10-12-1788

William Constable to Unknown Person, October 12, 1788

William Constable

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Sunday 12 Oct 1788

The sailing of the British packet, and some other
surprises which I was obliged to attend to prevented me from
replying to your favour of the 27 Sept. earlier than the present
date. Did not our Collector think it improper to satisfy
the Collector House Committee to the most satisfactory
reply might be made to your queries, but he has constantly
refused to communicate the Shire Memos; and that
what added extraordinary the Committee of Ways & Means
have never thought proper to call on a State of the Imports
& Exports, an Information in general seemed to be of little necessity
to political Authoritarians.

The following statement is either the
result of my own observations or collected from the best materials
I have that: I believe these may be relied on, from them.
You will be enabled to form some idea of the state, and I judge by any further explanation necessary, I
will enter into with detail but I have imagined these
sketches will suffice.

I am with my sincerest
most respectful,

DOWLAND
On export of Wheat for these 2 years past has amounted to about 23,7000 Bush. & 4. Tons.

We may naturally expect that the quantity of this commodity will be increased — the expectations before the late week having been 3 times as much.

The distress an Ily has in some measure prevented the culture and the great number of New Settlers from the East States in our Western Country has created a demand for it so much nearer home as to prevent its coming to this Port.

The Export of Flour for the last 12 months may be taken at 76,000 Bushels, and is increasing.

The export of Bread is greatly diminished from what it was before the War when we supplied ourselves and the British Islands with very considerable quantities in expectation of their being better men & better Coaches. At present I do not imagine it amounts to above one fourth that of the 1st Season from the Port 32,732 Bushels of Flour which exceeds the preceding year reports of 24,000 Bush., and is nearly double of what it was before the War.

The Potato export of last year was about 1000 Tons, and is daily augmenting.

Estimate the alone at 24,000 Tons, of freight value it at One Million of Dollars.
Imagine that our exports of Mahogany, Rye Wood, Indian Pine, Indian Rye Meal, Gun, Apple Butter, Brandy, Barley, Indigo, Tobacco, Rye, Cotton, Run, Fish, Rice and Black Tea for the year amount to about 300,000.

We exported in the last year about 50,000 Tons of lumber as staves, Barrels, Ship Timber, which is worth at least 3 Dollars a ton, 150,000.

We have shipped within the last 12 months in April

2,000,000

This calculation is founded upon the sums carried by the British Caravels which amount nearly 180,000 Deep Masts besides what is exported aboard the different Merchant Ships from Boston, 1733 to November 1736. Reports of Africa were tolerable and the amount of Rice exported from New York since the evacuation by the British cannot be rated at less than 10 million of Dollars!

Query no. 7.

The Clearances at our Custom House in 1737 was nearly 180,000 tons of shipping.

There is a Custom House at Rye harbor, but West is in the meadows Burgom, a tinny little town there.
Trade Navigation of the port of New York 1787

Amount for Europe -- 120 sail. Emigrating 22,000
N. America & B.R. 110 6000
W. Indies & Home Islands 250 30,000
Am. Colonies & Africa
United States 750 40,000

120 sail 98,000

of the above 68,000 Tons were American Packet 30,000 Tons
were employed in the Domestic Commerce of
the State.
20,000 were British Shipping,
10,000 Foreigners of all Nations.

Our Inland Navigation amounts to about 30,000 Tons
which now the Master no clean out, manned by 200 natives
one half of which are black.

I estimate on trade with Connecticut, very at 100,000
from whom we receive 2/3 of the Plumed Forked Shell
We expect, a large proportion of our latter provisions, considerable
quantities of Lamb, suspended then actually arrive from the
former 2/3 a considerable amount.

Our annual Importation upon an average at 5,000 Tons in 1784 it amounted to near 8,000 but it has declined about 1/3.

I think it may be taken at 7/3 the total Shipments of the Continent.

W. E.