

## PRELIMINARY REPORTS.

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities of *all kinds* of Wheat and Flour in store at the leading ports of the United Kingdom, on 31st December, of 1865 and 1866:—

	1865	1866	Differences in 1866
Wheat.....qrs.	1,684,387	1,071,903	dec. 612,484, or 36½ per ct.
Other Grains.....“	645,690	738,694	inc. 93,000, or 14½ “
Flour.....sacks.	40,602	60,363	“ 19,761, or 48½ “
Do. ....brls.	346,991	522,287	“ 175,296, or 50½ “

It has been computed, on an average of five years,—1862 to 1866 inclusive,—that the deliveries of British Wheat, added to the importations of foreign, showed the large annual amount of 183,924,480 bushels. Taking, then, the magnitude of the Corn trade of the United Kingdom into account, the stocks in store at the principal marts, on 31st December, 1866, were small,—the decrease in Wheat as compared with 1865, being 4,899,872 bushels. It has been estimated that the Wheat crop of Great Britain in 1866 was, on an average, 2 per cent. deficient in weight and quality, the yield per acre being 12 per cent. less;—that is 12,000,000 bushels to 16,000,000 bushels less than was anticipated, these amounts showing the highest and lowest estimates. If the deficiency in yield is taken as 12,000,000 bushels,—and the deficiency of imports and increasing consumption be represented by 12,000,000 bushels, then, 24,000,000 bushels of wheat more than usual would be needed to carry the country forward until the crop of 1867 is available. An estimate was also made in last Autumn, according to which it was supposed that over 50,000,000 bushels of wheat would have to be imported before the end 1867. In connection with these hypotheses it has been reported that the stocks on hand on 31st December last at ports on the Black Sea and the Baltic, and in Russia, Prussia, &c., were lower than they had been for many years before. It may readily be supposed, therefore, that the question of supply must exert considerable influence upon the price of Breadstuffs until the result of the harvest of 1867 is known beyond peradventure.

*Quantities of Foreign Wheat and Flour entered for home consumption in Great Britain in 1866.*

FROM WHENCE.	WHEAT. Bushels.	FLOUR. Barrels.
Russia.....	16,854,013	.....
Prussia.....	8,244,438	.....
Denmark.....	947,724	.....
Schleswig, Holstein, and Lanenburg.....	351,921	.....
Mecklenburg.....	1,371,373	.....
Hanse Towns.....	1,654,960	198,037
France.....	6,527,605	2,094,254
Turkey, and Wallachia and Moldavia.....	988,846	.....
Egypt.....	62,651	.....
United States.....	1,194,390	161,522
British North America.....	16,406	23,498
Other Countries.....	5,294,587	380,341
Totals.....	43,508,913	2,857,652