

that general prosperity can alone be obtained by a general increase of individual intelligence, energy, enterprise, industry, and public and private economy, and in no other way, and by no other means whatever, and each one who desires to bring this about must begin at *home*, must *do* the duties which lie nearest to him, must seek out and endeavour to fulfil the purposes for which God has placed him in this world, and resolve, that the blame of being one of a spiritless, indolent, extravagant, and poverty-stricken people, shall not lie at his door. Let such a spirit but be diffused amongst us, and with our fertile soil, healthy climate, and vast natural resources, we are prepared to run a race with the best nation on the face of the earth.

But increased production will create markets: and in this way—as soon as a surplus of provisions is afforded, the farmer, who was before his own blacksmith, shoemaker, weaver, tailor, doctor and minister, finding out the advantages of a division of labour, exchanges his for the labour of others. Centres of those thus employed, or towns and villages, are gradually formed as supply and demand increase. Machinery is called in to aid, and then come the large manufacturing towns.

We are at about the end of the first, and beginning of the second, period. Villages are becoming visible in every direction—at Hampton, the Bend, Dorchester, Sackville, Sheffield, Woodstock, &c.

Some think, and perhaps they are right, that by a certain course of legislation, called “protection to home industry,” the progress towards prosperity can be much hastened; others, that trade should be left to seek out and follow its natural channels, and that Government cannot interfere with the industry of one class, but at the expense and to the injury of others. As an agricultural society, we discard politics, and cannot, therefore, properly express our opinion on either side; whatever way, however, is taken, a speedy progress to prosperity can only follow an increase of enterprise and intelligent industry.

In inquiring into the causes of the backward state of agriculture, the small amount of accumulated capital, in proportion to the business done, and the want of energy and enterprise in the people, it is obvious that, like rich men's sons, we have had so many advantages bestowed upon us, that our energies have been cramped. Our forests have been to us like the gold mines to Spain—they brought money so easily, that not knowing the value of it, we let it go as it came.

The gambling nature of the trade in timber operated also to seduce people from the more slow but sure modes of making a living. The profits of farming—nay, in too many cases, the farms themselves have been sacrificed to the insatiable craving for an easy and quick way of making money which this trade seemed to offer.

From the ease with which the timber growing upon every farm could be converted into money, the population have also acquired a taste for certain descriptions of food, not in themselves more nutritious or agreeable to the taste than the grains and other produce of the country, but which habit

has rendered so essential that their use is persisted in, now even when the timber is gone, so that the farmer, from whom we ought to expect not only all our provisions and clothing, but articles of export to pay for the few foreign luxuries we require, and cannot produce, are themselves the chief consumers of imports, without furnishing a single export in return.

It may be profitable to us to compare notes with our friends across the lines—they have no advantage over us in soil or climate, and we are all of the same blood. In former times, like us, they attended to lumbering, to the neglect of their farms.

Some thirty years ago they were very much in our circumstances; the lands worn out, no markets, and unable to compete with the produce of the new and fertile western country. The western fever seized them, and an almost general desertion of the farming population took place. We have read accounts of the northern States at that period, which might be applied word for word to our own country at this day. In process of time, numbers of the emigrants returned, in impaired health, having found out that a fertile soil and mild climate (competition and cost of transport rendering money-making out of the question) were dearly bought at the price of health. A new stimulus was given to agricultural pursuits, better modes of culture were adopted, improved stock imported, a sound education made accessible to all, and they are now a prosperous and happy people.

Let us compare their present state with ours—perhaps we may profit by taking a leaf out of their book. While they are furnishing a surplus of butter, cheese, beef and pork, as an export to the English market, we, with equal facilities, do not produce enough for ourselves. While we are grumbling over our long winters, wasting our time in junketing, lounging about taverns or law courts, or what is as bad, cutting logs which will require the best part of the summer to get to market, and in the end run us in debt; their young men and maidens, taking the advantage of every water-power, and daily inventing new machinery, are making palm-leaf hats, pails, brooms, rakes, and axes, which they hand over to us in exchange for our dollars. While we are pampering ourselves on Genesee flour and Yankee pork, the very people who furnish us with these articles pride themselves in living on corn, rye, and buckwheat. While they willingly tax themselves to support a school system which surpasses all that the world has ever seen, and by which every child may obtain the education of a gentleman, we dole out such miserable pittance that no teacher who has strength to be a labourer will stay with us. While they give all honour and respect to the intelligent workers of all classes—while their farmers take pride in their occupation, and keep their scorn for the loafers who seek to live on the labour of others—we despise the horny hand and homespun coat, and those only who are fit for nothing else become farmers. While they love their country and the wise institutions which their own manly exertions have founded, and stir up their national pride by bragging about themselves and