

that project failed, they still were watchful. In 1781, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a "resolve" claiming "the free and unmolested right to the fisheries in any future settlement of peace." On the other hand, the British, colonists and all, looked for a time with longing desire upon the great River Mississippi and claimed the right to navigate it. On the whole, however, relations, if not close and extensive, were amicable. Like good sensible people, both agreed to live and let live; an agreement varied by an occasional indulgence in a policy of non-intercourse, the first attempt at which, on record, appears to be a "non-intercourse Act with Canada," referred to in the Executive Documents of 1814.

In 1820, the United States' records show that the question of trade with the British North American Provinces had become of sufficient importance to warrant a report on the same being prepared and duly embalmed in the Executive Papers of the day. From it we learn that the United States imported \$526,817 worth of goods from Canada, out of a total import from all countries of \$83,241,541, and exported to Canada \$1,881,273 worth, out of a total of \$49,874,079 of domestic exports.

Another report underwent a similar process in 1825, and still a third in 1827.

In Rush's report of 1827 is the following:—

"The Committee are satisfied that the measure to which they first turned their attention, an interdict of all commerce between the United States and the British possessions, would be very injurious to the colonies, but as it would transcend the measures adopted by Great Britain and would not be in accordance with the measures which on similar occasions have received the sanction of Congress, they have abstained from recommending it.

"On deliberate consideration and a careful attention to the effects, upon the great interests of the nation, likely to be produced by the measure the Committee have formed the opinion that provision ought to be made by law, to prohibit the admission into the ports of the United States, of British or other vessels, coming directly or indirectly either from Lower Canada, the Provinces of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, the Island of St. Johns,\* Cape Breton, or any other of the colonies or possessions of Great Britain, from which vessels of the United States are or may be excluded, by the authority of the British Government.

"To prevent Great Britain from acquiring any advantage by not including her continental colonies in the interdict already mentioned, the Committee have deemed it expedient to extend the interdict which they propose to those colonies, excepting Upper Canada. The United States cannot permit an intercourse, not only partial in its character, but which would undoubtedly prove, as it was manifestly designed to be, injurious to their navigation. When they propose to place their navigation and commerce on the basis of exact reciprocity the United States are far from intending that their vessels shall be confined to a few 'free ports' as places of depots. No exception therefore other than that above men-

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\* Now Prince Edward Island.