

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS OF THE COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION OF THE AMERICAN TOWNS ON THE LAKES.

The present trade of the inland seas of America, according to a statement in the *Buffalo Advertiser*, is but a fraction, if any, short of being *four times* the amount of the export and import trade in 1775, of the 3,000,000 inhabitants then living in the thirteen revolted colonies.

According to Pitkin, the foreign trade of those colonies for the six years preceding 1775 was on an average:—

Exports .....	£ 1,752,142	dollars. 7,779,510
Imports .....	2,722,036	12,180,239
Total.....	4,484,178	19,959,749

The official records at Washington, as recently stated by Colonel J. J. Abert, of the United States Bureau of Topographical Engineers, show that the trade of our great lakes, was, in 1841—

Exports.....	dollars. 22,342,581
Imports.....	23,453,441
Total.....	65,826,022

Notwithstanding the *over* trading which marked the year 1836, the aggregate of the export and import trade on the lakes that year was only 16,416,354 dollars. Subtract the latter from the amount of the lake trade of 1841, and the difference will be 49,364,668 dollars—an increase of *fifty millions* in five years! By this ratio, the commerce of the lakes during the present year should exceed 85,000,000 dollars.

In 1819, there was but one steamboat on the lakes.

In 1827, the waters of Lake Michigan were first ploughed by steam—a boat having made an excursion to Green bay.

In 1832, a boat reached Chicago with troops.

In 1833, there were eleven boats on the lakes, which cost 360,000 dollars, and carried that year 61,480 passengers; and with the freight the receipts were 229,212 dollars 69 cents. This season three trips were made to Chicago, and one to Green bay; the amount of receipts was 4335 dollars 39 cents. The time of running from Buffalo and returning averaged twenty-two days.

In 1834, seven new boats came out, which made eighteen in service for the year. Total cost, 500,000 dollars. The amount of the earnings of the boats this year was 238,565 dollars 95 cents. Two trips were made to Green bay, and three to Chicago; and the amount received for them was 6273 dollars 65 cents.

In 1839, the increase of business to Chicago in Lake Michigan, and ports west of Detroit, was so great that a regular line of eight boats ran from Buffalo to Chicago, making a trip in sixteen days.

In 1840, the number of boats on the lakes increased to forty-eight, and the cost

