

descendents of Irish immigrants. Flax culture, as we have said, is carried on there by several of the farmers, but the deficiency of means to prepare the straw for market, and the still greater drawback arising from the want of local consumption, have hitherto kept the growth down to the mere requirements of the seed trade.

In yesterday's *Whig* we noticed the arrival in town of some specimens of Canadian grown flax, brought over by Mr. Blaikie. These samples were yesterday exhibited to several of our local merchants and spinners, and a favorable opinion has been pronounced on their quality. On making particular enquiry into the matter, we have learned that Messrs. Blaikie & Alexander, of Toronto, had grown this season about two hundred acres of flax, on a farm at Norval, about thirty miles from Toronto. In the same district, those gentlemen have erected a scutch mill, on the best principle, for the purpose of giving future growers all possible facilities as to the preparation of flax for market. The samples exhibited in Belfast yesterday, were thus prepared. Owing to the great drought by which the upper section of Western Canada was visited in the early part of the season, the fibre of the flax is shorter and less silky than it would have been under more favorable circumstances; but, on the whole, the samples shown have been valued at 8s. to 10s. the 14 lb. stone. The yield of the Canadian soil is fully equal to that of the average of the North of Ireland, some of the finer lands producing six cwt., or about forty-two stones to the statute acre.

Hitherto the chief object of the Canadian farmer has been the growth of wheat. To that species of production he clings with something like superstitious feeling, and the result is that, when a backward season comes on him, he seems prostrated, as was the Celt of former days when the potato crop proved defective. It has, therefore, been considered by thinking men that the introduction of flax culture on a scale in some degree equal to the resources of the colony would be most advantageous, and, while it would diversify the enterprise of the colonial farmer, it would add to the productive power of the Province.

The organization of the Indian Flax Society leads to the hope of vast good being accomplished for the linen trade. This, however, will chiefly arise from the increased supplies of coarse fibre, an article now so much required in the production of the heavier description of goods. Canadian lands differing materially from those of the Punjab, promise to do some thing towards meeting the deficiencies felt in supplies of medium and finer ranges of flax; and if forty or fifty thousand acres were annually raised in British North America, and the great proportion shipped to this country, it would supply a growing want, without in the slightest degree interfering with the Asiatic product.

The requirements of the linen trade are, in fact, at present so large, and the prospective wants seem so extended, that, to meet the demands of spindles and power-looms, twice the existing average would not be sufficient. There are now great facilities for the transport of farm produce from Canada to Liverpool. Flax, purchased at the markets of Toronto or Montreal, would be shipped and conveyed from the St. Lawrence to the Mersey in the space of twelve days.

As the matter stands it is one of mere individual enterprise. If the farmers of Canada prepare a portion of land for flax-growing, and be able to produce a good article of fibre, there will be no lack of customers for it. Continental spinners will now be competing with those of Leeds, Belfast, and Dundee, for the purchase of certain qualities of flax, and the more extended the growth of all varieties of raw material, the more successful will be the enterprise of manufacturers.

Farm Implements and Machinery.

We copy the following excellent advice on this subject from the *Country Gentleman*:—

During the more leisure season of winter, farmers will find it advantageous to examine, repair and improve all their implements and machines. It is in these that agricultural progress has been most strikingly marked within the past twenty years; and the cultivator who does not keep pace with the improvements made is wasting a valuable element of success. There is less danger of imposition in this direction than in some others, for a year's use will establish the character of any machine. A knowledge of the principles of mechanism, added to the experience which every observing farmer should possess, will enable him, in most cases, to judge with a good deal of certainty beforehand on the value of a new invention.

There are two points that should always be kept before the farmer's eye when making any provision of this kind. The first is, simplicity of structure. A simple machine is cheaply bought, easily managed, not easily deranged, and quickly restored to repair. Other things being nearly equal, always buy the simplest machine. The crowbar is a fine illustration—simple, efficient, used by every one, valuable for many purposes, and never out of joint. The great difficulty in replacing the plow with any other cultivating machine is its great simplicity. Complex husking machines have all given place to the old-fashioned appliance of thumb and finger, armed, sometimes, with husking thimble or peg, but oftener without.

The greatest advantage derived from machinery is where the powerful muscles of horses are made to accomplish what before was done