

constantly stimulating him to activity, and are incompatible with all languor and indifference. An arable farm is one of the best schools for plodding laborious diligence; and no man can manage it to advantage, who ever suffers his attention to relax, or to be dissipated in avocations. The loss of a day may affect the issue of a whole year's labour, negligence in small matters is often followed with great mischievous consequences. The observations, however, are more applicable to a cultivator than to a grazier. The general introduction of the plough into a country never fails to propagate those industrious habits which are the certain harbingers of national wealth. Such habits merit the highest encouragement on their own account, and therefore the universal cry that has been raised in behalf of flax mills should be listened to with a gracious ear. The industry which is called forth in the fields, should not be permitted to evaporate during winter in idleness and inaction. These mills should be erected, that the male part of the population may find profitable employment in carrying their flax thither—in breaking and scutching it, and afterwards in bringing it home for heckling, at which point their labours should stop, and the spinning should be taken up by the females. All these preparatory processes, which have been now enumerated, require much more skill than we at present possess, and are divided in the old country into distinct trades & professions. That of the heckler, for instance, is one of the nicest and most difficult of manual operations, and perfectness in it is known and measured by the greatness of the quantity of dressed flax which is taken out of a given weight of the rough. From a stone of lint in Scotland, which weighs 22 lbs. English, usually come from 12 to 14 lbs. of dressed flax fit for domestic linen, 1 lb. of shorts called vulgarly *brairds*, and from 6 to 8 lbs. of tow, separated naturally by the heckles into two qualities. Our women here perform this labour to much disadvantage from the want both of operative dexterity, and more perfect instruments.—The skill which they do require, however, deserve the highest praise; and that napkin of diaper, now lying on the table, which was spun, woven, bleached and finished by the hands of Miss Sarah Archibald, Musquodoboit, bears testimony of what can be accomplished.

But it is not yet time for this society

to turn much of its attention to domestic manufactures. We must first be independent in bread-corn; and on this single and undivided object must concentrate our whole force and energy. There is a certain order in the progress of national prosperity, which can never be violated, or even disturbed, with impunity. Food, as of primary importance, must first of all be provided to answer the internal consumption, and then the spinning jenny and the loom may be profitably introduced. But reverse this order—expend if you please, in premiums, twice the amount of the £4690 which have been given to agriculture, and manufactures would still languish, and refuse to thrive at your bidding. It is not their nature to take root in a barren and uncultivated soil; and for this simple cause, that provisions must always be proportionably dear in a country which stands much in need of imports. Whenever the necessities of life are in plenty for the wants of the people, it is the time to foster those acts which minister to necessity or convenience. In our present condition, then, flax mills should be erected, not so much on their own account and with no view to direct the industry of the country greatly into that channel, but because they are favourable to the continuance and increase of the industrious habits which have otherwise been generated; for there is not a more certain nor more pleasing symptom of our agricultural improvement than this universal outcry after flax mills.

Permit me to conclude by stating, that this meeting, in my humble opinion, should recommend to the Legislature the grant of a liberal sum this Session—because the objects of competition as well as the number of local Societies are now increased,—because the erection of oat and flax mills is an object of prime necessity—and because it would be desirable, since we are now within two years of the end of our charter, that the Central Board should be able to announce with that event, the complete independence of the Province in bread-corn. The Provincial Society was founded for that express object—it has gone a great way already towards its accomplishment—and it would be matter of exultation to us all, if, before it expires, it should realize the expectations and promises of its friends.

JOHN YOUNG, Secretary.