

greater part of the distance was very hard and more than six inches thick. - The river was obstructed by it for three weeks, and the committee are assured by gentlemen, whose observation and experience entitle their judgment to the greatest respect, that had not a track been kept open by the Relief, the Patapsco for some distance below the Fort, would have been still closed, notwithstanding the great change in the weather, which has for about two weeks last past assumed a very mild character.

In the twenty one days, of the severe weather, and when the ice entirely prevented any vessel navigating that river except through the track made by the Relief, six Ships, thirty three Brigs, seventy six Schooners and Sloops, and nineteen Oyster Boats, in all one hundred and thirty five vessels arrived or departed from the Port of Baltimore in perfect safety; [See Appendix G.] many of which without the assistance of the Relief, would necessarily have had to anchor in the bay, or put back to sea,—perhaps to encounter a storm, or the breaking up of the ice in the river, and be thereby injured or foundered: but if so fortunate as to escape from these dangers, still must have been detained with great loss of time and money, as well as inconvenience and distress to the seamen on board, who would for all that time have been kept from their homes and families and exposed to the most intense cold.—A large number of those that left the port, laden with goods, the products of our own soil, for foreign shores, may have been enabled to avail themselves of a profitable market, which a delay of three weeks would very likely have prevented, and the goods forming their cargoes, would have remained in the warehouse of the commission merchant, to the loss of the owners and the detriment of the commercial and agricultural interests of the State.

As the committee remarked before, it must be manifest to all, that the prosperity of the whole State, would be advanced by keeping the harbour of Balti-