

themselves, are provided for after the Scotch system, from the funds of the parish to which they belong. No rates are made exclusively for that purpose, and no **labour** is required of the pauper for the **benefit** of the parish.

There is great want both of agricultural and domestic **labourers** in the country. The wages of the former may be stated to be from 24 to **30** shillings per month with food and lodging, or without food at 48 to 52 shillings. Domestics are usually fed and lodged, and their wages vary, according to sex and other circumstances, from 10 to 30 **shillings** per month. A number of mechanics and **artizans** would find ready employment, such as ship carpenters, caulkers, house joiners, stone masons, shoemakers, wheelwrights, coopers, harness makers, &c. The wages for people of this description are about 4 shillings per day, without board or lodging.

The mercantile marine of Bermuda being very considerable, boys **from** 12 to 15 years of age could at all times be advantageously apprenticed and brought up as sailors, having provided for them during their **apprenticeship** good and **sufficient** food and clothing, and medical attendance and education adapted to their peculiar pursuits.

As an encouragement to persons inclined to emigrate to Bermuda, and to enable them to make the best arrangements on their **first** arrival, the legislature have granted fourteen days' subsistence money to persons (not exceeding 100 in one year) arriving in the island with a voucher showing them to have emigrated to Bermuda with the approbation of the Commissioners of Emigration. All transported convicts, however, are prohibited from enjoying the benefit of any such allowance.

Emigrants would, no doubt, on their arrival here, **labour** under a want of **suitable** society. It is therefore recommended that families should as much as possible emigrate together, as well to meet this inconvenience, as to keep up those ties of mutual affection which tend so powerfully in every situation of life to render the individuals happy and contented. Families need not be deterred **from** emigrating under an impression of **difficulty** in employing their children. Numbers of people would always be glad to employ them, of both sexes, in the lighter description of household work.

**In** conclusion, (observes Mr. W. Burgess,) the emigration agent for the colony, to whom we are indebted for much **valuable** information, it may be remarked, that such persons as desire to emigrate to Bermuda may assure themselves of finding a salubrious climate, equal laws justly administered for the protection of their persons and property,

fit and profitable objects for the employment of their industry, churches and schools suitable for the moral and intellectual education of their children, and, in case of sickness, **skilful** medical attendance at **fair** and moderate charges.

The agriculture of Bermuda is as yet in its infancy. Indeed, the locality of the island, the predisposition of the inhabitants to mercantile pursuits, and other circumstances, will probably continue to render the country essentially commercial : but a growing desire is now manifest to embark capital in the agricultural branch of industry, and when **labour** can be procured in greater abundance, there is every reason to believe that horticulture, at least, will rapidly advance. During the past year or two, under the fostering example of the Governor, agriculture in the colony has met with increased attention, and many tracts of land before unprofitable and in waste have been brought into promising culture. The Bermuda Agricultural Society has been importing horses and cattle of the most approved breeds, and hopes *are* justly entertained that great benefit will thence result.

The principal products at present are the common or Irish potato, the sweet potato, onions, arrow-root, and garden vegetables. The yield of the Irish potato may be stated at seven to one. **It** is only of late years that this vegetable has been brought under cultivation, but with so much success as to render a very increased product of it certain. Onions (of the Madeira or Portugal kind) and sweet potatoes were for a long time the only vegetables cultivated. Although the production of the latter has in some degree yielded to that of the common potato, *it is still* in very general use, and **from** the adaptation of all its parts for food either for man or the lower animals, it is hoped that its cultivation **will** not be allowed to **fall** into neglect. The quantity of onions produced is increasing yearly. Being an article of considerable export during the months of May and June, no produce pays the grower better ; for at that season, in addition to the home demand, the markets of the whole of the West Indies and some parts of North and South America are open to **him**. The average produce is not less than 24,000lbs. per acre, and the average value not less than five shillings sterling per **100lbs**.

Arrow-root is beginning to be extensively cultivated. The deep red soil and marsh or peat soil are alone adapted for its cultivation. **Nearly** all that is raised is shipped to the London market, where it is held in the highest estimation : very remunerating prices are consequently obtained. The produce of this article is capable of being greatly and beneficially **ex**tended.

In addition to these what may be called staple products, the land **is** well suited to the growth of wheat, barley, and oats. The vine **too** thrives well, and yields fruit heavy and of good **flavour**. No vineyards, however, are yet cultivated ; and no attempt with which the writer is acquainted has yet been made to manufacture wine in the islands-an experiment which, when made, can scarcely be of doubtful success,

The orange, lemon, and other fruits of tropical climates grow in profusion in the Bermudas.

The cedar tree extends its growth over the islands. As a wood, it is compact, durable, and ornamental. It is used extensively in ship and **house** building, for both of which purposes it is well adapted. It is so close-grained, **that** it can be cut down, sawed, and placed-in a vessel's bottom without being seasoned. A number of ships of war were formerly built of this material ; but as it is apt to splinter in action, and being found very expensive, the practice was discontinued.

The palmetto is also common. The tender leaves of this tree are manufactured into a useful and cheap description of plait for bats, **while** the coarser ones are used to make baskets in which onions are exported to the West Indies.

The trade of Bermuda has been at all times considerable. No great attention having been yet paid to the produce of the soil, nearly all **articles** of food have been hitherto imported, and the whole of those manufactured articles so extensively used for personal and domestic purposes-ship, house building, and other objects, have been entirely so. Articles of **food**, such as beef, pork, lard, butter, corn, flour, pulse, rice, **&c.**, are principally imported from the United States of America ; while dry salt fish, salmon, mackerel, **&c.**, are brought from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Sugar and coffee come of late years generally from the foreign West Indies. Manufactured articles of almost every description are brought from England. Under **such** circumstances, where so many persons have to receive **their** profit, it would be unreasonable to expect living to be cheap. Yet, from the competition that is constantly kept up in the supply of these various articles, no more than a fair remuneration can ever be obtained.

The trade of Bermuda, however, is far from being limited by the import of its consumption, and the export of its products. Before the British Provinces grew into importance as ship-owning countries, the Bermudians eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity of interchanging for them the produce of their fisheries and articles of West **India** growth. Although from the rapid-increase of shipping in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, they no longer engross this

trade, they still enjoy a considerable share, which the peculiar adaptation of the cedar vessels to it, on account of their superior swiftness and durability, will, it is hoped, enable them to maintain. They also enjoy a fair share of the carrying trade between the United States and the West Indies.

*Aggregate of the Value of Imports and Exports into and from the Bermudas, for the years ending respectively, 5th January, 1842, and 5th January, 1833.*

**IMPORTS.—Value in Sterling.**

	1842.			1843.		
From Great Britain . . . . .	£42,988	15	2	453,948	9	4
British North America . . . . .	26,396	1	4	16,078	17	11
British West Indies . . . . .	10,360	2	4	7,595	19	2
United States . . . . .	53,899	16	10	77,202	11	4
Foreign States . . . . .	18,277	19	8	8,164	9	5
	<b>£151,922</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£162,990</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

**EXPORTS.—Value in Sterling.**

To Great Britain . . . . .	£8,528	8	1	£21,763	8	3
British North America . . . . .	1,230	17	8	1,595	18	4
British West Indies . . . . .	13,931	9	10	10,325	19	2
United States . . . . .	2,506	9	11	4,862	18	4
Foreign States . . . . .	4,113	8	8	966	8	0
	<b>£30,399</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£42,514</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>

*Number of Vessels entered Inwards and Outwards at H. M. Customs, for the same periods :—*

	YEAR ENDING JAN. 5, 1842.						YEAR ENDING JAN. 5, 1843.					
	INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.			INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
United Kingdom . . . . .	10	2370	107	7	1499	76	30	8566	372	7	1369	68
Brit. West Indies . . . . .	19	1419	116	43	4010	276	32	2286	195	42	2724	234
Brit. N. America . . . . .	34	2117	188	23	1962	144	29	1649	136	39	6460	321
Foreign Europe . . . . .												
Foreign vessels . . . . .	2	220	13	1	100	5	1	380	14	1	162	8
United States . . . . .												
British vessels . . . . .	31	3021	216	47	3748	302	24	2425	148	46	5463	333
Foreign vessels . . . . .	33	4494	195	14	1690	74	50	8052	322	41	6387	259
For. W. Indies, &c. . . . .												
British vessels . . . . .	29	1884	186	14	1324	96	19	1155	109	8	731	52
Foreign vessels . . . . .	..	..	..	7	841	37	1	162	8	3	436	17
	158	15525	1021	156	15174	1010	186	24675	1304	187	23732	1292
<b>Increase for year ending Jan. 5, 1843.</b>							28	9150	283	31	8558	282

Number of Vessels Registered in 1841-12, and 7 launched.

Number of Vessels Registered in 1842-14, and 6 launched.

Vessels, Bermuda-built, sold from the Colony.—In 1842, three, value £3000; in 1843, five, value \$5050.

## STAPLE PRODUCTIONS.

Arrow-root . . . . .	£6,840	13	0	£7,638	13	1
Palmetto plait . . . . .	751	3	2		133	17
Onions .. .. .	2,426	0	0	1,491	0	0
Potatoes, 1842, 731 barrels, 4 hampers; 1843, 1223 barrels, 20 half-barrels, 103 hampers, 40 bags.						

The speech of Governor Reid on **closing** the sixth session of the Island **Legislature** is so replete with sound practical information and advice, that we cannot do better than extract largely from it.

Our position (observes his Excellency) is isolated, limited, and remote from those **sources** of information which enable other countries to make great progress; there **are** here, therefore, peculiar reasons arising from your situation, why I should urge you to continue unabated the exertions you have recently successfully begun for the internal improvement of the islands.

The superior quality of the indigenous timber gave a great advantage to the **Bermudas** in former times, when all was forest on this side of the Atlantic; but that state of things has entirely altered. Agriculture has rendered provisions abundant in the **neighbouring** countries; whilst these islands, situated **in** the happiest latitude in the world, have remained unimproved—a condition **which** necessarily increases the rate of wages on shore, and indirectly enhances **the** cost of freight by the Bermuda shipping.

Were the islands to remain uncultivated, and capital continue either to be lent to other countries, or invested wholly in shipping, the time might arrive, **through** means of some commercial crisis, that the vessels would be transferred to other ports. Ship-building and commerce are the natural occupations of the inhabitants of Bermuda; but the opinion that they should be their sole pursuits has been, I am deeply persuaded, a great injury to the place. If we look back to the earliest history of British **colonisation**, it is found, that those States which have risen the most rapidly in commerce were at first entirely **agricultural**; whilst that British colony which has, until very recently, persisted **in** **devoting** its exclusive exertions to the fisheries and to shipping, has remained almost stationary. As regards Bermuda, I hope that henceforward, spare capital, instead of being invested elsewhere, will find **profitable** employment within the colony.

There is much to be done to benefit every country which lies beyond the reach of legislation. The custom which prevails here, of leaving lands **undivided** amongst families, although one of a private nature, I look upon as **so** injurious, that it affects the general interests. When an inheritance left in this manner descends to the second and third generation, individual claims become very small, sometimes very complicated, and almost valueless; and this **I** take to be one of the reasons why so large a portion of the land of Bermuda is lying waste. The practice, like many others, has perhaps been followed from age to age, without reasoning **sufficiently** on its injurious tendency.

The law passed this session, for extendiig the operation of a former act, to convert fee tail into fee simple, **I** **class** amongst the laws which will be of permanent benefit, by facilitating the means of transfer of landed property, from those who cannot use it profitably to those who **can**.

It is one of the evils of slave institutions, **that** under them men's minds are not directly led to devise substitutes for **manual labour**, in increasing production. The workman has his own mind enchained; the contrivances of his **neighbours** are but slowly adopted; and this is an additional reason, to the remoteness of our situation, why we should encourage each other in the introduction into the islands of those inventions, as far as they may be applicable, which are powerfully assisting **manual labour** elsewhere.

I do not alone allude to improved implements for cultivating the ground, and for the substitution of brute for human **labour**, but also to such mechanical contrivances as will facilitate construction. If mechanical inventions be disregarded in ship-building, or in **the** construction of dwelling-houses, you **will** continue to build ships **and** houses at greater expense than your neighbours. The abolition of slavery, by emancipating de mind, leads directly **to** the application of man's ingenuity to supply the place' of forced human **labour**; **and** I hope that in time it will greatly surpass it.

By extending the practice of letting uncultivated lands, for periods of sufficient length, and on easy terms, to those who desire to work them, by binding **tenants to** re-plant and **rear** both **timber** and fruit trees, and to make other improvements, the face of the country would become gradually amended-it would soon become **a place** inviting new settlers. After attentive observation for more than four years, I am persuaded that the soil of Bermuda is far more **valuable** than has been generally supposed. We find **all** those persons who are most earnestly making trial of it agree in this. I but express my real opinion when I say, that the Bermuda Islands may be made to rank amongst the most beautiful spots in the world. **You have** the climate of Persia, with the **advantage** that the whole place is seaboard. You have a perpetual seed time ; for **in winter** the seeds of Europe germinate, and in summer those of the tropics.

The oranges here raised are amongst the finest in the world, yet the trees **are** not planted in any numbers beyond what merely serves to show their excellence.

It is known **that** coffee must have been introduced into Bermuda almost as early as into the West Indies, and the berry is acknowledged to be greatly superior **to** any imported; yet the plant is left to grow wild under the cedar trees, where it has maintained itself for more than a century as if it were **indigenous** to the soil, and **do** attempt is **making** to cultivate it for profit.

These are some **of** the subjects beyond the reach of legislation, and it **must** depend on a people themselves to take advantage of what nature points out,

The few individuals who have recently begun to maintain themselves by agriculture, **and to** devote their attention **to** its study, deserve our utmost encouragement; for I am persuaded, that so greatly has the relative position of **affairs** changed, that the permanent welfare of the people of Bermuda, the maintenance of the shipping, and the value of the indigenous forests, will henceforward **depend** on your making the soil of your own islands contribute **to** the support of its inhabitants.

These opinions I have formed deliberately--I state them for individual consideration; for social improvement must proceed from individual conviction of **what** is best suited to particular, as **well** as to general interests.

Among the list of Acts passed by the Legislature of Bermuda during the Session that commenced the 18th April and ended 16th of **August**, 1843, we find some that are well calculated to promote the best interests of the islands, among which may be enumerated the following :—

**An** Act for the better Regulation of the Pilotage.

An Act for taking an Account of the Population and Agricultural Stock and Produce of these Islands.

An Act to extend the Operation of the Act intituled “An Act to enable the Holders of small parcels of Land within the Bermuda Islands, in fee tail, to alter the same to fee simple, and directing the mode of doing the same”—to parcels of land not exceeding twenty-five acres.

An Act for establishing a Public Museum.

An Act for Raising a Public Revenue for the support of the Government of these Her Majesty’s Islands, and to appropriate certain Sums to the discharge of the expenses of Government therein **expressed**.

An Act to maintain a Lighthouse.

An Act for making certain Additions and Alterations to the Gaol in **the Town** of Saint George.

An **Act** to establish a Bank for Savings.

---

### BITUMINOUS LAKE IN TEXAS.

**WE notice the following paragraph in a Number of the *Houston Telegraph*, a Texas paper, recently received :—**

Perhaps few of our citizens are aware that there **is** a small lake situate within **100** miles of Houston, that is quite similar to the Pitch Lake of Trinidad. This singular lake or pond is situate in Jefferson county, near the pond between Liberty and Beaumont, and about twenty miles from the latter village. The lake is formed of bitumen or **asphaltum**, and **is** about a quarter of a mile in circumference. In the winter months its surface is hard, and capable of sustaining a person. It is generally covered from November to March with water, which is sour to the taste. Owing to this cause it is called by the people the Sour Pond, or Sour Lake. In the summer there is a spring near the middle where an oil liquid (probably petroleum) continually boils up from the bottom. This liquid gradually hardens after being exposed to the air, and forms a black **pitchy** substance, similar to that at the sides of the lake. Mr. Butler, of Galveston, who has seen the Pitch Lake at Trinidad, examined a piece of the bitumen obtained from this lake, and says it is precisely like the bitumen of Trinidad. This bitumen may at some future day become valuable as a **sub-**stitute for coal in the formation of gas, to light cities. It burns when lighted with a clear bright light, but gives out a very pungent odour. The ancients used bitumen as a cement in the construction of walls and buildings. They also used it in many cases **as** a substitute for tar or pitch. We believe, however, that little use is now made of it for these purposes, even where it is found most abundantly.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY NEAR BATHURST,  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

[FROM THE SYDNEY HERALD.]

As no correspondent has supplied you with an account of the discovery lately made here by Assistant Surveyor W. R. Davidson, Esq., you will perhaps give insertion to the following very imperfect and inadequate description of this most magnificent sight—this metropolitan temple of nature :—

I started from **Bathurst** on the 18th April, with a party, making Dunn's Plains the same evening. The next morning passing **Carrawa** and **Mulgunnia** on our route, and thence a ridge dividing the **Burrangilong** Creek, **from** the **Mulgunnia** Creek, (both tributaries of the **Abercrombie**.) we arrived at the tunnel and caves, which are on the former creek, and about five miles distant **from** the **Abercrombie**. The approach, though abounding in sequestered, wild, and **romantic** scenery, indicates nothing, however, of the stern grandeur and sublimity of the subsequent spectacle. **Crossing** the mountain, your eye embraces one of the most comprehensive views **in** nature ; thence descending a precipitous glen, you find yourself almost in another world, still gloomy and profound, shut up and imprisoned by surrounding incumbent precipices.

Such the grim desolation where **Ben Hun**  
And **Craig na Tor**, by earthquake shatterings  
**Disjoin'd**, with horrid chasms prerupt, enclose  
**What** superstition calls " the Glen of Ghosts."

The **Burrangilong** Creek receiving the waters **from** the numberless neighbouring mountains, and these waters accumulating in the **Glen**, and **there** " **cabin'd**, **criib'd**, **confined**," have *worn or burst* an outlet **through** the rock, and thus created one of the largest tunnels in the world.

You enter at the north, the tunnel having a serpentine direction to the south ; and the first sublime object to rivet your gaze, is the magnificent span of the grand entrance arch, with the lofty roof receding into the dim distance scooped into ten thousand cells, and fretted and festooned with **stalactitæ** of every species and form—the hard white, and the white shattery **stalactitæ**, and the yellow, the pale pink, and the green **crystalline stalactitæ**, some oblong and conical, some round

and irregular, twisted, and turned into all imaginable fantastic diversities, griffins and rampant Eons, dead sheep, trussed fowls, somewhat green and yellow, sceptres, and swords, and switches.

But you cannot sublime the poetic impulse into a proper frenzy, you cannot feel the spectacle, until your domestic arrangements (particularly the cuisine) are complete. There is the north-western gallery (as you enter on the right hand) just suited to the purpose. Make the base of it your kitchen, the centre your refectory, the summit your dormitory : such an apartment no hotel in the world can furnish. In the refectory accordingly we dined, and after "vexing the dull ear of the drowsy night," we climbed to our cloistered chambers.

Let us proceed from the north-western gallery communicating with **it**, and which I don't know whether to call the gallery of the statues, or of the tombs, for there is about an equal mingling of both : imminent on the brink is a Niobe "all tears--"

A few spots are on her **flowing robe,**  
Of stateliest beauty ;

and opposite is a stupendous sarcophagus ; there is a Polyphemus, with a weeping stalactite illustrating his lost eye ; and beyond is the shrine of some Roman Catholic saint. Here is **Laocoön** with

—————the coiling strain  
And gripe, the deepening of the dragon's **grasp**;

and near is a mailed crusader, made headless by some Cromwellian fanatic.

From this gallery your eye can embrace both entrances, and the **whole** length, and breadth, and height of the tunnel ; and if the northern **arch rivetted** you, confess that the southern is infinitely more **magnificent**.

There stand  
**Gazing, and take into your mind and heart,**  
With undistracted reverence, the effect  
Of those proportions, where the Almighty hand  
**That** made the worlds--the Sovereign **Architect--**  
Has **deign'd** to work as if with human art.

Opposite (with an Acherontic **pool** between) is the marble gallery, ascending some sixty feet ; and observe how the pure white **Parian** is chiselled into all possible ecclesiastical forms, organs and **cathedra** thrones, and pulpits, and canopies, and sounding boards, and mitres and croziers without number.

Descending however from the gallery of tombs and statues, **explore** the catacombs ; slip down, turn to the right from the bed of the tunnel

and enter them. Be amply supplied with torches and candles. You can walk, slightly stooping, about sixty yards ; for another sixty you can crawl. The formation of this cavern is most curious ; it terminates in a chamber of alabaster, twelve feet long, eight wide, and ten high, the specimens of which are quite transparent.

But we return to the northern entrance, and explore the cavern which **you** might have observed on the left hand when entering. I have named this the "Poets' Comer," partly because there is a somewhat similar place so named on your entrance to Westminster Abbey, and partly **because** the ascent is a good deal steeper than **Parnassus**. Here are an assemblage of grottoes and caves, hid in fissures and recesses which you have to penetrate on your hands and knees, and abounding in objects shapeless and savage, and vast and grim. Leaving the Poets' Comer, and again entering the arch, climb over that huge block of marble ; **plant** your ladder upon it, 'against the rock ; the more agile of the party will then fix a rope to yonder stalactite pillar, and you can thus ascend to the north-eastern gallery. Here is a grotto, which I have named "Our Lady's Chapel" from its similarity to the chapel of **the** blessed Virgin in the cathedral of Rouen. Here too *are numerous caves* disconsolate of light, and *recesses* thick with S'tygian gloom. Descending by the rope and ladder to the bed of the tunnel, proceed southwards, with the gallery of statues and tombs on your right, and the marble gallery on your left—passing, too, on your right hand, the catacombs, pausing for a moment to admire, in the central roof, a cavern which I have named the **belfry—and** after walking two hundred and forty yards, you arrive at the southern arch or entrance.

The span of this arch is nearly double the width of the northern arch; but ascend the south-eastern gallery, and contrast the roof with that of the northern arch. Here it is not fretted or festooned, it is cartooned, and no Raphael could imitate the **colours**. And then the gallery ; here the marble is scattered and flung wild, "without rule or art," enormous blocks. You might fancy that half-a-dozen cathedrals had here heaped their fonts and monumental effigies, for there are fonts enough to **christianize** all the heathen, and shrines and monuments enough to illustrate half the piety and chivalry of Europe ; or you might imagine that the Valley of Sepulchres, or Balbec and **Palmyra**, Cities of the Dead, had here emptied their ruined palaces and mausoleums--those ruinous galleries presenting the outlines of public places, and yonder prostrate pillars having once formed the majestic ornaments of a temple, But quitting the gallery and tunnel, trace **the** creek up a short distance from the southern entrance, and turning, you will observe *a cave*, nearly level