

P R E F A C E .

No better testimony in support of the "Seamen's Act," now in force in this Province, could be afforded than the fact that the Honourable Mr. Labouchère, President of the Board of Trade, was encouraged to bring in a Bill to establish Shipping Masters in the Mother Country, from the good effects which had been produced from the working of the Law in Quebec, where the evils of desertion had been most injuriously felt.

Another evidence of its efficiency is to be found in the fact that strong resistance is being made to the working of the Law, by those principally, whose interests are *adverse* to the Shipping interest, and whose pockets are filled at the expense of the Shipowner, by exorbitant exactions; and the demoralization of the Seamen, by all the vices which belong to desertion.

The object of these remarks is to inform the Government, and those whose pursuits do not bring them into close acquaintance with the interests of the Shipping, of the true state of matters; and it is to be hoped that a perusal of the following observations will facilitate in some measure the formation of a correct judgment as to whether the interests of the Shipowners should be supported and Crimping put down, or *vice versa*.