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The Manufactures of Upper Canada.

An account of their present condition with suggestions for their improvement.

The importance of manufactures in promoting the permanent prosperity and well-being of a country is almost universally acknowledged. The history of the past enables us to trace the rise and fall of empires to the advancement or decline of their commerce and manufactures. The development of manufacturing industry in Britain has been the great incentive to the performance of many of those achievements which have immortalized her name. In the service of commerce and manufactures, she has sought out new fields of enterprise, added island to island and continent to continent, till she has conquered for herself an empire on which the sun never sets.

Among the continental nations of Europe we have the same evidence of the value of manufactures. France, amidst all her struggles, has flourished by the aid of her various industrial pursuits, while Spain has sunk into insignificance by neglecting the development of her manufactures. Germany, once the centre of learning, commerce, and manufacturing industry, still struggles to retain her place, while Russia was raised to greatness by the patriotism of an Emperor, who acquired in the workshops of Germany, a knowledge of the mechanic arts. Leaving the nations of Europe, we have on our own side of the Atlantic, and within sight of many of our homes, an illustration of the advantages to be derived from manufactures. In the New England States of the neighbouring Republic, with a soil less fertile, and a climate certainly not superior to that of Canada, we see the beneficial results of a judicious application to manufacturing pursuits, in the rapid increase of population and wealth, as well as in the advancement of the people in civilization and refinement.