

the soil which they cultivated and improved. This is the alpha and omega of national greatness.

FISHERIES.

But nature has done more. In the exuberance of her bounty she hath thrown into the lap of Nova Scotia all that can enrich her inhabitants. The Fisheries on her coast are among her sources of wealth, and were one of the chief inducements to her colonization. The early records of this Province, though egregiously incorrigent with regard to their statement of its agricultural resources, have made its internal importance to consist in that of an excellent fishing station. Its fishing grounds are unrivalled both in point of variety and the quantity of fish which they yield. The whole Province, surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic, is one continued line of fishing coast. The deep and shoal water line fishing is, or rather might be made, exceedingly profitable. The net and seine fishing on the shores might be made equally advantageous if protected from the overreaching efforts of our neighbours. The bays and rivers swarm with fish of the best quality. No public documents can possibly give a correct statement of the quantity of fish taken annually on our coast, from the fact that they are constantly exchanged in large quantities with American Traders for supplies, and never come to our market.— Besides, some of the large fishing establishments on the coast transport their own fish to the West Indies and other places where a market may be found. But however great the capabilities of our fishing grounds, they can afford but little profit to Nova Scotia so long as all the eastern States of the Union are permitted, either in their own vessels or in English bottoms, to sweep with nets and lines the whole coast. Hitherto our Legislators have strangely diverted the benefits of the fisheries away from the Province, by furnishing fishermen with the produce of the United States, instead of uniting their interests with those of the husbandman;—and farther, so small has been the protection of our fishing grounds, that the State of Massachusetts alone has frequently taken greater numbers of fish in our own waters during a season, than our Province has done. So soon as abuses like these shall have passed away, and the real interests of all parties of our countrymen be regarded in their true light, the Province will derive no small benefit from the fisheries, both for home consumption and exportation. These abuses cry aloud in the ears of Agriculturists and Fishermen, and should speedily pass away. How our sage Legislators could have so long succeeded in giving a side wind to a subject so closely connected with our best interests, is to us matter of astonishment. *Nova Scotia is capable of producing a supply of bread stuffs adequate to the wants of all her sons. Why then shall a bounty be given to encourage the importation of Flour from the neighbouring States which is perhaps in too many cases doubtfully applied.* The fisheries do not

need such crutches as this to sustain them.— All they require is the enactment of wholesome laws; the union of their interests with those of the Farmer; and entire protection from the aggressions of those who still evade our ineffectual laws in trespassing upon their rights.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

The Mines of Nova Scotia are another source of future prosperity, capable of affording employment and wages for thousands of the inhabitants. The Coal and Iron Mines of other countries are regarded as of exceedingly great importance: why then shall we disregard these inexhaustible sources of wealth in Nova Scotia? The answer is at hand. Like children playing with diamonds we know not their importance. The Coal Mines of Pictou, Cumberland, and numerous other places attach immense importance to this Province. After a century or two when the forests shall have passed away, coal will of necessity, become our chief if not only article of fuel. Its importance in this respect cannot be too highly appreciated.— As an article of export it is invaluable, and also as a means of enlarging our Provincial revenue, as well as being capable of affording profitable employment for thousands of our countrymen. These mines and quarries are also the grand basis of manufacturing establishments: railroads, locomotives, and almost all sorts of machinery. The iron mines of this Province are numerous and of good quality. In 1825 an association called the Annapolis Mining Company, was formed for the purpose of opening mines in Nictaux, and Annapolis—the result of their operations was, that a very superior quality of iron was obtained. Pictou also furnishes iron which is capable of being largely wrought. Indeed there are but few districts in the Province where iron ore is not found. This may appear a matter of small moment to an inactive people; and in point of fact these mines are absolutely useless and unproductive capital, so long as they continue unopened. But they cannot much longer remain unproductive—they must be opened—the march of improvement demands it. They are one of the greatest treasures any country can possess, both for internal improvement and exportation.— Iron is necessary for the establishment of railroads, and the fabrication of the multifarious sorts of machinery which are essential to the growth and prosperity of a country.— Copper also is found. To what extent it exists the future alone can determine. A mine was partially opened some years since in Cumberland by the General Mining Association of England, and afterwards abandoned. Another is at present being opened in Hammond's Plain by the same company. What the result may be, time alone can tell. One thing, however, is perfectly evident, that our Province is unrivalled in its mineral resources; and no doubt after generations will look back with astonishment at the strange indifference of their forefathers in matters of so great moment.—