

That the profit upon this product is immensely great, may be gathered from this circumstance; the most valuable of them cost the company in India so little as about an halfpenny per pound *. Davenant says the pepper costs them two-pence.

3,000,000 lb. at $\frac{1}{2}d.$	—	—	—	£. 6,200
5,000 tons, at 2d.	—	—	—	93,300
Freight of 14,200,000 lb. at 3d. †	—	—	—	177,500
Total charge,	—	—	—	277,000
Profit,	—	—	—	1,878,000

From this slight sketch it appears very clear, that the Dutch East India trade is greatly superior to that of Britain.

In their fisheries the Dutch are equally superior to us. Their herring fishery was for ages regularly on the increase. It has been computed, that it employed 8000 buffes, ships, and vessels of all sorts; 250,000 sea and fishermen; and 250,000 netmakers and curers ‡. This is an immense calculation; and yet the great De Witt himself asserts, that 450,000 people were employed by it in his time in the province of Holland alone §, which is a confirmation. It is asserted by others, that the value of the fishery amounts to 10,000,000 *l.* annually to them. In the last century they undoubtedly caught 300,000 last annually of herrings alone, besides cod, ling, hake, &c. and, at the medium of prices, these were worth 5,000,000 *l.* || Other writers, however, assert, that this fishery is much fallen off at present: The following is a state of it in the year 1748, as given by a modern author.

It employed ships from 70 to 100 tons,	—	—	1,000
Fishermen,	—	—	14,000
Seamen, &c.	—	—	86,000
They caught, lasts of fish,	—	—	85,000
Worth,	—	—	¶ £. 1,700,000

This state makes it of prodigious consequence; and an incredible nursery of seamen.

* *Modern Universal History*, vol. x. p. 453.

† Davenant, *ut supra*.

‡ *Britannia Langens*, p. 31.

§ *Memoirs*, p. 34.

|| *Smith's England's Improvements revived*, p. 249.

¶ *Avantages et Desavantages*, &c. p. 143.