

has in cotton. But no one knows what may now happen in Russia, and as linen fabrics have a recognized place in civilization which no other fibre can fill, it should be worth the while of our provincial Governments to go thoroughly into the question from the agricultural end.

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—The career of Samuel Marsden, referred to in this issue, is one of the many romances of the wool trade. His was peculiarly a romance of "real life." His object in going to Australia was to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people there, but it was at a time when the mass of Christians at home took little interest in missionary work. In fact, many clergymen publicly questioned the right or duty of Christians to convert the heathen; and some of the responsible members of the Imperial Parliament strongly opposed the opening of India to missionaries. Marsden's enterprise required uncommon courage, not only because it was opposed to popular opinion at the time, but because the hardships and hazards of such a voyage before the days of steamships were very great. He not only undertook it, but found friends in his native Yorkshire to support him with money and many prayers. Marsden sought to benefit the bodies with material comfort, as well as the souls, of the people to whom he went, and hence the trouble he took to introduce the merino sheep. But what incalculable results came from the effort! The climate of Australia and New Zealand was found to be ideally suited to the merino sheep, and the import of increasing quantities of this class of wool—the best the world has produced, except that of Saxony, which is small in amount—opened up a new era in woolen manufacturing in Great Britain. In this new development Yorkshire was advanced in a very special way, and that advance has gone on till the present day, when it may be said that woolen manufacturing is the only great staple industry in which Great Britain stands without serious rivals in the world's markets. Yorkshire is still the great centre, and it seems in a sense a legacy of this noble pioneer missionary. A student of the subject has said that it seems as if God had spoken to this effect to Marsden and his Yorkshire friends a century ago: "Because you have carried My name and My law to this end of the earth I will create a link forever between it and you. In your blessing of it I will bless you." And so it is, for even the gold mines of Australia have not equally the wealth-producing powers of the Australian sheep, while the woolen and allied industries of Yorkshire are the most potent and most promising of the Old Land. When we consider that all this is a secondary result—a by-product, as it were—of Marsden's work as a preacher of Christianity, we may wonder at this vindication of a righteous man's faith. The vindication is none the less amazing because it has come about so gradually and naturally, and has taken a century for its complete disclosure. If those who honestly doubted Marsden's work could rise from the dead and see what has developed in Great Britain and in Australia and New Zealand to-day, they would surely not join those who question the benefit of Christian missions to foreign lands.

## FLAX MANUFACTURING IN CANADA.

### Article III.

In our first article we traced briefly the history of flax and linen manufacturing in general, showing the great antiquity of flax as a material for fabrics, and explaining the conditions under which it grows. The second article gave an account of the development of flax manufacturing in Canada as a household industry under primitive conditions, and of later attempts to manufacture linen under the factory system.

In view of the efforts now being made to re-establish the industry in this country it will be useful to examine the conditions that exist to-day, and to caution those interested against the mistakes and misconceptions that led to the collapse of the industry at the close of the American Civil War.

As already shown, the paralysis of cotton growing during the struggle between the South and the North, which while it brought ruin to the cotton manufacturers of England, and starvation to the thousands of operatives, threw fortunes in the way of the linen manufacturers of the North of Ireland, and to a lesser extent to those of America. The prosperity, particularly in the last case, was short lived. The southern planters and their freed negroes were glad enough to get back to the cotton fields as soon as the war was over, and as the price of raw cotton dropped, so dropped the profit of the linen manufacturers. Those who had started linen mills in Canada, and the States, were not only unable to compete with the cheaper cotton goods of Lancashire and New England, but they could not hold their own against the superior skill of Irish and Continental workers, where it was a case of producing the finer fabric, in which linen had never been dethroned. George Stephen (now Lord Mount-Stephen) was quick enough to realize the position, and dropped the thousands he had invested in the linen mill at Preston, and stuck to the woolen business, the minutest conditions of which he knew. Elliott, his partner in the venture, is said by Mr. Peddler, to have lost \$100,000, and Hunt lost all he then had. They made table cloths, bagging and other coarse linens, and afterwards ran into twines and shoe threads. For the last named branch, they brought out a man from Scotland, who was experienced in this line, and was reputed to be a good judge of fibres, but he was of opinion that the fibre of Ontario was not of a quality good enough for shoe threads. Apart from the adverse turn of the market, it appears that some initial mistakes were made by Stephen, Hunt and Elliott in establishing their mill. To manage the mill, they brought over one Stephen Randall, (no relation of the family of Randalls who started the first worsted mill at Hespeler) from a cotton mill in Providence, R.I. Instead of getting flax machinery from Ireland or England, he put up cotton bagging looms and cotton carding and spinning machinery from the States, and it is needless to say that these were not precisely suited to the work. Some of these machines were thrown out and one stored in a barn which was struck by lightning and destroyed, the balance of the bagging looms were sold to the late Wm. Gooderham, whose linen mill was referred to in the last article, and who took Randall with him. A timely misfortune in the form of a fire closed the career of the Gooderhams as linen manufacturers, and that firm found in whiskey their consolation for losses in linen.

Now it must not be supposed—though some mistakes