

An Account of the Number and Tonnage of Steam Vessels belonging to the British Empire in each year from 1814 to 1838, distinguishing- British Possessions in Europe from the British Plantations.

Years.	England.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom,		Isles : Guernsey, Jersey, & Man.		British Plantations.		Total.	
	Vessels	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1814	—	—	1	69	—	—	1	69	—	—	1	387	2	456
1815	3	209	5	429	—	—	8	638	—	—	2	995	10	1,633
1816	5	315	7	632	—	—	12	947	—	—	3	1,665	15	2,612
1817	7	462	6	514	1	63	14	1,039	—	—	5	2,911	19	3,950
1818	10	1,586	8	683	1	63	19	2,332	—	—	8	4,109	27	6,441
1819	11	1,459	11	825	2	2,64	24	2,548	—	—	8	4,109	32	6,657
1820	17	1,639	14	1,127	3	252	34	3,018	—	—	9	4,225	43	7,243
1821	29	3,377	26	2,344	4	330	59	6,051	—	—	10	4,483	69	10,534
1822	52	5,322	28	2,701	5	434	85	8,457	—	—	11	4,668	96	13,125
1823	69	7,527	26	2,347	6	487	101	10,361	—	—	10	3,792	111	14,153
1824	80	8,642	29	2,682	5	409	114	11,733	2	214	10	3,792	126	15,739
1825	112	12,280	36	3,292	3	192	151	15,764	2	214	15	4,309	168	20,287
1826	162	16,791	51	4,496	15	2,899	228	24,186	2	214	18	4,558	248	28,958
1827	173	17,734	59	5,390	21	4,194	253	27,318	2	214	20	4,958	275	32,490
1828	191	18,367	56	4,903	25	4,740	272	28,010	2	214	19	3,808	293	32,032
1829	203	19,085	57	5,399	27	5,017	287	29,501	2	214	15	2,568	304	32,283
1830	203	18,831	61	5,687	31	5,491	295	30,009	3	330	17	3,105	315	33,444
1831	223	20,304	62	5,777	35	6,181	320	32,262	4	433	23	4,750	347	37,445
1832	235	20,813	73	7,205	40	7,220	348	35,238	4	474	28	5,957	380	41,669
1833	268	23,290	71	7,075	43	7,754	382	38,122	5	555	28	6,340	415	45,017
1834	301	27,059	77	8,187	46	8,183	424	43,429	6	711	32	6,595	462	50,735
1835	344	30,351	85	9,833	68	12,583	497	52,767	6	718	35	6,035	538	60,520
1836	388	34,314	95	11,588	71	13,460	554	59,362	7	914	39	7,693	600	67,969
1837	422	37,240	109	13,368	87	18,437	618	69,045	6	832	44	8,411	668	78,288
1838	484	43,877	105	13,113	84	17,694	673	74,684	5	709	44	7,323	722	82,716

We also annex a table copied from the report of Captain **Pringle**, R. E. and **Mr. Josiah Parkes**, being a classification of the steam-vessels belonging to the British empire,

A Statement of the Approximate Number, Tonnage, and Power of Vessels belonging to the Mercantile Steam Marine of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies, end of Year 1838.

	Number of vessels per Custom House Return, 1838.	Size of vessels per Custom H. Return.	Registered Tonnage.	Tonnage of Engine-Room, &c. not registered at the Custom H.	Total computed Tonnage.	Computed amount of Horse-power.	Computed power per vessel.	Total computed Tonnage per vessel.
	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Horse-power.	Horse-power.	Tons.
	256	below 50	6, 106	10, 816	16,922	6,400	25	'66
	145	50 to 100	10, 267	7,458	17,725	6, 866	47	122
	84	100-150	10, 034	7, 761	17,795	7, 483	90	211
	63	150 — 200	10,982	7, 147	18,129	7, 560	120	287
	76	200-300	16, 654	10,839	27,493	11, 188	147	361
	41	300- 400	14, 247	7, 580	21,827	10,914	266	532
	10	400 — 600	4, 488	3, 506	7,994	3, 000	300	769
	1	679	679	661	1,340	450	450	1,340
	1	1, 053	1, 053	810	1,855	500	500	1, 855
No. of vessels registered in 1838	677"		74, 510	56, 578	131,080	54,361		
Not registered	83		4, 154	5, 484	9,638	2,129	50	116
Total No. in Great Britain and Ireland, 1838	760		78, 664	62, 062	140,718	56, 490		
Isles of Guernsey, Jersey, & Man, 1837. . .	† 6		832	618	1,450	600	100	241
British Plantations . . .	†44		8, 411	7,253	15,664	6,160	140	350
	810		87, 907	69,933	157,840	63,250		

* The Custom House enumerates 678 steam-vessels, but the tonnage on one burnt is omitted,

These are extracted from Mr. Porter's Returns ; we have not received them for 1838.

The total number of British and Irish steam-vessels, including those registered in Guernsey, Jersey, and Man, amounts to 766 ; of these, 484 may be considered as river-steamers and small coasters, and 282 as large coasters and sea-going ships.

The increase in 1837 over 1836 was 78 ; and that of 1838 over 1837, 59 registered vessels.

It will be seen, that, in the above, the power of these vessels is computed from a lumping total, and the dividend assigned to each in the

class alike. Thus to 256 vessels, twenty-five horse-power each is assigned.

As there is no law to compel the owner of a steam-vessel to make known, or to register, the power of the engines he employs, no doubt, a correct return is difficult if not impossible to be procured. But these lumping assumptions appear to us so vague, that we have been at the pains to compile another table, which we believe will prove a nearer approximation to the fact, and more available for future reference, when speculating on the important aid our naval force shall receive from this new element, in the event of war. We have, moreover, brought this down to a later date, but not possessing any account of our colonial steamers, we have only included those registered and licensed in the several ports of the United Kingdom. Twenty-six vessels appear to have been added up to July last, to which month the return is completed.

Total number of Steam Vessels belonging to the United Kingdom,
classified as to their Horse-Power.

HORSE-POWER.	ENGLAND.		SCOTLAND.		IRELAND.		CHANNEL ISLANDS.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Horse Power.	No.	Horse Power.	No.	Horse Power.	No.	Horse Power.	No.	Horse Power.
From 450 to 500	1	468							1	468
... 400 ... 450	2	900							2	900
... 350 ... 400	1	380	1	380					2	760
... 300 ... 350	1	340	3	1020					4	1360
... 250 ... 300	3	880	7	2000	6	1710			16	4590
... 200 ... 250	11	2604	5	1184	10	2442	240		27	6470
... 180 ... 200	4	800	3	600	7	1394			14	2794
... 160 ... 180	4	710	2	350	5	900	180		12	2140
... 140 ... 160	15	2380	3	470	15	2306			33	5156
... 120 ... 140	12	1660			15	2030			27	3690
... 100 ... 120	33	3930	8	935	8	930			49	5795
... 90 ... 100	22	2200	6	591	5	500			33	3291
... 80 ... 90	10	900	8	711					18	1611
... 70 ... 80	25	1987	4	310	4	315	80		34	2692
... 60 ... 70	20	1394	15	1029	3	210			38	2633
... 50 ... 60	19	1186	10	596	2	120			31	1902
... 40 ... 50	35	1697	15	716	1	50			51	2463
... 30 ... 40	70	2668	21	791	4	160			95	3619
... 25 ... 30	66	1908	3	88	1	28			70	2024
... 20 ... 25	55	1333	2	45					57	1378
... 15 ... 20	7	1649	4	74	1	16			92	1739
... 10 ... 15	30	403	2	27					32	430
... 5 ... 10	43	371	4	40					47	411
Not exceeding 5	1	5							1	5
Total	570	32753	126	11957	87	13111	3	500	786	58321

It appears that the greatest extent of power is in vessels of 200 to 250 horse-power. The small number of vessels belonging to Ireland, compared with Scotland, is worthy of note.

By the help of these official and demi-official tables, the reader will be enabled to take a review of our maritime resources, and draw his conclusions as to their value, when contrasted with former periods. We shall, in our next number, produce datas which will put him in possession of some of these facts, as they regard the maritime resources of France and the United States of America, and then proceed to review the state of our military marine, as compared with the navies of foreign states.

THE FRENCH COLONIES.-ART. I.

THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN.

Comparison is one of the most effectual modes of reasoning on subjects of apparently remote interest, and therefore we purport placing before the English public a complete examination of the existing Colonies of France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia. By this means we shall probably induce a closer investigation of the actual condition of the British colonies, and their relations with the parent state. England will find much to admire and imitate in the government and administration of the colonies of our continental neighbours : in some instances we shall find a greater freedom of self-rule ; in others, a less restrained action on commerce. The mode in which the colonies are represented in Paris by delegates or representatives, chosen by the legislative assembly in each colony, is especially worthy of attention at this moment, when public opinion is strongly turned to the present utterly imperfect mode in which we attempt to carry on the home-government of our vast colonial empire. As regards the question of slavery, it is well that we should understand its actual state in the possessions of our European neighbours, and the progress made towards its final extinction.

France and the neighbouring powers are now endeavouring to regain their past colonial position, and it becomes, therefore, more imperatively our duty to watch the course of events, and to be prepared for future emergencies. It is our intention to commence with the colonies of France, as the possessions of the principal European kingdom, and of our most formidable competitor for transatlantic dominion. Fortunately we have obtained a series of official documents on the French colonies, recently prepared by the minister of marine and colonies in Paris, in imitation of the "History of the British Colonies," lately published in London-the latter, however, being the work of a private

individual, to whom all assistance has been refused by the executive authorities --the former the work of the minister of King Louis Philippe.

As a peculiar division has been adopted by the French minister in the classification of the *Rapport*, it will be requisite to give a prefatory explanation of the terms used—such as, population, legislation, justice, government, agriculture, and commerce—in order to avoid a repetition of explanatory paragraphs when treating of each colony.

POPULATION.—The permanent and resident population of the French colonies, is composed, at Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Senegal, and Bourbon.—1st, of individuals, of the white European race. 2ndly, of individuals, of the black African race. 3rdly, of varieties of mixed blood arising from the union of the two races. There are besides at the island of Bourbon a certain number of Indians. In the French establishments in India, the population is composed of whites, of mixed and free Indians ; at the islands of St. Pierre and Niquelon, of whites only. The uncertain population, viz. that which depends on arrivals and departures, is composed of the civil and military persons paid by government, of supercargoes, of seamen forming the equipment of merchant vessels and men of war, and of persons whom commercial affairs, or private business, call for a short time into the colonies. In the four principal colonies, of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Cayenne, and Bourbon, the population, according to the account of its social state, is divided into two classes, that of free persons, and that of slaves. There were also, before the year 1830, a certain number of individuals called by the name of *Patrones*, and free people of the Savannas, who not belonging to any master, and yet not being regularly free, were excluded from the legal classification ; but there have since been granted to these persons regular titles of freedom ; and the royal ordinance of the 12th July, 1832, whilst facilitating freedoms, declared for the future all irregular freedoms void. A law of the 24th April, 1833, has abolished the distinctions, that the colonial legislation had established, between the two classes of free population, until then designated by the name of whites and people of colour.

The white class is entirely composed of Europeans, or of descendants of Europeans, who possess the major part of the land, of capital and of property of every kind. The principal commerce and the richest manufactures are also in their hands. The free-colour class is composed of persons of mixed blood, or of the black race, who are free either from birth, or from having been personally freed. Liberty of birth is transmitted by the mother, whose state determines that of her

children. The liberty resulting from being made free, is granted by a special declaration of the master giving up his rights over the slave, and by the delivering of a special title of freedom on the part of the local authority, conformable to the regulations established by the royal ordinance of the 12th July, 1832. The number of persons belonging to the class of free colour is greatly on the increase, because men of mixed blood, who form the greatest part, are those who are the longest lived in the colony, and which is also increased daily, either by the mixture of races, or by enfranchisements.

The greater part of the slaves possess fowls, pigs, and sometimes even large cattle. The most industrious have often houses excellently furnished; but the greater part of their profits is employed for their *toilette*, which is carried to a great extent by the female slaves.

The local government has a right of surveillance concerning the treatment of the slaves, and the police effectually protect the blacks, by repressing any abuse of authority.

LEGISLATION. - The French colonies are generally regulated by fixed laws and uniform rules, if not in all their detail, at least in their principles. It will be sufficient here to notice the general regulations, reserving for special notice under each colony the modifications or exceptions of the general law. The Article 73 of the Charter of 1814 states, "The colonies will be regulated by laws and particular statutes." The word *statutes* has been added in this article to the tenor of the Article 91 of the Constitution, for the 8th year, which was then conceived, "The organization of the colonies will be determined by special laws." In consequence of this addition, the legislation of the colonies was without constitutional forms, until the period of the revolution of 1830. But an important change has been introduced by Article 64 of the Charter of 1830, thus expressed, "The colonies shall be governed by special laws."

In order to determine what matters should be subjected to the fixed laws, and what should be within the prerogative of the king, as also what should be committed to the local legislature, the law of the 24th of April, 1833, was passed, which established at Martinique, at Guadeloupe, at French Guyana, and at Bourbon, a legislative institution, under the name of the colonial council, and decreed the respective powers of the government, mother county, of the king and colonial councils, and of the legislation in the colonies.

The legislative power of the kingdom, meaning thereby the king of the French, the House of Peers, and Chamber of Deputies, makes-

1. Laws relative to the exercise of political rights.

2. Civil and criminal laws, concerning free persons, and determining penal laws, for persons not free, and crimes to which the punishment of death is applicable.

3. The laws which regulate the special powers of the governors, and those which refer to the conduct of the police, and of the general safety.

4. The laws for the judicial organization.

5. The laws on commerce, the regulation of the customs, treatment of the slaves, and the regulations between the mother-country and the colonies.

Decrees are issued by royal ordinances, (the colonial counsels or their delegates being previously heard,)-1 st. On the administration of government, municipal affairs excepted.. 2d. On the censorship of the press. 3d. On public instruction. 4th. On the organization and service of the militia. 5th. On the conditions and forms of the *enfranchisements*, also on the *recensements*. 6th. On the ameliorations to be introduced in the condition of persons not free, so far as they are compatible with acquired rights. 7th. On the penal code applicable to persons not free, in all cases which have reference to capital punishments. 8th. Upon the *acceptation* of gifts and legacies by public establishments.

All other matters but those which are above enumerated are referred to the adjudication of the colonial councils, provided the decrees are passed by the colonial council of each colony, upon the proposition of the governor, and subsequently submitted for the approval of the king.

The colonial council specially discusses and votes upon the interior budget of the colony, with the exception, however, of allowances to the governor, and the expenses of persons belonging to the judicial or customs department, which are fixed by the home government, but open to discussion by the colonial council, who discuss also the situation and division of local contributions. The decrees adopted by the colonial council are authorized to be put in execution by the governor. The colonial council also takes cognizance of all expenses of military service chargeable to the state; it declares its opinions on subjects having reference to the colony, either by an address to the king, in matters referring to the laws of the state, or to royal ordinances, or by a memorial to the governor, if it refers to other subjects.

Martinique, Guadaloupe, French Guyana, and Bourbon, have in **Paris** (*pres du gouvernement du Roi*) representatives elected by the colonial: councils. These representatives, to the number of seven, form

the council in Paris : they are expected to give in to government statements relative to the general interests of the colonies, and to report also the deliberations and wishes of the colonial councils. The duration of the duties of the representatives is equal to the duration of the colonial councils which have appointed them. Every Frenchman, thirty years old, and enjoying civil and political rights, may be chosen for a representative, to attend in Paris.'

The same law of the 24th of April, 1833, states, that the French establishments in the East Indies and in Africa, and the fishery establishments of St, Pierre and Miquelon shall continue to be ruled by the ordinances of the king.

Le Code Civil has been, with a few exceptions, for some time in force in all the French colonies.

The commercial law and the criminal code of the colonies are nearly similar to those of France.

By an edict, dated June; 1776, there was established at Versailles, under the name of the "Depôt of the Charters of the Colonies," an establishment intended for the preservation of the public papers of the French colonies. This establishment has been transferred to the residence of the minister of marine of the colonies, at Paris, who receives regularly duplicate accounts or duplicate minutes, such as registers of civil proceedings, arrests, and judgments, and registered acts, as well as other different public acts, emanating from the powers and authorities of the different colonies, and commencing at a period as far back as possible. The edict of the month of March, 1685, known under the name of the *Code Noir*, was, in the French colonies of America, the first act of the legislation relative to the state and regulation of the slaves. This edict has been applied, with some modifications, to the island of Bourbon, by letters patent of the month of December, 1723. It is still, at the present time, the fundamental law in this matter, It ensures religious instruction to the slave ; it regulates the master's right of possession ; establishes his duties relative to the nourishment and support of the slave, and defines his authority and responsibility as to punishments and discipline ; it determines the state of the slave, declares his civil incapacity, and fixes the nature of property to which the slave is entitled ; it states the form and conditions of enfranchisement, and points out the rights and duties of those set free :

* How superior the system of governing the French colonies is to the plan we adopt, of a continually shifting secretary of state, without a council, and without responsible agents.—See subsequent article on this subj cct. -En.

finally, it specifies the punishments to which the slave is liable for various crimes and offences.

A great many clauses of the Code *Noir* have at present fallen into disuse, and especially those which were distinguished by excessive **rigour**, or those which the difference of times and customs have rendered incapable of execution. Some important modifications have, moreover, been made, either prior to 1789, or since retaking possession of the colonies by France, by a great many acts, and rules emanating from the crown or highest governing power. Amongst these acts may be mentioned a royal ordinance of the 15th October, 1786, which introduced some remarkable alterations in the regulations of the slaves ; and a royal ordinance of the 30th April, 1833, respecting the abolition of the punishments of mutilating and branding, as regards the slaves. The conditions and forms of enfranchisement are now regulated by the royal ordinance of the **12th** July, 1832, which has been before mentioned. According to this ordinance, every person who wishes to free his slave, makes a declaration of it to the proper authority, and if, after a delay of six months, there is no claim or opposition, or if the claims or oppositions are found to be unfounded, the black whom it is intended to set free is definitively inscribed as free on the registers of the civil state.

Another royal ordinance of the 1st March, **1831**, had previously suppressed in the French colonies every tax on enfranchisement.

Three other ordinances have been established since 1836, relative to slaves : viz. 1. The ordinance of the 4th August, 1833, respecting the hearing of slaves as witnesses; 2. The ordinance of the 29th April, **1836**, concerning the **freeing** of slaves brought from the colonies into France ; 3. The ordinance of the **same date**, concerning the names and **surnames** given to the slaves who obtain their freedom.

Justice is at present administered in the French colonies by tribunals of peace ; by tribunals of the first order (de **premiere instance**), by royal **courts**, by courts of **assizes**, by councils of appeal ; and in matters of foreign commerce and custom duties (revenue), by privy councils. Judgments, *en dernier ressort*, and decrees issued by different tribunals, are open to appeal in specified cases. The tribunals of peace in the colonies, as in France, take cognizance of actions, civil, personal, and relating to goods, **&c.** ; of commercial actions, and of police complaints.

The tribunals of the first order (de **premiere instance**) have in the colonies, in **civil** business, duties analogous to those of the tribunals of continental France ; but the judgment of **offences** subject to punishments, as well as the means adopted for the prevention of crime, which in France belong to the **tribunals** of the first order, are attached exclu-

sively to the royal courts in the principal colonies, and there remains, therefore to the tribunals of the first order only the power of correction, as regards special cases, revenue cases, and those of **foreign commerce**. The royal courts unite the duties which in France are divided between the court of appeal, the royal courts, and the tribunals of the first order. Courts are regulated in certain limits with respect to the tribunals, of peace and of the police. They sit as courts of appeal, with respect to tribunals of the first order ; and as tribunals of correction of the first and second **class**, as regards common offences. They pronounce judgment at once in courts of accusation, on cases to be left out or tried, and furnish exclusively the magistrates destined to hold the **assizes**.

The courts of **assizes**, as in France, take cognizance of all cases which are liable to corporal and ignominious punishment. They are composed of **counsellors** of the royal court, and of assessors chosen amongst the inhabitants who possess the requisite qualifications. A royal ordinance of the 15th April, 1831, has established, in the French colonies, the free right of exercising the profession of advocate, which until then had been exclusively exercised by solicitors.

The privy councils have constituted a **council, *du contentieux administratif***, for the judgment of cases analogous to those which are deferred in France to the ***conseils de prefecture***. The decisions that they give on these matters are capable of being repealed by the ***Conseil d'Etat***. The privy councils pronounce judgment, save in cases of **cassation** (annulment), upon appeals from judgments given by the tribunal of the first order, as regards the infringement of the laws, ordinances, and rules on the foreign commerce, and on the regulation of the custom duties.

A royal ordinance of the 31st August, 1828, has regulated the mode of proceeding before the privy councils of the colonies.

Government. - In each of the colonies, the general command and the principal administration are entrusted to an **officer**, either civil or **military**, who receives the title of Governor. Some chiefs of administration direct, under his orders, the different parts of the service.

A Colonial Inspector watches over the regularity of the administrative service, and for this purpose sees to the execution of the laws, ordinances, and colonial rules and decrees. A privy council assists the **Governor** in his decisions. The constitution of the colonial **legislative assemblies** in the French colonies will be shown when each possession is being examined.

COMMERCE.-As the objects which France has in view in the **establishment** of colonies, are of peculiar importance at the present moment, it may be **well** to give in detail the exact words of **the** French government,