

parison with the new one, the more especially as cotton has so extensively superseded linen and woollen. Great Britain is now the first country in the world for textile fabrics, though there are still ancient seats of manufactures on the Continent, where they produce particular articles of a superior quality.

What we have to do here, is to go on with the rest of the world. England and even the United States, which are large importers from Russia, will take any quantity we can produce, either of flax or hemp. But it should be perfectly understood that the old modes of preparing the fibre are obsolete, and that the new ones require both skill, and capital, while the farmer here has not, in a general way, sufficient of either to cultivate his land to advantage. In the North of Ireland this has been very much obviated by the formation of public societies and government Boards, through which the cultivation and the manufacture have reached their present high state of efficiency. We observe that voluntary associations are joining for the establishment of what are called "Rotteries," that is, places, or agencies, for purchasing straw from the farmer at the market price, and preparing it for the spinner, by the best modern methods.

The great consumption of hemp is for cordage and for sailcloth in the navy. Canvas is generally made of it. Flax is used for the finer fabrics, such as lace and shirtings. Sail cloth canvass is generally made of what are called tow yarns, that is, by selecting the short fibres in the process called hackling, which consists in drawing the fibre by the hand through a series of steel spikes, the shorter being left behind and forming the tow. It is questionable whether the bleaching the web for sail cloth improves it or not; the general opinion is that it does by taking away the rotting matter from the fabric, so that it will not ferment or mildew.

Hemp is principally cultivated in the northern parts of Europe, in the vast alluvial vallies of Austria and Prussia. It is also cultivated to a considerable extent in some parts of Western Europe. In Britain we believe it is only grown in the low lands of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, where it is subjected to a high process of cultivation, and alternated with other crops. There can be no doubt that a very large portion of this country is well fitted for its cultivation. Among the rest we would notice the

comparatively unproductive tract of fen land which lies' right and left of the Lachine Railway, and there are many tracts of land of the same kind which would be equally suited for it, and scarcely for any thing else.

Flax is already cultivated here, but in a miserable manner of cultivation. If the seeds or oil cake were consumed on the premises it would not be an exhaustive crop. As it is, the land being constantly robbed, it dwindles away miserably, and, everything being sold off, it exhausts the soil.

Flax does not require such a heavy soil as hemp; its roots do not strike so deep. We never saw it indigenous, that is, self sown, in this country. The hemp, on the contrary, flourishes with the greatest luxuriance wherever it can find a footing. It has become a troublesome weed where it ought to be a valuable product.

The latest quotations we have seen give the best qualities of flax are up to seventy pounds a ton, and of hemp to sixty-five. At this price the cultivation of both would pay well in Canada. And, the value of the article being so great, even the badness of our roads would be neutralized. But it will require a good style of cultivation. The exhaustive system, that is, the taking every thing out of the land and putting nothing in, will never do. The land must be kept in high condition. The hemp affords no manure, but the flax does in its seed, though, if for textile purposes, the plant ought to be pulled before the oily principle is developed in the seed. Flax may be grown with profit, as it is very extensively in Holland, for the sake of the oil in the seeds; but this requires a very high system of farming, and for the present we may perhaps be content for growing it for the fibre.

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#### Part III.—Summer.

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