

sufficiently protect the Commissioners from the rapacity of any wharf proprietors of—*imposing appearance*, even were any such to be found, which is extremely doubtful.

The subject of the Harbour Commissioners is one of paramount importance to every one who feels any interest whatever in the progress of Quebec. Any false step now made will seriously jeopardise the chances of her future advancement. Let, then, the Harbour Commissioners emerge from the cloud of mystery in which their act permits them to obscure themselves, and come out freely into the mercantile world, and seek the suggestions and co-operation of their fellow merchants. Let the *ex-officio* members of the Commission bear in mind that they represent the Board of Trade and the citizens respectively, and that it is their duty to watch with a jealous care over the interests of their constituents. Let the Engineer to the Commission remember that the greatest engineering feats of even Brunel himself are those which yield the least practical commercial result—that is, profit; and recollecting that in all commercial schemes, “can it be done?” should wait upon “will it pay?” endeavour to emulate the extraordinary self-denial of his Montreal confrere, to which allusion has already been made. Let the holders of harbour debentures reflect upon the fact that a day must assuredly come at last when the Legislature will refuse to stand sponsors to every abortive scheme of incorporated bodies, and will refuse to acknowledge the force of the conclusion—that because it is a great failure it must therefore be voted a “public improvement.” Lastly, let the citizens generally remember that the true interests of the city are materially involved in the success or otherwise of any scheme which the Harbour Commissioners may adopt. We may then feel confident that the scheme at the mouth of the St. Charles will be quietly “shelved,” and that the incorporation of the Harbour Commission will prove a real boon to Quebec, in resulting in the accomplishment of such a scheme of permanent improvement as will administer to the welfare and increase the prosperity of the port.

QUEBEC, February 20, 1861.