

honour to exercise marchandize: neither did they (in times past) repute the practise of lawe or physicke so commendable as now they doe. For their ancient endeavour was agriculture and feeding of cattell."

In the same book is laid down the order of precedence of persons following various occupations, as follows: "The first are husbandmen, whose endeavour is employed about the fruits of the earth. Secondly, artificers occupied in arts either necessary, honest or pleasing. Thirdly, victualers, retailers of wares, and chapmen." To which are added six more degrees in the descending social scale.

We may be permitted to express a regret that these opinions are so little prevalent in Canada, where no man seems disposed to engage in the honourable occupation of agriculture, if he can obtain any other employment.

Much the same as the social classification just mentioned is that which prevailed until quite recently in Japan, where many social customs were strikingly similar to those of medieval England. There, next to the nobility, were the Samurai or soldier class, and then manufacturers, husbandmen, artisans, merchants, in the order named. Commerce with other nations has had the effect of destroying the notion which regarded buying and selling as an occupation to be despised, and enables the prosperous merchant to find a place in a higher social grade.