

ther on:—‘I would not be so rash as to say that the wheat-producing powers of *the region east of Lake Erie, and south of the St. Lawrence*, will never be much greater than it is now; I believe it may become, and *I hope the time may soon arrive* when more skill and knowledge shall have forced it to become, *far more productive, as a whole, than it is now.*’ The Professor adds the formidable anticipation, that there we may by and by ‘find new Lothians, and Norfolks, and Lincolnshires, and a reproduction of the best farmers of all these districts—their very sons and grandsons, in fact, settled on American farms.’ Our Professor is a candid liberal; without question, if the present Free Trade work go on much longer, our farmers, both sons and fathers, will be found anywhere, everywhere, but at home! If the New York farmers grumble at being supplanted by others of their own country, it is no ways strange that ours should grumble at being supplanted by the foreigner; and if they tax Canadian grain 20 per cent., does it not seem reasonable enough that we should reciprocate the impost? Moreover, they tax grain-imports merely to keep farming profitable in exhausted districts; the former legislation of Great Britain on this subject had a far different motive. It matters nothing to the Americans, as a nation, whether they get their bread-stuffs from one part of the Union or another; but it is of mighty importance to us whether we raise our supplies at home, or become dependent for our staple food upon countries which may any day become our relentless foes; among others the Union itself, and *France*.\*

Mr. Johnston’s account of Lowell, the well-known manufacturing city of Massachusetts, brings us to another branch of the great controversy of the day. This town stands on the beautiful river Merrimack, from which it derives the motive power for its machinery. It is a clean, spacious, busy place, with wide streets, abundant shops, comfortable hotels, rows of neat lodging-houses for the employed, and fifty large mills, upon which the whole population depends. Cottons, plain and printed, woollen cloths, carpets, and the machinery necessary for the spinning and weaving departments, are the principal manufactures of the town. Its rise has been very rapid. In 1828 the population was only 3500; in 1850 it was estimated at 25,000. When compared with the fine produce of the Glasgow mills, the cotton manufacture is almost in its cradle. The cloths are coarse sheetings, shirtings, drillings, and printed calicoes, which are made of low-priced cotton, and are heavy to transport. But in this department they have no

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\* Free-trade prophecies are already at a sad discount. France, almost the last country, we were assured, from which grain-imports were to be expected, now sends us annually 500,000 quarters of wheat, and 2,000,000 cwt. of flour!

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