

of this most important plant as a farm crop becomes general throughout the country, the subject will have to be warmly entertained and discussed by the different agricultural societies, and measures taken to secure a market for the crude straw* besides circulating such information among farm-

There are besides large experiments being made in flax in the Bedford District of the Eastern townships, including the counties of Shefford, Brome, and Missisquoi. In the village of St. Armand in the Bedford District, a woollen and flannel manufacturer, of the name of Lagrange, has purchased flax (some of that grown in Eaton) to mix with wool, and with a most satisfactory result.

The Eastern townships generally are exceedingly well adapted for flax growing. The soil of the valleys (intervale lands) is very fine, and the uplands are mostly of very good quality. We have generally more moisture than in Western Canada, although I fancy the Western farmers are generally more palntaking.

We possess very great facilities, not only for growth, but for the after preparation of flax, in the abundance of water for steeping, and water power for scutching and manufacture into linen.

I am dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. W. HENNEKER.

Editor of the *British American Magazine*.

MONTREAL, August 10th, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—Absence from home for some time, and a pressure of engagements on the part of the writer since, have prevented an earlier acknowledgement of your much regarded favour of the 10th ult. We feel a deep interest in the culture of flax in this country, believing that, if properly developed, it may prove of very great value as a staple article of export and domestic manufacture. It has obviously this advantage over wheat, that it is not subject to the destructive attacks of insects and rust, which render the latter so precarious as a crop; nor does the market price of fibre and seed fluctuate so much as the cereals which have heretofore claimed the chief attention of the agriculturalist.

We are convinced that a general adoption on the part of our farmers of systematic drainage, deep cultivation, and rotation of crops with a considerable breadth devoted to flax, would render our agricultural interest extremely prosperous: and with its agriculture, every other species of industry would necessarily advance in a corresponding ratio.

With the view to promote the growth of flax and hemp, we imported a quantity of Riga flax seed and Piment hemp, for sowing which we supplied at cost. We have a sample before us of Riga flax grown this season in this vicinity, which measures forty-six inches. This description of hemp (piment) grows from ten to twelve feet in height.

We purchase from twenty-eight to thirty thousand bushels of flax-seed annually, which produces from fifty to sixty thousand Gallons of oil and about five hundred tons of linseed-cake. The latter is mostly shipped to Great Britain, for cattle food. Our machinery could work up a much larger quantity if the seed could be obtained. This department of our works is idle for a portion of the year on account of the paucity of the raw material.

We enclose a copy of a circular which we printed last spring for circulation in the rural districts, and we shall be happy to supply any further information which we may have it in our power to contribute, to promote an object which we deem so important.

We are, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servants,

LYMANS, CLARK & CO.

Editor of the *British American*.

* In the State of New York last year, the average crop in Niagara County was one ton of straw and fourteen bushels of seed to the acre. The Lockport Flax-cotton Company contracted last year with the farmers of the neighbourhood for flax straw at \$10 a ton. Flax seed is worth \$1.50 a bushel.

ers as will enable them to effect the water-rotting process in a satisfactory and profitable manner, if they prefer it, within easy reach of a scutching machine.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

This year, the Exhibition at Kingston promises to show a considerable improvement in that department of the country's industry upon which its real progress in wealth and prosperity chiefly rests, namely, its manufactures. People are now learning to understand the true value of great manufacturing power. But it is not in Canada that the lesson has been learned: it has been suddenly and marvellously taught to all civilized nations during the past two or three years.

The general fact that manufacturing industry was one great source of England's superiority had been long acknowledged, but it was not accepted as a general truth that it was the great source of her present power until recent events disclosed, in an unexpected manner, the value of mechanical ability, both to conceive and to execute. Not only during the Crimean war, but more recently, the extraordinary capabilities of private manufacturing establishments, has been put to a very singular test. The fact is that England is fast becoming the workshop of the world for certain kinds of expensive and ponderous machinery, which require great establishments to complete. The United States have, also, made remarkable progress in this kind of industry, but are still far behind the United Kingdom.

M. Xavier Raymond has recently published a work on the navies of England and France, in which he has enumerated some remarkable instances of the resources and capabilities of private manufacturing establishments in Great Britain.

"The English, feeling dissatisfied with the part they had played in the Crimea, proposed to take their revenge in the Baltic. They wished to destroy Cronstadt, which they had had leisure to study during the two preceding campaigns. Whether their plan was good or bad we need not discuss here, but they conceived the idea of crushing or burning it under a shower of projectiles thrown from small craft, gunboats, and mortar vessels, to be built for that special service. For the construction of these small vessels recourse was had to private builders, and, amongst others, to the celebrated builder, Mr. Laird, M.P. for Birkenhead, where his building yard is situated on the Mersey, opposite Liverpool. It was the 25th of October when the plan of the first gunboat reached him, and when, consequently, he could only begin his