

would enable him to furnish it to the consumer at least one third less than it has been for some years past." On the breaking up of the monopoly, 60,000 tons of imported ore were thrown upon the hands of the Sicilian agents. The duty has been reduced to £1 15s. per ton, and the Sicilian King cannot now find a market for the productions of his volcanoes.

The ancient Greeks claimed the first discovery of the manufacture of iron; but it appears that the Persians were acquainted with this art as early as any other nation. There is no record of the time when the mines of Caradoch were first worked; and it is remarkable that the Persians, up to the present day, manufacture iron at less expense, and by a process far more simple, than any other people. The ore is broken and placed in a small furnace, with alternate layers of charcoal; the blast is then applied, and the metal finally sinks to the bottom of the furnace, from whence it is taken and immediately hammered into bars. The blacksmith manufactures the ore as often as it is required by him; and one smith with two assistants will make one hundred weight of excellent iron in a day. I am confident that a similar process might be introduced successfully in the manufacture of iron in New-Brunswick; where charcoal can be obtained from the wild forests, at a trifling expense. The iron ore of Woodstock seems peculiarly adapted to this cheap mode of smelting; and it is not materially different from the Persian ore. There is, however, an advantage afforded in the County of Carleton, for the manufacture of iron and steel, scarcely to be found in any part of Europe. The vast unbroken forests of wood, capable of affording charcoal, will supply a sufficient quantity of fuel, for the smelting of this ore, for many years to come; and after the present forests have disappeared, the ore might be transported to Gagetown, where it is evident bituminous coal can be obtained.

Up to the beginning of the seventeenth century, the manufacture of iron and other metals, was performed by charcoal. Smelting by coal or coke has been but slowly introduced; and the removing of smelting furnaces, from the sites of ancient forests, to coal districts, in England, has arisen altogether from the scarcity of charcoal, and for the purpose of preserving the wood of the country.

It has been remarked, by a talented writer, that the degree of civilization, attained by any nation, might be ascertained by the quantity of iron employed. It is difficult to