

of those early years of our commercial and political history was most extensively prosecuted in very many of our ports especially in the Eastern section of the Province. In the year 1808 when I commenced my residence in the town of Pictou my personal acquaintance with the trade began, and I may say that my knowledge of it continued without intermission during about fourteen succeeding years. My readers may form some opinion of its extent when I inform them that on one day in the autumn of that year 26 square rigged vessels, ships, barques and brigs arrived in the harbor of Pictou from various ports in Great Britain to obtain return cargoes of ton timber chiefly pine. In the evening of that day I saw, to the best of recollection, all the captains of the 26 vessels assembled in the large common room of the hotel where I lodged, and I was quite amused in hearing, for the first time, in mingled and discordant tones the rather uncouth dialects of Yorkshire, Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, and some Scottish Counties. Some of them were talking about their previous voyages to Christiania, Christian Sands, and other ports in the Northern European nations; and from which they were I believe then shut out, through the influence and power of the great Napoleon over those nations. Moreover it may be here mentioned that there was then this further cause for the extensiveness of that trade to this Province, and the ports of these other American Provinces, that although the pine wood of those northern countries being of a more firm and durable quality is better for the *outside* work on dwellings, it is not so good for the *inside* work, and for other purposes as our pine, which is