

at present quite sufficient facilities for the export trade which she enjoys, and it is difficult to believe that any facilities which Quebec could afford would enable Montreal shippers to transact their present business more economically or more satisfactorily. The Montrealers have a most overweening conceit of their own little port, and look down upon the Quebec timber trade with the sovereign contempt of the fox in the fable; and it cannot, therefore, be imagined that they will part with any portion of their trade until they find it impossible, on an emergency, to tempt Quebec vessels to their port for grain, or until their export trade outgrows all accommodation which the port can possibly afford. That this latter is not likely soon to be the case seems evident, from the fact that the sanguine and enterprising citizens who contemplated the immediate construction of docks in Montreal, were content to accept the dictum of a celebrated engineer, whom they consulted on the matter, "that it was time enough to talk about constructing docks when they had a trade to employ them." When that time comes it is to be hoped that common sense and practical business views will have returned to these worthy citizens, and that they will be content to avail themselves of any facilities Quebec may then offer, rather than peril the prosperity of their little port by the introduction of any so extravagant and absurd a scheme as that, from which the never-to-be-too-much-commended self-denial of an eminent engineer, has for this time saved them. On the point of agency then, we may look forward to Quebec being employed by other places as a point from which to ship grain to the foreign market, when the export trade shall have arrived at such a magnitude as to render any attempts of these places to "do their own shipping" profitably entirely nugatory. Even at the present rate of increase in the production of grain, this must occupy a considerable time. It cannot take place immediately, Quebec must therefore be content to look forward to it as an inevitable consequence, and "bide her time," even though any absurd jealousy and schemes of the Montrealers may for a while succeed in procrastinating it.

Let us now imagine Quebec in the proud position of not endeavouring to hasten the march of events by stooping to seek favours, in the mean time, from any one. She scorns to be any body's agent, but resolves to bring forth merchants of her own who shall secure the future export trade, and ship it triumphantly from her own port, from her own warehouses, filled by her own elevators, steeped in the holds of her own line of propellers! It is really delightful to glance at such a picture, but it will scarcely stand the steady gaze of criticism. In contemplating it we must bear in mind that grain once in Quebec must be shipped, and that, practically speaking, it has passed all the limits of the home market.