

and the rent of the land, there is, in this instance, a clear profit, exceeding the whole produce of an acre of the best wheat*."

In Lower Canada flax is raised, of which the inhabitants make coarse sheeting and sacking, and some seed is annually exported from thence to Great Britain and Ireland. Under the present circumstances of Europe, it appears not improbable that the cultivation of this plant may be successfully extended in the British colonies, not with a view to manufactures there, which certainly would not answer, but to supply Ireland with flax-seed for her manufactures. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the national advantages which will result from producing within the king's dominions hemp and flax, to such an extent as would nearly supply the whole demand of those articles for naval stores and manufactures, and also corn † and other grain, with timber sufficient for the general consumption of the empire; for though there may be a scarcity of oak timber in Great Britain, the oak of the colonies is little inferior to it, and is equal to foreign oak; besides there are many other species of timber which might be substituted in shipbuilding, and can be obtained in several of the other dependencies. It is, therefore, an object of importance to consider how these resources, which it is reasonable to conclude the British empire possesses within itself, are to be called forth with the speediest and greatest possible advantage to the state; consequently it becomes a fit subject for *immediate* consideration and inquiry; which it is to be regretted cannot be pursued with effect, whilst his Majesty's ministers are so systematically opposed in all their measures.

As the SEA

YOUR EMPIRE OWNS †, and from a thousand shores
Wafts all the pomp of life into your ports;
So with superior boon may your rich soil,
Exuberant, nature's blessings pour
O'er every land, the naked nations clothe,
And be *th'* *exhaustless granary* of a world! THOMPSON.

* Annals of Agriculture.

† See Dr. Johnson's thoughts on agriculture, wherein he says, "when Britain was subject to the Romans, she *annually* supplied them with great quantities of corn." The authority on which this fact is stated is most probably from Strabo. For a very interesting account of the Exports and Imports and Shipping of Great Britain from A. A. C. 55, to A. D. 449. see Henry's History of England, vol. 2. p. 195.

‡ See Waller's panegyric on Cromwell, 4to. p. 180, &c. and most of the other English poets, for many brilliant and happy allusions to the maritime preponderancy of Great Britain.