

dreaded Long Sault and other Rapids,—all tended to divert the stream of population and trade, and carry past its wharves and store-houses the merchandize and traffic at one time its almost prescriptive right. The want of a productive farming country in its immediate vicinity, has, doubtless had the effect of deterring emigrants from selecting this as a halting point; but a little previous information, or a pause of investigation, which it is true few can afford, and many more are unwilling to make,—would satisfy the seeker after a home, that although not close around the city, there is within a reasonable distance of it, one of the most magnificent agricultural districts in the Province. If the Canal navigation brought with it detriment to the commerce of Kingston in one direction, it has, combined with increased mercantile relations with the United States, opened up a traffic which has been gradually telling upon its progress. The great water privileges enjoyed along the course of the Rideau, the facility of transport of the vast resources of the country lying to the north, and, above all, the fact of its being the nearest and most direct route to the greatest lumber mart at present existing, must secure for it a large proportion of the trade in this particular article. Some idea may be formed of the extent of this growing business done in the neighbourhood of the city alone, by the fact that, during this season, there has been already shipped, from *one* mill two millions of feet of lumber, and that there are one million and a half feet ready for exportation. Nor do the forwarders, as they are technically termed, despair that their peculiar department of business will again revive to a considerable extent, indeed they are now enjoying an earnest of its revival. The experiment of *through* shipment would seem to be failing, in as far as the heavier goods are concerned.—The loss of time and increased expense of navigating the rivers and canals does not pay the owners of sailing vessels; they declare that they can make more by quick and rapid runs between the lake ports. Should this eventually prove to be demonstrable beyond dispute, and should the fleet of steam-propellers, capable of performing the work efficiently, not increase in proportion to the swelling importations yearly exhibited by the Customs' returns, we have no doubt that

the expectations of the Kingstonians will be realized.

We have said that evidence existed of these periodical changes in the progress of the city. It is to be found in the statistics of its population, as well as in the variations of its trade. No very satisfactory statements are obtainable of the earlier days of its existence, but about the time of the war its inhabitants are presumed to have numbered 1,100. In 1837, they were found to have increased to 3,700. At the period of its incorporation, this number was much extended by including the population of several contiguous villages or settlements, and the next census shewed 8,000 inhabitants. From the removal of the Seat of Government to the census of 1849, the fluctuation was such that no great addition was made, but the census recently taken gives the population as 11,609. Following this increase in numbers within the last three years, there has also been a corresponding stimulus given to building, and the number of large stores and dwellings now in course of erection is proportionately as great as what is observed in Toronto. There is in fact a decided aspect of awakening energy about the place, like a man who has resolutely shaken himself out of a fit of apathy or somnolence, and is now determined to go to work in earnest. We wish we could say as much for the architectural excellence of the buildings as for their substantiality. There is a laboured effort at ornamentation, and a want of due proportion about some of them which is truly painful, and not in keeping with the material employed. In the few instances in which freestone or sandstone has been used for the frontage of buildings the contrast is most marked. The city is admirably drained, and now possesses an abundant supply of excellent water, brought from the lake into every cellar by efficient works. The view from the highest point of the city looking down Princess Street is remarkably fine. The commencement of the Thousand Islands, the Fort, the distant American coast, the winding Cataract on the left, and the far stretching Bay of Quinte on the right; the broken and detached character of the city, with clumps of trees intervening, present a landscape rarely equalled.

To the great scandal of the authorities, pub-