

The Gleaner:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME IV.]

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.

SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

From *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, Sept. 9
OUR AMERICAN COLONIES.

Since the celebrated work of Mr Basil Hall, and several others which accompanied or followed it, the public seem to have arrived at a correct estimation of the real value, and of the vital importance, of our North American Colonies. As every thing which is daily passing around us cannot but strongly convey to our minds the actual necessity of keeping open all the channels of employment, it has now become perfectly intelligible to all men, that the main advantage of Colonies is to contribute to the demand and employment of home-labour. By their exports, they necessarily employ the capital and the shipping, the merchants and the manufacturers, of the mother country; and, by their imports, they introduce into our markets the materials of industry and employment. They uphold our navigation, extend our commerce, and invigorate our manufactures. Being generally branches from the parent stock, and retaining for successive generations the same nature and tastes, they are not only the largest and most liberal, but the longest and surest customers to the original country, and we are thus secure against those spreading vicissitudes of prosperity and decline upon a varying taste and fashion, are so subject.

Of all our colonies, it appears, not only by writers and travellers, but still more strongly by our official returns, that none is more valuable than Canada, and that none, at the present time, contributes more largely to the real wealth of the British empire.

This Province is in the agricultural stage of its progress towards civilization; that is, it is in that stage in which wages are so high, and land is so plentiful, and affords so large a return, as to render it impossible for manufactures to compete with agriculture, and thus to make it necessary for the Canadians to confine themselves to the growth of corn and timber, and to supply themselves with manufactures from the European market. Now the very habits of that country, the consanguinity of the inhabitants with those of England, and even the natural similitude of the physical circumstances of the two countries, must lead the Canadians, amongst all other European markets, to prefer that of England. And, secondly, it has always been the just policy of this country, (and never deviated from in a single instance, except partially by the present administration,*) to extend the highest favour towards this branch of our colonial trade, and thus to put it upon that footing under which it has hitherto contributed so considerably to the advantage of the two countries.

Under these circumstances, our trade with Canada is greater than with any other colony or dependency of this empire, if we except Jamaica and the West Indies. It appears indeed by the official returns, that Canada employs more shipping than any other colony, takes more of our manufactures, and supplies us more beneficially with a larger stock of valuable raw produce.

At the present moment Canada contains between eight hundred thousand and a million inhabitants, and as the tide of emigration is now setting this way with a strong current, this amount will probably double itself within the next ten years.

According to the accounts lately received, the emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, for the last year, reckoning from July 1831, to July 1832, have been forty-one thousand eight hundred,—which is an excess of nearly five thousand beyond the amount of

* The late attack upon the Timber Trade.

the preceding year. A most every port in England has one or more vessels daily proceeding to the Canada, and the accounts of those who have so recently settled are so favourable, and are so universally spread, that the surplus population of England is daily and hourly flocking to the banks of the St. Lawrence, and Quebec will soon become to Canada what New York is to the United States.

We have only to express our confident hope, that our government will contribute its restoring aid towards a state of things of so much importance to both communities. Above all, let the Ministry bear in mind that the relative prosperity of the two countries must depend upon the strict observance of the following principles:—

First, as Canada is now a full grown Colony, and no longer a barren waste, which is to be brought into cultivation by the common sacrifice of the landlord and tenant,—the one giving seed and the other labour, and each agreeing for a time to loose both,—as Canada, we say, is no longer in this state, it is a just principle of national and colonial policy, that she should at last bear the expenses of her own local government, that she should pay her own militia, her own executive government, her own judges, the officers of her own revenue, and defray the cost of her own canals and public works.

The principle is here perfectly intelligible; it is the common principle between the landlord and tenant of a farm about to be brought into cultivation for the first time. It is a speculation which for a time, must be carried on at their joint expense, and joint sacrifice, as otherwise it could not be done at all. The landlord not only gives up his own rent, and the parson his tithes, but agrees to carry so much manure upon the land. The tenant agrees to loose his labour, and upon this joint sacrifice, as a dead fund, the farm is at length brought into heat and produce, so as to yield rent to the landlord, and to afford a good living to the tenant. Now it is plain that it would be a most unreasonable expectation on the part of the tenant, that the contribution of the landlord should be permanent instead of temporary, and that he should go on paying the whole seed and manure out of his own pocket, after the just occasion had ceased. In plain words, Canada is better able to support herself than we are to support her; and therefore we have a just expectation that she will do so. Let her no longer be a burden on the English finances.

The second colonial principle is, that it is our duty to give Canada all the privileges and franchises of a British Constitution, and to bestow upon her the benefits of our own experience, and of the new light we have acquired, in the progress of our knowledge, of the true nature and just rights of government. Let us not encumber Canada with a feudal aristocracy. This principle is too plain to require any further explanation.

The third principle as respects Colonial Government is, that it is our duty, as the mother country, to give a fair preference to their trade and dealings; and to all our colonies, and to Canada in particular, to give such privileges and advantages as are not conceded to foreigners; such as do not interfere with the paramount importance of our domestic interests, or conflict with the principles of general trade and commerce.

From the *Figaro* in London.

The following pathetic stanzas on the absence of Croker's voice from a reformed Parliament need no introduction. Every one surely must remember Moore's beautiful melody on which the following song is founded:—

AIR.—“The harp that once through Tara's halls,
The tongue that once through Croker's jaw
The soul of nonsense sped—

Now lies as mute in Croker's maw
As if his speech were dead;
So sleep M.P.'s of former days—
All Tory struggles o'er—
And Rats—tho' panted once for place—
Now hope for it no more.

No more to borough members bright
The tongue of Croker swells—
The curse alone it vents at night
Its tale of ruin tells—
Corruption now so seldom wakes—
But at the* Carlton gives
A throb—whenever a start she takes
To show that still she lives.
* The Conservative Club.

It is strange that the speeches of Lord Eldon, who so long held the *seals*, should be found to make so little impression.

The Duke of Gloucester said the other day, he regretted that his brother the King should be friendly to reform, “for,” he observed, “his opinions will be objected to by posterity on the ground of inconsistency, as his *Whig* principles must appear wrong in the eyes of those who will read *His-story*.”

The King refuses to speak about the conduct of the Duke of Wellington, declaring the *subject* is excessively disagreeable.

When the Ministers received the King's letter refusing to create Peers, each was anxious to get a sight of it, but Brougham opened it first—“Well,” cried Grey emphatically, “What says the *Billet doux*?” “Why,” answered the Chancellor, who is a wag under any circumstances, “It comes to tell us that *Billy don't*.”

Gloucester was discussing the other day the Russian Loan Question with Lord Eldon, who confessed that between themselves it was a debt which this country is bound to pay in honour, “then,” furiously exclaimed the Duke, “if we were only bound to pay it in honour, what necessity could there be for paying it in money?” Eldon, fool as he is, could not help muttering to himself, “oh, the ass!” in a whisper.

From Chambers' *Edinburgh Journal*.

THE HERRING FISHERY.—Within the last sixteen years, the herring fishery carried on in the Moray Frith has risen into great importance, and, in a great measure, usurped the place formerly occupied by the Caithness and other fisheries. The Moray Frith herring fishery commences in the middle of July, and the fish commonly leave the coast in the end of August or first of September. For the first four weeks the shoals are small and detached; and the fishings only average from two to five barrels per boat. Herrings are caught at this early stage of the fishing on the coast of Moray, nearly opposite the mouth of the Spey; but they swim in no determinate track. As the season advances they come higher up, form into large bodies, and pursue a route tolerably certain. At this second stage, the quantity of barrels caught by each boat averages from eight to fourteen. The point at which the shoals unite is a long narrow bank, lying in the middle of the Frith, nearly opposite the bay of Cromarty, and which the fishermen term *Guilliam*, from the little conical hillocks on the northern shore with that name. The breadth of the ridge does not exceed half a mile, but its length is nearly three as much. There have been repeated instances of fishings prosecuted on this bank for the space of a whole week, at the average rate of eight hundred barrels per day; but the quantity of fish does not seem to undergo any diminution. In the beginning of the season the fish advance towards the spawning ground, but proceed so slowly, that in five weeks, supposing them to move in a direct line, they only swim about thirty miles, till they reach the bank, on which they generally remain stationary. Immediately on their ceasing to advance, they begin to spawn, and, when emptied, they turn down the Frith, and swim with such rapidity as to re-