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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 to which all branches of commerce, depending 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.

* The late attack upon the timber trade.

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 preceding year. Almost every port in England has one or more vessels daily proceeding to the Canadas, and the accounts of those who have so recently settled, are so favorable, and are so universally spread, that the surplus population of England is daily and hourly flocking to the bank 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.

THE REFORMERS NEW POLITICAL CATECHISM.

Suited to the Times present, and Times to come, and adopted to the meanest capacity.

Q. What is your name?

A. Reform Bill.

Q. Who gave you that name?

A. The Commoners and Peers in my baptism, wherein I was made the law of the land, the child of the Commons, and the new Bill of Rights.

Q. What did the Commoners and Peers, then for you?

A. They promised three things in my name:—1st, I should disfranchise the rotten boroughs—2d, enfranchise such places grown to opulence—and 3d, that I invest the rights of suffrages in £10 householders.

Q. Dost thou think thou art bound to do as they promised for thee?

A. Yes, and by the people's help, I will.—And I thank our King he called me to this state, through Brougham our advocate, and pray to continue to my life's end.

Q. Rehearse the articles of your belief?

A. I believe in the patriotic Earl Grey, and Russell and Brougham, his colleagues: I believe in the detestable inconsistency of Wellington, Peel, Lyndhurst, and the Bishops, and look for the extermination of tyranny and oppression.

Q. What dost thou chiefly learn in these articles of thy belief?

A. Ist, I learn to believe in Earl Grey, the advocate of an insulted nation—2d, the base ingratitude of the Prince of Waterloo—3d, it