

chinish's trade and allow him to pass the first years of his novitiate in carefully sweeping the floors, bringing water for the men, holding lamps for certain celebrated workmen; and he who should attain to the honor of fetching the foreman's rule or his chalk, or of cutting bolts in a vise with a pair of stocks and dies, was thought to be on the high road to distinction. Happily, these abuses are abolished. It never occurred to the worthy employers that they were not only imposing upon the confidence of those persons whose sons were committed to their care, but that they were also throwing away money, by allowing active and intelligent youths, who were desirous of distinguishing themselves, to fritter away their energy in menial occupations.

The national shrewdness has been the great leaven of reform in this particular. The systems in vogue now are to forward young men as fast as possible; and if they have any special fitness for their professions, to find it out as quickly as may be and turn it to account. The lathe has supplanted the broom, the stocks and dies have been deposed by machinery for the purpose, and the consequence is, the production of a higher and more intelligent class of workmen. Witness, in proof of this latter assertion, the new machines; examine the order and method in regulating workshops as compared with the ruinous slovenliness once practised.

From the new men, as we may call them, come all the improvements. They have seen the requirements of the work and have executed them. They have discovered that iron might do the work of muscle, and have applied it to that duty; and the results have been apparent not only in a pecuniary point of view, but also in a social view, the boundaries of which no man can set. Take, for instance, the

sewing machine—without the mechanical system instituted it would be impossible to make them except at such a cost as would forever debar their general use; or the rifle—which could the North have done when disarmed, without those wondrous private armories which reproduced, as if by a stroke of magic, the thousands upon thousands of weapons which were indispensable to the prosecution of war? Simply, nothing. What other arguments are necessary to demonstrate the value of the new regime?

Once, when a cylinder of a steam engine required to be re-bored there were many and profound cogitations. The factory was stopped, hands were thrown out of employment for days even weeks, according to the size of the cylinder, and much tackling, and large forces of men were brought into requisition to take the machinery apart and truck it to the workshop. Now, three men bring a light machine on a cart, fasten it to the cylinder flange and bed-plate, and do in a few hours what formerly required days to accomplish.

We might go on and multiply instances without number which would demonstrate beyond peradventure, how much better the new days and systems are than the old—how far superior, in every way, they are to those crude and awkward attempts which characterized the early history of the mechanic arts in every country. Where the limit to their progression will be fixed is something impossible to predict. As new obstacles arise they will be surmounted; as fast as mechanical riddles are proposed they will be solved, until all the menial offices and drudgery of life will be performed by the mutes who now slumber in the earth. They await only the fashioning hand and vital genius of the mechanic and inventor to fall to work.

## COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

### CROPS IN EUROPE.

All the intelligence recently received in regard to the crops is favorable. The *European Times* says that from all parts of the United Kingdom—east, west, north, and south—the crop accounts are most encouraging; and in the south of England the harvest has been unusually early, as well as productive. The cereal and the potato crops are all good, and from Ireland the most cheerful accounts come. Nevertheless it would hardly be safe to assume that it will not be necessary to import pretty largely from America.

### CROPS IN CANADA.

The accounts which we continue to receive respecting the crops throughout Canada and the United States are most

cheering. An abundant harvest is secured everywhere, and the farmer will this year realize his most sanguine expectations. Prices have a downward tendency, as will be noticed by the annexed quotations:

Potash, per cwt.,	.....	\$6.10 to 6.15
Pearlash, "	.....	6.85 to 6.90
Flour, Fine, per 196 lbs.,	.....	4.00 to 4.10
No. 2 Superfine,	.....	4.20 to 4.25
No. 1 "	.....	4.30 to 4.40
Fancy "	.....	4.50 to 4.70
Extra "	.....	5.20 to 5.30
S. Extra Superfine	.....	0.00 to 0.00
Wheat, U. C. White, per 60 lbs.,	..	\$0.90 to 1.02
" U. C. Red, "	..	0.90 to 0.91
Peas, per 66 lbs.,	.....	0.70 to 0.71
Indian Corn, per 56 lbs.,	.....	0.55 to 0.56
Barley, per 50 lbs.,	.....	0.80 to 0.85
Oats, per 40 lbs.,	.....	0.47 to 0.50
Butter, per lb.,	.....	0.15 to 0.16
Cheese, per lb.,	.....	0.08 to 0.08½