

PUBLIC LEGER.

"Friendly to the best pursuits of man,
"Friendly to Thought, to Freedom, and to Peace."

[From Niles' Weekly Register, April 3.]

PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION.

In the debate in the house of representatives, on the 24th ult. Mr. Floyd said—

"Was it contended the manufacturers would themselves supply the farmer with a market? If all the 500,000 manufacturers of the U. States were put into one of the western districts, a circle of 60 miles diameter would furnish all they could consume. Could any body believe that we could take hands away from the agriculture of the country, to compete with the manufacturers of Europe?"

Having given this a first and second reading, I referred it to "a committee of the whole," and beg leave to report as follows:

Let us examine the facts that belong to the matters stated by Mr. Floyd, and see what results we shall produce, by a reference to official documents, or, what is more important, the common sense of things.

We exported, during the year ending on the 30th September, 1823—

61,418 bbls. beef	(200 lbs.)	lbs. 12,283,600
2,365 horned cattle	(at 400 lbs.)	1,146,000
65,529 bbls. pork	(200 lbs.)	11,105,800
1,637,157 lbs. bacon and lard		1,637,157
11,436 live hogs, say	(at 150 lbs.)	1,715,400
5,880 sheep	(100 lbs.)	688,000

Animal 28,575,957

1,272 bush. wheat	60 lbs.	256,320
751,372 bbls. flour	200 lbs.	151,200,000
745,334 bush. Indian corn		37,451,700
141,501 bbls Indian meal		28,300,000
56,665 do. rye	do,	5,500,000
67,344 dollars worth of rye and other grain—say at only 1 ct. per pound		8,934,400
43,700 bbls. ship bread		3,584,500
30,994 kegs do.		247,952
37,441 bush. potatoes		1,489,640
101,365 tierces of rice	600 lbs.	60,981,000

Vegetable 297,945,512

Now these are ALL the articles of animal or vegetable food exported from ALL the U. States for a whole year, a little poultry excepted, of which there is no return; and the aggregate is 326,531,469 lbs. of which 28,575,957 lbs. is animal, and 297,945,512 lbs. vegetable. The value of the animal food exported, may be put down at 5 cents per lb. and of the vegetable, seeing that so great a part of it is made up of flour and rice, at not less than 2 3-4 cents per lb. The value then of the whole export is thus ascertained—

28,575,957 lbs. animal food at 5 cents	1,428,797
297,945,512 do. vegetable do. 2 3-4*	8,193,503

9,622,300

The quantity as well as the value, are very nearly right—but, as they are assumed for the simple purpose of making a comparison, it is no matter whether they are exactly correct or not.

To prevent all possibility of dispute, I will suppose that only 500,000 people [the number granted by Mr. Floyd,] of the U. States, are employed in, or fed by, the product of manufactures, though satisfied that the amount is much greater; and on this, I shall build up some calculations which I think, will rather surprise those who never have thought of the value of the home market.

A very large part of these manufacturers are hale and hearty men, working in iron, leather, wood, wool, &c. &c. including a great host of wood-choppers, wagoners, &c. &c. too tedious to enumerate; and, one with another, will consume (or waste) one lb. of vegetable food each—and 3-4 lbs. of animal food per day.

500,000 persons, at 1 lb. for 365 days lb. 182,500,000

The same 8 3-4 do 136,975,000

Total. 319,375,000

Then—

182 millions lbs. veg. food, at 2 3-4 cts.	5,005,000
137 millions lbs. animal do.	6,850,000
50,000 horses at \$36 90	1,845,000

13,700,000

So we see, by the force of plain practical arithmetic, that the support of the 500,000 manufacturers, of whom Mr. F. speaks so indifferently, consume about one half more than the whole amount of the exports of the Agriculture of the states of Main, N.

*Flour and rice, making more than two thirds of the whole weight of bread stuffs exported, are valued at something more than three cents per lb. by the secretary of the treasury—but some of the other articles exported were not worth so much, and the average is not far from the officially estimated value of the whole. See note (A.)

†Pennsylvania, in 1800, had more than one horse to every four persons in the state—255,645 horses, 810,691 persons, but I allow only one horse to every ten persons, which, I am sure, is less than they would need for all the purposes of transporting wood, coal materials and goods, and for the use of those travelling to and fro on the business of so many people, to buy and sell; and, besides, some would be needed for many other purposes.

The cost of maintaining a working horse is thus ascertained—

Six pounds of grain per day, at 1 cent per lb. is, for the year, 2190 lbs. or	36 90
1 1-2 tons of hay, per annum, or its equivalent at 10 dollars per ton	15 00

36 90

It is presumed that a horse can hardly be kept for a less sum than this—five hundred thousand horses, at \$3,690 each, is \$1,845,000.

Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri—fifteen whole states; with about one half of those of Maryland, Virginia and N. Carolina, taking them together and including the article rice, (see note B.) and more than seven eights of all the export raised by the free agriculturalists of the U. States!

If the gentleman thinks that I have allowed the people more food than they consume, he may reduce their allowance fully one third, and yet the value of the consumption will exceed the value of the bread stuffs and meats exported! The price of both is estimated at the same rates, for the very good reason that, if the articles are not consumed at home,—they must be brought to the sea-board for exportation, or be suffered to perish where they were produced, and, if the foreign demand would take off the surplus, the money-amount would be exactly the same.

But I have not done yet—these 500,000 people, also, want something to drink; and, whether it is right or wrong, they will have it: and according to what is believed to be the average consumption of the United States, they will use about 2,000,000 gallons* of whiskey, beer, or other liquors made out of grain. This is to be added to the value of the agricultural products consumed by them. And then, there is flax, and hemp, wool and cotton, chewing and smoking tobacco, and many other little items, which, if they were all put together, would make a very decent addition to the sum total—but *quant. suff.*

Being thus supported by official facts and reasonable calculations, I make the round assertion, and challenge Mr. Floyd to controvert it, that the **WHOLE PRODUCT** of the agriculture of the U. S. exported, the articles of cotton and tobacco excepted, will not one half supply 500,000 people with the food, drink, with the butter, cheese, lard and tallow consumed.

There is nothing like coming to these details to arrive at truth. Without thinking, we fall into errors like that committed by one of my friends, from the interior—who, if I recollect rightly, had been for several years a member of congress, as well as Mr. Floyd. I have told the anecdote before, but it is worth repeating: at the beginning of the late war, a great prize ship, impressed on her voyage from Jamaica to London, arrived at Baltimore, with nearly 1000 hogsheads of sugar of the largest size, weighing about 2000 pounds each. These were all exposed on the wharf, at one view and, when my friend saw the mighty mass, he wondered what would be done with it—*"there was enough to supply all the world!"* Finding him filled with this notion, I took out my pencil and shewed him that the 1000 hogsheads contained only about 2,000,000 pounds, which was no more than one fifth of a pound to each of the people of the U. S. He examined the calculation eagerly, he saw it was right—and yet, perhaps, felt as unwilling to believe it, as some will be to accept the facts stated above, though none will presume to say that they are exaggerated. That they are built upon plain, honest, unsophisticated truth—that the figures presented obstinately shew the merits of the matter, may be very simply demonstrated to the most common capacity. Thus—

1. The 14 millions of dols. worth of bread stuffs and meats, (to say nothing about drink, &c.) which I have allowed as the value consumed by 500,000 people, affords to each person only 28 dollars a year as the cost of his or her subsistence, or a little more than 50 cents per week.
2. The value of the animal food and bread stuffs exported from the U. S. say ten millions of dollars, all told, will allow for the support of 500,000 persons only 20 dollars each per annum, or 39 cents per week—a rate, low enough, I should suppose, and at least one half short in its whole amount of the actual average cost of the support of any decent journeyman mechanic and his family, however economical they may be; and I am sure that Mr. Floyd will not think that 39 cents is too much for the subsistence of a free person, for a whole week. I venture to say, that his slaves cost him more on the average—giving that value to the commodities consumed by them which they would produce in the export market for them.

The truth is, that a body of 500,000 manufacturers, if collected in one spot, for their meats, bread-stuffs and drinks—fire wood—butter, cheese, lard, tallow—hemp, flax, wool and a hundred more articles which agriculture supplies or the agriculturalists possess, would consume or use, or cause to be consumed or used, a value in the products of the farmers and planters—at least twice as large as the value of ALL the domestic articles exported. *Q. D.* This is capable of being demonstrated just as plainly

*This is at the rate of consumption according to the quantity supposed to be made.

as the matters are above. The whole value of our exports—the product of the sea, the forest, agriculture and manufactures, was, (for the last year,) only \$47,155,408—of which the amount of \$26,628,192 was in cotton and tobacco.

For the 500,000 manufacturers would give direct employment or support to a great No. of persons not engaged in agriculture—such as brick-makers, masons, carpenters, tailors, & fifty other businesses not coming under the common head of manufactures; and how many would be engaged in the transportation of food and materials to them, and in the carrying away and sending abroad their various fabrics? We cannot calculate these things. But let us take a little item by way of specimen: the 500,000, as well in their factories as in their families, would require at least 500,000 cords of wood for fuel—perhaps the equivalent of a million of cords a year in coal and wood;—however, say only 500,000 cords—it will steadily employ 666 men to fall the trees and chop this wood, and, if their families consisted of 4 persons each, themselves included, 2,664 persons would be maintained by this labor. Suppose the average distance of carriage is no more than five miles, about nine cords may then be transported weekly, and would steadily employ 1,100 wagons and as many drivers, with 4,400 horses; and, if the farmers received only \$1 per cord for their wood, they could get 500,000 dollars a year, as well as the profit that they might make in the transportation of it. Besides this, what would be the amount and the value of the wood required to build and repair 100,000 dwellings, shops and out-houses, and for the making of machinery, &c. Pause, and look at it!

Another thing may be mentioned—it is estimated that it would require 4,336,850 pounds of flax to make the quantity of sail cloth now imported, & that this flax would be worth 390,316 dollars. If then the labor of an agriculturalist be supposed as worth \$150 a year, we have the steady employment of 2,600 farmers, and the subsistence of, at least, 10,000 persons in this small matter.

In this manner fifty other items might be produced to shew the natural & immediate connexion which there is between agriculture and manufactures. The interest of the one is that of the other. It must be recollected that carpenters, wood-choppers, wagoners and flax-breakers &c. &c. eat just like other people! and so make additional demands for the products of bread-stuffs and meats.

Here we see what is the **HOME MARKET** which the farmers want, which they must have. This market may be kept up without the aid of a navy, without expensive foreign missions, without foreign wars about trade. It will as much disregard "British orders in council" and "French decrees," as I do the interest of the buttonmakers of Birmingham, or the calico makers of Manchester.

But a little more arithmetic may be useful to all dealing in such wholesale assertions. Mr. Floyd says that "sixty miles in diameter would furnish all that the 500,000 manufacturers in the U. States would consume." That is possible, if there were any sixty miles in diameter in the world that could be wholly cultivated—but such a thing is just as possible as "to scale the moon with a lamp-lighter's ladder." And if it were, how would it operate on the great planting interest?—A tract of land, sixty miles square, contains 3,600 square miles, each square mile contains 640 acres, and the amount of acres is 2,304,000.—Now, according to Darby's table of the products of Louisiana, one acre of land gives 250 lb. of cotton,—the 2,300,000 acres would, therefore, yield the almost inconceivable quantity of *five hundred and twenty-five millions of pounds*, being about or nearly five times the amount of the annual product of all the U. States! Indeed the "sixty miles diameter," that the gentleman speaks so contemptuously of, would, if cultivated as he supposes, yield double the quantity of cotton and tobacco raised in these states, about which so much noise is made, and yet leave some spaces for hunting grounds!

The following brief notices are respectfully submitted to the consideration of Mr. Floyd, by way of conclusion. I think that he will not hesitate as to the general accuracy of them.

In 1810,* though there were no returns of the value of the boots and shoes made in N. York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia and the whole of the territories, the value of the leather made, and of the boots and shoes manufactured, amounted to \$16,432,803. This was much short of the real amount; for these things in Pennsylvania alone were valued at \$3,126,107. If we suppose that state to have manufactured one eighth of the whole quantity, the gross amount would be about \$25,000,000. It is perfectly safe to say that, at the present time, the materials and labor employed in the leather trade, are equal to thirty millions a year. The saddlery and harness-making business, dependent on the tanneries, cannot be valued at less than three millions more—Virginia alone returning 251,159 dollars of value, in 1810.

In the same year, the value of the hats made in Pennsylvania was given at 1,288,245 dollars, which, probably, was nearly a perfect return. There were no returns from several of the states, and, from others the amounts were evidently short of the real sums. The annual value of this manufacture, at the present time, cannot be less than twelve or thirteen millions of dollars a year—say 12 millions.

Now it appears that the leather manufacturers in the U. States save more to the country than the whole export of cotton and tobacco supplies—together worth \$6,73,192; and that the manufacture of hats, in like manner, saves twice as much as the whole export of tobacco, \$6,282,672, produces.

The glass manufactory, (a small item,) is worth more, as a saving, than the export of rice, as a gain.

It is oftentimes said that it is the intention of the friends of the tariff to oppress the agriculturalists. This cannot be, for no man will oppress himself. There are more agriculturalists in Pennsylvania only, who cultivate their own fields by their own hands or by those of their sons, than there are of such persons in ALL the states opposed to the tariff as a tax on agriculture; and with the exception of some few merchants and shopkeepers, Penn. is unanimous for the tariff.

These things are substantially correct—and the application of them is—"as easy as an old shoe."

Since the preceding was written, I read, for the first time, an article in the N. York "Statesman"—wherein the leather manufacture is estimated at thirty millions, and that of hats at fourteen. It seems to shew something like reason in a thing, when two persons, without concert, arrive so nearly at a common conclusion. Leather and hats are considerable articles of export; they have been, undesignedly, protected, and now meet foreign competition any where, as our ships and seamen do.

NOTE A.

After the aggregate had been determined by the rates given, for the purpose of applying such rates to articles sent abroad and those consumed at home, I thought that, (just by way of curiosity,) I would ascertain how nearly my average tallied with the estimated amount of value, as reported by the secretary of the treasury, which is as follows:

Beef, tallow, hides, horned cattle	\$739,000
[Deduct for tallow and hides*	189,000
Pork, bacon, lard, hogs 1,291,322	550,000
[Deduct lard] 60,000	1,231,322
Sheep 15,029; wheat 5,663	20,682
Flour 4,962,873	
Indian corn 453,622; do meal 476,867	930,489
Rye meal 91,957; other grain 89,354	181,311
Biscuit 183,401; potatoes 37,241	220,642
Rice 1,820,985	

9,917,814

If the value or actual cost of the casks and other packages, in which these articles were exported, (and they are, of necessity, included in the general value,) the difference between my rough estimate and the official value will hardly vary, either way, in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

NOTE B.

Mr. Colquhoun, one of the ablest and most correct statistical writers that ever lived, and who had access to all the official papers on the subjects considered by him, informs us that the consumption of grain, in Great Britain and Ireland, is annually as follows:

9,170,000 qr. wheat at 70s 6d	\$32,324,250
6,335,000 barley	37 0 11,719,750
16,950,000 oats	29 0 24,577,500
636,000 rye	44 10 1,501,291
1,360,000 beans & pe. 38 10	3,611,500

The quarter of