

ing on New Brunswick on the east and the Canadas on the north, is about six hundred miles in extent.

Considering this great extent of seacoast, her numerous excellent harbors, her noble rivers, and great advantages for ship-building, and her proximity to the fishing grounds, probably no State in the Union possesses the natural advantages for carrying on this branch of industry that Maine does.

It is a fact worthy of consideration, that all maritime nations have looked to their fisheries as the nursery of hardy seamen for the merchant service in time of peace and for the navy in time of war; and, as a great question of national policy, (aside from the inducement to encourage this branch of business as an unfailing source of natural wealth,) it is deemed worthy of the fostering care of all commercial nations.

Already the navigation of Maine is estimated at more than three hundred thousand tons, and exceeded by only two States in the Union; and her increase, annually, of tonnage, is greater than that of any other State.

The abundance of building materials, believed to be inexhaustible, her great conveniences for ship-building along her extended seacoast, her numerous bays, rivers, and harbors, render it highly probable that the day is not far distant when the maritime interests of Maine will exceed that of any of her sister States. And if reliance can be placed upon the statements of a scientific engineer of high respectability and standing, who has, during the past year, under the direction of the Government of this State and our parent Commonwealth, made a geological survey of a portion of our State, it may be doubted whether the same extent of territory on the continent contains more real value, viewed in all its bearings, (the facilities of quarrying, manufacturing, exporting, and its influence upon the great interests of the State and nation,) than is contained in our inexhaustible quarries of granite, lime, marble, slate, &c., mines and minerals, in which large and profitable investments are already made. Some of these branches of business have been carried on for many years, and others to a large extent are commencing under the most favorable auspices.

These, together with our agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests; our immense forests of invaluable timber; with a water-power of vast extent and value; giving us the means of laying the seaports of the Union under a contribution for ages to come, and warranting the belief that our present shipping interest will be sustained and employed, and a great increase required.

About one-third of the most valuable portion of our territory is claimed by Great Britain; and the history of this protracted controversy, from its commencement to the present time, is such as to awaken general anxiety. We are admonished, by recent events, that we have not yet reached the termination of our toils and embarrassments; and they have awakened the painful apprehension that our just rights may not be secured by honorable negotiation or patient submission to unprovoked injuries. These considerations, in the opinion of your committee, call loudly for the interposition of the General Government, and require at their hands all needful preparation for possible contingencies. The late Governor Lincoln, nearly ten years since, called the attention of the Government to the importance of erecting a strong fortification in some eligible position on the confines of that portion of our territory to which an adverse claim is set up by Great