

that constitutes the chief cost of ship building. The consequence to a ship builder of a reduction of the duty on Baltic timber, would be, that he would consume more of it than of Colonial timber; not that he would build more ships. The prosperity of ship building in England depends on the general trade of the Empire, and not on the admission of timber at a high or low duty.

2713—Mr. Porter repeats the old argument, that a larger amount of British manufactures would be exported to the Baltic, if Baltic timber were admitted at a lower duty; but Mr. Porter and others, who make use of this false argument, suppress the fact that, the export of British manufactures to the Colonies would be decreased by the import of Colonial timber being decreased; so that as far as the manufactures are concerned, no benefit would result to them, while the effect on the Colonists would be ruinous.

5715—Mr. Porter is of the same opinion as Mr. McGregor, that the protection which enables the Colonies to carry on the timber trade, is of no advantage to them. It can hardly be supposed that Mr. Porter or Mr. McGregor, can form a correct judgment as to what is, or what is not of advantage to the Colonists, ignorant as they must be of their trade; but if either of them had resided a few years in the country, they would have learnt that, without the timber trade, Canada would be nothing; that the climate, throughout a great part of the Lower Province, is not adapted to the pursuit of agriculture; that all the skill and ingenuity of man are useless in contending with the rigour of a Canadian winter of seven months, during which period, a farmer must live in idleness, consuming the scanty supply which his land has produced during the previous summer; that we have no manufactures, and no minerals to excavate; in fact, no trade but in timber; and without it, Canada would become what it was in the time of the French, and export only a few furs.

2716—Mr. Porter repeats the opinion of Mr. Hume, respecting old ships being employed in the timber trade, and even goes further, by stating that certain persons in England do