as scientific researches, have gone to disprove this popular belief. Dr. Anderson observes:—

"The chemical investigation of the plant shows that there has been much misapprehension on this point, and that under proper management it does not exceed, if indeed it does not considerably fall short of, other crops in this respect. It has been thoroughly established that, with flax as with other crops, the principal part of the valuable constituents are accumulated in the seed, and comparatively little in the straw. Now, it has been found by experience, that the finest quality and most valuable fibre is obtained when the flax is cultivated under such circumstances, that its production of seed is as small as possible. This is effected practically by sowing close, and by avoiding too large a supply of manure, which has the effect of producing a coarse and inferior fibre. If this system is pursued—and it is manifestly that which for all reasons must be most profitable—flax cannot be considered more exhausting than a white (grain) crop. I am assuming, of course, that, as used formerly to be the case, both straw and seed are removed from the land; but if, as will probably be henceforth practised, the seed be employed for feeding on the farm, I apprehend it will turn out to remove less valuable matters than a crop of Oats, of which the seed is removed, and the straw returned to the land. Such, at least, is the inference to which Science would lead us, but it would be most desirable to have it confirmed by actual experiment."

Soils of a *medium* quality, such as are neither too wet nor too rich, produce the best kinds of flax for the better descriptions of manufactures. A very rich soil produces a too luxuriant growth, and consequently a coarse fibre.

Schenck's patented system of steeping has already given a powerful impulse to the cultivation of flax, both in Great Britain and Ireland, and its principle is very simple. In consists in placing the flax straw in small vats, in which it is covered with water kept at a uniform temperature of 90 degrees, by a steam-pipe passing through it. The flax is exposed to this treatment for a period of from 60 to 70 hours, and at the end of that time, the process of fermentation is complete, and the fibre can be separated from the husk and other parts.

With respect to Schenck's system, Dr. Anderson remarks:—

"There is no question that this process is a great improvement, but I have no doubt that it is yet in its infancy, and that it is still far from perfect. I happen to know that a patent for steeping flax upon another plan is also about to be taken out, the preliminary experiments on which have, I am given to understand, been most successful. Other processes have also been proposed; and one—that of the Chevalier Claussen—has been introduced to the public with great flourish, and great results are expected from it, but which, I must confess, I do not think will be realized. That patent is for a method of converting flax into a substance like cotton, which is done by a somewhat complicated process. Now, if the patent had been for converting the cotton into flax, I should have understood it, for that would have been converting a cheap material into a dear one; but I cannot see how any thing is to be made by converting a dear substance into a cheap one. If it is meant that inferior qualities of flax are to be converted into fine cotton, we can just conceive the possibility of its paying; but if that is all that is to be done, it can be of no benefit to the farmer, because he may depend upon this, that if he is to make the cultivation of flax pay, he must aim at producing only the superior qualities."

PROGRESS OF CANADA.

The present condition and future prospects of this portion of British America cannot be otherwise regarded than as highly satisfactory and encouraging. On all sides we see daily increase of progress. Villages are rapidly springing up in all directions; the older of them fast growing into towns of no mean size, and transacting an ever increasing business, while several of the latter will soon gain the rank of corporate cities. As the railroad system becomes developed in Canada, so will its business increase. Already, in several localities, the expenditure of a few years persevering industry has literally made the desert to blossom as the rose. The following letter, which we copy from the *Brampton Mercury*, written by John Lynch, Esq., an old and respectable settler, well known to many of our readers, is only a single specimen of many of a similar character, which might be culled from the press of different localities. Canadians have now the satisfaction of knowing that their own country is making a similar progress in all the appliances of modern civilisation to their enterprising neighbours of the United States. The difference in favor of the latter that formerly obtained, has often been much over-coloured and exaggerated, by tourists and others; while at present Canada is rapidly assuming a position which must preclude the possibility of an unfavorable comparison:—

"In the beginning of the year 1820, the tract of land on which the village of Brampton now stands, and for many miles around, was an unbroken wilderness, unmarked by anything to denote the proximity of the white man, but the slight traces which the surveyors had left in their survey of the previous summer. In the course of 1820, the Township of Chinguacousy was partially settled, and its population, with that of the neighbouring townships, has continued steadily to increase, until now the spot which thirty two years ago formed part of the immense hunting ground of the Indian, where the wolf and bear roamed at pleasure, has become one of the finest Townships in Western Canada. Upon the Hurontario street, in the above-named township, stands the Village of Brampton, now the residence of over 1,000 human beings, covered (the ground I mean, not the human beings) with numerous merchant shops, manufactories, dwellings, &c., alive with the hum of business, and