

no recognized and official channel whatever in this country by which their wants or their wishes could be made known to the Government ; that there was not a single individual present who could possibly feel any interest in them beyond that desire to do justice which was the characteristic of all Englishmen ; and that he himself, upon whom had devolved the task of advocating their cause, was a stranger both in this country and that House, a painful feeling of isolation came over him, which he was quite certain was never before experienced by any member of that assembly. He must, therefore, crave the indulgence of the House while he stated the case of our fellow-subjects on the other side of the Atlantic. British America, as they were all well aware, was essentially a forest country, and as such its main export was the timber of that forest which covered its surface. That constituted their great staple of trade. It was that, that engaged and occupied during their long winter months, not only the floating labour of the colony, but the agricultural class, whose work was suspended at that season by the severity of a northern climate ; it gave employment also to their teams of oxen and horses in transporting the huge logs to the margin of the frozen brooks or rivers, to be ready, in the spring, for rafting to the saw-mills, to be manufactured into deals and boards for exportation. The interests of the whole people, therefore, were more or less involved in the trade, and whatever affected that,