

CANADIAN
MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE

AND

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

VOL. I.

JULY, 1857.

No. 4.

**Our Present Condition and Advantages, considered with reference to
Agricultural Development.**

In the last two numbers of this journal we considered some of the obstacles to our success in Manufactures ; our present object is to consider the advantages we enjoy as an agricultural country, and to enquire whether we have availed ourselves of these advantages to their full extent. Agriculture is unquestionably the great business of Canada : it is this that infuses life into every branch of manufactures, and brings prosperity to every branch of trade. In seeking a wider field for our manufactures, we cannot agree with those who imagine that to stimulate manufactures by protective tariffs or a more extended field is the best way to encourage agriculture ; this we regard as reversing the order of nature. The true theory appears to us to be, to develop our agricultural resources, and these in their turn will give life and vigour to every other branch of industry and trade.

Before entering upon the consideration of this subject we wish to correct a false impression that seems to be entertained by some writers on the subject of free trade in manufactures. It is not, as they seem to suppose, that Canada might become manufacturers for the world, that we advocate this policy ; this we believe to be impossible in the present circumstances of the country. Our manufactures must be limited, both in the articles manufactured and the market in which they can be disposed of ; and it is on this account that we urge the adoption of reciprocity in manufactures with the adjoining States. While many kinds of light goods can be imported much lower than they can be produced here, there are many others which can be manufactured cheaper at home, and can scarcely be imported at all. Thus,