

balance any loss of revenue from its adoption; recollecting the immense sums of money which are annually sent out of Great Britain and Ireland, to the Baltic states, for timber of various descriptions; thus fostering the naval power of those nations, which at every period of our distress is turned against us\*, whilst our exports to those countries are small, and the trade with them disadvantageous to the British Empire. A more kind and liberal policy towards the loyal colonists in America, to which they are entitled from their sufferings and losses in the cause of the mother country, cannot fail ultimately to be highly beneficial to the latter in every point of view, political and commercial.

From recent information, it appears there were at the close of last season, cargoes of timber prepared at Quebec for 100 sail of ships, for which sufficient tonnage could not be obtained; and it is the opinion of many persons well acquainted with the trade, that with common industry two voyages may be made in a year from Quebec to any part of Great Britain and Ireland, though it may be thought that the severity of the winter in that country is unfavourable, by reason of the rivers being frozen; but the reverse is the fact, for to active exertion in procuring timber, it proves a great facility, by enabling the wood-cutters to draw the timber from the woods on the snow, to the banks of rivers, from whence they are floated in the spring.

It has likewise been suggested, that it would afford sufficient encouragement to the timber trade of the British colonies, to *extend* the duties † imposed in Great Britain on the importation of other *foreign* timber, to the timber imported from the United States, and thus promote the British timber trade, whilst it gave effect to the treaties between Great Britain and other powers from whose dominions timber is brought; and which it was stipulated, in such treaties, should be put on the same footing as the most favoured nation. This discrimination in favour of the timber trade of the United States cannot, it is presumed, be justified under the present situation of the King's colonies, or consistently with the treaties with other states.

This trade, besides these and other obvious advantages, will, in future, be the means of keeping within the British dominions, a great number of the King's subjects, whose an-

\* Mr. Baring's examination, &c. p. 21.

† See opposite statement A, shewing the duties imposed on timber, &c. from the United States, and from other countries, distinguishing each.