

253. The total value of imports and exports, and amount of duty collected in 1887, as compared with 1886, was as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Duty Collected.
1886.....	\$104,424,561	\$85,251,314	\$19,448,123
1887.....	112,892,236	89,515,811	22,469,705

There was therefore an increase in the value of imports of \$8,467,675, and in the value of exports of \$4,264,497, making an increase in the total trade of \$12,732,172, while the increase in duty collected amounted to \$3,021,582. The above satisfactory showing justifies therefore the opinion expressed last year that the indications were that the depression of trade which had been prevalent during the past 4 years was passing away.

254. The value of the total trade is still considerably below the returns for 1882 and 1883, but the decline in values in many of the principal articles of merchandise has been so marked, that there is good reason to suppose that at former prices, the trade of 1887 would not have fallen far short of the highest point yet reached. That the decline in values has exceeded the decrease in the volume of trade to a considerable extent will be apparent on examining the following comparative statement of the quantities and values of the principal articles of food exported during the years of 1882 and 1887 respectively, from which it will be seen that with scarcely an exception the percentage of increase or decrease in value was respectively considerably smaller or larger than the corresponding percentage in quantities.

Imports and exports, 1886 and 1887, and increase in value.

Decrease in values and increase in quantities.