

or a fireman's duty. He may choose between them, but there is no escape from one or the other. There is no remuneration for either of the duties: of the two, military duty is decidedly preferable; and these, with other minor inconveniences, may be endured for the slight taxation which is the consequence. The right of free citizenship also introduces the foreigner to the power of serving on juries, standing for constable, &c.; but service in either of the compulsory cases of fire or military duty constitutes exemption, if he chooses to avail himself of it.

"There is another great advantage, likewise, the parent has in the United States, which ought not to be overlooked. This consists in the privilege of sending his children of either sex, and however numerous, after the age of seven years, to the 'Public Schools,' where they are fully instructed in the ordinary branches of education, wholly free of expense.

"These schools are common to all parts of the United States; but in the state of New York they abound, particularly in all the large cities, which are usually divided into a suitable number of districts, in each of which a school-house is erected. In the state of New York alone there are upwards of ten thousand of these free schools, including those for the coloured population, which are perfectly distinct, giving instruction to five hundred thousand scholars, at the annual expense of 1,500,000 dollars. They are all subject to the legislative jurisdiction of each individual state, which differ very little from one another in their management of them; are supported from many sources, such as by grant from each several state, by local funds, voluntary contributions, and by taxation levied upon the property of the people. The buildings for these public schools are, in most cases, erected for the special purpose; all upon the same plan—lofty, capacious, light, and airy, constantly kept clean, and altogether possessing immense advantages in these respects over the ordinary schools in common dwelling-houses.

"These schools are subject to the periodical visits of commissioned superintendents, who examine into the proper fitness of everything belonging to them, and particularly into the proficiency of the scholars. Nothing, in short, is omitted that will tend to their comfort and convenience, or facilitate their progress; and the progress of children, under such favourable circumstances, is a thing which may be fairly calculated upon. Attached to many of these schools, there is evening instruction for youth who may require it, but whose time may be occupied by daily labour."

The late Mr. Cobbet, in his "Emigrant's Guide," thus sums up the reasons which make emigration to the United States preferable to any other country:

"There is no other country, except English colonies, in which the English language is spoken, and in which the habits and manners are the same. This is one great thing; but there is no other country in which there is a superabundance of good lands, and in which an increase of the population must necessarily be an advantage to the country. There is no other country where there is any room for numerous strangers; and besides all these, there is no other country where the people have to pay so small a portion of taxes, and where kind and generous neighbours are to be found in abundance. To all these advantages, add that of perfect civil and political liberty, and that, as to religion, the law knows nothing at all about it."

FIELDS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

The celebrated writer we have just quoted, says, "There is no other country in which there is such a superabundance of good lands." The facts by which the assertion is supported are so well known as to obviate the necessity for detailed proofs. As a mere specimen, however, of the capabilities of the states in this respect, we offer the following sketch, from Matthews' "Emigration Fields," of *The Mississippi Basin*.—"This vast extent of very fertile territory, in which rivers, navigable for three thousand miles upward from the ocean, hold their course, extends from the Lake of Canada on the north, to the Gulf