

is a good practical work. We shall return to this subject in our next.

The suggestion of our correspondent, "Canadian," shall be attended to in our next number. The subject is one of too much importance to the country to be neglected by us.

The prosperous state of agriculture in Scotland, and the extraordinary improvement of the lands in that country, has been attributed chiefly to the Scotch system of banking, affording easy and constant accommodation to any parties able to find security by what are called "*cash credits*," being the only banking accommodation suitable for the agriculturist. The following letter, which we copy from the Dublin Farmers' Gazette, we conceive to be as applicable to the situation and circumstances of Canadian farmers as to those of Ireland. In Canada, where farmers are generally proprietors of the soil, we think the Scotch system of banking would be a safe and exceedingly beneficial mode of accommodation, and would be productive of immense improvement in agriculture, as capital is an essential requisite in a perfect system of husbandry:—

SIR,—There is no question of more vital importance to the citizens of Dublin and to society at large, than that of obtaining proper banking accommodation, and yet by a strange fatality, there is no question which has been more completely overlooked, both by the press and the public, although the want of proper banking accommodation is one of the main causes which hurries us on each year nearer and more near to utter bankruptcy and ruin.

Why is this so? Why is the press thus silent on a question of such vital importance to the public welfare? Why are our merchants, our manufacturers, our traders, and all those whose livelihood depends upon the industrial prosperity of our country—why are all these thus silent on a subject which so nearly concerns them, when each year which passes shows more clearly the fruit of that silence in the decay of our trade, manufactures and commerce, and in the expatriation from our shores of such large numbers of skilled artisans, who, for want of encouragement in their native land, are driven to seek elsewhere that employment which it is in vain for them to expect in Ireland.

This should not be so, and I respectfully submit it is the imperative duty of the press to concentrate public attention on the consideration of this most vital question.

Of what use is it to fill your columns with exquisitely written dissertations on the vast undeveloped resources of this country? To tell us of our mines, our minerals, our immense water-power, flowing uselessly away, of the exhaustless riches of our deep sea fisheries, or of the extraordinary fertility of our soil, if properly cultivated?

To what purpose tell all this, except to add an additional pang to those we already writhe under, by tantalizing our gaze with the sight of riches we may not enjoy, unless you will, at the same time, show us how we are to avail ourselves of those blessings which a bounteous Providence has lavished on our country.

That Ireland is poor, and that poverty begets poverty, cannot be denied. It is also certain that each year which is allowed to pass without some proper and well-combined steps being taken to arrest the torrent which now threatens to overwhelm us in one common ruin, but adds to our difficulty in recovering our last position?

It will be asked, what can a country, situated as Ireland now is, do towards developing her vast resources? At present she cannot command the necessary amount of capital, and capital is absolutely necessary. True, she could offer ample security for a thousand times the necessary amount, but where shall she turn to make that security available? And echo answers, where?

I will, however, venture to make a suggestion. I will point to Scotland, and ask you to look at her as she appeared 150 years ago. She then, as Ireland is now, was poor and unhappy, comparatively speaking, without commerce or manufactures; her ports empty of shipping, and her sterile soil, rendering but a scanty return to the labours of the husbandman; and what is she now? Her towns filled with manufactories and her ports crowded with shipping; her land, too, once so sterile, is now the very garden of the world.

What has wrought this magic change? Shall I tell you? It is her admirable, her most equitable system of banking accommodation: a system which has stood the test of 144 years; a system which is alike remarkable for its soundness, for the security it offers to depositors, and profit to its shareholders, as well as for its extraordinary liberality; a system which makes no difference between rich and poor, high or low, the wealthy merchant and the humble retailer; but offers to all who can in ANY WAY secure the bank against loss, the advantages of its friendly assistance.

It was and is this system which, in giving to Scotchmen the means of developing the resources of their country, has enabled them to make Scotland what she now is.

*It would be but a cruel mockery were I to ask*