

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

St. John Morning News, April 23.

NO MORE "PROTECTION."

If we may judge by the tenor of the Despatch received in Canada from the Colonial Office, relative to the imposition of duties in that Province, we may fairly conclude that the Despatch read in our Assembly recently, and which created such a furor among members, is precisely of the same import. This is another of those Imperial strokes of policy, which have of late been inflicted so often at the expense of the Colonies. If correct in our surmise, then it seems that England forbids us levying high duties to encourage domestic manufactures; because she conceives the imposition would interfere with the policy which she has chalked out for herself, with a view of setting an example to other nations, and to accustom them, if possible, by the same charitable spirit. In sooth, she tells the Colonies, that if Great Britain withdraws all protection, we are in duty bound to do the same thing, and yet she affords us no equivalent for turning us out of her markets; but, on the contrary, tells us, poor and reduced as we are, that we must compete with our rich neighbours, under every disadvantage. This certainly is the unkindest cut of all, and we do not see how the imperial mantle can cover the wound. With England's 'free trade' policy, so far as it concerns herself, we have nothing to do—nor do we intend to refer to the principle of 'protection' so far as it concerns ourselves. But it is our duty as Colonists to protest against a policy which forces us to become a party to a measure, and at the same time allows us no voice in its discussion. The old Colonists complained, and most justly too, because they were taxed without representation. Our condition is every day becoming even worse than theirs. They were taxed, but they were able to bear the tax—it was the principle they opposed. Our trade is taken away from us, or what amounts to the same thing, allowed to be tampered with to a ruinous extent,—not only so, but we are called upon to admit the foreigner upon the free trade ticket, while at the same time the whole world, as it were, not excepting England, is closed against us. And all this we have to submit to, without representation. Now we can very easily imagine how England may adopt a free trade course of action, and be able for a season to make head way against every other nation. England is a thousand years old. Her arts and manufactures have arrived at perfection. Labor with her is cheap. Her flag waves in every nation. Her commercial marine is the most extensive in the world. For reasons such as these, England may experiment with free trade, without running very great risks. But when you come to apply the same principle to a colony, especially like this, which is bordering upon a great nation, whose avowed policy is a 'high tariff,' how in the name of justice, can we stem the torrent of Yankee notions that will be let in upon us, without sinking? No! England cares very little about our condition and fate, so long as she can satisfy her free trade statesmen. She would hold on to us as mere military posts, to serve her in time of war; and yet, however valuable these posts, the Colonists are compelled to be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water, in order that the British Government may be allowed to indulge in their theoretical speculations. Shouldn't wonder if our revenue bill is cut down, if not abolished altogether, as soon as it is laid before the British Government.

Communications.

COUNTY OF GASPE.

Mr Editor,
I cannot, in justice to myself and to you, pass over the abuse which has been thrown out by the Editor of the Gaspé Gazette, in his 11th number, on the writer of the article signed 'A Teacher,' which you was so obliging as to insert in your paper. His assertions, as an Editor, are most undignified; and, I fancy, like deep-rooted habits, most difficult to conquer. His own words appear quite sufficient to convince any candid mind, that he took an unwarrantable liberty with the article entrusted to his hands. He says, 'after some little alterations as to style, orthography, &c., we complied,' and 'our paper of the 4th January contained the spirit, although not the exact language of the communication.' In the first place, he acknowledges that he altered the style. Now, how could he alter the style without transposing and altering the words? If the style displeased him, and he took the liberty to alter it, he must have considered himself an index of the feelings and sentiments of every body else. If my style was bad, it surely was not his fault; it is my misfortune. Again, he acknowledges he altered the language, but not the spirit. What he means by the spirit, I cannot well make out. If he means to imply that his article breathes the same sentiments as the communication which he says lays in his office, for the satisfaction of the curious, I pray that I may be delivered from adopting them. Whoever may have the patience to read these remarks, I beg to state for his information, that the article which Mr Kelly or some other person took the trouble to dress up as a substitute for the one which appeared some weeks after in the Gleaner, signed 'A Teacher,' does commence with my text, 'Train up a child, &c.,' and some two or three lines immediately following, with a trifling exception; but from thence to the concluding period, not a sentence,

nor scarcely a sentiment is to be traced, that assimilates with the original. If, when I transcribed the article for publicity in the Gleaner, I either added or curtailed, the disparity must appear so trifling, that no one but Mr Kelly would challenge its authenticity. The fact is, I might as well send a communication, it matters not what, to the hecatombs of Egypt, as to the department of the Gaspé Gazette. Mr Kelly charges me with having uttered a falsehood, a wilful falsehood; and also in the conclusion of his remarks, he says, 'This is the second time the Gleaner has been deceived with respect to ourselves, and in both instances by liars.' I have often remarked that a practical, confirmed liar, when anything crosses the asperity of his path, will indulge himself in trying to make people believe every body is like himself, and that nothing disoblges him more than the truth, when it acts in opposition to his schemes. Again, according to the application of the spirit, he calls me an unprincipled writer, and that I am venting my spleen against his independent journal. I beg to ask you, Mr Kelly, from whence you derived this knowledge? When you visited Gaspé Basin, this last summer, did you not obtain from your confidential agents a large budget of locomotive intelligence, very precious, but notwithstanding very cheap? among which was there not a considerable amount of what is called scandal, put into your hands or your head, carefully arranged and as carefully labelled, for your convenience on all occasions of emergency? As a writer, can you charge me of ever having impugned any honest man's character in the country? If my pen has nestled rogues, it is not improbable that it may nestle them again.

Here I would gladly conclude, but I wish to deal friendly with every one; and it appears to be my duty to give you a little homely advice before I drop my pen. When you established your independent journal, no doubt your aspirations were strong, and worthy the object you had in view. But you erred, which I grant the best may do. You did not tender your respects to the honest people of this part of the District, as a prudent man would have done; therefore you have not obtained the patronage of the old and respectable inhabitants, the fathers of the soil, and their worthy and numerous progeny. But this is not all. Your tampering with strangers, as you are pleased to call them, and branding with unprovoked abuse, persons whose characters stand unspotted in the world, are misdemeanors, which, instead of establishing your name and paper, have cast a deep shade over them. These charges, perhaps, you will attempt to palliate or deny, by saying they proceed from a weak, unprotected individual, whose unprincipled writing should be disregarded by the public. If it would be of any service, I might give you a sample of my support, but I prefer that you find it out yourself. I will tell you, however, how you must do it. When you again visit Gaspé Bay, deal faithfully with the people, I mean 'the grumblers.' They are honest, humane, open-hearted, given to hospitality, and no guile is to be found in their mouth. They will receive you into their houses, and give you a hearty welcome, and moreover they will tell you who and what I am; and should you not be inclined to pass the writer's door unceremoniously, he will extend to you the right hand of fellowship, and give you a convincing proof that he is able to do you tenfold more good than you are able to do him harm.

A TEACHER.

Gaspé Bay, 2nd April, 1849.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1849.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

EMIGRATION.—There has been some remarks in the British House of Commons on the subject of Emigration to the Colonies. There cannot be two opinions on the question, that if Government would devise some wholesome scheme on this important matter, that much benefit would result therefrom to the Colonies as well as to the British public. Sir Robert Peel, after reading Mr Vere's account of his voyage across the Atlantic in an emigrant vessel in 1847, said, 'no record of suffering on board a slave ship had anything equal to it. He then remarked:—

"Such emigration is a positive disgrace to this country, with its great Colonial Empire. These people do the greatest disservice on their arrival in the Colony or in the United States; they cause a repugnance to Emigration conducted on such a system; they induce the countries to which these people go, to throw impediments in the way of emigration, and they prevent that sound and healthy emigration which might take place, if conducted on good principles. Not entertaining too confident an expectation of the advantages of emigration, still I cannot but think it likely that a superintending authority

acting in concert with the Colonial Office, being on the spot, able to communicate with the proprietors of estates, seeing in what part of the country there is a congestion of population, might greatly facilitate voluntary emigration. There is a great evil in the want of full information. Conceive a man seeking a new abode in the United States, 2,000 or 3,000 miles from home—what comfort to have ready access to a man who could give him information! I think it would be politic to incur some expense for the purpose of facilitating emigration under certain conditions. You tell us what has been done by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by others; that they have reduced the amount of poor rates on their estates by the emigration of superfluities, that they have increased the demand for labour, and restored prosperity and contentment on their estates, and that those who had emigrated were remitting sums to Ireland to encourage emigration. Lord Palmerston may have been able to effect this. As I said before, I think the exertions made by him to relieve the district from the misery with which it has been visited, do him very great credit: but how many gentlemen may be in Ireland, willing to make the same exertions if they had our assistance and advice. You might go on increasing this fund of emigration—by emigration wisely conducted, you might encourage further remittances from emigrants in the United States. I say, therefore, that in addition to public works, in addition to fisheries, in addition to encouragement by draining, all of which I think, might be attained by this commission of which I speak, I think the condition of the country, and the means of improving it by emigration, should be amongst the first subjects that should occupy attention.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The American papers contain a large amount of matter relating to affairs in the Colonies. The following are extracts from Letters purporting to be written in Montreal, and published in the New York Herald:—

Montreal, April 9.—The pent up feelings of years are now finding vent. The apathy which England has shown, and the neglect she has manifested, for the best interests of her North American Colonies, have at length roused the long dormant feeling of a too trustful people. For the last few years, the business of these Provinces have been frightfully retrograding. The commercial distress and the almost universal bankruptcy which has prevailed is without parallel in Colonial history. Every one is impressed—even the most careless and indifferent—of the actual necessity of some immediate steps being taken to resuscitate the trade of the country.

There are a few (but a miserable minority of ultra Tories) who would desire to see the English flag remain supreme over the Canadas, and would seek to accomplish their object by a 'federal union of all the British North American Provinces.' The mass of the people look in another direction for an antidote to their misfortunes—in annexation to the United States all the advantages would be gained that could possibly be desired. I have had shown to me by one of our leading and most influential merchants, a statement of the eminent benefits to be derived from such a connexion. He says our canals now produce \$200,000 per annum. Were we a State of the Union, it would be but natural to suppose we should obtain an immense amount of the carrying trade of the West and that the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and a portion of New York, containing a larger population than both of the Canadian Provinces, would draw their supplies through this source. The revenue in such a case, to be derived from these canals, might be safely estimated for the first year at \$1,400,000, and in the course of two years reach \$3,000,000. The contemplated Caughnawaga canal would of course be made. The advantages of having a market for our lumber and general produce, would be very great. Last year, \$626,000 worth of lumber was exported to the States. The increase in this article would be immense.

Montreal, April 11.—The blow has been struck—and the struggle commenced. The British party has wisely determined—they have talked long enough about their intentions—and, if they would not be laughed at, must work. Of all the various plans, (and their name is legion) for remedying the evils that afflict us, none have been looked upon with so favorable an eye, by the public, as the forming and calling together of a 'national convention.'

Their [the convention's] first act, it is supposed, will be to petition the Queen to withhold her assent from the 'Rebellion Losses Bill.' This, no doubt, will be passed unanimously. The point then to be discussed, is the remedy for our evils. The battle will be between the party advocating the 'Federal Union of the British North American Provinces,' and that for 'Annexation to the United States.' No doubt many other plans will be suggested; but, at present, there is none other before the public having half the weight of the last of the two I have mentioned.

A great, and to the present time, unforeseen circumstance has turned up, which has completely crushed the hopes of the partisans of the first measure. It was stated in town yesterday, on the authority of private letters from Halifax and St. John, N. B., that these Provinces regard the idea of a 'federal union' unfavorably, and themselves desire annexation to the United States. They give as a reason, that they have nothing in common with the Canadas. The railroad is the only tie between us, and the chances of its completion are so

far distant, that before it is finished, they may realize the old proverb, 'Before the grass can grow, the horse may starve.' Should these reports be true—and I have every reason to believe they are—the idea of a 'federal union' is quashed, and 'annexation' remains master of the field.

A preliminary meeting was held at Orr's Hotel on the 9th, at which some thirty-five persons were in attendance, amongst whom, says the writer, were many of our leading men, for the purpose of forming a League. A report was submitted, explaining the utility of this organization, and the object it had in view, and after some discussion it was resolved to call it the British League. The Hon. Mr Moffatt figured at this meeting.

A correspondent of the New York Courier, speaking of this organization, says it cannot 'succeed under its present management'—and that 'the committee nominated to attend to the executive part of the business are, with an exception or two, the most incapable blockheads and persevering babblers in the community.'

THE RAILWAY.—A late number of the London Times has a long article on the depressed state of trade in the Colonies, and throws out the following hints for improving our condition:—

Without the introduction of Railways into our Colonies it is impossible that the Imperial Legislature can discharge to our innumerable dependants those sacred duties which it owes them of improving their social and physical condition to the greatest extent permitted by the science and resources of the age; without the direct aid and sanction of government it is impossible to expect that private capital can be made sufficiently available for such a purpose in so remote a field.

The following important message was communicated by the Governor General to the Canadian Legislature, a short time since:—

Government House, Montreal, Dec. 20, 1849.

MY LORD,—In pursuance to your Lordship's instructions I have brought the subject of the Quebec and Halifax Railway under the consideration of the Executive Council of this Province, and I have now the honor to submit a copy of an approved minute containing suggestions as to the mode by which, with the concurrence of the Imperial and Provincial Governments, the necessary means for carrying out this important national undertaking may, it is believed be provided. It is proposed that the work shall be executed by or under the exclusive and immediate authority of the Imperial Government; that where the line passes through a settled country whatever land is necessary for the road shall be purchased by the Province, and handed over to the Imperial Government without charge; and where it traverses the public domain, ten miles on either side of it shall be placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government with a view, on the one hand, to the promotion of an extensive scheme of settlement in connection with the work, and, on the other, to the replacing by land-sales a portion of the capital expended; and, finally, that the capital required for the actual construction of the road, shall be raised on the security of a revenue to be derived from the imposition of a duty of seven shillings and sixpence per load on all timber the produce of British North America when imported into Great Britain.

I am well aware of the fact that under existing circumstances grave objections present themselves to the adoption of any measure involving a large outlay. Nevertheless that which I now submit has so much to recommend it, and it bears so immediately upon questions which effect vitally the interests of Great Britain and Ireland that I need not, I am sure, bespeak it for your Lordship's serious consideration.

For a statement of the manifold advantages which will be conferred on the mother country and on these colonies, by opening up to settlement the vast country which the proposed line will traverse; a country abounding in valuable timber, mines, and fishing stations; in many parts of admirable fertility; and accessible through Halifax by a short and easy voyage from Ireland; it is only necessary that I should refer your Lordship to the report of Major Robinson, R. E., in which these topics are ably and clearly treated. In submitting, however, the views of the Canadian Government upon this subject, I would desire, with your permission, to offer a few general remarks, which may serve further to illustrate the importance of the undertaking in a national point of view.

In the first place then, I would beg your Lordship to observe that one of the main obstacles to the rapid and successful colonization of British North America consists in the circumstance that there is little or no demand for labor on the seaboard. A destitute emigrant landing at New York finds himself at once in a busy scene where there is a fair chance for his obtaining employment until he has earned the means of transporting himself to the interior. But, generally speaking, he must proceed to Western Canada before he meets with any constant or certain market for his labor if he resort to British North America. Hence the necessity for a large expenditure for the conveyance of destitute persons from Quebec to the Lakes, and the manifold charges connected therewith; such as the provision of hospitals at various points for the treatment of the sick; charges which swell sometimes to a formidable sum, and which must be met either by the produce of taxes imposed on emigrants or by grants from the British Treasury. If the expenditure be defrayed from the