

progress of eastern bound trade, the tonnage on an average more than doubled, in each successive term of four years; for three terms from 1836, and from 1848 to 1853, a term of five years, the tonnage was doubled. At what rate it will proceed to increase hereafter it is difficult to conjecture. The tide of emigration is now moving with increased volume,—improvements that will produce a rapid augmentation of this trade have just come into use, and others are in progress. The Erie Canal of New York will soon be enlarged, and by cheapening navigation from the Lakes to the City of New York will increase the lake trade, not merely by extending the area of its drainage, but by embracing a wider range of bulky or heavy articles, that will not now bear transportation. From the history of the past, and the prospects for the future, it is regarded safe to estimate, that the tonnage will be doubled in the next six years, and quadrupled in the next fifteen years. It will be seen that no special notice has been taken of the trade from the North side of the Lakes, nor of the trade that will come from the mineral sources in the Basin of Lake Superior. If this progress is realized, at the end of fifteen years the Eastern bound tonnage will be five millions of tons, and the Western bound over one million of tons, and the trade will not be more than half realized. If this trade as it may be expected to exist in fifteen years, was all to pass the Erie Canal, (the local trade of the Canal remaining as in 1853) the arrivals at tide water would be over three times larger than it was in 1853, or seven and a half millions of tons; and the total movement on this Canal would be nine millions of tons per annum. And although enlarged as now contemplated, that channel would be found wanting in capacity, for the convenient accommodation of so vast a trade.

Fifteen years is not a long time to look forward to meet the growing wants of this trade, and especially when the evidences of its probable growth are so strongly indicated by its history, and the facts of its expanding power. Hitherto the most sanguine have not anticipated its progress.

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#### THE FUTURE OF WESTERN CANADA.\*

We lie like a wedge between them—New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio on one side, Michigan and Wisconsin on the other—our communication by water complete with all that have been mentioned, and with the ocean, without obstruction, by

\*The Canadian Almanac for 1856, page 33.