

Lord Monteagle, at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated in his place in the House of Commons, (and was not contradicted,) that the principal part of the timber exported from Canada, was no more Canada timber than it was China timber--an assertion as far from the truth as that which Baron Humboldt's friend made to him respecting red pine. A little oak and a few staves, are all the lumber articles that come into Canada from the United States, as good timber cannot now be procured there sufficiently near water carriage to make it a profitable operation.

Such is the evidence upon which it is proposed to introduce into the Imperial Parliament a measure, having for its object a change in the present duties on timber. The measure is brought forward at the instigation of a few individuals interested in the trade of the north of Europe, who for the last ten years have unceasingly endeavoured to accomplish the same object, but have hitherto been unsuccessful, the question having, up to this time, been decided on its own merits--and on its own merits, (truth and justice), the enemies of the trade have hitherto failed in their object. The same party have now succeeded in introducing it as part of a system purporting to effect a general change of the import duties, for the benefit of the Empire at large; endeavouring thereby to blind the public as to their real motives, and to the serious consequences of this particular change; and they have also succeeded in inducing Mr. Hume, Mr. McGregor and Mr. Porter, all mere theorists, totally ignorant of the Colonial trade, to join them in endeavouring to persuade the people of England that an equalisation of the timber duties would make timber cheaper and produce more revenue.

By the operation of the present differential duties on Baltic and Colonial timber, the trade is so nearly balanced that the quantities of each kind imported into Great Britain, vary very little from one year to another; latterly they have increased in about the same proportion, but if this nice adjustment of the balance is destroyed, by a reduction of the differential duty (and very little will do it,) Colonial timber will be excluded from the British market and the trade in it