

The Divine Being, wise and beneficent in all His arrangements, has given to various nations tastes and talents suited to their conditions and wants. The requirements of northern nations for articles of food and clothing, being much greater than those of the "sunny south," we find those races which inhabit the temperate zones endowed with greater mechanical genius and skill, and ever intent upon the improvement of those appliances which have added so much to the results of manufacturing industry. By the same wise arrangement, that diversity of tastes which distinguishes different nations, is also found to exist among different individuals of the same race and the same family. The labours of the field will be the delight of one who cannot make the implement he requires. The workshop will be the choice of another who cannot use the tools he delights to make. Again, in the endearments of home, and the attachments of the family circle, does kind Nature point out the true policy of nations. Those feelings of love, duty, and affection, which exist in the human breast, tell the various members of the same family, that while one tends the "old homestead," another should rear his factory on the neighbouring stream.

It may suit the earlier settlers in a country like ours, to turn their attention almost exclusively to agriculture; the circumstances which brought them to this Province may have prepared them for a change of pursuits, but in their children the great law of nature cannot be broken with impunity. Hence we find many of our most talented youth leaving the country for want of employments congenial to their tastes, while in all probability we import the fruits of their labour from abroad in the shape of manufactured productions.

The manufactures of Upper Canada have not hitherto kept pace with the general advancement of the country; but we have now arrived at that point when their aid has become necessary to the future prosperity of the Province. In the early stages of the history of England, says McCulloch in his *Commercial Dictionary*, the annual yield of wheat in that country was twenty-five bushels per acre, but the exhausting process went on till the yield fell to ten bushels, and did not increase till improved methods of agriculture and a proper rotation of crops restored the soil to its former fertility, and even beyond it. In Canada the baneful effects of continual cropping are already severely felt. In the lower section of the Province, many districts once producing large quantities of wheat, are now dependent upon Upper Canada for their supplies, and in the older districts of the Upper Province itself, the rapidly increasing deficiency in the crops is a source of great uneasiness and alarm. It is here that the importance of manufactures becomes apparent. So long as the farm will yield, year after year, an exportable crop, it is of less consequence to the farmer whether the manufactures consumed in the country are made within its limits or imported from abroad, but when by a rotation of crops, three-fourths of the yield consists of bulky and perishable articles which cannot be sent to a distant market, the necessity of securing consumers on the spot, through a manufacturing population, is at once apparent.

It is not alone in advancing our material interests and increasing the national wealth, that manufactures are of importance. We are indebted to the mechanic arts for nearly all those discoveries and inventions which have added so much to the enjoyment of life. The railroad, the steamboat, the printing-press, and the Atlantic cable are all the productions of mechanical enterprise and skill. Whether, therefore, to the achievement of national