Trade, too, has commenced upon this route with the rich and fertile counties of the east, whose inhabitants are ready to embrace the great facility in prospect of finding at Wilmington a market for their valuable productions. It is only necessary to have the supply to insure demand.

Cotton: Upland in moderate supply the last year or two. It is now packed mostly in square bales, and delivered at market in excellent order. Freight to England, chiefly Liverpool, varies as to circumstances ½ to ⅝d., and it often occurs that cotton purchased by order is shipped coastwise to New York, where it takes the chances of a good market, or is forwarded by packet to England or France. Shipments to France direct are made from Wilmington. Both cotton and rice can be obtained and shipped.

Rice: We have often heard a preference expressed for the rice on this river. Charleston dealers send for it, to clean there and export in the rough, etc. The quantity made is about 200,000 bushels. There is now an extensive steam mill, besides sundry water mills, which enable us to furnish in due season the whole crop of this article, and greatly add to our supply of clean rice for export from the port of Wilmington. The quantity may now be fairly estimated at about ten thousand tierces. In consequence, dealers may expect less disappointment in supplies and at fair prices. A steam mill recently erected at New York has made demands upon our rough rice and takes it coastwise. By custom, the purchaser pays 50 cents for each cask and 8½ cents for inspection. The casks are of various sizes, from 300 to 600 pounds net. About the middle of November to the first of December we get the first new rice to market.

Flour is expected to be fine this year—the crops of wheat throughout are represented as excellent. It is inspected and branded at Fayetteville, under several qualities, and at present no charge of inspection to the shipper here. The cross middling, fine and superfine, are generally sent down together. It is not always practicable to procure superfine alone. Quality good. Inspection improved.

Wheat is brought into Fayetteville by wagons, where it is bought, cleaned at mills, and put up in casks of seven bushels or bags, and sent down to Wilmington for sale or to ship.

Corn: We have it frequently from the northern counties in this State, brought round in vessels, and also from Maryland. The demand this year has been uniformly good, and sold at full

prices. The adjoining counties have had satisfactory accounts—the consumption seems to have increased.

Tar is rafted to Wilmington down rivers and creeks, and bought of the country people by the raft, from 20 to 300 barrels, afloat; after which, it is landed on a wharf, inspected and coopered—the purchaser always paying inspection of 2 cents per barrel, cooperage, wharfage, and the landing charge; the whole expense about 12 cents per barrel, including one week's wharfage. Our cooperage is good, and attention is paid to pumping, in order to clear it of water as much as possible. January to May is the season when tar is most plentiful.

Turpentine is seen in market from June to April. We generally get the greatest quantities from the 20th of November until about the last of February. Before and after these periods it comes in smaller parcels. After heavy rains and during high freshets we have considerable quantities down at once; and often at such time the supply offered for sale reduces the price. Turpentine is rafted and sold as tar, subject to inspection and like expenses. The buyer, from custom, pays for the whole raft, as landed, including hard or scrapings as well as soft; the hard, however, at less price—one-half the rate paid for soft. By custom and law of the State, it is weighed, taking 320 pounds gross as the barrel. Our barrels are generally large, and when packed overgo that weight. The usual crop has been 100,000 to 140,000 barrels. I will further add, in regard to this article, that on inspection, after the inspector has tried each cask at the bung with a rod, he weighs a small portion of the lot, by which the whole purchase is averaged. Inspection, 3 cents per barrel. The crop of 1843-44 is expected to reach 200,000 barrels. The railroad route delivers a large proportion of turpentine to market, which is in addition to the rafting process. The several distilleries now established for working up turpentine in the home market consume weekly 1,500 barrels of the raw material, and such distilling has become a great item of business here. They produce rosin, spirits turpentine, and make varnish and pitch.

Flaxseed is an article in regard to the quantity of which an accurate estimate can not be formed. The seed is sown with no other view than to produce flax for domestic purposes; gathered in quantities and brought to market from the first of September to the fifteenth of January—principally in November and December. In common, the quantity received depends materially