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LECTURES

Delivered by the Chief Superintendent of Schools in the several Districts of Upper Canada during his official tour, September to December, 1847.

LECTURE II.—THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO A MANUFACTURING, AND A FREE PEOPLE.

I have addressed you on "*The Importance of Education to an Agricultural People*"—the intimate connexion between the education and prosperity of an agricultural country; it yet remains to illustrate the connexion between the education of a country and the advancement of its manufactures and trades, and also between the education of a free people and their civil government.

On the former of these topics I have anticipated much that might be said in my remarks on the mechanics of agriculture; and I must restrict myself to a single paragraph in giving a summary of what I would wish, under other circumstances, to say on a subject so extensive and important. The mechanic arts are the medium of the power of mind over matter, and the vital principle of modern civilized society; the grand instrument by which man makes the great store-house of nature minister to his wants, tastes, and pleasures, and the chain which binds different classes of society, and even nations and continents into the mutual dependence, friendship and intimacy of a common brotherhood. To the arts of mechanism we are indebted for the habitations which we occupy, the clothes which we wear, the greater part of the food that we eat, and the beverages that we drink, together with the books that we read, the sculpture and paintings which we behold, and the social intercourse, civilization and refinement which grow out of these endlessly diversified branches of human industry, genius and enterprise. They involve the development of the resources and laws of nature for the benefit and happiness of man; and, in proportion to our education in a knowledge of these resources and laws will, be our power to render them subservient to our interests and wishes. It is thus that human power is multiplied hundreds of times in the most common and essential departments of manufacturing industry. Mr. Baines, in his *History of Cotton Manufactures*, says, that the spinning machinery of Great Britain, tended by one hundred and fifty thousand men,