

same farm, previous to the introduction of this system of manuring, would not keep more than a bullock or five sheep to an acre;—now it maintains, by the crops being taken and consumed in the stalls, five bullocks or 20 sheep to an acre. Some bran and oil-cake are bought for the stock, but one third or more of the farm is kept in grain, yielding heavy crops.

These few facts will afford the reader some imperfect idea of the advanced state at which farm management has already arrived in some favoured localities of the Mother Country; where the farmer's pursuit is justly entitled to the appellations, in their highest signification, of a *science* and an *art*.

DEPRESSED STATE OF IRISH AGRICULTURE.

A recent number of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*, contains the following painful facts:

In 1847, the average price of wheat in Dublin, was 41s. 3d. per barrel of 20 stones, and Ireland raised 2,926,733 qrs. In 1850, the average price was reduced to 20s. 3d. per barrel (more than 50 per cent.!) and the amount raised was only 1,550,196 quarters; showing a similar rate of decrease. Barley and oats do not appear to have fallen off in amount so largely as wheat, but equally as much in price. In 1841 there were in Ireland 13,464,303 acres of arable land under cultivation. In 1850 that amount was reduced to 5,758,292! "What," says the *Gazette*, "has become of the eight million seven hundred and six thousand acres which constitute the difference?" The following figures will answer the question:—

<i>Farms occupied and cultivated.</i>	
1847 - - - - -	803,025
1850 - - - - -	628,222
Difference,	174,803

In regard to population, the Census tells us the following tale:—

<i>Total population of Ireland.</i>	
1841 - - - - -	8,175,124
1851 - - - - -	6,515,794
Diminution,	1,659,330

The *Gazette* attributes a large amount of this national misery and decline to the operations of "a one-sided free trade," which has caused Ireland to lose nearly all her export trade with England; government contracts for provisions even being made in foreign markets, provided only such markets are cheaper than her own. Without mooted the much vexed questions of free trade and protection, we think it must now be apparent to every unprejudiced mind, that

England, ere she had finally committed herself to the former, would much better have consulted her own peace and prosperity by accompanying that important change in her commercial policy, with such fiscal and legislative modifications in reference to her agricultural and colonial interests, as should have enabled those interests to partake of the benefits which free trade was designed to confer;—thereby preventing discontent, and almost open rebellion in the colonies, the hopeless prospects and utter ruin of thousands of British farmers and their dependants; and the present disorganization and prostration, apparently hastening towards a national extinction, of the warm-hearted inhabitants of the beautiful "Green Isle;"—who, instead of being only a source of weakness and annoyance to England, might have been made her strongest pillar of strength and defence.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN CANADA.

We present our readers with the conclusion of Mr. Hume's excellent Essay read before the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club, Jan. 24th, as reported in the *Cobourg Star*. The first portion of the Essay was published in our January number.

In concluding my last paper on Sheep husbandry, I gave up at a point, where I am satisfied the experience of many of our number would have enabled them to do the subject more justice than can be expected from me, who am comparatively a novice in the farming of this country. It is therefore with the utmost diffidence that I now, at your request, carry out the matter, and submit opinions at the best crude and indefinite, in the presence of those who are so much my seniors in Canadian sheep farming. In the management of stock, the circumstances of locality, climate, food, &c., exert such a powerful influence that it is only from the accumulated experience of many successive generations of practical men, in a given locality, that we can hope to attain any degree of success. Gradually, certain facts are established, on which men of judgment can found their reasoning and push on more rapidly in a career of improvement. But in a new country like ours, it takes some time before these principles can be fairly ascertained, and firmly grounded. The Geologist, from studying the formation of the earth, may, on finding deposits of a certain character, lead you to those places where the desired substances are to be found. The chemist, by analyzing such substances can ascertain precisely their various ingredients and properties, shewing their value in the arts and manufactures. Then comes the mechanic, and by adapting his tools and mechanism to a precise knowledge of these properties he proceeds at once to use them in the carrying out of his manufactures. But where the vital principle is concerned, these our powers of reasoning are at fault; fresh data enter into