

there can be no doubt, that if measures are now adopted to secure the *home* market to the growers of them for a reasonable period, such extended cultivation and improved management will take place as will render Great Britain in a very few years independent of foreign countries for these raw materials of her manufactures*.

Early in the present reign the attention of the legislature was *again* directed to this subject, and by the 4th Geo. 3. c. 26. which states, "that the encouragement of hemp and rough "and undressed flax from his Majesty's colonies and plantations in America, would be the means of furnishing this "kingdom with sail cloth and cordage (so essentially necessary for the supply of his Majesty's royal navy, as well as "for ships in the merchants' service), and tend to make the "supply of such materials cheaper and less precarious;" it was enacted, that from and after the 24th June, 1764, until the 24th June, 1788, certain bounties should be paid on the importation of hemp, water rotted, bright and clean, or any rougher and undressed flax into GREAT BRITAIN from the British colonies in America, in ships navigated according to law, and the same was continued by the 26th Geo. 3. c. 53. s. 12. to the 24th June, 1806, and from thence by the 46th Geo. 3. c. 29. s. 4. to the 25th March, 1808.

Within the last two years proper persons have been appointed by government to superintend and aid the exertions of the colonists who might be induced to cultivate this article in Canada; but the encouragement hitherto afforded has not been considered adequate, or likely to induce the generality of landholders to engage extensively in the cultivation of hemp. It has unfortunately happened that of the hemp seed

and the manufacture of cordage there. These two acts were continued by the 33d Hen. 8. c. 17 for a limited period; and by the 2d sect. of this act, it was enacted that hemp or flax should not be watered in any river, stream, or pond, where beasts were used to be watered, but only in the grounds or pits for the same ordained, on pain of forfeiture as therein mentioned. These two acts having expired, the 24th Hen. 8. c. 6. was revived and altered, by the 5th Eliz. c. 5. s. 29. which enacted, that instead of one rood, as therein mentioned, one whole acre or less, as by proclamation should be limited, should be sown with linseed, otherwise flax seed, or hemp; but these statutes were afterwards repealed by the 35th Eliz. c. 7. s. 21. The other acts on this subject are the 15th Chas. 2. c. 15.—2d W. and M. sess. 2. c. 4. s. 31, 32.—4th W. and M. c. 3.—7th and 8th W. 3. c. 39.—11th and 12th W. 3. c. 16.—1st Ann. stat. 2. c. 8.—Ibid. c. 18.—3d and 4th Ann. c. 10.—8th Geo. 1. c. 12.—4th Geo. 2. c. 27.—22d Geo. 2. c. 7, and those mentioned in the text.

* Sir F. M. Eden, on Maritime Rights.