

One step more and the products of this State to us will be entirely lost.

Mr. Editor:—It would seem that northern capital is coming to our help in the way of extending rail roads and telegraphic lines from this, away into the far south west. In some respects, this will appear to be very desirable and will greatly expedite information and travel, and you may rest assured that if this company once takes hold of it, that it will be well done; and they will be sure to make it a profitable investment, and it is believed that from this point they will take passengers into the city of New York in some forty one or two hours. And this contemplated improvement from Raleigh to the far south west, makes this an important crisis for us as a State and people. Then it becomes us to inquire what effect it will have upon us, growing out of these improvements; for it is very probable that a proposition will be made to purchase the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road, to continue it from this place to Columbia, and no doubt very many of our citizens will be highly pleased with the prospect. Now, if they can effect this purchase, what will be the possible amount that the State may expect to receive for it with all its fixtures? Will it command the half, or two-thirds of the State debt, (which would be like giving it away) not speaking of the entire loss of our citizens in it? If this sale is but once made, it will only be the beginning of trouble to us; for let it be completed from Raleigh to Columbia, and the State stock, and the private interest of our citizens in the Wilmington Road will be forever gone, and lost, and all that we will be able to realize for the millions spent on Internal Improvement in North Carolina will be to see the cars as they pass some point of the suburbs of our city, like a winged bird without stopping until they reach Portsmouth. One single step at this time may forever place us in this position. All our neighboring States are now vying with each other for our trade and produce. Virginia, in three different points. She is talking now of stretching her Internal Improvement across the mountains to intercept and take the rich produce of the west; and Petersburg has nearly all the middle and some of our more eastern counties; Cheraw, Columbia and Charleston get all our south western counties; and let the road be finished from this place to Columbia, and it will be seen that they will take the trade from Fayetteville and nothing can arrest it; and as to the products of our rich Roanoke table and river lands, the whole go into Norfolk. And our own State has only a very few counties in the extreme east that give us any credit in the way of exports. It must be seen that this leaves us but little to give us a name abroad. Thus giving all our strength and health to others leaves our citizens to work to support our State government.

We have at this time one more opportunity of saving our State in the way of Internal Improvement. That is, when the northern capitalists are about to trade for the Raleigh and Gaston Road, let it be properly understood that it shall be taken to the nearest point of the Wilmington road, and that the Wilmington company be compelled to take up their road from the point of union to the junction of the Raleigh and Gaston and the Petersburg road, which will throw the whole of the south western trade through Charleston, Wilmington, Goldsborough, Raleigh and Gaston; thus giving the travellers their choice of Petersburg or Portsmouth; then our eastern seaports will have an opportunity of competing with our sister States for the trade and product of our own soil, as well as for the exports and imports of the State.—When Fayetteville could have a turnpike from our southeastern counties into their city, which would do more for her in the way of trade, than to have a Rail Road from that place to Charleston, by raising a competition for her own trade, for which Charleston would be seen to be the successful competitor, and then the great western turnpike could be made to Raleigh, giving her own seaport a fair competition with Petersburg, Richmond, Cheraw, Columbia, Charleston and Norfolk, and the travel from our eastern counties going north and west would increase fully fifty per cent, and our own seaports are the best markets for West India produce in the whole southern States. Beaufort would soon become one of the first seaports for northern and European trades. But it is thought by many that what could be made so profitable an investment of northern capitalists, might and could be made equally efficient and lucrative to ourselves; and it would be the saving of the credit and reputation of the State, as well as to save the entire stock of the State on both roads as well as the vast amounts invested by our citizens; and so make it good stock for the whole; and the State in a few years would be paid for its loan to the Raleigh and Gaston Road, when the scrip held by our citizens for stock should be made good to them again.

This, perhaps will be the only opportunity that we as a State will ever have to make good that course of Internal improvement which has worked for us so badly, both for the stockholders and our people generally. We have now the time to correct this by uniting our road in such manner that it will make the stock of both good, and will enable us to stand as high as any of our sister States in the way of Internal Improvements; and will enable us to make as fine an exhibit of the product of our soil and of our exports and imports as any of them. But let this crisis pass and our Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road fall into other hands, who will direct our trade and produce into other States, then we must forever be "shewers of wood and drawers of water" for them that will be sure to try to be our masters.

FULTON.

THE COMMERCIAL
Is published every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
\$5 per annum, payable, in all cases, in advance,
BY THOMAS LORING,
Corner of Front and Market Streets,
WILMINGTON, N. C.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.
1 square, 1 insertion, \$0 50 | 1 square, 2 months, \$4 00
1 do. 2 do. 75 | 1 do. 3 do. 5 00
1 do. 3 do. 1 00 | 1 do. 6 do. 8 00
1 do. 1 month, 25 | 1 do. 1 year, 12 00
Twelve lines or less make a square. If an advertisement exceeds two lines, the price will be in proportion.
All advertisements are payable at the time of their insertion.
Contracts with yearly advertisers, will be made on the most liberal terms.

DR. DANIEL D. PRE,
RESPECTFULLY offers his Professional Services to the citizens of Wilmington and vicinity. He may be found at his Office, in Lawson's Building, on Front Street, south of Market.
June 26. 44-3m

GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, AND HARDWARE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, BY
C. W. BRADLEY.
April 4. 9

MYERS & BARNUM,
MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN
HATS, CAPS, UMBRELLAS,
AND WALKING-CANES,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
MARKET STREET, WILMINGTON, N. C.
C. MYERS. J. M. BARNUM.
Oct. 6, 1846. 55

RICHARD MORRIS,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
Jan. 13. 126

H. S. KELLY,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
MARKET STREET,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
March 17. 1

JOHN HALL,
(LATE OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.)
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
AND AGENT
FOR THE SALE OF NORTH CAROLINA NAVAL STORES
33 GRAVIER STREET,
New Orleans.
January 4, 1847. 12

ALEXANDER HERRON, JR.,
GENERAL
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
Wilmington, (N. C.) Packet Office,
NO. 351 NORTH WHARVES,
PHILADELPHIA.
Refer to
C. D. KELLS, Esq. Wilmington, N. C.
E. J. LITTLETON, Esq. Philadelphia.
Aug. 11. 63

DEROSSET, BROWN & Co.,
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
Refer to
C. D. KELLS, Esq. Wilmington, N. C.
E. J. LITTLETON, Esq. Philadelphia.
Aug. 11. 63

BROWN, DEROSSET & Co.,
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
159 FRONT ST. NEW YORK.

A. MARTIN,
GENERAL AGENT
AND
Commission Merchant.
North Water, 2 Doors above Princess Street,
(Marple's Building.)
WILMINGTON, N. C.
Oct. 3. 84

J. & W. L. MCGARY
FORWARDING AND COMMISSION
MERCHANTS,
AGENTS OF THE MERCHANTS' STEAM BOAT CO.
WILMINGTON, N. C.

ROWLEY, ASHBURNER & CO.
General Commission Merchants,
Nos. 5 & 6, SOUTH WHARVES,
PHILADELPHIA.
We are prepared to make liberal advances on ship-
ments of Naval Stores, &c., consigned to us for sale.
Refer to
SAMUEL POTTER, Esq. Wilmington, N. C.
JOHN GAMMEL, Esq. Philadelphia.
January 16. 128-ly

ELIJAH DICKINSON,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
Senior partner of the late firm of Dickinson & Morris,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
REFER TO
Messrs. B. DeForest & Co., New York.
Nesmith & Walsh, do.
E. D. Peters & Co., Boston.
Mears & Clark, do.
Walkers & Souder, Philadelphia.
A. Benson & Co., do.
Oct. 3, 1846. 81-ly-P

GILLESPIE & ROPESON,
AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF
TIMBER, LUMBER, NAVAL STORES, &c.
Will make liberal cash advances on all consignments
of produce.
March 17. 1

SANDFORD & SMITH,
AUCTIONEERS & COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
THOS. SANDFORD,
Oct. 17, 1846. 99

J. HATHAWAY & SON,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
3rd Door North Water Street,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
J. L. HATHAWAY.
Oct. 27, 1846. 64

W. M. L. SMITH,
Oct. 17, 1846. 99

J. HATHAWAY & SON,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
3rd Door North Water Street,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
J. L. HATHAWAY.
Oct. 27, 1846. 64

J. HATHAWAY & SON,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
3rd Door North Water Street,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
J. L. HATHAWAY.
Oct. 27, 1846. 64

VOL. 2.

WILMINGTON, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 22, 1847.

NO. 54.

BARRY & BRYANT,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
March 16. 14

JOHN C. LATTA,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
AND GENERAL AGENT,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
Oct. 10, 1846. 67

N. B. HUGHES,
COMMISSION MERCHANT
AND GENERAL AGENT
For the sale of all kinds of Goods, Country Produce
and Real Estate,
RALEIGH, N. C.
Business entrusted to him shall be promptly and
faithfully attended to.
Refer to the Editor of The Commercial.
Jun 2

G. W. DAVIS,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
March 17. 1

BLANKS
PRINTED TO ORDER, AT THE
COMMERCIAL OFFICE.

L. S. YORKE,
GENERAL
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
NORTH CAROLINA PACKET OFFICE.
43 1-2 NORTH WHARVES,
PHILADELPHIA.
June 9, 1846. 1y*37

CHARLES D. ELLIS,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
HAVING transferred the agency of the Cape Fear
R. S. Mill, he is now prepared to transact any
business committed to his trust. Office on W. C.
Lord's wharf, lately occupied by Russell & Gamwell.
May 13. 25

THOMAS SANDFORD,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
March 25, 1847.

NEFF & WARNER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, SHIP CHAN-
DLERY, SHIP STORES, &c.
April 14. 13

R. H. STANTON & CO.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
GROCCERS,
AND DEALERS IN
Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Caps
Boots, Shoes, Furniture, Hard-
ware, Cutlery, Tin Ware,
Crockery, &c., &c.
WILMINGTON, N. C.
R. H. STANTON. L. N. BARLOW

CONSTANTLY on hand, a general assortment of
CORDAGE and PROVISIONS. Also, Foreign
Fruit, Wines, Liquors, Toys, Potter, Ale, &c.
7 N. STATE STONES put up with despatch
Oct. 31, 1846. 96

PIANO FORTES FOR SALE.
ONE Elegant Piano Forte, in Rose-
wood case, of L. GEORGE'S manufac-
ture, Boston. Also, one second hand
Piano Forte, for sale by the Subscriber, at his Music
Room, opposite the Chronicle Office.
Piano Fortes tuned and repaired in a satisfactory
manner.
G. E. B. LEIGHTON. 147

CHAIRS.
A LARGE ASSORTMENT of best
English Manufactured Chairs and
Rush Bottom, Maple and Rosewood,
Black Walnut, Green, with Cushions,
Common Windsor, Office Chairs; Rush
and Case seat Sewing Chairs, with
Rockers, Children's Chairs, &c., &c.
For sale by
A. MARTIN. 27

PLANED LUMBER.
THE Subscriber having become Agent for the
sale of the above article, for Central, Plovering Mill
will keep constantly on W. C. Lord's wharf a full supply,
for sale in lots to suit purchasers.
C. D. ELLIS, Land's building.
June 24. 44

SODA BISCUIT.
10 BOXES Soda Biscuit,
Just received by SANDFORD & SMITH.
June 10. 37.

ACCLUSTIAL.
2 DOZ. of that celebrated article for restoring and
beautifying the hair, at
JOS. WILKINSON'S,
Market Street. 44
July 8.

SUPERIOR HAMS.
A LOT of very fine hams put up expressly for fam-
ily use, for sale, by HOWARD & PEDEN.
July 8th 1847. 43

WHEAT-CORN, FLOUR &c.
200 BALS prime Hay,
500 Bushels White Corn,
50 Barrels Super, Fine and Cross Flour or
20 Boxes Pale Soap,
20 " Adamantine Candles,
100 Bushels Cow Peas,
Just received, and for sale by
SANDFORD & SMITH.
July 8. 1847.

MOLASSES.
50 HHD'S select Muscovado Molasses, to ar-
rive per Brig Samuel Potter, for sale, by
DEROSSET, BROWN & Co.
June 28th, 1847. 45

COW PEAS.
750 BUSHELS, daily expected, per schooner
Charles Hopkins, from Windsor, N. C. for
sale, by
G. W. DAVIS

WOMAN.

BY MRS. LOCKE.

Woman, toiling, toiling, ever
Hedless of the world's reward,
For thine own, or for thy neighbor,
What, alas, is thy reward?

Toiling day and night incessant,
Mid thy household mith or wail,
With thy slight frame worn and feeble,
And thy thin lips pressed and pale,
Reckless of thy morning slumber,
Soothing grief and soothing want,
Blessing childhood, age and manhood—
Ever, ever, ministrant.

By the bed of pain and anguish,
Where man's sterner spirit quails,
Watching with the stars of midnight,
Failing not when all hope fails.

And 'e'en yet still firmly sitting
By the silent shrouded dead,
Kneeling calm, yet low and hopeless
For the shadow o'er the spread
Art thou not as man heroic,
Though no wreath thy brow entwines,
Though thy name be written, never,
On earth's fair and gilded lines?

Art thou not as man heroic,
Tolling though in solitude,
With thy meek heart asking nothing,
But approval of the good?

Art thou not as man heroic,
Bending not 'neath plumed crest,
Dost thou not thy country honor,
With no star upon thy breast?
Toll'st thou not like him as nobly,
Binding wounds his sternness made;
Drying off the tear that would not
In the brimful fount be stayed?

Though thy spirits faith be sinking,
For the harsh and bitter word,
Yet thou followest the rickie,
Careful for thy cherished lord.

Hast thou not the meed of labor,
As the weariness it brings;
Though thou fellest not the forest,
For the palaces of kings;
Though thou hearest not the anvil,
Though thou breakest not the clod;
Noble the reward thou earnest—
Love of man and love of God.

Though thou openest not the furrow,
Though thou swevest not the seed,
Though thou bindest not the harvest,
Thine is the toil the world shall heed.

Though the herd thou never foldest—
Tendest not the clustering vine,
Still amid the shouts of "Labor,"
Ask not what reward is thine.
While amidst the pride of "Labor,"
Glees thy glory is thy cry,
Ask not if thy toil is wasted,
Or forgotten thou shalt die.

Smiling brighter clasp thy infant,
Leaning trustful on thy breast,
Health thy patience with the aged,
Till he reach his final rest.

Press thy lip, lest thy complaining
Be by others ill advised.
Thy infirmities forgetting—
His not thine are sympathized,
Bend unwearily o'er fond child,
Smile amidst its waywardness,
Bear with erring youth in kindness,
Bless him who once vowed to bless.

'Tis among the weary wo-men,
In the lowly, tearful home,
Find thy duty and thy pleasure,
Thy reward shall surely come.

From D. Bow's "Constitutional Review."

CALIFORNIA.

The people of the United States very naturally feel a very great interest in everything connected with this terra incognita, bordering upon our territories, and under the jurisdiction of a power with whom we are now at war. The military possession which we have taken of the country, and the important ends to be subserved by its retention or purchase, have not a little augmented this interest. In any case, we believe that the destiny of California is more nearly wrapped up in that of the republic of the north than of the central despotism which has hitherto claimed it as its own.

This territory became first known to Europeans in the romantic age of Cortez, whose fleets navigated its gulf and its main stream, known as the Colorado of the west. The Jesuits peopled the country and ruled it until their overthrow left it in the hands of the Dominicans. Here it declined more rapidly than its previous progress. California resisted but feebly the arbitrary policy of Santa Anna in overthrowing the Constitution of 1824. In 1835, Mr. Forsyth offered, on the part of the American government, five millions of dollars for the country. Seven years after, Capt. Jones, of our navy, seized upon its part of Monterey and raised the American flag in the mistaken belief that war had been declared between the two governments.

In a late supplement to the Philadelphia North American, a writer, from his individual observation and travels, gives many interesting particulars in relation to California, upon which we shall draw in the further progress of our remarks.

There are in upper California twenty-one missions. These have under their charge orchards of most abundant fruit, scarcely requiring any attention, such as peaches, pomelo-grapes, plums, nectarines, oranges and apples; also vineyards of grapes in highest perfection.

There is a large commerce conducted with the Sandwich Islands, much of it in lumber. The red wood, a species of pine, grows to two hundred feet in height, is not hurt by worms, not easily rotted, makes excellent shingles and building materials. Another article of commerce is soap, it is of inferior quality, made with facility at little cost, and yields a very considerable profit. Wild and uncultivated cotton is found in the country; the Indians have it worked into blankets.—The bushes are six to nine feet high. The pasturage for sheep, and the facilities of wool raising is unrivalled. The products of the water are salmon and salmon trout. The whale is killed in the very harbor of Monterey, and the seal and sea otter are not rare. Deer course the woods in great numbers—Elk are found in the San Joaquin Valley, and are taken with the lasso; the hide is used for leather, and the tallow for soap. The grizzly bear, too, makes its unwelcome visits.

Horses exist in any quantity, wild. They have been slain by hundreds to make use of their pastures for smaller cattle. It is said that Capt. Smith, of St. Louis, bought several hundred of them in 1827, at an average price of nine dollars, and that mares have been bought as low as fifty cents each. As many as forty thousand wild horses and mares have been seen at a time on the Tular plains. In consequence of the scattered condition of inhabitants, horses are indispensable in California.

"All parts of California" says the correspondent of the North American "are not alike equal in fertility of soil. To the southward of San Luis Obispo the farmers consider they have a good crop of wheat if they gather thirty bushels for one of seed—beans, corn, peas, melons, pumpkins, etc., etc., yield all over California, but the most fertile land is from San Luis Obispo to the northward.

"I have mentioned the above as an example, that people may be on their guard, because I have already seen some of the persons who came over in the last emigration, who stated to me that they had been persons well to do, and that nothing in the world had tempted them to sell off their property and emigrate to California but the reading of a small book published by an American who had visited California, and that they had been most egregiously disappointed. That the fertility of the soil in most parts of California is most extraordinary rich, no person can deny, or that its variety of soil and climate, which last is in all parts excellent, will enable it to produce innumerable varieties of vegetation is likewise not to be denied, but as I wish to represent things as they really are, and as I have no interest whatever in deceiving any one, I shall contradict such absurdities whenever I fall in with them."

"I shall now," the writer continues, "give you an account with the descriptions of the principal classes of timber in California, beginning with the red pine tree. This tree commonly grows from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet high. I have measured one when felled that was three hundred and twenty seven feet from the butt to the point of head; this was by no means an uncommon size tree, being but nine feet in diameter where it was cut off, and the largest ever I saw measured while standing was forty two feet in circumference. I have heard of much larger ones, but never saw one; these trees all run very regular in their dimensions from the bottom to the top. The heart of a young tree begins to turn red at about six years old, the outside from two to three inches in thickness, always remaining white; the bark is stringy and difficult to cut through, even with the sharpest axe; it may well be compared to the husk of the cocoon. The leaf and bark are very similar to those of the spruce tree; and I have seen several trees felled in the spring of the year which have discharged as much as a barrel of water the moment the axe has struck the heart of them.

"The timber which this tree produces is invaluable for its durability, the worm does not enter it after it has been put to use, though while the tree is standing there is a worm which is very injurious to it, always entering at the bottom of the branches where the knot is almost equal to a flint stone, always entering upwards, so that the tree is very often found to be sound and good as high up as the first branch and above that its sometimes found greatly injured by the worm, but whenever this tree is cut down and dried this worm dies, and no other insect ever enters the wood, and it is properly seasoned before being put to use. I cannot say if ever it rots at all, unless it is put in some place in the ground where it is exposed to the wet and dry seasons alternately, and even then it lasts an immense length of time.

"Several of the old houses in the mission of San Carlos was pulled down this year for the purpose of getting the timber they contained, and which was red wood, and the beams and lintels were as sound to all appearance, as the day they were put into these houses, which must have been some sixty or seventy years ago, and yet by driving the plane once over them, they showed as beautiful and bright a red as the day they were cut down.

"For shingles this timber has not its equal, either for the ease with which it is worked, or for its durability. I have seen a man make by hand, that is to say split, shave and joint, fifteen hundred a day for two months at a time.

"This tree is found of hilly ground, it is seldom found on level places, but in valleys and on the sides and tops of mountains, it grows in immense groves, and the great demand there is for it in both this country and at the Sandwich Islands, proves the superiority of it to all other kinds of timber on the shores of the north Pacific Ocean. I have heard many disputes amongst botanists as to its proper name, and it appears to me to resemble some species of pine nearer than anything else.

"From ten leagues to the southward of Monterey up to forty degrees north latitude, California abounds with the red wood tree, and the exportation market has increased to such a degree that at the present day a board of this species of wood cannot be bought in Monterey at any price, and several buildings have been stopped this year for the want of this class of timber. Since July last, there have been no less than five ships in Monterey looking for a cargo of red wood boards, joists, or shingles, and none of them were able to procure as much as they required, merely for the want of laborers or capitalists who could turn their attention to this branch of commerce and industry.

"Monterey is half surrounded by groves which extend in some places about ten miles back, in others two or three. These are of an excellent quality for ship masts and yards, when cut in the proper season; they are principally a sort of white pine, very tough, and run generally from thirty to one hundred and ten feet high, and from one to four feet in diameter, seldom exceeding the latter; the timber makes excellent flooring, but must be cut in the winter, and must be well seasoned before being used. Across the bay, at Santa Cruz, and to the northward, there are immense quantities of yellow pine. Samples of the red and white and yellow pine were last year taken to the Marquesas Islands by the French missionary ship Lyon.

"There are likewise several kinds of oak in California; the large black oak tree is very plentiful, though the trunks of none of these trees grow as high as fifty feet clear of branches, but the common growth of them is from fifteen to thirty feet, seldom exceeding the latter clear of branches.

"About twelve miles to the southward of Monterey is a large cypress grove, this is another very valuable class of timber, both for its beautiful clear grain, and for its durability. This tree does not grow large here; they run commonly not over seventy or eighty feet high, and at about twenty-five or at most thirty feet from the ground, they begin to branch out, consequently the timber above height is unserviceable.

"Button-wood, willow, poplar, alder, cotton-wood, and black and white ash, are very abundant all over the country, and some of these grow to an immense size, but are very little used except for fencing or building wooden huts in the roughest style. There is likewise a species of shrub oak growing in this country very abundantly, but I know of no other use it can be put to but fire wood, and for this purpose it is excellent, though many people say the bark is very excellent for tanning. The tree scarcely ever grows eight feet straight up; it generally begins to grow crooked from its very root; sometimes vessels use it to make knees, but I do not believe it is durable, and the maggot generally gets into it the first year after it is cut down.

"On the borders of the Sacramento river and in the Sacramento valley, besides the different species of timber already mentioned, will be found the walnut, hickory, maple, and several other kinds of timber. In short, if California were as well watered (though this is not scarce,) as it is wooded, it would surpass every country in the known world."

The population of California is mixed aboriginals, Spanish, and foreign, and does not exceed in all thirty or forty thousand. The fur traders from the United States are scattered everywhere in this territory, especially about the shores of the Colorado. The soil in general, especially in the vicinities of the Pacific, is sterile. Rains scarcely ever prevail, and for years hardly a shower is known. Fertile spots exist on the Colorado, but the region has not been much explored. The vicinities of St. Francisco Bay, and St. Bernard are exceptions, and exhibit great fruitfulness. There are no rich veins of gold in the interior, and the pearl divers on the Gulf find rare and precious varieties of that beautiful and valued commodity.

Immigrants.—27,703 passengers arrived at New York from foreign ports during the month of June.

Several of the old houses in the mission of San Carlos was pulled down this year for the purpose of getting the timber they contained, and which was red wood, and the beams and lintels were as sound to all appearance, as the day they were put into these houses, which must have been some sixty or seventy years ago, and yet by driving the plane once over them, they showed as beautiful and bright a red as the day they were cut down.

For shingles this timber has not its equal, either for the ease with which it is worked, or for its durability. I have seen a man make by hand, that is to say split, shave and joint, fifteen hundred a day for two months at a time.

This tree is found of hilly ground, it is seldom found on level places, but in valleys and on the sides and tops of mountains, it grows in immense groves, and the great demand there is for it in both this country and at the Sandwich Islands, proves the superiority of it to all other kinds of timber on the shores of the north Pacific Ocean. I have heard many disputes amongst botanists as to its proper name, and it appears to me to resemble some species of pine nearer than anything else.

From ten leagues to the southward of Monterey up to forty degrees north latitude, California abounds with the red wood tree, and the exportation market has increased to such a degree that at the present day a board of this species of wood cannot be bought in Monterey at any price, and several buildings have been stopped this year for the want of this class of timber. Since July last, there have been no less than five ships in Monterey looking for a cargo of red wood boards, joists, or shingles, and none of them were able to procure as much as they required, merely for the want of laborers or capitalists who could turn their attention to this branch of commerce and industry.

Monterey is half surrounded by groves which extend in some places about ten miles back, in others two or three. These are of an excellent quality for ship masts and yards, when cut in the proper season; they are principally a sort of white pine, very tough, and run generally from thirty to one hundred and ten feet high, and from one to four feet in diameter, seldom exceeding the latter; the timber makes excellent flooring, but must be cut in the winter, and must be well seasoned before being used. Across the bay, at Santa Cruz, and to the northward, there are immense quantities of yellow pine. Samples of the red and white and yellow pine were last year taken to the Marquesas Islands by the French missionary ship Lyon.

There are likewise several kinds of oak in California; the large black oak tree is very plentiful, though the trunks of none of these trees grow as high as fifty feet clear of branches, but the common growth of them is from fifteen to thirty feet, seldom exceeding the latter clear of branches.

About twelve miles to the southward of Monterey is a large cypress grove, this is another very valuable class of timber, both for its beautiful clear grain, and for its durability. This tree does not grow large here; they run commonly not over seventy or eighty feet high, and at about twenty-five or at most thirty feet from the ground, they begin to branch out, consequently the timber above height is unserviceable.

Button-wood, willow, poplar, alder, cotton-wood, and black and white ash, are very abundant all over the country, and some of these grow to an immense size, but are very little used except for fencing or building wooden huts in the roughest style. There is likewise a species of shrub oak growing in this country very abundantly, but I know of no other use it can be put to but fire wood, and for this purpose it is excellent, though many people say the bark is very excellent for tanning. The tree scarcely ever grows eight feet straight up; it generally begins to grow crooked from its very root; sometimes vessels use it to make knees, but I do not believe it is durable, and the maggot generally gets into it the first year after it is cut down.

On the borders of the Sacramento river and in the Sacramento valley, besides the different species of timber already mentioned, will be found the walnut, hickory, maple, and several other kinds of timber. In short, if California were as well watered (though this is not scarce,) as it is wooded, it would surpass every country in the known world."

The population of California is mixed aboriginals, Spanish, and foreign, and does not exceed in all thirty or forty thousand. The fur traders from the United States are scattered everywhere in this territory, especially about the shores of the Colorado. The soil in general, especially in the vicinities of the Pacific, is sterile. Rains scarcely ever prevail, and for years hardly a shower is known. Fertile spots exist on the Colorado, but the region has not been much explored. The vicinities of St. Francisco Bay, and St. Bernard are exceptions, and exhibit great fruitfulness. There are no rich veins of gold in the interior, and the pearl divers on the Gulf find rare and precious varieties of that beautiful and valued commodity.

Immigrants.—27,703 passengers arrived at New York from foreign ports during the month of June.