

STATE
OF THE
OF THE
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
&c.

CHAP. I.

Population—Agriculture—viz. Cotton, Indigo, Sugar, Silk, Wax, Black Pepper, Coffee, Cocoa, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Rice, Dye Woods and Timber.

POPULATION.—THE enumeration of the natives for the assessment of tributes, in the manner ordained by the standing regulations of the Intendants of New Spain, is not observed in the Philippine Islands; nor indeed would this be an easy task. The wide extent of the twenty-seven provinces of which they are composed, scattered, as they are, through the great space comprehended between the southern part of Mindanao, and the almost desert islands known by the name of Batanes and Baguyanes, to the

north of that of Luzon, presents almost insurmountable obstacles, and in some measure affords an excuse for the omission. Among these obstacles may be mentioned, the necessity of waiting for the favourable monsoon to set in, in order to perform the several voyages from one island to the other; the encumbered state of the grounds in many parts, the irregular and scattered situations of the settlements and dwellings, the variety among the natives and their dialects, the imperfect knowledge hitherto obtained of the respective limits and extent of many districts, the general want of guides and auxiliaries, on whom reliance can be placed, and, above all, the extreme repugnance the natives evince to the payment of tributes, a circumstance which induces them to resort to all kinds of stratagems, in order to elude the vigilance of the collectors, and conceal their real numbers.

The quinquennial census, as regularly enjoined, being thus found impracticable, no other means are left than to deduce from the annual lists, transmitted by the district magistrates to the superintendant's office, and those formed by the parish curates, a prudent estimate of the total number of inhabitants subject to our laws and religion; yet these data, although the only ones, and also the most accurate it is possible to obtain, for this very reason, inspire so

little confidence, that it is necessary to use them with great caution. It is evident that all the district magistrates and curates do not possess the same degree of care and minuteness in a research so important; and the omission or connivance of their respective delegates, more or less general, renders it probable that the number of tributés, not included in the annual returns, is very considerable. If to this we add the legal exemptions from tribute, justly granted to various individuals for a certain number of years, or during the performance of special services, we shall easily be convinced of the imperfection of results, derived from such insecure principles. Reduced, however, to the necessity of availing myself of them, in consequence of the want of better materials, I have formed the prudent calculation, contained in Table, No. I. founded on the returns I have been able to obtain from the public offices, and supported by such other information as it was in my power to collect in the several departments of the local government, as well as from various other sources. On such grounds I have carefully formed my estimates corresponding to the year 1810, and by confronting them with such data as I possess relating to the population in 1791, I have deduced the consoling assurance that, under a parity of circumstances, the population of these islands, far

from having diminished, has, in the interval, greatly increased.

From the collective returns recently made out by the district magistrates, it would appear that the total number of tributes amounts to 386,654, which multiplied by $6\frac{1}{2}$, produce the sum of 2,515,406, at which I estimate the total population, including old men, women and children. I ought here to observe, that I have chosen this medium of $6\frac{1}{2}$, between the five persons estimated in Spain and eight in the Indies, as constituting each family, or entire tribute; for although the prodigious fecundity of the women in the latter hemisphere, and the facility of maintaining their numerous offspring, both the effects of the benignity of the climate and their sober way of living, sufficiently warrant the conclusion, that a greater number of persons enter into the composition of each family, I have, in this case, been induced to pay deference to the observations of religious persons, intrusted with the care of souls, who have assured me that, whether it be owing to the great mortality prevailing among children, or the influence of other local causes, in many districts each family, or entire tribute, does not exceed $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons*.

* As a further illustration of the increase of population and advance of civilization in the Philippines, it may be observed,

To the above amount it is necessary to add 7000 Sangleyes*, who have been enumerated and subjected to tribute, for although in the returns preserved in the public offices, they are not rated at more than 4700, there are ample reasons for concluding, that many who are wan-

that in a Memoir presented to the King and his Council of the Indies, in 1637, by the city of Manilla, the Indian population is only rated at 44,763 tributes, according to official returns corresponding to the year 1630; as follows: provinces of Otón and Panay, 12 towns, and 6035 tributes: Island of Zebu, 3 towns, and 2529 tributes: Camarines, 87 Chinese tributes: Mindoro and Luban, 1612 tributes: province of Tayabas, 5 towns, and 1343 tributes: province of Bay, 9 towns, and 2232 tributes: coast of Manilla, 28 towns, and 4250 tributes: Japanese, 218 tributes: Sangleyes, or Chinese Christians in the suburbs of Manilla, 580 tributes: province of la Pampanga, 6 towns, and 3650 tributes: province of Pangasinan, 4 towns, and 899 tributes: province of Ilocos, 5 towns, and 2988 tributes: province of Cagayan, 8 towns, and 2192 tributes. Total, 44,763 tributes.—Tr.

* This term, in the Philippine Islands, is applied to the Chinese, and has the same meaning as trader or pedlar, being derived from the Chinese words *Xiang-Ley*. These people visit and wander about all the islands, selling their goods and wares, and hence their occupation has been turned into a distinctive or national appellation. Numbers are settled and carry on trade in the islands, follow the Catholic religion, and pay tribute to the king. The offspring of those who have intermarried with the natives, are called Sangley Mestizos.—Tr.

dering about, or hidden in the provinces, have eluded the general census. The European Spaniards, and Spanish Creoles and Mestizos, do not exceed 4000 persons, of both sexes and all ages, and the distinct casts or modifications known in America under the name of Mulattos, Quarter-rooms, &c.* although found in the Philippine Islands, are generally confounded in the three classes of pure Indians, Chinese Mestizos, and Chinese. Besides the above distinctions, various infidel and independent nations or tribes exist,

* The *Creole*, properly speaking, is the descendant of two Europeans, but born in the country, and the term applies to the successive generations, as long as they remain unmixed with coloured races. He generally loses the bright colour and bodily strength of his progenitors, but acquires a more delicate form, vivacity, and greater tenderness of heart. The *Mestizo* is the mixture of white and Indian, in which the former predominates. He is hardy and robust; the copper tinge is lost, and he is often found perfectly white, and with blue eyes. The women of this class are beautiful and engaging. The second mixture of Mestizo and white restores the primitive colour of white. The *Mulatto* is the offspring of white and negro, and it is remarked, that although he loses the bodily strength of his parents, his mental faculties are improved. He is quick and lively, voluble in his speech, and easily learns the less abstruse sciences. The *Quarteron* descends from the white and mulatto, and although he improves in colour, he loses in mental qualities. These are general distinctions, founded on accurate observations; but of course liable to exceptions.—Th.

more or less savage and ferocious, who have their dwellings in the woods and glens, and are distinguished by the respective names of Aetas, Ingolots, Negrillos, Igorrots, Tinjanes, &c.; nor is there scarcely a province in Luzon, that does not give shelter to some of these isolated tribes, who inhabit and possess many of the mountainous ranges, which ramificate and divide the wide and extended plains of that beautiful island.

The original race by which the Philippines are peopled, is beyond doubt Malayan, and the same that is observed in Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and the other islands of this immense archipelago. The Philippine Indians, very different from the Malabars, whose features possess great regularity, sweetness, and even beauty, only resemble the latter in colour, although they excel them in stature, and the good proportion of their limbs. The local population of the capital, in consequence of its continual communication with the Chinese and other Asiatics, with the mariners of various nations, with the soldiery and Mexican convicts, who are generally mulattos, and in considerable numbers sent to the islands yearly in the way of transportation, has become a mixture of all kinds of nations and features, or rather a degeneration from the primitive races.

Manilla, the capital of the Philippine Islands,

at present contains a population of from 140 to 150,000 inhabitants, of all classes ; but it ought, however, to be understood, that in this computation are included the populous suburbs of Santa Cruz, San Fernando, Binondo, Tondo, Quiapo, St. Sebastian's, San Anton, and Sampaloc ; for although each is considered as a distinct town, having a separate curate and civil magistrate of its own, the subsequent union that has taken place, rather makes them appear as a prolongation of the city, divided into so many wards and parishes, with no other intervals than small squares, in the centre of which their respective churches are built. Among the chief provincial towns, several are found to contain a population of from 20 to 30,000 souls, and many not less than from 10 to 12,000. Finally, it is a generally received opinion that, besides the Moroon Indians and independent tribes, the total population of the Philippine Islands, subject to the authority of the king, is equal to three millions.

AGRICULTURE.—It is not my intention at present to enter on the wide and diversified field this branch of industry presents, on a general scale, nor to attempt minutely to describe the various kinds of culture and planting practised in these islands, with a view to point out the defects and backward state of so important a source of national wealth. Besides the theme

being unbounded, I am induced to decline this task, in the first place, because it is one in no way congenial to my former habits and pursuits; and, in the second, because I conceive it most advisable to confine my observations on this subject to such parts only as are connected with export trade, which in general decides the value and importance of all agricultural colonies. Under this impression, I at once proceed to treat of the productions which constitute the trade of the country, in its present state, adding thereto such general and particular remarks as may occur, or in any way tend to illustrate the subject.

COTTON.—Among the varied productions of the Philippines, for many reasons, none is so deserving of attention as cotton. Its whiteness and fine staple give to it such a superiority over that of the rest of Asia, and possibly of the world, that the Chinese anxiously seek it, in order preferably to employ it in their most perfect textures, and purchase it 30 per cent. dearer than the best from Hindostan. Notwithstanding this extraordinary allurements, the vicinity of a good market, and the positive certainty that however great the exportation, the growth can never equal the consumption and immense demand for this article, it has nevertheless hitherto been found impossible to extend and improve its cul-

tivation, in such a way as to render it a staple commodity of the country. Owing to this lamentable neglect, it is, that the annual exportation does not exceed 5000 *arrobas* (125,000 lbs.), whereas the British import into China at the annual rate of 100,000 bales, or 1,200,000 *arrobas*, produced in their establishments at Bombay and Calcutta, and which, sold at the medium price of 15 *tales*, for 130 lbs., yield the net amount of 4,800,000 dollars*.

This want of attention in so important a branch of agriculture is the more to be regretted, as the islands abound in situations peculiarly adapted for the cultivation of cotton, and the accidental failure of the crops in some provinces, might easily be made up by their success in

* In the sitting of 8th of Nov. 1820, among other commercial regulations enacted, the Cortes gave their sanction to the following, regarding the Philippine Islands.—Ta.

"In the Philippine Islands the importation of raw cottons from foreign countries shall be prohibited, or allowed to the amount and in the manner that may be deemed advisable by the local authorities, in order to reconcile the encouragement of the cultivation with the manufactures from cotton in those Spanish islands.

"That in the ultra-marine provinces, the local authorities shall permit the importation, under the corresponding duties, of common iron and the necessary implements for agriculture, as long as they cannot be provided from national manufactures."

others. The culture of this plant is besides extremely easy, as it requires no other labour than clearing the grounds from brush-wood, and lightly turning up the earth with a plough, before the seeds are scattered, which being done, the planter leaves the crop to its own chance, and in five months gathers abundant fruit, if, at the time the bud opens, it is not burnt by the north winds, or rotted with unseasonable showers.

The provinces of Ilocos and Batangas are the only ones in which the cultivation of cotton is pursued with any degree of zeal and care, and it greatly tends to enrich the inhabitants. This successful example has not, however, hitherto excited emulation in those of the other provinces; and thus the only production of the Philippine Islands, of which the excellence and superior demand in trade are as well known as its culture is easy, owing to a strange fatality and causes which will be hereafter noticed, is left almost in a neglected state, or, at most, confined to the narrow limits of local consumption*.

* Cotton may be also considered as one of the most valuable productions of South America, which country possesses advantages in the growth of this article over the East Indies. Immense ranges are there found, with sufficient moisture to give luxuriance to the plant, without rain ever falling; for unsensable showers not only rot and destroy the buds, but,

INDIGO.—Pangasinan, La Pampanga, Bataan, La Laguna, Tayabas, and Camarines, produce indigo of various classes, and although its preparation, or the extraction of the dye, is in most of the above provinces still performed in an equally imperfect manner, several small improvements have recently been made, which have bettered the quality, more particularly in La Laguna, the only district in which attempts have been made to imitate the process used in Guatemala, as well with regard to the construction and number of vats necessary, as the precipitation of the colouring particles, detached from the plant by the agitation of the water. In the other places, the whole of the operations are performed in a single vat, and the indigo obtained is not unfrequently impregnated with lime and other extraneous substances*.

by lodging in them, give the cotton a black colour. These countries also are divested of sweeping tempests, and, moistened by the interior and exterior waters which descend from the Cordilleras, as well as ample dews, they are marked with great fertility. Such are many of the low lands of Peru, where double crops are obtained. The manufactures there chiefly clothe the inhabitants. The city of Cochabamba alone consumes upwards of a million pounds annually.—*Tu.*

* The first indigo sent from the Philippines to Spain, as cargo, arrived at Cadiz, in the *Asumpcion* frigate, in the year 1784.—*Tu.*

Whatever may have been the causes of this evident backwardness, from the period of the establishment of the Philippine Company, in these islands, and in consequence of the exertions of some of the Directors to promote the cultivation of indigo, at that time very little known, the natives have slowly, though gradually, been reconciled to it; and discovering it to be one of the most advantageous branches of industry, although accompanied with some labour and exposed to the influence of droughts and excessive heats, as well as to the risks attendant on the extraordinary anticipation of the rainy seasons, have of late years paid more attention to it. The quintal of indigo of the first class, costs the planter from 35 to 40 dollars, at most; and in the market of Manilla it has been sold from 60 to 130, according to the quality and the greater or lesser demand of the article at the season. As, however, every thing in this colony moves within a small circle, it is not possible to obtain large quantities for exportation; not only because of the risk in advancing the Indian sums of money on account of his crop, but also owing to the annual surplus seldom exceeding from 2 to 2500 quintals, distributed in many hands, and collected by numerous agents, equally interested in making up their return-cargoes.

SUGAR.—The cultivation of the sugar-cane is more or less extended to all the provinces of these islands, owing to its consumption among the natives being both great and general; but those of La Pampanga and Pangasinan are more particularly devoted to it. These two provinces alone annually produce about 550,000 arrobas (13,750,000 lbs.), of which one-third is usually exported in Chinese and other foreign vessels. In extraordinary seasons, the amount exported greatly exceeds the quantity above stated, as, for example, happened in the monsoon of 1796, when the planters came down to the port of Manilla, and by contract exported upwards of nine millions weight, of the first and second qualities. The price of this article has experienced many variations of late years; but the medium may be estimated at six dollars for 125 lbs. of the first quality; and five for the second.

The superior quality of the sugar of the Philippines is acknowledged, when compared to that produced in the island of Java, China, or Bengal; notwithstanding in the latter countries it may naturally be concluded that greater pains and care are bestowed on its manufacture. The pressure of the cane in the Philippine Islands is performed by means of two coarse

stone cylinders, placed on the ground, and moved in opposite directions by the slow and unequal pace of a *Carabao*, a species of oxen or buffalo, peculiar to this and other Asiatic countries. The juice is conveyed to an iron caldron, and in this the other operations of boiling, skimming and cleansing, take place, till the crystallization or adhering of the sugar is completed. All these distinct parts of the process, in other colonies, are performed in four separate vessels, confided to different hands, and consequently experience a much greater degree of care and dexterity. After being properly clayed, the sugars acquire such a state of consistency that, when shipped in canvas bags, they become almost petrified in the course of the voyage, without moistening or purging, as I understand is the case with those of Bengal.

SILK.—Among the useful objects to which the Patriotic Society* of Manilla directed their attention, from the very moment of their for-

* On 6th May, 1781, a patriotic society was opened in Manilla, for the purpose of encouraging agriculture, useful arts, &c. Before me is the speech of the Governor and Capt.-Gen. Don Jose Basco, pronounced on that occasion; in which he explains to the members the object of their formation into a society, encourages them to pursue it, and glowingly describes to them the immense scope for their zeal and enterprise they have in the Philippine Islands.—Tn.

mation, the planting of mulberry trees seems to have met with peculiar encouragement. The society rightly judged that the naturalization of so valuable a commodity as silk in these islands, would materially increase the resources of the colony, and there was reason to hope that, besides local consumption, the growth might in time be so much extended as to supply the wants of New Spain, which are not less than 80,000 lbs., amounting to from 350 to 400,000 dollars, conveyed there in the galleon annually sent to the port of Acapulco, by the Manilla merchants, which article they are now compelled to contract for in China*.

The Society gave the first impulse to this laudable project, and the then governor of the islands, Don Jose Basco, anxious to realize it, with this view sent Colonel Charles Conely on a special commission to the province of Camarines. This zealous officer and district magistrate, in the years 1786-7 and 8, caused 4,485,782 mulberry trees to be planted in the thirty districts under his jurisdiction; and incalculable are the

* The silk worms were first sent to Manilla in 1780 from China, at the request of the Society, by Father Galiano, of the order of St. Augustin. In a memoir on this subject, addressed to the Council of the Indies, I find it stated that nine crops are obtained every year.—Th.

happy results which would have attended a plan so extensive, and commenced with so much vigour, if it could have been continued with the same zeal by his successor, and not at once destroyed, through a mistaken notion of humanity, with which, soon after the departure of Governor Basco, they proceeded to exonerate the Indians from all agricultural labour that was not free and spontaneous, in conformity, as was then alleged, to the general spirit of our Indian legislation. As it was natural to expect, the total abandonment of this valuable branch followed a measure so fatal, and notwithstanding the efforts subsequently made by the Royal Company, in order to obtain its restoration, as well in Camarines as the province of Tondo, all their exertions were in vain, though it must be allowed that at the time several untoward circumstances contributed to thwart their anxious wishes. Notwithstanding this failure, the project, far from being deemed impracticable, would beyond all doubt succeed, and, under powerful patronage, completely answer the well-founded hopes of its original conceivers and promoters. The natives themselves would soon be convinced of the advantages to be derived from the possession of an article, in so many ways applicable to their own fine textures, and besides the variety of districts in the islands, proved to be suitable to the culti-

vation of this interesting tree, it is a known fact that many of the old mulberry groves are still in existence*.

* On the *peccoe* or *mimosa inga* of the *Flora Peruviana*, a caterpillar has been found, called by the Indians of Peru, *sustillo*, resembling the *bombyx*, or silk-worm. A paper, similar to that made by the Chinese, is manufactured by this insect. Father Calancha mentions a letter in his possession, written on this kind of paper, cut from a piece of more than a yard in length. The manner in which it is made is as follows: the number of the insects is in proportion to the size and growth of the tree which nourishes them, and when completely satiated with food, they assemble on that part of the body of the tree, best adapted for the expansion they have to take, and generally on the widest and most level surface. With the greatest symmetry and regularity, they there form a web, larger or smaller, according to the number of operators; and more or less pliant, according to the quality of the leaf on which they have fed. This covering, or envelope, extends over the whole collection of insects, and when completed, has received from them such an equal surface, consistency, and lustre, that it bears the pressure of the pen, and appears as if passed through a roller. It acts as a preservative against the weather, and when finished to the size required by the little army, they range themselves under it, in vertical and close files, forming in the centre a perfect square. Each insect then makes its respective nest, of a coarse short silk, in the enclosure of which it is formed into the chrysalis, and from that state into the butterfly. As they afterwards escape from under the web, the edges are detached from the tree, and left floating in the air, by which it is bleached in proportion to its exposure to the damp. The Spanish naturalist, Pineda, sent several spe-

BEE-S-WAX.—The Bisayas, Cagayan, and many other provinces, produce wax in considerable abundance, which the Indians collect from the natural hives formed in the cavities of the trees, and it is also brought down by the infidel natives from the mountains to the neighbouring towns. The quality certainly is not the best, and notwithstanding attempts have been made to cleanse it from the extraneous particles with which it is mixed, it always leaves a considerable sediment on the lower part of the cakes, and never acquires an entire whiteness. Its consumption is great, especially in the capital, and after supplying the wants of the country, an annual surplus of from 600 to 800 quintals is appropriated for exportation.

This certainly might be converted into an article of extreme importance, especially for the kingdom of Peru, which in peaceable times receives its supplies from Spain, and even from the island of Cuba; but for this purpose it would be necessary to adopt the plan recommended by the enlightened zeal of the Patriotic Society, and previously encourage the establishment of arti-

cimens and entire nests, to the Museum in Madrid, and in Lima they are frequently met with. The *seda silvestre*, as it is called, is found in quantities on the banks of the river Parana.—Ta.

ficial hives, and the plantation of aromatic and flowering shrubs, which so easily attract and secure the permanency of the roving swarms, always ready to undertake fresh labours. This, as well as many other points, has hitherto been entirely overlooked.

BLACK PEPPER.—This production is cultivated in the provinces of Tayabas, Batangas, and La Laguna, but in such small quantities, that notwithstanding the powerful allurements of all kinds constantly held out by the Royal Company, during the long period of twenty years, their agents have never been able to collect in more than about 64,000 lbs. annually. After every encouragement, the most that has been attained with the natives, is confined to their planting in some districts 50 or 100 pepper-vines round their huts, which they cultivate in the same way as they would plots of flowers, but without any other labour than supporting the plant with a proportioned stake, clearing the ground from weeds, and attending to daily irrigation.

This article therefore scarcely deserves a place amongst the flourishing branches of agriculture, at least till it has been raised from its present depressed state, and the grounds laid out in regular and productive pepper-groves. Till this is done, to a corresponding extent, it must also be excluded from the number of productions

furnished by these islands to commerce and exportation ; more particularly if we consider that, notwithstanding the great fragrance and pungency of the grain, as well as its general superiority over the rest of Asia, so great a difference exists in the actual price, that this can never be compensated by its greater request in the markets of Europe, and much less enable it to compete with that of the British and Dutch, till its abundance has considerably lowered its primitive value.

Finally, although an infinity of grounds are to be found adapted to the rapid propagation of pepper-vines, as may easily be inferred from the analogy and proximity of the Philippine Islands to the others of this same archipelago, so well known for their growth of spices, it must be confessed that it is a species of culture by no means popular among the Philippine natives, and it would be almost requiring too much from their inconstancy of character, to wish them to dedicate their lands and time to the raising of a production which, besides demanding considerable care, is greatly exposed to injury, and even liable to be destroyed by the severity of the storms, which frequently mark the seasons. With difficulty would they be induced to wait five years before they were able to gather the uncertain fruits of their labour and patience. If

therefore it should ever be deemed a measure of policy to encourage the growth of black pepper, it will be necessary for the government to order the commons belonging to each town, and adapted to this species of plantation, to be appropriated to this use, by imposing on the inhabitants the obligation of taking care of them, and drawing from the respective coffers of each community the necessary funds for the payment of the labourers, and the other expences of cultivation. If this cannot be done, it will be necessary to wait till the general condition of the country is improved, when through the spirit of emulation, and the enterprises of the planters being duly patronised and supported, present difficulties may be overcome, and the progressive results of future attempts will be then found to combine the interests of individuals, with the general welfare of the colony.

COFFEE, COCO, CINNAMON, AND NUTMEG.

—So choice is the quality of the coffee produced in the island of Luzon, especially in the districts of Indan and Silan, in the province of Cavite, that if it is not equal to that of Mocha, I at least consider it on a parallel with the coffee of Bourbon; but, as the consumption and cultivation are extremely limited, it cannot with any propriety be yet numbered among the articles contributing to the export-trade.

Coco is something more attended to, in consequence of the use of chocolate being greatly extended among the natives of easy circumstances. That of the island of Zebu, is esteemed superior to the coco of Guayaquil, and possibly it is only excelled by that of Soconusco. As, however, the quantity raised does not suffice for the local consumption, Guayaquil cocoa meets a ready sale, and is generally brought in return-cargo by the ships coming from Acapulco, and those belonging to the Philippine company dispatched from Callao, the shipping-port of Lima*.

* The use of chocolate was known to the Mexicans previous to the conquest, and indeed, the term is derived from their language. From New Spain this plant was introduced in the Philippines, and also the Canaries; it is, however, found in its wild state in Guayaquil, as well as on the banks of the Orinoco. Its principal consumption is in Spain, where, it is calculated, upwards of ten millions weight are annually required. In Mexico, the plantation of coco has been much neglected, and the supplies for that kingdom, equal to about one third of what is consumed in Spain, are now mostly derived from Guatemala and Guayaquil. Caracas and Maracaibo chiefly supply Spain, and since the island of Trinidad has belonged to the British, the growth of this article has been greatly encouraged there. That of the provinces of Venezuela is the best, and before the revolution, they were estimated to export, annually, upwards of 150,000 *fanegas*, valued at forty dollars each in Europe. Chocolate is deemed an ex-

The cultivation of these two articles in the Philippines is on the same footing as that of pepper, which, as above stated, is rather an object of luxury and recreation than one of speculation among the Indians. The observations and rules pointed out in the preceding article, are, in a general sense, applicable to both these branches of industry.

Cinnamon groves, or trees of wild cinnamon, are to be found in every province. In Mindanao, a Dutchman, some years ago, was employed by orders of government, in examining the forests and making experiments, with a view to discover the same tree of this species that has given so much renown to Ceylon; but, whether it was owing to a failure in the discovery, or, when the plant was found, as at the time was said to be the case, the same results were not produced, from the want of skill in preparing, or stripping off the bark; certain it is, that the laudable attempt totally failed, or rather the only advantage gained, has been the extracting

extremely nourishing aliment; but the Spaniards always mix with it cinnamon, vanilla, &c. The ancient Mexicans obtained their coco from Soconusco, on the side of Guatimala, and cultivated at the eastern extremity of their empire. The grains were used in the way of money, as the inhabitants of the Maldives do shells.—Ta.

from the bark and more tender parts of the branches of the tree, an oil or essence of cinnamon, vigorous and aromatic in the extreme*.

About the same time, a land proprietor, of the name of Salgado, undertook to form an extensive plantation of the same species in the province of La Laguna, and succeeded in seeing upwards of a million cinnamon trees thrive and grow to a considerable size ; but at last, he was reluctantly compelled to desist from his enterprise, by the same reasons which led to the failure in Mindanao.

These facts are of sufficient authority for our placing the cinnamon tree among the indigenous productions of the Philippine Islands, and considering their general excellence above those of the same nature in the rest of Asia, it may reasonably be concluded that, without the tree being identically the same, the cinnamon with

* The good, or Ceylon cinnamon, is the bark of the *laurus cinnamomum*, and the base kind is obtained from the *laurus cassia*. This plant is found in its native state in the missions of Manoa, in the interior of Peru, and when carefully cultivated, is said to yield a bark equal to that of Ceylon. Plantations are now formed of it, in which great pains are taken to keep the tree uncovered and well exposed to the sun, and no other plants are allowed to grow within twelve or fourteen yards of the roots.—Tn.

which it is clothed will be found finer than that yielded by the native plant of the island of Ceylon, and this circumstance, consequently, holds out a hope that, in the course of time, it may become an article of traffic, as estimable as it would be new. In order, however, that this flattering prospect may be realized, it will be requisite for the government to procure some families, or persons from the above island, acquainted with the process of stripping off the bark and preparing the cinnamon, by dexterously offering allurements, corresponding to the importance of the service, which, although in itself it may probably be an extremely simple operation, as long as it is unknown, will be an insuperable obstacle to the propagation of so important an agricultural pursuit.

Two species of the nutmeg are known here, the one in shape resembling a pigeon's-egg, and the other of a perfectly spherical form; but both are wild and little aromatic, and consequently held in no very great esteem.

RICE.—Rice is the bread and principal aliment of these natives, for which reason, although its cultivation is among the most disagreeable departments of husbandry, they devote themselves to it with astonishing constancy and alacrity, so as to form a complete contrast with their characteristic indifference in most other respects. This

must, however, be taken as a certain indication of the possibility of training them up to useful labour, whenever they can be led on in a proper manner.

The earth corresponds, with surprising fertility, to the labours of the Indian, rewarding him, in the good seasons, with ninety, and even as high as one hundred per cent.; a fact I have fully ascertained, and of which I besides possess undoubted proofs, obtained from the parish-curates of La Pampanga. As, however, the provinces are frequently visited with dreadful hurricanes (called in the country, *baguios*), desolated by locusts, and exposed to the effects of the great irregularities of nature, which, in these climes, often acts in extremes, the crops of this grain are precarious, or at least, no reliance can be placed on a certain surplus, allowing an annual exportation to China. On this account, rice cannot be placed in the list of those articles which give support to external trade *.

* These islands also produce annatto, saffron, ginger, camphor, yerec, pitch, &c. Oils are extracted from the coco-nut, anniseed, &c.; also from the *tangantungan*, used in medicine, and the bark of the *culingad*, in taste resembling cinnamon. The *solangan* nests, obtained from a bird like the swallow, and so much esteemed in India and China, are also found there; besides a variety of gums, resins, medicinal drugs, &c. Vinegar, of a good quality, is made in the province of Iloco, from several articles,—T₂.

DYE WOODS AND TIMBER.—The *sibucao*, or logwood, and ebony, in both which these islands abound, are the only woods in any tolerable request *. The first is sold with advantage in Bengal, and the other meets a ready sale in the ports of China, in the absence of that brought from the island of Bourbon, which is of a quality infinitely superior. Both are, however, articles of no great consumption, for, being bulky and possessing little intrinsic value, they will not bear the high charges of freight and other expences, attendant on the navigation of the Asiatic seas, and can only suit the shipper, as cargo, who is anxious not to return to the above countries in ballast. Hence, as an object of export trade, these articles cannot be estimated at more than 30,000 dollars per annum.

I deem it superfluous to dwell on a multitude of other good and even precious woods and timber, with which the Philippine islands are gifted, because this is a subject already suf-

* The *sibucao* is the logwood of an excellent quality. They have also the *brazilatto*, another dye-wood; the eagle-wood, *narra*, a species of red ebony striped; the *Tindal*-wood, all red; the sandal-wood; the *Pangasinang* fir; the *molave*, an incorruptible wood; the *guiso*, excellent for shipbuilding, as well as the *banava*, *calamita*, or Philippine cedar; the *sagovan*, red and white; *Marywood*, for small masts, spars, &c.; the *manga-chapay*, *betis*, *dawag*, *dragol*, *calumpas*, and many others.—Ta.

ficiently well understood, and a complete collection of specimens, as well as some large blocks, were besides transmitted some years ago to the king's dock-yard. It may, however, be proper to remark, that the establishments near the capital for cutting timber for ship-building and masts, are much more expensive than is generally supposed, as well on account of the difficulties experienced in dragging the trees from the interior of the mountains to the water's edge, as the want of regularity and foresight with which these operations have been usually conducted. Beside these reasons, as it is necessary that the other materials requisite for the construction and complete armament of vessels of a certain force, should come from Europe, it is neither easy, nor indeed, would it be economical, as was erroneously asserted, to carry into effect the government project of annually building, in the colony, a ship of the line and a frigate. It ought further to be observed, that no stock of timber, cut at a proper season and well cured, has been laid in, and although the wages of the Indian carpenters and caulkers are moderate, no comparison whatever can be made between the daily work they perform, and that which is done in the same space of time in our dock-yards of Spain.

Notwithstanding, however, the impediments

above stated, as it is undeniable that abundance of suitable timber is to be obtained, and as the conveyance of the remainder of the necessary naval stores to the Philippine islands, is shorter and more economical than to the coast of California, it possibly might answer, at least, many mariners are of this opinion, in case it is deemed expedient to continue building at San Blas the brigs and corvettes necessary for the protection of the military posts and missions, situated along the above coasts, to order them preferably to be built in Cavite, giving timely advice, and previously taking care to make the necessary arrangements.