

THE TIMBER SUPPLY QUESTION.

TO THE PUBLIC.

WHEN, a few years ago, it was rumored that the coal fields of Great Britain would not supply the then rate of consumption for more than two or three generations, a general alarm at the prospect of so terrible a calamity, so soon to fall on the nation, immediately manifested itself. It became the question of the day, the Press was full of it, had daily leaders on it, and it was made a subject of Parliamentary inquiry, and, until it was satisfactorily ascertained, by scientific investigations and surveys, that there was coal enough in the country for many centuries, the question was the one absorbing topic of conversation and discussion amongst all classes in the British Isles.

The question of the timber supply here is of as much importance to us and the people of the neighboring States as that of the coal supply, which so powerfully exercised the minds of the people of Britain, could possibly be to them. Besides the amount of the raw material for our home consumption, which fully equals in value that of the exported, the returns for the last five years show for

1870-1.....	\$22,352,211
1871-2.....	23,685,382
1872-3.....	28,586,816
1873-4.....	26,827,715
1874-5.....	24,781,780

making a total of \$126,233,904, and averaging \$25,246,781, which is largely in excess of the amount received for our cereals in the same time, the export of lumber in 1875 amounting to