

Turkey,	5,000	“
North America,	2,000	“
Egypt,	3,000	“
<hr/>		
Total,	452,000	“

This quantity would occupy an area of 1,800,000 acres, and, at £50 a ton, would be worth £22,600,000 in the state of fibre; and the fibre entering into the value of the fabric to the extent of one third, the value of linen manufactures throughout the world would appear to be above £70,000,000 sterling. The strength of the Russian Flax fits it for the coarser fabrics,—its toughness, dryness, and the impossibility of dividing it into minute filaments, excluding it from the finer manufactures. It is chiefly used for sail cloth and bagging. Egyptian is even coarser. Belgium has long been considered unapproachable in the quality of her Flax fibre, she therefore exports to all countries to the extent of £800,000 yearly; the price varying from £70 to £200 a ton, according to its quality. Much depends on the mode of treating the flax. There are two kinds, the “Flemish” and “Courtrai.” The two qualities are equally fine, but differing in colour—the former being of a slate grey—the other of a yellowish white. This difference is caused by the mode of treating the Flax; the former being pulled green, and after the removal of the capsules, the flax is steeped, until the gum and gluten connecting the fibre of the wood have been decomposed by fermentation. It is then dried on the grass, and the fibre cleaned out by scutching.—The *Courtrai* is treated differently. To this point is carted flax from other parts of Belgium, to be steeped in the waters of the Lys, which flows past Courtrai, and whose waters possess peculiar properties for the fermentation of Flax. It is found that Flax steeped in the straw yields a fibre of very superior quality, and passes under the name of Courtrai Flax wherever it may have been grown. The straw is placed in wooden crates, and anchored in the stream; and though the disagreeable odour arising from the decomposition of the woody part might be deemed a nuisance, and the odour exhaled intolerable, and dangerous to public health, yet it is singular enough that when the cholera raged in Belgium, the district along the Lys were totally free from it, nor has it ever been found that any complaint, whether endemic or epidemic, has been more prevalent in the steeping localities than elsewhere.

Forty to £50 an acre is a common return, and £80 to £100 is obtained for the finer qualities. The manufactures of Leeds and Belfast consume these finer qualities. To produce the finest qualities, great care and attention is requisite. The richest and most thoroughly pulverised soil is chosen; the seed is sown about double the usual thickness; and every weed eradicated from time to time. Branches and stakes are set in the ground, with lines intersecting like meshes of a net, in order that the wonderfully fine stems of the Flax, as they grow up, may have support, and may not be prostrated with the first high wind, or heavy shower. The stems are pulled green and steeped, and the utmost pains taken to pick out the coarse stalks. When scutched, the fibre is again most carefully examined, and every filament which shows any defect is removed. The