

The improvements in the states supported by the wealth of the whole country.

Those of Upper Canada supported only by its own resources, and unable to increase them.

Upper Canada has undertaken works that would be a credit to any nation.

That these works are not completed is not the fault of Upper Canada.

The happiness and prosperity of a country are not assured by its public improvements, unless accompanied by obedience to, and a just administration of, the laws.

In these Upper Canada may justly claim superiority over the United States.

Lord Durham has not discerned any faults or defect in his favoured people.

Opinion respecting Erie canal, &c. expressed by committee of the senate of New York.

The above opinion is sufficient proof that the public "improvements" in the States do not deserve the praise bestowed on them.

His Lordship's remarks on condition of trade in Upper Canada.

Extracts from letter of Lord Durham to Lord Glenelg, dated Niagara, 16th July 1838.

Extracts, &c.

statements and opinions of his Lordship. They will, therefore, content themselves with remarking, that, if it were admitted that the contrast is correctly drawn by his Lordship, it ought not to surprise any one who would take the trouble to recollect the true cause to which it should be attributed. The improvements referred to in the adjacent states have for their support the wealth of a country containing population of fifteen millions of souls:—Upper Canada, unsustained by any other than its own resources—cut off from a sea-port by the unwise legislation of the mother country—unable from the same cause to increase its revenues by duties on imports, and containing a population of less than half a million, might well rest satisfied that no just reproach could be cast upon it, if its inhabitants had abstained from all attempts at great and expensive works, and had confined themselves to the ordinary pursuits of agriculture and commerce. But the fact is otherwise; and notwithstanding the inference to be drawn from the High Commissioner's Report, Upper Canada has undertaken, and gone far towards accomplishing, works that would do credit to any nation, and which, if they are not found superior in magnitude and usefulness, will bear an advantageous comparison with any in the neighbouring country. That they have not been rendered more complete and extensive is not to be attributed to want of enterprise or of patriotism on the part of the people of Upper Canada, but to the mistaken policy already adverted to, which has left them without the means of developing the great natural resources of the country, and which can alone be remedied by the Imperial Parliament. But your committee believe that the happiness and prosperity of a country does not altogether depend in forcing, after the manner of hot-bed vegetation, public works, or what are termed, public improvements. These are of course useful in their way, but unless accompanied by obedience to, and a just and impartial administration of the laws, insuring protection of life and property, and social happiness and contentment, they are of small value. In these important respects, the inhabitants of Upper Canada may, with justifiable exultation, claim superiority over their republican neighbours; but the Earl of Durham has not thought it necessary to advert to considerations of that kind; he does not seem to have had eyes to see, or ears to hear, any of the faults or defects of those, by him, commended and admired people. It is possible, however, that it may detract something from the estimation in which they are held by him, when he peruses a report of a select committee of the senate of the state of New York, recently promulgated, which denounces the Erie Canal and other great improvements so much lauded by his Lordship as infamous jobs; that they were completed by foreign (British) capital; and recommending that the debts contracted for their completion should be considered as having been fraudulently incurred, and that they should never be paid. This recommendation, sufficiently republican in its nature, may convince others, if it does not Lord Durham, that it is possible that the exhibition of the public "improvements" in the United States may not have been altogether so wise or so deserving of the unqualified praise that has been bestowed upon them; and that certainly it would have been more becoming not to have undertaken them, if the public (chiefly British) creditor is to be refused repayment of the money advanced for their construction.

The High Commissioner appears to have given no very great attention to the condition of trade in Upper Canada; he, however, slightly adverts to the want of a port of entry from the sea; and as a measure that would remove some of the embarrassments experienced from this cause, and from the disadvantages arising from the St. Lawrence being closed by frost for a considerable portion of the year, his Lordship suggests that merchants should be permitted to ship their goods from England, and land them at New York in bond, and from thence to bring them into Upper Canada, free of duty. Your committee will not remark at any length upon the objections which the ship-owners and merchants of England would probably raise to a measure of this description, but they are wholly unable to reconcile this suggestion or advice of his Lordship with the recommendations wisely and patriotically urged upon Her Majesty's Government, in his letter addressed to Lord Glenelg, dated Niagara, 16th July 1838, and which contains the following passages:—

"Opposite to Fort Erie, immediately on the Lake, is the town of Buffalo, the headquarters of the robbers and pirates who have so long infested this country. Its extent and appearance are surprising; the size and respectability of the buildings, and the number of masts which I could discern in the harbour, prove the value of the commerce and the wisdom of the arrangements which have thus created, in about ten years, a city in the midst of the wilderness.

"This prosperity is owing to the Erie Canal, which commences at Buffalo, and thus makes it the depôt of all the trade of the West, flowing to New York.

"All these advantages might be ours, by the judicious application of not a large expenditure. The Welland Canal, which commences at the Grand River in Lake Erie, and strikes the Lake Ontario, a few miles west of Fort George, has great advantages over the Erie Canal; it is open three weeks earlier in the spring, and connects the two lakes by a short passage.

"If this canal was completed, and the St. Lawrence Canal, the water communication by the Lakes, the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence, to the sea, by Montreal and Quebec, would be complete, and all that immense trade which now flows from the west by Buffalo and Lockport, and the Grand Canals to New York, would pass through our provinces, and enrich all the towns and districts through which it was carried.

"This is not a speculation of mine, but it is an admitted fact by the Americans themselves; the knowledge of which leads the merchants of Buffalo to encourage these border inroads which