

the negociation ; and the article was altered accordingly. Thus might it also have been with regard to the Cape of Good Hope, had the Directors consulted the real interests of the East India Company. But, as there is reason to believe that, though late, they have seen their error, and that they are now convinced the Cape must either become a British territory, or their interests will very materially suffer ; it is to be hoped they will shew themselves as solicitous to remove the evil as they were before indifferent in preventing it ; for, should the present opportunity be allowed to slip, *Tempus erit magno cum optaverit emptum.*

What the Dutch meant to have done with it, had not the present war broken out, is uncertain. I was told, from good authority, that their intention was to give it a fair trial of ten or twelve years, unclogged and unfettered ; to endeavour to raise it, by every encouragement, to its greatest possible value as a territorial possession ; to admit the commerce of all nations on equal terms with their own, and to allow an influx of settlers from Europe ; if, at the end of that time, the revenues were not so far improved as not only to meet the ordinary and contingent expences of the establishment and the garrison, but to produce a surplus for the use of the State, that they should then consider how to dispose of it to the best advantage.

All ships were, accordingly, admitted to an entry of European, American, or Indian produce and manufactures, on payment of a duty of 10 per cent. on the invoice prices ; and

all Indian goods, teas and spices excepted, were suffered to be again exported on a drawback of the same amount as the duty. How far such a regulation might interfere with the interests of our East India Company, if at a peace the Dutch should keep the Cape, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to determine ; but such a plan would seem to open a wide door for smuggling Indian commodities into Europe, under English capitals, to an amount that must be alarming to the Directors themselves.

The operation of this measure will be checked, to a certain degree, by the present war, which, I am sanguine enough to hope, will ultimately be the means of once more annexing the southern extremity of Africa to the dominions of Great Britain. In such an event, the determination of securing it, at a peace, will be a more important object than the consideration how its government is to be administered ; whether as a dependency of the Crown, or as a territorial possession of the East India Company. The interests, indeed, of the two, are so intimately connected, that any question of privilege, in a matter of such national importance, is a mere secondary consideration, and ought, therefore, to bend to circumstances. The interests of the Company, during our late tenure, were, as I have shewn, secured and promoted in every respect. They had their agent established at the Cape, and not the smallest article of Eastern produce, not even the most trifling present, was allowed on any consideration to be landed, without a positive declaration, in writing, from their said agent, that the landing of such article did not interfere with, nor was in any shape injurious to, the concerns of his em-

ployers. It was, indeed, one of the first objects of the Crown, after taking possession, to consult the interests of the East India Company in every point of view ; not only in providing for their conveniency and security, by its happy position and local ascendancy, but by opening a new market and intermediate depository for their trade and commodities. It was even proposed to place the custom-house under their sole direction, in order to preclude any grounds of complaint. In a word, in every point of view, except that of appointing the civil establishment, the Cape might have actually been considered as a settlement of the East India Company.

Leaving, however, the question of privilege to be discussed by those who are better informed, and more interested in its decision than myself, I proceed to enquire,

To what extent the Cape of Good Hope might have been rendered advantageous to the interests of the British empire, as an emporium of Eastern produce ?—as furnishing articles of export for consumption in Europe and the West Indies ?—as taking in exchange for colonial produce, articles of British growth and manufacture ?

And lastly, to consider the important advantages that might be derived from it, as a central *dépôt* for the Southern Whale Fishery.

It is a point of too intricate and nice a nature for me to decide, how far it might be advisable for Great Britain to establish at the Cape an *entrepôt* for Indian produce, in the

hands, and under the direction, of the East India Company, and shall, therefore, content myself with barely suggesting some of the probable consequences that might result from such a measure.

The grand objection against making the Cape an emporium between Europe and the East Indies, and between the West Indies, America, and Asia, is the prejudice it would necessarily occasion to the sales of Leadenhall-street, and the consequent diminution of his Majesty's customs; for, though the East India Company might be made responsible to the Crown for the duties on the amount of its sales at the Cape, yet the intention of the emporium would entirely be defeated, if the duties demanded there so far enhanced the value of the Indian commodities, as to make it equally eligible for foreign shipping to proceed to India, or to resort to the London market. And if these duties were reduced, it would obviously be attended with a loss to the revenues of the Crown; unless, indeed, the augmentation of the sales, in consequence of the measure, should be found to be adequate to the reduction of the duties.

It is liable also to another objection, grounded on the detriment that would ensue to the London market in general. It is certain that foreign merchants, purchasing goods at Leadenhall-street, find their advantage by laying in, at the same time and sending in the same ship, an assorted cargo, the produce of our colonies and the manufactures of Britain. Now if these merchants could contrive to purchase Indian articles

at a cheaper market than that of London, they might also be induced to make up their cargo with other articles at the same place, to the prejudice of the London trader.

These objections may, perhaps, lose much of their weight by the following considerations. The East India Company's trade, according to the Directors' own account, is fully competent to the whole supply of the East India and China markets, in commodities of European growth and manufacture: and they are satisfied in supplying the demands of those markets merely without a loss, in order to monopolize the trade and cut out foreign nations, who are thus obliged to purchase cargoes chiefly in exchange for specie. Even the privilege of 3000 tons allowed to the private merchant, by the terms of the Company's late charter, is said never to be filled up; to such a low rate have they reduced the prices of European articles in India and China, that the private trader finds no advantage in sending goods on his own account, on a moderate freight, to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. The Americans are the only nation who, by their fisheries, are enabled to work themselves into a cargo to exchange for India and China goods; with which they supply their own colonies and the West India islands, to the prejudice of the sales of the British East India Company.

It will result, from these considerations, that the East India Company, upon the same plan, could supply their emporium at the Cape with the produce and manufactures of Great Britain to any amount, and at so cheap a rate as to undersell

any other nation. That the Americans, finding no longer a market at the Cape for their lumber cargoes, would confine their export trade to articles of peltry and ginseng, which they might be induced to bring to the emporium in exchange for teas, nankeen cloth, and muslins, at a moderate advance price, such as would not make it worth their while to proceed to India and China. That other foreign nations, trading to this emporium, might be accommodated there with British goods and manufactures, nearly on the same terms as in London, to make up an assorted cargo. That a very extensive trade might be opened with the coast of Brazil and the ports of South America, both in Indian commodities and articles of the growth and manufacture of Great Britain; those ports, on that continent, belonging to Portugal being now supplied through Lisbon at an enormously high rate; and those of Spain, frequently without any supply at all, but what they receive from English whalers and others in a clandestine manner.

The amount of European and Indian goods (the latter chiefly prize articles) exported from the Cape in the last four years, generally in Portuguese ships by English adventurers, or in English whalers, for the coast of Brazil, the West India islands, and Mozambique, was about 850,000 rixdollars, or 170,000 pounds currency. On the articles of European growth and manufacture, whose value might amount to about half of the above sum, there must have been a very considerable profit to the private merchant at the Cape, beyond what would be required by the East India Company, and consequently they must have been sold at a high rate. Yet, under

these disadvantages, the trade to the coast of Brazil might have been extended to many times the amount.

As in the case of the Cape becoming a commercial depôt in the hands of the East India Company, the consumption, in Spanish and Portuguese America, of Eastern produce, would increase to a very great extent, for all which they would pay in specie; and as the Company feel the greatest want of specie for their China trade, and still more for the necessary uses of their Indian empire, the supply of hard money they would thus obtain, would considerably lessen, if not entirely put an end to, the difficulties under which they now labor on that account. And the additional quantities of Indian produce and manufactures that would be required for this new channel of trade might prove, in some degree, an indemnity to the natives of India for what the Company draw from them in the shape of revenue to be sent to Europe.

The quantity of European and Indian produce consumed in South America is by no means trifling. I observed in Rio de Janeiro a whole street consisting of shops, and every shop filled with Indian muslins and Manchester goods, which, having come through Lisbon, were offered, of course, at enormously high prices. The trade, it is true, that subsists between England and Portugal, might render it prudent not materially to interfere with the Portuguese settlements; but the case is very different with regard to those of Spain. The Mother Country, more intent upon drawing specie from the mine than in promoting the happiness of its subjects in this

part of the world, by encouraging trade and honest industry, suffers them to remain frequently without any supply of European produce and manufacture. It is no uncommon thing, I understand, to see the inhabitants of Spanish America with silver buckles, clasps, and buttons, silver stirrups and bits to their bridles, whilst the whole of their clothing is not worth a single shilling. The whalers, who intend to make the coasts of Lima and Peru, are well acquainted with this circumstance, and generally carry out with them a quantity of ready made second-hand clothing, which they dispose of at a high rate in exchange for Spanish dollars. All this branch of trade might, with great advantage to both parties, be carried on from the Cape of Good Hope.

The emporium, therefore, being supplied by the East India Company with European goods, as well as with India and China commodities, the first to be sold at a very small advance on the London market price, and the latter exempt, or nearly so, from all duties, might be the means of putting a stop to the clandestine traders upon British capitals, but navigating under neutral colors, which has long been a subject of unavailing complaint. The Directors of the East India Company would, no doubt, be able to decide as to the rate at which it would be worth the while of these adventurers to make their purchases at the Cape, rather than continue their voyage to India or China.

Such an entrepôt might likewise be the means of opening a lucrative branch of trade with the West Indies; a trade that would not only put a stop to that which, of late years, the



Americans have so successfully carried on, but might open a new source for colonial produce, especially for its wines, which, with a little more attention and management in the manufacture, might be made to supersede those of Madeira, that are now consumed there to a very considerable amount, notwithstanding their enormous prices, which limit their consumption to the higher ranks of the islanders. Good Cape Madeira might be delivered, at any of the West India islands, at less than one-fourth of the expence of real Madeira.

A new branch of trade might also be opened between the Cape and New South Wales, the latter supplying the former with coals, of which they have lately discovered abundant mines, in exchange for wine, cattle, butter, and articles of clothing.

If, however, the East India Company, after making the experiment, should find it injurious to its interests to continue the Cape as an emporium for Indian produce; it will always be in its power to reduce it to the same state in which it remained whilst in the hands of the Dutch; to clog it as much as possible with duties and difficulties, sufficient to deter all ships, except their own, from trading to it; and, in short, to allow them no other commerce than the purchase of provisions in exchange for bills or hard money. It will always be at their discretion to admit or to send away all foreign adventurers. By the existing laws of the colony, no person can reside there, but by special licence; and the Governor is authorised to send away whomsoever he may be

inclined to consider as an improper person to remain in the settlement.

If the experiment should succeed, the obvious result would be an exclusive trade to India and China vested in the English East India Company. The commerce carried on by the Americans, their only dangerous rivals at present, would be diverted into another channel, or, at all events, would suffer a considerable reduction. Should the Dutch ever rise again as an independent nation, they would find it expedient to court the friendship and alliance of Great Britain in the East; and, in the present low state of their finances, would be well satisfied with the exclusive privilege of the spice-trade, and with any portion of the carrying-trade that Great Britain might think proper to assign to them. Any encroachment on the part of this nation might easily be checked by a refusal of the usual accommodations at the Cape, without which their trade and navigation to the Eastern Seas must totally be superseded. If, at a peace, they are to become a dependency of France, directly or indirectly, the Cape in our hands will always enable us to cramp their commerce to the eastward. As to France, having neither credit nor capital, without shipping and without manufactures, its trade to the East will, in the nature of things, be inconsiderable for a long time. Her first object will be to send out troops and stores to endeavour to destroy, at some future period, our trade and possessions in India, which she has long regarded with envy and jealousy—and we have already shewn how far the Cape may be instrumental in checking or in forwarding,

according to the power who holds it, her projects in this part of the world.

I now proceed to inquire to what extent the Cape of Good Hope may be considered as advantageous to the interests of the British nation, by furnishing articles of export for general consumption in Europe and the West Indies. Its importance, in this point of view, will readily be decided from the statement of a few simple facts collected from the custom-house books, together with the supplies that were consumed by the army, the navy, and the inhabitants during our possession. It may be observed, however, that no true estimate can be formed from such statement of what the colony is capable of producing, cramped as it always has been by restrictive regulations, which the indolent dispositions of the settlers tended but too much to cherish; and, therefore, that the following account of colonial produce actually consumed and exported, is not to be taken as the standard measure of its worth, as a territorial possession, nor considered as any comparative quantity of what it might supply, when governed by a system of salutary laws, and inhabited by an industrious and intelligent race of men.

The chief articles of colonial growth and produce, consumed upon the spot and exported to the East Indies, Europe, and America, may be comprized under the following heads:

<i>Grain and Pulse</i>	<i>Salt Provisions</i>
<i>Wine and Brandy</i>	<i>Soap and Candles</i>
<i>Wool</i>	<i>Aloes</i>
<i>Hides and Skins</i>	<i>Ivory</i>
<i>Whale Oil and Bone</i>	<i>Tobacco</i>
<i>Dried Fruits</i>	

I shall take a short view of each of these articles separately.

## GRAIN AND PULSE.

The wheat produced at the Cape is said to be as good and heavy as that of most other parts of the world. A load of this grain consists of ten *muids* or sacks, equal to 31 Winchester bushels: and a muid or  $3\frac{1}{10}$  Winchester bushels, usually weighs 180 Dutch pounds, which is equal to 191½ pounds English. The returns are from 10 to 70, according to the nature of the soil, and the supply of water. Mr. Duckitt, the English farmer, informed me that he obtained seventy for one from a new sort of wheat, of a small hard grain, at the farm of Klapmutz, near the Cape, where the returns of the ordinary kind, sown under similar circumstances, were only eighteen and twenty. A small quantity of wheat only is raised on such farms as are within the distance of one day's journey from the Cape, the best part of the ground in those contiguous to the peninsula being chiefly employed in extensive vineyards; and still less grain is cultivated beyond the distance of a three days' journey from the town, where the inhabitants are all graziers. The quantity of grain that might

be raised may be considered as indefinite ; but the great distance from any market, the badness of the roads, and the weak state of the cattle, will always operate against an extended cultivation. In addition to these obstacles, the farmer had no encouragement given to him to raise more than a limited quantity, as the prices were always fixed by the Government, and bore a proportion to the state of the harvest. If, therefore, the harvest happened to fail, it was an advantageous circumstance to the farmer ; as he received the same money for a smaller quantity, and had less trouble and less expence in bringing it up to town.

The surplus, purchased by Government, in fruitful years, was laid up in magazines against a season of scarcity. At the time of the capture there were found in store near 40,000 muids, part of which was sent to England ; but the following year not affording a productive crop, the scarcity was so great, that Government found it necessary to prohibit the use of white bread ; nor, since that period, has it been able to lay up in store a single bushel of wheat ; nor to allow of any exportation, beyond what was necessary for the consumption of the crews of the several ships during their voyage ; and this was generally sent on board in biscuit and flour.

The Dutch seldom paid more than from 20 to 40 rixdollars the load ; the English never less than from 40 to 60 rixdollars, five of which make a pound currency, and which, being paper money, was generally 20 per cent. under a pound sterling. The bakers of the Cape were required to

take out a licence annually, and their number was limited ; so that, by the regulations of the police which, in this respect, were excellent, the inhabitants had always bread at a reasonable price.

Barley is a productive grain at the Cape of Good Hope. If the rains happen to fall early, in the month of April for instance, there is no soil, however impoverished by a continual succession of crops, none, however shallow and poor, that will not yield a tolerable crop of barley ; or, to speak more correctly, of *beer* or *big* ; for the only trial of flat-cared barley I ever saw in the colony, was at the Governor's seat of *Ronde-bosch*, and it did not seem to promise much success. The former is just as good as the latter at this place ; for the Cape boor, having always plenty of animal food, would disdain to eat bread mixed with barley-meal. The only use that is made of it is to feed their horses. For this purpose a great part of that which is grown in the vicinity of the Cape is cut down when green, just as the ear begins to shoot ; the dry barley and the chaff is brought from the opposite side of the isthmus. The number of horses kept by the English, and the superior manner in which they were fed, encouraged the cultivation of barley to the prejudice of that of wheat. At the capture of the colony, the market price of barley was 1½ rix-dollar the muid, but General Sir James Craig, seeing the necessity of keeping up a certain number of cavalry as part of the garrison, and knowing that this grain would necessarily rise in consequence of it, made a voluntary offer of 2¼ rix-dollars the muid, in order to secure a certain portion from

each farmer for the use of the garrison, which they instantly accepted. The following year barley rose to five dollars the muid; and, at one time, was not to be had for less than ten. A brewer, of the name of Van Reenen, employs a small quantity, but the beer he makes is so execrable, that none drink it but such as cannot afford to purchase European beer.

Rye is a thriving grain at the Cape, but is little used except for cattle, and then only while it is green; and oats run so much into straw, that they are fit only for horses as green fodder.

Peas, beans, and kidney beans are abundantly productive, and might be supplied to any amount; but they are in little demand except by ships that touch at the Cape. Indian corn or maize grows here fully as well as in any part of the world, and might be cultivated to any extent; the plant for cattle, and the prolific heads for hogs and poultry. The same may be observed with regard to the various kinds of millet, three of which I cultivated here with the greatest success, but neither one nor the other are much known beyond the Cape peninsula.

The different kinds of grain and pulse that are brought up to Cape Town, except oats, are subject to a certain toll at the barrier, which, at the prices they bore under the Dutch Government, amounted to about the tythe or one-tenth of their value. The following table shews the quantity of each that

passed the barrier, and which, of course, includes the consumption of the town, the garrison, and the navy, as well as the exportation, in four successive years.

Years.	Muids of Wheat.	Muids of Barley.	Muids of Rye.	Muids of Peas.	Muids of Beans.
1799	34,951	17,130	184	435	344
1800	35,685	25,641½	444	366	326
1801	32,322¾	21,054	835¼	808¾	471
1802	28,402¾	21,084	441½	168	216
Total of 4 years	131,361¼	84,909¼	1905	1777½	1358

Of the above quantity of wheat were annually required,

For the use of the Inhabitants	-	18,000
Army	-	8,000
Navy	-	4,000
Total Muids		<u>30,000</u>

So that in none of the above years could a greater quantity be spared, for ships calling for refreshments, than four or five thousand muids ; and in the last year the inhabitants and the garrison were reduced to an allowance. It may, therefore, be fairly concluded that the Cape, in its present state, is not capable of exporting any grain.



## WINE AND BRANDY.

These two articles, with those above mentioned, may be considered as the staple commodities of the Cape of Good Hope. Grapes grow with the greatest luxuriancy in every part of this extensive colony; but the cultivation of the vine is little understood, or, to speak more properly, is not attended to with that diligence which in other countries is bestowed upon it. Hence the wines are susceptible of great improvement, and the quantity of being increased indefinitely.

Ten or twelve distinct kinds of wine are manufactured at the Cape, and each of those has a different flavour and quality at the different farms on which they are produced. From difference of soil, from situation, and management, scarcely any two vineyards, of the same kind of grape, give the same wine. By throwing under the press the ripe and unripe grapes, together with the stalk, most of the wines have either a thinness and a slight acidity, or, for want of a proper degree of fermentation, and from being pressed when over ripe, acquire a sickly saccharine taste. An instance of the former is perceptible in that called *Steen*, which resembles the Rhenish wines; and of the latter, in that which is known by the name of *Constantia*. It is generally supposed that this wine is the produce of two farms only, of that name; whereas, the same grape, the muscadel, grows at every farm; and at some of them in Drakenstein the wine pressed

from it is equally good, if not superior, to the Constantia, though sold at one-sixth part of the price ; of such importance is a name.

This wine sells at the Cape for 70 or 80 rixdollars the *half aum*, a cask which ought to contain 20 gallons ; but the avaricious propensity of the proprietors, increasing with the demands for their wine, has led them to fabricate false casks, few of them that come to England being found to measure more than seventeen or eighteen gallons ; many not above sixteen. And if they find out that the wine applied for is to be sent abroad, they are sure to adulterate it with some other thin wine. For, according to their own returns, the quantity exported and consumed in Cape Town, as in the case of Madeira wine, greatly exceeds the quantity manufactured.

By a settlement made between the Dutch Commissaries General, in the year 1793, and the owners of the two farms of Great and Little Constantia, the latter were bound to furnish, for the use of Government, 30 aums each, every year, at the rate of 50 rixdollars the aum ; which was regularly taken, after being tasted and sealed up in presence of persons appointed for that purpose, by the English Government, to the no little annoyance of the Great Lord of Constantia, who is the son and successor to the man of whom Mr. Le Vaillant has drawn a very entertaining portrait. The wine was paid for out of the Colonial Treasury, and the whole of it, under

Lord Macartney's government, sent home to the Secretary of State, for the disposal of his Majesty.

The quantity of Constantia wine exported in four successive years was,

	Years.	Half Aums.	Value.
In	1799	157	11,752
	1800	188	14,070
	1801	173	13,007
	1802	210	15,745
In four years		728	54,504 R.D.

The best bodied wine, that is made at the Cape, is the Madeira, considerable quantities of which were usually sent to Holland and to the Dutch settlements in India. The Americans, also, have taken small quantities, of late years, in exchange for staves, a trade that seems susceptible of very considerable augmentation. The English merchants at the Cape have made up cargoes of the different sorts of wines, both to the East and the West Indies, and they have been tried in the northern nations of Europe. But they universally complain that the wines seldom agree with the samples, and that they frequently turn sour; so little regard for reputation have the *Koopmen* of the Cape. Confined to this spot from their birth, they have had little opportunity of

improvement from education, and none from travel, and are consequently ignorant of the nature of foreign trade. If their wines are once on board ship, they conclude there is an end of the transaction, and, if previously sold, whether they arrive in good or bad condition, is no concern of theirs.

If the precaution was taken of separating the ripe from the unripe grapes, the sound fruit from the decayed, and the stalks rejected; if the must was suffered to remain in open vessels, so that a large surface might be exposed to the free contact of the atmospheric air, until it had undergone the last degree of vinous fermentation; if after this it was carefully drawn off into close vessels and kept unmolested for twelve months, there is little doubt that a good, pleasant, sound bodied wine might be obtained, free from that extraneous and peculiar taste which all the Cape wines possess in a greater or less degree, owing entirely to the slovenly manner in which the process is conducted, and the vines being cut down so low as to suffer the branches of fruit to rest on the soil.

The country boor, having no surplus stock of casks, is under the necessity of selling to the merchant in the town his new wine; and here it is mixed and adulterated in a variety of ways. The pipe is called a *legger*, and contains 8 *half aums* or 160 gallons, and each legger pays to Government a duty, on entering the town, of three rixdollars. The price paid to the farmer is generally from 20 to 30 rixdollars the *legger*, which, after adulteration, is sold again from 40:

to 60 rixdollars, and frequently at the rate of 80 to 100 rixdollars.

The article of brandy might become a very important commodity in the export trade of this settlement, provided the cultivators of the vine were instructed in, and would take the trouble of, carrying the manufacture of it to that state of improvement of which it is susceptible. At present they have no proper distillatory apparatus, nor knowledge to conduct those which they have. The filth that is usually thrown into the still, with the refuse of the wines, is disgusting; and the imperfect process is not sufficient to destroy the extraneous and disagreeable taste communicated by the loathsome materials. The whole operation is usually committed to the care of a slave, who has little knowledge of, and less interest in, the business he is commanded to perform: he falls asleep; his fire goes out; a rapid blaze succeeds to make up for loss of time; the spirit thus carries over with it a strong empyreumatic flavor which it never loses. This spirit has been tried in the East Indies, but it seems they give the preference to arrack. If distilled with proper care, and under proper management, it might become a valuable article for the navy; and would, no doubt, find a market in both North and South America. Brandy is exported at 80 to 160 rixdollars the *legger*, and is subject to the same toll, on entering the town, as wines. And both wine and brandy are liable to a further duty of 5 rixdollars the *legger* on exportation. The following table shews the

quantity of wines and brandy that passed the barrier, and which, of course, includes the consumption of the town, of the army, and navy, as well as the exportation in four successive years.

Years.	Leggers of Wine.	Leggers of Brandy.
1799	6953 $\frac{5}{8}$	598 $\frac{1}{2}$
1800	5199 $\frac{7}{8}$	472 $\frac{3}{4}$
1801	5463 $\frac{7}{8}$	320 $\frac{1}{3}$
1802	4031 $\frac{7}{8}$	278 $\frac{1}{2}$
In four years	21,649 $\frac{1}{4}$	1665 $\frac{1}{4}$

Of the above quantity have been exported from 400 to 800 *leggers* of wine, and from 30 to 100 of brandy, annually, beside the Constantia; the rest has been consumed in the town. So that the whole export value of wines, including the Constantia, and the brandy, may amount, one year with another, to about 50,000 rixdollars, or 10,000*l.* currency.

The gradual reduction of the quantity brought up to town, as appears in the table, is no proof of the diminution of the quantity manufactured, but shews rather that the wine-farmer, by being in a condition to increase his stock of casks, is enabled to keep his wine at home, and not obliged, as he usually was, to deliver it to the wine merchants in the Cape at their own price. This circumstance has contributed not a little to the melioration of the colonial wines.

## WOOL.

This article is likely to become a source of colonial revenue, which, till of late years, was never thought of; and certainly never turned to any account, before the Deputy Paymaster's bills on his Majesty's Paymasters-General became so scarce, and bore such high premiums, that the private merchant was glad to make his remittances in any kind of merchandize rather than paper. The wool of the common broad-tailed sheep of the Cape is little better than hair, and is considered of no value whatsoever; but there is a mixed breed in the colony, of Spanish and English, introduced by the late Colonel Gordon, the wool of which is extremely beautiful, and seems to improve by every cross. A family of the name of Van Reenen has paid some attention to this subject, and by procuring European sheep, from time to time, out of ships that called for refreshments, has succeeded in improving their stock beyond their expectations.

No trouble whatsoever is bestowed upon the sheep; they neither wash nor salve them, nor, till they were instructed by the English agriculturist, did they know how to shear them. Yet, the wool taken off in this rough condition has sold, as I have been informed, in the London market at 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* the pound. By a proper degree of attention being paid to the sheep, and by obviating any degeneracy in the breed from a cross with the common Cape sheep, this article bids fair to become, in the course of a few years, one of the

most valuable and productive exports that the settlement is capable of furnishing. The mutton of the Cape sheep is also of a very inferior quality, being coarse and void of flavour; and they have little intestine or net fat, nor, indeed, any other except what is accumulated on the tail, which is of too oleaginous a nature to be employed alone as tallow. In every respect, therefore, the mixed Spanish breed is preferable to that which, at present, constitutes the numerous flocks of the greater part of the farmers. I understand that the Dutch government is at this moment paying a very marked attention to the improvement of the breed of sheep in the colony, and that they have adopted such regulations as are likely, in the course of a few years, to supplant the broad-tailed species with the infinitely more valuable cross with the Spanish sheep.

## HIDES AND SKINS.

The exportation of these articles, both dried and salted raw, has been increased to a very considerable degree under the British Government, and the price has consequently augmented in proportion to the demand for them. Ox hides, which formerly might be purchased at half a dollar a-piece, rose to two dollars. They are subject, on exportation, to a duty of threepence-halfpenny a-piece. The quantity exported may amount to between 2000 and 3000 annually. Those that are taken off the cattle, killed in the country, are employed by the farmers in various uses, but principally as harness for their waggons, and as thongs to supply the place of cordage. The skins of sheep, that are killed in the country,



are converted into small sacks and other articles of household use, and employed as clothing for the slaves and Hottentots, and are still worn by the farmers themselves, after a rude kind of dressing, as pantaloons. In the Cape they are somewhat better prepared, and are used for clothing of slaves, for gloves, and other purposes. Few of them are exported. Skins of the wild antelopes and of the leopard are brought occasionally to the Cape market, but the quantity is so small as scarcely to deserve mentioning as articles of export.

The same may be observed with regard to ostrich feathers, the value of which, exported annually, amounts to a mere trifle. The boors, very imprudently, rob every nest of this bird that falls in their way; preferring the immediate benefit of the eggs to the encouragement of a future source of profit. The boors, indeed, derive little advantage from ostrich feathers, being presents generally expected by the butchers' servants, who go round the country to purchase cattle and sheep for the Cape market. The whole value of one year's exportation of this article does not exceed 1000 rixdollars; of hides and skins of every denomination not more than 5000 or 6000 rixdollars.

#### WHALE OIL AND BONE.

The vast number of black whales that constantly frequented Table Bay induced a company of merchants at the Cape to establish a whale fishery, to be confined solely to Table Bay, in order to avoid the great expence of purchasing any other kind of craft than a few common whale boats.

With these alone they caught as many whales as they could wish for ; filling, in a short space of time, all their casks and cisterns with oil. Having gone thus far they perceived that, although whale-oil was to be procured to almost any amount at a small expence, they were still likely to be considerable losers by the concern. The consumption of the colony in this article was trifling ; they had no ships of their own to send it to Europe, nor casks to put on board others on freight. Their oil, therefore, continued to lie as a dead stock in their cisterns, till the high premium of bills on England induced some of the British merchants to purchase and make their remittances in this article. The price at the Cape was about 40 rixdollars the *legger*, or tenpence sterling per gallon. Sometimes, indeed, ships from the Southern Whale Fishery took a few casks to complete their cargoes, but, in general, they preferred to be at the trouble of taking the fish themselves, in or near some of the bays within the limits of the colony, where they are so plentiful and so easily caught, as to ensure their success. It is remarked that all the whales which have been caught in the bays are females ; of a small size, generally from 30 to 50 feet in length, and yielding from six to ten tons of oil each. The bone is very small, and, on that account, of no great value.

The Whale Fishing Company, finding there was little probability of their disposing of the oil without a loss, thought of the experiment of converting it into soap. The great quantity of sea-weed, the *fucus maximus*, or *buccinalis*, so called from its resemblance to a trumpet, which grows on the western shore of Table Bay, suggested itself as an abundant

source for supplying them with kelp or barilla; and from the specification of a patent obtained in London, for freeing animal oils of their impurities, and the strong and offensive smell that train-oil in particular acquires; they endeavoured to reduce to practice this important discovery. The experiment, however, failed; for though they succeeded in making soap, whose quality, in the most essential points might, perhaps, be fully as good as was desired, yet the smell was so disgusting that nobody would purchase it. Unluckily for them there came in, also, just at that time, a cargo of prize soap, which was not only more agreeable to the smell, but was sold at a rate lower than the Company could afford to manufacture theirs of train-oil. Being thus thwarted in all their views, they sold the whole concern to an English merchant, who was supposed to be turning it to a tolerably good account, when it was signified to him, by the present Dutch Government, that the exclusive privilege of fishing on the coasts of Africa, within the limits of the colony, was granted to a company of merchants residing in Amsterdam; and, therefore, that he could not be allowed to continue the concern.

#### DRIED FRUITS.

Under this head the most important articles are almonds and raisins; of which a quantity might be raised sufficient for the consumption of all Europe. Many thousand acres of land, now lying waste, might be planted with vineyards, within sight of Table Mountain. In like manner might the whole sea-coast, on both sides of Africa, be planted with

vines. In no part of the world are better grapes produced than at the Cape of Good Hope ; and it is unnecessary to observe that good grapes, under proper management, cannot fail to make good raisins ; but with respect to this, as well as most other articles, little care and less labor are bestowed in the preparation. As in the making of wine the whole bunch is thrown under the press, so, in the process for converting grapes into raisins, neither the rotten nor the unripe fruit is removed ; the consequence of which is, that the bad raisins soon spoil those that otherwise would have been good.

The almonds are, in general, small, but of a good quality. The trees thrive well in the very driest and worst of soils ; in no situation better than among the rocks on the sides of mountains, where nothing else would grow ; and they will bear fruit the fifth year from the seed. The quantity, therefore, of these nuts might be produced to an indefinite amount. The consumption in the Cape of both these articles is very considerable, as furnishing part of the desert, without which, after supper as well as dinner, few householders would be contented ; the omission might be considered as a criterion of poverty, a condition which the weakness of human nature leads men generally to dissemble rather than avow. Ships also take considerable quantities of almonds and raisins as sea-stock ; but few have hitherto been sent to India or to Europe as articles of trade. Before the capture the prices might have admitted of it, almonds being then not more than from a shilling to eightpence sterling the thousand, and raisins from twopence to threepence a pound ; but the increased demand, in consequence of the increased number of

shipping, as well as of inhabitants, raised the price of the former from two shillings to two shillings and sixpence the thousand, and of the latter from fourpence to sixpence a pound.

Walnuts and chesnuts are neither plentiful nor good ; and the latter will barely keep a month without decaying, so that these are never likely to become articles of general consumption or of exportation.

But dried peaches, apricots, pears, and apples, are not only plentiful, but good of their kind. The peaches and pears are used in the desert, but apricots and apples are intended for tarts ; the latter, indeed, are nearly as good as when fresh from the tree. All the others are squeezed together and dried whole, but the apples are sliced thin and dried in the sun, till they take the consistence and appearance of slips of leather, of that kind and color usually called the York tan. These, when soaked in water, swell out and make very excellent tarts ; and are sold chiefly as an article of sea stock. The whole value of dried fruit, shipped in the year 1802, amounted only to 2542 rixdollars, as appears by the Custom-house books, on which every pound is entered, being subject to a duty on exportation of 5 per cent.

#### SALT PROVISIONS.

This is an article, as I have already taken occasion to observe, that is susceptible of great improvement ; not, however, to be prepared in Cape Town, after the cattle have

been harassed and famished for two months in travelling over a barren desert, but cured at Algoa Bay, and brought down in small coasting vessels to the Cape. Salted mutton, and mutton hams, might, however, be, and are indeed to a certain degree, prepared at the Cape, but not to that extent of which they are capable.

It is remarkable that the Dutch, being so fond of fat, should not pay more attention to increase the breed of hogs. Except a few, that are shamefully suffered to wallow about the shores of Table Bay, where, indeed, they are so far useful as to pick up dead fish and butchers' offals, that are scattered along the strand, the hog is an animal that is scarcely known as food in the colony. Yet, from the vast quantities of fruit, the productive crops of barley, of peas, beans, and other vegetables, they might be reared at a small expence; whereas, from the manner in which they are at present fed in Cape Town, no one thinks of eating pork.

Salt, in the greatest abundance, is spontaneously produced within a few miles of Cape Town, by the evaporation of the water in the salt lakes that abound along the west coast of the colony. Two kinds of fish, the *Hottentot* and the *Snook*, are split open, salted, and dried in the sun in large quantities, principally for the use of the slaves who are employed in agriculture, to correct the bilious effects of bullocks' livers and other offals that constitute a great part of their food. They are eaten also by the inhabitants of the town, when boisterous weather prevents the fishing-boats from going out; for a Dutchman seldom makes a meal without fish. Small

quantities are sometimes taken as sea-stock, but so inconsiderable as hardly to deserve mentioning.

Salt butter is a very material article both for the consumption of the town, the garrison, and the navy, as also for exportation. The quality greatly depends on the degree of cleanliness that has been employed in the dairy, and more particularly on the pains that have been taken in working the butter well, to free it from the milky particles, which, if suffered to remain, very soon communicate a strong rancid taste that is highly offensive. That which comes from the Snowy Mountains is accounted the best; but, to say the truth, very little deserves the appellation of good. Under the Dutch Government it was usually sold at from fourpence to sixpence a pound, but, of late years, it was seldom to be purchased under a shilling a pound.

#### SOAP AND CANDLES.

The first of these articles is manufactured by almost every farmer in the country, and, in some of the districts, furnishes a considerable part of their surplus revenue, which is appropriated to the purchase of clothing and other necessaries at their annual visit to Cape Town. The unctuous part is chiefly derived from the fat of sheeps' tails, and the potash or barilla is the lixiviated ashes procured from a species of *Salsola* or salt wort that grows abundantly on those parts of the *Karoo*, or deserts, that are intersected by periodical streams of water. The plant is known in the colony by the Hottentot name of *Canna*. With this alkaline lye and the fat

of sheep, boiled together over a slow fire for four or five days, they make a very excellent soap, which generally bears the same price as salt butter. Being mostly brought from the distant district of Graaf Rcyneet at the same time with the butter, they rose and fell together according to the quantity in the market, and the demand there might happen to be for them. The great distance from the market limited the quantity that was manufactured, and not the scantiness of the materials.

This distance is a serious inconvenience to the farmer, and a great encouragement to his natural propensity to idleness. If he can contrive to get together a waggon load or two of butter or soap, to carry with him to Cape Town once a year, or once in two years, in exchange for clothing, brandy, coffee, a little tea and sugar, and a few other luxuries, which his own district has not yet produced, he is perfectly satisfied. The consideration of profit is out of the question. A man who goes to Cape Town with a single waggon from the Sneuwberg must consume, at least, sixty days out and home. He must have a double team, or 24 oxen, and two people, at the least, besides himself, to look after, to drive, and to lead the oxen and the sheep or goats, which it is necessary to take with them for their subsistence on the journey. His load, if a great one, may consist of fifteen hundred weight of butter and soap, for which he is glad to get from the retail dealers at the Cape, whom he calls *Smaus* or Jews, sixpence a pound, or just half what they sell the article for again. So that the value of his whole load is not above 37*l.* 10*s.* But as he has no other way of proceeding to the Cape, except with his



waggon, it makes little difference in point of time whether it be laden or empty. And the more of these loose articles he can bring to market, the fewer cattle he has occasion to dispose of to the butcher. These constitute his wealth, and with these he portions off his children.

Candles being an unsafe article to transport by land carriage are seldom brought out of the country; but a vegetable wax, collected from the berries of a shrubby plant, the *myrica cerifera*, plentiful on the dry marshy grounds near the sea-shore, is sometimes sent up to the Cape in large green cakes, where it may be had at from a shilling to fifteenpence a pound. The tallow to be purchased at the Cape is barely sufficient for the consumption of the town and the garrison, and the candles made from it are seldom lower than fifteenpence a pound.

#### ALOEES.

This drug is extracted from the common species of aloe known by the specific name of *perfoliata*, and is that variety which, perhaps on account of the abundant quantity of juice it contains, botanists have distinguished by the name of *socotrina*, though vulgarly supposed to have taken the name from the island of Socotra, where this drug is said to be produced of the best quality, in which case, at all events, it ought to be *socotrina*.

Large tracts of ground, many miles in extent, are covered with spontaneous plantations of this kind of aloe, and espe-

cially in the district of Zwellendam, at no great distance from Mossel Bay. In this part of the country the farmers rear few cattle or sheep, their stock consisting chiefly of horses; and they formerly cultivated a certain quantity of corn, which they delivered at a small fixed price, for the use of the Dutch East India Company, at Mossel Bay; but since this practice has been discontinued, they find it more advantageous to bring to Cape Town a load of aloes than a load of corn; the former being worth from 18*l.* to 20*l.*, the latter only from 8*l.* to 10*l.* The labor employed in collecting and inspissating the juice is ill repaid by the price it bears in Cape Town, which is seldom more than threepence a pound; but it is usually performed at a time of the year when the slaves have little else to do; and the whole strength of the family, slaves, Hottentots, and children, are employed in picking off, and carrying together, the leaves of the aloes. Three or four pounds, I understand, are as much as each person can collect and prepare in a day.

This drug, it seems, has of late years been much employed in the porter breweries of London, which occasioned an increased demand, and which may one day be extended almost to an indefinite amount, if the partial experiments of the ingenious Sigr. Fabroni on the juice of this plant can be realized on the great scale; experiments that promise a no less valuable acquisition to the arts than a coloring substance which may be used, with advantage, as a substitute for cochineal. The quantity of inspissated juice brought to the Cape market was eagerly bought up by the English merchants, and

sent to London as a remittance. The amount of this article entered on the Custom-house books, in the course of four years, was as follows :

	Years.	Lbs. Weight.	Value R. D.
	1799	126,684	9361 1
	1800	71,843	5217 0
	1801	52,181	4258 3
	1802	91,219	6829 0
	Total of 4 years	lbs. 341,927	R. D. 25,665 4

It is subject to a small exportation duty of sixteen-pence for every hundred pounds.

#### IVORY.

However abundant this article might once have been in the southern part of Africa, it is now become very scarce, and, in the nature of things, as population is extended, the animals that furnish it, the Elephant and the Hippopotamus, must progressively disappear. Indeed, at this moment, except in the forests of Sitsikamma and the thickets in the neighbourhood of the Sunday River, not any elephants are to be found within the limits of the colony. Of those few which the Kaffers destroy, the large tusks are always cut up into circular rings and worn on the arms as trophies of the chase. The small quantity of ivory that is brought to the Cape market is collected chiefly by two or three families of *bastard* Hottentots

(as the colonists call them) who dwell to the northward, not far from the banks of the Orange River. The whole quantity exported, in the course of four years, as appears by the Custom-house books, amounted only to 5981 pounds, value 6340 rixdollars.

The Hippopotamus or sea-cow is now no longer within the limits of the colony ; and, though the teeth of this animal are considered as the best ivory, yet the quantity of it procured was always comparatively small with that of the elephant. We may safely conclude then, that ivory is not to be reckoned among the valuable exports which the Cape can supply for the markets of Europe.

## TOBACCO.

I mention this article not so much on account of the quantity exported, which, indeed, is very trifling, as of the great abundance the colony is capable of producing. It is impossible the plant can thrive better in any part of the world than in this climate, or require less attention ; and I have understood from persons, qualified to give an opinion on the subject, that the Cape tobacco, with a little art in the preparation, is as good in every respect as that of Virginia. As all male persons, old and young, smoke in the Cape, from the highest to the lowest, and as American tobacco generally bears a high price, the consumption of that of native growth is considerable. The inferior sort is used by slaves and Hottentots.

I have now enumerated the most material articles of export which the Cape either does, or easily might, furnish for foreign markets. There still remain a few trifling things, as preserved fruits, garden seeds, salt, vinegar, &c., which, though valuable as refreshments for ships calling there, are of no consequence as exports. The total value of every kind of colonial produce collectively, that has actually been exported from the ports of the Cape in four years, is as follows :

		Value.
In 1799	—	R.D. 108,160 0
1800	—	85,049 2
1801	—	50,519 6
1802	—	57,196 0
		<hr/>
In four years		R.D. 300,925 0
		<hr/>
		or £.60,185 0 Currency.
		<hr/>

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from the view now taken of the amount of exports in colonial produce is, that the Cape of Good Hope, in its present condition, is of very little importance to any nation, considered as to the articles of commerce it supplies for exportation to foreign markets. The surplus produce, beyond the supply of its own inhabitants, a garrison, and navy of eight or ten thousand men, and the refreshments furnished to ships trading and casually calling there, is so trifling as to merit no consideration. That by a new system of laws and regulations, particularly with regard to the loan farms, it is susceptible of great improvement, I

have already shewn ; and there can be little doubt that, with due encouragement, many of the important products above-mentioned might be greatly extended, and some of them, as wine, for instance, increased to an indefinite quantity.

The next point that comes under consideration is the advantages that may result to the British Empire, by the increased consumption of goods, the growth and produce of Great Britain and her colonies, from the acquisition of the Cape of Good Hope. The commodities imported from England into this settlement consisted in,

Woollen cloths, from the first sort down to woollen blankets.

Manchester goods of almost every description.

Hosiery, haberdashery, and millinery.

Boots, shoes, and hats.

Cutlery, iron tools, stationary.

Bar and hoop iron:

Smiths' coals.

Household furniture.

Paint and oils.

Earthenware.

Naval stores.

Tongues, hams, cheese, and pickles.

From India and China were imported,

Bengal, Madras, and Surat piece goods ; the coarse ones for the slaves.

Tea, coffee, sugar, pepper, and spices,

Rice.

In addition to these, the Americans were in the habit of bringing lumber-cargoes of deal plank, staves, balk, salt fish, pitch, turpentine, &c.; and the Danes, Swedes, and Ham-  
burgh ships assorted cargoes of iron, plank, French wines, beer, gin, Seltzer water, coffee, preserves, pickles, &c. in exchange for refreshments, to defray the charges of repairs and other necessaries, or for hard money to carry to India or China.

As it is not material to state the exact amount of each kind of goods imported, I shall subjoin an abstract account of the whole importation into the Cape by British or foreign bottoms, from Europe, Asia, and America, in the course of four years, including the value of the prize goods brought in, and of the slaves imported within the same period.

Years.	British goods on British bottoms, duty free.	India goods on British bottoms, 5 per cent. duty.	European prize goods, 5 per cent. duty.	Indian prize goods 10 per cent. duty.	Prize slaves and others imported by British merchants.	Total produce imported in British bottoms.	European and American goods on foreign bottoms, 10 per cent. duty.	Indian goods on foreign bottoms, 10 per cent.	Total produce imported in foreign bottoms.
	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>	<i>Rd. sh.</i>
1799	674,009 6	104,124 0	20,623 5	100,487 0	245,600	1,144,844 3	118,244 0	64,219 6	182,463 6
1800	474,706 0	212,446 0	17,797 0	45,335 0	184,000	934,284 0	51,258 0	109,490 0	160,748 0
1801	587,023 4	290,117 0	568,425 0	129,642 6	271,200	1,846,408 2	136,394 5	3,337 2	139,731 7
1802	532,366 4	455,397 4	93,788 2	130,720 6	198,205	1,410,478 0	142,684 6	15,892 7	58,577 5
In 4 years	2,268,105 6	1,062,084 4	700,633 7	406,185 4	899,005	5,336,014	5448,581 3	192,939 7	641,521 2
Total importation, Rix dollars					5,977,535 7 Sk.				
					or £1,195,507 3 6 Currency.				

It will naturally be demanded how or in what manner the colony has contrived to pay this apparent enormous balance.

dispatch such a force from the Cape. Hence murders and the most atrocious crimes were committed with impunity; and the only punishment was a sentence of outlawry for contempt of Court; a sentence that was attended with little inconvenience to the criminal, who still continued to maintain his ground in society, as if no such sentence was hanging over him. It debarred him, it is true, from making his usual visits to the capital, but he found no difficulty in getting his business done by commission. Numberless instances of this kind occurred, yet the system remained the same. Perhaps, indeed, it would be difficult to suggest a better, till a greater degree of population shall compel the inhabitants to dwell in villages, or the limits of the colony be contracted into a narrower compass.

This extensive settlement, whose dimensions have been given above, is divided into four districts, namely,

1. The district of the Cape.
2. ——— of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein.
3. ——— of Zwellendam.
4. ——— of Graaf Reynet.

#### CAPE DISTRICT.

Of these the Cape district is by much the smallest, but the most populous. It may be considered as divided into two parts; one consisting of the peninsula on which the Town is situated, the other of the slip of land extending from the shore of Table Bay to the mouth of the Berg River in Saint Helena Bay, and



colonial produce and imported goods, which have been disposed of, the shops and warehouses at the evacuation of the colony were so full, that it was calculated there were then European and Indian articles sufficient for three years' consumption, and the capital of slaves imported was augmented nearly to the amount of 180,000*l*.

It appears then, that five-sixths of the trade of the Cape of Good Hope has been occasioned by the consumption of the garrison and the navy. And, consequently, that unless a very considerable garrison be constantly stationed there, or some other channel be opened for the export of their produce, the colonists, by having increased their capitals in the days of prosperity, and especially of slaves, which is a consuming instead of a productive capital, will rapidly sink into a state of poverty much greater than that they were in at the capture of the colony. The present garrison consists only of about one third of the garrison and navy kept there by Great Britain; and they will, most assuredly, not consume one fifth of the quantity of colonial produce and imports; so that some new vent must be discovered for the remaining four-fifths, or the colony will be impoverished. What then must be the condition of this place if the garrison, small as it is, should be supported at the expence of the inhabitants? It must, obviously, very speedily consume itself, and the majority of the inhabitants will be reduced to the necessity of clothing themselves, as before the capture, with sheep-skins. It is obviously, therefore, the interest of the colonists that the Cape should remain in the hands of the English; the truth of which, indeed, they felt and loudly expressed, before the Dutch flag had been flying

two months. A total stagnation to all trade immediately followed the surrender of the place. The merchant of the town was clogged with a heavy capital of foreign goods, for which there was no vent; and the farmer had little demands for his produce. Every one was desirous to sell, and, of course, there were no buyers. The limited amount, for which the Government was authorized to draw on the Asiatic Council of the Batavian Republic, had long been expended; and the arrears of pay and allowances, still due to the garrison, inflamed it to mutiny. The great depreciation of the paper currency held out no encouragement for the Government to try its credit by extending the capital already in circulation. All hard money had totally disappeared, except English copper penny pieces, of which I have already spoken, to the amount of about four thousand pounds, and even these were bought up by the Government and taken out of circulation, although their current value was two-pence. The addition of a French garrison, under such circumstances, would, in all probability, have hastened the destruction of the colony, in so far as regarded a supply of foreign articles in exchange for colonial produce. For, it is not to be supposed, after their treatment of the Dutch at home, they would be inclined to shew more consideration for their colonies.

As a dependency on the Crown of Great Britain, in the natural course of things it became a flourishing settlement; but neither the territorial nor the commercial advantages derivable to Britain, in consequence of the possession of it, are of such magnitude as, considered in these points of view only, to make the retention of it a *sine qua non* to a treaty of peace;

not even when carried to the highest possible degree of which they are susceptible. If the importance of this settlement was confined to these objects, the possession of it would not be worth the concern of the British government.

It now remains to consider, in the last place, the important advantages that might result to England, by establishing at the Cape a kind of central depôt for the Southern Whale Fishery. It is an universally acknowledged truth that, with the promotion of navigation, are promoted the strength and security of the British empire ; that the sea is one great source of its wealth and power ; and that its very existence, as an independent nation, is owing to the preponderancy of its navy ; yet, it would seem that the advantages offered by this element have hitherto been employed only in a very partial manner. Surrounded as we are on all sides by the sea, every square mile of which is, perhaps, not much less valuable than a square mile of land in its produce of food for the sustenance of man, how long have we allowed another nation to reap the benefit of this wealthy mine, and to support from it almost exclusively, a population which, in proportion to its territory, was double to that of our own ; a nation which, by this very source of industry and wealth, was once enabled to dispute with us the sovereignty of the seas ? A nation of fishermen necessarily implies a nation of seamen, a race of bold and hardy warriors. The navy of England has deservedly been long regarded as the great bulwark of the empire, whilst the most certain source of supplying that navy with the best seamen has been unaccountably neglected. Our colonies and our commerce have been hitherto considered as

the great nursery of our seamen ; but in times like the present, when civilized society is convulsed in every part of the world, our colonies may fail and our commerce may be checked. From what source, then, is our navy to be manned ? The glorious feats that have been performed in our ships of war, from the first-rate down to the pinnace, were not by the exertions of men taken from the plough. Courage alone is not sufficient for the accomplishment of such actions ; there must be activity, skill, and management, such as can be acquired only by constant habit from early youth. The cultivation of the fisheries would afford a never failing supply of men so instructed ; would furnish the markets with a wholesome and nutritious food ; and would increase our conveniencies, extend our manufactures, and promote our commerce.

For, independent of the important consideration of reducing the present high price of butchers' meat, by bringing a more ample supply of fish to the several markets of England, the fisheries are of great moment in another point of view : whale oil is now become so valuable an article of consumption in Great Britain, not only for the safety and conveniency it affords by lighting the streets of our cities and great towns at a moderate expence, but as a substitute for tallow and grease in various manufactures, that it may be considered as an indispensable commodity, whose demand is likely to increase in proportion as arts and manufactures are extended, and new applications of its use discovered. We ought, then, to consider both the home fishery for supplying the markets with food, and the whale fishery for furnishing

our warehouses with oil, as two standing nurseries for the education of seamen.

One would scarcely infer, from the state of the fisheries at the present day, that our legislature has ever regarded them in this point of view. They have hitherto been carried on in a very limited and partial manner, with encouragement just sufficient (and but barely so) for the supply of our own markets; when common policy should induce us to open foreign markets to take off the surplus of our depôts. Hence it happens, and especially in time of war, that oil so frequently experiences a fluctuation in its price, which, however favorable it may be to certain individuals who can command large capitals, to whom this limited policy confines the adventure, is discouraging to those who look only for a fair and reasonable, but certain, profit on their industry. If beyond the demands of the market, there was always a redundancy of oil on hand, the price would find its level, and the profits of the adventure be reduced more to a certainty; and, in such case, there is no reason for supposing to the contrary, that England might not supply a considerable part of the continent of Europe with whale oil. The advantage of extending the markets would be an increase of native fishermen without resorting to foreign aid.

For many years our fisheries of Greenland were carried on by means of masters, harpooners, and other officers from Holland or the Hans Towns; even for near a century after, the bounties allowed by Government held out a sufficient

degree of encouragement to bring up our own seamen to the trade, who are now in skill inferior to none who frequent the Northern Seas. In like manner the Americans, settled at Nantucket, almost exclusively carried on the South Sea Fishery, before the American war; and after the peace, which ceded Nantucket to the United States, they continued to supply our southern adventurers, as the Dutch had done the Northern Fishery, with masters, harpooners, and other officers.

In one out-port of this kingdom, the obvious policy of establishing a nursery of southern fishermen has been successfully attempted. Seven families wishing to remain British subjects, and to derive the benefit of the English markets, had migrated to Nova Scotia, where they were discouraged from extending their colony, and were invited by the Right Honorable Charles Greville to settle at Milford in Milford Haven. They fitted out their ship and had a successful voyage, and the respectable family of Starbucks have extended the concern to four ships.

Parliament wisely continued the limited invitation of an individual to foreign fishermen to settle at Milford, and the accession of Mr. Rotch has increased the Milford Fishery to eight ships. And the very extensive connexion of that gentleman in America is likely to make the port of Milford important to the mutual benefit of commerce between Great Britain and America, for which its situation is so eminently suited. The Southern Whale Fishery, from this place, has not a less capital afloat at this time than 80,000*l.* nor has any whaling

ship from the port of Milford the least concern whatsoever with any adventure except the fishing for whales.

It is singular enough that one of the noblest ports in England, whether it be considered in point of situation, commanding, at all times, a free and speedy communication with Ireland and the Western Ocean, and favorable for distribution of merchandize, or regarded as to the conveniencies it possesses as a port and harbour, should have been so wholly neglected by the British legislature, that when the families above mentioned first settled there, the place did not afford them a single house for their reception. At this moment, by the removal of artificial obstructions and the unremitting attention of Mr. Greville, there is a town, with suitable protections of batteries, and two volunteer companies; a dock-yard in which three King's ships are now building, a quay, and establishments of the different tradesmen and artificers, which a sea-port necessarily requires. Having proceeded thus far, there can be little doubt that, in the course of half a century, it may class among the first of the out-ports, and rise by means of the Southern Fishery, as Liverpool has done by the African Slave trade.

I mention this circumstance as a striking instance to shew the importance of the South Sea Fishery, and as a proof that, contrary to the generally received opinion, this fishery may be carried on by skill and management, without the adventitious aid of trading, so as fully to answer the purpose of those who are properly qualified to embark in the undertaking. For where men, by industry in their profession, rise from small

'beginnings into affluence, such profession may be followed with a greater certainty of success than many others which appear to hold out more seducing prospects. The American fishermen never set out with a capital, but invariably work themselves into one; and the South Sea Fishery from England may succeed on the same principle, as the above example clearly shews, under every disadvantage, when properly conducted.

It is difficult to point out the grounds of justice or policy in giving tonnage bounties to the Greenland Fishery, and only premiums to successful adventurers in the Southern Fishery. A voyage to Greenland is four months, the outfit of which is covered by the tonnage bounty, and, if wholly unsuccessful, the same ship can make a second voyage the same year to some of the ports of the Baltic. A voyage to the South Sea is from twelve to eighteen months, and must depend solely on the success in fishing. A Greenland ship sets out on a small capital, and builds on a quick return; but a South Sea whaler must expend a very considerable capital in making his outfit, for which he can reckon on no returns for at least eighteen months. Hence the usual practice of sending them out in the double capacity of fishers and contraband traders, in order that the losses they may sustain by ill success in fishing may be made good by smuggling.

If by extending the fishery we should be enabled to supply the continent of Europe, two objects should never be out of the view of the Legislature—the exemption from duty of all



the produce of the fisheries, and particularly spermaceti, which, if manufactured into candles, and subject only to the same duty as tallow candles, would produce much more to the revenue than when taxed as it now is, as wax—and the extension of the premium system, which, by doubling its present amount, would probably be adequate encouragement to supply the home market with spermaceti and black whale oil. I have heard it asserted that the bonding of foreign oil in Great Britain would throw the whole agency of American fishery on England with greater advantage to both countries than by any other system.

But when we consider that the home market is necessarily secured to British subjects by high duties on foreign oil, we should also consider that every means to lessen the charges of outfit should strengthen our adventure in this lucrative branch of trade. Among others that would seem to have this tendency are the facilities that might be afforded to the Southern Fishery by the happy position of the Cape of Good Hope. If at this station was established a kind of central depôt for the Southern Whale Fishery, it might, in time, be the means of throwing into our hands exclusively the supplying of Europe with spermaceti oil. To the protection of the fisheries on the east and west coasts of Southern Africa, the Cape is fully competent, and the fisheries on these coasts would be equally undisturbed in war as in peace. From hence they would, at all times, have an opportunity of acquiring a supply of refreshments for their crews, and of laying in a stock of salt provisions at one-fourth part of the expence of carrying them out from England.

In the wide range which, of late years, they have been accustomed to take, from the east, round Cape Horn, to the west coast of America, partly for the sake of carrying on a contraband trade with the Spanish colonies, and partly for fishing, they are destitute, in time of war, of all protection. Hitherto they have suffered little inconvenience from this circumstance, because the Cape of Good Hope gave us the complete and undisturbed possession of the Southern Ocean; but is this the case in the present war, when the enemy is in possession of the bays and harbours of the Cape? Whilst, from Europe to the Indian Ocean, if we except the Portuguese islands and Rio de Janeiro, whose admission to us is extremely precarious, we have not a creek that will afford us a butt of water, a biscuit, or a bullock?

It is by no means necessary to resort to the coasts of South America to succeed in the Southern Whale Fishery. The whales on the east and west coasts of Africa are of the same kind, of as large a size, and as easily taken, as those on the shores of the opposite continent. The black whales, indeed, are caught with much greater ease, as they resort in innumerable quantities into all the bays on the coasts of South Africa, where there is no risk in encountering them, and less expence as well as more certainty in taking them, than in the open ocean. The spermaceti whale, whose oil is more valuable, and of which one half of the cargo at least should be composed, in order to meet the expences of a long voyage, is equally abundant on the coasts of Southern Africa as on those of America. No objection can therefore lie on the ground of taking the fish. Besides it is well known that whales, after

being long disturbed on one station, entirely abandon it and seek for repose on a different coast. Our Southern whale fishers may probably therefore, in the course of a few years, be compelled to change their fishing ground from the coasts of South America to those of South Africa.

If policy requires the encouragement of all our fisheries by bounties, and that with a view of increasing the nursery of seamen to Great Britain and Ireland; it may, perhaps, be expedient to extend that encouragement to the inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope, a measure which could not fail to bring together the South Sea fishers to its ports to complete their cargoes, giving, by their means, an increased energy and activity to the trade and industry of the settlement.

The situation, the security, and the conveniencies of the *Knysna*, are admirably adapted for carrying into execution a fishery on such a plan. Every material either is, or might be, produced upon the spot for equipping their ships. The land is here the very best that the colony affords, and it so happens, that the six months in which it might be dangerous to fish on this coast, are the suitable season for cultivating the land. Such small craft might also find their advantage in running down to the islands in the South Seas and picking up a cargo of seals, and thus anticipate the Americans, who, by means of their fishery and ginseng, and the produce of their lumber cargoes, have worked themselves, as we have already had occasion to notice, into a valuable portion of the China trade. Whereas if oil taken on the coast by the small

craft of the inhabitants of the Cape, which might also include oil taken by foreign fishermen and exchanged by them for India or China goods, were admitted to entry in British bottoms into Great Britain at a low colonial duty, the foreign fishermen, who never can be excluded from fishing on the coasts of Africa, might find a market for their oil there. And the Americans would, probably, under such regulations, find it their advantage to supply themselves with Indian produce at the Cape, and extend their fishery only when they could not obtain a vent for their native produce of skins, drugs, and lumber. The situation of the Cape, properly stocked, might thus be an important depôt for British trade with America, and, perhaps, supersede expensive voyages to China in their small ships. This, however, is mere matter of opinion and not of fact. That the plan they now pursue does answer their expectations, may be inferred from the number of their ships, progressively increasing, which navigate the Indian Seas.

Some few of their ships resort to the bays within the limits of the Cape colony to take the black whale; but as those bays are accessible only at certain seasons of the year, it would be no difficult matter, if an exclusive fishery could be deemed politic, with a single frigate, to clear the coast of all fishers except our own. They sometimes, also, run into Saint Helena Bay to the northward, or into Algoa Bay to the eastward, to complete their cargoes, a privilege that policy would require to be allowed only with moderation even to our own ships; for, as I have just observed, constant fishing in any one place never fails to chase the fish entirely away.

There can be little doubt, therefore, that the Cape of Good Hope might be rendered essentially useful to the Southern Whale Fishery, so important to the commerce and navigation of Great Britain ; but that during the war, the same place in the possession of an enemy may be the means of obstructing this valuable branch of trade even on the opposite coast, and must, at all events, render it forced and precarious.

Having thus endeavoured to state the different points of view in which the Cape of Good Hope may be considered of importance to the British nation, from materials faithfully collected, and of unquestionable authenticity, the result of the whole will, I think, bear me out in this conclusion :— That as a naval and military station, connected with the protection and the defence of our trade and possessions in India, the advantages of the Cape are invaluable ; that the policy, if practicable, of making it the seat of a free and unrestrained commerce is doubtful, even in the hands of England ; that it holds out considerable facilities for the encouragement and extension of the Southern Whale Fishery ; but that, as a mere territorial possession, it is not, in its present state, and probably never could become by any regulations, a colony worthy of the consideration either of Great Britain or any other power.

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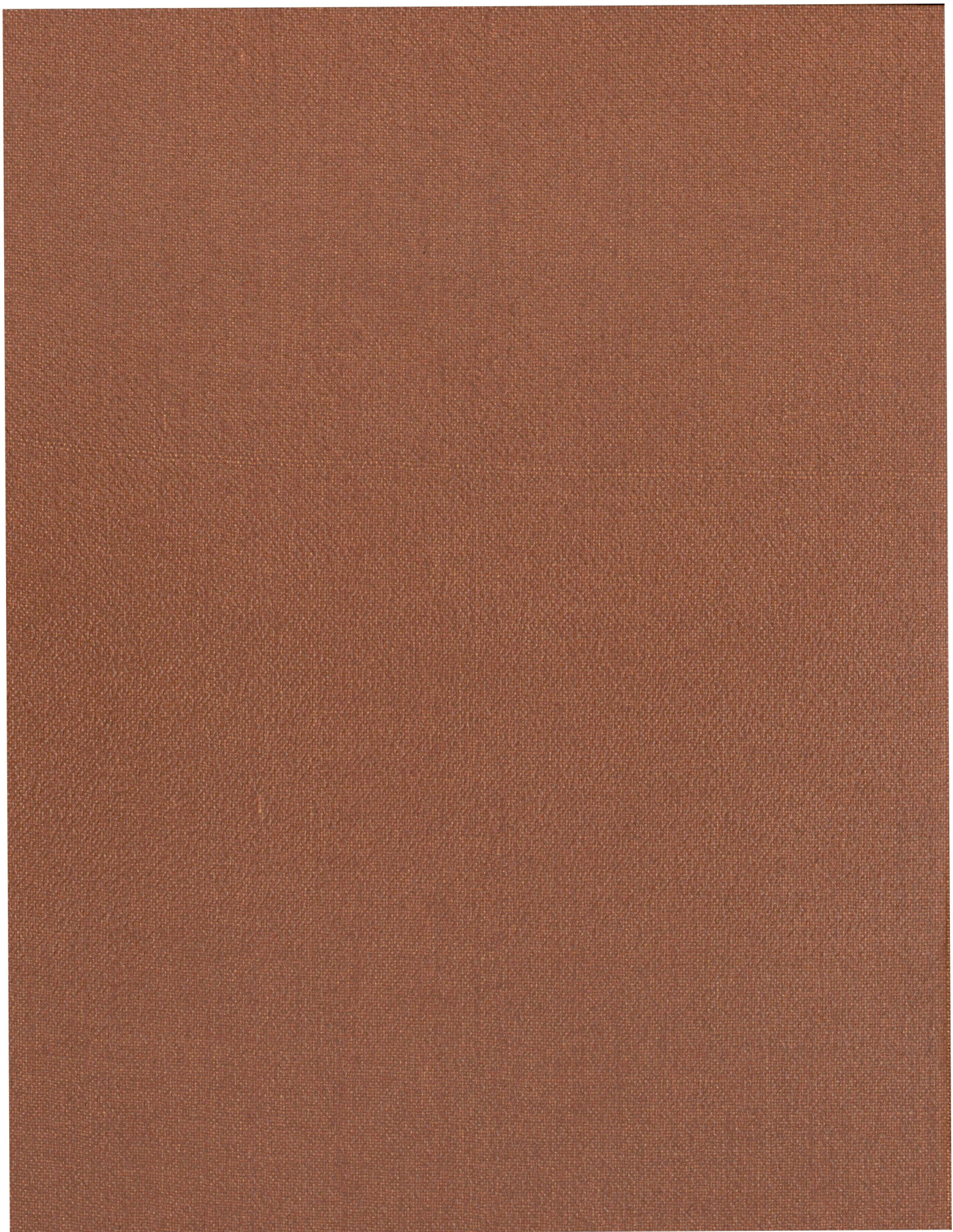
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TRAVELS  
INTO THE  
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