

but the blank looks of some, and the honest confession of others that they really did not know anything about the matter, would lead us to the conviction that if these sexual differences are known and recognised at all in England, it must be by very few, indeed. It may be that strawberry growers possess this knowledge; but, if so, they keep it remarkably secret, perhaps that they may reap the greater (supposed) advantage from its exclusive practice, although we can scarcely imagine this. We were ourselves as ignorant on this subject as the English public at large until we visited the town of Cincinnati, in the United States, and had the matter clearly explained to us by our highly esteemed friend, Robert Buchanan, the celebrated wine grower of Cincinnati—a gentleman who, together with Nicholas Longworth, has done so much real good for his country. In Mr. Buchanan's instructive little *brochure* on "grape culture" is included some very interesting letters, statements, and reports upon the culture of the strawberry plant; and as these afford most valuable information we shall briefly allude to them.

(To be continued.)

Canada as a Field for Flax Culture.

We take the following article from the *Northern Whig* of August 28th, a leading commercial paper published in Belfast, Ireland. The gentleman alluded to as visiting that country in connexion with the Canadian government is Mr. Donaldson, who has just returned home. Mr. Donaldson, we understand, is favourably impressed with regard to the profitability of flax growing in Canada, and as he intends visiting the approaching Provincial Show, to be held in London, he will doubtless have an opportunity of stating publicly his views on this important subject, which must soon more earnestly and generally occupy public attention.

The never ceasing energy of the Lancashire cotton-spinners has been the wonder of all nations at all able to comprehend the gigantic efforts they have made, year after year, for the larger supply of raw material. In their case neither time nor money has been spared for the accomplishment of the great object in view, and the result has been to bring into play an annually increasing amount of cotton wool, equal to the almost illimitable wants of the spindles.—Last year there were imported into the United Kingdom 12,419,000 cwt. of raw cotton, against 5,150,000 cwt. imported in 1840. Owing to the existing state of affairs in the different States of America, a decrease of supply may be looked for from thence; and to avert the con-

sequences of any material falling off, the Cotton Supply Association has been actively at work. Already the agents of that institution are busily engaged in Egypt and the West Indian Islands, while east of the Ganges there are hosts of influences engaged in extending the growth of the Oriental staple.

Some few weeks ago, an inquiring gentleman wrote to the London papers on the vital question of cotton supply, and in course of his observations he proposed a new mode of preparing flax fibre so as to cottonise it, and thus add to the supply of material for muslin goods. The plan was excellent in its way, and brimful of ingenuity; but, unfortunately for its practical application, the spindles of our own staple trade have only been partially supplied with flax for some years past; there is, consequently not a single pound of that article to spare from its legitimate source of consumption. To give effect to a plan of producing from flax a substance like cotton we must first have enough and to spare—result not likely to be realised for some years to come.

Merchants and other capitalists connected with the linen trade have been making great exertions, for years past, to bring about a more ample supply of raw material; but, to this day the effect of their exertions has only been partial, and still the cry of famine in the flax markets rings from Belfast to Dundee, and from Dufferin to Leeds. During the last forty years the value of raw cotton has so fallen in price that its manufacturers have been enabled to produce goods suited to the wants of all classes, and thus the use of muslin and calico as articles of clothing has become so general in nearly all parts of the world that steam power, acting on the spindle and loom, is taxed to the uttermost of its gigantic strength to meet the necessities of the millions of people of all nations and climates who clothe themselves with the products of the cotton plant. We have alluded to the vast production which has taken place in the cost of cotton wool since 1841, but from that date no such change has occurred in the value of flax; and hence the linen trade has lost all the advantage which would inevitably have resulted from a gradually downward figure in the price of raw material.

Within the last few days, we have had so much conversation with the highly-intelligent gentleman who, as the accredited agent of the Canadian Government, has been sent over to this country for the purpose of ascertaining the probabilities of success in an extended system of culture in Upper Canada. From all we have been able to ascertain on the subject, it seems to be no doubt that, by due energy on part of the Canadian, coupled with a fair prospect of remunerative prices here, the latter colony would soon produce very large quantities to our present supplies of flax. It is known to those acquainted with the agricul-