

extent, and must inevitably increase, as long as one of the chief evils which give rise to it is suffered to continue.

The petitions for a free trade, which were addressed to Parliament last year, particularly turned the public attention to the errors of our commercial code; the principles they advocated were almost universally applauded by ministers, and by the leading members of the opposition; every body seemed at once to perceive the necessity of an alteration; committees were appointed by both houses to receive evidence on the state of trade, and, after a long and careful examination, that of the Lords presented a report, advising a revision of the duties on timber, and stating that those at present in operation favoured, in an impolitic degree, the Canada wood, and pressed with undue severity on that imported from Norway.

It also declared, that "the Canadian merchants were never led to believe, that the duties on foreign timber would be permanent; that an expectation was, however, held out, that the duty of 2*l.* 1*s.* first imposed, would be continued for some considerable time; but no such expectation was fairly raised with respect to the war duty, and the duty imposed in 1813; and that the exemption of duty on Canada timber has always been temporary."

Those persons interested in the present order of things instantly became alarmed; they constitute a numerous and formidable body, and almost every newspaper and bookseller can bear witness to the