#### 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 3s. to 3s. 6d. 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 broadtailed 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 sca-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 eighteenpence 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 Customhouse 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 Karroo, 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 Reynet 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. 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. 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 371. 10s. 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.

#### ALOES.

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 succotrina, 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 181. to 201., the latter only from 81. to 101. 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 1801	71,843 52,181	5217 0 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 chace. The small quantity of ivory that is brought to the Cape market is collected chiefly by two or three families of bastaard 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:

0.00					
			Value.		
In 1799	-	R.D.	108,160	0	
1800	-		85,049	2	
1801	-		<b>50,5</b> 19	6.	
1802			57,196	0	
In four year	's	R.D.	300,925	O	
		or	£.60,185	0	Currency.

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 abovementioned 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.

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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 Hamburgh 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 siee.		prize goods, 5 per		Prize flaves and, others impost- ed by British mer- chants.	Total pro- duce im- ported in British bottoms.	European and Ame- rican goods on foreign bottoms, 10 per cent. duty.	foreign bottoms,	Total pro- duce im- ported in foreign bottoms.
1799 1800 1801 1802	474,706 c 587,023 4	104,124 0 212,446 0 290,117 0	20,623 5 17,797 0 568,425 0	100,487 c 45,335 0 129,642 6	245,600 184,000 271,200	Rd. fk. 1,144,844 3 934,284 0 1,845,408 2 1,410,478 0	118,244 0 51,258 0 136,394 5	64,219 6 109,490 0 3,337 2	182,463 6 160,748 0 139,731 7
In 4 years	a,268,105 6			406,185 4		5,336,014 5 535 7 Sk.	448,583 3	192,939 7	641,521 2
				O	r £1,195	,507 3 6 Cu	arrency.	ž	

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

of imports over the produce exported, especially when it is known that most of the European articles were sold at an advance of from 50 to 100 per cent. on the invoice prices, which, indeed, could not well be otherwise, considering the high premium on bills, and the small quantity of colonial produce to be had for remittances. The following rough statement will serve to explain this matter:

The army, independent of the clothing and stores, &c. sent from home, and money remitted by the officers, could not expend less, in European and Indian goods, and in colonial produce, than 180,000 l. per annum, which in four years is - £.720,000 navy expenditure might, perhaps, amount to half that sum 360,000 The re-exportation of India prize goods, and of European goods to the West India islands, the coast of Brazil, and Mozambique, in four years, about 170,000 0 Surplus colonial produce exported as above 60,185 0 Making in the whole £. 1,310,185 0 Value of the imports as above 1,195,507 3 6 Balance in favour of the colony and the merchants residing there £. 114,677 16

Besides this balance, which may be considered as the joint profit of the colonists and English merchants on that part of

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 merchapt 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 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 hold 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 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 t. 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 dockyard 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 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 Portugueze 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. 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 This, however, is mere matter of opinion and small ships. 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 the whole will. I think, bear me out in this conclusion That as a naval and military station, connected with the erotection 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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