

by sailing ships, as it is only a comparatively small proportion that can be forwarded by the fast-sailing Paddle Steamers.

6. That Portland is the centre of a spider's web of railways and steam-boats; that it is the terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway leading from Montreal and the West, having a splendid and safe harbour, easy of access at all seasons of the year. That large shipments of corn and flour have already taken place at Portland, and other produce from the Western Lake States; and that when the Victoria Bridge across the St. Lawrence is completed, Portland will become the great gateway for goods and passengers to and from Canada and the Western States.

7. That a line of steamers which can insure with tolerable certainty delivery of goods in the British colonies, or at Portland, will necessarily develop and tend to increase the trade with England.

8. That as for five or six months in the year ships cannot go up the St. Lawrence to Quebec, the regular trade will be more likely to remain through Portland, and thence by railway to Quebec and the Western States of America.

9. That the colonies of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia will, probably, grant a subsidy to a line of steamers coming there from Liverpool.

The information which has been obtained on these several propositions appears fully to warrant such conclusions.

It is intended in the following pages to give a brief view of the subject, and to refer to some statistical details, which cannot but be interesting, and which will tend to establish the views of the promoters of this great enterprise.

As a general observation, we may state that the value and importance of the British North American colonies are not sufficiently understood in this country. Their population, industry, and property are very great, and daily increasing in a rapid and surprising manner. What these may become can best be pointed out by considering attentively what they were and what they now are. But to ascertain what their future value and importance will be, we must also consider the position and prospects of their immediate neighbours in the United States, with which our American colonies are now in every way closely

Present and future importance of British North American Colonies, &c.