

that which would render them liable to a criminal prosecution: that is, navigating, and of course procuring insurance on rotten, and consequently unseaworthy ships. Is it to be wondered at, that the Colonial interest should suffer, when prejudice and ignorance, such as this evidence discloses, are arrayed against it, and where assertions so grossly unfounded (to give them the mildest name,) are received as truth; the Colonists, meanwhile, having no opportunity of contradicting them.

Mr. MITCHELL'S EVIDENCE, QUESTION No. 2982
to 2999.

This gentleman informs the Committee, that *crooked* fir timber, fit for ship building, is to be procured from Norway: that he has seen it, and that there is plenty of it. Notwithstanding this bold assertion of Mr. Mitchell, he is now most respectfully told that he has stated what is utterly incorrect; and that neither he nor any other person ever saw crooked fir timber, fit for ship building, in Norway.

3015—Mr. Mitchell says the Norway timber is not so well squared as Memel timber, the people of Norway being unable to put so much labour upon it—now, the fact is, it is not the labour that they cannot afford to put upon it, for labour is as cheap in Norway as among the serfs in Russia; but it is the timber that they cannot afford to cut away. It is already so small in the girth, they are afraid of making it less by squaring it well; and even half squared as it is, it hardly exceeds 8 inches; and yet this small, short, contemptible trash, that hardly deserves the name of timber, is attempted to be put in competition with the splendid red pine timber of Canada, that grows to the size of even 16 and 18 inches, and 70 feet long.

3143—Mr. Mitchell thinks a profitable trade in Colonial timber might still be carried on, even if the duties were equalized. How far this may be done, is shewn by the following statement: