

hunter; rivers and shores solicit the genius of the fishers; some fields are more fit for pasture than for tillage; some are more fit for sheep than for larger cattle; and some soils and situations more fit for vines than for corn. Necessity and accident thus often concur with natural genius, with conveniency, and with the love of variety, to produce and promote barter, the first and most natural species of commerce."

Thus again it may be said, in like manner, that a nation such as Great Britain, possessing lands in almost every latitude of climate, should study to derive all the advantages which their geographical position is calculated to bestow. Our undefined and unexplored territorial possessions, lying in the vast Indian Archipelago, have been culpably and unaccountably neglected. They have not, we contend, by any means been made to yield us all the advantages within their gift. We have, on former occasions, strenuously recommended some of the districts of New Guinea, or the tropical soils of New Holland, as fit arenas for the cultivation of raw cotton. England has heretofore obtained free native-grown cotton wool from the East Indies, Jamaica, or some other of our West Indian jurisdictions; but why could we not raise it also in our tropical possessions of the eastern hemisphere, or at the Cape, or in Australia? The consumption of raw cotton in the mills of Great Britain is immense, and forms a very considerable part of our entire manufacturing expenditure. Why should not Great Britain grow the whole of this consumption, without being beholden to the French or the Dutch for our finest grained cottons? If the Dutch settlements of Berbice, Demerara, Surinam, and Cayenne, formerly, and even now, had the reputation of raising the finest grained cotton—if the soils of our own islands in the west are not so eligible as those of some of our neighbours—why should we not carry the culture of this staple article of manufacturing consumption to the eastern tropics? If our commercial greatness has been thought to receive mainly its important feature from the prosperity of this branch of its revenue it indubitably much imports us to furnish it from the cheapest market. Of all the productions on which labour is bestowed for its growth and culture, the cotton plant is, perhaps, the most precarious. In its first stage it is attacked by the grub; it is devoured by caterpillars in the second; is sometimes withered by the blast; and rains frequently destroy both, in the blossom and in the pod. The Bahama islands afforded a melancholy instance of this destruction in 1788; no less than 280 tons, on the most moderate estimate, having been devoured by the worm between September and March in that year. If such casualties attend its growth, should not England, the country, of all others, which is most interested, cultivate its production in both hemispheres? But apart from growing cottons for the manufacturing consumption of Great Britain, we contend that our vast possessions of territory in New Holland have been much and culpably neglected.

Ministers, it is true, have began of late to atone for this neglect, and to discover that the regions of the Indian Archipelago may serve England in higher uses than as offering receptacles for gaol deliveries to the Mother Country. A settlement, for example, has now for several years been formed at Port Essington; but, as it frequently happens in these cases, the site chosen for this settlement has given rise