

necessity of the case, be the fact. The older parts of the West, who use these channels, are filling up with people; while far beyond, new openings are being made in rich and productive lands. Nothing can stay its forward growth.

"This commerce, like that of the Lakes, has already become so large, such immense amounts of property pass them exposed to all the dangers of their navigation, that a settled and deep conviction has taken possession of the public mind, something must be done for its protection. The remedy is beyond the power of individual effort, and not within the prescribed duties and rights of the several States through which these Lakes and Rivers run. The necessity and the duty, therefore, falls upon the General Government to step forward and do what no one else can do, and thus confer honor on itself, in consulting the best interests of the present many, and the coming millions, who will time inhabit these portions of our common country.

"Having thus answered your several questions, I will, as invited, make some general remarks appertaining to the business.

"Almost every other port around these Lakes, as well as Buffalo, Cleveland and Sandusky, are visited by foreign vessels; but from them only, have I seen any report published, of the number which has entered and cleared. These foreign vessels do not visit our ports merely for the purpose of introducing imports for sale, but to purchase and carry off our own products.

"A very extensive business is done at the ports of Black River, Grand River, Ashtabula, Conneaut, Barcelona, Silver Creek and Cattaraugus, on Lake Erie, in the aggregate to several millions of dollars; but I am not in possession of