

remarked,) with very remote sections of the country. Much of this business is also transacted between Baltimore and the northern and southern ports of America; via the Chesapeake bay and Atlantic ocean. The number of vessels employed in the coasting trade is said to be more than 2,000.

The staple commodities of Baltimore are flour, grain, tobacco and cotton goods; besides these, however, there are a number of articles which become every day more and more important as objects of our commerce.

*Imports.*—Our imports from foreign countries, beyond seas, are of the well known productions of those regions; many of which, however, at this time, we receive through the medium of New York. From the northern ports of America we obtain domestic dry goods, glass ware, candles, cheese, onions, plaster of paris, dried and salted fish, boots and shoes, rum, &c. From the southern states, we receive tar, timber, pitch, cotton, rice, &c. From Virginia come fire wood, ship timber, tobacco and coal. From the Eastern Shore of Maryland, we obtain timber, fire wood, &c. By means of the Susquehanna river, which empties into the head of Chesapeake bay, we receive from the interior of New York and Pennsylvania, immense quantities of lumber, including planks, lathes and shingles; also, whiskey, flour, coal, pig and manufactured iron, magnesia and plaster of paris. These articles are brought in arks and rafts as far as Port Deposit, where they are shipped in the small bay vessels for Baltimore.

*Exports.*—Our staple commodities, mentioned before, are carried, some of them at least, to every quarter of the globe. Besides; to the northern ports of America, we send flour, corn, tobacco, whiskey, sole leather, articles of chemistry, &c. To the southern states we send flour, corn, pork, whiskey, gin, domestic and European goods. To the various ports on the Chesapeake and its tributaries, we send flour, corn meal, sugar, coffee, molasses, whiskey, domestic and European manufactures. At present, there is no return trade up the Susquehanna, on account of the rapidity of that stream, which is only to be passed in any direction, at certain seasons of the year. When the Susquehanna rail road is completed this difficulty will be obviated, and the commodities of this city may be exchanged, instead of the cash, for the articles we receive from the regions of the Susquehanna.

The goods transported to the city by means of rail-roads and turnpikes, from Alleghany, Washington and Frederick counties of Maryland; from Franklin, Adams, Cumberland, and York counties of Pennsylvania, &c. are flour, pork, beef, pig and cast iron, lard, sole leather, linseed oil, flaxseed, &c. We send them in return groceries, plaster of paris, domestic and foreign goods.

We will now notice the various institutions of a commercial character which seem proper to be disposed of under this head.

For the officers of the custom house, the port wardens, &c. See chapter, IV.



