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THE AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

From Niles' Weekly Register.---Continued.

We shall now proceed to speak of the cultivation of tobacco—which is chiefly an article of export, and of two very different qualities, "Maryland" and "Virginia," as they are commonly denominated, though made in smaller parcels in several other states.

The produce of this article was greater before the revolution than it is now! Even in 1758, Maryland and Virginia, alone, exported 70,000 hhd. and in three years, 1791, 1792 and 1793, [see the table.] we exported 273,647, but in the three years, 1822, 1823, and 1824, only 259,061, notwithstanding the great increase of labourers. But the foreign market will not receive more than a certain quantity—the average of the Maryland quality, used for smoking, being short of 30,000 hhd. and that of the Virginia, chiefly used for chewing, less than 50,000; and such is the peculiar condition of this commodity, that 90,000 hhd. exported will produce no more money, on an average, than 80,000! This is a curious example of the effect of *scarcity and supply*, and we speak understandingly, as will be seen by a reference to the table, made up from official documents—take the following examples of succeeding years:

| Years. | Hhds. | Dollars. |
|--------|--------|------------|
| 1802 | 77,721 | 6,220,000 |
| 1803 | 85,291 | 6,209,000 |
| 1815 | 85,537 | 8,255,000 |
| 1816 | 69,241 | 12,809,000 |
| 1822 | 82,169 | 6,222,000 |
| 1823 | 90,009 | 6,282,000 |

Virginia, which, more than any other state in the Union, deserves to be called the "land of steady habits," may long extensively continue the cultivation of tobacco, though cotton is rapidly superseding it in the eastern part of the commonwealth, of which we shall more particularly speak below. The product of tobacco has declined in Kentucky, the Carolinas, Georgia and Louisiana, not being found so profitable as other agricultural pursuits; and, perhaps, when the labour and capital employed are considered, it is the least profitable of any other business in the United States, as it is carried on in Maryland and Virginia, because of the costly labour of slaves; and it has also powerfully tended to retard the progress of population and wealth in these states, by excluding the soil and driving away free labourers. Virginia, late in the first rank of the states, stands the fourth in effective population, and, by the census of 1840, will probably be thrown into the sixth grade; and in regard to actually operating wealth (which begets wealth) much further behind than that, unless her policy is changed, though her territory is so very extensive, and much of her land is of the best quality. But truths like these are offensive; and we wish to appeal to the reason of persons without exciting their passions; and, after one or two remarks on the cultivation of tobacco, we shall immediately speak of Maryland, our own state.

The following shows the value of tobacco exported in the years given:

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 1822 | \$6,222,000 |
| 1824 | 4,855,000 |
| 1826 | 5,215,000 |

The annual average value for the last five years was about \$5,500,000—a less sum than that of the manufactured articles exported in the year just ended. The first is stationary or declining, the latter rapidly advancing, and very soon to become, after cotton, *the largest item in our foreign trade*. The simple mention of these facts, exposes the fallacy of the arguments made against the protective system, which, after supplying the demand at home, as to its chief amount for such goods as are protected, has already, a worth in like articles exported, (to meet the competition of all nations;) surpassing that of one of our great staple commodities, and of which, by soil and climate, and through custom, we have something like a monopoly!

But it is to the planters and people of Maryland that we would now address ourselves. In 1790, we had 319,000 inhabitants, and one eleventh of the whole population of the United States; in 1820 we had 407,000, and a twenty-fourth part of the whole population—in 1830 we shall not shew a thirtieth part of such population, unless because of the increase in Baltimore and the other manufacturing districts. Indeed, if these be left out, our population is probably decreasing. In the first congress we had six members out of 65—now we have nine out of 215; and if the present whole number of members is preserved after the next census, we shall have but seven; and so, from the possession of one eleventh part of the power of representation, we have passed to a twenty-fourth part, and are just passing into a thirtieth. [The same operation has taken place and will act upon our neighbour Virginia—though her western grain-growing and grazing and manufacturing district is doing much, indeed, to keep

up her standing, and would have a mighty effect, if less restricted opinions prevailed, and a really representative government were allowed.] Truth thus speaks to us "trumpet-tongued"—yet we seem neither to hear or heed it; and what has been our chief commodity for export, and furnished the chief means of purchasing foreign goods, (which we have so much preferred, and the people still blindly wish to see introduced), is about to fail us altogether! Ohio has already materially interfered with our tobacco, and raised with free labour, can afford to transport it 300 miles by land, and yet undersell our planters in Baltimore, their local and natural market! The fact is that most of our intelligent planters regard the cultivation of tobacco in Maryland as no longer profitable, and would almost universally abandon it, if they knew what to do with their slaves, for many reject the idea of selling them; others, however, are less scrupulous, and the consequence is, that great numbers of this unfortunate class are exported to other states, the cost of their subsistence being nearly or about equal to the whole value of their production in this. But Maryland is abundant in resources, if casting away her prejudices, "the old man and his deeds," she will profit by her natural advantages. We have good lands, and much water power on the western shore.* The last is considerably improved in Cecil, Baltimore, Frederick and Washington counties, and manufacturing establishments are pretty numerous and respectable; in all these the population is increasing—the farmers have large barns and well filled granaries, and with markets at their doors, as it were, for the chief part of their surplus products, including butter, eggs, vegetables—the hundred little things which the good farmer and prudent housewife collects and saves, and in many cases they, alone, because of the market for them, sell for more money in a year, than the whole surplus crops of wheat and corn raised on plantations cultivated by eight or ten slaves, for they themselves eat much, waste more, and work little.—The whole crop of Maryland tobacco may have an average annual value of \$1,500,000—and this is below the *clear product of labour* employed in the factories of Baltimore alone! We do not include the employment of mechanics, properly so called, and thus, aided by some foreign commerce and navigation, and a large home trade, we have in a small spot, collected and assisted more than one-sixth part of the gross population, or one-fifth of the whole people of the state—and created a market for the products of the farmers, daily extending in the quantity required and the prices given, and to go on as our manufacturing establishments prosper and persons are gathered together to consume the products of the earth. But to the success of these and the consequent well being of our farmers, a liberal encouragement of them, and a manly support of internal improvements must be afforded. Whoever stands opposed to them, is opposed to the best interests of Maryland—for increased attention to both is the only means that we have to prevent ourselves from sinking yet lower in the scale of the states. Maryland, without any sort of interference with other pursuits, might subsist two millions or more of sheep, and the product of these would compensate any loss to be sustained by ceasing to cultivate tobacco; and besides, and what is more important, most important, indeed, it would prevent the actual or comparative decrease of our people, keep the free labouring classes at the homes of their fathers, and mightily advance the price of lands and add to the general wealth of the state. Real property of every description, except in the districts spoken of, has exceedingly declined in value, and indeed, in some parts of the state is seemingly "without price." If slave-labour ever was profitable with us, it is no longer so—it does not yield more than three or four per cent. for the capital per capita employed, if even that—this is clearly proved by the export of slaves to the more southern states; a cruel practice, and which we hope may be arrested by the introduction of new articles of agriculture, such as the breeding of sheep, and the cultivation of flax and cotton, and the rearing of the silk worm. These would afford employment to many thousands, and employment begets employment, and money begets money, for prosperity begets prosperity.

But let us further and for a moment regard Baltimore as a market for the farmers of Maryland—for we wish this home market clearly understood; most persons know no more of its real value than they do of what is happening in the interior of the earth—and it is the interest of others to prevent inquiry or mistify facts. We are about 70,000. Allow to each person vegetable food equal only to "a peck of corn per week," and we shall appear to consume

* We have also many valuable mines and minerals which, though rapidly coming into use, are yet only partially worked. Large quantities of iron ore are carried from the neighbourhood of Baltimore to the New England states, there manufactured, and probably brought back again and sold here to purchase or pay for more ore!

910,000 bushels of grain; if we add what is required for the support of horses used for draft, &c. the whole may be moderately estimated as equal to one million of bushels of wheat per annum. Then suppose we admit that each person wastes or consumes half a pound of animal food per day, as we think that they do and more, and we shall have 25 millions of pounds a year. We also annually require for our families, work shops and factories, more than 100,000 cords of wood. Let us see what these three articles, these three only will amount to:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1,000,000 bushels grain, at \$1 | 1,000,000 |
| 25,000,000 lbs. animal food, at 4 cts. | 1,000,000 |
| 100,000 cords of wood, sold at \$2 50 | 225,000 |
| | 2,225,000 |

And, at these moderate estimates, it appears that the Baltimore market, because of the bread-stuffs, animal food and fuel consumed therein annually, amounts to more than two million and a quarter of dollars; or one fourth of the whole value of all the bread-stuffs and meats exported from all the United States.

Previous to entering upon a more general and particular examination of our great staple for export, cotton, we shall notice one product of agriculture which has a most extraordinary character and operation indeed—not on exports but on consumption; we mean sugar.

We see it lately stated in the papers that Colonel Dummett, of Florida, has made 30 hhd. of sugar from cane raised on thirty-five acres of land—say, only 30,000 lbs. The duty, or tax upon which, if imported, would be \$900; and this a Pennsylvania farmer, would of itself esteem a neat little profit on the cultivation of a whole farm for a year. But such are not so favoured by soil and climate, and the bounty of the general government.

The sugar crop of Louisiana is about 40,000 hhd. (less than 10,000 in 1810,) or say 44,000,000 lbs. the duty on which, if imported in exchange for bread-stuffs, &c. would be one million three hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and this is probably divided between less than two hundred persons—or, if we allow it to benefit all the people of Louisiana, is more than sixteen dollars per head, for every man, woman and child of the state, as a "bounty." Now a tax equal to this on all the people of the United States, would produce a revenue of nearly one hundred and sixty millions of dollars a year! Verily, verily, this is "taxing the many for the benefit of the few"—and yet, wonderful to be told, Louisiana is opposed to the tariff and the protection of other branches of domestic industry, as called for by the farmers and others, who make up nearly three-fourths of the whole people of the U. States. But this is not all.

Sugar has become almost a necessary of life—it certainly is the great comfort, desired and used by the rich and the poor. The whole amount consumed in the United States may be about 120,000,000 lbs., say 76 imported, and 44 of domestic production. The duty on the former is three cents per lb., and amounts to \$2,280,000, on what costs about five millions in the foreign islands and places wherein it is obtained; so that the tax is very nearly fifty per cent. ad valorem, which is actually collected on two-thirds of the whole quantity used, to the benefit of those of our own countrymen who produce the other third. And yet Louisiana declaims against "monopolies" and the tariff, which supplies her with such cotton goods for 12 cents per yard, as lately cost her 20 or 25 cents per yard!

The duty on sugar is too high, and it would have been reduced but for the encouragement of the agriculture of Louisiana—and that which is for her peculiar and selfish advantage, if the term may be allowed, while it deprives the treasury of \$1,320,000 a year, taxes the people in the sum of \$1,140,000 annually, more than they would pay, if the duty was reduced only to two cents per lb. which would still be a high one. As it is, the poor black wood-sawyer, purchasing only two pounds per week for his family, pays a tax of three dollars and ten cents a year on this solitary article. It is the most onerous tax that we have, and bears particularly hard upon the labouring classes, especially the farmers, mechanics and manufacturers. We ourselves use as much of it, in proportion to the number of our family, as the richest persons among us, in the ordinary way. It is true, we might dispense with it—the tax paid is "voluntary," in the impudent cant of purse-proud dealers in foreign merchandize, who are daily using our money, obtained through credits at the custom house, for the support of their trade! So, as the Indians dispense with the use of shirts, might we—and it is "voluntary" to prefer the snug and comfortable clothes that we wear to the sheep-skin dresses of the Hottentots—it is "voluntary" even that we live and pay taxes at all, for we might escape

† The family of the writer of this, consisting of nine persons, consumes not less than 450 lbs. a year. The tax that he pays then, on sugar, is thirteen dollars and a half a year.

them by suicide! But the freeman who labours industriously and attends to business faithfully, has a right to be enabled to use sugar, wear shirts, have decent clothing and enjoy life, the gift of the common Creator of us all; ay, and such will defend that right; and, what is worth a whole volume of speculations, they have the means of doing it! The time being fitted for it, we will confidently make it known to the sugar planters and ship owners, that if the tariff bill of 1824 had not passed, the tax upon imported sugar would have been reduced to two cents per lb., and that any deficiency in the revenue which might have arisen from that deficiency, (though we believe that it might have increased the revenue by increasing the consumption of sugar,) would have been more than compensated for by withdrawing the fleets of men of war that are kept abroad for the protection of property in ships and their cargoes. These things would not have taken place wholly on the retaliatory principle, though the very worm that is trodden upon is allowed to turn, but because of the special rightfulness of them, circumstanced as the grain growing and manufacturing interests were. If refused the means of paying taxes, it was their bounden duty to reduce the amount of taxes demanded. There is a *quid pro quo* which operates in every condition of life: and, as the saying is, every prudent man will "cut his coat according to his cloth." Look at it!—here was Louisiana receiving a "hot-bed protection" of \$1,320,000 a year, in a bounty paid by the people on her sugar, and there were the ship owners defended at the cannon's mouth, at the cost to the people of a much larger sum—the whole trade to the Mediterranean, for example, not taking off so much of gross value in our products as the cost of the fleet amounts to; and yet both these were against the tariff bill of 1824, intended for the encouragement of our farmers and manufacturers, and supported by their representatives in Congress, as the votes will yet shew! We would not either "razee" the duty on sugar, or "tomahawk" the navy—but those who "live should let live." No state in the Union profits like Louisiana by the tariff—the price of her cotton is assisted by it, as we shall show when we speak about that article, though she is supplied with cotton goods at from 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper than before the act of 1824 was passed; but the direct and actual protection or bounty which she receives, is equal to sixteen dollars per head for every one of her people—and were all the people of the United States so protected, the amount of protection would be in the sum of one hundred and sixty millions of dollars a year! as before stated, and repeated that it may not be forgotten. No one can dispute this. And further, is a "monopoly" because of climate in the south, less odious than a "monopoly" because of climate in the north, or the west, or the east? What is the sugar planter better than the wool grower? Is it not quite as necessary to have clothes to shield us from the cold of our winters, as sugar to sweeten our coffee? But we desire both, and only ask, while the production of the last is protected, that the growth and manufacture of wool for the other may be encouraged; and Louisiana, who receives so liberally, should instruct her senators and representatives to give a little. It is by mutual concessions and accommodations that the peace of families and societies is maintained; but there is a disposition wisely implanted in the human mind, to require such concessions and accommodations between persons possessing equal rights, and it operates in great things as the writer of this really put it into practice about two years ago in a small affair: in returning from my dinner, I was accustomed, almost every day, to meet a dandy Englishman just imported, (or eloped, as the case might be,) who majestically strutted along the middle of the pavement. I gave way, and went unthinkingly to the right or left, for a considerable time; but, at last, was satisfied that he demanded this homage to his puppyism. The next time when we were about to pass, I kept the middle of the pavement—he came on rapidly as usual, with his head up and eyes raised, and wholly unprepared to receive my elbow, which he ran *afoul* of, (having turned myself half-round to accommodate him with it,) and he nearly fell down in consequence—being a lighter man than myself. He looked wildly for a moment at me, I looked calmly at him, but not a word was said—we passed, and ever after that, he conceded a part of the pavement to me, as I had been quite willing to yield a part of it to him, or any other person, though black and a slave. This familiar case, will serve as well as the most elaborate one that could be stated, to show the principles on which society is sustained. (To be concluded in our next.)

‡ It is a notorious fact, that every profitable manufacturing establishment increases the consumption of foreign luxuries or comforts. A manufacturing village of 5 or 400 people, consumes more coffee, tea, sugar, silks, &c. than five times as many persons of the same class, employed in agriculture.