

preferred if equal in that respect. Delivered the box of specimens addressed to this port to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

I Reached London on the 15th April. Called on W. S. Lindsay, Esq., M.P. Delivered a box of specimens and your letter. I also delivered your letter and a box of specimens to the Linnean Society. Waited on Messrs. Churchill & Sim, Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin, Strang & Co., and several others in the trade. There is no such body in London as the Chamber of Commerce, I therefore decided to leave the set of specimens intended for that body with Messrs. Churchill & Sim, to be kept in their office, believing that the object in view would be carried out, by my so doing, as the said office is a great resort of those in the trade. Mr. Strang accompanied me to the docks to see the timber there. There was a large stock of lumber in London at that time, and I concluded that at least 90 per cent. of all the square fir timber was foreign. Our red pine is almost driven out of this market by the Memel red wood; and the Swedish timber, although very inferior, being obtainable at such low prices, say about 1s. per foot, supplies the place of our common white pine, so that very little of our white pine is required here, except a comparatively small quantity of our best board timber. There was an unusually large quantity of Quebec deals unsold, and business in them had been almost stagnant for the previous three months; but trade was then improving. The import of foreign lumber to London has increased over 25 per cent. within the last five years, while the increase of lumber from British North America has not exceeded 17 per cent. All timber is measured in London by extreme caliper measure.

I Visited Portsmouth, and had an interview with Mr. Garret, who went with me round the docks and building slips. I find there is not much of our timber used in the dockyard. Large quantities of Sardinian oak are here used in shipbuilding, and what I have seen of it seems particularly well suited for that purpose, at least as far as shape is concerned, as it is almost all crooked. I was unable to ascertain the contract price of this timber.

**Bristol.**—At this port I called on Messrs. Mark Whitwell & Son, and Messrs. Barns & Sons, for whom I had letters of introduction. These gentlemen interested themselves to furnish me with all the statistical information in their power connected with the timber trade here, by which I find that during the last four years there has been a great increase in the import of foreign lumber into this place. The proportions stand as under:—

	Colonial.	Foreign.
The import was, in 1857,	62,136 loads;	29,587 loads.
“ “ 1858,	62,862 “	32,422 “
“ “ 1859,	77,982 “	28,705 “
“ “ 1860,	60,690 “	70,941 “

It will be seen that during the past year the increase in foreign timber has been 150 per cent., and the decrease in Colonial about 25 per cent. The freight from the Baltic ports to Bristol averages about 19s. per load; from Quebec 30s. I delivered the box of specimens addressed to Bristol to the Secretary of the