this useful plant. In Belgium, however, the climate of which is neither so moist nor equable as that of the British Islands, the production of Flax, as regards both quality and quantity, has long since reached a point wholly unapproached by any other nation;—an advance mainly attributable to the adoption of *a sound and thorough system of manuring and cultivation.*

It has been objected to the growth of Flax that it rapidly exhausts the soil; and hence in many farm leases in England, its cultivation is fenced round by numerous and perplexing restrictions, and is sometimes prohibited altogether. Of its exhausting tendency when frequently grown, without regard to rotation, and where the seed and fibre are wholly taken away, and nothing possessing the same ingredients returned to the soil, there remains not the shadow of a doubt. But there is nothing peculiar to Flax in this respect; all other seed producing plants would, under the same treatment and conditions, bring about precisely the same result. It is well understood by our best cultivators, and the most eminent chemists who have given their attention to the subject, that the flax plant has no peculiar power of exhausting the land; but on the contrary, when adopted into a judicious rotation, and properly manured and cultivated, it becomes an *ameliorating* crop. If every farmer, of any extent, in Canada, had an acre or two of this crop under the mode of management herein implied, the finer portions of the fibre only sold, and the remainder used for litter to make manure, and the seed fed to cattle;—by these simple means the productive powers of the soil of the whole Province would be materially increased, as would also the money value of all descriptions of live stock, whether for breeding or fattening purposes.

The following extract from a statement of an Ohio farmer, will afford our readers an idea of the mode of raising flax, in that state of the union:

"If on sod ground, plow *very* deep in the spring, as early as frost will allow; harrow well till it is mellow. then sow about three pecks of seed per acre, and drag it lightly. We think three pecks little enough on sod ground, but less might do on corn stubble or fallow. It is less labor, covers the ground from the scorching rays of the sun, and leaves the soil in a better pseparation for wheat than the old plan of summer-fallowing. We get on an average 10 bu. seed and 400 lbs. of dressed flax per acre. The seed sells here for $1.25 per bu., and the flax for 7 cts. per lb. So that a crop yields us $40.50 per acre. Some seasons, if the soil is well prepared, we get 16 bu. per acre, and 600 to 700 lbs. of dressed flax. I do not think it impoverishes the land so much as a barley or an oat crop.'

We copy the following remarks, on the cultivation of Flax, from the writer in the *Mark Lane Express*, before mentioned:—

We would first remind our readers that nearly all the raw material used in our linen manufacture is the produce of foreign countries, as is also the linseed crushed for its oil and oilcake. The Government returns show that about £8,000,000 is annually paid to foreigners for flax, linseed, and oilcake, almost the whole of which is brought into home consumption; the exportation of linen and linen yarn being about two-thirds of the quantity produced, all the oilcake and oil being wholly consumed at home. Now, as we have a climate congenial to the growth of the flax crop, and a soil well adapted to its culture, we think the employment of a large portion of our agricultural population in the cultivation and preparation of this crop for the manufacturer and the oil crusher, can be regarded in no other light than as a national blessing. The amount of expense incurred in manual labour alone, upon an acre of flax of average growth, taking it through all its stages, *i. e.*, sowing, weeding, pulling, watering, and grassing, lifting, and carting, and scutching will not fall far short of £6; the rent, rates, and seed to about £4 more. This appears a heavy outlay, but if such a large cost in labour can be abundantly repaid in the crop, no one will demur to it; besides, we have greater facilities for its culture than formerly, both in the diminution in the price of labour and the scientific appliances brought to bear upon it. In the latter, we have full confidence; we augur much from Mr. Dickson's machine, and other inventions and discoveries both in the preparation and manufacture of this valuable crop.

The produce of the flax crop in money value, if we are to credit the accounts given us by many respectable cultivators (and we see no reason to doubt their correctness), is very great. Many instances are given, showing a nett pront varying from £12 to £30 per acre. We think the average yield of an acre of flax will be about 7 cwt., and the produce of seed about 20 bushels. This we think a rather low average. The price of good useful flax per ton is about 60s., and the seed about 6s. per bushel. At these prices the flax will be worth £21 per acre, and the seed £6; total, £27; thus leaving a nett profit of £17 per acre, taking the costs at £10 per acre. as stated. Now, it must be borne in mind that to produce this profit the cultivator must be provided with every convenience; otherwise he must sell his flax straw to the "retter," or waterer and scutcher; and herein lies the difficulty. We trust that in every district parties will be found to undertake these departments upon reasonable and equitable terms, and thus encourage the culture of this most valuable and much-required crop. Scutching mills are required in every district suited to flax culture, and will form a profitable business.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL L'ORIGNAL.—We observe with much pleasure, that efforts are being made for establishty, a Grammar School for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, for which Charles P. Treadwell, Esq., has offered a site, with a handsome subscription of £105 towards the erection. It is in contemplation to have a small model or illustrative farm attached, so as to include the science and practice of Agriculture, in the general routine of study. We trust the effort will be successful.

DEATH OF THE REVD. J. R. SMYTHIES.—Our recent English exchanges contain the melancholy intelligence of the deceased of this distinguished breeder of *Hereford* Cattle. Mr. Smythies expired on the 24th of March, in the 74th year of his age, after having spent an active life both as a clergyman and an advancing agriculturalist.