

COLONIAL.

Statistics of the Trade, Industry and Resources of Canada, and the other plantations in British America. By Henry Bliss, Esquire.

[Continued from our last page.]

THE FOREIGN TRADE.

Since the year 1825, the North American colonial ports have been thrown open to all nations. Those provinces are now treated commercially as so many counties in the United Kingdom. There is no part of the world with which they are prohibited from trading as freely as the merchants of Glasgow or Liverpool. No advantage could be more specious in theory, more popular, more vaunted, as well by those who conferred as those who received the boon. But like many other objects of common esteem or plausible description, it will not stand the test of statistics; upon such examination it shrieks to that class of commercial benefits, which are much more easily adorned with seducing epithets and pompous abstractions, than verified by experiment and official returns. It is now about twenty years since the free ports of the Northern Colonies have been partially opened, and during the last six years their intercourse with all nations has been entirely emancipated by act of Parliament; yet their trade with foreign countries is of all the most unimportant, the least improving, and the least beneficial. The reason is obvious: Their best markets are found within the British dominions. There the productions of colonial industry meet protection; in foreign countries, with the exception of Portugal, they find none. Thus almost the whole colonial trade is essentially a home trade.

COMPARISON OF COLONIAL WITH FOREIGN TRADE.

The great increase of the United States of America, and the importance of their trade to Great Britain, have long been themes of much vaunting, not only among the writers of that country, but with most public men in this, and particularly with a certain sect or faction, who seem, by a singular transposition of cause and effect, to attribute whatever commercial prosperity exists in that republic to its political institutions, and whatever political dissension to commercial laws. So little information, and so much credulity, prevail on this subject, that the question is not unfrequently asked, how is it that the Canadas have not made the same progress in trade and improvements as the American States? There are many to dispute about the cause; few think of doubting or ascertaining the fact. Let an attempt be made here. There can be nothing vain-glorious, it is hoped, in such an inquiry, nor any thing invidious even to the most sensitive minds, as the only object is to investigate the truth, and demonstrate, both to the colonies and to the mother country, how little reason either has to repent or pardon that system, which has hitherto formed the charter of their connexion and prosperity and independence. The Americans are a successful, rich, and fortunate people, but there is nothing in their success, riches, or fortune, to be envied by a British subject, unless it be the good opinion they hold of themselves, and the impression it makes upon others. It can be shown that, as far as returns of exports and tonnage avail, the colonies in Canada have very far surpassed the United States in the increase of maritime commerce and navigation.

In this table one of the most material circumstances has been as yet omitted; the difference and proportion of the population, which would in every instance augment the advantage of the colonies by tenfold; for though the increase of population also has been greater in Canada than in the United States, the latter are still ten to one in point of numbers, and scarce less in point of capital. Yet during a period of five-and-twenty years, not only have the whole exports and the tonnage employed in the commerce of these colonies increased far more than those of the Americans, but at the present moment the former export more in quantity and value from their forests and nearly twice as much from their fisheries. The value of cotton, for which the climate of Canada is unfit, turns the exports of agricultural produce much in favour of the United States. But in their intercourse with the United Kingdom the colonial trade has nearly trebled in amount by an addition of 1,668,901; while the exports of British produce and manufactures to the United States is even less than it was in 1806, and exceeds by only some 350,000. The average of three years, 1805, 6, and 7. There is, however, one description of exports in which both the previous stock in 1806, and the increase made since, are entirely with the United States manufacturers. The colonists have none. The Americans have added to theirs threefold. The industry and trade, in which they have made the greatest advancement, happens to be precisely where they compete most with the United Kingdom. And this is the people whose intercourse we are conjoined to cultivate at the sacrifice of the colonies, and whose progress is hailed as the best resource and encouragement to our own productions and trade. Honor to the Americans for their enterprise, industry, thrift, and invention; theirs is a good work and a great, to reclaim a continent from waste, and bring it into cultivation the fertile regions of the earth; but never to be forgotten, that the fairest portion of that hemisphere is British still; and that we may derive from it far more advantages than from the American territories; and be it known, moreover, that more advantages from it are even now already derived.

For, since with reference to the present subject, the condition of the West Indian Colonies is similar to that of the Canadian, and the best interests of both are equally endangered by the Anti-Colonial theory, let the latest accounts of their whole trade and navigation be stated and added to the above, and the aggregate will show the whole value of all these plantations in that quarter to the maritime wealth and empire of Great Britain.

Here then are the colonies containing about two millions of inhabitants, who export, of the production of their lands and waters, nearly as much as the twelve million Americans do from theirs. And the intercourse between these colonies and the United Kingdom, on the aggregate of exports and imports, is, in amount and value in this country, more than equal, and if the whole British empire be one community, is to that community more than double, the amount and value of all commerce with the United States, and by the same rule is nothing less in value, than the whole British trade to that country, and to Russia, to Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and France combined. Add to this a comparison of British navigation em-

ployed in these respective trades, compute the wealth acquired by these freights, and the maritime power by the seamen who can earn them and then may the depth of the riches of the wisdom of the Colonial System be understood.

It may perhaps be asked here, how is it that the Americans, seeing their foreign commerce has so little increased, are still making such great and rapid advances in wealth and improvement? The answer to this inquiry bears directly upon the present subject. It is the home trade that has of late years built up the American commonwealth, as it is the coasting trade which is become the great support of the whole nor the main part of the solution. But, if names and terms be a little neglected, or defined according to what is alone essential in the present inquiry, it will be discovered, that the Americans, within the last half century, have founded no less than eleven great colonies, called by them states or territories, now containing several millions of inhabitants. The very situation of those plantations has in fact imposed upon them the rigid mode of the old colonial system. For most of them, as the Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, the North-west Territory, the Michigan, and the Arkansas, have little or no communication with any foreign country, except through what may be termed in this respect, the Parent States on the Atlantic. And this, the natural and necessary application of colonial policy, has been strongly re-inforced by the positive laws of that confederacy, which has mutually agreed to give to each other's labours further preference by the duties of heavy amount upon foreign productions. Their positive tariff has perhaps been unnecessary, and may be repealed, but the natural protection of situation and circumstances will for ever perpetuate among them this mode of the colonial system. In that country also has this policy already been crowned, and will probably be ever attended with complete success. But the great advantage of the Americans resulting from the more decided preference given to their home trade and industry by the very position of their plantations, is one which need not be envied by Great Britain. For to her its absence has been more than compensated by another circumstance in the position of her colonies, which has been of vast importance to her, and entirely wanting to the Americans. Their new states and territories have directly, at least, added nothing to their maritime power, but the British colonies have added far more to the naval means and resources of the empire, than even to its population and wealth. All the advantages either of nature or society, are never lavished upon any one condition. If new plantations are near and adjacent to the parent country, little or no duties are required to secure the mutual preference and exchange of labour, and little or no benefit is derived to shipping, and an ocean intervenes the duties for mutual protection must be more, but their trade will secure to the mother country the supremacy of the seas.

THE COLONIAL SYSTEM.

Such is the colonial system; such its results; such the difference between regulating the trade of far countries by acts of parliament, and submitting to the regulations prescribed by the interest or hostility of foreign powers. This it is, to found plantations and protect their commerce; to extend the scene, and multiply the objects of industry beyond what one country or one climate can afford; to make supplies of all the earth has produced or man contrived, constant and secure, beyond the reach of aliens or foes; and to accumulate the conveniences of life within one community, and exchange and diffuse them to all its members, beyond the ability of any people to acquire, in any country at any age. For how is it, that an island, no way eminently favoured in soil or climate, nor placed in the immediate and natural channel of intercourse, but situated above the fiftieth degree of northern latitude, surrounded by powerful nations differing in religion, language, manners, and laws, and occupying positions full of danger, with repeated threats, and occasional attempts to use them for subjugation; how is it that such a country has not only been made the metropolis of many people, the great mart and emporium to which the productions of every land and climate are sent and exchanged, and from which they can never be excluded, but through which only they may be, they have upon a time once been, permitted to reach the shores of neighbouring powers? How is it that Great Britain has made herself the head and ruler of a vast confederacy of kingdoms, and islands, and provinces, spread through every quarter of the earth, and has made her empire, like the sea on which it rests, to touch every country, and embrace and contain the whole earth? How is it, since such things have not been eternal, nor do they spring out of the ground, how have they been accomplished? how has this enormous dominion been composed? It derived its first origin from the labours of the Long Parliament, and was the only one of its works which survived its existence, and in a measure compensated its crimes; and, to use the language of that period, it likened the kingdom of England to a grain of mustard seed, then sown, as it were, and the smallest of all germs; but while men slept, it grew night and day, and has become so large as to shadow the earth, and give shelter to its tribes. During two centuries that policy has been in operation, and within that period has created a larger and richer empire, than Rome acquired in seven; and as the present age would judge the opinion of any Roman senator, had Rome produced, or history preserved the conceit, that the greatness of his country was not in consequence of its military policy, but in spite of it; so probably will posterity esteem the British statesman, who affirms, that the wealth and power and greatness of this empire are in spite, and in consequence, of the colonial system.

Never, in any instance, has the experiment of either that or any other policy been crowned with such large, rapid, and complete success. Who is he, the minister, who dares challenge for himself the responsibility of either dissolving that empire, or destroying the character of its intercourse and prosperity, mutual preference and protection in industry and trade? It is not so difficult to be understood by any who will consult maps and official returns, and can combine the sciences of geography and statistics, that upon the possession of the Canadian and the West Indian provinces, the balance of naval power in the world depends. The very palladium of our maritime ascendancy may be said to be kept for Great Britain, where it was lost to France, in the citadel of Quebec. Surrender, or suffer it to be purloined, take from this country the navigation employed by the exports of the Canadas and the West Indies, or even either of them, and transfer it to the United States, and with it you have, in the latter case endangered, and in the former transferred the supremacy of the seas.

The Colonial System is so eminently prescribed by nature and society, that the history

of the Commerce, industry, and propagation of the human race, has in all ages and countries exhibited but some modification of that economy, which it was reserved for the glory of England so to develop and improve, as in a comparatively short time to have become the mother of many people, and the arbiter of all, and to have filled the vacant regions of the earth with cultivation and happiness, and received back into her own bosom the abundant harvest of their labours and increase. And this system is one, which, though indeed she may renounce, she never can destroy. It is immortal, and irresistible. She has for some time placed herself at its head, and administered its measures, and reaped its exceeding great rewards. Let her beware how she seeks to overthrow it, lest happily she be found wrestling with a mightier force, and be worsted in the contest. A system so rooted in the profound and common principles of nature and society, is too strong to be overcome by the sophistry of dogmatists, though enacted in the statutes of parliament. The inhabitants of the United Kingdom refuse to confine themselves to the area prescribed by the shores of these islands. Who will build up that wall which shall prevent their seeking the waste and fertile tracts of the New World, and covering them with industry and population? The first act and principle of the colonial system is emigration. You have only to choose whether the colonies thus founded, or peopled shall be parcel of their own dominions, or augment the power and wealth of your rivals.

In this choice there can be little doubt, or chance of mistake; the danger is, lest having chosen in favour of yourselves, and your own empire, you really legislate in favour of alien and rival powers. The second act and principle of the colonial system is commercial protection. It is not enough to tell your emigrants that they carry with them the same rights of liberty and property as enjoyed at home; but their trade and industry, also, must be treated and preferred, as if they were only separated from you by the Petland Frith, or the Irish Sea. Indeed, in the present state of navigation, and of commercial and social relations, the distance of Canada is now not greater than Scotland's was formerly, nor is the connexion less important. Otherwise, finding it impossible to trade and exchange labour with you, the colonies must either be driven to form first commercial and, finally, political confederacies with other powers, or to exclude your industry as you exclude theirs, and endeavour to produce themselves those things which they at present procure from you. Let ministers then elevate and enlarge their views to the great circumstances in which they are placed. Let them endeavour to comprehend the whole dominions of Great Britain as one society, and the colonies for its integral parts, as much as if they adjoined Valentia or the Land's-End, and then enact laws of trade. Let but the imperial government be like the dominions, and equal to the means they have undertaken to administer; let them have the fortitude, the prudence, and the justice, to say to the economists, dispute ye, and to the fanatics, exhort ye; but for neither the cant of phyllosophy, nor the cant of religion, will we betray the grand colonial confederacy of islands and provinces beyond seas, which, with these kingdoms, compose such an empire as the world never saw, such as, by your principles, could never have been founded, and such as your counsels would soon dissolve and destroy.

The Colonial System cannot yet perish. If it be not for us it will be turned against us. Its advantages are too great and obvious to be lost, and if renounced by this country, can not fail to be seized and secured by some other. Already have the United States adopted the same policy under a different name, and with the same success; nor is there any nation in Europe which does not prefer the example of such experiments; to the unsuccessful and unattested precepts of the Anti-Colonial party. It has been written by one high in the confidence of that party, that "the great value in colonies has been considered as not admitting of dispute, and no pains have been taken to trace by facts in what way they are valuable. Had such an examination been properly gone into, it would have been shown that the possession of colonies affords no advantages which could not be obtained by commercial intercourse with independent states." So quietly do persons omit the difference between home trade and foreign, subjects and aliens, friends and enemies. What advantages could be obtained also is a safe qualification to prolong disputes, but if what advantages have been and are obtained be any thing, that point admits of immediate test and proof; by the tables already adduced. It can not, in order to solve this controversy, be necessary to discover our colonies; it may be sufficiently conjectured what our trade and navigation would then become with them, by considering what they now are with other foreign dominions, and computing the proportions of territory and population, and the chances of hostility, and the effects of rivalry.

Strip Great Britain of her colonies, her foreign trade barely exceeds that of the United States. Strip Great Britain of her colonies and her whole tonnage in foreign trade barely exceeds the American tonnage in the foreign trade of the United States. Strip Great Britain of her colonies, and her whole foreign trade is less than the foreign trade of France by one fourth. Strip Great Britain of her colonies, and her whole foreign trade but a little exceeds the whole (French and Foreign) departed outwards from France. But how stands the comparison with regard to exports? France competes with Great Britain in all other markets, but has scarcely any trade to British colonies. Take these from Great Britain, and her whole exports of British origin to foreign countries are exceeded by the exports of France.

Not only, therefore, does the maritime supremacy of the United Kingdom depend upon the Colonial System, but her commercial wealth and greatness neither had any other origin of old, nor has now any better support. It is by the Colonies she is great, by the Colonies rich; and without them she ceases to be either the first maritime or the first commercial nation, and becomes what France has long threatened to make her, and what is the inevitable consequence of that natural state of things so much desired by some, a power of the second order in Europe. And what is that? To be Spain without the Indies; like her, to rear out the *plus ultra* from her escutcheon or bear it as a testimony of feebleness and loss; or to be treated like Denmark or Switzerland in war, or buffeted like Holland in peace.

It is painful, but perhaps it is time to contemplate events, which, as seems to some, are so near their accomplishment, that the present generation will not have passed away before these things shall be all fulfilled. Such causes they tell us are in progress. The seeds of dissolution, the elements of dissolution, have long been sown to the wind; and the reaping will be attended with such a tempest, as shall scatter through the world the fragments of the might-

ty, the rich and powerful Empire of Great Britain, dissolve the United Kingdom into three republics, England to an anarchy, and each heptarchy to an anarchy, till five persons shall be divided into one house, three against two, and two against three. God forbid such a men! God avert their prognostics! But whenever that empire, like all human combinations, shall have reached its dissolution and term, there are two things which will remain to fill the minds of after-ages with marvel and praise: two public documents will alone suffice to convey an adequate, and truly a sublime, idea of the riches and the power of that confederacy, viz. the catalogue of its dominions and of their trade and navigation with the metropolitan kingdom; and the orders of its sovereign in council, which, in 1807, shut up the sea. The one will show how that power was acquired which swept the fleets of all nations from the face of the waters; the other, how that victory was used. For as nothing has transmitted a more exalted opinion of the naval power of ancient Greece, than the treaty which prohibited the great king from passing certain Capes or coming within sight of the sea, so grand a conception of the power and policy so grand a mandate, which forbade the world to trade with her enemies except through her own ports, and that muster-roll of auxiliary colonies, whose industry and commerce enabled her to enforce the decree. In our case too, as in case of Athens, the same inquiry cannot fail to be made by future times, and perhaps the same answer given.

"Ast, cedo, quomodo rempublicam tantam perdidit tam cito?"

"Preveniebant Oratores, novi, stulti, adolescentuli."

It cannot be, that a reformed parliament will be led into such measures, and by such men, as to occasion that interrogatory, or justify that answer. It cannot be, that inability to administer a great and powerful empire is to be concealed, by making it as small as the capacities, or as distracted as the counsels, of any administration. The best result to commercial questions expected from Reform was, that the introduction of men of business from the maritime and manufacturing towns, would make scholastic theories of economy, as yet no less misconceived than misapplied, give place at last to inquiry, and to facts, and experience, and truth; that no longer the interests of consumers but the interests of producers, would be the object and criterion of our policy; that the relative terms of cheap and dear, would be referred, not to prices paid by purchasers only, but to the cost sustained by the whole community; that all the bankruptcy, the beggary and misery concealed under what is termed the transfer of Capital, and hitherto estimated at nothing, would be exposed, and valued, and brought into account; that it would no longer be thought the same thing whether we exchanged goods for articles produced in foreign communities, or for the same articles produced in our own; and that economy and industry would be recalled to their first principle, never to hire others to do for us what we must be able if we do not for ourselves; and, finally, that this subject would be forever separated from politics or party, and considered and treated as paramount to all factions and all questions.

Such representatives have now succeeded to power and in numbers sufficient, it is hoped, to secure such results, and to inculcate some impression of their own character upon the conduct of public affairs. May they prove able to preserve and administer the great, and rich, and fortunate empire they are called to govern, with justice, and with talent, and with all success!

LOWER CANADA.

TO CAPT. BACK AND DR. KING.

Thou gallant heart, that now with ardour beats To rescue from a lingering death, a friend Who, once the pride of England's pennoned fleets, Now mourns mid Arctic snows, a hopeless end To fame!—dreams, that urged him to the task Of reaping glory in those regions drear, Where hidden death disdains to wear a mask, But high unto the skies, his horrid front doth rear; Accept the tribute which a Briton pays, Though all unworthy of thee, perchance, be his lays.

Oh! glory shall wait on thee, on thy path, Through trackless forests, and o'er savage lands, Mid ice and strife elemental wrath Which more than mortal's strength, mayhap, demands, In regions, where life's principle doth fail, And night, almost perennial, reigns in gloom; In those dread scenes, thy spirit must not quail, Or thou, alas! shall also find a tomb, But no, heroic Back, death thou hast oft defied, And now must scorn his terrors, and his scowl deride.

And thou, companion of his daring course, Believe, that when benedicting prayers arise From Briton's hearts, unto the awful source Of Power Omnipotent, beyond the skies, That thou shalt be remembered:—not forgot Thy equal daring, tho' unequal fame, And oh! may Heaven shower blessings on thy lot, Until undying glory illuminate thy name—Attempt more grand ne'er lit up poet's dreams, The flame of immortality around it gleams.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Where the Pleiads coldly shine, O'er the wastes of ice and snow; By the dreary Coppermine, To the Arctic deep they go.

They have changed fair Britain's lands, And the dear domestic home; For the wilds where savage bands, In their lawless freedom roam.

For the hall of festive mirth, Where the young and fair are met; Now they share the Indian's hearth, And his friendly calumet.

In some lodge, all lone remote, Where they met no kindred eye; Will sweet fancy's vision float, To another land and sky.

Humane, courageous, kind, In their generous purpose brave; They peril all to find, Their companions—or a grave.

That last of gallant crews, Who for science sought the main; From which like lost Perouse, They may ne'er return again.

Speed well, ye valiant band, Is echoed from each heart; See where beauty's daughters stand, To bless you ere you part.

They breathe a prayer and sigh, That the beam of hope may play, Like a beacon from on high, To cheer you on your way.

Their sunny smiles they treasure, Till you homeward bend your track; Then yield them all with pleasure, As they hail thee "WELCOME BACK!"

ARTIC EXPEDITION UNDER CAPT. BACK.

In that bright galaxy which shines resplendent with the manifold and crowded glories of our country—there is one constellation which excelleth in glory every other. While with pride and admiration we point to those of her benefactors who have contributed to the greatness of her renown by their achievements, either on the embattled plain, or the stormy sea, in the various departments of her service, civil, naval or military, and in this view may challenge a comparison with any nation, ancient or modern—her triumphs in the cause of virtue and humanity form the crown of our national glory. In this respect she rises far above all Greek, all Roman fame—she stands alone and unapproachable. "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; the voice of lamentation, and mourning, and woe, is blended with the shouts of victory and triumph." But pure, peaceful and unsullied are the glories of those who have dared, suffered or died to redress the wrongs to mitigate the woes, or to promote the virtue or happiness of man. The contemplation of such men, of such deeds, inspires the soul with more than admiration. We are impressed with feelings of veneration, that swell the soul to a sense of moral sublimity, feelings that have indeed "lost of earth in them than heaven." For the homage which the heart of man pays to real virtue is nearly akin to the worship and adoration of the Divinity himself.

The humane and glorious enterprise, whose gallant and generous leader and his devoted band we have now the honour of entertaining in our city, is not surpassed, so far as I know, in all the attributes of moral glory and of true heroism, by any similar enterprise of any age or country. Undertaken with the benevolent design of rescuing from famine and death, the brave adventurers who, animated by a kindred spirit, have been engaged in one of those modern Argonautic expeditions, which vie in boldness and high heroic daring with that renowned one of old, the boast of early Greece, while in the grandeur of the design they far surpass it—to rescue them. I say, if they survive imprisoned "in the thrilling regions of thick ribbed ice," or wandering amid the inhospitable wastes of Hyperborean snows in worse than Siberian exile; or if they have perished gloriously in this perilous adventure, to explore the certainty of their fate and afford thereby a melancholy satisfaction to their sorrowing country—to a sympathising world. This expedition is undertaken in the spirit of pure philanthropy. Unconnected with any selfish views of commercial interest or political ambition, it is directed to the simple object of the preservation of human life, and not only so, but what is my view greatly enhances our admiration, proceeds upon the calculation of the bare possibility, or at least the remote and doubtful chance, that the interesting objects of their search are yet in the land of the living, waiting with wistful expectation, and with that hope deferred which maketh the longing heart sick, until their country stretch forth her parental arm to redeem her sons from the hazards which they have incurred on her behalf. This is indeed a pure offering to the God of Love on the altar of humanity. This union of the soul of benevolence and daring fulfils to our imagination and to our feelings, the sublime idea of a perfect and divine heroism. The wisest and mightiest nation of antiquity conferred upon him who saved the life of even one of her humblest citizens, a crown which, though it was composed of materials not more rare or costly than the leaves of the oak tree, was esteemed the most distinguished of all her honors, superior to the crown of bay or laurel that reathed the brow of valor or genius. It was the trophy of humanity, and the bage of her victory and triumph, and inasmuch as it is better to save human life than to destroy it, this honor was wisely preferred to all other trophies. I could wish that Britain had some such civic crown, some simple select symbol, to present to those who embark on such beneficent enterprises as the present, in token of her gratitude and honour for those whose services are worthy of such peculiar and pre-eminent distinction. Other heroes may raise or depress nations and empires, and by their counsels or actions, may alter or modify the fate of ages and generations. But their movements, the slow but sure hand of time will will at last consume, and "leave not a wreck behind." Whereas, he whose glory is won in the sacred cause of humanity, is hailed as the friend of man—everywhere and at all times, all ages and generations shall rise up and call him blessed. He bequeaths a name to the universal world: with the pure renown of which all must sympathise—which will be dear to all who bear a human heart—in his example he bequeaths a legacy inestimably precious, exalting the dignity of human nature, and our love and reverence for our species, and thereby drawing closer the ties of brotherhood between man and man. I conceive, Sir, that our city is highly honored (and I do most unfeignedly rejoice that the honor is duly appreciated by our citizen,) by the presence of those heroes of humanity and philanthropy, who are about to push their adventurous journey over "many a frozen Alp," into regions that seem forbidden to the foot of man—every inch of ground on which they may tread will become consecrated—no time will el-