

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

Brighton Gazette, April 29.

TRADE OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS ABROAD BILL.

We some weeks since called public attention to the 'Colonial Imports Bill,' to be introduced into the House of Commons by Mr Labouchere. We particularly instanced the effect that would be produced by transferring the whole Trade in Tea, which at present exists between China and Great Britain and her North American Colonies, to the Merchants and ship owners of the United States—a trade which, within the last six weeks, has demanded about Ten Thousand Chests, worth nearly Eighty Thousand Pounds, and to secure which with China is costing us millions in treasure and human life. Our contemporaries of the public press have not seen the consequences (consequences no less certain than dangerous) with which these radical changes are fraught, otherwise they would have assisted us in our desire to expose the same. What we have said of Tea, applies equally to other articles of Colonial trade.

The Bill is printed, and we find that it proposes to allow all foreign manufactured articles to be admitted into our Colonies at an additional duty of seven per cent, in lieu of the existing duties, which vary from fifteen to thirty per cent. Now let us remember, that there is no manufacturing country which cannot produce some one or more article at a lower rate than Great Britain, and that what lowness of price may not do in some articles, fashion and prejudice may and too often does; thus, then, the cheapest article of each manufacturing community is to be admitted into our Colonies for seven per cent. only over those of our own manufacture! Some of these goods, be it remembered, are made almost on the spot, and compete even with our own goods at the present duties; such as common unbleached cottons (called domestics) shirtings, beaver-teens, bed tickings, cassinets, (clothing of cotton and woollen mixed) warp and weft (cotton and woollen yarn) for domestic manufactures, which our good friends, the sympathising Americans, will save the manufacturers of Manchester and Glasgow the trouble of preparing, our ship owners the labour of transporting, and our merchants the pain of pocketing the profits of it. In like manner, the Silesians will save our Nottingham friends the labour of preparing hosiery and gloves; and Germany, from various localities, will kindly supply all the glass and leather, some of the hardware, as well as shawls and fine printed cottons; leaving our 'isolated' friend, France, to introduce silks, frippery, bon-bons, and her moral publications.

Now perhaps it is not known that this boon to our Colonies is not called for by those most interested in their trade and prosperity, but, on the contrary, is objected to. Still the 'bona must be received.' 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes' is we find, a remark which may be applied to this kind intention of our Ministers: we fear that, offering to put a half penny into the pockets of our Colonists, they intend to demand a sovereign in return. In truth, then, we believe it will be the beginning of a system, which by gradual and unsuspected steps is intended to reach the abolition of the Corn Laws. After this bill shall have passed (will it be allowed to pass?) we look for an alteration in our Colonial protective system or home imports, and then comes the keystone to the arch, without which the whole fabric will fall with cruel ruin and devastation—the abolition of the Corn Laws. Already do we see the tricks of the party; already has what is self styled the Chamber of Commerce, at Manchester, seconded the wishes of Messrs. Labouchere, Villiers, Parnell, the Hume's, and M'Gregor, by publishing a set of resolutions; and Mr Oswald, the Whig-Radical member for Glasgow, has been presiding over a meeting there. We would ask, whether the manufacturing and shipping interest are desirous of seeing the trade and the freights of our Colonies transferred to foreigners, and the connexion with the mother country weakened till in a few years it shall be destroyed? If they are not, then we say to them and to all Conservatives, 'Up Guards and at them!'

Since writing the foregoing, we have referred to Porter's Statistical Tables, and we find that under the commercial laws which have existed our North American Colonies exhibit the following extraordinary increase in population and commerce. In 35 years the population has increased above threshold; their imports from one million and a half to above five millions sterling per annum; and the tonnage now em-

ployed in their exports (nearly all of it British tonnage, be it remembered) amounts to 14 million.

Is Great Britain ready, is she strong enough in her own position, to give up a great proportion of this trade, of all this employment of British seamen, the nursery of our chief arm, our Royal Navy? We say, no. In spite of the affected assertion to the contrary, we say, that 'England has progressed, not in spite of, but in consequence of her navigation laws and her protective system.'

In confirmation of our opinion of the value of the Colonial trade to our national resources, and especially to our manufacturing industry, we extract the following from the Advertiser, on the state and prospects of the Manchester market, assuring our readers that this fearful flatness arises solely from the completion of the orders for our own North American colonial markets having left the manufacturers without any other orders to occupy their looms; and this is the trade which, to please smatterers in political economy, though eventually to alienate our colonies, Ministers are determined (though we trust not predestined) to destroy. We premise our readers a little more knowledge on this important subject, by extracts from the business of the port of Liverpool for the last two months:—

Manchester.—The dark commercial cloud that has lowered over this district so long, appears as though it was about to burst upon our heads; and all parties, even the 'political economist,' seem to forebode the most horrible results to all classes engaged in trade, if some speedy plan be not adopted, or relief from some unknown quarter be not near at hand. To say that this month is the worst ever remembered for the season of the year, would be to convey to our readers a fallaciously faint conception of the deranged and crippled condition of trade in this hive of industry. We believe we may assert with truth (for we know not of even an isolated exception) that for the last three weeks less business has been done, even at the most depressed prices, than in any three preceding weeks, at any season, in the memory of the oldest man living. We know several extensive houses, whose returns do not amount to one half, if compared with the three corresponding weeks in April last year. We urge upon manufacturers and spinners the absolute necessity of promptly following the Stockport example, and curtailing the quantity made; for the stocks of all descriptions of cloths continue to increase, and the inevitable consequences must be, that prices must be lower, and ruin certain. A third meeting was held at Todmorden on Thursday week and, we regret to say, was not attended by some that before appeared anxious to commence short time. No arrangement was settled upon, and we fear for the present it will fall through. The foreign accounts are also bad, and in Germany several important failures have taken place. Two calico printers here have also been forced to suspend payment jointly owing about £15,000. The money market is easy for good bills. This week goods have generally been offered at quite as low prices as even they were sold in December, when cotton was was fall 1d. per lb. lower than now. The cotton market at Liverpool this week may be said to be stagnant, and what little is sold may be quoted 4lb. down since our last. On Monday last less cotton was sold in Liverpool than any day for the last 16 years, which to us is not surprising the sales not exceeding 1,000 bags.

The London John Bull, May 2.

THE BUDGET.

It won't do, Lord Melbourne; it won't do, Lord John Russell; it will not do Mr Baring. You know it will not, you rogues you; the trick would have been a very pretty one some years since, but you have cried Wolf too often. Your dearest chums are taking sights at you; and all the people, as fast as the news reaches lay thumb to nose and walk about, animated sign posts, with digits extended. Why, yourselves are laughing, your playful dogs you! Slippery are you, mad your element, and your wiggles out wriggle the eel; and sportive, too, in your dying agonies, as treats. You can 'tain, and turn, and turn again'—the oldest hares are fools to you in the art of doubling. But the pitcher that goes often to the well—you know the proverb. There is no denying to you the merit of dexterity; and you have been the most amusing and pleasing varlets on the face of the earth. If it were not for that want of principle under which you labour, you would—Well, it was not given to mortal man to be perfect. The managing to hide yourselves under the ladies' petticoats, now that they do not wear hoops, was the *me plus ultra* of your practical jokes. Your invention has grown sterile ever since. Like worn out dancing dogs, you will have to desert the stage

for the fair. The deficiencies announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on opening last night his bag of wind, the Budget, are only what were known and anticipated. There is, as Sir Robert Peel remarked, an increasing revenue yet an increasing deficiency—the gross amount of which was estimated by Mr Goulbourn, and we think the calculation short of the mark, at five millions sterling, to which must be added two millions more as the probable deficiency of the year to come. Ministers have brought forward a truncated plan; they have explained one half—the other half is left unexplained, in order to procure five weeks more of office. They are wicked enough to attempt to throw the country from one end to the other in a state of alarm and agitation as to the measures which they intend to bring forward relative to questions of vital moment as regards the merchant, the manufacturer, and the agriculturalist. Sir Robert Peel rebuked them for this infamous conduct with a just, a manly, an eloquent, and an overpowering indignation. But their minds are of Rhinoceros texture, and if solemn truths can make brass feel and blush, then will they. We grant the wickedness—we allow the infamy; but is either strange in these men? The sharper follows out his calling to the last unless cut short by the rope; and so does the political generalist, until his country drag him from the seat he has betrayed and dishonoured. However, there is no use in talking of the matter. Let the hatchments be got ready with the motto, *Respice funem*—and there an end! Ministers have been beaten again and again, but like the figures in the Dutch weather houses, the harder it blows the less disposed they are to go over. This seems natural enough, and as Mr O'Connell says, 'small blame to them for staying in—if they can.'

London Shipping Gazette, May 1.

The present is a period when the Chancellor of the Exchequer could, with peculiar propriety, plead that it is impolitic to ask for a new loan—that the people of this country cannot bear the imposition of any fresh pecuniary burthens upon their shoulders; and that the time has arrived when circumstances imperatively demand such a revision of our resources as would lead, without additional taxation, to an increase of the income of the nation. The import duties of Great Britain obviously offer themselves under these circumstances to be dealt with as the means of creating a fresh supply of resources, and of infusing new blood and fresh vigour into our whole commercial and financial system. If the pressing wants of the national treasury can but urge Mr Baring to propose a thorough but suitable alteration in our tariff, the country will have but little reason to regret the cause that shall have produced such a result.

Thus we concluded some observations yesterday in reference to the course which we considered the Chancellor of the Exchequer should pursue relative to the deficiency in the income of the country, which we were of course, aware it would be his duty to announce; and we sincerely rejoice that the government, no matter by what motive influenced, has at length taken a bold step in consonance with the wants and wishes of the great commercial community, with the inconsiderable exception of a few small-class partisans, whose cavillings and selfish antagonism are only worth the castigation they deserve, and which we shall not fail to bestow upon them.

We are rejoiced, we say, that Ministers have at length been compelled to take this step, because it is the commencement of an alteration in our import duties which, once in action, cannot possibly fail, despite any and every obstruction which may be offered to it, by its own impetus, to be carried forward to the desirable end of a complete and satisfactory reconstruction of our tariff. This is the chief ground on which we hail as a boon the propositions of Mr Baring last night, to reduce the duty on foreign sugar to 36s per cwt.; to reduce the duties on Baltic timber to 50s a load; and to reconsider the corn laws, with the view of establishing a moderate fixed duty on corn. All these propositions may not be carried in the present session, but some of them undoubtedly will; and the effect of the alterations which must be made, upon almost every interest connected with the commerce and agriculture of Great Britain, will be an universal and irresistible demand for a thorough revision and an adjustment of our import duties, on a basis which should long since have formed the foundation of our intercourse with the world.

It is lamentable indeed to observe the spirit with which the opposition to the proposals of Mr Baring was last night conducted in the House of Commons, and is enforced by some of our contemporaries this morning. We care not, as we have observed before, by what motive the Ministry has been actuated, in

exhibiting itself, thus newly and suddenly awakened to a consciousness of the wants of our commerce. We doubt not that party motives—the desire that they shall continue to hold their places, and to exclude from office their political opponents—has been the chief influence that has swayed them to the side of enlightened policy; but we cannot but stigmatise as profligate, mischievous, and desperate, an opposition which refuses to accept a benefit, because the bestowal of it may tend to render popular the parties by whom it is offered.

The opposition of Sir Robert Peel, of Mr Goulbourn, and of those who usually act with them, was last night directed—not in argument against the impolicy of the measures propounded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer—not in the shape of demonstration that these measures would affect thus and thus injuriously the interests of the commonwealth; but in selfishly stigmatising them as the trick of desponding officials to prolong their tenure of the places they now hold. Some of our morning contemporaries have followed in this track, despite their advocacy, almost contemporaneous, of a course of policy similar to that which formed the chief ingredient of the budget of last night.

That opposition is indeed despicable which is based upon such motives; the pertinacity of party is fearfully pernicious which cannot recognise as good any benefit offered by an adversary. That man—reducing the question to one of individuality—we should hold to be insane, who should refuse to accept a debt acknowledged to be due to him because the debtor was compelled to discharge it.

The details of the measure of Mr Baring, we shall discuss hereafter. The country will not permit it to be dealt with merely as one upon which the question of a Whig or Tory Government shall depend. Let the constituencies of Great Britain therefore watch, with a steady eye, the conduct of their representatives in reference to it, for there can be no doubt—one portion of the propositions of Mr Baring manifests the fact—that the dissolution of Parliament is not remote.

London Morning Post, May 1.

THE BUDGET—TIMBER—SUGAR.

If the scheme of the Finance Minister should ruin the Timber Trade of the Canadas, the greater will be the produce of the reduced duty on timber from the Baltic; and our unfortunate colonies will have still the consolation to know that, if their Timber trade is gone, they have at least got in exchange a new Constitution and Lord Sydenham. The reduction of the duty upon Foreign Sugar will be deeply injurious to the West India Colonies of this country, and injurious also, though not in the same degree, to the most important of all national interests, that of British navigation. It is eminently favourable, however, to the interests of the Brazils and other sugar growing foreign countries, and particularly to the interests of that meritorious class of their inhabitants who are engaged in the lucrative trade with Africa for the perennial supply of cheap labour to their sugar plantations. The wisdom, or at least, the consistency of the measure may be doubted, however, when it is considered that the British Government very recently paid twenty millions of money for the abolition of slavery in our own colonies, and that the immediate and most certain effect of the proposed reduction of duty on foreign sugar is to call into existence as much slavery as we abolished at the above cost; and slavery of a far more barbarous and inhuman character.

London Times, same date.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said last night, that the duty on colonial timber was 10s per load; on Baltic 55s; being a protecting duty of 450 per cent. He proposed to reduce the Baltic duty to 50s, and raise the colonial to 20s, in consonance with an intention formerly announced by Lord Althorp, and sanctioned by a committee. This would leave a protection of 30s, and he expected from that change an additional revenue of £600,000. Now, as to sugar. For the last two years the lower classes had suffered severely from the high price of this article, now almost a necessary of life, certainly one of the most important of the poor man's comforts. He proposed to leave the duty on colonial sugar as now, at 24s per cwt; and to reduce the duty on foreign sugar from £3 3s per cwt. to 36s retaining in both cases the 5 per cent. added last year. He estimated his gain from this change at £700,000, which, with the £600,000 from the timber, would give a total of £1,300,000. The duties attaching upon corn, if the measures contemplated by government were effected, would provide for any remaining defalcation; but at all events he was determined to make up the deficiency of the revenue from