

room, in crosses and ribands, as if they were going to the levee of the sovereign. The upper classes of society in all countries are said to be very much alike, and to show few of the peculiar distinctive differences which mark the national character in the middle and lower classes of each country. This is a mistake. The English gentleman, from the highest rank to the very lowest that assumes the appellation, is distinguished from the Continental gentleman by this peculiar trait of character—his dependence on himself for his social position, his self-esteem—call it pride, or call it a high-minded feeling of his own worth. There he stands, valuing himself upon something within himself, and not upon any outward testimonials of it conferred by others. This feeling goes very deep into society in England. \* \* \* While every third man is lounging about as in Prussia, and generally on the Continent, with his orders of merit of some kind or other—and many whose general merits would apparently be nothing the worse of the addition of a little industry to earn a new coat to stick their honours upon—the people, be their forms of government what they may, are but in a low social and industrial condition—are ages behind us in their social economy, and in their true social education as free agents and members of the community.

#### NATIONALE OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Human character also, in the large, is formed by human employment, and is only removable with it. The busy, active, industrious spirit of a population trained to quick work and energetic exertion of every power, in the competition of a manufacturing country, is an unchangeable moral element in its national prosperity, founded upon productive industry. Look at an Englishman at his work and at one of these Dutchmen, or at any other European man. It is no exaggeration to say, that one million of our working-men do more work in a twelvemonth, act more, think more, get through more, produce more, live more as active beings in this world, than any three millions in Europe, in the same space of time; and in this sense I hold it to be no vulgar exaggeration that the Englishman is equal to three or four of the men of any other country. Transplant these men to England; and under the same impulse to exertion and expeditious working habits, which quickens the English working-class, they also would exceed their countrymen at home in productiveness. It is not in the human animal, but in the circumstances in which he is placed, that this most important element of national prosperity, this general habit of quick, energetic, persevering activity, resides; and these circumstances, formed by nature, are not to be forced into any country, independently of natural agency, by mere dint of capital.

The essay on the Prussian military system is a very remarkable paper; though military observers are not so panegyric as Mr. Laing supposes them, but have noticed that the time of training is too short to form a cavalry or artillery soldier. In the economical and political views of the question, Mr. Laing is penetrating, novel, and profound. The economy of the system he questions, or rather denies: more wealth is lost to the community, by taking the young producers of a country, at the most critical period of their industrial life, and keeping them playing at soldiers for three years besides infecting their habits for ever, than would be paid to maintain a regular army forming a separate class.

On the political and physical views of the question Mr. Laing shall speak for himself.

#### THE PRUSSIAN ARMY DEFICIENT AS A POLITICAL POWER.

A Prussian army could be assembled for annual exercise and manœuvre on the frontier, for purposes of demonstration and even of occupation of adjoining parishes in Luxemburg; but, however brilliant, expert, and well-disciplined such an army might be, and however ready and eager to engage in actual warfare its officers and its men might be, it is obviously so constituted, that it cannot be freely used in the field by its Government as a political machine. The property, the industry, the intelligence, the influence of the country, are in its ranks—all that is valuable in a nation is in its ranks, and not merely a class given up to military service, as scapegoats for the rest of the community, and composed generally of the most isolated members in it, whose loss is simply the loss of soldiers. Here, the loss would be the loss of the owners or heirs of the property of the country—the loss of fathers, husbands, sons—of men on whom the interests and industry of the country hinges—of the most useful and influential classes in it; not of the unconnected only, of whom an ordinary standing army is composed. The loss by a victory would be greater to Prussia, in a political and economical view, than the loss by three defeats of ordinary troops. The affairs of society would be more deranged; more useful life would be destroyed. An army composed of such materials cannot be risked, unless on the rare occasions, as during the last war, when national existence and safety are visibly at stake. The loss even of time and labour to all the productive classes, the destruction of all manufacturing industry and enterprise, by calling out the army of reserve, composed, as it is, for actual service for a campaign or two, would be such a sacrifice of all social interests as only the most imminent danger could justify.

**THE GOOD MAN'S CONSOLATION.**—The *Portland Tribune* justly and beautifully exclaims:—"How often, has the malicious heart been stripped of its hideousness by a look of love that spoke more than volumes. If there are those among our acquaintance who are seeking our injury, what will sooner turn their alienated hearts, than acts of kindness to them? We know very well that it is hard to love those who are endeavouring to destroy our usefulness and blast our hopes of success; but we must remember the example of Him who on all occasions manifested no other spirit than that of kindness to those who bitterly persecuted him."

**FROZEN POTATOES.**—A writer in the *New England Farmer* states that potatoes that are frozen ever so hard, if taken in that state and immersed in water heated to the boiling point, provided they have not previously undergone the operation of freezing and thawing, are as good and palatable as if untouched by the frost.

**TEMPERANCE.**—The cause is advancing more rapidly than we have ever known it. Facts have come to our knowledge within a few days, of a most striking character. —*New York paper.*

It is estimated there will be ten millions of bushels less grain malted, in the United States this year, than in some years that are past.