

ships cannot cross it. The bar itself is perpetually changing its position and its shape, and the Mersey pilots have to study its changes with the greatest care. Why then is Liverpool one of the greatest ports in the world? The reason is that behind it is the richest and most populous district in England with the exception of London. The cotton-mills of Lancashire alone make many millions of yards of cotton materials in the year, and every pound of the raw cotton required to supply the looms of Lancashire comes to the Mersey.

But where there are many mills there will be many workers, and the workers must be fed. English fields and pastures no longer furnish sufficient corn or cattle to supply their wants. Sometimes in a single year 20,000,000 quarters of wheat, and hundreds of thousands of cattle, are imported into Great Britain, and a large part of both come to Liverpool. Besides the live cattle, millions of pounds of meat are brought to the port. This does not nearly exhaust the list of commodities which are brought into the Mersey in enormous quantities for the use of the great manufacturing population of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and other parts of the North of England.

The ships which come to the Liverpool wharves with full cargoes leave them again as full. Cotton and woollen goods made in our mills, machinery from our iron-works, and hundreds of other articles manufactured in this country, are exported from Liverpool to all parts of the world. We should remember all these facts, for they teach us a lesson which we shall observe to be true in many