

State; of cotton we took just about twice as much as the rest of the world together. In the articles of grain and flour the distribution is still more striking. Out of 8,000,000 bushels of wheat exported (using round numbers) we took more than 6,000,000; out of 10,000,000 bushels of Indian corn we took more than 9,000,000; and of 3,500,000 barrels of flour we took more than 2,000,000. The next customer to ourselves is France, in all the items except that of tobacco, where the national predilections of Germany give it a preponderance. In fact, it is noticeable that both Germany and Holland surpass even Great Britain in the amount of this produce which they absorb, though they fall short of us when it is reduced to money value. Russia does next to nothing, her whole dealings being worth only some 600,000 dollars, of which more than five-sixths are in cotton. The trade of Spain makes a respectable figure, but this is due in great part to Cuba.

The reader will inquire, however, whether there is not another side of the account, and whether the United States are not customers of ours? Undoubtedly they are, and very excellent customers too. We stand, indeed, at the head of their list in this respect as well as the other. During the fiscal year 1856 the United States imported goods from other countries to the value altogether of 314,639,942 dollars, and of this amount almost one-half, or upwards of 150,000,000 dollars, they spent with us. After ourselves comes France, as before, while, for the rest, the Americans get their sugar mostly from Cuba, their tea from China, and their coffee from Brazil. But here occurs another notable feature. It will have been seen that upon the whole the total exports of the States, notwithstanding their magnitude, were something less in value than the total imports. To the former, however, which have been limited in our statements to domestic produce solely, must now be added the value of foreign goods re-exported—a sum represented by 16,378,578 dollars—so that on the final settlement there is a balance of more than 12,000,000 in favour of the exports. But this is due to the goodness of our own account. Though we sell so largely to the States, we buy more largely still, and in this respect are far ahead of their other customers. Brazil and Spain (including Cuba) take so little from the productions of the Union, that the two together have a trade balance of more than 30,000,000 dollars in their favour. The accounts from France and China are on the same side, and these four, with two South American States, make up altogether a balance against the Union of 50,915,812 dollars. The whole of this, however, is all but liquidated through the account of Great Britain; for, if to our purchases of native American produce are added those of foreign goods made through America, we find ourselves debtors on the general balance to the amount of 50,069,287 dollars.

Now, even if we set aside for the moment the ties of consanguinity and common descent, together with the incessant intermixture

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