

pp. 143-146. The particulars regarding the Lumber and the Fish trade of Spain and her Colonies is specially interesting; and the attention of those engaged in these departments of business in Canada is requested to the statements. In writing to me on the subject, the Consul-General said:—"With reference to the erroneous impression which exists here, that the best of the trade with the Spanish West Indies is done during the months when your port is closed by ice,—I find, by Consular returns received from Nova Scotia, that the total exports from that Province to Cuba and Porto Rico, during the months of April to November, were fully equal to those of the remainder of the year." I may also remark here, that *after* pp. 35, 36 were printed,—in which allusion is made to a line of steamships between Marseilles and Montreal—an advertisement appeared announcing the intended sailing of the first ship.

Permit me, in concluding this Prefatory Note, to say that the present publication is the result of more than ordinary labor and research; and to hope that those interested in the commercial progress of our city will assist in diffusing the information thus presented. I may remark, however, that while the primary object of these Reports was to chronicle details of the commerce of Montreal,—a large amount of information of a general nature has always been given in them, which, it is thought, has imparted more than a local or transient character to their contents. It may be desirable, sooner or later, to separate the general from the local matter, to admit of their being issued separately,—letting the responsibility of preparing and publishing the former devolve upon an Association (that might be formed) of all the Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in the Dominion. As regards the rapidly expanding trade of Montreal,—were arrangements made for the publication, at stated times, of fuller and more varied information (embracing all departments of industry and commerce), the influence such an arrangement might exert on Corporation Consols and Harbor Debentures would, independently of all other considerations, probably warrant the City Council and the Board of Harbor Commissioners in jointly providing the small sum that would be periodically required.

Leaving the whole matter, present and prospective, in your hands, I have the honor to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. PATTERSON.

MONTREAL, 21st May, 1870.