

increase much exceeding in proportion that of the old Colonies, now the United States of America, whose population was then estimated at two millions, and now does not exceed twenty millions.

But if your ratio of increase has been double that of the United States' population, they have far surpassed you in the extension of their settlements inland, and the formation of facilities of commercial communication. The facility of navigation afforded by the vast extent of your bays, rivers and lakes, offers perhaps a sufficient apology for the apparent difference of your progress; but the time is now arrived when you must penetrate into the extensive tracts of cultivable land which still remains unoccupied at a distance from these natural channels of conveyance; when you must conquer the obstacle to navigation interposed by your climate, and be able to effect an exchange of commodities with the United Kingdom, throughout the year, independently of foreign authority.

None of you who have reflected on the subject, can fail to be aware that the growth and prosperity of European settlements in America, has greatly depended on their intercourse with the older and more densely peopled nations from which they sprung. We have enjoyed over the aboriginal inhabitants of America, once possessors of the whole country, the advantage of the science, the arts, the improvements in every branch of industry, in short the civilization of an older and more advanced state of society, giving in exchange the surplus produce of the vast territories which were at our disposal, inviting occupation and cultivation by all those who are able and willing to conform to the Divine decree, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

But without facilities of exchanging the produce of the soil, we should want one of the chief inducements to its cultivation; the supplying ourselves with such articles as we want, such articles as our soil does not produce, and which we can acquire at a much cheaper rate than we can provide them by our own labour.

A large part of our population is to a great extent deprived of this advantage, for nearly one half the year, by our climate. But the experience of the adjoining States, of the United Kingdom, and of all European countries, proves that this disadvantage can be overcome, by a land conveyance which is as cheap and more expeditious than even steam navigation.

This conveyance, which is now extending over Europe and America, and is proved by experience to be cheap and