

APPENDIX.

It will be interesting to make some extracts from the valuable report of the Commission appointed under an Act of Congress approved February 25th, 1863, "for investigations to test the practicability of cultivating and preparing flax or hemp as a substitute for cotton."

All European writers recommend the harvesting of flax to be done by pulling. This process is considered in America to be slow, tedious, and expensive; and where flax is grown on a large scale by individual proprietors, it is impossible to procure the labor necessary to pull it. They, therefore, have recourse to machinery, and the improved harvesters are adjusted so as to cut the crop close to the surface of the ground. Several pulling machines have, also, been invented, which do their work more or less satisfactorily.

"The annual production of hemp fibre in the United States, as reported in the last census, amounts to eighty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety tons, of which eighty-three thousand two hundred and forty-seven tons were dew-rotted, and only three thousand nine hundred and forty-three tons were water-rotted. There is a decided preference among the manufacturers for the water-rotted material, and the navy regulations indicate that experience considers this the preferable mode of preparation. But few of our farmers are willing to take the trouble to adopt this process; indeed few have the necessary skill and appliances; but it would be performed to much better advantage by those who make it their especial business, and who have prepared suitable vats for the purpose. Some of our correspondents in Illinois appear to have made extensive vats, with the expectation of rotting largely. This is a suitable subdivision of labor.

"From the kindness of Mr. H. F. Driller, assistant secretary of the Board of Trade at the Merchant's Exchange, St. Louis, we have learned the product of hemp in that State for three years to be as follows:

In 1862, arrived at this port	88,720 bales.
" arrived at other ports, about	22,100 "
Total	110,820 bales.
 In 1863, arrived at this port	68,131 bales.
" arrived at other ports	17,000 "
Total	85,131 "
 In 1864, estimated at this port	74,150 bales.
" estimated at other ports	20,100 "
Total	94,250 "
Total in three years....	290,201 bales.
Average per year.....	96,733½ bales.