

devised—than the attempt to confer by temporary Acts of Parliament commercial advantages upon the seaports at the expense of the inland ones. To engage in a war with Upper Canada upon these points would be to alienate your best customer. You cannot fail to be as unsuccessful in result as you would be unjust in position.

The constitution of the United States prohibits the levying of greater duties at one port in the Union than at another. Goods entered at Chicago via Montreal, are liable to no more duty than those entered at New York. Instead, therefore, of attempting to force the trade of Upper Canada by Legislation, through the St. Lawrence, invite, coax, not only this trade but that of the whole North West through this river, by making it as free as the Ocean. Then you will make Oswego, Cleveland and Chicago, Hamilton, Kingston and Toronto, Inland Seaports, if I may use the term, and unite them with you in one common bond of interest.

This indifference upon the subject of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence is in the Lower Provinces, at least, almost criminal. Upper Canada, with the power of selecting New York or Montreal, can afford to neglect this question. The Lower Province, which will be the greatest gainer by the measure, appears to attach a value to the monopoly she possesses, whereas it is a positive curse to her. Sam Slick tells us of a bear which having seated himself upon the moving log in a saw-mill, and becoming annoyed with the encroachments of the saw, embraced it with a characteristic hug until it cut him through, tumbling a hairy slab of bear's meat on either side of the saw log. Now all parties must admit that the commercial position of the Lower Provinces is chiefly to be maintained by an increase of Shipping. It is wise then to "hug" a system which discourages an increase of Shipping, and which is cutting us in two. Have you any thing to fear from a crowd of American merchantmen in the St. Lawrence? Why not exclude the travellers of that country from our Hotels and Steamers? There is as