

It is clear that those countries and nations who combine all conditions, natural products, knowledge and capital have a great advantage over those where only one or the other of these conditions prevail. But whilst knowledge and capital can be acquired, the natural products must be given in a certain state and at a certain figure, so that the transformations turn out advantageously. It is the answer to the question—whether Canada naturally contains such products, — which must decide whether we are doomed to remain only an agricultural country, and further, if we find that we have as many resources as any other country let us look for the reasons why we have not brought them to bear ere this.

Before doing so, however, let us consider for an instant the humanitarian and idealistic principles which the so-called school of Manchester teaches. The theory of this school has been adopted by the now domineering English statesmen, and their indirect influence affects naturally also the affairs of this country. By the principles of this school each nation is to procure its wants only from those countries, where by local advantages the special article can be furnished the best and cheapest. The general application of this principle would exceed the most sanguine expectations, for it would include universal fraternity and harmony all over the globe. All difficult questions of duty would be settled by it, and all sham industries, industries which only owe their existence to protection would be extinguished