask you, Reader, to solve the doubt? Compare the two countries, Canada and that single State of the American Union, on our Eastern frontier, New York?—There you have the Hudson as we have the St. Lawrence. There the number of Steamers plying on that river, is as fifty to one upon ours. There the multitude of passengers is countless, or as a thousand to our one, reducing the price of passage to a mere trifle, while for the coequal distance from Montreal to Quebec, owing to the paucity of Travellers, the fare remains at comparatively high

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passage ice from of Traly high rates. Then again visit New York City itself, on board of one of her floating steam palacer, cleaving the downward waters of the Hudson with rein-deer speed, so loaded with Passengers, that one has scarcely room to move, and there disembark, after an absence in Canada of two or three years; what moving, stirring scenes meet your gaze! what crowds of people-throngs of Carriages of every description—what forests of Masts and Shipping—what cargoes of Merchandises choking up Quays, Streets and Warehouses!-Then the innumerable Hotels, sixteen of which are, par excellence, termed PRINCIPAL—so large and so gorgeous that your bewildered --- but you drive to one of them, where it is full to overflowing, and uncertain you can gain admission, the Landlord, however, kind soul, makes room, and you haste to BREAKFAST, where you meet, to your inexpressible wonder, from two to three hundred Guests! all intently engaged in fortifying the inner Man for the arduous occupations of the day.

And all this, dear Reader, is an unvarnished narrative of every day scenes in New York—almost at our very door—not stationary, but active, and rapidly expanding, until New York becomes, as it must do, the greatest emporium in the World—London not excepted.

CHAPTER SECOND.

THE Traffic of the Merchants of the United States encircles the Globe. In the Harbors and Ports along their extended sea board, Ship-building is prosecuted with vigor. Fleets of vessels are annually fitted ont for Barter and Trading voyages, bringing homeward the Products of remote foreign Their Whalers, alone, Countries. amounted to seven hundred, large and small, representing a Capital of Twenty Millions of Dollars, they proceed for two or three years duration, to the Polar and other Seas, whence they regularly return freighted with the fruits of the hazardous enterprize of Men, actuated thereto, by the Institutions of the Country wherein they were cradled, nurtured and educated: while the enterprize of the approximate Canadian People is, owing to the tendency of their political Connexion and Constitution, literally cribbed, cabined and confined.

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Canada has no Foreign Commerce worthy of note—her dependent position seems to have localized her perceptions—her Fisheries are as pearls before the Swineherd; they are despoiled, and the spoils enrich the Spoiler,—her Timber, of which the quantity is varied and exhaustless, has been chiefly exported to the Mother Country, until our fellow Men there have discovered, they are paying too dear for the whistle, and repudiate the bauble for the cheaper and nearer article of the Baltic—her Ship-building Trade amounts to some twenty

vessels in the aggregate, each dreary six months winter at Quebec, for Merchants, Laborers and Mechanics.

The consumption of Timber in the United States is large, reaching in 1846 to nearly six millions of dollars, and must yearly increase pro rata to the rapid extension of their Cities, Trade and Population. If therefore the Trade in this Staple in Canada has received propulsion from the demand recently sprung up in the United States, under a restrictive policy, what we ask would it not become after Annexation removes the incubus-emancipates Trade, and breathes thereon the spirit of life and volition over the American Union! Would not Quebec-her coves-her Lumber Merchants, Lumberers, Ship-wrights and Ship-builders be the foremost to feel its vivifying influence? Is it too much to infer from the previous quotations of the numerical and financial statements of the United States' Whaling fleet alone, that instead of twenty, there would then be, at her cheaper Depôt, in all human probability, ten, if not twenty fold that number, large and small Craft, inclusive, for Lake and Ocean navigation—the favorable results of which are too apparent, to the most short-sighted, to need description.

The Canada or north and western shores of Lakes Erie, Huron and Superior, would then exhibit symptoms of vitality. They are in many respects preferable to the American or south shores, for

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Harbors, Towns, Fisheries, Mines, &c. The Copper ores of the south side of Lake Superior are confessedly more available for mining and commercial purposes than the native copper of the south side—yet, there are some ten working, thriving Companies, on the latter, while there is but a solitary one on the former. The Iron of Canada is abundant and of excellent quality, the Trade, however, barely subsists—even in Montreal her Iron Founders migrate to Burlington, a small Town on Lake Champlain, in the State of Vermont, at which place there is more business done in one Foundry, than in all the Montreal Foundries collectively.

The long drawn frontier boundary offered to the Traders of Canada, through contraband means, under the high American Protective Tariff, an invitation to grow rich, but it does not seem to have profited them much, and for the very just reason that riches so illicitly acquired, lead generally to improvident, dissolute habits, and to demoralization. The Contrabandist is neither more nor less, than a Public Thief, as much as he who filches your Handkerchief is a Private Thief. The higher degree of culpabity is in the former, and should receive greater condemnation than the latter, by every virtuous Citizen and righteous Gevernment.

The Waste Lands of the United States have been a source of affluence to their Government and People. In Canada the legend of her Waste Lands Department is soon told. It is a series of anecdotes of malversation, the burthen of which is, that Government Parasites have received the lion's share, and the remainder is hoarded up at high prices to indemnify the People.

Reader! In what condition think you would a Vessel be, in tow of another, at the extremity of a Tow line 3000 miles in length, dependent upon the Towor for the government of her Helm, the wheel whereof is confided to an unskilled Mariner, mercenary volunteer, for some two or four revolutions of the Planetary system? Think you the Towline would be taughtened for that distance, or that even the Towor could descry, with the Telescope, her consort, the Towee? and if invisible, think you not that the Towee would be uninsurable at Lloyds against the accidents of the seas—the hidden rocks and shallows of her perilous course? If so, substitute Canada for the Towee and England for the Towor, and you have the solution of the problem—The moral of which is, that Canada, having become, de facto, ungovernable to England, seeks to select her own Pilot and Crew, and to sail in company with American Merchantmen, that will present her, not with the Oaken Wreath of Victory, won at the sacrifice of blood and treasure, but with the cornucopia of Commerce.

Do the Connexionists desire to augment or decrease the burthens of the People of England? if not, they will go for Annexation. Do they prefer to see her People well found in food and raiment?

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if so, then will they favor Annexation. Do they not rather prefer to see those necessaries of life, tantalizingly withheld from them, and superadded to their own stores? if so, then are they inconvertably Connexionists. Do they desire to see England more weakened internally than externally? if so, then are they irreclaimably Connexionists. Do they desire to see her Institutions moulded to the growing wants of her People, and England appeasing in her moral strength the political throes and Revolutions of Europe? if so, then will they shout for Annexation. Are they prepared to aid her with subsides, as the 13 American Colonies did of yore, in any War she may yet be unhappily drawn into by the whirlpool of Enropean politics? if not, then must they, in justice to the PEOPLE, the Tax Payers of England, be staunch Annexationists, or, Do they await the direful contingency of Continental War with England, to share in the Trade it unnaturally engenders? if so, then is their character of Connexionists, rank, and unenviable.

Do they of life, eradded conversee Enernally? xionists. ulded to land apl throes will they d to aid onies did nhappily politics? PEOPLE, Annextingency e in the n is their

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CHAPTER THIRD.

Ir sacred or profane Historians, guided by the light of Religion, trace retrospectively, in the affairs of Nations, the operations of DIVINE AGENCY, why may not we, reflective Reader, in all humility, by the same light, prospectively moralize, thus:—That England's policy is no longer to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm of European politics; hers is for all wise purposes, now an Angel's spirit of Peace and Mercy, that will proclaim Canada free to be united to her former offspring, the Republics of America, and thus invested with the everlasting INHERITANCE, not only of an inexpensive and invigorating form of Constitution, alone suited to her TERRITORIAL position and resources, but of a boundless field of COMMERCIAL ENTERPRIZE and prosperity, from which unhappily she is now comparatively debarred.—That Annexation is promotive, as doubtless it will be, of the sacred cause of Abolition in the United States, by imparting to that movement, a preponderating voice in the Councils of the Federal Government, and from thence may we cherish the hope that it is typical of other great and excellent manifestations of the same Divine Agency as well over the NEW as the OLD World, for the temporal and spiritual advancement of MANKIND .- And that in years ulterior to the consummation of the measure of Annexation, that England will contemplate with satisfaction, that her gift of Inheritance has

not only redounded to her own, but to the happiness of the Canadian People.

In reviewing the Political and Commercial relations of Canada, it is distinctly observable that the causes of their inefficiency for the weal of the PEOPLE are—HER dependent state, occasioning not merely constant ministerial appeals to the Mother. Country, but also Parliamentary reservation of Bills for sanction of the Queen in Council, thereby retarding and staying the otherwise natural impulses of the PEOPLE.—Her Trade and Agriculture. subjugated to those of the Mother Country, are thereby circumscribed, and are now impoverished. —HER Canal Traffic, fostered into existence by the liberality of the Mother Country, has been strangled in its birth by the voice of the People, who have thereby subverted the good intentions of their Government, and entailed financial burthens upon Canada.—HER Civil Expenditure—that Annexation would, to correspond with that of other States of the "Union," truncate from Pounds to Dollars, is hence entirely disproportionate to her Revenue, and preys upon her inmost vitals.-In fine, that these several causes are germinated in the construction civilly and politically of her form of Constitution, upon the antique model of "BRITISH," rather than the modern and now acclimated one of "AMERICAN" Architecture.

No amount of Provincial or Imperial Legislation will adequately remove or modify the consuming

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effects of these causes, nor avail ought against them; they are organic. Their Legislation reflects the SHADOW and withholds the SUBSTANCE of TRADE from the CANADIAN PEOPLE, who for upwards of half a century have been under a probationary course of their compound prescriptions, and still lag behind their American neighbors for nearly the same effluxion of time-contrasting geographically the extent of Canada with a similar extent of the United States-WHAT the PEOPLE of Canada do most sincerely require is, to reform these things altogether, unequivocally, to be annexed-politically affianced to the latter, for therein they perceive that as one of the Federal States of the American Union, part and parcel of the endless tide of wealth now pouring through the State of New York, to her city, would be diverted, via the St. Lawrence and her matchless Canals, into the very lap of Canada—Montreal and Quebec—sister Cities to Albany and New York, would therein participate, in a ratio that would soon double their respective Populations and quintuple their wealth -otherwise nature belies us! and there is no verity in the millions of unreclaimed acres in the FAR WEST none in the constant stream thither of Emigrants from 11 quarters of Europe, even the Seigniories of Canada—none in their inexhaustable fertility, already too productive for the capacity of the ERIE CANAL, occasioning a yearly accession of Steamers and sailing Craft for Passengers and Freight to and from Buffalo—and none in the estimates of Population of the United States official census for 1840, at seventeen Millions and upwards, or of its then prospective estimate for 1850 at Twenty-three Millions—since exceeded, and for 1870 at about Forty-two Millions of souls.

The ERIE CANAL, now the only water communication from New York to the West, would then receive less attention from the Trade and many jealousies and heart burnings would then be obliterated, that at present very naturally arise to our detriment. The St. Lawrence Canals would then also become preeminently the future *Main Arteries* for the circulation of Commerce, between Western and Eastern America, on the one hand, and Western America, and Foreign Nations, on the other.

It would here be almost a work of supererogation to do more than advert to the importance of RAIL-ROADS in East and West Canada, as the tracks prepared by the Handmaid of Science, over which a large proportion of the Trade and Travellers on the East and West Continent of America, must vibrate—pass and repass, to the end of time.

Assuredly, Reader, the reasons we have adduced suffice in favor of annexation. They may present to you, as they do convincingly to us, prospects of no common, no ordinary nature. In a Commercial point of view—for who is there on this utilitarian Continent not, more or less, concerned therein—they offer to our acceptance, Perennial

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HARVESTS—to reap which, should cause the hearts of the PEOPLE of Canada, to leap for very joy and thankfulness.

It may not be unnecessary to notice that the Commercial Policy of the United States is at once in favor of Free Trade and Protection; a Policy tenable with them, but not with England, inasmuch as Free Trade has full scope over their vast Territory, which encompassing, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, every variety of Climate and Production, affords space for Population, whereto there is almost no limit; while Protection serves the two-fold purpose of fostering internal Industry and of supporting externally, the Federal Government.

A Commercial Policy so constituted, with a Foreign Policy, jcalous of Antagonism, on the same Continent, render the former impregnable by either

Canadian or English Diplomacy.

Whence Annexation is the alternative now presented to the Canadian People, and it is well for them, we repeat, that it is so—for the flood of prosperity from that measure, might otherwise, for some further half century, have irreclaimably set into other Channels.

Reader! permit us, while saying farewell, to remind you, that we have attempted in the outset of our remarks, to shew, that in the Mother Country, it is the winged messengers of Words endued with Reason that triumph in the cause of Freedom, and not the insensate resort to Physical force, as on

the Continent of Europe, where recently we have seen the contrast mournfully illustrated. WE accordingly submit it to you-to that Reason which elevates us above the Brute, to let no provocation, however great, swerve you from conforming to its dictates, in the progress towards Annexation—a measure which if not to be otherwise won, as unworthy of our regard. Let our cause rest upon its own, its intrinsic merits. Let but the People of Canada, in the consideration of this subject, resolve to exercise their REASON as well before as at the HUSTINGS and of this truth they may be fully satisfied, that so sure as that FACULTY exists in the mind of MAN, so sure will that measure be peaceably accomplished. FINALLY—let us, as Christians, trust, in GoD's Providence, to our reasoning efforts, for the successful issue of our cause, and we shall then never be CONFOUNDED.

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