

that country consist principally of breadstuffs and of American manufactures, especially of a cheap description of furniture and cabinet-work, carriages, and agricultural implements.

The general trade of Nova Scotia being divided among various channels, and carried on in a large variety of products, with no very great preponderance of any one, it has not been liable to such great and sudden fluctuations as have been rather frequent in some neighbouring countries. It has increased very steadily and in proportion to the general growth of the country. The following statistical information, taken from the Trade Returns of the Province, for the year ending September, 1859, will show to what an extent our shipping and commerce has already reached:—

From the various ports in the province during that year, there were, cleared 5809 vessels of various classes, with an aggregate of 657,092 tons, and manned by 40,218 hands. The number of vessels entered inwards at the various ports was 5,635 carrying 638,042 tons. There was exported from the province, articles of merchandise to the value of £1,377,826 sterling, while the value of our imports reached £1,620,191 sterling.

There seems every reason to suppose that the commerce of Nova Scotia, rapidly as it has grown of late years, must continue to grow much more rapidly. By the "Reciprocity Treaty" between Great Britain and the United States, which went into operation in 1854, all unmanufactured articles, the growth and produce of Nova Scotia, of commercial importance, may be imported into the United States, *free of duty*. The result of this is to cause a great stimulus to the export trade of Nova Scotia, a result which is yet but scarcely commenced. Notwithstanding that, by one article in that treaty, United States fishermen are privileged to pursue their calling upon the coasts and in the bays of Nova Scotia, and in the Gulf of St Lawrence, it is believed that the Nova Scotian fisherman will ever find a ready market for his fish in the United States. However this may be, there are other articles, the growth and produce of this province, which it is quite certain will ever find a ready sale in the United States, and at a fair profit to the producer. The decided superiority of Nova Scotia with reference to its agricultural resources, its mines, or its forests, over the New England States, furnishes the best of reasons for such a conclusion. The proximity of the province to the market thus opened to its products, and the comparatively small cost of the transportation of those products to market, owing to the free water communication available for that purpose to every section of the province, add to the probabilities of a greatly enlarged trade between it and the United States.