

have made comfortable provisions for themselves, and families have been obliged to sell their lands, perhaps fly the country or compelled to continue in the same business in the service of those to whom they had become indebted, spending year after year in a laborious trade at a remote distance from their families, for a great part of the time, while all their domestic concerns are left to ruin. Such are the effects of your boasted lumber trade, as many have experienced and such is the trade you say "is of great benefit to the country." Seeing during this description that Mr. S. was going on in a strain of volubility very unusual for him, and well knowing that any attempt to stop him would have been fruitless. Notwithstanding the fallacy of his argument, evinced itself in his only alluding to one side of the subject, we chose to remain silent listeners to his harangue. For my own part I saw the impropriety of contradicting him, considering his talkativeness on this subject a proceeding so foreign to his usual habits, and that his energetic efforts would soon exhaust themselves if allowed to run on; and also bearing in mind the old distich.]

"A man convince'd against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

The Major kept silent, from nearly the same reasons as myself, besides as a man expert in the science of attack and defence, he considered it better to let his opponent spend his first fire before displaying his own forces.

A pause however, ensuing, the latter embraced it; observing, he did not see any thing in the lumber trade from all that had been said, sufficient to render it so much an object of execration. There was no trade or calling in which villany could not be exercised; and although some following any trade acted improperly, he thought to stigmatise the whole employed on account of the malpractices of a few unprincipled individuals savoured strongly of illiberality. It was in all such cases the persons and not the occupation which was to be blamed. As to the effects of the lumbering trade in inducing men to neglect their Agriculture and other more stable pursuits it seemed to him an argument of no weight whatever. "There are men," said he of every occupation, who possess so changeable a disposition that no inducement is sufficient to make them adhere steadily to any one pursuit.—Ever dissatisfied with their present occupation, they are continually on the rack to dip into some other. This fickleness of mind completely prevents the exercise of mature judgment and reflection; "and they will run full tilt" to embark in some new speculation or follow some new pursuit, without ever reflecting if they from nature or acquirements possess any one qualification to ensure them success. If the lumber trade has only seduced such characters as these; and from what you mention few else would become dupes to it, Agriculture has sustained no loss from the want of their services. The error lies in the want of perseverance in such men, nor is the fault to be attributed to this trade, for if it had never existed to draw off their attention from their farms they would soon have quitted then in favour of some other pursuit. The habits of such men are totally inconsistent with that steady course of perseverance, and continual application necessary for farmers."