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TRADE AND NAVIGATION. 175

for, as the new fettled countries upon the continent are one entire forest, the greater the demand is, and the surer vent they find for their produce, the sooner will the lands be cleared, their improvement effected, and the nation thereby freed from the expence of feeding and clothing the loyalists.

Pearl ashes, and pot ashes, are made at this time by almost every inhabitant, but not in sufficient quantities for exportation. The reason is obvious. The cultivation of their lands, as the only means of securing a permanent subsistence, must naturally preclude almost every other pursuit, except those branches of commerce, the means of extending which are easy in the acquisition, and immediately open to their view.

Iron ore abounds in many places. The soil in general is well adapted to the culture of hemp and flax. Their pit coal is of an inferior quality, abounding with sulphur, but may hereafter become useful to the