

best Markets in the world, and of procuring such machinery for its preparation as may be required.

I have said nothing as to which seed should be preferred. Different soils and climates may require different kinds of seed, and a few experiments, by intelligent growers, may be necessary to decide which is best suited to Canada. Riga is generally preferred here, on account of its growing longer than Dutch or American; but these latter were in more favor some years ago, when the spinning was done on the small wheel, in every farm-house and cabin in Ulster, and was then thought to produce a *finer* article: but since machinery has taken the place of domestic manufacture the Riga is more generally sown.

You are aware that I had this year a barrel of Canadian seed, sown in the same field with five of Riga, as an experiment. The Canadian came up some days earlier than the Riga, and grew much more freely, up to the middle of June; it blossomed fully ten days earlier, and had fully three times the quantity of seed, but is on an average three inches shorter than the Riga. I am unable to say which will be the best quality, or the comparative quantities each will produce, not having got it cleaned out, but I hope to be able to give an account of them next week; I cannot doubt, however, that the Canadian grower of Flax would find his advantage in changing his seed either from Riga, or Holland, at least every second year, as like every other crop it has a tendency to degenerate when often grown in the same locality, especially if that be not its native, and this is evinced by the immense quantity of seed borne by the Canadian here.

I sent two barrels of Riga flax seed last year to the Messrs. Perim, but it was delayed at Liverpool and Portland, and did not reach them in time for that year's sowing; I suppose however, they will have tried it this year, and if carefully kept it may do pretty well, but can scarcely be considered a fair trial, compared with new. You can, however, hear from them on the subject when you return to Canada, and if you or any of your friends should desire it, I will have great pleasure in selecting and forwarding any quantity you may require, on the arrival of this year's growth.

From what I have written, as well as from your own observations during spring and summer, it is plain that flax growing and preparation, is both troublesome and expensive, but the question which has to be answered is, "will it pay, and leave a greater profit than any other crop?" If this question can, on a fair trial, be answered in the affirmative, the trouble and expense will be disregarded by industrious farmers in Canada as well as here.

Some objections may be made to the steeping, on the ground of its tainting the water and the air, and possibly those unacquainted with it may think that the smell, which is disagreeable, may be also unwholesome, but it has never been found so either in France, Belgium, or Ireland, and no healthier women can be seen than those who are employed during the whole flax season in pulling, spreading, and lifting it.

The objections as regards the water applies in an especial manner, or rather it is confined

to the owners of fisheries; but I do not know whether the fisheries in Canada are owned by individuals, or are common property, and on that would turn the validity of the objection, if made.

In estimating the profit of flax cultivation, some allowance should be made for the employment it gives, and the increased or additional crop it introduces into the rotation, by which variety the land is enabled to yield more in a given number of years than by confining it to the growth of any class of crops exclusively. Employment too, in working a succession of crops as flax, hay, wheat, oats, &c., is more spread, and consequently less crowded into a few weeks than otherwise it would be, and is more continuous and certain.

You have seen what the linen manufacture of Ulster, which has its root in the growth and preparation of the raw material, has done, in raising it to its present state of wealth and comfort, as compared with the other provinces, so much more favored by nature, in soil and climate, and which has made Belfast the manufacturing and commercial metropolis of Ireland; and, looking at the soil, the minerals, the lakes and rivers of Canada, with the origin of its population, its free government, and its educational establishments, I see enough to indicate a bright future for it too, if you but go to work with a fixed determination to succeed.

Wishing you a safe and pleasant voyage and happy reunion with your family,

I remain, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,
ROBERT MCCREA.

GRANGE HOUSE,
Strabane, 29th Aug., 1861. }

CANADA AS A FIELD OF FLAX CULTURE.

(From the Belfast Northern Whig, Aug. 28.)

The never-ceasing energy of the Lancashire cotton-spinners has been the wonder of all nations at all able to comprehend the gigantic efforts they have made, year after year, for the larger supply of raw material. In their case neither time nor money has been spared for the accomplishment of the great object in view, and the result has been to bring into play an annually increasing amount of cotton wool equal to the almost illimitable wants of the spindles. Last year there were imported into the United Kingdom 12,419,000 cwts. of raw cotton, against 5,150,500 cwts. imported in 1840. Owing to the existing state of affairs in the different states of America, a decrease of supply may be looked for from thence; and, to avert the consequences of any material falling off, the Cotton Supply Association has been actively at work. Already the agents of that institution are busily engaged in Egypt and the West Indian Islands, while east of the Ganges there are hosts of influences engaged in extending the growth of the Oriental staple.

Some few weeks ago, an inquiring gentleman wrote to the London papers on the vital question of cotton supply, and in course of his observations he proposed a new mode of preparing flax fibre so as to cottonise it, and thus add to the supply of material for muslin goods. The