

12. AN EXPORT TRADE IN ICE.

It is only convenient, at present, to hint at a possible export trade in ice from the River St. Lawrence. The subjoined table shows the quantities and values of that commodity shipped from Boston, Mass., during the last six months of 1869, and the whole of the year 1870. It will be observed that the shipments in both years from that one port to British Possessions, formed a very large proportion of the traffic :

EXPORTED TO	Last half of 1869		1870	
	Quantity, Tons.	Value.	Quantity, Tons.	Value.
British West Indies	5,514	\$18,182	10,800	\$39,653
Cuba	5,679	18,023	8,106	28,259
P. rto Rico .....	.....	.....	733	4,149
Hayti and San Domingo	101	421	387	1,658
Dutch West Indies and Dutch Guiana ..	4,924	23,072	400	1,555
Denmark and Danish West Indies	1,067	3,509	1,083	4,424
Chili .....	.....	.....	440	1,543
Brazil	1,400	5,600	1,550	7,150
British East Indies	6,731	35,240	12,896	63,482
Dutch East Indies	4,924	23,072	3,198	17,068
China	1,232	6,160	1,533	7,665
British Possessions in Africa .....	.....	.....	434	1,468
France .....	.....	.....	600	2,372
French Possessions	412	1,237	1,563	5,875
United States of Columbia	1,641	5,796	1,865	7,119

The total value of the ice exported from the United States in 1869 was \$279,028,—viz., from New York, \$6,351; from Boston and Charlestown, \$267,284; from all other ports, \$5,393.

The imports of ice into the United Kingdom during two years were as follows :

WHERE FROM	1868		1869	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
From Norway	82,973	£74,677	107,005	£96,305
From other Countries ..	291	262	.....	.....
Totals	83,264	£74,939	107,005	£96,305

The estimated average price of ice (for the purpose of valuation in the British Customs) is 18s. sterling per ton.

It is understood that attention is now being turned to the shipment of ice from Canada as a profitable branch of commerce,—the foregoing figures show approximately the extent of the market;—care combined with enterprise may possibly give respectable dimensions to an export ice trade from the Gulf ports, or from the sea-boards of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.