



WEIGHING COTTON AT BOMBAY FOR THE ENGLISH MARKET.

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We had monopolized the cotton market for so many years, that our rivals had become quite thrown into the distance. The blockade of the Southern coast having compelled England to look to other sources for her supply, her manufacturers set about it with their usual dogged and practical manner, and the lands where new cotton could be grown were surveyed. The result is that a great impetus has been given to the growth of this grand staple of human

industry, and it is calculated that England may rely upon a million of bales from India alone. This, however, is only a little more than one-third the quantity she took from us in 1860, and the superiority of American cotton will soon drive our competitors out of the field upon the termination of the present rebellion. Our engraving on this page represents the loading of cotton at Bombay.

In commerce Indian cotton is known under the name of Surats, Tinnevely, Bengal, Baroche, etc., these names indicating the places where the different kinds are produced. By far the largest quantity is shipped from Bombay, where the bales are landed from Surat, Baroche, Cambay and other parts of Guzerat, Kutchyawa and Cutch.

In the countries of Central India, not less than in those to the north and northwest, owing to the absence of good roads for vehicles, the ordinary means of conveyance was, until very recently, by pack-bullocks, which in vast droves tracked their slow and weary

way across sandy, sterile tracts, through wild jungle paths, and over steep ghauts, for hundreds of miles.

To bring the cotton from Berar alone to Bombay, it was lately computed that the services of 180,000 head of cattle were required. This costly and tedious mode of conveyance has now, however, given place in a measure to the railway, although it still has to be employed for bringing the cotton bales from outlying districts under cotton cultivation to the nearest stations on the line of railway.

The bale of cotton weighs about 7 cwt., and until compressed by the capstan screw, is bulky and unwieldy; but this process reduces the bulk one-half nearly, and puts it in better form for stowage when the time of shipment arrives.

The illustration shows the process of weighing in the customhouse yard at Bombay. The portage of almost all articles is done by Hamals, the caste which supplies the palankeen-bearers. Though not by any means robust, they are capable of carrying heavy burdens by means of slings and cross bamboos, which enable them to apply the combined strength of a large number of men to one article, and it is thus the bales of cotton are carried to and fro with the greatest ease.