THOMAS RITCHIE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1849.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Union.

The Reciprocity Bill—Our Commercial Relations with Canada.

As much anxiety prevails in this city amongst all classes of persons engaged in commerce and manufactures regarding the probable fate of the bill now before the Senate for establishing reciprocity of trade with the neighboring province of Canada, I take the liberty of stating a few important facts in support of the positions taken by the honorable Senator Dix, from this State, in his able speech on the subject. The recent intelligence of the passage of a similar bill by the Canadian legislature, now in session, intended to meet the provisions of our act, has greatly added to the interest felt here in the measure.

The bill having passed the House of Representatives last session by an almost unanimous vote, no doubt whatever was entertained by its friends of its success in the Senate. It seems, however, that a strong opposition is likely to be raised against it, chiefly on the ground that a free reciprocity of trade in the staple productions of the two countries would result to the prejudice of American interests, by bringing Canadian produce and manufactures into active competition with our own.

I have not had an opportunity of reading all the arguments urged against the measure in the Senate, but have noticed that the honorable senator from Maryland, who is strongest in his opposition, asserted that "if this bill passed, not a dollar's worth of any of the products enumerated would be exported into Canada." Being largely interested in the Canadian trade, I can assure the honorable senator, and those who are of his way of thinking, that they are very badly informed in reference to this branch of our commerce.

The annual value of our exports to Canada, according to the Canadian official returns, as stated by Mr. Dix, is over $3,000,000. This, however, I have reason to believe is much below the mark. Although the Canadian tariff has been very low since the abolition of differential duties, the facilities for smuggling along a frontier of more than 1,000 miles are such as to cause a large contraband business to be carried on. From my knowledge of the entire trade, I have no hesitation in asserting that during the last two years we have sold for the Canadian market more than $1,000,000 worth of merchandise per annum. Of this large amount, if I had time to collect the necessary data, I should be able to prove, beyond controversy, that more than one-half is composed of articles embraced in the reciprocity bill, and of domestic manufactures of various descriptions. For instance, the city of Montreal annually consumes many thousand head of cattle and sheep, and a large quantity of butter and cheese, exported there by the States of Vermont and New York; and the State of Maine will, upon the opening of the Montreal and Portland railway, also find Canada an extensive customer for these products. The State of New York, in addition to the above articles of export, annually sends into Montreal and the numerous towns and cities on the Canada frontier, such as Cornwall, Prescott, Brockville, Kingston, Cobourg, Toronto, and Hamilton, and many others, a very large quantity of other articles. Of these products, Ohio and the northern part of Pennsylvania, also furnish large supplies to the British province; and, in addition, these States annually send to the same markets large shipments of cured hams and salted pork, and some castings; receiving in exchange pine lumber and plaster of Paris. Heretofore Canada was always the best market for the wheat of a large part of those States near the lake; and the advantages of bringing supplies of this commodity to the doors of the numerous and extensive flour mills erected on the Welland and St. Lawrence canals, by vessels of from three to four hundred tons burden, which navigate them, will doubtless still make Canadian millers the buyers of Ohio wheat, and thus, as hitherto, assist in keeping up the price of that grand staple. In this way, there is little doubt but that Canadian millers will buy as much of our wheat as the New York millers will of the province; thus balancing the one account against the other.

The advantages of this trade are not confined to the producing States. Canada is every year becoming a better customer to our manufacturing communities, and is desirous of cultivating the most friendly relations with them, as well as with our agricultural States. The cottons of Lowell, Connecticut, New Jersey, and other States, are rapidly rising in the estimation of our neighbors. One house in this city, I learn on authority, exported $40,000 worth of this one article, mostly unbleached, to the province last year, where it is considered of a superior quality to the English manufacture, and commands a better price.

I am also informed that another house—Messrs. Gilbert, Prentiss, and Tuttle, dealers in domestic dry goods—exported in 1847 into Canada $140,000 worth of our manufactures, and that the exports from this city in the article of brown cotton alone, to the same market, in 1848, exceeded half a million of dollars. During the same year a large amount of the satinets of New Jersey were also sent to Upper Canada by several houses in the trade.

Canada also buys *all* her tobacco, rice, and sugar of us, and fully one-half of her hardware. Mechanics' and edged tools of all kinds she purchases almost wholly in our markets, on account of their superiority.

The character of our manufactures is in fact every day gaining ground in the British provinces; and considering that the trade is, in a great measure, a new one, and has had until very recently to struggle against heavy custom-house restrictions, the rapid progress it has made is surprising. It is considered by those engaged in it, that the passage of this bill will make Canada our best customer for numerous articles of domestic manufactures and produce.

In exchange for all the articles I have enumerated, and many others, such as leather, boots and shoes, hides, tallow, and sperm candles, and a long list besides, Canada is obliged to give us specie, if we except a small quantity of lumber and some other minor articles upon which we exact a heavy duty. Under the proposed commercial regulations, she will be able to send us her staple production, wheat, as also pot and pearl ashes, and probably, in time, some other products of her soil. Canada, in her desire to remove all restrictions upon her trade with this country, has thus produced a balance against herself, which she cannot long support. If England refuse, as she certainly will, to return to the old colonial system of differential duties, the only alternative left our Canadian friends will be that of a retaliative tariff, by which our produce and manufactures will be excluded from her markets. Already a movement in that direction has been made in the city of Montreal, where resolutions in favor of a heavy protective tariff were almost unanimously adopted at one of the largest meetings ever held in that city. Let Congress look to this in time.

There is another exceedingly important consideration connected with the passage of this bill, and to which I do not think the honorable senator who has so ably advocated the bill has attached sufficient importance: that is, the benefit it will confer upon our carrying trade, both internal and transatlantic. The whole of western Canada, by far the most important part of the province, will give New York and Boston the preference as shipping ports over the longer and more dangerous route of the St. Lawrence, for all her exports and most of her imports to and from transatlantic countries. Thus nearly the whole carrying trade of Canada will at once pass into our hands. Let this reciprocity bill pass, and our whole trade with Canada will in a few years be increased many fold, and will become as essentially ours as that of Ohio and the western States. If England chooses to retain the political sovereignty of the province after this shall happen, let her do so. We shall possess the cream, and she can enjoy the rest until some favorable opportunity shall afford her an honorable pretext to permit her North American colonies to work out their own destinies. Our true policy unquestionably is, to treat them, in our commercial regulations, as if they were already States of the Union. This measure is regarded by all the frontier States and in this city as one of the most important for the interests of this country that Congress has had under consideration for many years.

The Hon. Mr. Dix has so fully and so ably refuted all the objections raised by the opponents of reciprocity, that it would be useless to attempt to add anything to his arguments. Those senators who oppose it on the grounds that it will damage our agricultural interests ought certainly to yield to the wishes of our agriculturists themselves, who are almost wholly in favor of it. Every one who knows anything about our trade is aware of the fact that the value of our wheat is regulated by the English market, and that Canadian wheat is regulated in price by the same market. The question, then, is, shall we carry their wheat and flour, or shall we leave the trade, as at present, in the hands of Liverpool and London ship-owners? Since writing the above, my attention has been directed to a short article on the subject in the Albany Argus, which I subjoin. W. B. H.

NEW YORK, January 14, 1849.

SPEECH OF GEN. DIX IN FAVOR OF RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH CANADA.—It is a remarkable fact, and one which reflects little credit upon the liberality or the sagacity of our legislation, that while the local government of Canada, under the enlightened and liberal policy of the present dominant party in that province, has adopted and tendered to us absolute free trade in agricultural products, we have as yet declined, or at least have not accepted, the proffered reciprocity, if, with our acknowledged superiority of soil, climate, capital, and enterprise, we cannot (as we certainly can) gain an advantage by equality in exchanging a few agricultural productions common to both countries, our assumption of freedom in intercourse and trade, upon general principles of reciprocity, in accordance with the spirit of our institutions, ought to impel us not only to adopt it ourselves, but to encourage rather than repress it in others.

In relation to the free exchange of agricultural products with Canada, no one can doubt, who will take pains to examine the subject, that it would greatly preponderate in our favor—so much so, that we see with surprise the objections the proposition has been called to encounter from intelligent quarters in the United States Senate. If the facts are understood and well considered, we are quite sure that these objections will yield to more liberal and practical views.

We regret to see also the spirit in which the question is commented upon in the Quebec Gazette. In earlier times, the able advocate of a liberal intercourse between the Canadas and the United States, not only in products, but in opinions, political rights, and popular reforms, the Gazette has become an organ of the anti-liberal party, and in this respect seems to reverse its own position. It is a curious illustration of the force of party on both sides of the boundary, that, while the Canadian print resists the policy of its own government, and opposes the bill now before Congress, because, as it assumes, the reciprocity is "all on one side," and for the benefit of our agriculturists and increased tolls and business on our intermediate railroads and canals, it meets with opposition here as a measure at war with these interests.

The whole question is presented, and the objections answered, with convincing force, ability, and clearness, in the speech of General Dix. The subject is one of much interest to the citizens of the frontier States; and the facts and the statistics of our trade with Canada fully stated. It is to be hoped that the bill may yet receive the favorable action of the present Congress.

To the Editor.

I request the favor of you to publish in your paper, as soon as possible, the accompanying certificate.

Respectfully yours,
SUSAN DECATUR.

GEORGETOWN, D. C., February 16, 1849.

GEORGETOWN, D. C., February, 13, 1849.

I hereby certify that my beloved and lamented husband, the late Commodore Stephen Decatur, never, during the whole course of our married life, (fourteen years,) communicated to me a thought, a word, or a desire, that I would, in the event of his death, make provision for the ladies who have been brought forward by the honorable Senate as his adopted children—ladies termed the Misses McKnight, the youngest of whom was married twenty-seven or twenty-eight years since to Lieut. Twiggs, of the marine corps, and a man of fortune; another of them was married nineteen or twenty years since to Dr. Klappe, of Philadelphia, a man of fortune also: after his death, she married Mr. Stockton, a purser in the navy, he being the sole heir to a considerable fortune in Philadelphia. The eldest of those ladies is a woman upwards of fifty years of age; she has never been married, and has ample funds of her own for all her personal expenses, and has always since the death of her mother resided, gratuitously, with her connexions. She received her due proportion of her mother's estate, and in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, under the naval pension act then passed, she received one thousand dollars, as pension, from the day of her father's death (captain of marines) until she became of age. Her sister, now Mrs. Stockton, received fifteen hundred dollars; and Mrs. Twiggs, being the youngest, received two thousand dollars, which she (having been many years married) invested. All these facts were communicated to me by the present Miss McKnight, who also informed me that her half brother, Wm D. Hurst, so soon as he was appointed midshipman, gave her one hundred and fifty dollars a year; and when made a lieutenant, he allowed her six hundred dollars a year; so that she has never suffered for want of money.

I have never heard my beloved husband express any sentiment of attachment towards those ladies, beyond the ordinary feeling of regard which a man ought to have for his female relatives; he never lived in the same house with them for more than a few days at a time; he never kept up any correspondence with them; he never did anything for them, after I became acquainted with him, excepting in making them a present of some small articles of dress, which he directed me to do in my own name, wishing all his connexions to understand distinctly, that, whatever his fortune might be, it was all mine—that he did not consider anything as his own but his *sword* and his *ship*. Although we had been so many years married, he never once invited those ladies to his house. After we had been residing one or two years in Washington, he had occasion to go to Philadelphia on some matter of business. I proposed that he would bring with him, when he returned, one or two of the Misses McKnight, to let them see the seat of government. He brought one of them with him, and when she returned home I invited the others; and it so happened that the eldest of those ladies, the present Miss McKnight—at that time a woman of twenty-two years of age—had been my guest (for the first time in my life) two months, when my beloved husband expired—almost twenty nine years since.

While the claim which I had laid before Congress (by my beloved husband's direction) was pending, and the House then in session, the present Miss McKnight addressed a letter, signed with her own name, to one of the honorable gentlemen, claiming a portion of the prize money for herself and sisters, (they both being married,) stating that I had treated the memory of their uncle with the greatest disrespect; that the swords and other articles presented to him by the government for his public services, I had given to the Indians. The gold box which had been presented to him by the corporation of New York, for the capture of the British frigate Macedonian, I had given to the British minister, who had recently returned to England. (A pretty present for the British minister!)

These charges were followed by others of similar character, and all false. A person of my acquaintance was in the House of Representatives when the letter to which I have alluded was read to the House, and came immediately to inform me of its contents. I then wrote a note to the Hon. George C. Washington, who was then a member of the House, and living in Georgetown, requesting him to call upon me, and take charge of all the articles about which I had been so maliciously calumniated, and to place them on the Speaker's table, asking every honorable member of the House to look at them, and see, with his own eyes, how maliciously I had been traduced. Mr Washington executed my wishes, and the articles were examined by the whole House. I, at the same time, wrote a letter to be read to the House, and which was read, either by Mr. Washington or the Hon. Edward Everett, who was also a member of the House, refuting the whole fabrication. I stated to them the fact that I had given all the swords to my brother-in-law, Colonel John P. Decatur, a few weeks after my beloved husband's deplorable fate; that he packed them up in the presence of Miss McKnight and sister, (now Mrs. Stockton,) who were at that time my guests; and he took them home with their full knowledge. They are now in the possession of Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, the god-son and namesake of my beloved husband. He now resides in New York.

Two or three years subsequent, when those ladies were again my guests, a party of Indians came to my house and informed me, through their interpreter, that as my husband had been a warrior, they wished to have something that had belonged to him. I had some old and broken swords and foils for fencing, and some worn out epaulets, unfit to be offered to any gentleman, and those I gave the Indians: so that those ladies made use of my hospitality to themselves (for they were present when the Indians received the gifts) to traduce me before the Congress of the nation, and the whole foreign diplomatic corps. I have not been able to ascertain a single sentence of the charges which they have now brought forth, and which have induced the honorable Senate to pass such an extraordinary bill; which, though intended, as may be presumed, to honor the memory of him whose achievements have induced it, is still the only individual whose memory has been treated with disrespect, by the violation of his most ardent wishes, as will be seen in his last will and testament; and his widow, the object of his devoted affection, charged and condemned with she knows not what.

If my beloved husband had entertained such an excessive attachment to those ladies, he would not have concealed it from me, who was ever ready to adopt all his partialities, and whose greatest delight was to see him pleased and happy; and I am sure that he never expressed any such sentiments to any person whatever. There was no double-dealing about him: whatever he wished to do, and thought it right to do, he had courage enough to do, at all hazards; and I cannot help thinking that the ladies in question have manifested very little respect for his memory by casting imputations on his moral character, and defaming the person who they knew full well was the object of his devoted affection.

This is only a question of character; and nothing could induce me to receive a dollar from any sum appropriated which I consider under circumstances disrespectful to my husband's memory.

I have in my possession the testimony of one of the most respectable *gentlemen* in Philadelphia, who has been intimately acquainted with the *present Miss McKnight* from her earliest childhood, (and which testimony I am ready to show,) that she does not hesitate to depart from truth whenever she thinks it will be for her interest to do so; and I have had many proofs of it from my own knowledge. If Congress is desirous to show the generosity of the nation, it appears to me that the three Misses Decatur, the daughters of the late John P. Decatur, are women over twenty years of age, unmarried, and in much more limited circumstances than the ladies who have been given to my beloved husband as his adopted children, and are greater objects of charity. They are his only female relatives, except those embraced in the Senate bill. Their elder brother, Stephen Decatur, is a lieutenant in the navy, and lost his sight in the discharge of his official duty. He is totally blind, and, of course, cannot do much for them.

SUSAN DECATUR.

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON,
District of Columbia, to wit:

On this 16th day of February, 1849, personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, Mrs. Susan Decatur, widow of the late Commodore Stephen Decatur, and made oath, in due form of law, that the foregoing statement, signed by her and hereunto attached, is just and true as therein stated, to the best of her knowledge and belief. Sworn to before me,

LEWIS CARBERY, J. P.

CERTAIN CURE FOR TOOTHACHE.—If any person is suffering with toothache, it can be cured in one minute by the application of *Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash*, and yet the tooth will be protected by it from all decay, and preserved in a serviceable state. This very valuable property belongs almost exclusively to this tooth wash, and many such cures have been caused by it, of which the following are mentioned:

Much benefit has been derived by my family, and many friends, including the persons employed by me in manufacturing, by using Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash; it is an immediate and effectual remedy for toothache, and preserves the teeth, gums, and mouth from disease. It is worthy of confidence and use. F. S. JOHNSTON.

Toothache has been cured in one minute by Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, to my certain knowledge; and I respectfully solicit that those who suffer with toothache may may apply it on trial. ANN PARKHILL.

Sold at the Depot, Nos 1 and 2 Brown's Hotel.

CURE FOR SORENESS OF THE GUMS.

Those persons who may be troubled by soreness of the gums, will find Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash a most effectual remedy to alleviate soreness, and that it restores the gums to a sound and pleasant condition, and preserves them in health.

Having used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash for diseased teeth and gums, and found that although before its use my gums were so much out of order that the lower teeth could be laid back, a few applications of this tooth wash effectually cured all disease. I recommend it to the public in general, as very efficacious, and the best article I have ever used. BENJ. G. MITCHELL.

REMEDIES—SOFTNESS OF THE GUMS.

In all cases of softness of the gums, even though the teeth may have been insecure and loose in the gums, a perfect cure will be made of both the softness of the gums and the looseness of the teeth, by the gums having become solidified and compact and the teeth tightened and made firm; all is produced by a few applications of Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash.

Having had scurf on my teeth, attended by soreness of the gums, I tried Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash. In a few applications it entirely took the scurf from my teeth, and made a perfect and final cure. I therefore recommend it to the public as a very pleasant remedial tooth wash.
J. S. SERVOSS.

I have used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, and found it superior to any other article. It thoroughly removes scurf, strengthens and solidifies the gums, which firmly secures the teeth. GEORGE STREET,
Depot, Nos. 1 and 2 Brown's Hotel.

ARRESTS ALL BLEEDING OF THE GUMS.

The use of Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash at once arrests all bleeding of the gums, and removes all the irritation that usually accompanies the bleeding, and keeps the gums in a perfectly healthful state.

I have used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash for two years, and find it the best article of the kind I have ever met with; it is the only wash the use of which hardens my gums, and prevents them from bleeding.
GEORGE F. SITES.

During the teething of a child, to alleviate soreness and fever in the gums, after other very good articles had failed, owing to their severity, Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, much diluted, was used; and it subdued all soreness and fever, proving a superior article to wash the gums of children while teething. For this purpose, first dilute it with water until it is very weak.
N. S. LAWRENCE,
Depot, Nos. 1 and 2, Brown's Hotel.

KEEPS THE TEETH, GUMS, AND MOUTH PURE, AND SWEETENS THE BREATH.

Preserving the teeth, gums, and mouth fresh, pure, and healthy; and, from the slow and insidious ravages which time is liable to cause, is the most agreeable property of Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash. It prevents the decay or natural corruption which the progress of time gradually brings upon the teeth, expels all corrupt humors, prevents the accumulation of tartar, and removes the almost imperceptible animalculæ which are so liable to be located in the decayed cavities; and it preserves the teeth from all other impurities, and constantly tends to purify, keep sound and healthy, and greatly to strengthen and preserve them.

It keeps the gums and mouth fresh, pure, and healthy, creating a healthy action and circulation in the gums, and by its astringency and tonic effects healing up and correcting impurities, and, together with its purifying properties and fragrance, keeps the breath sweet and pure, and preserves the teeth, gums, and mouth excellent in appearance and healthy.

I find on trial that Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash is of superior excellence, and freely recommend it to all fond of sound and white teeth, and a pure breath.
W. P. SMITH.

I have seen the beneficial effects of Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, in the case of a young lady whose teeth and gums were affected. It afforded every satisfaction.
T. COOKE, M. D.

I have used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, and recommend it to favorable notice and patronage, as being pleasant to the gums and teeth, and as leaving a pleasant fragrance on the breath. JOHN P. BINNS.

Having used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, I recommend it to public favor, as possessing purifying properties, which render the teeth cleanly, and make the gums healthy. R. M. LEE.

I have used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash, and found it to possess cleansing and purifying effects on the teeth and gums, for which I recommend it.
J. S. BREWSTER.

Having used Wheeler's Teaberry Tooth Wash for some time, I feel warranted to say that it meets with my entire satisfaction, and to recommend it to the use of the public, feeling assured that all who will use it, will also approve of its efficacy. JAMES G. GIBSON.

Depot of sale, Nos. 1 and 2 Brown's Hotel, kept by
M. H. STEVENS, Agent.

Jan 14

NEW MUSIC.—Mrs. G. ANDERSON has this day received the following new and popular music:

Gems of Donizetti's Opera Linda di Chamounix, by Beyer.
The Revery, a waltz, by G. W. Warren.
The May Queen Polka, by T. H. Vandenberg.
The Postilion Polka, by Strakosch.
The Nightingale or Bird Polka, by E. Hime.
The Alembre Polka, by Scherpf.
The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain Quadrille, by Mrs. Macfarren.
Dombey & Son Quadrille, by Mrs. Macfarren.
The Sleigh Driver Polka d'Hiver, by do. do.
The Streamlets, by Strakosch.
Gentle words and loving smiles, song, by Woodbury.
I wander to those hills each day, song, by Glover.
Blanche Alpen, song of the Moravian singers.
Home, my own dear mountain home, do. do.
The Welcome home, do. do.
Song of the Drum, by Jenny Lind.
Adieu sweet companion, song, by E. C. Hailey.
Songs of the Christy and Campbell Minstrels.
The Fairy's Festival, a ballad, by Wetmore.

Between 11th and 12th streets, Penn. avenue.

Feb 15—1weo.

TRUSTEE'S Sale of Valuable Lots in Georgetown.—By authority of a decree of the circuit court of the District of Columbia, sitting as a court of chancery, the subscriber, as trustee, will sell without reserve on the premises, on the 28th day of March next, at 4 o'clock, p. m., two lots of ground in the village called Wilberforce, the first lot fronting 50 feet on High street, and running back 140 feet on German street, until it meets Congo lane; the other lot fronting 100 feet on German street, and same on Congo lane.

Terms of sale as prescribed by the court: The purchase money to be paid in equal instalments at six, twelve, and eighteen months from the day of sale; the whole to bear interest from the day of sale, and the payment thereof to be secured by the bond of the purchaser, with security to be approved by the trustee, or cash to be paid on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof by the court.

JAMES MAGUIRE, Trustee.

Feb. 11—3taw6w E. S. WRIGHT, Auctioneer.

GENERAL TAYLOR.

CITIZENS preparing for their friends, and strangers visiting Washington, will find, at Parker's Fancy and Perfumery store, Pennsylvania avenue, near Blackwell's Hotel, the largest assortment of toilette articles adapted to their wants and comfort, during the crowded state of the metropolis for the ensuing twenty days, to witness the inaugural ceremonies; such as

COMBS.

Shell, imitation shell, fine buffalo, English horn dressing comb.

HAIR BRUSHES.

English, French, and American satin and rosewood hair brushes.

TOOTH AND NAIL BRUSHES.

English and French superior wire-backed and trepaned Tooth and Nail Brushes, of ivory, bone, and buffalo handles.

HAIR WASHES.

Guerlain's, Jules's, Haules's, Colcord's, and Barry's lustrate for cleaning and beautifying the hair.
Clirchugh's trichophesous, do.

WASHING SOAPS.

Lubin's musk soap, rose soap, Louis's brown Winsor soap, transparent wash balls, &c.

SUNDRIES.

German cologne, Florado water, bay rum, superior tooth wash and powder, toilette powder, pomades, ox marrow, fine hair oil, Macassar oil, lip salve, Patey's cold cream, &c., &c., &c.

Feb 10—3tawtMar4 [Globe]

EMBROIDERED Canton Crape Shawls, this day received, of very recent importation, which will be sold at much below the usual prices.

Feb 7—3w P. H. ROOE & CO.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Warehousing System.

[Transmitted to Congress February 22, 1849.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 22, 1849.

SIR: This department, under the authority granted by the 5th section of the warehousing law of the 6th August, 1846, has issued new and additional regulations, a copy of which, marked A, will be found annexed. These regulations are based upon an experience of the practical operation of the law in this country during the last two years, as well as upon very full information upon the same subject obtained from the continent of Europe, and also from Great Britain. It is believed that there is scarcely an act ever passed by the British Parliament that has aided more than her warehousing law to augment her manufactures, commerce, tonnage, and revenue. This is the opinion of all her statesmen and business classes, and not a vote, it is believed, could be obtained in either House of Parliament for its repeal, although in its inception the system encountered even greater and more violent opposition there than in our own country. Since it was perfected there, the commerce of Great Britain has more than quadrupled; the bonded goods remaining in warehouse having risen in August, 1847, according to the statement of the commissioners, attached to my report of December, 1847, to the value of $387,200,000. The docks, structures, and buildings in which these goods were stored, cost in London alone, according to the same statement, $40,000,000, and in the whole British empire are estimated at nearly double that sum. It is thus seen how Great Britain has made herself the centre of universal commerce and exchanges, and the storehouse of the business of the world. She has the almost incredible amount of near four hundred millions of foreign imports stored in her docks and warehouses, so as to furnish assorted cargoes of every product and fabric of the earth, and of every class, description, and quality. She thus makes herself the factor of all nations, and the productions of the industry of all mankind are stored in her warehouses, and sold by her merchants to the people of every country. The profit thus realized is immense, and draws with it the command of the trade and business and specie of the world. Side by side with these warehoused foreign goods are her own products and fabrics, ready for sale at home and abroad. In bringing to her ports the vessels of all nations for cargoes of all foreign productions, the purchasers, to complete assortments, also take with them vast amounts of British articles, and thus Great Britain, whilst commanding the commerce and specie of other countries, augments the sale of her own products and fabrics.

An attentive examination of the globe, and of the relative position of its several countries, will exhibit our great advantages over Great Britain as a centre for universal commerce. The latter has no great interior country to supply any of her ports with business—she has no mighty lakes or rivers—no great expanse of surface; nor can she be connected with the continent by railroads or canals. Her soil is less fertile; her climate less genial and favorable, embracing by no means such a variety of products; and great as are her mineral resources, they are by no means equal in extent or number to our own. Her position is less central, having north of her much less than one-tenth of the arable surface of the globe, and less, also, than one-tenth of its population; whereas if we turn to our own country, in view both of latitude and longitude combined, with our fronts upon both oceans and upon the gulf, we are, as nearly as can be, the centre of the arable surface, the population, and the business of the world. Our great interior lakes and rivers, with our rapidly-extending net-work of railroads and canals, bringing to our ports the interior commerce of a continent, with numerous deep and capacious harbors on both oceans, accessible at all times, and with every variety of climate, soil, and product, mineral and agricultural, give to us an unrivalled position. That Great Britain, nevertheless, with so many local disadvantages, should have made herself the centre of universal trade, is the highest proof of the genius and enterprise, the energy and perseverance, and especially the wise legislation on this subject of that great country. After the most deliberate investigation during the last three years, it is my firm conviction that without her warehousing system, cherished and improved as it has been from time to time, she never would have achieved these great results: that it is mainly this system which has made her the storehouse of the world, and, giving her the command of the carrying trade, has filled her vessels with cargoes for her own use or re-exportation. In her great docks and warehouses are stored the products and fabrics of all countries, together with her own; and she has thus become the point where international exchanges are made, and where trade and specie have centred. If we would enter into a fair and honorable competition with her for this carrying trade, and commerce, and specie, we must avail ourselves of the lights of experience, and introduce here, with some changes adapted to our position, a similar warehousing system. When foreign or American vessels come to our own ports, they must be enabled here, as in Great Britain, to load and unload with the utmost facility, economy, and despatch, at all times and in all seasons. They must also be enabled to obtain, without delay, in our ports, assorted cargoes of our own products and fabrics, as well as those of all other countries, of every quality, character, and price. These foreign and domestic products and fabrics must be collected in our warehouses, as they are in London, ready at all times for immediate purchase and shipment, so that any vessel arriving at our ports can always obtain at once full and assorted cargoes. It is only thus, that vessels, sure of return cargoes, can be brought to our ports on the best terms, diminishing freights, whilst augmenting our carrying trade and aggregate profits of navigation. It will be perceived, on examination of the new regulations hereto appended, that this department, as indicated in my reports of December, 1847 and 1848, has introduced the system of private competition for storage, to the full extent authorized by existing laws, combining, as permitted thereby, public and private stores, and protecting the interest of the government and merchant by every safeguard in the power of the department, suggested by experience and investigation. In order, however, to give to our warehousing system all the advantages that are possessed in Great Britain, the following changes are indispensable. The provisions of the act of 17th June, 1844, limiting the inspectors to the number employed at that date, must be modified in some respects, as these officers are required by the warehousing laws to keep the key and have charge of private bonded stores. If these private stores are to be scattered over our great ports, as the convenience of commerce may dictate, and, as to a fair and reasonable extent, they should be under proper regulations—if the warehousing business should progress, as it has done for the last two years, the inspectors must be augmented beyond the number authorized by that act. The warehousing act allows the importer, whose private store is used for the warehousing of foreign goods, on which the duties have not been paid, to keep one key, and requires an inspector of the revenue to keep another; the law directing a joint custody, with two different kinds of locks and different keys in the possession of each respectively, so that the importer could not have access to such bonded goods in private stores, except in the presence of the inspector, the act forbidding the importer "access to the goods, except in the presence of the proper officer of the customs." The expense of furnishing such inspectors for private stores should of course be borne by the importers, for whose convenience and benefit this arrangement is made, and who can only exhibit the goods or withdraw packages for sale or re-exportation, from time to time, under the law, "in the presence" of an inspector. After much deliberation and inquiry, my mind has been brought to the conclusion that this expense could best be arranged by an equitable apportionment of the compensation paid to inspectors, to be refunded by such importers; the amount to be fixed in each case by the collector, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; or, by adopting the principle of half storage, with a view to cover the expense, which has operated so well in some of the ports, leaving to the importer the option between these two modes of payment; and this is the principle upon which the present instructions are based. Under the law, however, as it now stands in our largest ports, it will be impossible to put the system as to private stores into full operation, unless the act of 17th June, 1844, before referred to, should be modified; inasmuch as whilst one inspector might suffice for one vast public bonded store, a considerable number would be required for the private stores of the importers scattered over a great city. So far as the government is concerned, it is obvious that in the large ports the great public stores, equal in capacity to a dozen private stores, are the most economical; and in these must be stored, under any arrangements, the unclaimed goods, amounting, in New York, by the returns of the collector, to the value, during the last two years, of $14,617,658. If, however, the importers claim the goods, and the privilege of warehousing in their own private stores, they ought, in my judgment, to be permitted to do so, in the manner provided in the regulations and instructions now issued by this department.

The stores agreed upon by the importer and collector, with the restrictions above designated, are the only private stores now authorized by law. In all other cases the stores must be rented on public account, as required by the provisions of the 6th section of the act of 3d March, 1841, which is in full force, and is in these words: SEC. 6. "*And be it further enacted*, That all stores hereafter rented by the collector, naval officer, or surveyor, shall be on public account, and paid for by the collector as such, and shall be appropriated exclusively to the use of receiving foreign merchandise, subject, as to the rates of storage, to regulation by the Secretary of the Treasury."

The law, then, as it now stands, authorizes but two classes of stores, namely, public and private stores. The first, as we have seen, must be "rented on public account, and paid for by the collector." The second are the private stores, agreed upon as before stated, and must be kept under the regulations heretofore quoted, as prescribed by law.

Under the clause of the law authorizing private stores in certain cases, a very important question has been presented for my consideration: whether, in view of the very large discretionary powers vested in this department by the 5th section of the warehousing law, it is competent to extend the privilege of storage in private stores to the goods of several importers in one such store, when requested by them. Upon mature deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that this may be done, and have accordingly so authorized, under regulations combining the most perfect indemnity and security to the government, with great convenience and economy to the merchant. These will not be public stores, and no rent will be paid for them by the government, but they will be used as private stores, denominated in the law "other stores to be agreed on by the collector or chief revenue officer of the port, and the importer, owner, or consignee." In these cases, however, the person who is permitted by the collector to have such private bonded store, must be constituted by each of the importers using the same their agent, who must keep the importer's key as authorized by law, whilst the inspector will keep another and distinct key; so that no access can be had to the goods, except in the presence of the inspector. In this case, however, where several importers thus use one private store, thus guarded and secured, in addition to the custody of the goods under the lock of the inspector, and the bond for the duties required from the importer, the collector must also exact from the agent of the importers who keeps the store a bond, with sufficient sureties, to indemnify the government against loss. This is substantially the system of private competition for storage and labor introduced into Great Britain, and which has been attended there with such wonderful success, and has made that country the storehouse of the products and fabrics of the world. In the absence of such regulations this department feels well assured that the warehousing business in the United States can never be brought into successful competition with that of Great Britain; and it believes that this adoption of the system here will be attended with incalculable benefits. Under this conviction I have felt it to be my duty to extend these privileges to the merchants and business of the country.

Being desirous of introducing the system of stores absolutely fire-proof, so as to guard as far as practicable against those disastrous fires which have so often swept away so many millions of property invested in stores and goods, and with a view to place bonded stores in our own country upon an equal, if not a superior, footing to all others as regards security, so as to make our ports the principal entrepots of commerce, I have directed that a preference shall be given, in all cases, by the collectors, to such private stores as are made entirely fire-proof. By this I mean such stores, of which we have now scarcely a single one in this country, although lately introduced with great success into Great Britain, as are free from all combustible materials. Such stores would be built on arches of stone or brick; or, what would be better, for all the wooden material now used to substitute iron, namely, for roofs and rafters, for joists, for doors, window-frames and shutters, slabs for flooring, and beams or pillars where needed, as now used in some cases in Europe. The advantages of this system would be, 1st. The greater security from fire in such stores would much increase the warehousing business of the country, with all its immense profits to our commercial and navigating interest. 2d. The saving or diminishing the losses arising from conflagrations. 3d. The saving or diminishing insurance. 4th. The frequent arresting of fires in our great cities, by stopping them at a point where the buildings were wholly incombustible. 5th. The gradual extension of the system of iron buildings to private stores, other than bonded warehouses. 6th. The great benefit to the iron interest of the country, from the new and increasing use and demand thereby created for that material.

The augmenting demand for warehouses in many of our ports had forced upon the department the alternative of leasing, at this time, new and additional public stores for terms of years in the larger ports, or resorting to the system of private competition; and, after full investigation, it is deemed best to adopt the latter. Public stores, however, to a large extent, are still required by the law. 1st. For importers who may prefer to use them. 2d. Unclaimed goods under the provisions of the law can be stored only in public stores, and the value of these unclaimed goods in New York alone, during the first two years under the warehousing law, by the returns of the collector, amounted to $14,617,658. Under this system, public and private stores will be combined, and each for useful purposes, as designed by the law; but ultimately, the great mass of the warehousing business (except as regards unclaimed goods) will be transacted here as in Great Britain, by stores neither rented nor owned by the government. These stores, owned by individuals, in proper locations, and of a proper character, will be authorized by the collector, with the assent of the Secretary, at each port; and the government will have no other control over them than the custody of the key by an inspector of the revenue, and access to the goods permitted only in his presence, as required by law. The person who is authorized to keep the store will be the agent of the importers, and contract for storage and labor as they may think proper; the government being indemnified only for the expense of the services of an inspector, by the payment of half storage, or of the inspector's salary, at the option of the importer. The storage and labor will thus be furnished by the owners of stores, and not by the government; and the business will thus be conducted in time with greater economy, and the choice of stores left chiefly to the importers. The government will have all the security for the stores and for the custody of the goods that is required in case of public stores, as well as full indemnity for all charges, without any risk or expense for labor, or for the building or renting of stores, with a preference of the public store where adapted to the storage of articles sought to be warehoused. Private enterprise will be invited into rivalry for furnishing warehouses; and now that the system has received proper impulse from the government, individual competition will in time furnish the best, and cheapest, and safest stores, as well as the most economical storage and labor for nearly all goods, except such as are unclaimed. Such private enterprise will in time cause large and capacious incombustible stores to be erected in our ports, giving employment to our mechanics and labor, augmenting our commerce and revenue, and increasing the value of property in our warehousing cities. The incombustible or iron stores will gradually take the place of structures that are not fire-proof, for the storage of imports, and be eventually extended to stores holding domestic goods, and thus terminate those disastrous conflagrations that have ruined so many thousands.

As early as the 29th of July, 1847, my attention was directed to the important subject of iron warehouses; and among the inquiries which the commissioners who visited the continent of Europe and Great Britain, under my appointment in that year, were directed to make, was the following:

"You will inquire, particularly, how far, and to what extent, iron has been introduced, either for roofs, rafters, joists, or otherwise, as well as the material for flooring; the expense of such buildings; the insurance, if any, on such warehouses, and the goods stored therein."

In replying to this inquiry, the commissioners stated as follows:

"In the dock warehouses originally constructed, iron was not used as a material for building, being only used in some cases for braces to strengthen; but in those more lately built, it has entered to some extent into the construction for rafters, joists, and flooring; for pillars it has been more generally used; the St. Katharine's dock, in London, and the Albert dock, at Liverpool, using iron pillars filled in with brick, as the support, in most cases, to the second floor. The London Dock Company have also used it to a considerable extent for pillars in the last vaults constructed. The sheds on the dock piers at London are generally supported by iron columns, as previously mentioned; and the intention hereafter is to increase its use, experience having demonstrated, from the use made of it in constructing the large railway stations, that it is the lightest and best material for large sheds and roofs. The flooring in the warehouses is usually made with reference to the character of the goods to be stored; where a smooth surface is very requisite for the preservation of the articles, iron has been somewhat used. In the Albert docks, before mentioned as combining the most modern improvements, tile has been used, laid on concrete made perfectly smooth, for sugar and molasses; such a floor, or one of stone slabs, being considered the best, the drainage requiring it to be frequently scraped and cleaned.

"The buildings are kept insured by the proprietors, the rate being from one-sixth to two-sixths sterling per cent. The merchandise is generally insured."

They state also—

"The warehouses in the East and West India, and London docks in London, are constructed in a substantial and fire-proof manner—the roofs of slate or tile, and the doors and windows of iron. The lower floors are generally of stone, on arches sustained by pillars of stone or iron; the upper floors are of wood, sustained by wooden pillars. The stores in these docks are of different dates of construction, the more modern ones embracing the most approved modes of building at the time.

"In the St. Katharine's dock, the stores having been more recently built, are generally of a better description—the lower stories being on arches, supported by iron pillars, and the floors of the second story of iron plates. Underneath all, are the cellars for the storage of liquors, with arched roofs, supported by iron or stone columns. These cellars are of immense extent, and in the London dock alone comprising twenty-two acres. The floors are fitted with iron skids for the storage of the casks, and their easy movement from one part to another.

"On the piers in these docks are also constructed sheds for the protection of merchandise while discharging and loading, and for custom-house examination. These sheds are supported generally by iron columns, and, in some instances, have iron roofs, and railways laid through them for the more convenient removal of merchandise by hand trucks.

"The other bonded warehouses are private stores of fire-proof construction, within which no offices or counting-rooms are allowed, built to comply with the circular of the commissioners of customs.

"The stores in the Albert dock, Liverpool, (the only dock having warehouses at that port,) the undersigned think the most perfect in every respect which they visited, being built entirely of stone and iron, no wood whatever entering into their construction."

It thus appears that the best and most approved warehouses in Great Britain are now "built entirely of stone and iron, no wood whatever entering into their construction." That similar iron stores will be built in our warehousing ports, under the present instructions, giving them this preference, would seem to be certain; and when they are constructed in one port, they must be built in others, or it would lead to a greater concentration of the warehousing business in those ports that adopted the incombustible iron stores. When the business of the storage of foreign imports is thrown open to private enterprise, and safe and commodious stores erected by individuals, they will seek to fill them with goods, especially for re-exportation, and thus immensely increase the warehousing business, and render our ports at a much earlier period the entrepots for universal commerce.

The question is one of great magnitude, in what country shall be chiefly stored the exchangeable products and fabrics of the world, during the period intervening between their growth, production, or manufacture, and their use or consumption? What country shall transact this vast business? Who shall enjoy this carrying trade? Whose mechanics and laborers shall furnish the stores, and docks, and basins? Whose merchants shall receive the storage? Whose underwriters the insurance, and who shall realize the commissions and profits on the sale and reshipment? These are questions of momentous interest to our commerce and navigation, and to the progress of our wealth and industry. I think it may be demonstrated, that, directly and indirectly, Great Britain is now realizing from this source an annual income to her people of more than eighty millions of dollars. By the returns of our commissioners before referred to, it appears that the value of bonded goods in the warehouses of Great Britain, in August, 1847, was $387,200,000. The quantity warehoused throughout the year is not given; but if it bears the same proportion as in our country, to the goods remaining in warehouse at the end of the year, it would be much greater. Assuming it, however, to be only $400,000,000, we may form an approximate estimate to this income from the following data: 1st. The freight upon the importation of the goods. 2d. The freight upon such as are re-exported. 3d. The storage. 4th. The insurance whilst on deposite, as well as when imported or exported. 5th. The labor attending the landing, receiving, and reshipment, including the wharfage, drayage, cartage, cranage, hoisting, stowing, piling, packing, and repacking, &c. 6th. The profit upon the sale of the goods; or 7th. The commissions when sold and reshipped on foreign account. 8th. The wages and compensation paid to clerks, storekeepers, &c. 9th. The yearly appreciation of property arising from the extension of business and the erection of docks and warehouses. 10th. The augmented market for domestic products and manufactures, purchased to complete assortments, and freighted abroad at cheaper rates, thus augmenting domestic exports, as well as the profit upon them. 11th. The use of the capital, credit, and specie, and the command of the exchanges of the world. 12th. The augmented home market for domestic products and fabrics, arising from the increase of capital, business, and population growing out of the warehousing system. There are some of these items, known to be great, not susceptible of any accurate approximate estimate; taking, however, those only where the data are established, it may be safely assumed that the gross income yielded on such items to the country from warehoused goods, is not less than twenty per cent. on the value of such goods stored for sale and distribution. It must be remembered that this is an income realized on the products and fabrics of other countries, growing out of being their factors and transacting their business under the warehousing system. Among the most beneficial effects of the system, as demonstrated in its results by practical experience in Great Britain, is the largely augmented foreign market for domestic products and fabrics, to complete an assortment or a cargo, so as to give full freights to vessels. Our ports are the natural and proper depots of European goods seeking the markets of Canada, the West Indies, Mexico, and of central and southern America. They are also the natural depots of all these latter countries when seeking the European or other foreign market. Our ports on the Pacific, in connexion with those on the Atlantic and the Gulf, are also the natural depots for sale and distribution to all the rest of the world, of the products and fabrics of Asia; and nothing can secure to us this commerce but a well-organized warehouse system, furnishing equal facilities for storage and entrepot with similar systems in any other country. To the perfect success of this sytem, the principle of free storage and free competition for all but unclaimed goods will become indispensable.

It would be difficult to ascertain the extent to which vessels and purchasers would be brought to our ports under a perfect warehousing system, to be supplied with return cargoes, in part composed of our own products and fabrics.

It is clear, however, that the effect must be very great; and when our warehousing system shall go into complete operation, I do not doubt but that stores filled with domestic products and fabrics will be found side by side with our bonded warehouses, and purchasers will resort to both to fill their vessels or to complete their assortments.

Whilst the bonded warehouses will be filled with foreign goods, our own breadstuffs and provisions, our flour and grain, our corn and cotton, our rice and tobacco, our hemp and wool, our cotton and woollen fabrics, (and, in time, also our iron and sugar,) and the vast variety of manufactures which our skill and industry produce, will be found in our domestic stores near or adjacent to our bonded warehouses, assembling purchasers to find a market for them in every portion of the world. Nay, it is quite certain, that the barter of the foreign for the domestic products and fabrics in adjacent stores will often take place daily, as it now does to so vast an extent in Great Britain, increasing not only our internal, but our external commerce, augmenting our tolls or freights on our lakes and rivers, our railroads and canals, and swelling our exports (including our own manufactures) to an extent corresponding with our foreign imports. The foreign and domestic goods warehoused in adjacent stores will, as it were, invite the exchange, and our merchants thus become the factors of universal commerce.

Whilst the warehousing system in Great Britain is greatly cherished by their merchants, it is regarded with still deeper interest by their manufacturers, being as popular in Manchester with its bonded stores, as in London or Liverpool; bringing, as it does, capital to British ports, and purchasers and goods from every quarter of the globe to exchange for British fabrics; and our American manufacturers can never compete successfully for the foreign market until a similar warehousing system is introduced and perfected in our ports.

Much as our mercantile and navigating interests will be advanced by such a system, the American producer and manufacturer, in augmented markets at home and abroad, will derive still greater advantages.

There is a perfect union of interest between our exports and imports, between our trade, external and internal. Commerce is a unit; it is the exchange of products and fabrics, whether foreign or domestic, whether transported inland or coastwise, upon the lakes or the ocean, upon the railroad or canal; and whatever system assembles in any port for exchange the products and fabrics of human industry, augments the wealth, and business, and capital of the country facilitating such commerce, and fills the hand of labor with greater and more abundant reward. In truth, commerce is the great handmaid of labor, the factor of its products, finding for them the markets of the world.

Among the most important amendments required in the existing law, are the following: 1st. Where the goods are deposited in a public store, under the exclusive custody of the government, no bond for duties should be re-