

It is not either civil or decent to laugh in the faces of grey bearded men, even when senility has not brought wisdom ; if it were, we are certain the reception of a deputation propounding these follies would be such as to deter all future applicants. The presentation of a cap and bells, or a fool's bauble, from the Colonial Secretary, would be in better taste, than a labored argument to disprove their position ; for the imbecility which could evolve a scheme like that of the Free Traders, would be a declaration of their unfitness to comprehend any other reply. Alas ! alas ! for our canals, for our river, for our shipping, for the English operatives, for starving Ireland. The great Illinois canal is near completion too,—what is to be done when it pours the rich abundance of the West upon our already heaped wharves ? None, it seems, from the Free Traders, will embark a shilling more in this mighty trade ; our fathers at home will not despatch their shipping, our builders are seized with a Free Trade panic, and will not construct more ; in these circumstances, these severe and pressing circumstances, now that the monies on our internal improvements are about returning a handsome profits, they propose to obviate the difficulty, and to reinvigorate the finances of the colony, by forcing upon the Imperial Government the most profitable source of income ; and, by way of encouragement to shipowners, to obtain, undoubtedly, their support, they would introduce the competition of foreign carriers. Proposals like these need no reply—the common sense of mankind furnishes a ready negative. We have but to place them simply before the public, to manifest their folly. We are so placed, naturally, and have so improved our position by rest, that in a very few years, the cities of Montreal and Quebec, must become the great centres of North American commerce,—the vast Western States, the granary of this Continent, will there seek their supplies, and there transmit their produce ; the straightness of the market in those cities, at the present moment, springs from this very cause ; the existing means and capital are insufficient to handle this rapid augmentation ; fresh supplies of both are loudly called for, and the energy of the call indicates the profit to be soon. Each succeeding Spring, for many years, will hear the like cry, though the previous exhortation should be lavishly answered too, for the West outgrows calculation, and in productive ability transcends limit,—for this we are to raise a Jeremiad.

We think the Free Traders might have found, too, another cause by which the rise in freight has been assisted—we allude to the falling off of our sea going tonnage. The diminution will, it is likely amount to about 100,000 tons before the close of navigation ; many causes have led to this—the chief one is, however, the extreme activity of commerce throughout the world, at the present time : the mercantile marine of the empire is for the moment insufficient, but the