

The duty is indeed enormous, and in abundant years would preclude importation in England; But the article has the advantage of not being perishable, and could be stored for an indefinite period to await a remunerative market. All such matters are worthy of enquiry, and I think are legitimately within our recognition.

At the risk of a little tediousness I will mention another crop, of a less doubtful description, in the abundance and quality of which New Brunswick equals, if it do not exceed, any other country whatever; and what is more, this crop does not require either capital or immigrant labour for its cultivation; it is of spontaneous growth. To our reproach be it said however, like other blessings which are freely awarded to us in unlimited abundance, it is neglected, if not too often despised. We let the opportunity of gathering it pass away, and when we see it wasting and disappearing before our eyes, we rather rejoice at than regret the event. Neither the prudent, nor the economical, nor the philanthropic reflection disturbs our minds, that millions of our fellow-beings in distant climes will pine and languish for that which was thus in our power to supply. You all know that I allude to what our enterprising neighbours call the "ice-crop."

This salutary product has been appreciated in eastern nations from unknown antiquity; and that it was so by one of the wisest of men has been thus perpetuated in the Book of Proverbs—"That as the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to one that sends him; for he refreshes the soul of his master." The sale of ice and snow procured in the caves of Vesuvius and on the more elevated parts of Etna, is said to have long been a considerable branch of trade in Naples, Catania, and the adjoining Towns; and in all the south of Italy and in Sicily those articles are regarded as of prime necessity. It is not many years since the speculative genius of New England was directed to ice as an article of commerce, which that country could abundantly supply; and it has within a short period become a business of the first importance. The field of demand embraces besides the American Union,