

linen factories at Belfast, Ireland; to the machine shops and cotton factories at Greenock and Glasgow, in Scotland; to a large woollen factory at Leeds; to several of the machine shops and cotton mills at Manchester; to a lace factory at Derby; and to the shops at Sheffield and Birmingham. All the processes in the several manufactories were shown to me, and all my inquiries were answered without reserve and to my entire satisfaction. The rate of wages paid to the operatives and the cost of production were of course points which I could not overlook. I was uniformly attended by the proprietor or manager of the factory, and the information received was immediately noted on my memorandum book, from which I take the following particulars regarding wages:

The operative in all cases boards himself out of the wages paid.

In the linen mill at Belfast, wages from 11d. to 13d. per day; average 6s. a week; equal to \$1 44.

In the cotton mills which I visited at Greenock and Glasgow, in Scotland, wages ranged from 4s. to 8s. 6d. sterling a week; average not over 7s. 6d.; equal to \$1 80.

In the large woollen mill at Leeds, wages ranged from 6s. to 10s. sterling a week; average not over 9s.; equal to \$2 16.

In the two best cotton factories I visited at Manchester, one of them spinning fine lace-thread from No. 200 to No. 400, and the other spinning No. 40 mule-twist, the average wages paid to men, women, and

children, as given me by the proprietors, was 12s. a week; equal to \$2 88. At the same time the proprietors informed me that their rate of wages was considerably above the general rate; and, in accordance with this statement, I found in these two mills much the best clothed and best looking sets of operatives I saw in any factories in Great Britain.

As another test of the cost of labour, I ascertained from the proprietors themselves, who, in some instances, submitted to my inspection their private weekly minutes of cost, that No. 40 mule-twist was produced and packed for market at a cost of 2d. per pound on labour. And this embraced mechanics and all other labour employed about the establishments.

Skilled labour is also much cheaper in Manchester than in Lowell. In one mill much larger than the new mill of the Merrimac Company, I was informed that the head overlooker, having a general superintendance of the whole mill, received £3 a week, equal to 240 a day; and the overseers of particular rooms from 27s. to 30s. a week, equal to \$0 08 and \$1 20 per day.

My general conclusion was that labour in the cotton manufactories in Manchester was at least thirty-three per cent, and in the woollen at Leeds at least fifty per cent cheaper than similar labour, at the same time, at Lowell.

Very respectfully,
JOHN AIKEN.

MARKET PRICES.

| | TORONTO, February 28. | | | | MONTREAL, February 28. | | | | NEW-YORK, February 24. | | | | LIVERPOOL, February 10. | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----|----|----|---------------------------|----|----|----|---------------------------|----|----|----|----------------------------|---------|----|----|----|---|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | | |
| Flour . . . | 196lbs. | 17 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 24 | 6 | 24 | 9 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 4 | St'g. | 26 | 0 | 27 | 6 |
| Wheat . . . | 60lbs. | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 | | | 5 | 7 | 5 | 9 | | | 70lbs. | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Oats . . . | 34lbs. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 | | | 65lbs. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rye . . . | 56lbs. | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Barley . . . | 4lbs. | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | | | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | | | per qr. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Corn . . . | 156lbs. | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | per qr. | 29 | 6 | 32 | 0 |
| Peas . . . | 60lbs. | 1 | 6 | 1 | 10½ | | | 3 | 8 | | | | | per qr. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pork, mess . | barrel. | | | | | 75 | 0 | 50 | 9 | 55 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| " prime . . | " | | | | | 41 | 3 | 49 | 4 | 50 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| " fresh . . | 100lbs. | 17 | 6 | 22 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 28 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef, mess . | barrel. | | | | | | | 57 | 6 | 62 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| " fresh . . | 100lbs. | 12 | 6 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 27 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| Hams . . . | 1lb. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 | | | 0 | 3½ | 0 | 5½ | | | | | | | |
| Bacon . . . | 1lb. | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | | | 0 | 4½ | 0 | 5½ | | | | | | | |
| Cheese . . . | 1lb. | 0 | 3½ | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 7½ | 0 | 4½ | | | | | | | |
| Butter . . . | 1lb. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 11 | | | | | |
| Potatos . . | bushel. | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood . . . | cord. | 10 | 0 | 12 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pot Ashes . | barrel. | | | | | 27 | 6 | 32 | 2 | 35 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Hay . . . | ton. | 50 | 0 | 65 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NOTE.—The quotations are upon wheat and kinds of grain is fixed at 1s. per quarter on wheat and kinds of grain, &c. per barrel on flour Indian meal; and quotations are paid.