

during the last twelve months." It also relates that they have not neglected to pay attention to quality as well as quantity; the committee of the Association have received upwards of one hundred and fifty samples of cotton from various countries throughout the world, for their inspection and appraisement. In fact—to quote again from the *Times* :—

"The Association has been doing for the last year or two all over the world, what the British Government within the last few months has been doing in India. The Committee could not speak with official authority, but they 'agitated,' 'corresponded,' and set things in motion whenever they saw a chance. They let all manner of people understand that cotton was wanted, and that payment would readily be made for it. They described the kind of cotton required, and made grants of the proper seed. They sent out good gins for cleaning the cotton, and presses for packing it. They were ready, in short, to provide everything except roads, and that the India Government itself found a difficulty in doing;'

More recent accounts from India, however, state that the difficulties arising from the want of means of transportation are fast disappearing; several railroads are being built into the interior, so that the cotton crop can very soon be moved, as fast as it is gathered, to the sea-coast; and the ship canal across the Isthmus of Suez, from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, will, it is confidently expected, be completed in twelve months, thus shortening the distance of carriage no less than 6,000 miles. It is even asserted that if the American troubles continue five years, India will be able to export the vast amount of 4,000,000 bales,—a quantity worth about \$400,000,000, thus freeing the English manufacturers from all dependence upon the United States for their supply.

Africa also bids fair to become one of the greatest and best sources of supply. The researches of Dr. Livingstone and other missionaries have revealed the fact that that continent possesses capabilities for the growth and exportation of cotton that can scarcely be surpassed in any other part of the world. "The regularity of the climate, the fact that a new crop can be raised every six months, the adaptation of negro labour to its cultivation, and the ease of its transportation down the large rivers, give Africa peculiar advantages." We learn also that even now the best Western-African cotton can be laid down in Liverpool for four-pence and a farthing per pound, which is cheaper than it can be procured from New Orleans, while at the same time it is of a superior quality. We have already noticed, * in an extract from the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, that cotton can be procured in Queensland, Australia, in large quantities.

From facts like these, then, it can easily be perceived that little or no apprehension need be entertained by the English manufacturers with regard to

obtaining the necessary supply of the raw material. But in this country we fear that the manufacture of cotton cannot profitably be carried on, at least in competition with British goods, so long as the supply from the United States is cut off. To procure it from any other quarter would involve a carriage of many additional thousand miles, the cost of which would completely counterbalance any advantage possessed by this country in the way of labor or motive power.

AMERICAN COTTON STATISTICS.

An interesting article on "Statistics of Cotton Manufacture," taken from the eleventh annual report of the Boston Board of Trade, by Samuel Batchelder, Esq., has lately been published. We condense the following from its pages :—

In 1860 there were in Massachusetts 1,688,471 spindles and 41,620 looms. Since 1850 there has been a total increase of 31 per cent in the number of spindles; but during the past five years the ratio of the increase has been only 11 per cent, which is much lower than that of the same number of years since 1840.

The consumption of cotton in Massachusetts in 1850 was 95,032,975 pounds, or 73.70 for each spindle; in 1855, the amount consumed was 105,851,749 pounds:

It is stated in this report that there is no positive data by which to determine the present number of spindles in the United States, but according to the census of 1850, there were 272,527,000 pounds of cotton consumed; and by allowing 75 pounds to a spindle, there would have been 3,633,693. "If we add," says Mr. Batchelder, "twenty per cent. for the increase of the next ten years, during which time the spindles in Massachusetts have increased 31 per cent. we shall have 4,380,430 for the number in the United States in 1860."

In Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, there were 140,602 spindles, according to De Bow, in 1850, and the bales of cotton consumed were 60,000; but statistics for that year make the consumption of bales in these States only 41,778. The report of the Philadelphia board of Trade for 1860 gives the consumption of cotton in States north of Virginia at 760,218 bales, and in States south at 164,700, making a total of 924,918. Mr. Batchelder is of opinion, however, that 900,000 bales is probably nearest the truth.

In 1855 there were 314,996,567 yards of cotton cloth produced in Massachusetts, at a cost, for labor and material, of 7.76 cents per yard. The exportation of American goods is larger than many persons suppose. For the year ending June 30, 1860, the value of such exports amounted to \$10,934,796. It is understood that goods to the value of \$4,200,000 went directly to China from the ports of New York and Boston. The London *Economist* states that the total cotton goods and yarn exported from Great Britain last year amounted in value to £48,200,000, of which sum the United States took £4,635,000 (about \$22,479,750). We therefore export cotton goods valued at nearly one-half that which we take from England. This is more favorable than most people imagine.

Mr. Batchelder says; "As to the future prospects

* See the May number of this Journal, p. 140.