

REMARKS ON THE EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

A COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

ON THE IMPORT DUTIES, 1810.

" Truth is brought to light by time and reflection, but the Lie of the day is upheld by noise, clamour and misrepresentation."

IN looking over this evidence it is impossible not to be struck with the fact that, with one exception, the members of the Committee appointed for the investigation of the subject, are totally unconnected with Canada, and have no interest therein, and that not one of the witnesses had, or pretended to have, any practical knowledge of the Colonial timber trade. The consequence of this injudicious composition of the Committee, and selection of witnesses, must be fatal to the object had in view by the House of Commons in appointing it; that object being to obtain true and correct information, upon which the House might safely bring forward legislative measures beneficial to the Empire at large. But if the Committee and witnesses be deficient in the necessary knowledge of the subject under inquiry, the desired information cannot be obtained, the truth must still remain undeveloped, and the House of Commons proceeding to legislate on the subject with no other guide than a Report founded on such partial and incorrect evidence, can hardly fail to err, and may jeopardize most important interests of the Empire. Had a portion of the Committee been acquainted with the colonial timber trade, many questions might have been put to the witnesses that would have brought out important information, and have neutralized the effect of previous answers, which had a tendency to throw discredit on the trade; they