

REPRESENTATIONS...
PORT-WINE..., etc.
1845-1846

J. J. Forrester

REPRESENTATION

MADE BY

Offley, Webber, & Forrester

OF OPORTO,

to their correspondents,

respecting the recent discussions on the subject of

PORT-WINE.

—
OPORTO.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING OFFICE.

1845.



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Oporto 28th. November 1845.

Our friends are aware that our Mr. Forrester has found it necessary in his own defence, and in defence of the system which has ever been held by our house, to engage in a discussion upon the subject of PORT-WINE, with sundry parties, and corporations. We, as well as he, regretted the necessity of this discussion; and, as a house, we abstained from participating in it, whilst there was any thing like openness on the part of Mr. Forrester's antagonists — feeling satisfied that, upon fair ground, and in open day light, he was perfectly able to defend himself. The event has justified our belief; for his last Vindication has remained unanswered, although it embodies observations on the conduct of his antagonists of the same nature as, but infinitely more worthy of notice, than any of those which they previously considered it necessary to endeavour to refute.

In place of an open answer they have now resorted to calumnious assertions, and insinuations, *privately* made to our connexions, with the view of undermining us *as a house*: and this it is which makes it imperative upon us to beg our connexions to bestow a few moments upon the following short statement.

In 1843, a pamphlet was published called "A Word or Two on Port Wine." This having by some been ascribed to Mr. Forrester, those whose practice the pamphlet censured by implication, directed their anger, which it necessarily created, against him: and as he was not disposed to yield to unjust clamour in any degree, their animosity continually increased; and no means were left untried to injure him, both in England and in Portugal. One reason for his silence on the subject was that his enemies falsely asserted him to be the author of a letter on the affairs of Portugal which appeared in the Times newspaper of the 20th. Feb. 1843, and continued to do so after he had explicitly denied it to be his. The author of that letter, is, we believe, now pretty generally known to belong to one of the 22 houses spoken of below.

On the 8th. of October 1844, Mr. Forrester thought proper to address to a numerous party of his guests, consisting of some of the most respectable proprietors, and gentlemen of the Douro, some arguments in favour of the making of port-wine *pure*, free from *extraneous colouring*, and *not highly brandied*. Upon this, addresses were made to him from 102 out of the 121 parishes of the wine country, expressing their approbation of his proceedings — and their concurrence in his sentiments. Notwithstanding this, such was the perversity of his antagonists, or their apprehension with regard to their interests, should his ideas prevail, and they be obliged to adopt his practice — as to occasion a paper to be got up, in which his assertions were affirmed to be "false, and vague"; and he was accused of "subterfuges" — and "sinister motives." To this paper were attached 208 signatures — the genuineness of which was guaranteed by a Commission, styling itself the "Commission of Covas." Notwithstanding this guarantee, it has been proved on oath, that the signatures *were not all genuine*. It has also been proved by official documents obtained from the authorities of the respective districts, — as Proprietors in which the signers of that paper subscribed it, — that in those districts, 77 of the subscribers had not enrolled a single pipe of wine in that year — 17 had less than 5 pipes, and 26 had less than 10 pipes; — and it has been publicly declared in the news-papers that the greater number of the self-styled proprietors held vineyards only on the "heights of the wine country — where none but wines of the third quality can be produced unadulterated."

That this should be the case seems natural, since there remained only 19 Parishes, out of 121 — which had not proclaimed their concurrence in Mr. Forrester's views.

This paper was addressed to the "Feitoria Inglesa," —

(English Factory.) *There is no such body*, but the paper was taken to itself by the British Association — which Association held a meeting, and agreed that the paper should be submitted to the Trade — the British Trade of Oporto, generally.

Invitations were sent, or given by the British Association to every British House in Oporto, *excepting to ourselves*, to read, discuss, and reply to the paper of the Commission of Covas! Accordingly 22 houses combined, and sent an answer to the said paper, to the Commission, in which the subscribers of the paper were called “the respectable proprietors of the *greater number* of wine Stores of the Upper-Corgo;” — and their declaration was said to be “highly important, satisfactory, and perfectly in accordance with the experience of” the said Combination of 22 Houses. This Combination went on to say that the “accusations” referred to by the Commission, “would, if left unrefuted cause the utter ruin of the Douro,” and that against the said Combination collectively, accusations equally false, and calumnious, had been published — and the Combination made protestations, from which it would appear that nothing but *pure, genuine, unadulterated* wine, was ever bought, or sold by them.

Now, the Commission set out in their papers remitted to the “Feitoria”, by declaring in the plainest terms, that the paper had been got up *expressly in consequence of the apprehension and fear excited by the publications, and proceedings of Mr. Forrester*. Against Mr. Forrester, therefore, the accusations, and insinuations of those who corresponded with the Commission, were levelled; in however general terms those accusations, and insinuations were couched, for the purpose of evading this conclusion.

We have before shewn the value of the “guarantee” of the “Commissão”, and of the paper *pretended* to be signed by 208 persons styled “proprietors in the Douro.” It now remains to us to shew the value of the reply to the Commission, and of the protestations, of the said Combination of 22 English Houses.

Of those 22 Houses, the members of only fifteen belong to the British Association: and of those fifteen, two were not in the list of shippers of wine in 1844 — and three were shippers of Jerupiga! One of them shipped no less than 175 pipes in 1844!! Of those who did not belong to the British Association, one did not hold a single pipe of wine; and of one, the Stock at the end of 1844, we have reason to believe, consisted exclusively of Jerupiga!!!

Shortly after this, Mr. Forrester’s antagonists procured a meeting of the Commercial Association of Oporto to be

held, for the purpose of discussing the subject of a document called the "Report of the Direction" of that Association, upon a letter of the above mentioned "Commissão de Covas," requesting the opinion of the Association on publications of the Commission, respecting the assertions of Mr. Forrester; which assertions they, repeating the epithets used in their letter addressed to the "Fictoria Ingleza," term "vague, and unfounded."

An invitation to attend this meeting was sent to Mr. Forrester. It was received by him on the evening of the 24th. March, and a copy of the said Report was inclosed in it. The meeting was held on the 27th of March, and it was then declared that the members "had not had time to consider the Report" — for which reason it was requested that it might be read. The meeting, however, resolved that "it should not be read, because it was long." !!!.....

Upon the question, whether the Report should be adopted by the meeting, being put, it was resolved that the parties voting should give their names: whereupon by far the greater part of the members left the meeting. It is said, however, that 48 (& no more) were found to vote that the Report *unread*, and scarcely discussed, (for as was natural, there were few speakers,) should be adopted. But of these 48, the names, notwithstanding the resolution just mentioned, have been withheld from Mr. Forrester, and the publick.

Amongst the speakers, was Mr. Harris, of the House of Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris Senr., James Dawson Harris & C.^o, who thought proper to make an assertion ridiculously untrue, and insulting to some of the most respectable proprietors of the Douro. We regret to say that this is far from being the only occasion on which we have had to point out the indifference as to correctness, of this House.

The "Report", above mentioned, contained aspersions of Mr. Forrester, which rendered it proper for him to publish his Vindication. He did so: and, as has been before observed, it has remained unanswered from April last to this time. It may be worth while to remark that Mr. Forrester proposed to the President of the Association to circulate the Report in question together with his Vindication; and that this offer was declined.

From what has just been said, some idea may be formed of the value of the Report. Senhor Rubião, an eminent physician residing in Oporto, a proprietor of the Douro, and one whose works on Œnology are well known — has declared that if requisite he will convict some of the subscribers

to the Report, of the very practices which they pretend to reprobate, or of which they deny the existence. We have only to add that of the *nineteen* names attached to that document, *three were unquestionably not subscribed by their owners, or their attorneys!!!*

In the Vindication of Mr. Forrester above mentioned, he has completely established his own allegations, and shewn those made by his antagonists against him to be totally erroneous. The Vindication was published in April last. At that time Mr. Forrester purposely forbore from saying more respecting the Combination of the 22 English Houses, than was absolutely needful for his defence, because he conceived that some of the parties whose names appear amongst the 22, and who are resident in England, might have been misled to a certain extent by their agents in Oporto — and he knew that his Vindication would furnish them with the means of knowing the truth, which he considered them bound to ascertain. But the Vindication has now been published seven months. Those who designedly made mis-statements have been confuted, and those who merely were mistaken have been duly informed — and we therefore have no longer any hesitation in stating distinctly, for the reasons previously given, that the protestations above mentioned of the said Combination as to their dealing only in *pure wine*, are, as the protestations of that body, perfectly incorrect. The facts as to the exportation of Jerupiga are matters of notoriety — they can be found in the annual publick lists of exporters.

We feel ourselves obliged to make this statement, because those parties who have clandestinely spoken against us, have rested their credibility upon their character, and have urged the impossibility of persons of their reputation diverging from truth, or fair dealing!

Now, we think we shall not be considered as asking of such of our correspondents as may hear from *interested competitors* accusations, or receive *anonymous* and scurrilous writings against us, to do us the favour to reflect on what we have stated above; and if they require more particular information, we beg leave to refer them to Mr. Forrester's Vindication.

The 22 English Houses joined themselves together for the purpose above mentioned, and therefore we have spoken of them only as one body. As to its members individually we should prefer keeping silence — but the rancour against us of one is such that we cannot omit especially to caution our correspondents against its assertions: we allude to Mess.^r Harris & C.^o

In our circular of 21 July 1843 we shewed how little they

could be relied upon. Since then their publick statements have been abundantly disproved in this country by publick bodies as well as Mr. Forrester — and we shall shortly have occasion to bring another glaring instance of their incorrectness before you. Yet this is the house which the Combination has at its head !!

No persons can hold high character in greater esteem than ourselves — but we would submit to our correspondents, that no character should be suffered to bear down ascertained facts, and that the only reputation which should obtain implicit belief for the allegations of its owner, should be one fairly acquired, and *consistently maintained*.

We repeat, it is with regret that we feel ourselves obliged as a House to enter upon this matter. We do so, however, without the least reserve; and we take upon ourselves to reassert all that has been urged upon the subject by Mr. Forrester.

Ofley, Webber, & Forrester.

SECOND REPRESENTATION

MADE BY

Offley, Webber, & Forrester

OF OPORTO,

to their correspondents,

respecting the recent discussions on the subject of

PORT-WINE.

—
OPORTO.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING OFFICE.

1846.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Handwritten signature

OF THE

PORT-WINE

REPORT

COMMISSIONED BY THE

1871

OPORTO 20th. April 1846.

A continuation of the shameless system of our antagonists, to damage our House by underhand assertions and insinuations, compels us again to solicit the attention of our connexions to a short exposition of facts, for the purpose of shewing in what estimation should be held the private asseverations of those parties, who shun an open avowal of their case, or opinions. To this exposition, indeed, we have been invited by some of our most valued friends, who think it proper that all should be acquainted with such facts as have induced those, who were our friends previously, to continue their support; and such as were before opposed to us, to acknowledge the justice of our cause.

In our Representation of November last, we shewed how small a value should be attached to any declaration respecting ourselves, which might be made by the Combination of 22 Houses at Oporto, whose names are attached to the paper re-published in the Appendix, and marked letter A. the only paper we know of in which our antagonists have expressed their sentiments open'y, though under a pseudonym, except that addressed by the said Combination to the "Com.

mission of Covas", and which last mentioned paper has been already held up in its true light by us.

But since that time we have had fresh occasion to make observations on the same subject, and that, too, on points more interesting to our friends in England, than even to ourselves; we mean the misrepresentations which have been promulgated of the quality of the vintage of 1845.

Upon this subject we refer with great satisfaction to our Circular of 28th. November 1845, and beg to confirm all that is therein stated.

We now have to offer extracts from the Circulars of some of our antagonists — part of which were published some time ago, and excited great indignation amongst the Wine-growers of the Douro.

Extract from Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris & Sons' Circular of 30th. September 1845.

" We have generally waited until the Vintage was finished before issuing our Autumn Circular, but the entire destruction of the Grapes (extremely backward and devoid of flavour all through the Summer) renders this unnecessary, and indeed, the consequences to our Friends and the Trade generally, of leaving them in ignorance of such an important fact, could not fail to be very injurious to them. It has ever been our custom to give our Friends early notice prior to any important advance in Prices, and to afford them an opportunity of securing a supply in time. We now therefore, acting upon this principle, beg to assure you, that the Vintage of 1845 is so completely and entirely destroyed by heavy rains from the 1st to the 19th instant, as to render it perfectly useless. *It may truly be stated to be the very worst Vintage WE have ever known.*

" Old Wines, possessing colour and body, are also scarce, and the quantity of old thin worn-out Wines in Store, in Villa Nova, can only be rendered available by the use of the fine deep-coloured Vintage Wines, which will thus have a double call upon them."

Extract from Mess.^{rs} Sandeman & C.'s Circular of 1st. January 1846.

" We beg to inform you that the season of last year was generally unpropitious to the production of wine. In Portugal the quality has proved inferior, and, even of the small quantity made, little will be fit for exportation to this Country."

Extract from Mess.^{rs} Martinez, Gassiot & C.'s Circular of 20th. January 1846.

" The Port Vintage of last year is stated to be the most inferior on record since that of 1818. From the very heavy rains at the time of the gathering of the grapes, the produce of ma-

ny of the Quintas in the Alto Douro was either totally destroyed, or became unfit for sale as wine. In general terms, the Wines of this Vintage are described as having a mouldy or musty flavor, rendering them totally unfit for use, either as a distinct Vintage, or for lotting with older wines.

“ With the exception of those cases in which the Exporters are under previous engagements to take the produce of particular Vineyards for a certain number of years, we are not aware of any purchases having been made of the wines of 1845. ”

Extract from Mess.^{rs} Mason & Cattley's Circular of 23d February 1846.

“ With regard to the Vintage in Portugal in 1845, the worst anticipations have been fully realized, — there are but a few hundred Pipes of the whole production of the Wine country upon which a mouldy taste is not highly predominant; indeed, the defective state of the Wine is so great, that a large quantity is considered unfit for distillation, and, consequently, worthless for any purpose.

“ The disastrous Vintage, unparalleled since 1818, coming at a period when the stocks on hand are comparatively moderate, has caused a considerable rise in prices at Oporto generally, and upon young Wines in particular.

“ These circumstances would justify an advance upon the shipping prices of Wines, but our friends Messrs. C. N. KOPKE & Co. advise us that they are willing to execute orders at last year's quotations, anxious to avoid a rise in prices until an urgent necessity. ”

Extract from Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.'s Circular of 9th February 1846.

“ When we gave you the information which induced you to issue your Circular of 30th September last, the Vintage had actually been commenced, and in less than a week after we wrote it was pretty general throughout a very extensive district; aware that under no circumstances rotten Grapes can yield good Wine, we did not hesitate boldly to express our opinion, which we knew to be correct, deeming it our duty to furnish the Trade with the earliest and most accurate intelligence on a point of such vital importance. Events have fully confirmed our assertion, and we now repeat, without fear of contradiction, that “ the Vintage of 1845 is the very worst we have ever known; ” and we should probably not be going too far were we to say “ the worst ever known: ” but as our personal experience embraces a period of upwards of forty years, we have said enough. It is true that our Stock of 1842's is large, but we beg to assure you that in giving you the information we did, we were actuated by no other motive than a desire to lay before our Friends the Truth, and nothing but the Truth. (!!!),

The following are extracts from the comments made on their Circulars by the Municipal Chamber of Barcos, and others in the Douro, and published in the Oporto Newspapers.

"This chamber (Barcos) thinks it necessary to add its opinion of the present Vintage to that already emitted by one of the aldermen of this municipality, in order to corroborate the statements made by that Gentleman, and to refute the false assertions which have been maliciously made on the subject." "The rains of September were *mere showers*, with fine weather and Sun at intervals." "The wines of the best situations were not gathered before the 26th. or 27th. of the month, and many were not got in until after the 10th. of October." "Some say that the wines are green, and rotten." "When the Grapes are *green*, they cannot be *rotten*; and when they decay, it must be on account of their *ripeness*. Only one of these assertions, therefore, could possibly be correct — for the one neutralizes the other."

"It is really surprising that the people in *London*, can judge *with certainty* of the quality of a vintage in the *Douro*, before that vintage has been commenced." "This is not the first time that Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o have emitted their decided opinion about our vintages — neither is it the *first* time in which their opinion has been proved to be altogether fallacious. Withal, as on a former occasion they had the candour to retract what they had advanced, it is to be hoped they will be equally candid in the present instance."

"On the 12th. May 1842. Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o asserted, that in the opinion of many of the most experienced farmers, a late, small, and bad vintage was what must be looked for."

"In October of the *same* year, and in allusion to the *same* vintage, Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o said "in the most exposed situations the Grapes were burnt up"; after which they declared that "in situations, the position of which could not be affected by the intense heat, the fruit when gathered was in the highest state of perfection." Mess.^{rs} Harris concluded, saying, "the vintage of 1842, generally speaking, is pre-eminently superior."

"For the truth, credit, and common interest of the farmers I declare, that although the Grapes were somewhat retarded in their ripening by the rains which fell in the beginning of the month of September, the beautiful days of hot sun, which followed from the middle of that month until the beginning of October, ripened and perfected them, both in the Upper, and the Lower Corgo." "The *fact* is, that the wines made from grapes which were culled after the 25th. of September were perfect, and delicious."

"On the 30th. September the Grapes were still in the vineyards, and the farmers were waiting until their fruit should arrive at that maturity which the lateness of the season had retarded."

"I read, with proper indignation, the Circulars of Mess.^{rs}. Harris & C.^o, Martinez Gassiot & C.^o & Mason & Cattley which pass

sentence on the vintage 1845 "I was certain that these very people would purchase wines of this vintage, the credit of which they have striven so hard to destroy — and I was not deceived in my conviction."

"A few days after the Circular of Mr. Kopke's agents appeared, the agent or partner of the House of Martinez Gassiot & C.^o came to the Douro, and purchased from 400 to 500 pipes of this *useless* wine; and Senhor Kopke far from disposing of his Roriz Wine, as was to have been supposed he would do, loaded it down to Villa Nova with the wines he had purchased from others, in order when convenient to increase the quantity of a *different vintage* which he had cried up for exportation to England." "Many other English Houses have bought wines of this vintage under fictitious names, and sales have already been made to such an extent that "the Company will not be able to complete their purchase of 20000 pipes, unless they do so from the worst class of the "refuse": for the best, even of that quality, is already gone." "It may be said that the whole of the vintage of 1845 is sold; and for 9 years past there has not been a vintage so eagerly sought after, or so rapidly bought up." "The proceedings of the authors of the Circulars, are the most bare-faced and scandalous that the farmers have ever witnessed; but it is to be hoped that if our friendship be worth preserving, such proceedings will not be repeated" "at all events we trust that the parties alluded to, will be careful not again to emit their opinions against our vintages, as long as the wines remain unsold."

*Extract from Mr. Forrester's letter of the 22^d October 1845
to the Coallisão of Oporto.*

"It is true that in many situations the Grapes suffered to a great extent from the bad weather; but had it not been for the precipitancy with which some of the farmers commenced making their wines, the effect of a *temporary* inclemency of the season would not have been so severely felt. I have had more than one occasion to lament the haste with which some people commence the gathering of their Grapes, and I cannot here repress the expression of my regret at this circumstance, inasmuch as a few days patient delay, together with a careful selection of the fruit would have produced a much greater quantity of fine wine than it is probable will now be obtained." "If it be asserted that the fruit was already destroyed in the middle of September, so as to be unfit for wine, I positively deny the fact."

"The information which my house will have to give to their correspondents on the subject of the vintage, will be very different from that which Messrs Quarles Harris & C.^o have given: and I feel that I shall be able to prove, in so doing, that we have neither overlooked our own interests; nor those of the parties with whom we are connected, neither have we asserted more, or less, than that which we know to be true."

We now beg to refer to an extract from our own Circular above mentioned — being the first published *after* the Vintage was really in existence.

*Extract from Mess.^{rs} Offley & C.^o's Circular of 28th.
November 1845.*

“ About the time at which the vintage is, by many, usually com-
menced, (and which is often before the due season,) the weather
was adverse — being cold and rainy; and consequently the wines
then made must be of an inferior quality. Towards the end of
Sept., however, and in October, there was fine hot weather,
with only occasional showers, which, indeed, were injurious to
the most forward of the Grapes, but were otherwise not hurtful.
The fruit every where was remarkably well formed, and fully
grown; and in those parts where the owners had the discretion to
wait for a favourable season, and to set aside the over ripe and
damaged fruit — the materials for making the finest wine were as
complete as could be desired: and altho' the vintage, *as a whole*,
cannot be reckoned by any means a good one, yet there was
made in it a very considerable quantity of wine, which, we are
satisfied will be found equal, to say the least, to the best of
1842 or even 1840.

“ Long before the vintage was begun, it was stated by one of our
competitors that it was the “ worst vintage they had ever seen.”
— This statement some publick bodies in this country thought
proper to animadvert upon, and *after* the vintage positively to
deny.

“ As a matter of course the state of the stocks of some houses
with respect to the vintages of 1842, and 1844, will have its
effect in the expression of their opinion as to the present vintage.
For ourselves, we desire only that the value of our opinions may
be tested by the proofs which wines of former years have given
of their correctness; and we trust our friends will do us the jus-
tice to try other opinions which they may hear, by a similar test,
whether they be those of our *individual* competitors, or of a *Com-
bination* of them.

“ Our wines have been, as usual, made under our own per-
sonal superintendance.

“ The purchasing of quintas does not, as has been falsely in-
sinnuated by the house above referred to, involve the necessity
of bringing their produce into our lodges; but on the contrary,
having some of the finest quintas in the Douro, in good seasons
it enables us to make the *best wine* from the *best fruit*; and in
bad ones, we should be able to sell our wines to the Company,
who are bound to purchase to the extent of 20,000 pipes, if
offered to them. The first of these advantages cannot of course
be had by those who do not superintend their own wine-making;
— and, at the worst, we are in as good a position as they can
be in, for the purchasing of wine made by others.

“ We have the pleasure to inform you that the price of Bi-
lhetes having fallen considerably, we have purchased sufficient for
the fine wines which were mentioned in the Circular of our Lon-
don friends, of the 18th. April 1845, as having been advertised
for sale; and *now*, those wines which were rejected from the
first class by the official tasters, are legally placed in our stores
as wines of the *first class*, to which they truly belong.

“ This is our answer to the scurrilous paper signed “ Friends
of Truth, AntiHumbog & C.^o” and embodying a paper signed
by the Combination of 22 English houses, which was circulated
in Great Britain some months ago,”

Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o, indeed, *before* that time pronounced their judgement in the same prophetick spirit which inspired them in May 1842 — nearly 5 months *before* the Vintage. The Vintage, indeed, in both cases refuted them. In the *first*, they recanted their judgement; in the *second* they have given substantial proof that their judgement is reversed: but whether they will yet confess their error by the same means that they published it, is still to be seen.

On the 24th. Feb^y last, Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris & C.^o persisted in their first assertion; and in support of it, gave a letter which they say they received from Mr. J. D. Harris of Oporto. In that letter he states that the vintage “had actually been commenced” when he wrote on the 19th. Sept. 1845! We positively deny the fact — and, as usual, are prepared with due support of our affirmation. He repeats the assertion that the vintage of 1845 “*is the very worst he has ever known for upwards of Forty Years.*” !!!

The only comment which we think it necessary to make upon this, is, that Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris Senior & C.^o are far from being inconsiderable purchasers of the wine of this “*worst of vintages.*” What other object those who disparaged the vintage could have, seeing that they have bought of its produce, except to enhance previous vintages, we leave to our correspondents to conjecture.

We could, if requisite, mention others who have spoken disparagingly of the vintage, but who nevertheless have *acted* in a similar manner to Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris Senior, J. D. Harris & C.^o We prefer, however, simply to state that the wines of this abused vintage, consisting of upwards of 70:000 pipes, have been bought to an extent, and at prices seldom surpassed, except in years of extraordinary excellence. To such an extent indeed, that the Company will not be able to find wine for distillation, or tavern use, of the qualities (2.^d & 3.rd) of which it is bound to take 20:000 pipes! and consequently this year, this body will do less than ever for the money which it receives from the tax virtually levied on the English consumer; a fact for which we are sincerely thankful — being of opinion, that the money now given to them for what in truth is marring the trade, would be better disposed of in purchasing their non-interference. This same Company, whose tasters for purposes best known to the Company, condemned the vintage, has purchased at high prices the very wines which have been condemned; not, let it be observed, under the obligation of their contract, but for their use as a *trading* body; and for export, as of the *first quality*, for great Britain, or other parts!

On the 12th. December 1845, We published, together with a *correct* list of the wine exports from Oporto in 1844, a copy of a *false* list published with Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris & C.^o circular of the 17th. March 1845: and Mr. J. D. Harris of Oporto, on the 23^d Feb.^{ry} last, addressed a letter to our Mr. Cramp, of which the following is an exact copy.

PORTO 23^d February 1846.

Francis Cramp Esq.^{re}

Sir

The Circular issued by Mess.^{rs} Offley Webber & Forrester dated "Oporto 12 Dec.^r 1845" having reached the hands of my Brother Mr. Quarles Harris he immediately wrote to inform me that "the statement it contained was,, a Calumny, & the List of Shipments it imputed to his,, Firm a forgery, as that issued by it was an exact Copy,, of the correct List so far as Shippers of 500 Pipes, be,, low which it did not go." I was on the point of publishing this declaration, when I was informed that a Circular had been shown in this City, which was said to have been issued by my London Firm, under date of the 17th. of March 1845, and which contained a list of shipments in the year 1844, similar to that attributed to it by Messrs. Offley Webber & Forrester. I succeeded in tracing this Circular up to the Consul, & hoped by him to have been favored with a sight of it; in this hope I have been disappointed, & as I have ascertained that you are in possession of a Copy, & that unless another be in possession of the Consul there is no other in the City, or as I believe any where: I am under the necessity of requesting you as a man of honor, interested even more deeply than myself in investigating the truth, to produce the Document.

I assure you that I am ignorant of the publication by my London Firm, of any other than the correct list issued by it on the 15 Jan.^y 1845;—this I possess & am ready to show.

I also assure you that independent of the declaration of my Brother, I have many strong reasons for believing that he never issued any other.

Holding you to be in perfect good faith, & with every reason & right to deem the Document in your possession genuine up to the present moment; I also hold that what you have just read most materially alters your position; you now know that it's authenticity is question'd by the person most likely to be well inform'd & that it cannot be genuine unless

he be altogether misinform'd by his Brother whose manifest interest it is to tell him the truth. (!!!)

I am willing to meet you with a couple of friends, & in the presence of as many of your friends as you think fit to call together; at the Consul's, if he consent; if not wherever you please, & I need scarcely say that the paper shall be restored to you at once, & in precisely the same state, as that in which you hand it to me in the presence of so many witnesses. If I think that it possess the characters of authenticity; I will frankly say so. If I do not; I will point out in what I consider it defective. My affirmative, can in course do no more than record my opinion, that it is well got up. My negative, no more than that I see falsification clearly stamped upon its face. (!!!)

I seek the truth & the light, & have no reason to suppose that you seek concealment, as I know that you have recently shown the Document to others.

If, contrary to my expectations, you decline my proposition, & refuse to produce the Document, thereby depriving yourself & me of the chance of opening the eyes of the parties concern'd, should an imposition have been practiced; I must point out to you the propriety & necessity of your preserving the Document with the utmost care, 'till it shall have been proved whether it be authentic or a forgery; as it will assuredly be called for in the event of my Brothers maintaining the truth of his assertions to me.

I have now only further to state in the most explicit manner that tho' I firmly believe a forgery has been practiced by some person, I have not the slightest idea that you are concerned in it directly or indirectly.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob. Sert.

James Dawson Harris.

To the above letter, Mr. Cramp replied as follows.

OPORTO 25.th February 1846.

James Dawson Harris Esq. re

Sir.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23.^d Inst. I am in possession of the document which you mention; and if it really concerned my honour to show the pa-

per to you, assuredly I should not have waited for an appeal to it from you, or any person.

I cannot see the force of the reason you give for considering my position as altered by your questioning the authenticity of the document.

The paper bears no mark to make me doubt its genuineness, and the information which you give rests solely on the authority of the party by whom that document (which contains a glaring error) purports to have been published. If, however, I do not accede to your wish (and I can see no ground whatever for your expecting me to do you that favour) it is not because I desire concealment; for I have, as you have been informed, already shown the paper to persons in this City; but the terms which you have used as to the character of the paper, and your sentiments respecting my connexions, warrant me in believing that such an act of courtesy on my part towards you would be misemployed; and I acknowledge that, from these considerations, I am somewhat surprised at your application. I have already been requested to lend the paper, in order that it might be shown to you, and have refused to do so.

I am

Sir

Your most obt. Serv.t

Francis Cramp.

Mr. Harris' rejoinder is the following.

OPORTO 25 February 1846.

Francis Cramp Esq.re

Sir

I have received your letter of this date. I have given you my reason for considering your position alter'd; I am not surprised that you cannot feel it's force.

Every man is presum'd to be the proper judge of what does or does not affect his own honor: your decision affirmative or negative was all I required, & I have obtained it.

If you read my letter with a little more attention you will see that I asked from you no favor & I certainly expected no courtesy.

I afforded you the opportunity of doing what I distinctly told you I thought your honor required.

My opinion remains unchanged.

I asked that as a favour from Mr. Johnston, which I considered I had a right to demand from you, but though courtesy dictated this language, I told him "that he was in my opinion bound to grant it."

The affair is of a nature which does not admit measured terms. I am instructed that the Circular issued by Messrs. Offley Webber & Forrester is a "Calumny" & the list it attributes to my House a "Forgery"—such I firmly believe both of them to be such I call them.

I am

Sir

You Ob.t S.t

James Dawson Harris.

The next we heard of this matter (not from Mr. Harris, be it observed,) was, that Mr. Quarles Harris of London, and people in his employment, had made affidavit, to the effect that the said *false* list had not been published by Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris & C.^o, or with their sanction, or knowledge! but that a Mr. M.^c Mullen, *their accredited agent*, had printed that list on the back of Mess.^{rs} Harris' genuine Circular letter !!!.....

We have since been favoured with a copy of Mr. M.^c Mullen's affidavit of which we annex a copy.

THE AFFIDAVIT.

London to Wit.

" I Thomas M.^c Mullen of Jervis Street in the City of
 ,, Dublin of the firm of Miller and M.^c Mullen Agents to Mess.^{rs}
 ,, Quarles Harris & Sons of N.^o 9 Billiter Square London Oporto
 ,, Merchants Do make Oath and say that I the said Thomas
 ,, M.^c Mullen did at some period in the early part of the Year
 ,, 1845, "to Wit"—about the month of March or April cause
 ,, to be printed and published on the back of Mess.^{rs} Quarles
 ,, Harris & Sons' circulars a list of the names of the shippers of
 ,, Port Wines from Oporto during the Year 1844 inserting a-
 ,, gainst the names of Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons 1958 Pipes
 ,, And I further make Oath and say that the said list was so
 ,, printed and circulated entirely without the knowledge privity
 ,, consent or sanction of the said Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons

„ or of any member of their firm, and that the error arose
 „ from this Deponent having copied the list he published from
 „ one not published by Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons but as
 „ he this Deponent has since heard published by Mess.^{rs} Mar-
 „ tinez & C.^o in which finding that the quantity placed against
 „ the names of Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons to differ ma-
 „ terially from the number placed against their names by them-
 „ selves in their own circular dated 15 Jany. 1845. and deeming
 „ it to be an error I corrected it and placed the number of
 „ Pipes against their names which was contained in the said
 „ list published by them the said Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons.
 „ And I this Deponent do further declare that the said list was
 „ printed and circulated by me in error and without any inten-
 „ tion of injuring any of the Houses named in it or of pla-
 „ cing any House therein mentioned in an incorrect position
 „ either by wilfully and falsely increasing the quantity actually
 „ said to be shipped by Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons or wil-
 „ fully and falsely lessening or taking from the quantity said
 „ to be shipped by any other House.

„ Sworn at the Guildhall
 „ London this 25.th day
 „ of February 1846.

(Signed)

Thomas M.^c Mullen

before me

(Signed) *Mat P. Lucas*

Mr. M.^c Mullen says, that the number of pipes placed
 against the names of Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons, in the
 list published by Mess.^{rs} Martinez & C.^o, differed materially
 from the number placed against their names *by themselves*
in their own Circular of 15.th January 1845. Now the num-
 ber in the first mentioned list is 1264+695 (the sum of
 which 1959), and in the Circular it is 19581 This (viz. one
 pipe) Mr. M.^c Mullen considered so material a difference as
 to require him to publish a list, which, although we are ready
 to admit that he was deceived, — we must still pronounce to
 be *false*. He says, also, that he *copied* the false list from
 one published by Mess.^{rs} Martinez & C.^o; and it is remark-
 able that he has admitted the authority of Mess.^{rs} Marti-
 nez' list in every case, *except that of Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o*
 With the minute attention to Mess.^{rs} Martinez' list, which
 he must have given in copying it, it is very remarkable that
 his eyes should have refused to open to the truth; and still
 more remarkable is it, that at the very time of his making
 his explanation of the matter under the sanction of his oath,

he remained under the conviction that the material difference between the numbers given in the two lists just mentioned did actually exist!! This seems, upon a comparison of the mere numbers in the two lists, an unaccountable error for a man of business familiar with such matters, and acquainted at least with the first rule of arithmetick, to fall into; — but we fully believe him to have fallen into that error, and to have remained in it, in perfect good faith; for it is far from being inconsistent with the drift, though not the avowed object, of the list published in Mess.^{rs} Q. Harris & Co.'s Circular to which he alludes, and which we give below, *verbatim et literatim*.

EXTRACT

FROM THE OPORTO SHIPPING LIST FOR 1844,

As far as Shippers of 500 Pipes and upwards.

	PIPES.
George Sanderman & Co.	3522
Quarles Harris & Sons	1958
The Company	1593
Martinez, Gassiott & Co.	1468
Antonio Joze d'Oliveria Basto.. .. .	1307
Hunt, Rooper, Teague & Co.	1238
Croft & Co.	1147
T. J. Smith	1080
Allen, Morgan & Co.	1035
Offley, Webber & Co.	1011
Fonseca, Monteiro & Co.	915
Cockburn, Greig & Dunlop	822
Taylor, Fladgate & Co.	712
Lambert, Kingston & Egan	711
Smith, Woodhouse & Co.	708
Gould James Campbell & Co.	629
Warre & Co.	582
M. C. Browne.. .. .	579
C. N. Kopke & Co.	508

TOTAL Shipment to England, 25,328 pipes.

The concluding note "total shipment to *England* 25328 pipes", we conceive was quite enough to lead Mr. M.c Mullen, or any other person, into such an error; and to confirm

him in it: and we do not think, considering the frequent detections of *error* on the part of members of that House, that we go too far in asserting our belief, that the design of that note, with the thanks expressed at the time of its publication for the support which that House had received, was intended so to lead those to whom it pretended to offer correct information; nor indeed do we see how it could fail to have such an effect upon those who had not further, and better sources of knowledge, as to cause them to believe that *all the wines*, mentioned in the list, *were sent to England*. In such a case as this, there was little need of instruction, or suggestion to an agent; still less of sanction. That Mr. M.^c Mullen, (their accredited agent, and therefore a most likely person to be well informed as to the intentions of his principals,) from the beginning to the very end of the affair, firmly believed that such was the design of Mess.^{rs} Q. H. & C.^o, cannot be doubted, without supposing him to be destitute, not only of common integrity, but of common sense; an imputation which we are satisfied would be extremely unjust.

We give again the correct and *false* list (in appendix B & C) that our friends may be able to compare the former with that given above.

Notwithstanding our experience of Mr. J. D. Harris' mode of proceeding, we expected that he would have withdrawn the offensive, and libellous expressions used in his letter above quoted to Mr. Cramp; but having waited in vain for a considerable time, we addressed to him the following letter.

OPORTO 11th. April 1846

James Dawson Harris Esq.^{re}

Sir

In your letter of the 25th. Feb.y which you thought fit to address to our Mr. Cramp, you styled the Circular of our House of the 12th. Dec.^r 1845, a *Calumny*, and pronounced the list of Shipments of Wine from this port, therein given as a copy of a list published by Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & Sons—a *forgery*.

As neither we, nor our Mr. Cramp, have received from you any acknowledgement of your error, & consequent offence, notwithstanding the facts which you have ascertained

since the date of your letter above mentioned—we think it proper to remind you of the same. We are,

Sir,

Your most Obedient humble Servants.

(Signed) *Offley, Webber, & Forrester.*

Every man may commit an error, and consequently an injustice; every fair man, however, will be glad of an opportunity of correcting an *involuntary* error, and of repairing an ascertained *injustice*—but Mr. Harris has not hitherto answered our letter, nor have we heard that he has in any way availed himself of the opportunity which it afforded him of making some amends for his conduct.

Amongst other malevolent reports, one having got abroad that our Mr. Forrester had purchased many copies of a work by Mr. Harris, of the House of Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o intitled “Christ and Anti-Christ”, and had circulated them in Ireland—the same being of a nature to indispose the Trade there against that House—we beg leave positively to deny the fact. No person belonging to our House having ever purchased a single copy of that work.

It will have been observed that in the foregoing, we have occupied ourselves chiefly with what relates to Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o, or members of that House. We have done so because that firm is at the head of the signatures of the Combination of the 22 Houses in this city, to which we have had so often occasion to refer; and we conceive that having determined the value of the asseverations of the leader of that Combinaton, we have at the same time given our friends a sufficient caution against the asseverations of all that House’s followers; and we would not unnecessarily occupy our friends’ time, and patience.

We have much pleasure in stating that one of the Directors of the Wine-Company, and another of those who signed the Report of the Direction of the Commercial Association of this city in March 1845, which was conceived in terms of such acrimonious and general reprehension of Mr. Forrester’s proceedings for the re-establishment of the credit of Port-Wine, have at length admitted, to a certain extent at least, the correctness of his views and declarations, by addressing to the Chamber of Deputies, observations on Port-Wine in nearly the same words as those used by Mr. Forrester on the same subject. In a similar manner the Commercial Association itself, whose Direction was formerly,

as above noticed, so hostile to Mr. Forrester's views, have petitioned the Côrtes for the accomplishment of what Mr. Forrester desired with respect to the official tasting of the wines of the Douro; and, what is still more satisfactory, those who composed "the Commission of Covas" whose address to the so-styled British Factory gave rise to the Combination of 22 Houses, has acted in the same way. We therefore trust that, as we have shewn that no credit can properly be given to the under-hand insinuations of our antagonists against ourselves; so the event will shew, not long hence, that the reasonableness and propriety of Mr. Forrester's arguments and acts in the recommendation of the system always pursued by our House, in distinction from that of others, in regard to the securing of the purity of Port-Wine, are such, that they must finally make their way against all the obstacles, which may be opposed to them by ignorance, or prejudice, and against all the trickeries of short-sighted and dishonest selfishness.

APPENDIX

A

*To the Wine-Farmers of the Douro, the exporters,
importers, and consumers of Port Wine.*

ILLUSTRIOUS SIRS, MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

We beg leave to lay before you a translation of an advertisement which has appeared at Oporto, to which, and to our observations thereupon, we earnestly entreat you to pay very particular attention. We are of the number of those who have been long looking for that very event which has now taken place, although we certainly could not have anticipated that the result of Mr. J. J. Forrester's proceedings would so soon have ended in such a complete and decided discomfiture, still less that he would himself have published his own defeat. We trust that henceforward we shall all be permitted to pursue our several callings in peace, respecting and being respected; and that the ungenerous and ungentlemanly system of aspersing others' characters, and running down the quality of their wines in order to enhance one's own, will be abandoned as utterly unworthy the character of the gentleman and British merchant.

We are sincerely,

Illustrious Sirs, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

FRIENDS TO TRUTH, ANTI-HUMBUG, AND CO.

Wine-office Court, April 8th, 1845.

*Translation * of an Advertisement published at Oporto by
Mr. J. J. FORRESTER.*

Offley, Webber, and Forrester announce that, the Tasters having separated from the first class a considerable quan-

* This translation is a *false* one — and to the document above, as well as to the observations to which it relates, we beg to refer our readers to the last two paragraphs at page 8 of this pamphlet.

tity of wine made by them in the last vintage, and more especially wines below the Corgo, they have for sale a large quantity of wines of the said vintage, principally of those below Corgo. These wines were made with the greatest care, of the best grapes, grown in the best situations; but as, by the system now followed, it is impossible (without a great sacrifice in the purchase of permits) to export wines of the last vintage, such as are required by a considerable portion of the best class of consumers in England, in consequence of the existing regulation, which allows to be brought to Oporto as wines of the first quality only those which have the requisite for themselves and to improve others; and as the wines of Offley, Webber, and Forrester, being already perfect, have no need of being doctored, and the advertisers are not disposed to buy more than a limited number of permits, — for these reasons the excellent wines spoken of will be sold at reasonable prices for ready money.

Offley, Webber, and Forrester will also be happy to treat for the sale of the produce of some celebrated quintas, which they have bought for several years, because the existing system of tasting (approval) really requires that the wines destined for the first class should be made in a way which, whatever may be the verbal description of wines of the first quality, the advertisers cannot approve.

The wines spoken of may be tasted in the house of Senior José I. H. da Silva Pereira, from the 15th. to the 18th. instant. As to the purchase of the produce of quintas, proposals will be received in the office of the advertisers, Rua Nova dos Inglezes, N.º 82, till the 10th instant. Brokers will not be treated with, but only heads of houses.

(Signed) J. J. FORRESTER.

The Resident Partner

Porto, April 1st, 1843.

Notes Explanatory.—The “Tasters” are the persons appointed to taste and classify the wines. The “Corgo” is a river in the wine country, dividing the upper from the lower districts: the upper district, or Cima do Corgo, has ever produced the finest wines. A “Quinta” is a vineyard.

“Hither, boy! a goblet bring!

Be it of wine, roseate spring.

Bring me one, and bring me two;

Nought, but purest wine, will do.”

Wine's the sun—the moon (sweet soul)
 We will call the evening bowl.
 Bring the sun, and bring him soon,
 To the bosom of the moon." HAFIZ.

"You rogue, here's lime in this sack. There's nothing but villany extant."—SHAKSPEARE.

It is to be particularly observed that Mr. Forrester declares that the Tasters require, as the right and true qualifications of wines of first quality, "that it shall be sufficiently good by itself, or possess such superabundant quality as would enable it to impart to other wines what they require in order to render them of sufficiently good quality to bring them under the head of the first class." The Tasters do not demand that any *perfect wines* should be doctored—*i. e.* improved by the admixture of some portion of the wine possessing quality to spare; yet Mr. Forrester urges it as a reason for selling his wines "at reasonable prices for cash," that they do not require to be doctored, *i. e.* improved. If they are so perfect, and if there are so many customers anxiously looking for them here, how is it that, being made so cheap as to be offered "at reasonable prices" at Oporto, they will not bear the addition of 10,000 (ten milreas), *i. e.* about £2. 5s. per pipe—the price of a pass or permit by which they could be transferred to the lodge destined for wines for exportation to England, and finally to the parched lips of those who are so eager to quaff them? Were it not that this precious document, the clear and perspicuous style of which is quite worthy of its author and of the subject of which it treats, and which "shines from the south-north as lustrous as ebony"—were it not that it is actually signed by the celebrated Douro-dinner-giving, the far-famed-farmer radical-reforming Joseph James Forrester himself, the date would have led us to set it down as one of those merry jokes so often practised by roguish little children on the never-to-be forgotten first of April (not the only day, it appears, on which, in trying to make fools of others, some people make most egregious fools of themselves). What! are these magnificent wines, made by Mr. J. J. Forrester, of a vintage equal in fame to those of 1815 and 1820, or any of the most favourite years—wines destined to mark an epoch in the annals of the Douro wine-trade!—now to be sold for cash to the best bidder, and to be condemned to tavern use, or distilled into brandy? Are these famous, pure and delicate,

light, airified wines to bless the vulgar lips of muleteers redolent of garlic and cigars, fitted as they are to tickle the palates of the nobility and gentility of the richest country in the world? Forbid it Bacchus! forbid it thou youthful and smiling Ganymede, who pourest out Jove's nectar!

Again: Mr. Forrester has bought vineyards for several years to come, intending to make the wines himself, upon the same *judicious plan, no doubt, as that which he practised so successfully in 1844 as to render nearly all his wines unfit for the first, and many of them unfit for even the second class.* These vineyards he now intends to sell, because the existing system of "tasting," or approval, really demands "that the wines destined for the first class should be made in a way which, whatever may be the verbal description of wines of the first quality, the advertisers cannot approve." Having sold his vineyards, what will Mr. J. J. Forrester do next? Will he buy others, and make the wines on the old plan? He could do that next year with the produce of what he now has. Will he rely upon the Farmers following his plan—that plan by which they have so recently seen his wines, and all others made under it, subjected to be refused? If he relies on this, he leans on a broken reed. The Farmers are too sensible, far too sensible men, to follow a lead which they are satisfied must end in their ruin. Will he buy the wines made upon a system he cannot approve? Surely his own good sense (if he has any) and proper pride will not permit him to do this. What! buy wine made upon a plan opposed to all his boasted theories and strongest convictions?—leave the "considerable portion of the best class of consumers in England" to pine in vain for that supply of pure and nectarous wine which he has led them to expect, and, in place of it, send them the same strong deep-coloured trash as his silly and deluded predecessors have done? This would indeed be "the unkindest cut of all." Will he voluntarily run his own head again into that noose from which he had (as he thought) so cleverly extricated himself, and, merely for the sake of the vile lucre of gain, force down the throats of that "considerable portion of the best class of consumers" a considerable portion of (in his decided opinion and conviction) the very worst and most poisonous class of wine? *O tempora! O mores!* "What! will the aspiring blood of Forrester sink thus low? We thought it would have mounted!" (as probably it will to the moon, whither his wits appear to have taken their flight some time since.) "Oh! what a falling off were there, my brethren!" Finally, if he will adopt neither of these plans, how will he continue his business? But how unfortunate is

Mr. Forrester! Like the juryman who always met with eleven obstinate men, he finds himself in a glorious minority. The Farmers, obstinate as their mules, will persevere in their vile old system of making their wines according to "that verbal description of wines of the first quality" promulgated by the Tasters, and are resolutely determined to close their eyes against all the *judicious and very simple* discoveries and improvements so generously communicated to them by their modest, unassuming, and disinterested friend. The Tasters (all, according to Mr. Forrester's ideas, either no judges of port wine, or rogues — not in grain, but in juice) will obstinately persist in placing in the first class, wines, "either sufficiently good in themselves" to please their vitiated palates, or "having quality to spare to improve others"—a quality which Mr. Forrester appears to consider himself to be possessed of in no ordinary degree, though he certainly does not assert that his wines are. And, finally, the exporters and importers, and that portion of the consumers *not included* in the "portion of the best class of consumers here" (who appear, like Tantalus, to be left with nectar mantling just up to their nether lip, of which they are doomed never to taste), are resolved to continue to purchase, import, and consume that fine, generous, vigorous, fruity, ruby-coloured port wine, which is (to use a vulgar old phrase) meat, drink, and lodging — ay, and, we may add, washing to boot, but which Mr. J. J. Forrester unequivocally condemns: that liquor which could inspire a Pitt and a Fox with wit and wisdom in the senate-house — a Nelson and a Wellington with courage on the carnage-covered deck, or battle-field: that liquor so truly described in the old song —

"There's magie hid within the grape ;
It makes the lover view
His nymph with beauties new,
Gives lustre to her eye, her air, her shape.

When rosy wine begins to flow,
The goblin Care takes flight,
Just as a fiend and night depart
At morn's celestial glow :

that "wine, wine, wine," which "gives a summer to the mind:" and, to crown the whole, that divine liquor which can soften the heart of the fair, and make her listen with pleasure to the tender love-tale of her enamoured swain.

And is this indeed the conclusion of the farce which has been for so long a period enacted at Oporto by this prince

of mountebanks, to the serious injury of those Farmers in the Douro who have been weak enough to be deluded by his specious nonsense, to the serious injury of those honourable and respectable gentlemen, whether Farmers, Exporters, or Importers, who have been bespattered with his filthy mud (a little of which thrown even by the hand of the scavenger cannot fail to stick), and to the disgust of all men of sense? And is it come to this? Must these *beautiful wines* be consigned to this ignominious fate? Alas! yes. The bubble has burst, and, with it, all the anticipations of unrivalled success so boldly given out, and all the threatened ruin of his honourable competitors, have, like the baseless fabric of a vision, melted into air.

This advertisement reminds us very strongly of Falstaff's most incredible tale after the Gadshill robbery, and we say to Mr. Joseph James Forrester, as Prince Hal said to Falstaff, "Now see how a plain tale shall put you down."

You published to the world (at first anonymously, then openly) that the Farmers of the Douro and the exporters were a set of rogues and villains; that the Farmers manipulated and adulterated their wines; and that the exporters incited them to such nefarious practices, whilst the importers urged them to do so. You declared that you alone understood the choice and the culture of the wine, the period for gathering the grapes, the proper size and construction of the vats and tunnels, the due period of fermentation, and the proper quantity of brandy to keep the wine sound and good until consumed. You asserted that you were resolved to make your wines upon your own declared plan. You invited the Farmers to your lodges and adegas, in order that they might inspect them and learn from you how to make wine. You held yourself out as the friend of the Douro, and of the best class of wine-consumers in England, and puffed yourself off as the only Oporto merchant who was sufficiently honest and sufficiently clever to make and ship pure port wine.

You have certainly been honest in one respect—we will do you the justice to say—namely, in making all your own wines, in the way you pronounced to be the only right way; you did so, and what is the result? That your wines are repudiated by the Tasters, that they are now advertised by you to be sold for tavern use or distillation; that your quintas, the produce of which you have bought for many years to come, are also to be sold. You insinuate that the Tasters are all prejudiced, that the system of classification is a defective one, and you attribute to these circumstances, and not to its real, true and palpable cause (namely, your own

consummate ignorance), your complete, your signal failure—a failure which, but for the motives you have so openly and so virulently declared, would entitle you to pity and commiseration, but which now must strike every one as that just and well-merited punishment which sooner or later always attends upon those who endeavour to build up their own fortunes upon the ruin of others. “Into the pit which he digged for others, himself has fallen.”

You say that no brokers shall be permitted to taste your perfect wines. Envidable distinction! How will the brokers find terms sufficiently strong to express their sense of your kindness in sparing them from the inevitable effects of going through such an ordeal?

To the heads of houses you are less kind: they may taste; and, no doubt, as by the potent mixture drawn from simples by Oberon, every head of a house which does taste will, by the effect of your powerful concoction, come out decked with a pair of ears as long, and as soft and hairy a head, as Titania's pet—the elegant and accomplished weaver, Bottom!

The following document, in reply to a communication received by the English exporters of wine at Oporto from the wine-growers, will, we think, prove highly satisfactory, and will show that Mr. J. J. Forrester, not satisfied with over-fermenting his wines, has put the whole of the Farmers into a ferment too, and that, although not at all likely to set the Thames on fire, he has contrived to make the Douro too hot to hold him.

Reply to the Committee of the Cima Corgo Proprietors.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND EXCELLENT SIRS;

The undersigned British merchants have the honour to acknowledge your Excellencies' letter of the 21st ultimo, with the interesting documents enclosed.

The solemn declaration of the respectable proprietors of the greater part of the most celebrated vineyards of the upper country, affirming so strongly the purity of their wines, is most important and satisfactory, and in perfect accordance with the experience of the undersigned who have made or witnessed the making of wines in the best situations, and have

seen that no admixture is requisite to impart to them the flavour, richness, and colour, so eagerly sought for and so greatly admired.

The undersigned are firmly persuaded that, generally speaking, the respectable proprietors of the vineyards of the lower country also make their wines with the utmost purity and attention, thus obtaining them of excellent quality, though of a character totally different from that of those produced in the upper country.

The undersigned are convinced that, with so large a produce, and so comparatively small an export to Great Britain, it is no less the self-evident interest of the Farmer to make than of the exporter to purchase good wine.

They are also convinced that, though there must be some adulteration and neglect where so large a quantity of wine is made, these evils are extremely limited in extent; so that adulteration is the *exception*, and not the *rule* — the more so as it is easily detected by the purchaser, as the purity of port-wine will not conceal any mixture. (!!!)

The undersigned are of opinion that it is not for them to enter more deeply into this question. It behoves the Douro proprietors to combat and refute accusations which left unrefuted will ruin them, and convert the rich and highly-favoured district of the Douro into heath; so that, where Nature, aided by laborious cultivation, now produces the most wholesome and generous wine in the world, the traveller will see only a wilderness. (!!!)

The undersigned are however aware that against them also *collectively*, but not *individually*, accusations have been published equally false, calumnious, and unprovoked, to which it is for them to reply. Therefore they also make a solemn declaration,

PROTESTING

That far, very far, from encouraging the Farmers to adulterate their wines, they have ever done all in their power to convince them of the necessity and advantage of making them pure, without mixture, perfect in every respect, and of the highest quality.

That in their purchases they have invariably *endeavoured* to select pure wines.

That they are firmly convinced that the Douro, both above and below the river Corgo, abounds in pure and generous wines, rich and dry. And, finally,

That, aware, as they cannot but be, that the only way to keep up the export to Great-Britain, and to support

and augment the reputation of their respective establishments in that empire, is to ship to its markets the finest and purest wine, they dedicate their whole attention to this point, sparing neither care nor labour to preserve the quality of the wine, which they receive pure and good from the Farmer. (II)

The undersigned have the honour to subscribe themselves with the highest consideration, your Excellencies' most obedient humble servants,

Quarles Harris Sen., James Dawson Harris, & Co.
 Geo. Sandeman & Co.
 Taylor, Fladgate, & Yeatman.
 Coekburns, Greig, & Dunlop.
 Croft & Co.
 Warre & Co.
 C. H. Noble & Murat.
 Geo. Knowsley.
 Bailey Shorter & Co.
 P. Proc. J. Thomaz Quillinan,
 H. Lawson.
 Gould Jas Campbell & Co.
 Lambert Kingstons & Egan.
 Rocher Wigham & Co.
 W. G. Roughton & R. Reid.
 Charles R. Page & Co.
 Butler, Nephew, & Co.
 Wm. & John Graham & Co.
 P. Proc. Francis Tuke & Co.,
 Nich. Dixon Land Teage.
 Hunt, Roope, Teage, & Co.
 P. Proc. Martinez Gassiot & Co.,
 John F. Delaforce.
 P. Proc. Burmester & Co.,
 H. L. Soltau.
 James Dow & Co.

*The most Illustrious and Exalted Baron of Provezende,
 and the other Illustrious Members of the Commission of Covas
 of the Douro.—Oporto, February 24th, 1845.*



B

MESSRS HARRIS & C.'s LIST OF WINES

exported from Oporto to Great Britain in 1844.

SHIPPERS.	Pipes.
George Sandeman & Co.	3166
Quarles, Harris & Sons	1958
Martinez, Gassiot & Co.	1468
A. J. d'Oliveira Basto.	1974
Croft & Co.	1145
T. J. Smith.	1059
Offley, Webber & Forrester	1010
Allan, Morgan & Co.	1009
Fonseca, Monteiro & Co.	915
Cockburns, Greig & Dunlop... ..	811
Lamberts, Kingstons & Egan	712
Smith, Woodhouse & Co.	707
Taylor, Fladgate & Yeatman.	600
Warre & Co.	582
C. N. Kopke & Co.	475
Rocher, Wigham & Co.	465
Gould, Jas. Campbell & Co.	446
Francis Tuke & Co.	428
The Royal Wine Company	420
Brupo Silva & Co.	371
Henry Donaldson & Co:	355
G. J. Borges de Castro	341
Ormerod, Brothers & Co.	340
Bailey, Shorter & Co... ..	320
Antonio Vieira Megalhaens	314
W. & J. Graham & Co.	311
Knowles, Wilcock Co.	300
Hunt, Roope & Co	279
Roughton & Reid	276
M. de Clamouse, Brown & Co.	275
James Dow.	272
Antonio Rib.º de Santos Dias	263
Antonio Mont.º Alvarenga	249
José Isidoro Guedes	240
J. M. Rebello Valente & Archer	217
Figueiredo, Perry & Co.	173
F. W. Sellers	173
Butler, Nephew & Co.	153
Burmester & Co... ..	147
George Reid.	142
José Vieira de Carvalho	134
Jordão Ferreira & Co... ..	112
Robert Allen	110
Shippers of less than 100 Pipes to United Kingdom	1670
Total.....	26,187

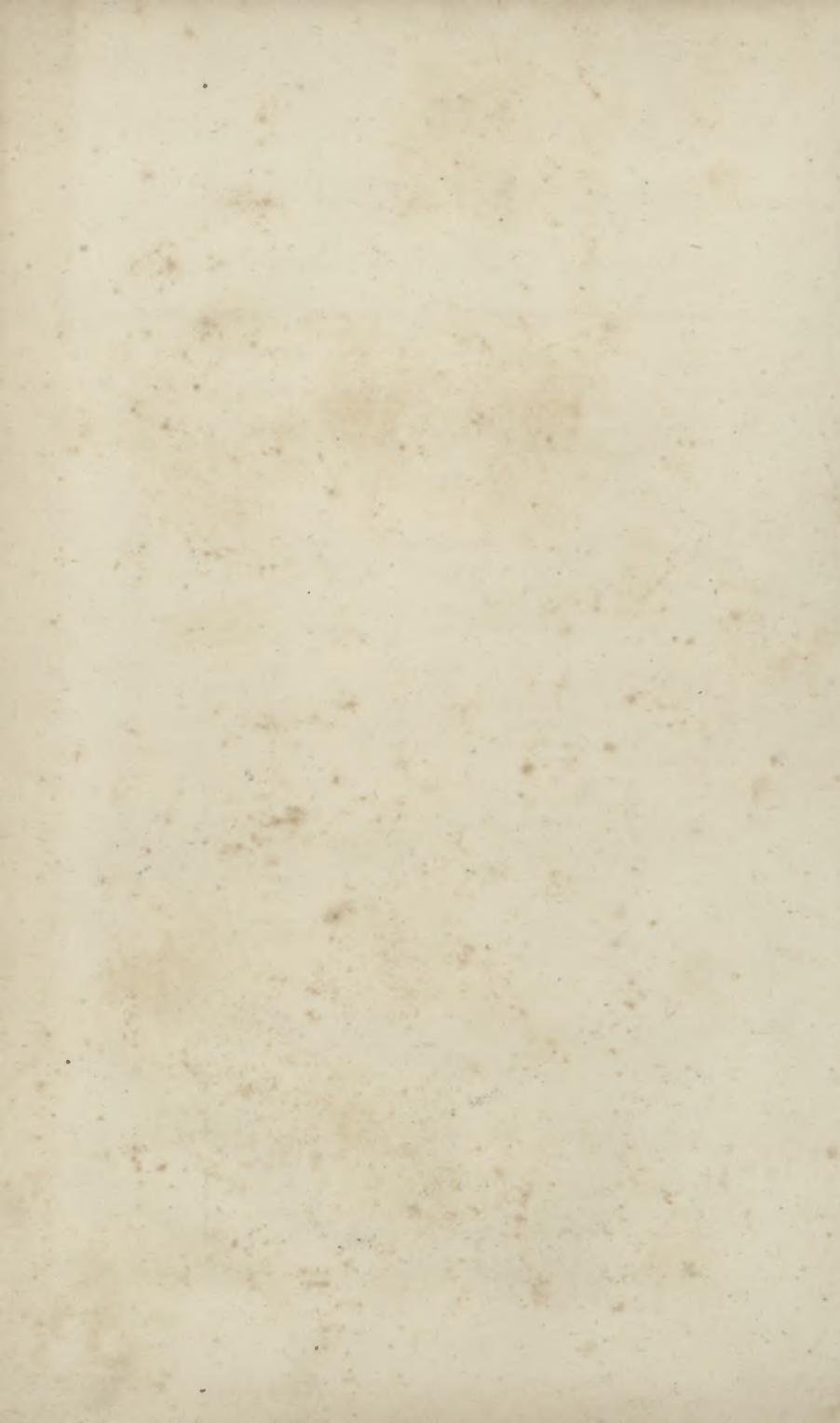
C

THE AUTHENTICK LIST OF WINES

exported from Oporto to Great Britain in 1844.

SHIPPERS.	Pipes.
George Sandeman & Co.	3166
Martinez, Gassiot & Co.	1468
A. J. d'Oliveira Basto... ..	1274
Quarles Harris Sen., James Dawson	} 1264
Harris & Co.	
Croft & Co.	1145
T. J. Smith	1059
Osley, Webber & Forrester ...	1010
Allen, Morgan & Co... ..	1009
Fonseca, Monteiro & Co.	915
Cockburns, Greig & Dunlop... ..	811
Lamberts, Kingstons & Egan.. ..	712
Smith, Woodhouse & Co.	707
Taylor, Fladgate & Yeatman... ..	600
Warre & Co.	582
C. N. Kopke & Co.	475
Roher, Wigham & Co.	465
Gould, Jas. Campbell & Co.. ..	446
Francis Tuke & Co... ..	428
The Royal Wine Company	420
Bruno Silva & Co.	371
Henry Donaldson & Co.	355
G. J. Borges de Castro	341
Ormerod, Brothers, & Co.	340
Bailey, Shorter & Co.. ..	320
Antonio Vieira Magalhães	314
W. & J. Graham & Co... ..	311
Knowles, Wilcock & Co.	300
Hunt, Roope & Co.	279
Roughton & Reid	276
M. de Clamouse-Browne & Co.	275
James Dow	272
Antonio Ribeiro dos Santos Dias ..	263
Antonio Monteiro Alvarenga... ..	249
José Isidoro Guedes	240
J. M. Rebello Valente & Archer ..	217
Figueiredo, Perry & Co.	173
F. W. Sellers	173
Butler, Nephew & Co... ..	153
Burmester & Co.	147
George Reid	142
José Vieira de Carvalho.	134
Jordão Ferreira & Co... ..	112
Robert Allenmohr & Co.	110
Shippers of less than 100 Pipes to United Kingdom ...	1670
Total	25,493





OPORTO 28th. November 1845.

SIR

The vintage of 1845 having terminated upon the 25th. of last month, — we are now enabled to furnish you with information respecting it.

About the time at which the vintage is by many usually commenced, (and which is often before the due season,) the weather was adverse — being cold and rainy; and consequently the wines then made must be of an inferior quality. Towards the end of Sept.^r, however, and in October, there was fine hot weather, with only occasional showers, which, indeed, were injurious to the most forward of the Grapes, but were otherwise not hurtful. The fruit every where was remarkably well formed, and fully grown; and in those parts where the owners had the discretion to wait for a favourable season, and to set aside the over ripe and damaged fruit — the materials for making the finest wine were as complete as could be desired: and altho' the vintage, *as a whole*, cannot be reckoned by any means a good one, yet there was made in it a very considerable quantity of wine, which, we are satisfied will be found equal, to say the least, to the best of 1842 or even 1840.

Long before the vintage was begun, it was stated by one of our competitors that it was the "worst vintage they had ever seen." — This statement some publick bodies in this country thought proper to animadvert upon, and *after* the vintage positively to deny.

As a matter of course the state of the stocks of some houses with respect to the vintages of 1842, and 1844, will have its effect in the expression of their opinion as to the present vintage. For ourselves, we desire only that the value of our opinions may be tested by the proofs which wines of former years have given of their correctness; and we trust our friends will do us the justice to try other opinions which they may hear, by a similar test, whether they be those of our individual competitors, or of a Combination of them.

Our wines have been, as usual, made under our own personal superintendence. —

The purchasing of quintas does not, as has been falsely insinuated by the house above referred to, involve the necessity of bringing their produce into our lodges; but on the contrary, having some of the finest quintas in the Douro, in good seasons it enables us to make the *best wine* from the *best fruit*; and in bad ones, we should be able to sell our wines to the Company, who are bound to purchase to the extent of 20,000 pipes, if offered to them. The first of these advantages cannot of course be had by those who do not superintend their own wine-making; — and, at the worst, we are in as good a position as they can be in, for the purchasing of wine made by others.

We have the pleasure to inform you that the price of Bilhetes having fallen considerably, we have purchased sufficient for the fine wines which were mentioned in the Circular of our London friends, of the 18th. April 1845, as having been advertised for sale; and *now*, those wines which were rejected from the first class by the official tasters, are legally placed in our stores as wines of the *first class*, to which they truly belong.

This is our answer to the scurr'ous paper signed "Friends of Truth, Anti Humbug & C.^o," and embodying a paper signed by the Combination of 22 English houses, which was circulated in Great Britain some months ago.

There has lately been a considerable demand in this market for Jerupiga; and it being at pre-

sent required of a very deep dye, the price of it has risen to about £ 16 or £ 17 Sterling pr. pipe, free on board. — As Jerupiga is not considered as pure wine by the authorities, and does not pay duty as such — the shipping expenses are trifling as compared with those of wine qualified for the British market.

We have much satisfaction in stating that owing to the wetness of the season for gathering Elderberries, the crop failed — and notwithstanding that great pains were taken by kiln — drying the berry etc. — so little of it was in good condition, that an unusually large part of the wines of this vintage must be left with only their natural colour.

We have to confirm our opinions already published with respect to the Vintages 1842 & 1843: but with regard to 1844's we cannot undertake to send samples of that Vintage until the Spring — the wines not being yet sufficiently matured for exportation. The Vintage of 1844 will, we are persuaded, fully bear out the high opinion which we originally formed of it, for fine bouquet — good colour — fair body — and ripeness without sweetness. — We refer, however, solely to the pure and fully fermented wines, and not to the artificial black, strong, and sweet wines which are usually sent to England at 6 or 8 months old, and passed off as of first quality.

We may observe that in all genuine Wines, the colour, however deep, is transparent — the smell fresh, and vinous — and the taste, clean and sprightly; and although they require long keeping in the wood they improve rapidly in the hottle; whereas, in wines which have been dyed with Elderberry, and whose fermentation has been checked, the colour will be black, and dull; the smell resembling burnt sugar, or treacle — the flavour fiery, heavy, and cloying, — and the wine, altho' ready for shipment at the age of 6 weeks or 2 months, degenerates in the wood; and in the bottle, does not acquire that fine bouquet, and flavour, so much sought for in Port-Wine.

We have much pleasure in stating that in some particular parts of Great-Britain, our peculiar wine called " Roncão . " has been properly appreciated; and of this style of wine of the Vintages 1840 — 1842 1843 — 1844, and 1845 we have taken care to lay in such a stock as will enable us to execute the orders of our friends, to a limited extent. — The name " Roncão " having been given by us to the wine in question, is not meant to indicate, that such wine is produced in the quinta farmed by us, and bearing that name: but merely, that it is a wine made in the same peculiar manner, as that adopted by us in the making of our wines of the said quinta. — We must, however, mention that although we do not profess to ship under that name, only the wines of the Quinta of Roncão, yet as we are the sole lessees of the estate, the right of such shipment is solely ours. We are induced to make this observation, on account of the attempt lately made by one of the parties, who signed the papers adverted to, addressed to the " Combination, " and mentioned in our " Representation " of this date — to pass himself off as the owner of the Quinta of Roncão, and as the shipper of the wines of that estate for the last 30 years!!

Requesting permission to call your attention to the enclosed " Representation, " addressed by us to our correspondents — and trusting soon to be favoured with your commands, through the usual channels

We are respectfully,

SIR,

Your most Ob.^t Serv.^t

J. Hey, Webber & Son, London.

OPORTO 12.th December 1845.

SIR

We beg leave to hand you herewith, lists of the exportations of Port wine from Oporto, which we conceive will prove interesting to the Trade. The list of exportations from 1812 to 1833 both inclusive, may be relied upon.

From 1833 to 1843 the lists have been made up in a different manner from those drawn out previously; and the shipments of the respective Houses to Great Britain have not been so correctly reported. In 1844 two lists were circulated in England; one authentick — & one by Mess.^{rs} Quarles Harris & C.^o. We beg leave to annex copies of both, and to call your attention to the disagreement between them. This is the instance of incorrectness on the part of Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o mentioned in our "Representation" of the 28th. ult.* We hope in future years to furnish you with such information, as shall prevent that, or any other house, from assuming or retaining a false position in this respect.

Should Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o again thank their correspondents for placing them second — or in any other position in the list of shippers, it may be well to enquire whether they owe that position to their correspondents, or to the peculiar courage, which enables them to place their name where they know it has no right to be.

You will observe that the quantity stated in Mess.^{rs} Harris' list to have been shipped by them is 1958 pipes — being 694 more than appears against their name in the *authentick* list: and that the total amount of Shipments to Great Britain, was, in reality, only 25,493 pipes; whereas Mess.^{rs} Harris' list gives 26187 pipes, the difference being occasioned by the 694 pipes at which Mess.^{rs} Harris & C.^o overstated their Shipment.

We are,

SIR

Your most Ob.^t Serv.^{ts}

Wm. H. & Co. & Son

ANNUAL SHIPMENT OF PORT-WINE

TO GREAT BRITAIN,

BETWEEN THE YEARS 1812 & 1833, BOTH INCLUSIVE,

by the principal British Wine Houses, carrying on business at Oporto in 1845.

SHIPPERS.	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	TOTAL	AVERAGE ANNUAL SHIPMENT	Pipes	Years
Offley & C. ^o	815	874	840	1238	333	707	1176	926	725	804	1028	1174	1131	1408	1448	1362	1741	(608)	1619	1618	1156	1514	26240	1:192	22	
*Harris & C. ^o	395	515	775	866	425	488	821	628	926	1247	1614	1742	1462	2779	558	1437	1938	940	698	1032	1050	1704	25300	1:150	22	
Allen & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17741	1:043	17	
*Croft & C. ^o	651	1045	1460	1038	574	1104	826	691	959	938	1437	1023	959	1580	599	1348	1681	908	901	1305	882	913	22824	1:037	22	
*Lambert & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16340	1:021	16		
*Sandeman & C. ^o	0	0	541	1032	358	524	867	584	671	698	766	852	819	1316	1059	1022	1226	822	1430	1565	1179	2435	19306	990	20	
Browne & C. ^o	1521	1214	1205	2927	1125	1611	2049	374	951	922	810	411	549	1382	719	298	910	189	128	327	164	318	21139	669	22	
Smith Woodhouse & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10865	679	16	
T. J. Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156	314	395	318	304	609	649	700	528	1045	1147	1200	731	654	10865	813	14	
*Butler & C. ^o	1265	880	1130	1416	433	677	446	429	799	595	631	570	546	781	333	447	519	421	385	357	205	574	11935	542	22	
*Taylor & C. ^o	496	797	1433	1009	419	1070	782	307	392	304	482	364	358	579	333	335	342	400	465	401	205	574	13798	623	22	
*Cockburn & C. ^o	0	0	0	231	140	460	695	407	236	680	774	601	485	806	215	531	580	436	425	558	516	612	9396	494	19	
*Gould & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	559	1783	1663	703	266	594	639	239	287	431	103	259	593	247	151	168	197	8968	492	18	
*Burmester & C. ^o	489	437	481	362	141	240	308	126	180	445	373	278	438	733	329	341	387	253	353	408	234	394	7756	352	22	
*Page & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3160	316	10	
*Noble & C. ^o	370	41	0	448	305	625	615	406	533	635	849	201	75	288	70	136	62	0	0	0	0	0	5964	271	22	
*Hunt & C. ^o	26	362	698	492	241	553	288	225	308	209	103	115	103	338	290	255	429	317	124	133	143	91	5846	265	22	
Omerod & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	184	37	117	190	4	23	57	158	207	92	66	1137	103	11
*Quillman & C. ^o	0	0	152	211	80	59	2	5	73	97	122	77	148	157	72	101	101	19	0	61	35	21	1533	76	20	
G. Whistler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	109	49	8	181	34	26	62	58	35	608	55	11	
*Graham & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	34	8	
*Donaldson & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4514	0	0	
*Martinez & C. ^o	327	451	713	724	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1899	0	0	
Galway & C. ^o	561	772	453	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1899	0	0	
*Rocher & C. ^o	0	0	127	194	71	123	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1062	0	0	
*Ja. Dov & C. ^o	0	0	125	97	215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	718	0	0	
Warre & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
*F. Tuke & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
*Bailey & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
*Roughton & Reid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sellers & C. ^o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

* The names marked thus, with the name of one not a shipper of Wine, compose the 22 Houses which combined in the manner, and for the purpose mentioned in the "Representation" lately made by us to our Correspondents.

MESS.^{rs} HARRIS & C.^o'S LIST OF WINES

exported from Oporto to Great Britain in 1844.

THE AUTHENTICK LIST OF WINES

exported from Oporto to Great Britain in 1844.

SHIPPERS.	Pipes.
George Sandeman & Co.	3166
Quarles, Harris & Sons	1958
Martinez, Gassiot & Co... ..	1468
A. J. d'Oliveira Basto	1274
Croft & Co.	1145
T. J. Smith	1059
Offley, Webber & Forrester... ..	1010
Allen, Morgan & Co.	1009
Fonseca, Monteiro & Co.	915
Cockburns, Greig & Dunlop	811
Lamberts, Kingstons & Egan	712
Smith, Woodhouse & Co... ..	707
Taylor, Fladgate & Yeatman	600
Warre & Co.	582
C. N. Kopke & Co.	475
Rocher, Wigham & Co.	465
Gould, Jas. Campbell & Co.	446
Francis Tuke & Co.	428
The Royal Wine Company	420
Bruno Silva & Co.	371
Henry Donaldson & Co.	355
G. J. Borges de Castro	341
Ormerod, Brothers & Co... ..	340
Bailey, Shorter & Co.	320
Antonio Vieira Magalhaens	314
W. & J. Graham & Co.	311
Knowles, Wilcock & Co.	300
Hunt, Roope & Co.	279
Roughton & Reid	276
M. de Clamouse, Brown & Co.	275
James Dow	272
Antonio Rib. ^o de Santos Dias	263
Antonio Mont. ^o Alvarenga	249
José Isidoro Guedes	240
J. M. Rebello Valente & Archer	217
Figueiredo, Perry & Co... ..	173
F. W. Sellers	173
Butler, Nephew & Co.	153
Burmester & Co... ..	147
George Reid... ..	142
Joze Vieira de Carvalho... ..	134
Jordao Ferreira & Co	112
Robert Allen	110
Shippers of less than 100 Pipes to United Kingdom	1670
Total.....	26,187

SHIPPERS.	Pipes.
George Sandeman & Co.	3166
Martinez, Gassiot & Co.	1468
A. J. d'Oliveira Basto	1274
Quarles Harris Sen.^r, James } Dawson Harris & Co.	1264
Croft & Co.	1145
T. J. Smith	1059
Offley, Webber & Forrester	1010
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José Vieira de Carvalho	134
Jordão Ferreira & Co.	112
Robert Allen... ..	110
Shippers of less than 100 Pipes to United Kingdom	1670
Pipes.....	25,493

8

OPORTO, 20th. January 1846.

SIR

In handing you our shipping prices for the present year, we cannot refrain from making a few observations on the actual state of the trade; as it is decidedly improving, and must continue to do so, unless measures on this side imposing further restrictions cause renewed depression.

Now that no Wines for exportation but those of 1st quality (intended for the British Market) are allowed to be housed in Villa Nova, the stock there existing no longer appears overwhelming: and if again from this be deducted the large proportion of worn out unavailable Wines, the excess of stock is more in idea than reality.

Stout old high colored Wines for the bottle (of which the Export Houses are the almost exclusive holders) ought to maintain their prices; and cheap Wines cannot possibly be afforded at so low a figure as formerly, in consequence of the restrictive measures adopted during the last two years by the Wine Company: whilst the bad quality of last Vintage must suggest to Government the necessity of another most limited Approval.

Being now enabled to pass a matured opinion on the Wines of 1844 (of which we hold an ample stock) we strongly recommend them to your notice as possessing great smell, color and flavor. Their character is decidedly dry, and like all dry Wines they have sterling qualities which time only can fully develope. It is obvious that their value has been enhanced by the failure of Vintage 1845.

Wines of the Vintage 1842 have already had sufficient trial to be appreciated.

We flatter ourselves that the very large purchase we made in the Douro of the Vintage 1840, will enable us to meet the demand and give satisfaction in the execution of orders for *very superior stout high colored bottling Wines*.

Our Mr. Woodhouse's nephew Mr. John R. R. Godfrey, (who was admitted a partner in our Firm on the 1st January 1845) having long acted for us as Commissary in the Wine Country, and become thoroughly acquainted with the Business, hopes to have the honor of shortly paying you his respects.

His solicitations as well as those of our friends Messrs. Smith & Comp^y of London we trust will merit your consideration.

Annexing a list of Wines shipped to Great Britain last year by the principal Export Houses,

We remain,

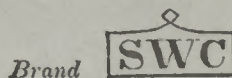
Sir


Your faithful Servants,

Smith Woodhouse & C^o

PORTS

SMITH WOODHOUSE & C.^o



Fine old Wines	}	at £	38	}	per pipe on Board at Oporto Bill at nine months from date of Bill of Lading
			34		
			30		
Choice old Wines & selected 1840 ^s		at £	42		
1842 Vintage		at £	34 & £ 38		
1844 ditto		at £	32 & £ 36		
		Brand			
Good Wines		at £	18 £ 22 & £ 26		

Wines shipped in the year 1845 to Great Britain:

		Pipes
G. Sandeman & C. ^o	2449
Martinez Gassiot & C. ^o	1476
Quarles Harris Senior & C. ^o	1356
Offley, Webber & Forrester	1199
Lambert Kingstons & Egan	1181
T. I. Smith	999
Cockburns Greig & C. ^o	823
Croft & C. ^o	736
* Smith Woodhouse & C. ^o	728
Fonseca Monteiro & C. ^o	715
C. N. Kopke & C. ^o	640
Taylor, Fladgate & Yeatman	617
Allen, Morgan & C. ^o	606
Warre & C. ^o	520
Rocher Wigham & C. ^o	519
Goold Campbell & C. ^o	432
F. W. Sellers	388
Bruno Silva & C. ^o	359
W ^m & John Graham & C. ^o	344
Francis Tuke & C. ^o	333
M. C. Browne	315
Antonio Vieira de Magalhães	314
Bailey Shorter & C. ^o	283
W. G. Roughton & R. Reid	266
J. M. R. Valente & T. Archer	255
Gaspar Joaquim Borges de Castro	248
George Reid	244
Wine Company	235
H ^y Donaldson & C. ^o	231
Hunt, Roope, Teage & C. ^o	222
Sundry shippers	2595
Total shipments to Great Britain.	21628

* The difference of 13 Pipes which appears between this List and the Custom House List proceeds from an error in the latter.

