

were designated; the annual average value of which was supposed to amount to 600,000 dollars.

Soap, leather, hats, and pottery, were likewise made in very large quantities; and, at one time, the earthenware of La Puebla and Guädäläjärä, formed a considerable article of exportation on the Western coast, where it was shipped at Äcäpülcö, for Gūya-qūil and Perū.

But the trade on the Pacific side was never of any importance in comparison with that of Veracruz. It consisted, almost exclusively, in Chinese and Indian silks and muslins, which formed the cargo of the Galleon, (or Nao de la China,) in return for which remittances in specie were made: the total amount of these varied from one and a half, to two millions of dollars; the whole of the imports and exports not having averaged more than three millions and a half of dollars, on a term of fifteen years, ending in 1810; at which time I conceive the trade of the galleons to have died a natural death.

By the preceding statement, it will appear, that the whole annual average value, in dollars, of the Trade of Mexico with Europe, before the year 1821, was:—

	Dollars.
Including the imports and exports of the Royal treasury,	30,586,273
Without them,	21,545,606

That the average value of the Trade, on the West-

ern side, (up to 1810), was three millions and a half of dollars, making, with the imports and exports of Veracruz, a total of 34,086,273 dollars.

That the whole of the Exports from Acapulco, and five-sixths of those from Veracruz, consisted of the precious metals.

That the Imports were partly Spanish produce, (as wines, brandies, oil, paper, and silks,) and partly European manufactures, imported through Spain, or the Havana, the direct importation being, in twenty-five years, less than one-tenth of the whole.

That the average exports of each year always exceeded the imports.\* And

That the value of the home manufactures of wool and cotton alone, (without including those of leather, hats, saddlery, earthenware, &c. &c., the consumption of which was very great,) nearly equalled the

	Dollars.
* Commercial exports of specie (average)	8,361,088
Ditto of Royal Treasury	8,340,667 3
Total annual amount	16,731,755 3
American produce (average)	2,790,280
Total annual exports	19,522,035 3
Total imports, including those of Royal Treasury	11,864,237

value of all the imports from any other part of the world.

The above is a rough sketch of the state of the trade of Mexico up to 1810. The first material change that occurred was occasioned by the civil war, which broke out in that year, and by which the Government was compelled, as early as 1812, to open the ports of Tāmpicō and Tūspān to the East, and that of San Blas to the West, from the impossibility of introducing an adequate supply of European manufactures through Veracruz alone, the communication with that place being sometimes interrupted for months together by the Insurgents.

Foreign vessels, however, were still excluded from these ports, the total amount of the direct intercourse with Foreign countries, (as already stated,) not having exceeded four millions and a half of dollars, in the years 1817, 1818, and 1820, on the Eastern side.

With regard to the Western Coast, nothing certain is known; but, as far as the imperfect returns, which I have been able to obtain, go, it appears that, although the trade of San Blas acquired, at a very early period, considerable importance, from the large remittances of European goods sent there, by Spanish merchants, from our West India Islands, across the Isthmus of Pānāmā, and introduced, through Gūadālājārā, on to the Table-land, means

were found to confine this trade, almost entirely, to *Spanish* vessels; nor was it until 1821 that, a great and decisive change in this respect took place.

In the course of that year, the declaration of the Army in favour of Independence occurred, and one of the first effects of political emancipation was, to free the country from that system of absolute prohibition, under which it had so long suffered. Foreign vessels were invited to visit the harbours of Mexico, on a footing of perfect equality with those of Spain; and most of the Spanish capitalists, disgusted by the prospect of such an encroachment upon their former monopoly, and discouraged, too, by the aspect of affairs, withdrew, with their families, to the Peninsula or the Island of Cuba.

They were replaced by Foreigners, principally British, or Americans, with some Germans and French, who, being all commission-merchants, found it more advantageous to supply the retailers of the Interior directly, without the intervention of any intermediate agent. They, consequently, established themselves in the city of Mexico, having merely correspondents at the ports for the purpose of forwarding the goods consigned to them from Europe.

Thus, Veracruz and Alvarado, (which port was opened to Foreign trade in 1823,) became, in their turn, mere places of transit, with the exception of their own actual consumption, which, in the mari-

time provinces to the East, is by no means considerable, that of Jālāpā (the capital of the State of Veracruz,) not being supposed to exceed 600,000 dollars annually.

As the commercial interests of Great Britain in Mexico, are the principal object of this Section, I shall beg leave, before I proceed to trace the other effects produced by the Revolution, to express my opinion with regard to the line taken by the British merchants on their first arrival, in concentrating themselves, as they did, in the Capital.

I cannot but think, that, in attempting to supply, from any one point, (however central,) a country of such vast extent as Mexico, they have, in fact, repeated the error committed by the Spaniards, with merely a great reduction in the value of the goods brought into the market; in consequence of a great competition.

Thus, in the Capital, European manufactures have often been sold under prime cost, while the same articles, if landed upon other points of the coast, and properly spread through the country, without the addition of unnecessary land-carriage, (which is an expense always incurred when goods are transmitted through the Capital to the Interior,) might have been disposed of at a moderate rate of profit.

This was, perhaps, an unavoidable mistake at first, when the nature of the country was so little known; but now that the effects of the system

pursued have been felt, it has often been a matter of surprise to me, that, with some few exceptions,\* there should not be an English house of respectability established any where but in the Capital, or, as agents, at the ports.

The consequence is, that a very large proportion of the British manufactures at present consumed in Mexico, passes entirely through the hands of North Americans; and, after being landed by American ships at Tāmpicō, Sōtō lā Mārīna, and Rēfūgiō, is disposed of, by American merchants, at San Luis, Pōtōsī, and Sāltillō, where they have formed establishments, and are in almost exclusive possession of the trade of the country.

The importance of this branch must not be estimated by its value in former times, for commerce, freed from artificial trammels, has, as usual, opened to itself a thousand new inlets; and one of the first-fruits of this salutary change has been to free the Northern Provinces from those evils, which Mr. Ramos Arizpe so forcibly described in 1811.

They are now rising daily in prosperity, and have every prospect, from their vicinity to New Orleans, and from the facility of their communication with

\* The house of Ritchie, and Co. at Guādālājārā, and that of Mr. Short, at Cūllācān, have, I believe, had every reason to be satisfied with the results of their departure from the general rule; and I have little doubt that a similar experiment in each of the great towns of the Interior, would be eminently successful.

the coast, of being as well provided with all necessary supplies as the Capital itself.

Similar advantages have been dealt out to the whole Mexican territory, by the Congress, with no sparing hand. The whole line of coast, from the extremity of the Peninsula of Yücatän, to the boundary of the United States, is already frequented by foreign vessels; and, in due succession, from South to North, the ports of Sisäl, Cämpēchē, Isla del Cārmēn, Guāsācōalcō, Ālvārādō, Vērācrüz, Tūspān, Puēblō, Viejö de Tāmpicō, Tāmpicō de las Tāmāulipās, Sötō lä Mārīnā (or Sāntāndēr), Rēfūgiō, Sān Bērñārdō, and Galveston, have been thrown open to the Trade with Europe, and already serve as a medium of communication with the Table-land.

This, again, has led to the establishment of depôts, unconnected with the Capital, in the more Central and Northern Provinces, which receive their supplies direct from the nearest port.

Thus, San Luis Pötösī has become the depôt for Tāmpico and Sötō lä Mārīnā, from which it is about as far distant as Mexico is from Veracruz, (one hundred leagues), whereas goods received *through* Veracruz and the Capital, would have to pay a land-carriage of two hundred and twenty leagues before reaching San Luis.

Cātōrcē is supplied in like manner, from Sötō lä Mārīnā: Sātillō, Mōntērēy, and Mōnclōvā, from Rēfūgiō; and Texas, from the Bay of Galveston, and the Port of San Bērñārdō, between which places

and New Orleans a communication by steam-boats is already organised.

On the Western coast, Gūadālājārā serves as a depôt to Sān Blās; Cūliācān, Ālāmōs, Cōsālā, and the other mining towns of Cīnālōā, with Dūrāngō, (on the Table-land,) to Māzātlan; and the Villa del Fuērtē, Arispe, (in Sonora,) Jēsūs Mārīā, and Chīhūāhuā, to Gūāymās, a magnificent harbour in Lat. 28, about the centre of the Gulph of California.

Ācāpūlcō is likewise beginning to be again frequented, as the nearest harbour on the Western coast to the Capital, from which it is only distant ninety leagues.

This sudden extension of the channels of communication has, of course, increased the difficulty of giving any general view of the present amount of the Trade of Mexico, or of analyzing the principal articles of which it consists.

It is, however, generally admitted, that the first effect of the Revolution of 1821, was to cause an immediate and extraordinary decrease in the Imports and Exports, the total amount of which, at Veracruz, fell, in 1821, to

1821,	17,244,569
1822,	14,030,478
1823,	6,259,209

The change becomes still more sensible if applied to the Imports alone.

In 1821, they varied from their average value of 10,364,238 dollars, to 7,245,052 dollars, or about two-thirds.

In 1822, they declined to 3,723,019 dollars, or about one-third of their former amount.

In 1823, they rose slightly, being in all 3,913,019 dollars, that is, exceeding by 190,000 dollars the Imports of the preceding year, but still falling short of the former average by nearly two-thirds.

During the two first of the years mentioned above, the Imports and Exports of Veracruz may be taken as a fair estimate of those of the country in general, no other ports being, at that time, frequented: but in 1823, this was no longer the case. Twenty-three American vessels are known to have entered the port of Tämpicö in that year; and, at Veracruz, hostilities having commenced, in September, with the Castle of St. John, (which was then in the hands of the Spaniards,) the Custom-house was transferred to Alvarado, which became, for the time, the principal port of entry.

It would, therefore, be necessary to have an exact return of the Trade both of Tampico, and of Alvarado, during the four last months of 1823, in order to ascertain the real amount of the commerce of Mexico during that year; and this I have found it impossible to procure.

In 1826, an account was published of the Trade of Alvarado in 1824, by which it appears that the total amount of the Imports and Exports was dollars 15,158,941  
The imports were 11,058,291

viz. :—

Coasting Trade 284,087

American Produce 878,737

European Produce in American bottoms,

principally through Cuba, and Yü-

cätän, 3,481,831

European Imports direct 6,413,636

—

Total Imports 11,058,291

The Exports of 1824 were, in all, 4,098,650

dollars.

The direct importation from Europe, at Veracruz,

during the same period, was dollars 1,023,739

The Exports 593,907

—

Total Trade of Veracruz in 1824, 1,617,646

—

2,423,019 dollars of the 4,098,650 dollars to

which the Exports from Alvarado amounted, were

in Silver, coined or wrought; as were 431,130 of

the 593,907 dollars, exported through Veracruz.

The total amount of the Exports and Imports in

the year, of the two ports, was 16,774,587 dollars.

viz. :—

Total amount of Imports at Alvarado

and Veracruz 12,082,030

Total Exports 4,692,557

—

16,774,587

—

But, as I have already stated with regard to 1823,

the Trade of Alvarado and Veracruz in 1824, was not by any means the Trade of Mexico; for, although the British vessels chartered for the Gulph, still cleared exclusively at these two ports, no less than five thousand tons of American shipping are known to have been employed, in 1824, in the trade between Tampico and the United States.

It becomes, therefore, doubly necessary to ascertain the amount of this Trade, (which consisted principally in the importation of European goods,) before any estimate can be formed of that of the country in general; but this is unfortunately impossible; no authentic information upon the subject, either public or private, having yet been obtained.

Allowing, however, four millions of dollars for the value of the Imports and Exports in the 5000 tons of shipping admitted to have been employed, and adding these four millions to the gross amount of the trade of Alvarado and Veracruz, (16,776,587 dollars) there will be found to be but little difference between the Trade of Mexico in 1824, and its annual average value before the declaration of Independence, viz.: 21,545,606 dollars, omitting, of course, the Imports and Exports on the account of the Royal Treasury, and taking only those comprehended in the Balanza General.

It was in the mode of introduction, and in the quality of the articles introduced, rather than in their aggregate amount, that the greatest change took place.

In 1821, the whole of the Imports, with the exception of 37,995 dollars, were introduced in Spanish bottoms, from Spain, or her immediate dependencies, without any intervention, or participation in the trade by any foreign power.

In 1822, the Imports from Spain and her dependencies amounted only to 2,553,255 dollars; while the direct Imports from foreign countries rose to 1,169,764 dollars, or upwards of thirty times their amount in 1821.

In 1823, the Spanish Imports, at Alvarado and Veracruz, fell to about one-fourth of their amount during the preceding year, being only 480,007 dollars; while the direct Imports from foreign ports rose to 2,090,732; without making any allowance for the twenty-three vessels from the United States which discharged at Tampico.

In 1824, the Imports from Europe direct at Alvarado and Veracruz, were 7,437,375 dollars, and those of European productions from Cuba, 3,481,831 dollars; (these last belonging strictly to the Imports from foreign ports, passing merely through the Havana from its being a free port,) while no direct importation whatever from Spain took place. At Tampico, the trade was entirely in the hands of the United States; while at Alvarado, out of 18,730 tons of shipping registered in the year, 8,320 tons were from Europe direct.

These facts sufficiently show how entirely the channels of communication varied between 1821 and

1824. In the first of these years, not one foreign, in the last, not one Spanish vessel cleared at a Mexican port.

A change something similar occurred in the nature of the importations themselves.

Spanish silks, which, in 1821, were imported to the amount of 1,205,219 dollars, fell, in 1822, to 224,288 dollars. In 1823, they only reached 212,778 dollars, and in 1824, not a trace of them is to be found in the importation lists of Alvarado and Veracruz. Cottons rose in amount, as the silk importations decreased. In 1821, they only amounted to 888,726 dollars.

In 1823, they rose to 1,156,787 dollars, and, although the amount of the importations in 1824 has not been ascertained in any authentic shape, I should conceive, from the tonnage employed in the European trade, (of which cottons formed a most essential part,) that their value must have been, at least, two millions and a half of dollars.

Spanish wines and brandies, which, in 1821, were alone known in Mexico, have been entirely supplanted by French, which, in 1824, appear to have been imported, through Alvarado and Veracruz alone, to the amount of 927,366 dollars, out of a total importation of 1,062,970 dollars.\*

\* In making this calculation, I have taken as French, (or at least, not Spanish,) all the wine imported direct from Europe, with the brandy entered as Aguardiente Frances. The imports through Cuba I consider as Spanish produce.

The native manufactures, of which I have spoken in the beginning of this Section, have shared the fate of those of Spain: they have fallen gradually into disuse, as the Mexicans have discovered that much better things may be obtained at a much lower price, and will soon disappear altogether. Querétaro, indeed, is still supported by a Government contract for clothing the army; but the cotton-spinners at La Puebla, and in other towns of the Interior, have been compelled to turn their industry into some other channel.

This, in a country where the population is so scanty, is not only not to be regretted, but may be regarded as highly advantageous: a few of the towns, indeed, may suffer by the change at first, but the general interests of the country will be promoted, as well as those of the foreign manufacturer, who may not only hope for a return in valuable raw produce for his manufactures, from the labour of these additional hands, but must see the demand for European productions increase, exactly in proportion to the decrease in the value of the home-made cotton and woollen manufactures, which averaged, before the Revolution, ten millions of dollars annually.

This sum is now added to the wants of the country, or, in other terms, to the amount of European manufactures annually consumed by New Spain.

Such are the principal changes which the Revolution has produced in the intercourse between Mexico and Europe. It would be superfluous to trace

them through all the minor branches of the actual Trade of the country, nor have I the means of doing so in an authentic shape, the returns from the different ports having been very irregular during the last three years, which have barely allowed time for the adoption of the measures necessary in order to afford some prospect of regularity in future.

To the West, the want of returns has been still greater, some of the ports now most frequented, (as Mázatlán and Guāymäs,) having had no Custom-house establishment at all before the end of 1825; while that of San Blas\* was noted for the extreme laxity of its administration.

It will, therefore, be necessary to confine my investigations to the following points, upon which I shall hazard some general observations :

First, the amount of the trade of Mexico in 1827, estimated roughly by the produce of the Customs, and the number of ships employed.

Secondly. The probability of an increase, or decrease, in this amount, in the course of the next five years. And

Thirdly. The system at present pursued with regard to Foreign Trade, and the ameliorations of which it is susceptible.

The first of these points admits of something like

\* The uninhabitable state of this Port during five or six months of the year, (the rainy months,) may account in some measure for this laxity. At this season it is abandoned, the principal merchants betaking themselves to Tépíc.

evidence being adduced in support of any opinion that I may be inclined to form; but the second leads, unavoidably, to much vague speculation, to which my readers will, of course, only attach importance in as far as they conceive the data, upon which it is founded, to be worthy of attention. The third, consists merely of a statement of facts, which it will not be necessary to enter into in great detail, as a new Tariff, which has long been in contemplation, will probably appear before my present work is concluded.

With regard to the first point under consideration, viz., "The amount of the Trade of Mexico in 1827," I have stated, that the first effect of the Revolution of 1821 was to occasion a sudden decrease in the commercial intercourse of Mexico with Europe; which was reduced, in three successive years, from Twenty-one millions and a half of dollars, (the annual average value up to 1821,) to Seventeen, Fourteen, and Six millions of dollars, to which it fell, at Veracruz, in 1823.

Allowing three millions more for the exports and imports of Alvarado and Tampico, we shall find the *bona fide* trade of Mexico, in 1823, not to have exceeded Nine millions of dollars.

This sudden, and apparently unnatural diminution in the consumption of the country, at the very moment when it was first allowed to taste the advantages of a Free Trade with Europe, is explained, in part, by the simultaneous removal of all those, by whom the com-



mercial wants of Mexico had been previously supplied, and by the time which foreign adventurers required, in order to make the necessary arrangements for entering upon a field, which was entirely new to them.

The whole of the year 1822, and a great part of 1823, were consumed in these arrangements, which were rendered very complicated by the necessity of opening some new line of communication with the Interior; Veracruz having become nearly useless as a port, in consequence of its vicinity to the castle of Ulloa.

The Old Spaniards too, who naturally relinquished with reluctance their hold upon the country, were still engaged in winding up their affairs; and, while this state of transition lasted, there was little to animate foreign speculators: nor was it until the commencement of 1824, that they acquired sufficient confidence in the stability of the new institutions of the country, and a sufficient knowledge of the most obvious channels of communication, to enter upon a commercial intercourse with Mexico, with any sort of activity.

The effects of it in that year, have been already shown. The Trade of Alvarado and Veracruz, rose from Six to Sixteen millions and a half of dollars, (16,774,587,) while that with Tampico, which employed alone 5000 tons of American shipping, must have raised the total amount of the Imports and Ex-

ports of the year, to something very near the former average of 21,545,606 dollars.

The progress made since that time it is impossible exactly to define, for, although it would appear by the produce of the Custom-houses to be very considerable, (the receipts of the ten first months of the year 1826, having exceeded those of the *whole* of 1824, by three millions of dollars,) this may be said to demonstrate an improvement in the system of collecting the duties payable on foreign goods, rather than an increase in the amount of the goods themselves. When combined, however, with the number of vessels employed in the Mexican Trade, it affords a fair standard for regulating our opinions, and, as such, I shall state here the result of my enquiries.\*

Dollars.

In 1824, the Customs produced, during the whole year,	4,351,218
In eight months of 1825,	4,842,354
In ten months of 1826,	7,043,237

In 1823, the number of vessels which cleared, within the province of Veracruz, was, as follows:

\* According to the official monthly statements, published by the Receiver General of the Custom-house, (Aduana) in the Veracruz paper, the Custom-house dues for June, July and August, (three of the worst months of the year for trade, on account of the climate, rain, &c.) amounted to 1,200,000 dollars.

	Veracruz.	Alvarado.	Tampico.	Total.
British	12	3	0	15
American	34	15	23	72
Spanish	30	0	9	39
Mexican	18	0	0	18
French	1	0	0	1
Danish	1	1	0	2
Swedish	1	0	0	1
	97	19	32	148

The tonnage at Veracruz, where alone it was registered, amounted to 8524 tons.

The returns in my possession for 1824, give no similar classification of vessels, and do not extend to Tampico. They merely state that One hundred and seventy-six vessels entered the ports of Alvarado and Veracruz, in the course of that year, the tonnage of which amounted to 18,730 tons. Thirty-nine of these vessels (tons 2836) were Mexican, (engaged in the coasting trade,) the remainder were all American or European; but the Balanza published by the Government, does not state whether the term *American* includes the island of Cuba, and whether there were any vessels from Spain amongst the Sixty-one European vessels, which are stated to have entered the port.

It would, perhaps, be superfluous to give an analysis of the year 1825, during which a slow, but steady progress was made. I shall, therefore, proceed at once to 1826, in the course of which the

following vessels appear to have entered the Mexican ports.

From England	55
The British West Indies	25
Gibraltar	15
	—
France	95
Holland	49
Italy	15
Denmark	6
Hamburgh and Bremen	1
Sweden	2
Prussia	1
Spain	1
The United States	399
Lima, Guyaquil, and other ports in the Pacific	46
Columbia	6
China	5
Asia	2
Whalers on the Coast of California for refreshment	10
	—
Total	639
Prizes from Sea	8
Entries of National Vessels	626
	—
Total	1273
	—

It must be admitted that this extraordinary in-

crease of activity in the intercourse between the New and the Old World, taken in conjunction with the rise in the Customs from Four to Eight millions of dollars, (allowing something less than One million for the two months not included in the receipts of 1826,) augurs well in favour of the growing importance of Mexican Trade. It may not indeed, as yet realize the golden visions of those, who, in 1825, regarded the New World as a source of instantaneous wealth; but it certainly holds out to a well-regulated spirit of commercial enterprise, a prospect of great ulterior advantages. I have not the means of determining exactly the present extent of those advantages; for it is impossible, from the arbitrary nature of the valuations, upon which the Import duties are paid, to take the amount of these duties as any criterion of the value of the Imports themselves: I should conceive, however, that a Trade in which Six hundred and twenty-nine merchant vessels from Europe, the United States, Asia, and the Southern coasts of the Pacific, have found employment, must be more valuable, in the ratio of nearly three to one, than a Trade in which two hundred and ten vessels only were engaged.

Yet such is the amount of the Shipping returns for 1824, if we add to the One hundred and seventy-six vessels registered at Alvarado and Veracruz, Thirty-four more for the five thousand tons of American shipping registered at Tampico during the same year. If, therefore, the Trade of 1824 nearly

equalled the annual average amount before the Revolution, (Twenty-one millions and a half of dollars) that of 1826 must have very considerably exceeded it.

It is in the Imports that the change principally consists; for the exportable Agricultural Produce of the country has varied but little since 1824. It is composed almost entirely of the Precious Metals, Cochineal, a little Indigo, Vanilla, Logwood, Jalap and Zarzaparilla, Tabascan Cacao, and Pepper, with Cotton, Hides, and Flour, which are beginning to become of some importance in the North.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for the average value of these different articles to be ascertained. Indeed, it must, for many years, be subject to continual variations; as, while the impulse recently given to the country continues, the produce will increase with the facility of exchanging it for European productions, and, consequently, no calculation upon the subject can be hazarded.

At present, however, the whole of the Silver raised does not more than cover the difference between the value of the Imports and that of the exportable Agricultural Produce, the Coinage of all the Mints in 1826 having only amounted to 8,451,000 dollars, while the registered exportation of Specie during the same period exceeded Seven millions and a half.

It may, perhaps, be interesting, in the absence of more authentic data, to trace the progress of some of the different Custom-houses established at the ports, which have been opened to Foreign Trade since

1824, as their receipts, under all the disadvantages of a system new in all its parts, and confided, in its first application, to agents unfitted, in many instances, by long habits of corruption, for any very strenuous exertions, afford, certainly, the very best evidence of increasing commercial activity. I shall, therefore, give a Comparative Table of their amount:—

	Produce in dollars.	
	1824.	1826, 10 months.
Campeche	115,033	157,464
Isla del Carmen		19,280
Tabasco	7,446	36,682
Tämpicō (Pueblo Viejo)	367,680	480,195
Tämpicō de Tămăulipäs		326,640
Refugio and Soto la Marina		
In { 1823	14,538	378,734
{ 1824	113,119	
Acapulco { 1821	20,362	422,343
{ 1824	100,308	
Măzătlan	30,392	125,298
Guăymăs in 1821	26,736	44,676

I must again state that the sums given in the preceding Table are not meant to convey any idea of the *value* of the Imports introduced through the different ports, but merely to show what has been done towards the organization of a system, by which the amount of these Imports may, hereafter, be ascertained.

Smuggling prevails at present, to a most disgraceful extent, both upon the Eastern,\* and the Western Coast. A very large proportion of the European manufactures transmitted through the United States, pays no duties at all; and there is little doubt that it is the hope of introducing their cargoes upon similar terms, (in conjunction with some local grievances, to which I shall have occasion to allude presently,) that has induced the masters of so many merchant ships, on the Pacific side, to desert the port of San Blas, and to clear at Măzătlan and Guăymăs, where, until 1825, there was no Custom-house establishment at all.

All these circumstances render it impossible to hazard a calculation with regard to the actual consumption of Mexico; as neither the amount of the Imports, nor that of the Exports, nor any fair estimate of the illicit trade, can be obtained.

That it must exceed that of 1824 is evident; and it is equally clear that the quantity of European manufactures consumed must be infinitely greater (perhaps in the ratio of eight or ten to one,) than at any period before the Revolution, when a profit of a hundred and fifty per cent. was obtained upon

\* Principally by small American schooners with the northern ports of Tampico, Soto de la Marina, &c. &c. Smuggling in Veracruz, in consequence of an improved system in their Custom-house, &c. is rendered very difficult; indeed, it is now confined almost to the richer and less bulky sort of goods—silks, silk stockings, &c. &c.