

Virginia are among the greatest wheat-exporting districts of the Union. Moreover, as long as New York State supports itself in grain (and our author, as we shall by and by see, holds that it is now at its lowest point of production), the whole surplus of the interior States is exportable without any deduction. What that surplus is, and how rapidly it is increasing, may be seen from Mr. Johnston's statement, that in 1838 wheaten flour was shipped at Buffalo for the West, but that in 1847 no less than *four hundred thousand tons* of wheat and flour reached the banks of the Hudson from the West. An increase of 400,000 tons in nine years is most astounding; but considering the unparalleled influx of emigrants from Europe during the last four years (double that of any former experience), it cannot be doubted that the surplus must be now increasing even still faster. The State of Michigan alone, in 1848, produced 4,740,000 bushels of wheat, of which *two millions* were exportable; an extraordinary quantity for so young a State, which at that time had only one-seventieth part of its whole cultivable area under wheat—the soil of which, as Mr. Johnston tells us, is indifferent, and its climate humid, cold, and unfavourable to agricultural pursuits. The fact is, the power of exporting large quantities of wheat implies neither great natural productiveness, nor permanently rich land, in a district which, from a state of nature, is beginning to be subjected to arable culture. The explanation of it is, that nearly the whole population of such districts is employed in agricultural pursuits, and that wheat is the only grain they produce for which a ready market can be found. Let us not be wilfully blind. As long as the Eastern States continue simply self-supporting, the surplus of the interior, of the new lands constantly being reclaimed, will year after year pour down the river-high-ways to the sea; and long before the advancing tide of cultivation has reached the barrier of the Rocky Mountains, another tidal wave of superior culture will have rolled westwards over the Alleghanies. The three great causes of the wretched system of agriculture hitherto practised in America are—cheapness of land, dearness of labour, and want of capital; and in the ordinary course of things all three will diminish together. The fact that 7 per cent. can now be had by merely lending money, while farming usually yields only 5, will retard for some time any costly improvements in agriculture. But such a state of things cannot long continue; and the extraordinary exertions now everywhere making, both in our Provinces and in the States, and which Mr. Johnston himself has been so ably helping forward, promise soon to restore to vigour the once highly productive soils of North-Eastern America. Mark his own admission, a little further