

The Phantom Ship at Sea.

SAMUEL T. COLBRIDGE, 1772-1824.

The sun came up upon the left— Out of the sea came the light— And he shone bright, and on the right Went down into the sea.

And now the storm-blast came, and he Was tyrannous and strong; He struck with his oak-leaf wings, And chafed us south along.

And now there came both mist and snow, And it grew grosser, bold; And ice, mast-high, came floating by, As green as emerald.

And through the drifts the snowy clifts Did send a dismal sheen; Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken,— The ice was all between.

The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around; It cracked and growled, and roared and howled, Like noises in a swound.

The sun now rose upon the right— Out of the sea came the light— Still but in mist, and on the left Went down into the sea.

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, The furrow followed free; We were the first that ever burst Into that silent sea.

Down dropped the breeze, the sails dropped down,— 'Twas sad as could be; And did we speak only to break The silence of the sea?

All in a hot and copper sky, The bloody Sun, at noon, Right up above the mast did stand, No bigger than the Moon.

Day after day, day after day, We stuck, nor breath nor motion; As idle as a painted ship Upon a painted ocean.

Water, water, everywhere, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.

There passed a weary time. Each throat Was parched, and glazed each eye. A weary time! a weary time! How glazed each weary eye, When looking westward, I beheld A something in the sky!

At first it seemed a little speck, And then it moved a mist; It moved, and moved, and took at last A certain shape, I wist!

A speck, a mist, a shape, I wist! And still it neared and neared; As if it did a water-spout, It plumed, and becked, and veered.

With throats unheated, with black lips baked, We could not laugh nor weep; Through utter drought all dumb we stood; I bit my arm, I sucked the blood, And cried, A Sailing Ship!

See! see! I cried, she tacks no more! Hither to us, she comes! Without a breeze, without a tide, She steads with upright keel!

The western wave so still I came; The day was well-waded; Almost upon the western wave Rested the bright sun; When that strange shape drove suddenly Betwixt us and the sun.

And straight the sun was flecked with bars, (Heaven's Mother send us grace!) As if through a dungeon-gate he peered With broad and burning hair.

Alas! thought I—and my heart beat loud— How fast she sails! and glances in the sun, Like restless gannets!

The Sun's rim dips; the stars rush out; At one stride comes the dark; With heavy step, on his thin beam, Off shot the specter-bark!

We listened and looked sideways up: Four at my heart, as at a cup, My life-blood seemed to sip; The stars were dim, and thick the night,— The steersman's face by his lamp gleamed white.

From the sails the dew did drip,— Till clomb above the eastern bar The horned Moon, with one bright star Within the nether tip.

Amusing Blunders.

Miss Kate Field was not impressed with the accurate knowledge of Englishmen about foreign countries.

An intelligent member of Parliament told her he was certain she was not of Southern birth. 'Why not?' was her question.

'Oh because the Southerners all have black eyes and black hair.'

When she informed him that she was born in the Southwest, in Missouri, he asked—

'Missouri, what State is that in?' and unabashed when she told him that it was a State itself, said, with true English grandeur, 'I was thinking of Mississippi.'

But the laugh was not wholly on Miss Field's side. She frankly confesses to blunders of her own, though of a different sort. At Madam Tossand's Wax Works, she mistook a wax figure of a policeman for a living member of the force, and asked him a question. Surprised at his silence, she asked a genuine policeman why his brother-officer did not answer.

'He haint in the 'abit of hawser-questioning man,' said the policeman, with a broad grin, and Kate blushed, because as a representative Yankee her keenness of observation had been at fault.

The following hint to those in charge of church bells may be useful: Church and other bells are often cracked through inattention to the wear of the eye and pin carrying the clapper. This allows the clapper to strike low and the bell cracks.

LEAF year hasn't panned out worth a cent for old maids. Men are such bashful creatures, you know.

JUTE.

An enlargement of the industries of the South is its most urgent need.

Industrial independence of other countries and sections is the goal for which the South should strive, and it is to be accomplished by a greater diversity of employment.

The highest possibilities of material greatness cannot be achieved by that country that concentrates its energies on a single employment. Not only the South, but North Carolina is paying annually, millions of hard earned dollars as a tribute to the skill and enterprise of the world which could and should be retained by a wise economy to build up and enrich her people, but we are heedless to many important lessons in public economy. We should seek the introduction of such systems and industries of the Old World as are adapted to our people, soils and climate, and thus multiply the sources of wealth and happiness.

The triumphs of American skill, mechanical ingenuity, perseverance and enterprise, are not only found in the fact that now American watches, cutlery, agricultural implements and machinery, coarse and finer fabrics are successfully competing in workmanship and price with European products in their own markets, but is publicly acknowledged in the recent action of the British Parliament in its appointment of a Commission to visit this country and investigate the causes and the probable effect on the future industries and prosperity of that nation.

So of experiments with Jute in some of the Southern States, which demonstrated that it can be grown here as in British India, and has excited no little interest on the part of the British Government. Jute to England, is what cotton is to America. The supply of cotton, so seriously diminished by the American war, greatly stimulated the production of Jute and the British government has pushed it vigorously. In 1828 the total foreign sale of Jute in India amounted to less than 40,000 pounds, now there are one million acres land devoted to it, employing about one and a half millions of its inhabitants. Its manufacture is chiefly in Scotland, and from an insignificant beginning it has with in fifty years, not only enriched Scotland but has greatly promoted the commerce of the world.

Prof. S. Waterhouse, of Washington University, Missouri, who has devoted much thought and research to the subject, in an elaborate report to the Department at Washington in 1876, uses the following language:

'Jute is mixed with cotton, linen and silk. It is a material part of twilled stair-carpeting and low priced broadcloth. In combination with other textiles, it imitates the gloss of Irish linen, the luster of French silk, the beauty of Turkish rugs, and the splendor of Axminster, Kidderminster, Brussels and Venetian carpets. Single or mixed, it enters into the manufacture of a thousand articles of commerce. In 1872, there were in Dundee about one hundred jute mills, employing upwards of 10,000 workmen, and manufacturing more than 180,000,000 pounds of jute annually. In the same year nearly 50,000,000 gunny-bags—most of which were made in Dundee—were exported from Great Britain. Of the 300,000,000 pounds of jute that were manufactured in the United Kingdom in 1876, 200,000,000 pounds were woven in the mills of Dundee. The annual value of the flax, hemp and jute manufactured in Dundee is now \$15,000,000. The jute factories of Dundee have created a flourishing city, given employment to thousands of workmen, diffused prosperity throughout a large community, promoted the commerce of Scotland in the importation of the raw material and the exportation of the manufactured product and facilitated the movement of the cotton and grain crops of the world.'

'What has been so successfully accomplished in Dundee can be done with a still grander success in the United States.'

'We not only can spin and weave the fiber, but we can also raise it.'

'We not only can derive the profits of making the fabrics, but we can also enrich ourselves by two-fold economies of the growth and manufacture of the staple.'

Seed in limited quantities were distributed by the Department at Washington, to the State of Louisiana, Texas, South Carolina and Georgia, and it was found, under favorable conditions to grow as well as in India, and the seed became so well acclimated the second year as to be superior to those obtained from either Calcutta or Southern France. Specimens of the fibre were sent to manufacturers in Boston from Louisiana and Georgia, and was pronounced equal to the India product. The official Report on Commerce and Navigation shows that in 1876 we imported Hemp, Jute and other fibre, bags, cotton bags, and bagging (except bagging for cotton) to the amount of \$771,584—rate of duty 40 per cent, or \$508,774.

Hemp, Jute and sunn hemp \$494,255—rate of duty \$15 per ton, or \$123,047.

Jute Butts \$1,278,109—rate of duty \$9 per ton, or \$262,613.

It will thus be seen that to obtain Jute manufactured into bagging, bags, &c., we pay the cost of its production in India, the cost of transportation to England, the cost of manufacture, the cost of transportation to America.

To obtain Jute our manufacturers must pay heavy import duties. The immense revenue derived from a crop which has recently risen to the dignity of fourth on the list of India's products, a large proportion of which has gone from the pockets of Southern farmers and its manufacture which has given to one locality in Scotland a trade of \$15,000,000 annually, should so far as North Carolina is concerned, be transferred to her own fruitful soil and unemployed water-powers. In the Spring of 1877 this Department obtained and distributed a small quantity of seed to farmers in our Eastern counties, and here as in all the Southern States, where it has been tested, it grew luxuriantly, and matured in 90 days from time of planting. According to the fertility or adaptability of soil, it produces from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds per acre, and from 880 to 1,100 pounds of seed, and when sown broadcast from 20 to 25 pounds of seed are required. One acre produces sufficient quantity of seed 30 or 40 acres. The larger the growth the better the fibre. Under favorable conditions two crops may be grown in one season. The cost of production is estimated to be one-eighth to one-tenth of cotton.

It should have moist, loamy soils, well underdrained. In India it is said that it is alternate with rice, but the rude and imperfect system of culture practiced in that country would doubtless be rapidly and greatly improved under the quick and observant eye of the American.

Specimens of that grown in our State were sent to our Museum, and are still on exhibition. It attained to height of 10 to 12 feet, and the gentlemen who conducted the experiment are satisfied that it can be cheaply and successfully grown in all our Eastern counties.

Hon. Will. B. Rodman planted, the last of May, in drills two feet apart, and on the 19th of September it was 10 feet high, and in full bloom, and gives his opinion as follows:

'It is certain that the plant is well suited to the climate and soil of Eastern North Carolina. It likes apparently a rich, moist soil, such as that of our swamps. Whether the cultivation can be successfully introduced here depends entirely on the price that we can obtain; somewhat, also, perhaps on the labor which it will require to prepare it for market.'

W. R. Myers, of Beaufort county, sent two bundles to the Museum, and is satisfied that it would do finely in his county.

Jan. S. Murdock, Secretary and Treasurer of Charleston Bagging Manufacturing Company, writes:

'If you succeed in growing Jute you will have no trouble in selling all you can produce, as there is now a large consumption of it in this country, and at present it is all imported.'

Mr. Chas. T. Hubbard, Treasurer of this Ludlow Manufacturing Company Boston, Mass, says, in a recent letter to the Commissioner:

'The product of Jute in India amounts to a million and a half of bales of 300 or 400 pounds each, and it has been more than that. The greatest consumption of Jute has for many years past been in and about Dundee, but of late years many mills have been started in Calcutta, and have caused this failure of about one quarter of the mills in Dundee, and the stoppage of many more. The consumption of Jute in this country is but trifling and is likely to continue so, as under the present tariff it is impossible for any mill to compete with either the Calcutta or the Dundee mills on burlaps or Jute bagging, the chief articles for which Jute is used. The duty on Jute is \$15 a ton, and the present market value duty paid is from four and a quarter to five cents, currency. From all I have seen, I should suppose that some of the islands or sea coast of North and South Carolina, would be favorable for the growth of Jute, but the great difference in the price of labor would operate against it, in the same way as it does in the production of goods or of Jute. I do not know what the price of labor is in North Carolina, but in Calcutta an able bodied man will make thirteen hours a day for three to five cents. The duty on Jute Butts is \$6 a ton, and the present price is 2 1/2 cents a pound. It has been as low as 1 1/2 cents, and as high as 5 cents, but 2 1/2 cents, is a fair average. The quantity of Butts used in this country is about 175,000 bales a year of 400 pounds.'

Mr. Hubbard thinks that under the present rates of tariff the manufacture of jute in this country will continue to be small, but to obviate this difficulty it should be grown and manufactured in the South. Nothing but the most overwhelming proof by actual demonstration should deter us from giving a fair and full trial to an industry which involves so important possibilities affecting the future of the South. The loamy and alluvial

soils of our Eastern counties, and on all our streams throughout the middle sections of the State, would furnish hundreds of thousands of acres admirably adapted to its growth. Its culture and preparation for market is cheap and simple, and is well adapted to our labor. Its extended and constantly enlarging use opens a demand that will ever give us a ready cash market. It matures early in August, if sown at the proper time, and would therefore not conflict with our work in cotton; and if adopted as a money crop in the South, would soon stand next on the list in commercial importance to the great staple of the South. Northern manufacturers readily admit that the South can manufacture cheaper than they of the North, especially coarse goods. Georgia, with her rapid and prosperous growth in manufacturing, corroborates beyond all question, this opinion; and that the production and manufacture of jute will occupy an important position in the economical industries of the South, is only a question of time. Will North Carolina lead in this great movement? None is her opportunity.

Through the kindness and courtesy of Senator Vance, the Commissioner was placed in communication with Mr. Thomas H. Dunham, of Boston, Massachusetts, a reliable and intelligent gentleman, who has for a long number of years given much thought to the subject, and who has used every exertion to induce the South to engage in this industry. The following letter from him, enclosing one from India, recently received, will be read with interest:

BOSTON, MASS, Sept. 9, 1879

Hon. L. L. Polk, Commissioner:

DEAR SIR:—I enclose a copy of a letter sent in answer to my report to India, by Woodford & Farlow, of Boston, on jute culture. A copy was sent to the Agricultural Bureau, Washington, but you have the opportunity of publishing it now, at once, in advance of the Commissioner of Agriculture's Report. The entire simplicity of the culture herein stated commends itself to the farmers generally. The cheapness of labor comes from the grinding character of money making interests in India. There is no need of standing in the water in this country. In India it is poor management. Our people will work in all things greatly more advantageously. This whole treatment of jute can be improved on, and the work better done in this country.

There is great need now of seed. North Carolina must aid the farmers to get the seed, if these can be got by the Agricultural Department at Washington, in season. If you desire to send out for seed, it will take four months to get it from the time of sending. To get it for next year, you must act before Congress comes together. I propose with your help, to get Congress to give appropriations for seeds, and bounty on jute grown in this country. The bounty was promised me by Thaddeus Stevens and S. M. Morrill, in 1865, and there is precedent for it. This government gives bounty to ever settler planting trees on prairie lands West. The growth of jute will add millions of dollars yearly to this country. The consumption of jute is as large as the cotton crop. The grain crop in California gets all its supply of bags from jute.

The gunny bags, the gunny bagging, the oil cloth carpeting, the burlaps for cloth baling, the filling for carpets and carpeting, the mixtures in wolen goods, the immense consumption in paper stock, false hair, twine, bedding, duck, wall cloth for rooms in dwellings, silk mixtures, &c. No reference is had in the letter to the butts or root ends; these are the part cut off as waste in Calcutta, and are the stock used here for cotton bagging. Simply these jute cuttings form a large part of all the cotton bagging made, hence you can judge of the quantity of jute, as the butts form not one fourth of the jute. I should add, the jute butts are here also used in very large quantities for paper stock. The jute has no shields as flax or flax tow; it is raised more rapid and more easily than flax, and comes at from 2 1/4c. per pound for butts, to 4 1/2 to 6c. per pound for long jute, whereas flax brings 12 1/2 to 20c. per pound. Jute is worth less for shipping rope, as it is very weak fibre. It spins up easy, and is nearly as light as cotton. Wollen machinery of coarse grade will spin jute. The jute crop quickly matured, will pay. The details of amount you can get at Washington. There must be more interest taken in jute, and our states men should be urged to secure its cultivation. Farmers can secure cash on jute as readily as on cotton. A common jute cotton bagging mill will run three to five thousand yards daily, weighing two pounds to the yard—six to ten thousand pounds daily. We have six here. Jute costs gold now, and importers cable to India for it. One cargo of two million five hundred thousand jute sacks for grain recently went from Calcutta to San Francisco; the prices went from eight and three-eighths to eleven and three-quarter cents, and the buyers made \$600,000 by this one cargo.

One of your statesmen in North Carolina asked me to give the people of that State facts in relation to jute. To such a people, who have always been held as strong-minded, intelligent and independent thinkers, it seemed an easy thing, but I fear they will not act unitedly, and fail to secure immediately the great jute growing sections it is clearly fitted for. It must be urged over and over, in every section of the State. I have a great interest in North Carolina, and know small beginnings in jute by every one who can raise it, will lead to future success. Now, you can have mills for jute, giving employment to thousands of people, if jute raising can be encouraged even in a small way at first. The Northern mills are now careless about it, and importers won't favor it. Will your people encourage a bounty on jute raising, to be under the State, if desirable? We are able of competing with India on jute, and I beg you will not think it a light business. One writing from Calcutta says: "The world would be surprised at the immensity of the jute growth." I shall send you papers from there on the matter. I have them, but not at this writing. Do I not speak of a splendid State and a capable people, who can judge and act wisely in this matter? Every step you take is reported abroad, and they will watch your steps in this matter as well as that of the government at Washington.

I know of two mills that could be got running in North Carolina next year, and every mill of one fibre helps all other mills in other fibres, cotton mills, wolen mills, &c. Each step in one line makes your people self-supporting, and coarse goods are the most profitable to start on at the first, where the labor needs to get trained. A few millions of dollars yearly divided up among men, women and children in North Carolina, from their daily industry, would give encouragement, and greatly develop other interests. The mill hands in New England furnish good markets for the farmers in their own neighborhoods. Produce and products of farmers get home cash trade; the population becomes more reliable, and are saved from idleness—the devil's work shop.

Now again, jute seed must be had. Woodford & Farlow tell me they can give a price, but it is safe to put it now at \$5.00 a bushel, owing to the fact that the seed is not in the market to sell. Orders for it six months or a year in advance, would enable merchants to order it from the crop growers. Perhaps you can secure it at Washington, if not, get it if possible for the next year. I send you the address of parties here who get the letter out, and can get the seed in time, if ordered soon. I have no pecuniary interest, beyond the running of the jute cotton bagging mills, where and when jute can be had.

There may be some other fibres you have to make cotton bagging, but the real thing is to have quantities. A mill must run night and day on jute cotton bagging, and make 10,000 yards daily, if possible. The market is as safe as cotton, as it forms the weight of every bale of cotton. A bagging mill of 5,000 yards of cloth daily would only supply cloth for 200,000 bales of cotton—the product of North Carolina.

Ten thousand yards of cloth daily to 400,000 bales of cotton, or ten tons of jute daily, used every day in the week and year.

To answer every and all who write you about jute, is to give them directions and seed, and say, raise jute. If a bale of cotton is a bill of exchange, it must get the jute bagging before it can be shipped and made marketable.

With regards &c., THOMAS H. DUNHAM.

Letter from India. CORCHORUS OLITORIUS