

THE GLEANER

AND
NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

"Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes?"

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THE GLEANER.

FROM THE PICTOU OBSERVER.

In a late number, we briefly adverted to the importance of the Colonies to the Parent State, as a great maritime power, a point of view, in which, if they were rightly considered, their value could not remain a subject of misapprehension or question. According to Mr. Bliss, the able, zealous and intelligent advocate of their rights, the Colonial Timber Trade alone, employs annually upwards of 400 000 tons of British shipping, and above 25,000 British seamen. Now we will put it to the common sense of any man of ordinary Judgment, how or by what means can the destruction of such a commerce be compensated for, by any possible advantages that may result from the admission into the home market of Baltic Timber, upon the same terms with that of the Colonial possessions? What equivalent would the ship owner receive for the ruin of his property, effected by the adoption of the proposed scale of duties? Wherein is the compensation to be found for the loss of 25,000 British sailors? We maintain, that almost the entire Timber Trade to the North American possessions would be annihilated, by pursuing the scheme proposed by the King's Ministry. For is it not evident, that by much the greater portion of the carrying trade would necessarily fall into the hands of foreigners, when the home market would be altogether or nearly so, supplied with timber from the Baltic. The foreign ship owners can navigate their vessels at a rate so cheap, that the British merchant could enter into no competition with them. Is it then a wise or a just policy, to oppress a class already sufficiently depressed, to the exclusive advantage of those who are alike indifferent to our interests, and strangers to our affections. In a period of national distress, can either aid or sympathy be looked for from them? In the hour of peril, can our defence in any degree be entrusted to those foreign sailors, for whose sake it appears, our own hardy tars are to be thrown out of employment? At such a season, the folly of the policy attempted to be pursued, would be both seen and felt.

We sincerely pity, (a feeling not very far removed from contempt) those short-sighted and candle-end economists, who would injure their fellow subjects in the North American Colonies, for the degrading consideration of a fractional reduction in the price of their staple article; while the immense advantages which the British ship owner, manufacturer and supplier of all kinds of naval stores reap, and that directly, from a trade upheld by a wise system of preference and protection are entirely overlooked. It is indeed very much to be regretted, that our statesmen take not an enlarged and comprehensive view of the commercial interests of the empire, instead of prosecuting an isolated and unconnected course of mercantile legislation. They seem to consider the kingdom and its possessions in detached and separate portions, having variance with each other, and consequently rule them partially and without a plan. Practical wisdom and philosophy, both point out the propriety of considering all the parts of the realm in their bearing upon the whole; but instead of this, at one time the clamour of those concerned in the East India monopoly, is listened to, while attempting the ruin of the West India Islands, under the hateful mask of an assumed sarcinity. The influence of speculators in Baltic Timber, is found at another, almost sufficiently great to strike a death blow at the prosperity of the king's dominions in North America; while the interests of both, have been in part recently and injuriously affected, from a sickly affectation of

liberality towards the United States. Surely all this is unworthy the enlightened government of a great nation.

It is the fashion with those, who have their own peculiar views to subserve; who look not beyond individual gain, and who are consequently content, that national advantage should be sacrificed for the decimal of a farthing, to represent the Colonies as a burthen to the Mother Country; and though their arguments have been repeatedly answered and refuted, they are still found persisting with unblushing effrontery in their assertions. The British public are however, at length becoming somewhat more alive to the true interests of the kingdom, and to perceive that the maritime greatness and superiority of the Empire, are inseparably connected with the maintenance of the Colonies.

There is another light in which the American Provinces are to be viewed; inasmuch as they afford facilities for checking the ambitious projects of the United States, which must be looked upon as England's only formidable rival for maritime superiority. It is presumed that we have so expressed ourselves regarding our neighbors, as to free us from the imputation of entertaining towards them any unkindly feelings; but even while we cherish these sentiments, we can find no reason for concluding, that they are exempt from that love of dominion and ambition for power, which characterize all other nations. The mineral productions, the extensive sea board, the inexhaustible and valuable fisheries of the lower, together with the interminable forests and agricultural resources of the higher provinces, are alluring baits, sufficient to tempt the cupidity of the sharp sighted Americans; and we can have little doubt, that they eagerly desire to include them in their already too extended confederacy. Such an acquisition though profitable to them, but ruinous to the Colonies, they can never obtain, while British statesmen and legislators are true to their country's interests; and no more formidable barrier to the encroachments of a powerful neighbor, possessing popular institutions can be devised than by fostering a countervailing force—in strengthening by just measures the already strong attachment of British Colonists to the Parent State. The integrity and safety even of the United Kingdom, is thus materially secured; for while the outworks are ably and zealously defended by brave and loyal subjects, the citadel itself has nothing to apprehend. This cannot fail of being the case, while the tide of emigration from home, continues to set towards the Provinces; for an amount of British feeling is thus added to the native sentiment of attachment, which will successfully resist every attempt at subjugation on the part of the foreign foe, as well as every endeavour to excite, or that of internal enemies to the parental connection. The tuneful and ingenious Goldsmith, has lamented in strains of deep pathos, peculiarly his own, the sad consequences of even voluntary expatriation; but did he live in circumstances like the present, instead of bewailing the abandonment of Auburn's lovely scenes, for the fertile vallies of the new world, he would rejoice, that 'a bold peasantry, its country's pride,' instead of being destroyed by such a charge, were to become the intrepid assertors of the rights of their fellow subjects, and to perpetuate British freedom and feelings in the land of their adoption. The value of such a description of settlers, rearing up their offspring in sentiments of deep felt loyalty, was sufficiently evinced in the late American war. Who fought more nobly than the brave Canadians under the gallant Brock? Did not New Brunswick send her hardy youths to the scene of carnage under the lamented Drummond? Was Nova-Scotia slow in contributing of her best blood to the

success of the British arms in the French West India Islands? When we consider these things, we cannot help expressing an honest indignation, at the interference with our prosperity, attempted by a set of empirics; at present headed by the Vice President of the Board of Trade, who is said to be himself a deeply interested Memel Timber merchant.

CHARACTER OF THE PRESENT KING OF FRANCE AND HIS FAMILY,

The Duke of Orleans, or rather Philip I. the present King of France, is an amiable, sensible, honest, and virtuous Prince. The Queen is a good mother, an excellent wife, and a charitable and generous Princess—she has brought up her family in every virtuous and moral habit—perhaps in all Europe there is not to be found a more amiable, accomplished, and intelligent family. The Duke is a fine handsome man, fit to be a country gentleman in England, of the highest class and best family. He was born 6th October, 1773, and is, consequently, nearly 58 years of age. His manners are simple, gracious, and unaffected, and his acquirements are of the first order. His fortune is immense, his generosity and humanity unquestionable, and his high sense of honour and courage, render him dear to the army, and beloved by France. The Duchess (now Queen of France) was Princess of the two Sicilies, and is sister to the King of Naples.—She was born on the 29th April, 1792, and is therefore 43 years of age. Her face is not handsome, but benevolent. She has an elegant figure combined with a matronly air. Her life has been spent in the midst of her family, and she has partaken of no pleasure unaccompanied by her children. She has eight children to whom she is devoted—and she takes a daily, nay, hourly interest in their education and habits. The children are charming. No spectacle can be more beautiful than that of the Duke and Duchess of New Orleans, and their eight children, at their chateau at Neuilly. I have seen them there, in the full enjoyment of health and happiness, and the union and affection which uniformly prevail amongst them, captivate all hearts, and delight all beholder. The eldest son is the Duke of Chartres, nearly 20 years of age. He was educated at the public schools and colleges of France, with the rest of the citizens, and I know six young men, who are the sons of tradesmen, to whom he always addresses himself with the most perfect freedom and affability, because they were formerly his companions at college.—The Duke of Chartres is a great favourite; he is a very superior young man; his attainments are of the first order, and his recent voyage in England, Scotland, and Ireland, tended materially to perfect the system of education adopted by his illustrious parents. The Duke of Chartres is now Prince Royal: he is good, wise, amiable, and accomplished; and the English and Foreigners resident in this Capital, at once respect and love him. The Princesses are Mademoiselle, who is 18; Mademoiselle de Valois, who is 17; and Mademoiselle de Beaujolais, who is 13 years of age. They are all charming girls; their habits are simple, their manners elegant, their persons most agreeable; they are accomplished and clever, and were great favourites of His Majesty Charles X. The younger Princes are four in number. First of all there is the young Duke of Nemours, now nearly 16 years of age. He is the handsomest lad I ever saw. By the side of his father, yesterday, he rode on horseback, and the tens of thousands collected, exclaimed, "He is a perfect picture—he is a jewel." I understand his mind is as cultivated as his form and figure are elegant and pleasing, and that he is a particularly good son. He is now Peer of France; and I sincerely hope he may be as happy now he is son of