

of straw, with thin and scanty grain. I knew Chatmoss before the railway, which now runs across it longitudinally, was made, or a single improvement commenced. The present appearance of the reclaimed portions is certainly striking and agreeable, indicating the triumphs of agricultural skill and industry during the last quarter of a century. Large dairies are kept in this district for supplying Liverpool, Manchester and contiguous towns with milk and butter: the former being regularly sent many miles night and morning, by rail, and is retailed to the consumer at three pence a quart. The time is fast approaching when Toronto will have to adopt a similar plan, and draw her supply of milk from a much larger area than at present.

In Manchester I found extraordinary improvements both in the increase and general appearance of the city, and the machinery of its innumerable factories and workshops. Its well paved and efficiently drained streets, the cleanly manner in which they are kept, and the consumption of smoke in the tall chimneys of its manufactories, render Manchester, notwithstanding the immense annual increase of its population, a far healthier and more desirable place of residence than it was twenty or thirty years ago. The demand for agricultural productions by the now well paid toiling millions of this interesting and wealthy district is immense; clearly indicating the intimate relation and mutual interests between the field and the factory. What a change has come over the views and feelings of the people of these nations since the repeal of the corn laws! Before, the agricultural and manufacturing interests were arrayed in deadly opposition, and in all the great centres of population the most levelling and democratic doctrines were proclaimed, with occasionally recurring tumults, that threatened the existence of the social fabric itself. Now, as far as I can see and learn, poverty and demagoguism seem to be banished from "merrie" England. And why? Simply because the great mass of the population—the producing class—are fully employed and well fed. Agriculture and manufactures have ceased to look upon each other as enemies, and have discovered that their true interests are identical, and consequently now cherish each other as indissoluble friends.

In Manchester I met with a number of commercial and literary men who take a lively interest in all questions that affect the physical and social condition of the people, not only of these realms, but of the empire, and the world. With reference to the religious, political, commercial, and agricultural state of Canada, I found several who professed a deep interest, and evinced no small amount of correct information. Emigration, education, and the state and prospects of our agriculture and public works, formed the chief topics of conversation; and I was grateful to find that fuller information was desired upon these matters. Our system of public instruction, I found, was generally ap-

proved of, as the one best suited to the wants of a mixed community, and I met with more than one individual well posted up, as the phrase is, in the history and present state of our Provincial University. Nearly all that I have heard speak on this question seem to agree that every practicable system of state education in mixed communities must be non-denominational. I met, however, with a gentleman of high literary standing and an influential contributor to several of the best English periodicals, who repudiated any connection between education and the state. The social evils arising out of sectarian jealousy under a state provision for education, it is argued, more than counter-balance the intellectual advantages that are obtained. I am told that quite a number of the deepest thinkers entertain similar views, and that an anti-state education party may already be said to exist in England. According to this theory each parent would select such kind of education for his children as he best approves, and pay for it, in precisely the same way as he does the bread. This indeed would be an extension of the free trade principle, and would place freedom for the mind and that for the body under exactly the same conditions. The effects of such a system, in young and struggling communities, at least, must be obvious; it would take many generations before anything approaching higher education could exist. I heard since I have been here similar notions propounded by able minds in relation to agriculture, science, and the industrial and decorative arts generally. In an old and wealthy country like England, such objects and pursuits, after they are once established, may, perhaps, be safely left to the voluntary support of congregated individuals, but in a young and feeble country the case is entirely different. Where and what, may fairly be asked, would have been our numerous agricultural societies and the Provincial Association, if Government aid had been withheld?

In travelling from Manchester to London by the Great Northern Railway, the route lies through a portion of the richest agricultural districts in the centre of England. After leaving Derbyshire and a part of Yorkshire, where the scenery is hilly and wild, with narrow valleys highly productive as meadows or pastures, the country expands into a vast undulating plain admirably adapted to the purposes of tillage and abounding in varied and beautiful rural scenery, with, in most places, large fields, hedges neatly trimmed, and here and there clumps of deciduous trees, particularly around the farm homesteads, all tending to produce a landscape, which may be said to be peculiarly English. Here may be seen the drilling of grain, whether of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, &c., executed in the neatest and exactest manner, mathematically straight and parallel lines. In several places might be seen the process of sowing turnips by means of a large drill, which