time, these canals are instruments which can be wielded
with equal force against as well as for you. It is extreme-
ly fortunate that the completion of the canal was secured
before the repeal of the Corn Laws. It is scarcely probable
they would have been undertaken after that event, and
it is pretty certain that if the St. Lawrence navigation
had been in the state it was prior to the Union, all agri-
cultural exports from Upper Canada, by the route of the
St. Lawrence, would have ceased. The canals have
placed the inexhaustible West within your reach, and
you are nearer to the lakes and can carry between them
and tide-water cheaper and quicker than any other city
in America. But these are advantages which we must
not merely talk about, but prove.

No sooner have we completed the Herculean task of
our magnificent canals, than like all other builders we
find we are not half done. Our competitors on the other
side of the line have not only canals but railroads along-
side of them. The canal is the street and the railway
is the side-walk. Trade and travel can thus keep
company. We have provided for the trade only, and
made no provision for the travel. For nothing is more cer-
tain than that travel follows trade, because on those routes
where the most business is done, (as for instance the route
from Albany to Buffalo,) there there is the greatest travel.
Now, if trade and travel are inseparable, we cannot expect
to enjoy much of either until our travelling facilities are
improved. This City has been by no means backward
in railway enterprises—she has been forward, too forward
literally. It would perhaps have been better for her in this
respect, if she had looked backward—to the West and
North behind her—rather than so much forward toward
Portland and New England. I doubt whether we have
made a good selection in amalgamating with Portland on
a " differential" guage. We have, perhaps, thus thrown
the greater capital and influence of Boston in favor of the
Ogdensburgh road, and aided its completion. But it is
natural that Montreal should first attempt the compara-