

tance of four miles, furnished by the completion of the Welland Canal.

This gigantic undertaking which now allows of the free transit of ships of 350 tons burthen, between Lakes Erie and Ontario, and whose vast importance as a national work second in its ultimate results to none upon the face of the globe, is only now beginning to be properly appreciated, was thus truly spoken of by a clear headed and far seeing man,* to whom the thanks of this Province will be for ever due, for his untiring zeal and energy with which he labored, to bring its capabilities prominently before the British public, in the year 1825.

"No work in Europe or America will bear a comparison with it in usefulness. In touching upon the mighty results which must soon follow its completion, the truth will assume the appearance of the most extravagant exaggeration, to those who do not make themselves acquainted with the singular geographical position of North America. The great inland seas *above* the Falls of Niagara, containing more than half the fresh water upon this planet—bounded by upwards of 400,000 square miles of as fertile land as can be found on the globe, and exceeding in length of coast, five thousand miles. These seas, affording the most beautiful and commodious means of internal communication ever beheld, on a scale which human science and human labor or the treasures of a world cannot rival—can be approached by ships, only through the Welland Canal, with which in point of usefulness, no other work of the kind in Europe or Asia, ancient or modern will bear any comparison."

In 1837 the amount of revenue derived in tolls and hydraulic rents from this work, amounted to £6,218 19s. 2d.. In 1847 they amounted to £20,549 17s. 8d. Last year, 1852, they had reached the sum of £59,000. And for the present current year, there can be no doubt from the active commerce which is now being carried on upon its waters, that the tolls and hydraulic rents will not fall short of £70,000.

Great, however, as is the amount of its present trade, it can be only justly regarded as an insignificant beginning, when compared

with the glorious prospects held out by the promising future. Even now the vast extent of country lined by the navigable waters which communicate with its ports upon Lake Erie is in its infancy, scarcely occupied by an hundredth part of the enterprising population they are destined to support at no very distant day; and the completion of the short canal now in the course of construction round the Falls of St. Mary, will open up an extent of country as yet almost unexplored: unsurpassed in all the elements necessary to constitute a great and powerful nation, whose hidden riches, whether the spontaneous gifts of nature or the yet undeveloped wealth to be eliminated by the exercise of industry and art, can only find exit to the sea in ship navigation directly past our doors.

This small link in the chain about now to be completed, will open up to the adventurous mariner an extent of inland navigation, which when taken in connexion with Lake Ontario and the River St. Lawrence, embraces no less than nine degrees of latitude and twenty-five degrees of longitude, and enables ships from the sea-board and from countries washed by the ocean, to penetrate upwards of one thousand six hundred miles into the very heart of the North American Continent.

St. Catherines and her inhabitants have good cause to be proud of their Canal, nor is their confidence in its amazing resources either exaggerated or misplaced. And their geographical position, which may be considered at the head of the ship navigation of Lake Ontario; the largest vessels navigating those waters being able to ascend to the Town; gives them the possession of all the facilities of trade and export, enjoyed by towns situated upon the sea-board: and with Lake Erie for a "mill-dam" and Lake Ontario and the River St. Lawrence for a "tail-race," they possess within themselves an amount of hydraulic power, applicable at a trifling outlay to every description of machinery, not exceeded if indeed equalled by any other locality in the known world.

Nor are these her only sources of gratification, planted as she is in the midst of a picturesque country, capable of the highest degree of cultivation, and possessed of a genial soil and salubrious climate, eminently adapted to agricultural and horticultural pur-

* Bishop Strachan.