to commence upon the articles. With regard to cotton goods we suffer more than in tobacco, for the cotton for that trade is not necessarily of American production; and besides, we lose the profit of its manufacture in addition to that of its carriage and the extra profit in Africa. We have placed cotton second to tobacco, merely from the fact that it is not *always*, like tobacco, demanded as a part in every contract. The proportion in *value*, however, used in this trade, is over three of the former to one of the latter, and by English traders as twenty to one. Much of that now used by American traders, particularly such as is printed after the India mode, is manufactured in England: but the plain bleached muslins of American manufacture have almost entirely superseded the English bafts and mamoodies, and are now even sold by the bale to English merchants on the coast.

Gun Powder is the next article extensively used in this commerce, and the kind most in demand can be afforded on better terms in America, than in England, consequently, when it is not prohibited, as it is at all the English settlements, the American trader can undersell the European.

Spirits, either whiskey or rum, is likewise an article extensively used in this traffic, although to a less amount in value than either of the preceding. But, like tobacco, it must necessarily form a part of the cargo for the native trade. This can always be procured at as low a rate in the United States as in the English W. I. Islands, and the large markets for it at the leeward, particularly the Spanish and Portuguese, are almost exclusively supplied by American vessels.

These are the only articles used, in what is strictly termed the *native* trade, which can at this time be produced at as low rates in this country as in England and on the continent, and they constitute at least two-thirds in value of all the merchandise required in this kind of trade.

The articles with constitute the other third are those in which the labour is the most important item of expense in their production, and which can consequently be afforded much cheaper in Europe, where labour is less in demand than in the United States; as the finer cotton and silk fabrics, muskets, hardware, crockery ware, beads, and various articles of minor importance, generally used as ornaments and which are rapidly going into disuse, as the native tribes become more intelligent and civilized.

Other articles of American production are in limited demand at the present time at the various settlements on the coast, as flour, beef, pork, bacon, butter, lard, cheese, soap, candles, &c. The demand for these is increasing, and some few are coming into use with the natives. Little, however, can ever be expected from any of the last mentioned articles in comparison with the four others, viz: tobacco, cotton, gunpowder and rum. The demand for these is on a steady and rapid increase, and no calculation can be made as to the enormous amount that will be required to supply the immense thickly peopled and productive back country which depends on the west coast for its supplies.

Were our commerce well fostered and protected, as is the English at this time, our tobacco, which is now transported to Europe in foreign bottoms, and enriches their merchants by the enormous profits which they make on it in the African trade, would be shipped directly to the coast in our own vessels,

thereby not only benefiting the producer, but the American ship owner and the American merchant; a large and steady market would be opened for our cottons, not only to the advantage of the producer but the manufacturer; and very soon we should be able to compete with the English who have so long monopolised this profitable and rapidly increasing commerce. The advantages we possess of being able to afford even now on better terms than they, two-thirds of the actual value of merchandise employed in this trade, would soon induce the manufacture or importation of other articles required on much more reasonable terms than at present, so that no bar whatever would remain to our complete success.

As we before remarked, the *principal* advantage to be derived from commerce with Africa, is the profitable market it furnishes for two of our largest staples, viz: tobacco and cotton, together with other American products required to a less extent:—yet the return cargo received for the above generally consists of such articles as find a ready market in the United States, although there is not one of them but might at this time be dispensed with or procured from other sources. There is one, however, now the principal staple of that part of the coast of which we speak, that we predict, will, ere long, be one of the necessary articles of consumption in this and other civilized countries. We mean Palm Oil. This forms a heavy item in the list of the imports of England. It has heretofore been used there as in this country principally in the manufacture of soap, and even for that purpose it has to that country become an article of necessity. In the United States it is less in demand, from the fact that animal oils and fat can generally be obtained on more reasonable terms than in Europe. Recent experiments in England, however, have resulted in extracting the stearine from the oil from which can be manufactured firm and durable candles, said to be equal to those of sperm or wax. We are led to conclude from these experiments that palm oil is yet destined to supply the place of the whale and seal oil, which is so rapidly decreasing in quantity and procured with greater labour and difficulty every year. This oil can be produced by the natives in any quantity, and afforded at such rates as will pay well for its transportation. The traffic in it and the demand for it are rapidly increasing, and with this demand does the production of it increase also. In the vicinity of the American colonies the exportation of it has increased ten fold in as many years, in many cases an hundred fold, and yet the whole is produced within a very few miles of the beach. When we consider the great facility with which this article is manufactured from the palm nut, the wonderful productiveness of the palm tree, (the rein-deer of the tropics) and the boundless extent of territory in which it grows spontaneously, and the myriads of inhabitants which swarm these fruitful forests, ready to labour for the smallest consideration, we cannot doubt but this oil will yet form one of the heaviest articles of traffic in the commercial world.

The article next in importance to palm oil, exported from the west coast of Africa is camwood, one of the most valuable dye woods used in the arts, and we believe obtained almost wholly from that continent. Of this also, there cannot for ages be any lack, as but a short distance in the interior, say from 60 to 100 miles, it is one of the most commom forest trees, and is

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