

Extracts from a pamphlet, prepared by J. L. BARTON, Esq., of Buffalo, (New York), entitled a BRIEF SKETCH OF THE COMMERCE OF THE LAKES.

The West!—a name given only a few years since to a remote, boundless and unsettled wilderness, containing a vast number of wild Indians and savage animals—visited only by the Indian trader, or some romantic spirit pleased with the novelty of an adventure into unknown regions—a country which it appeared centuries would pass away before settlement and civilization would occupy it—was suddenly and by the aid of the powerful aid of steam, and the indomitable enterprise, industry and perseverance of a free people, with the blessings of free institutions, secured to all the fruits of their own labor, been reclaimed from the wilderness. All physical difficulties have been overcome, this vast region of the place where once stood the wigwag of the savage, is now found the school-house, the mechanic shop, the temples of religion and science, and cities and towns, containing from 500 to 15,000 souls, dot the land in large numbers. Roads have been constructed, rivers improved, mills erected, and an enterprising and enterprising spirit, the intelligent and industrious farmer, as he pursues his laborious but independent occupation. Literally have they caused the "wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose," and become the granary of the Union.

It is now my purpose to exhibit facts to show that the mighty West is not a mere name and phrase, but is a substantial country, rich in resources, and possessed by an enterprising population, who are successfully developing them more rapidly than the history of the world can anywhere else present.

To make the changes which has taken place in the West, within a few short years, more striking, I will present some comparative statements of their exports at different periods:

In 1835, the whole exports from the West, came principally from the Northern or Lake portion of the Ohio, the amount which passed through this city to tide-water, via the Erie Canal, of the principal articles, consisted of the following:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

The tolls collected at the Buffalo office that year amounted to \$108,213.35; the total number of tons of all articles, from all sources, cleared at Buffalo that year was 49,478; the valuation of property I have not for that year, but in the year 1837, the value of all the property sent towards tide-water via the Erie Canal from Buffalo, was \$3,286,128.

In 1845 and 1846, Ohio and other States around these Lakes, sent to Eastern markets, through the same channel the following articles:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

The entire amount of flour, wheat and other grain exported by the Western States, through the Lakes in 1846, for Canada and our own markets, received to bushels, will exceed 15,000,000 of bushels.

Having received a letter, dated 29th Jan ult., from G. H. Albert, the head of the Topographical Department at Washington, propounding some questions to me in relation to this commerce, I will give his questions in the order in which they were presented, with the answers to each, as furnished by me, as the most perfect method of furnishing the particulars of the business, accompanied with such other details as I had in my possession, but which I could not furnish him, for want of time.

Question 1st.—"The commerce of the Lakes returns in kind and quantities, as far as practicable, and for the years 1841, '42, '43, '44, '45 and '46."

"As the greatest portion of the export commerce of the Lakes passes through this city on its way to tide-water, (large quantities also pass the Welland Canal to Canadian ports, and through Lake Ontario to New York) I will give you, as the best answer to this question, the list of the principal articles, taken from the Custom-house books, for the above series of years—remarking, at the same time, that these statements do not, by any means, comprise the whole—that they only give a general view of the business from year to year. I also furnish you the business done from some of the principal ports, and showing the great difference these reports present of the same places, as years roll on.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"Castings, iron, wood, cheese, lead, shot, nails, barley, corn meal, dried fruits, glass, cotton, feathers, sheep pelts, tanned leather, calf skins, beans, cranberries, hickory nuts, beeswax, peas, grindstones, ginseng, paper and paper rags, linseed and other oils, glue and glue pipes, maple sugar, wooden ware, live cattle, swine, and tobacco, although in quantities more or less, have not been specifically placed in the statement. The estimated value, for this year, is \$10,000,000.

In 1842—the principal articles landed at this port during the season were:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"This list embraces an account of the principal articles of the commerce, but it is not intended to be a complete enumeration of a class of articles in '41, received at this port every year, of which no particular statement is made up. I cannot give you the estimated value of the imports this year, none having been made.

In 1843—the aggregate of the various articles which arrived at Buffalo was:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"To the above imports must be added 195 bbls. and 11 tons bar soap, part of which came from the Washburn Canal, having been manufactured at La Fayette, Ia., also valuable inroads of hollow ware and other castings, hoes, hoes, shingles, grindstones, bricks, iron, coal, and broom corn, etc., although in quantities more or less, have not been specifically placed in the statement. The total value of imports this year is estimated at \$10,000,000.

"The stock of staves has been much smaller this year than usual. About 600 tons of the iron imported, came from the Pariah, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., via the Welland Canal, and is now introduced among our manufactures

under very favorable auspices. The quantity of coal received is about 1000 tons, two-thirds of which is from Ohio, and the balance, (1,300 tons) from Pa., reached this city by the same channel as the Kossic iron.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"In addition to the above, there were landed here from the West, 140 pgs. beeswax, 105 do. oil cake, 320 cords hemlock bark, 40 bales hemp, 225 pgs. salaratus, 50,000 sheep pelts, the usual amount of furs, paper rags, beans, &c., intermixed with our multifarious western imports; 30 bbls. of Louisiana sugar was also observed among the imports. It reached this place via Cleveland and the Ohio canal.

Low prices have universally ruled this season, thus rendering the value of our imports less than some previous seasons. The value of imports this year is estimated at \$8,000,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"To this must be added a great number of unenumerated articles coming from the West, and the whole of the exports from Silver Creek, Dunkirk, Barcelona, &c., which being within this district do not report to the Custom-house, and are of course foreign to part of the above imports. The articles thus omitted are pot and pearl ashes, cheese, butter, beef, wool, lumber in large quantities, and many other valuable commodities. Nearly the whole of our best cabinet lumber is imported from Cattaraugus and Chautauque counties. The pine is obtained from Canada.

"A valuation of the imports since to have been omitted this year.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Flour, Wheat, Staves, Corn, Provisions, etc.

"The imports this year have greatly exceeded any former one, and this table does no more embrace the whole, than the tables of other years do. The value of the imports, as reported in the articles is \$17,827,810. But it is believed that the omissions in the reports, if all could be ascertained, would swell the amount to \$20,000,000.

"The foregoing is an account of the commerce reaching this port through the Lakes, for the years indicated.

"I give the value of the imports via the canal into this city, and, although all is not originally intended for the Western markets, the bulk of it is sent out to the manufacturers, and from our own stock, more than equal what is originally left here by the canal for Buffalo. The tonnage and valuation of property entering this city via the Erie Canal, was in

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"I will now beg leave to call your attention to some reminiscences connected with the commerce of this port, which may not be altogether uninteresting to you.

"The following is a list of the number of arrivals and departures at this port, for the years stated:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Number. Includes 1815, 1816, 1817, etc.

Whether the arrivals and departures at Black Rock are included in this I cannot say, at present, but the probability is strong that they are; as that place, lying as it does, at the entrance into the Niagara river, was the general shipping port and resort of almost all the vessels until 1819; when the mouth of Buffalo creek was improved so as to let them come in here, and they have since that time, but the smallest kind of craft could enter this creek, except immediately after the spring freshets, when the bars at its mouth had been washed away by the current; vessels that did trade here then anchored off in the lake, and their loading was brought from and sent to them in lighters.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Number. Includes 1820, 1821, 1822, etc.

"This table embraces thirteen consecutive years. At the close of this period, the total number of American vessels, of all descriptions, employed in the commerce of Erie and the Upper Lakes, was only 53, with an aggregate tonnage of 3611 tons. This meagre exhibit is in keeping with the population, which, in 1825, was ascertained to be constituted of no more than 2,412 souls. At this time, the number will not vary much either way, of 25,000. The year 1825, it will be remembered, was the period of the completion of the Erie Canal, and the above table of commerce extends through the first two years of canal commerce:

of cargoes, may, in a measure, account for the diminished number of arrivals this year. (The number of arrivals, in the same manner, exports and imports, to and from foreign ports, during 1846, were—)

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes American vessels, British, etc.

"The cause of the great amount of foreign tonnage is, two British steamboats run to and from this port, and constantly, during the season of navigation, one making two trips per week, and one, a good part of the time, two trips per day.

"The enrolled and licensed tonnage in the District of Buffalo, in 1846, consisted of—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Steam vessels, Sail, etc.

"The number of arrivals, foreign and coastwise, at the port of Buffalo, in 1846, were—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Steamboats, Steam Propellers, etc.

"The number of clearances have been about the same, probably more, as an unusual number of vessels wintered over in this port last year—making a total of 7,714, forming an aggregate tonnage of 1,825,914 tons arriving at and departing from the port in the year 1846.

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

Boston—week preceding June 12. Candles—Spermaceti and tallow candles in small lots. Coffee—Some 100,000 bags St. Domingo have been sold, mostly for a Southern market at various prices, for the different qualities; 2000 Maracaibo 7 1/4; 250 fair Rio 7 1/2; 500 common 6 1/2; Java 5 1/2; and one at common Java, 5 1/2.

"The market is abundantly supplied with American and it continues to arrive very freely. It is difficult to quote a price. Hides—the market is rather inactive. At auction, 3800 Cape de Verd Goat skins, 2100 South American, 2500 Mexican, 2000 Mansanilla, prime, at 55 cts., and 2000 Mexican, middle quality, at 46 cts. per gallon, 6 mos. Hops—A lot of 700 bales has been taken for export at 8 1/2 cts. per lb. Sugar—Indigo is rather dull. Lead—A lot of 500 pigs sold at 4 1/2 cts., and 500 small pigs at 4 1/2 cts. per pig. Leather—The demand has fallen off very much, as usual at this season, the manufacturers being engaged in farming.

"The demand for Box has been pretty active, both for export and home trade. The sales will be full, and the prices varying from 6 1/2 cts. to 7 cts. per box. White and Yellow, at 12 1/2 cts. per box, 200 boxes White and Whites at 8 1/2 cts., and 200 boxes Whites for export, at 7 cts. per lb. and 6 mos. short price.—Daily Advt.

New Bedford—week ending June 7. Spermaceti—The market for Spermaceti remains quiet, and the price is steady. Tallow—The market for Tallow is also steady, and the price is steady. Coffee—The market for Coffee is also steady, and the price is steady.

New York—3 days preceding June 12. Ashes—Potash has been steady, and the price is steady. Beans—Beans are selling in a small way at 25 cts. cash. Coffee—Continues dull at 7 1/2 cts. for Brazil, at which 2500 bags have sold. Cotton—Is without further decline, but there is very little disposition to purchase, and the market is very dull.

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Statement of Imports of Sperm and Whale Oil, into the United States, from 1845 to 1847, 60,731 bbls. New York and 243,364 do. Whale.

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favorable advances have induced an improvement in the demand, but the transactions have been chiefly confined to country descriptions which have sold at \$1.00 per bushel, including the sacks. Flour—Has been rather unsettled, having gone from 7.50 to \$8.50, but closed at 7.50 for small parcels. Bacon and Lard—The market for both articles is quiet. Groceries—Have been inactive. Exchange—Market unsettled, but buyers at close quote nominally, 6 per cent. prem. for Sterling. Freights—Are without change.—Cont.

New Orleans, June 5—night. Remarks—The market has struggled rather heavily during the week, and Cotton, in particular, has been very dull and prices rather lower. Corn and Wheat have been the articles which have attracted most attention, while Flour, owing to large receipts and favorable accounts from the North, has declined. The river has fallen six feet and is still receding rapidly.—Delta.

Cotton—Our report of Saturday night last left the Cotton market exceedingly dull, at a decline of 1/2 ct. which had followed the receipt of 50,000 bales from the North from Liverpool, per steamer Britannia. What little alteration has since taken place is decidedly for the worse, and prices have generally ruled about 1/2 ct. lower in the week's transactions, which barely amount to 6,000 bales, none of which were the North's. We now note inferior 9/10; ordinary 9/10; middling 9/10; good middling 10/10; middling fair 10/10; good fair 11/10; good fair 11/10; good fine, 12 1/2—cts. per lb. Stock on hand and not cleared, 172,665 bales. Tobacco—The demand has been very brisk, and in the week's sales, which embrace 2400 hds., holders have been enabled to obtain very full prices. We quote as before inferior 1 1/2; common 2 1/2; fair 3 1/4; fine 4 1/2; choice 5 1/2 cts. per lb. Segar Leaf 2 1/2 cts. per lb. Stock on hand, &c. 24,684 hds. Raw, do. inferior, 350 to 400 lbs. at 26 1/2 cts. for inferior ordinary, and 29 1/2 cts. per gallon for prime. Flour—In our last we left the Flour market firm at 6.75 a 6.87 1/2 per lb., and early in the week prices were carried up higher still, and some of the best sales were made at 6.87 1/2 for Ohio and Illinois brands. On Tuesday, however, the receipts were very large, and this, coupled with unfavorable news from New York, has since occasioned a decline of 3/4 cts. per lb. The transactions of the week, which embrace \$5,000 bbls. taken by exporters and speculators. The market closes very fully at \$6.50, and there appears to be but few buyers, except at a further reduction. Grain—The Corn market has been quiet, buyers being chiefly North-horn, and few have been disposed of, at 65c to 66c per bushel, though for good shipping lots of white 70c has been readily paid, and for yellow 80 cts. per bushel. Wheat has been in great request, and fully 65,000 bushels have been taken, mainly at 1.35 a 1.40 for inferior fair, and 1.46 a 1.50 per bushel for prime. Oats sell pretty readily at 45c to 46c in sacks. Provisions—There has not been any movement of consequence in Provisions of any description, and prices remain with the least possible variation from those last quoted. Whiskey—The market has again receded to 22 1/2 cts. for Rectified, the sales of the week having amounted to 4000 bbls., mostly at the highest price. To-day we notice 70 bbls. low-proof sold at 25 cts. per gal. and 100 bbls. of 50 proof, at 25 cts. per gal. Coffee—Owing to the heavy and increasing stock and limited demand, prices of Rio have given way, and nearly 15,000 sacks have been disposed of at 6 1/2 cts. per lb., though 6 1/4 has been the prevailing rate. Both Foreign and Domestic bills are negotiated with difficulty. We quote Sterling at 2 1/2 cts. per franc, 65 cts. 1/2; New York, 60 cts. per cent, 2 1/2 cts. 1/2; do. sight, 1 1/2 cts. per cent. disc.

ELDER, GELSTON & CO. COMMISSION MERCHANTS, COR. COMMERCE AND PRATT STREETS, BALTIMORE.

By their long experience in the sales of Western Produce, and their very advantageous location in the centre of the shipping business, they hope to afford satisfaction to their Western customers, in a ready and profitable disposition of Merchandise consigned to their agency. Reasonable advances made when desired.

FORWARDING AGENTS. Goods forwarded to all parts of the West per Rail Road Cars loaded daily at our doors. Through to the Ohio River in 3 days per Greene & Co's Express in 3 days per Day and Night Wagon Line, or in 7 to 10 days per transient wagons from Cumberland.

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The following are the advantages to be derived from their use, viz: "Vessels meeting at sea in any part of the world, if provided with the Flags and Signal Books, may, as long as they are in sight of each other, without altering their course, communicate any intelligence, either their names, from what port they sailed, what passage they have had, what vessels they left in port, or that preceded them; particulars relative to vessels they have fallen in with, if in want of stores, provisions, assistance, or information; their latitude and longitude; casualties or any observation they may have made during their voyage."

It is highly important to owners that their vessels be provided with these Signals in the event of their being under convoy of Government, or in company of other vessels. Testimonials from officers of the Navy, Revenue, Marine, &c., in favor of the system, can be had free of charge at our office, where we are prepared to furnish Signals and give any information in regard to the business.



1572—Que.—Where are you from? (See page 49.) 11,470—Ans.—Rio Janeiro. (See page 291.)

MANUFACTURED AND LEAF TOBACCO, SEGARS, & C. CHARLES D. DEFORD & CO. TOBACCO COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 64 South Gay Street, BALTIMORE.

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LEAF TOBACCO. 700 Bales, consisting of Havana, Yara, St. Jago, St. Domingo, Iguazu, Myrtle, Porto Rico, and Kentucky, of first quality, and of the best flavor, selected with great care. Also, Spanish Seed in cases—Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, and Virginia, in hds.—a full supply always on hand, suitable for Segar manufacturers or export.

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FARMERS AND PLANTERS', No. 17 South, near Baltimore street, Chartered 1836.—Capital, \$400,625. Discount Days, Monday and Thursday. Dividends, January and July.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS', Calvert street, corner of Bank Lane, Chartered 1810.—Capital, \$33,560. Discount Days, Monday and Thursday. Dividends, April and October.

FRANKLIN BANK, No. 13 North street, near Baltimore, Chartered 1810.—Capital, 301,850. Discount Days, Monday and Thursday. Dividends, January and July.

FELL'S POINT SAVINGS INSTITUTION, No. 97 Thimble street, Chartered 1810.—Capital, \$39,200. Discount Days, Thursday, 10 o'clock.

MARINE BANK, N. E. Corner of Gay and Second streets, Chartered 1810.—Capital, \$39,200. Discount Days, Monday and Thursday. Dividends, April and October.

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