

tration and judgment, which unfortunately do not extend to all other parts of this history.

“Could he (the lumberer) unblushingly tell a plausible story, assuring the Merchant that he had found ‘A CAPITAL CHANCE, OR A FINE GROVE,’ taking care at the same time, minutely to calculate the number of large trees either contained, extensive credit was obtained without further ceremony. But this is not all; so exceedingly fascinating had lumbering become, that I have known some instances, where the report of a discovered *chance or grove*, created so brisk a canvass among the merchants, that it placed the fortunate discoverer, in the same situation as a voter at a contested election.”

“It being thus easy to obtain not only all the necessaries of life, but even some of its luxuries, ‘*Master Lumberers*’ multiplied with astonishing fecundity; and hence the woods became swarmed with a variety of men, whose habits and professions essentially disqualified them for the pursuit in which they engaged.

“What was the result of this combination of deception and enthusiasm? In many instances, ‘*The capital chances and fine Groves*’ turned out to have the same ideal existence as Mermaids and Unicorns; while in other cases, the timber was often so inferior, and so badly manufactured, that the merchant could not ship it, except on his own account, a proceeding which only increased his original loss, and injured his character.

“Since the fire, however, things have been better managed. That calamity, associated with other incidents, forced a reformation upon us; and the general stagnation which prevailed in Great Britain during the years 1826, and 1827, communicating itself to us, it became both unavoidable and necessary that credit should be restricted. This of course, was followed by a diminution of business, which effectually cut off the superabundant Lumberers, as well as many other excrescences that had so long disfigured and incumbered our industry.

“The manufacturing department is now conducted by men, who being thoroughly conversant with their business, and holders of property besides, are as deeply interested as either the shipper, or importer. For these reasons, although our timber trade is rather limited at present, (comparatively speaking,) it is less fluctuating and more profitable, because the market is supplied with an article of better quality, while the quantity rarely exceeds the demand.”

The Exports of Fish from this country for 1824, is calculated at £658, and for 1830, at £5,440.

Chapter seventh—Mr. Cooney proceeds to describe “the present appearance, state and condition,” of Northumberland, and says that on these three heads he will speak from a knowledge acquired by close observation during a residence of seven years. Are these heads sufficiently distinguished, one from the other?—appearance, state, condition, applied to a country, seem nearly synonymous terms, particularly the two latter.

This chapter, generally speaking, though not most interesting to the general reader, may be perhaps one of the most useful and pleasing