

Royal Mail Steam-ship Company, and 8 were sailing vessels.

Total value of inward cargoes.....	\$ 888,625
Total value of outward cargoes.....	3,711,353
Total trade in British vessels.....	\$4,599,978

Total number of French vessels 14, aggregate tonnage 2,234 tons.

Total value of inward cargoes.....	\$564,500
Total value of outward cargoes.....	70,000
Total trade in French vessels.....	\$634,500

Total number of Spanish vessels 7, aggregate tonnage 1,112 tons.

Total value of inward cargoes.....	\$125,625
Total value of outward cargoes.....	28,000
Total value of trade in Spanish vessels.....	\$153,625

Prices at Tampico. Consular Returns, Sept. 30th, 1857.

Fustic, per ton	- - -	\$12 50
Hides,	- - -	3 50 each.
Sarsaparilla,	- - -	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per lb.
Wool, inferior quality,	- - -	0 19 "
Jalap,	- - -	0 41 "
Ystle, or Mexican hemp, similar to Manilla,	- - -	0 5 "
Goat-skins, per doz.,	- - -	6 00
Horns,	- - -	1 50 per 100.
Vanilla, per 1000 pods,	\$10 to \$50	00

Shipments of specie from Tampico, per British steamers, for the year ending September 30, 1857, \$3,402,411.

The residue of the trade at the port of Tampico during 1856 was distributed between Sardinia, Hamburg, Holland, and the city of Mexico.

With the certainty of a weekly steamer from an American port, instead of the casual communication which now exists, the principal amount of trade represented by the above figures will be diverted in that direction, and Tampico will soon be able to export, in exchange, the numerous productions and wealth of that vast interior, and supply the wants of her inhabitants with importations from the United States. Its increased activity, therefore, only depends upon the additional facilities that will be afforded by regular and frequent steam communication.

Tampico is the second port in point of commercial importance on the Gulf of Mexico, not only from the great natural resources of the State of Tamaulipas, to which it belongs, but from the fact that it is the principal port of egress and ingress for the trade of several of the richest States of the republic in the mineral and agricultural productions. It is supported by the trade of San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, Nuevo Leon, Jalisco, &c., forming an immense back country, sufficient to build up and make Tampico eventually a great commercial city. From that section of the country are dispatched the large *conductas* of specie to Tampico for shipment to Europe by the English steam-packet.

Matamoras.

The port and city of Matamoras, comprehended within the jurisdiction of the State of Tamaulipas, are situated on the right bank of the Rio Bravo del Norte, in latitude

25° 53' 2" N., and longitude 1° 32' 28" east of the meridian of Mexico, and contain 11,233 inhabitants.

Imports into the port of Matamoras consist chiefly of breadstuffs, spices, provisions, and cloths from New Orleans; exports of specie, hides, and wool. In 1844 there entered 33 vessels with an aggregate of 2,054 tons, floating inward, cargoes of the value of \$326,600, and outward about an equal amount. Two-thirds of all commercial operations at this port are under the American flag. In 1841, commercial movements with the United States reached the sum of \$4,600,000—\$2,400,000 for inward, and \$2,200,000 for outward cargoes. Of the imports, British merchandise imported in American bottoms reached \$1,000,000, while American produce and manufactures amounted to only \$500,000. French merchandise in American bottoms figured as high as \$260,000, and German \$216,000. Cotton cloths (mostly British) reached in this trade \$1,027,200.

The export trade to the United States, during this year, covered \$1,800,000 in specie, and over \$400,000 in hides.

Matamoras is situated on the Rio Grande, opposite Brownsville in Texas, and a few miles above Brazos de Santiago, at which place the United States and Mexican mail steamers will touch. The commerce of the place is increasing rapidly, especially that which relates to the interchange of commodities with the United States. It only needs postal facilities and facilities for transportation to swell this commerce to an immense amount.

The best feeling exists between the Americans and the Mexicans. When the bandit Cortinas attacked the city of Brownsville, the military *commandante* of Matamoras dispatched one hundred of his troops to the assist-

ance of the Americans, and four of the Mexican soldiers fell in battle, defending American citizens. Such an example of magnanimity and good feeling should not be passed over in silence, but ought, in fact, to be appropriately noticed by our government.

TABASCO.

The State of Tabasco is situated between 16° 50' N. latitude, and 18° 39' N., and 5° 11' and 7° 10' longitude E. from Mexico.

Its limits are, on the north the Gulf of Mexico, which washes the coast a distance of ninety-six miles; on the east Yucatan; on the south Chiapas, and on the west the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

The State at present (besides rice, maize, and frijoles, which are extensively cultivated), furnishes nearly the whole of the republic with cocoa, out of which the universal chocolate is made. From the latest dates relative to the cocoa trade in this state, the annual production amounts to 8000 bales, which, at 200 pounds to the bale, gives a total of 1,600,000. At the average price of 30 cents per pound, this yields an income of \$480,000 per annum. Judging from the progressive increase of demand and production, the amount will, in a few years, reach 30,000 or 40,000 bales.

Tabasco yields tropical productions in abundance. Coffee, sugar-cane, pepper, tamarinds, arrow-root, palmetto, cotton, tobacco, &c., are cultivated. Indigo and vanilla grow wild in the forests, which abound in mahogany, iron-wood, cedar, and *caoutchouc*.

The tobacco grown here is celebrated for its fine fla-

vor, and with a little more skill in cultivation and drying might compete with that of Havana.

Dye-woods of various descriptions are also produced and shipped in large quantities from this state, particularly the logwood—*palo de tinte*.

The soil and climate of Tabasco are peculiarly adapted to the sugar-cane, and although it has not been very extensively cultivated until within the last four or five years, the inhabitants are beginning to exhibit such zeal and activity in its production, that a most rapid annual augmentation must take place in the manufacture of sugar.

In addition to the articles enumerated are many others, of no less importance, produced in this state, that might be mentioned.

Tabasco is particularly favored by nature, as well for the natural facilities of internal communication, as for her great agricultural resources. In the former, she is probably superior to any section of territory of the same extent on the American continent. She possesses many fine navigable rivers—in fact the whole territory is traversed by those great natural highways—extending far into the adjoining departments, which are only awaiting the necessary spirit of enterprise on the part of the inhabitants to complete the development of her vast fields of natural resources, commercial wealth, and national prosperity.

San Juan Bautista is not much inferior to Tampico in point of situation and other commercial advantages; for, beside being the commercial depot of the whole State of Tabasco and Chiapas, it enjoys a large trade with Oaxaca, Tehuantepec, Yucatan, &c., &c., which will be greatly increased if the people can once be awakened to

the importance of turning to account the great advantages and facilities offered them by nature, for the exchange of commercial intercourse with those places and the United States. The principal foreign trade is at present carried on between Tabasco and Havana. This trade only awaits the establishment of a more regular and frequent communication with the United States, to be diverted in that direction, when the people of Mexico will naturally see the value of their productions in the United States, the readiness with which they can be disposed of, and the value and usefulness of the exchanges they can command. Tabasco is now obliged to receive her foreign supplies from Havana, at much higher prices than would buy them at first hand. She likewise has to pay hard dollars in exchange, as Cuba affords a market only for a limited number of articles, her productions being more or less of a similar kind to those peculiar to Mexico.

Principal Towns.

1. San Juan Bautista, capital of the state, is situated on the left bank of the river Grijalva, in 17° 40' N. latitude, and 1° 4' 46" longitude E. of the city of Mexico; 621 miles from Mexico; population 5,500.
2. Conduacan, on the river of the same name; population 3,220.
3. Santiago de Teapa, population 1,346.
4. Macuspana, population 700.

Bars.

The bar of Tabasco consists of two channels or entrances. The north-east channel is situated between the

Point of Barlovento and the island of Buey Chico. It is 1500 yards wide, with about nine feet water on the bar.

In the other channel, between the Buey Chico and an island (name unknown), there is about eight feet water. Both channels have a sandy bottom.

At a distance of 42 miles along the coast is the bar of Chiltepec; the channel is 600 yards wide, and eight feet deep. Four and a half miles from the bar of Chiltepec is that of Dos Bocas, with a depth of eleven feet. Following the coast from Dos Bocas, we come, at a distance of twenty-one miles, to the bar of Cupiles, the width of which is 600 yards, and having a depth of four feet water. Large canoes can ascend as far as San Antonio, a distance of ninety miles. At a distance of fifty-one miles we come to La Barra de Santa Anna, which has a channel 600 yards wide, with ten feet of water. Inside is a lagoon or lake, eighteen miles long.

Prices at Tabasco, September, 1858.

Logwood,	62 cts. per quintal, 100 lbs.
Fustic,	44 to 50.
Hides	\$2 00 each.
Deer-skins,	18 to 30 per lb.
Tobacco,	8 00 to 12 00 per cwt.
Pepper,	4 to 5 per lb.
Indigo,	87½ per lb.
Sarsaparilla,	8 00 per cwt.
Cocoa,	10 00 to 20 per 60 lbs.
Coffee,	10 to 12 per lb.
Beans,	62½ to 1 00 per 25 lbs.

Statement of Exports from the port of Tabasco for 1857.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Indigo,	1,400 lbs.	\$1,008
Sugar,	820 arrobas,	890
Cocoa,	75 cargas,	944
Cassia,	2,600 lbs.	184
Hides,	22,530	58,088
Deer-skins,	13,658 lbs.	3,969
Molasses,	200 arrobas,	100
Gold and silver coin,	72,612
Brown sugar,	3,600 arrobas,	2,000
Pimento,	710 "	754
Fustic logwood,	49,500 quintals,	33,412
Leaf tobacco,	140,966	12,058
Cigars,	59,000	590
Logs of mahogany,	330	1,730
Sarsaparilla,	21 quintals,	236
Hog-skins,	75 lbs.	9
		\$188,584

STATE OF VERA CRUZ.

This large and important state, second only to the State of Mexico, lies on the Gulf of Mexico, by which it is bounded on the north, east by the Gulf, Tabasco, and Chiapas, south and west by Oajaca, Puebla, Mexico, and Queretaro.

The state extends along the Gulf one hundred and sixty-six leagues, and its breadth is from twenty-five to twenty-eight leagues. The section of country embraced within the limits of the State of Vera Cruz may be considered the most remarkable in the entire republic—remarkable for its extremes of temperature, its fertility of soil, its variety of productions, its varied scenery and undeveloped riches. On the coast the heat is intense.

This is tempered, however, from November till April by the *northers*, and the climate is much more salubrious than it is generally reported to be. In the interior the temperature is hot until you reach the range of high mountains on the western borders of the state. The change from tropical to temperate, and from temperate to frigid, is sudden; all these changes occurring within a distance of sixty to seventy miles. The districts comprehended by these different climates are inhabited by people whose temperament, habits, labors, and productions of course conform to the climate in which they live.

It is impossible to give, in our limited space, a full and accurate account of this rich and varied state. It produces tobacco, coffee, sugar, cotton, corn, barley, wheat, jalap, sarsaparilla, vanilla, pine-apples, oranges, citrons, lemons, pomegranates, zapotes, bananas, chiremoyas, aguacatis, tunas, pears, water-melons, peaches, apricots, guyavas, grapes; mahogany, ebony, cedar, oak, dragon-blood, tamarinds, palms, dye-woods, ash, fir, besides rare and beautiful woods, plants, shrubs, flowers, and cereals, which spring almost spontaneously from the soil. In the neighborhood of San Andres Tuxtla, and throughout the southern portion of the state, there are vast regions of unoccupied country where the climate is salubrious, and the virgin soil far excels that of the Mississippi. The Indian clears a small patch of land, makes holes in the ground with a stick, drops in the kernels of corn, and when he plucks the ears, ninety days from the time of planting, his labors are over. In this process, no reference need be had to seasons. Every thing grows all the year round.

Vera Cruz, capital of the state and district bearing the same name, is situated in latitude $19^{\circ} 11' N.$, and 20°

$50'$ E. of the city of Mexico, and is the most important port in the country, both from its commerce, and from the fact of its being the door of the republic to the whole western world.

The city is lighted with gas, and will soon be provided with excellent water brought from the river Jamapa, about ten miles distant, for which the necessary works are already in course of construction, and, when completed, there are well-founded hopes of its becoming one of the most healthy cities in the tropics.

Vera Cruz is, perhaps, after Mexico, one of the most picturesque cities in the Spanish Americas, from the elegant construction of its houses and the beauty of its public buildings. Its population is about 10,000 souls.

Orizava, capital of the district of the same name, is situated in $18^{\circ} 50'$ N. latitude, and $2^{\circ} 1' 42''$ longitude E. of Mexico, at 1,450 feet elevation above the level of the sea. Its distance from Vera Cruz is eighty-two miles, and from Mexico about one hundred and eighty miles. From its elevation and the neighborhood of the extinct volcano of Orizava or "Sitlaltepetl," covered with eternal snow, the climate is delightful and entirely free from the scorching heats of "Tierra Caliente." It is remarkable for its forests of orange-trees and its excellent coffee, the best of which, called "Caracolillo," is fully equal to Mocha.

It contains many sugar and flour mills, and its population is 37,695.

Jalapa is at a distance of seventy-two miles from Vera Cruz, to the inhabitants of which it forms a summer resort, particularly now that seven leagues of the railway leading to it (and which is probably to be continued on to Mexico) are finished. It is called by the inhabitants

"a piece of heaven dropped on earth;" and well does it merit the title, both on account of its lovely scenery and its fragrant flowers.

Medellin, about ten miles from Vera Cruz, is a large village where most of the merchants of Vera Cruz have country houses; and twice a year gambling *saturnalia* take place here, which continue about four weeks, affording remarkable glimpses of national customs to the stranger.

Lower down the coast we have *Alvarado*, at the entrance to two large rivers, the San Juan and the Rio Blanco, which are navigable to between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and eighty miles, and afford mahogany in abundance, and various other products which will be treated of in their proper places hereafter.

Population of the State of Vera Cruz.

Districts.	Division.	Population.	
Vera Cruz.....	Vera Cruz.....	36,038	67,297
	Cosamaloapan.....	13,924	
	Tuxtla.....	17,335	
Jalapa.....	Jalapa.....	37,115	61,159
	Coatepec.....	19,494	
	Misantla.....	4,550	
Orizava.....	Orizava.....	37,695	55,050
	Songolica.....	17,355	
Cordova.....	Cordova.....	26,575	36,955
	Huatusco.....	10,380	
Jalacingo.....	Jalacingo.....	24,058	32,660
	Papantla.....	8,602	
Tuxpan.....	Tuxpan.....	18,968	46,399
	Chiconthpec.....	27,431	
Tampico.....	Olosuama.....	19,525	39,339
	Tantoyuca.....	19,814	
Total number of inhabitants.....		338,859	

Minerals.

Up to the present time, two districts only of the State of Vera Cruz have been explored by speculators in mines: they are Jalapa and Jalacingo; and the ores have been found at about twenty-one miles north of the Cofre of Perote, at places called respectively Tatatila, Zomelahuacan, and Senepanoya.

There are being worked, at present, mines containing lead mixed with gold, lead and copper, copper and iron, and copper alone—in all eleven. Twelve are at present abandoned, from various causes, such as the want of capital or their being flooded with water in the rainy season.

Iron is also found, but being in general far from the roads by which it must be taken to market, and by which also coal must be brought for smelting, it has been found more profitable to import it. The enormous profits made in this branch of commerce with Mexico, should demand the attention of the manufacturers of the article in the United States.

Commerce of Vera Cruz before the Independence of Mexico.

The imports through the port of Vera Cruz before the War of Independence, averaging one year with another, exceeded

And the exports, inclusive of silver, - - - - \$19,000,000
21,000,000

Total of mercantile exchanges, - - - - \$40,000,000

Classification of Exports.

Cochineal, - - - - -	\$1,715,000
Sugar, - - - - -	1,500,000
Vanilla, - - - - -	60,000
Indigo, - - - - -	2,700,000
Sarsaparilla, - - - - -	90,000
Pepper from Tabasco, - - - - -	40,000
Flour, - - - - -	500,000
Tanned leather, - - - - -	80,000
Sundries, - - - - -	315,000
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	\$7,000,000
Silver, - - - - -	14,000,000
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	\$21,000,000

From a statement published by the *Consulado* of Vera Cruz, it appears that the IMPORTATION FROM SPAIN and other European countries in 1802 was as follows:

In national vessels,	\$11,539,219
In foreign vessels,	8,060,781
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	\$19,600,000
Exportation in the same year,	33,866,219
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Total trade with Europe,	\$53,466,219
Importation from American ports,	\$1,607,792
Exportation to " "	4,581,148
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	6,188,940
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Total commerce of Vera Cruz for 1802,	\$59,655,159

Since the independence of Mexico in 1821, the trade of the country has been mostly with Europe. From 1825 to 1835, the trade with the United States amounted to considerable, but since the latter period it has been

steadily diminishing, until at the present time, but a small exhibit is made of commerce between the United States and Vera Cruz.

The following is a report of articles exported from Vera Cruz to the United States during the nine months ending September 30, 1856:

ARTICLES EXPORTED.	VALUE AS PER INVOICES.
Vanilla beans,	\$15,734 22
Cochineal,	77,134 82
Jalap,	10,553 84
Goat-skins,	64,250 57
Deer-skins,	2,030 40
Calf-skins,	311 78
Hides,	30,919 28
Mahogany,	7,941 70
Fustic,	851 57
Tobacco,	1,236 14
India-rubber,	469 91
Shellac,	18 87
Barilla,	32 82
Copper,	1,677 93
Coffee,	24 00
Cabalonga nuts,	28 56
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	\$213,216 41

Of this amount \$9,765 was shipped to New Orleans, and the balance exclusively to New York. The exports of specie during the said nine months, to New Orleans, amounted to \$858,443; to New York unknown, certainly less than half the amount shipped to New Orleans.

As before stated, the United States Consul at Vera Cruz writes, April 15, 1857:

"The duties received at this custom-house during