

TO THE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS OF MONTREAL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Report lately laid before the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal and a Committee of Citizens on Harbour Improvements, by Mr. Trautwine, embodies opinions in reference to the Public Works of Canada and the route of the St. Lawrence from the interior, as to their power of competition with the Canals of the State of New York for the vast and rapidly increasing trade between the Atlantic and the Western States of the Union, as well as of Western Canada, so utterly at variance with all previously expressed views on the same subjects, that I deem it my duty to point out what seem to me Mr. Trautwine's erroneous conclusions. I shall at the same time examine his Report in reference to the construction of Docks at Montreal. On this subject, it is well known that I have always connected the subject of Docks at Montreal with the improvement of the St. Lawrence navigation from the Upper Lakes, and with the construction of a Canal to connect the waters of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain; and it is on this broad ground that I still urge the necessity of Docks, believing as I do that the whole subject must soon receive that attention from the Executive of Canada which its importance demands.

I shall confine my attention to Mr. Trautwine's Second Report on Docks, as there is nothing in his first Report on the improvement of the present Harbour which calls for particular notice. The improvement of the Island Wharf has been under consideration by the Harbour Commissioners for some time and had been