

From the *Knoxville Enquirer*.

The following extract of a letter from Col John Williams, Minister to Guatemala, to a friend in this neighborhood, will no doubt be very interesting to our readers; as containing very useful geographical and historical information, relative to Central America:

"Since despatching Mr. Marshall with the treaty to the United States, I have taken a rapid excursion of six days to the south and south west of this city. The country through which I travelled is one of exquisite beauty and extreme fertility. Capt. Phillips, of Philadelphia, who accompanied me, has travelled through the interior of the island of Cuba. He is of opinion that the country between this and the Pacific ocean, is superior to Cuba in fertility of soil, and all will agree it has greatly the advantage in climate. On my route the thermometer in the valleys ranged from 66 to 69 and 70. The south side of the Cordilleras, which divide the head waters of the streams falling into the two oceans, is richer land and generally more healthy than on the north side. Central America, which has hitherto, by the policy of Spain, been effectually shrouded from the eye of science and of taste, will compare with any other portion of the continent of the same extent. Its present population is about two millions. It possesses the capacity of sustaining more than 20 millions with not only the comforts but the luxuries of life. The Indians are generally in an illiterate and degraded condition. They have been converted, it is true, to Christianity, by means of Spanish swords. But the best of their conversions consists in a change of ceremonies. The system which has so long consigned to oblivion this fair portion of the earth happily exists no longer. The moral and political energies of the country are developing themselves. And this march of improvement cannot fail to increase the comforts and advance in civilization the thrice unfortunate aborigines of the country.

The two most remarkable of the ten towns I visited on my late excursion are Awallian and Antigua, (old) Guatemala. The former is situated in a fertile valley on a lake of the same name, three leagues long and about a half a league wide, and contains four thousand inhabitants. Near the upper end of the lake there are salt works. A beautiful river conducts the waters of the lake to the Pacific. This town is much frequented for the purpose of drinking the waters of the river or lake, which is considered a specific in many diseases, and to indulge in the luxury of the baths. According to the tradition of the country, this lake was, in high antiquity, the site of an extensive town which was swallowed by an earthquake. This tradition is strengthened by the fact that the fishermen of this day frequently find, in shallow parts of the lake, culinary and other utensils. There are around the lake many evidences of volcanic agency. It was to me a phenomena to see such a body of salt water in the interior of the country surrounded by high mountains. The Curate of the town, my host, a well educated, accomplished gentleman, informed me that that neighborhood claimed the first discovery of cochineal. That it was carried from thence to Oaxaca, in Mexico, where its great value was ascertained. This gentleman is cultivating three lots of cochineal, from which he expects to reap, this season, \$12,000 worth. He expressed astonishment at my statement, that twenty successive crops without manuring would impoverish most of the land in the United States. His theory is, that, in this country, the elements impart fertility to the soil, as fast as cultivation exhausts it. This town has active volcanoes in its neighborhood. The earth has almost every day a tremulous motion. This Rev. Curate suggested another new idea. He remarked that since a great number of wells had been dug in the town, the vibrations of the earth were not so violent as before, and assigned as the reason, that the wells enabled the earth to breathe with greater ease. He entered into a philosophical dissertation on the subject, which, connected with the fact, seemed to be plausible. Antigua (old) Guatemala, is situated near the upper end of an extensive valley of great fertility, on a small river which winds its course to the South Sea, through the crevices of the Volcan de Agua (water) and the Volcan de Fuego (fire). These mountains seem to have arisen from the same basis, and to have attained about the same height. Their altitude is variously estimated at from 15 to 20,000 feet. The inhabitants claim for them a superiority over Chimborazo. But in this they must be mistaken. Because at this time their summits are not covered with snow. The former, when agitated, throws its watery contents to the north, whilst the latter is continually emitting columns of smoke or fire in a southern direction. The summit

of the former can be reached when it is mute. But no one has ever had the temerity of attempting to gain the top of the latter. When Alvarado, the companion of Cortes, came from Mexico, he selected a spot near the base of the Volcan de Agua, on which to erect a city. Notwithstanding the frequent warnings of impending danger, the city continued to improve until September, 1541, when the north lip of the volcano burst, and an eruption of water from the bowels of the mountain rolled from the summit in torrents so immense as to sweep before them trees and rocks and to overwhelm the city, and bury many of the inhabitants beneath the ruins.

This catastrophe induced the survivors to fix on the spot one league distant, where Antigua stands, for the city and their future residence. The widow of Alvarado was among the victims of this calamity. The city was rebuilt on a new site, with astonishing rapidity, and continued to be the capital of the kingdom, until the year 1773, when it was demolished by an earthquake. From the period of its foundation, scarcely a year passed without alarms from the neighboring volcanoes. A priest who resided in Antigua at the time, gave me a description of the tremendous vibrations of the earth, of the fright of the inhabitants and the prostration of the houses, which I will not venture to imitate. This venerable man now upwards of 80 years old, after speaking of the water, soil, and climate, of this ill-fated city, closes his observations by this emphatic remark—That God Almighty had blessed Antigua with both his hands. I spent some time in examining the ruins of the city & the sepulchres of the dead. The cathedral is the depository of the bones of Alvarado, the conqueror of the country. At the time of the destruction of the city, the population amounted to 40,000. The private dwellings were built in good style, and public edifices were magnificent. The design and exquisite finish of the dilapidated churches, about 30 in number, will compare with the public buildings in modern times. After the earthquake in 1773, the King of Spain, by a royal ordinance, transferred the city to the spot where the new Guatemala stands. Many of the surviving inhabitants were so devotedly attached to Antigua, that they were removed at the point of the bayonet. Since the establishment of a free government and the people are at liberty to exercise a discretion in the choice of a place of residence, many have returned to Antigua, and its population at this time, amounts to 15,000 inhabitants. The water, soil and climate hold out so many seductive charms, that the city will be rebuilt, the volcanoes to the contrary notwithstanding. One night I stayed in the neighborhood, the Volcan de Fuego was heard to growl twice, but the motion of the earth was scarce felt. I intended reaching the summit of the Volcan de Agua, and ascended several thousand feet, but discovering that the clouds would intercept a view of the Atlantic on the north, I abandoned it with the intention of returning, so soon as the rainy season is over in that quarter. From the height I reached, I had a fine view of the valleys below, on whose precipitous sides, woods, mountains and volcanoes are profusely heaped in magnificent confusion; whilst your sight falls on the three Guatimalas, the two first illustrated by sad catastrophes, hamlets, towns, plantations, streams and lakes, spread beneath the eye forming a delightful contrast with the rude grandeur of the surrounding scenery. The Curate of Antigua, Padre Castro (my host) entertained me with great hospitality. Indeed his house is the head quarters of good living. He abandoned his sacerdotal duties for two days and accompanied me on my excursions. In addition to his clerical functions, he is a member of Congress, and an enthusiastic Republican. In 1793, when he graduated at the University of this city, in his thesis he ventured to question the Divine right of Kings, and was sentenced to the stocks, by the faculty for six hours for this supposed heresy. Shortly afterwards he was threatened with the loss of his head, for uttering some sentiments in favour of free government. From the first dawn of the revolution of this country, he took a most decided part against old Spain. Among the variety of anecdotes, political, religious and historical, with which he entertained me, was one relating to an Indian, who was condemned to death for some slight infraction of the laws of the King. The King of Spain had imposed and collected a tax of \$3.50 cents on each male Indian, from 18 to 50 years of age, for 300 years, in order to defray the expences of the conquests of this country. When any one failed to pay his tribute, the tax collector tied up the delinquent and flogged him at discretion. This and other like cruelties engendered a deep rooted hatred against the Spaniards; when the condemned Indian, above

mentioned, was about to be executed, some Priests attended, and urged him to confess his sins, be baptised and go to Heaven. The Indian enquired of the Priests, whether there were any Spaniards there. On being answered in the affirmative he obstinately refused both confession and baptism, and met his fate not only with an undaunted spirit, but with demonstrations of joy, that he was about to be freed from Spanish associations. If the poor fellow had inquired whether there were any Spaniards in the abodes of the damned he would have had no alternative left him. It would be a vain attempt to bring all the incidents of my excursions within the limits of an ordinary letter. There is perhaps no country in the world, which can furnish a richer intellectual repast, than this, to the Antiquarian and Philosopher. Yet Pompeii itself, before its disinterment, was not more completely hid from the light of scientific research, than this hitherto devoted country."

Extracts from Mr. Mallary's speech on the Manufacturers' Bill.

The capital invested in the woollen manufacture, in the U. States, is forty millions of dollars—the number of persons engaged in the manufacture, is sixty thousand.

Number of sheep in the U. States fourteen millions—of these fourteen millions of sheep ten millions are devoted to the demand of the woollen manufactures. —Estimating these sheep at two dollars a head, would make the value of the flocks in the U. States dependent on the woollen manufactures, twenty millions of dollars.

The woollen manufactures now in operation require annually at least thirty million pounds of wool. This at 35 cents per pound, is about ten millions of dollars.

Mr. Mallary estimated the landed interest devoted to the increase of flocks in the U. States, dependent on the manufactures. He allowed four to the acre. This would require 2,500,000 acres, at eight dollars per acre, would be 20,000,000 dollars.—He had taken pains to ascertain the value of land in different States. Taking New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, he thought the value he had estimated not too high. The result was, that the agricultural interest had at least \$40,000,000 in the question of the protection of the domestic manufacture. The capital of both interests, then amounted to \$30,000,000.

Mr. Mallary then went on to shew how other branches of Agriculture were interested. He called upon Farmers to notice the statements he was about to make.

There were imported into Boston in 1826, 281,000 barrels of flour. Of this 72,177 were exported, leaving 209,704 for consumption. Gentlemen well informed, those concerned in the trade had estimated that the quantity imported into Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, could not be less than three times more than was imported into Boston.—Providence afforded a vast market. A great amount ascended Connecticut river into the centre of Massachusetts. Mr. M. said he had estimated that about twice as much was imported into all the remainder of New England as was into Boston. This would give 629,000 barrels for domestic use in this section of the Union.

Again. There was imported into Boston in the month of December last 13,000 bushels of corn, mostly from the southern and middle States. In proportion to the estimate for flour, the amount would be almost beyond belief.

Now, said Mr. Mallary examine the exports of flour to Europe. They will be found not to exceed, in 1825, 56,675 barrels.—New England consumes, as we have seen, 629,000. We exported, in 1825, to all parts of the world, 813,000; and in 1826 852,000 barrels. Again, in 1825, we exported to the British West Indies 114,000 barrels to Cuba 109,000, to Brazil 134,000.—These foreign exports are considered of wonderful importance. We send now and then a cargo of flour to Valparaiso or Lima. The arrival—the price high or low, is reported through the nation as if its fate was involved. But the steady silent, valuable market of New England attracts no public attention. Annihilate this great market said Mr. M. add the immense quantity there consumed to the market which would be left, let the effects which would certainly follow be experienced by the farmer, it would seem this conviction would take place that the New England market was of immense advantage. Destroy the manufacturing interest, and conviction of this would press on the farmer with irresistible force. The money of the North to purchase would at once cease, and the people would provide for themselves in a different way.

Mr. M. then called the attention of the Committee to the cotton manufacture.—Mr. Gallatin, in 1811, estimated the quantity

of cotton manufactured in the United States, at 3,600,000 pounds. The value of yarn at 90 cents per pound, was \$329,000. By a report of the Committee of Commerce and manufactures in 1816 the capital then employed amounted to \$30,000,000. The quantity of cotton used must have doubled since that time. The quantity of the raw material now used cannot be less than 130,000,000 lbs. or 54,000,000 lbs. The value of the fabric at 50 cents the pound, will amount to \$27,000,000. The value, it is confidently believed, is much more. He did not overrate. Manufacturing establishments are raised in almost every section of the Northern part of the Union, from Maine to the new States of the West. Use of the fabric augmented to a great extent, for the people are enabled to purchase with the means they possess. Every body uses, because every body can pay. He gives in exchange the products of his farm, of his labor, that would not be worth a farthing if he depended upon a sea-board market.

Great and valuable efforts are seen in every part of the country where manufactures are flourishing. They are seen in dwellings, cultivation of farms, in schools, roads, public accommodations, in everything that gives a value to society. The interior is most especially benefited—markets are created in every corner of the country, where none existed before, and where none would have ever existed without them. They equalise the value of property by giving a value to all the productions of the ordinary industry of the people.

As evidence of the efforts of British manufacturers, Mr. Mallary alluded to information from Peru. In order to exclude cotton fabrics, the English manufacturer prepared others with marks and appearances of genuine American, but of the most miserable and useless character. They were thrown into the market as follows of the United States, and thus the reputation of our genuine goods was for a time almost wholly sacrificed. In the United States our cotton trade is safe as far as protection is offered. As far as it applies, it cannot be avoided. We so far have our own market, and foreign ingenuity has not been able to elude the operation of the minimum duty imposed.

Having seen the motives foreign nations must have to press upon the manufactures of the United States, Mr. Mallary said he would now advert to some of the immediate causes which depressed them. The ad valorem duty, from its nature, can be easily avoided. The value is placed upon the fabric abroad, by persons interested. The manufacturer appoints his agent in the United States, his own countryman. He makes his invoice as he pleases—makes his formal oath. He must best know the value of the fabric, and it cannot be disproved here. Interest, therefore, prompts him to save all in his power. There is ample evidence that goods sent, do not pay the amount of duty which the tariff demands.

It has been satisfactorily shown that cloths in an unfinished state are introduced at a low rate of valuation. The value cannot be ascertained at the custom house. Every person at all acquainted with an unfinished cloth must be satisfied that this is the way to avoid the payment of but a small proportion of the duties. These cloths are finished by persons in English employ.

Again—whenever the foreign manufacturer has a surplus, he will not overcharge his own market. The effect would be to produce a reduction on all in the market at the time. He sends that surplus abroad. If he must sell at a loss, it had better be in a foreign country. He accomplishes a double object—he saves his home market, and throws confusion into the other. The effect of a surplus is well known in this country.

It is now known in Liverpool, as well as in the United States, that our manufactures are giving way. The great object of the foreigner is about to be realized—No effort will be wanting, if it cost millions, to overwhelm our half-ruined establishments. It seems to me, said Mr. M. that the government will not refuse that aid which can be so easily afforded.

Forty millions of capital, belonging to the manufacturer, is now in jeopardy—Forty millions more, belonging to the landed interest, is allied to the other in prosperity or adversity. It is also to be remembered, that the manufacturer has added 25 or 30 millions worth of fabric to our market. To this is owing the extraordinary low price to the consumer. He has had the benefit. He has purchased at the loss and approaching ruin of the manufacturer. Let the latter be sacrificed. Let the foreigner triumph in the success of his tactics, and the effect is obvious. Prices will advance. The consi-