

**AN HISTORICAL AND
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF THE
FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES, 1820-1856**

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An Historical and Statistical Account of the Foreign Commerce of the United States, 1820-1856
by Junior Homans

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JUNIOR HOMANS

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AN
HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
FOREIGN COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES,

SHOWING THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF EACH STATE, WITH THE AGGREGATE IMPORTS
FROM, AND EXPORTS TO, EACH FOREIGN NATION, FROM THE YEAR 1820 TO
THE YEAR 1856, AND THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES
WITH EVERY IMPORTANT MARITIME COUNTRY IN THE WORLD
DURING THE SAME PERIOD; INCLUDING A REVIEW OF
THE PROGRESS OF AMERICAN COMMERCE, AND A
PRELIMINARY SECTION OF THE TRADE OF
THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

COMPILED BY
Sare
J. SMITH HOMANS, JUNIOR.

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1857.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS volume of Commercial Statistics of the United States has been prepared for the purpose of exhibiting, in a condensed manner, the commerce of the United States from the year 1820 up to the present time. First, to exhibit the commerce of each State separately, by giving the domestic and foreign exports, and the total exports and imports, with the amount of bullion and specie exported and imported each year from 1820. Secondly, to show the commerce of the United States with every maritime country and important colony in the world from the year 1820 to the present time, giving the domestic and foreign exports, the total exports and imports, the bullion and specie exported and imported, and the domestic and foreign tonnage that cleared. In addition, the aggregate for every ten years is shown. These statistics show, in a comprehensive manner, the progressive importance of the trade of each State, and the great increase of the trade of the United States.

This complete exhibit of the commerce of the States and the United States is not to be met with in any publication, official or private; and is only to be found in detail in the Treasury Reports extending over a series of years from 1820 to 1856. These statistics were prepared by Michael Nourse, Esq., late chief Clerk of the Register's Office, Treasury Department, from the Reports of the Treasury on Commerce and Navigation, and from original documents to which he had access while in the Treasury Department. Especial care has been taken to insure the accuracy and completeness of these statistics, and they have been compared with original data.

To accompany the tabular view of the trade of each State, there is given a synopsis of its early history and present condition, with respect to internal improvements and natural facilities for trade. Also, a description of the principal domestic ports and harbors, with the tonnage employed, depth of water, and pilotage.

To illustrate the statistical tables of the trade of the United States with each foreign country, we add a summary of the present commercial condition of that country, its commerce with other countries, and the regulations respecting the commercial intercourse between the two countries. Also, a description of the principal foreign ports and harbors in each country, giving the depth of water, pilotage, and difficulties of navigation.

A preliminary view is given of the commerce of the American colonies from their formation, and a tabular view of the exports and imports of the separate colonies from the year 1760 to the year 1776.

The progress of American commerce from the Revolution up to the present time, showing the exports and imports of each year up to 1856, and the distribution of tonnage at several periods, are briefly shown.

The authorities that have been principally consulted by the editor in the preparation of this work, are: McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary; Encyclopedia Britannica; Gotha Almanack, 1857; The Banker's Magazine and Statistical Register; Commercial Returns issued by the State Department, etc.; Census Report, U. S.; De Bow's Review, etc.

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FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES,
WITH
A PRELIMINARY VIEW OF THE COMMERCE OF THE
AMERICAN COLONIES.

Colonies are establishments founded in foreign countries by individuals who either voluntarily immigrate from, or are forcibly sent abroad by, their mother country. The colony trade is the trade carried on between colonies and their parent States.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIES.—Greek Colonies.—Various motives have, in different countries and ages, led to the formation of colonies. The Greek colonies of antiquity seem to have been chiefly founded by citizens whom the violence and fury of contending factions forced to leave their native land; but they were sometimes formed for the purpose of relieving the mother-country of a redundant population, and sometimes also for the purpose of extending the sphere of commercial transactions, or of providing for their security. The relations between the mother-country and the colony depended, in a great measure, on the motives which led to the establishment of the latter. When a colony was founded by fugitives forcibly expelled from their ancient homes; or when it was founded, as was frequently the case, by bodies of voluntary emigrants, who received no assistance from, and were in no respect controlled by, the parent State, it was from the first independent; and even in those rarer cases in which the emigration was conducted under the superintendence of the parent city, and when the colony was protected by her power and influence, the dependence was mostly far from being absolute and complete. The great bulk of the Greek colonies were really independent States; and though they commonly regarded the land of their forefathers with filial respect, though they yielded to its citizens the place of distinction at public games and religious solemnities, and were expected to assist them in time of war, they did so as allies only, on fair and equal terms, and never as subjects. Owing to the freedom of their institutions, and their superiority in the arts of civilized life to the native inhabitants of the countries among whom they were generally placed, these colonies rose in a comparatively short period.

to a high pitch of opulence and refinement; and many among them, as Miletus and Ephesus in Asia Minor, Syracuse and Agrigentum in Sicily, and Tarentum and Locri in Italy, not only equaled, but greatly surpassed their mother cities in wealth and power.

Spanish Colonies.—The early colonies of most modern nations were founded by private adventurers, influenced either by the hope of gain or by a desire to escape from religious persecution, without any wish to relieve the mother-country of a surplus population or to bridle subjugated provinces. On their first institution, therefore, the modern colonies approached, though with some essential variations, more nearly to the Grecian than the Roman model; but the period of their freedom was of very limited duration. They were very soon subjected to laws and regulations framed in the metropolis and calculated, as was to be supposed, rather to promote its interests than those of the colony.

American Colonies.—The English, who, like all the other nations of Europe, had been impressed with mingled feelings of admiration and envy by the extent and importance of the acquisitions made by the Spaniards in the New World, speedily entered with enthusiasm and ardor into the career of discovery. Owing, however, to the bull which Ferdinand and Isabella had obtained from the Pope, conveying to them the ample donation of all the countries inhabited by infidels that the Spaniards had discovered or might discover, the English, to avoid encroaching on the dominions of their rivals, directed their efforts further to the north. Several attempts to found colonies on the coast of America were made in the reign of Elizabeth by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Richard Grenville, Sir Walter Raleigh, and others. But in consequence of their ignorance of the country, the deficiency of their supplies of provisions, the loss of time in fruitless searches after gold, and the various difficulties incident to the first settlement of a colony, none of these attempts proved successful; and it was not until 1607 that a small body of adventurers founded the first permanent establishment of the English in America, at Jamestown, in Virginia. Letters patent were granted in 1609 by King James to the principal persons resident in London, by whom the expense attending the formation of the colony was to be defrayed, incorporating them into a company, and establishing a council in England for the direction of their proceedings, the members of which were to be chosen by, and removable at the pleasure of, the majority of the partners of the company—permitting whatever was necessary for the support and sustenance of the colony, for the first seven years, to be exported free of duty; declaring that the colonists and their descendants were to be secured in all the rights and privileges of Englishmen, the same as if they had remained at home or been born in England; and reserving only, as the stipulated price of these concessions, and in imitation of the policy of the Spaniards, one fifth part of the gold and silver ore to be found in the colonies, which was to be paid to his Majesty and his successors in all time to come. In virtue of these powers, the company issued, in 1621, a charter or ordinance, which gave a legal and permanent form to the constitution of the colony. By this charter the supreme legislative authority was lodged, partly in the governor, who held the place of the sovereign, partly in a council of state, named by the company, and partly in a general coun-