

from the North, especially as it is from the United States that such an event is principally to be expected.

It is by no means my wish to deny, that the colonial Timber Trade affords the means of employment to a very considerable number of British ships and seamen, to a greater number, indeed, than would be necessary, should a larger proportion of the timber required for our consumption be imported from the north of Europe; and that, in that case, many of them would be driven to seek employment in other branches of traffic; but that it is either wise or just, therefore, to foster the colonial trade by the numerous protecting duties, which now press upon its opponents, is a consequence which I must absolutely deny.

The reasoning alleged by the ship-owners proves, in fact, a great deal too much, if it proves any thing at all. Many countries in the world might be named, which are covered with excellent forests, to bring whose produce to our shores would require a voyage of double the duration of that to New Brunswick or Quebec. Do the ship-owners say, that the legislature would act with prudence or wisdom in compelling us to bring the materials of our houses from Pegu or New Zealand? Yet this they should say, would they argue consistently.

I have already shown the immense amount of the tax, which the present system of duties entails upon the community; would any body affirm, that for the sake of employing a few more British ships, this vast revenue should be extracted from the