

content with poverty, when we might better our condition, would be unworthy of us as intellectual beings, endowed with a desire for comfortable enjoyments. It is a great advantage to a new country such as this, that has an immense extent of good land, and is deficient in capital and population, to be connected with a rich, and densely populated country, such as England, who can supply us with capital, and population. This connection offers us the further advantage of the best market on earth for our spare produce. We do not say that the connection of a poor country with a rich one, is invariably advantageous, but in our particular case, it is undoubtedly so, if we make a proper use of the connection. If we raise here a produce we can export, and receive in exchange British manufactures, and other merchandize that we may require, we have an opportunity of becoming rich and prosperous above most countries we know any thing of. Of course the benefit of the connection will depend upon the judicious use we make of it.

#### THE PRESENT STATE OF THE AMERICAN PROVISION TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, October, 1844.

In the present interval between the close of one season, and the spring of another, suitable opportunity is afforded for making some observations on the position and prospects of the provision and general produce trade, now fast rising into importance, between America and this country, and for recommending some alteration in the mode of preparing and shipping provisions for the English market, suggested by the experience of past years.

From the annexed statement of the import of the four leading articles to the Liverpool market during the past season, as compared with the preceding ones, it will be seen that the trade is fast extending, and giving a sure evidence of the magnitude which it is certain soon to reach; no right estimate can, however, yet be formed on the subject, many circumstances having operated against the trade so far, which will no longer interfere. The strong prejudice which, to some extent, existed at first against American provisions, and for which there was good reason, in the very inferior quality of the earliest arrivals, has been gradually removed, as shippers have learned to conform their brands to the wants of the English market, and as the confidence of buyers has in consequence been gained. In the first shipments a great error was committed in the selection of the articles, price being more considered than quality; whereas, in consequence of their having to compete with the finest and most established brands of Irish, superior quality was required, in order to procure a sale for them: hence arose the heavy losses sustained at the opening of the trade, and also during the past season, where the same error was committed. It should be borne in mind by all shippers, that the finest qualities of all articles subject to a fixed duty, not *ad valorem* (and especially if the duty payable be a high one,) will generally prove the most profitable shipments, inasmuch as all qualities being subject to not only the same duty, but the same charges also, the difference in cost which would appear considerable at the low rates of the home market, would hardly be applicable at the much enhanced value in the foreign market.

BEER.—No article of American produce has had

more difficulty in securing a footing in our market than beef, and none has more successfully established itself in the confidence of buyers. The hindrance to its introduction arose principally from the prejudice which the inferior character of the first shipments naturally produced, and which required some time to dissipate, and the marked change which has taken place in the prospects of the trade has been owing to the improved quality of successive arrivals, and the resolute perseverance of shippers in keeping our markets liberally supplied, in the face of dull advices, and still more discouraging sales. The low ranges of price which have been current during the past season (say from 45s. to 68s. per tierce) though productive in many instances of loss to the exporters, have yet advantaged the trade, by greatly extending the sale of the article, an evidence of which is seen in the comparative imports of the last three seasons, to which we have already referred; and as the recent imports have proved the capability of the United States to give us the whole of our supplies, of approved quality, and at prices with which other countries cannot compete, the prospect of a satisfactory and paying trade in beef is favourable, provided the supplies are in some measure adjusted to the demand of our markets. The decrease in the supplies from Ireland is shown in the annexed return of imports to London and Liverpool, and still less may be expected this season; for, though the quantity required for the service of our navy (and which Ireland exclusively supplies) is only 3000 tierces, yet so long as the manufacturing and trading interests of the country remain in so prosperous a state as they are at present, there will be an ample home demand at more remunerative prices, for all the beef that Ireland can supply. The course of prices for the season is generally indicated by the rate at which the government contract is taken, and which has just been concluded for 3000 tierces at 104s. per tierce (of 336 lbs.) against 600 at 78s. in 1843, and 16,000 at 118s. 6d. in 1842.

As the *American curers* will, therefore, have the almost exclusive supplying of the English markets in their own hands, they should avoid the faults in cutting and packing, which still attach even to their best brands, and thus exclude competition, not only by lowness of price, but also by perfection of quality. Several of the best parcels that arrived during the past year were very dark in colour, which arose either from the use of a bad quality of salt, or from the imperfect seasoning of the casks, the strong pickle having drawn out the juice of the timber. The latter appears the more probable cause, and which may be avoided in future, by having the oak from which the casks are made more thoroughly seasoned, or by the use of other wood for the purpose; the casks also have generally been too large, allowing the meat to roll about; they should be made of such a size as just to receive the required quantity with tight packing, leaving room for a good heaving of salt; the meat too has often been most irregularly messed, the pieces being of very unequal sizes, whereas each piece should be as nearly as possible 8 lbs., and should be cut square and compact. These details may appear to some persons matters of small moment, still an attention to them will be found to contribute materially to the successful introduction of American beef into the English market.

Pork has had less difficulty in finding a market with us; and less care and attention have, in consequence, been given by curers in adapting their shipments to our market. The position of the trade is, therefore, much the same as it has been for two years past; but it is capable of great extension, and which is sure to take place if an equal facility is shown in