

are those who rent from five to ten acres; the allotments to servants are from half-an-acre to two acres; and whilst the clear money profit of these small farmers has averaged double that of the large farmers, the small allotments have doubled upon the small farmers.

Mr. Colman, who has lately returned to the United States from a tour of observation upon European agriculture and rural economy, gives numberless instances where the single acre in the hands of a farm servant has produced, clear from all disbursements, £20 sterling, besides provisioning the labourer and his family! And Mr. Colman remarks upon the whole:—"We have," he says, "in the United States, beyond question, a large number of farmers who, if they would cultivate, to the utmost of its capacity, a small extent of land in the most thorough manner, would find themselves comparatively independent; whereas now, without capital, spending their deficient labour over a large surface, and doing nothing thoroughly, they lead a life of vexation, toil and disappointment, without any compensating result." Mr. Colman gives several instances in which the small farmers have grown from sixty to eighty bushels of wheat upon an acre; and the weight of potatoes and other roots is really incredible—from upwards of thirty to forty tons per acre.

But time demands that I should hasten on to the other parts of my subject. I shall therefore, in reference to the fecundity of wheat, conclude with an extract from an address delivered before the Erie County Agricultural Society, by Dr. Lee, an extensive practical farmer, and also a member of the legislature of the State of New York.

"You all know," he says, "that a single kernel of wheat will sometimes, when its fecundity is highly stimulated, send up twenty stalks, and that each stalk will bear a head containing one hundred kernels. Here is a yield of two thousand fold. Nature, then, has rendered it practicable to harvest two thousand bushels of good wheat from one bushel of seed. The most sceptical among you will not deny, that two thousand kernels have been produced from one kernel, and that the same natural causes that produce such a result in one instance, will ever operate at all times, under like circumstances in the same manner. Hence it is but reasonable to say that nature is quite as willing to produce fifty bushels of good wheat on an acre of ground every year—mark me—if *her laws be obeyed*, as she is to grow fifty bushels of weeds every year on the same ground."

A great part of Upper Canada is but now in a state of transition from a new to an old country; and it is not surprising that upon a virgin soil, our chief attention has been bestowed upon the growth of wheat; the culture of which having been attended with little trouble, comparatively, and less skill. Nor can it be wondered at that, when a whole people have for sixty-five years, as in this province, steadily followed in one track, some difficulty will be experienced in persuading them at once into the adoption of a new system. But, gentlemen, notwithstanding that old prejudices are great stumbling-blocks to improvements, the time has come, in my opinion, in which we must learn

something new. We must turn our attention to those productions which, hitherto, have been erroneously considered of little or no importance. And especially must we be convinced of this, now that that protection which we have hitherto enjoyed is withdrawn, and we are left to compete with the world. Nor is it probable that this boon will be restored to us, so long as the manufacturing interests of the mother country maintain that ascendancy over the agricultural interest, which, after a lapse of several ages, and after a struggle for mastery which is unparalleled in the history of any country, it has now attained. Agriculture and manufactures will work harmoniously together and with great advantage to each other, so long as the people have bread; but the moment that food fails, a struggle must ensue; and the issue of any such struggle cannot long remain doubtful. It is the struggle for bread against the wish for a garment; the one involves a matter of life and death—the other, merely a coat of finer or coarser texture.

Manufactories are not universal—the production of food is—those are local in their establishment and coeval and co-extensive only with pride and luxury, and therefore of no importance as compared with the production of food, which must ever be co-existent with the life of man. This must, therefore, ever stand at the head of all establishments; and especially of every country that would be a prosperous one. Whenever and wherever it is otherwise, there may be pride and luxury, but not peace and contentment—riches, but not prosperity. One cannot help seeing that wealth, and prosperity are not always co-incident; that wealth is not, therefore, the infallible index of prosperity. In many cases—and it must be so in all countries in which their agricultural interests are secondary to those of their manufacturing—the extraordinary accumulations of wealth on one side are followed by a corresponding depression on the other; while the rich are made richer, the poor are made poorer. In the richest communities the price of labour is always the most depressed; and with the increase of manufactories—where they are carried to a luxurious extent—the desire of indulgence is quickened in all classes.

My opinion, therefore, is, that whilst manufactories are injurious to any country in which they obtain a predominance, they are indispensable to the prosperity of every civilized country, in which they are not permitted to exceed those bounds which involve the necessity of looking to foreign countries for food.

I have stated, that we must in the article of wheat now compete with the whole world. The question is, can we do so, either in the United States or Canada? I fearlessly answer, *we cannot*. No man need tell me that the wheat-grower, in any part of the American continent—whose cost for labour, including provisions, amounts at least to eight times as much as it does, on an average, in Europe, a great part of which is even better adapted, as it respects both soil and climate, to the growth of this plant; and who is, moreover, obliged to pay double the freight and insurance for the transport of his produce—can compete, in