

Being requested last spring by several gentlemen in Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk, and Scotland, to favour them with such instructions on the cultivation of the plant as I should recommend, I had much pleasure in answering their communications; and I have still more in stating the result of their experiments. I have now before me samples of their flax, that is so like, in color and quality, to the best Flemish, Dutch, and Courtrai, that it would puzzle the most experienced spinner to tell but that it is foreign flax; and it is well worth from £80 to £120 per ton. Added to this, some of the growers—among others Mr. Warnes, of Trimmingham—assured me they had nearly 70 stone of flax, and from 29 to 32 bushels of seed to the acre.

Aware that theoretical observations can never entirely obliterate prejudice, I will place before those interested in the well-doing of the farmers of this kingdom, facts and experiments which I hope will be sufficient to raise the curtain that has so long covered the stage of the great agricultural theatre of Europe, and concealed from the eyes of the British farmers the profits of flax-growing derived by their Continental agricultural neighbors, from whom England derives scarcely any benefit; although it appears from the "Irish Farmers' Journal," these people have been draining annually from us between 10 and 12 millions sterling for flax, oil-cake, and flax-seed; and it appears, by the Parliamentary returns up to the 5th Jan., 1844, that this sum, drawn by our Continental friends, is very little short of the whole value of our exportation of manufactured cotton goods to all parts of the globe, (£16,249,268.) By the same returns I observe that the whole amount of our exports in linen and yarns was £3,603,079, so that it follows we consume the agricultural produce of Belgium, &c., to the amount of from 7 to 9 millions sterling annually, and this sum may and ought to be kept in this country, if landholders and farmers will but study their own interest. I would just say to the calculating farmer, consider the population of Great Britain 18,300,000; deduct the inhabitants of cities, towns, and villages, who are merchants, manufacturers, and trades-people, then, on seeing what number you may allow to be farmers, ask yourself how much of this 12 millions your own share may be, and do not forget the example you have before you in the north of Ireland, where flax-spinners declare that some of them who have paid £40,000 per annum to the French, Dutch, and Russians, for flax, now distribute those large sums annually amongst the farmers in their immediate district.

I would also call attention to the following:—An Irish gentleman, Mr. Cassidy, of Glenbrook, Magherafelt, in writing on the 26th ult., to the Secretary of the Belfast Flax Society says, "I have read with pleasure and much interest the discussion on the flax question in the 'Farmers' Journal,' and I must say the opponents of flax do it most gross injustice; for instance, in 1843 I got £145 for flax grown on barely 6 Irish acres

(or say 8 English,) and I calculate, after making a liberal allowance for expenses, I had £100, or more than £16 per acre clear profit by selling the flax at 8s. to 8s. 6d. per stone in Cookstown;" then he adds, "this year I saved some seed of the flax on the Courtrai system" (before this period he did not do so, the seed was as usual lost in the watering;) "on applying it I find the seed excellent and nutritive food for milk cows, pigs, and horses; and to this kind of food we attribute the remarkable sleekness of animals feeding on it, and we observe that the milk of the cows improved, both in quality and quantity, immediately after we commenced giving them the boole."

Now, as this gentleman states that he had without the seed (for it appears he followed in 1843 the old system,) a clear profit on the

Flax-grown on eight English acres	£100 0 0
We must add to this what seed he should have had according to the Norfolk farmers' calculation, 29 bushels to the acre, or 232 bushels, at 6s. 3d. per bushel.	72 10 0

£172 10 0

Therefore, had he saved the seed, even working the flax on the old system, he would had a clear profit of £21 11s. 3d. per acre, whereas, had he managed the whole crop on the improved method, he would have got more than 8s. or 8s. 6d. per stone for the flax; in all probability, 10s. or 12s. It is a well-known fact, that any uneducated ploughman can sow and reap of an acre of good land from 20 to 25 cwt. of wheat or barley, and obtain the highest price in the market. In this case the land gives the quality and does all, after the seed leaves the hand that sows it; but in flax-growing the land produces the bulk, and skill and hand-management gives quality; therefore the cultivation of such a crop is certain to give pleasure and profit to a skilful practical farmer.

Having read with pleasure the letter following mine, in page 247 of the *Chronicle*, and agreeing as I do with the writer's views, and with every syllable he makes use of respecting the neglected portion of Ireland, and comparing those parts with the northern province, which is attended to by considerate landlords, such men as the late and much-lamented Marquis of Downshire, and knowing as I do the good results from the landholders in that quarter, taking up the subject of flax cultivation, and interesting themselves in everything calculated to benefit their tenantry, I must borrow a few words from your correspondent and ask, how can it be that the newspapers are daily filled with advertisements of railway companies, joint stock companies, and many other uncertain speculations, patronised, as would appear from the prospectuses, by noblemen and other landed proprietors, yet not one company has yet started in this country to grow, or encourage the growth of flax, an article that is consumed in such quantities, and of such vast importance to the landed