

residence, and the house of Mr. Pritchard, are the only ones which possess the luxury of glazed windows. The houses of the foreigners are scattered along the beach, or built immediately behind it.

The bay of Papieti is the safest, and its port affords the greatest facilities for the repair and supply of vessels, of any belonging to the island. For the first purpose a wharf and warehouse have been constructed, which are let to those who wish to use them. We occupied them for ten days, for which we paid thirty dollars. The tender was hove out at the wharf, and her equipment secured in the warehouse. A limited supply of ships' stores and chandlery is kept for sale, and may also be purchased from the vessels which frequent the port.

The greater part of the commercial business of Tahiti is transacted here, whither the articles for export from other parts of the island are brought to be re-shipped. The number of vessels which visit this port annually, is about sixty, of which the largest portion are whalers; the remainder are transient merchantmen, or regular traders from New South Wales. The latter bring cotton fabrics, which they exchange for sugar, molasses, arrow-root, and cocoa-nut oil. The value of the exports in this direction is supposed to be about \$35,000.

The amount of American manufactured goods imported into the island is estimated at an equal sum; they find their way here in transient ships from the coast of South America, and the supplies furnished our whale-ships are generally paid in American goods.

It is almost impossible, in the absence of all statistics, to arrive at any correct statement of the amount of foreign manufactures annually consumed here; but the quantity is evidently on the increase.

By a regulation of the colonial government of New South Wales, Tahitian vessels are allowed to enter their ports on the same footing with the English. There are several vessels engaged in the trade, and others building.

The position of this island, in the vicinity of the cruising-ground of our whale-ships, and the resources it possesses for supplying shipping, make it a desirable point of rendezvous.

The following statement will show the number and value of American vessels visiting this island in the years 1836, '37, and '38.

	WHALE-SHIPS.	TONS.	VALUE OF CARGO.
1836 . . . . .	52 . . . . .	18,090 . . . . .	\$1,307,500
1837 . . . . .	57 . . . . .	20,500 . . . . .	1,817,000
1838 . . . . .	42 . . . . .	15,000 . . . . .	1,268,000
	9 merchant-ships,	1,700 . . . . .	75,000
		<hr/> 55,290	<hr/> \$4,467,500

A census recently taken, gives for the population of Tahiti nine