

name of Sparta glorious through all time. History and experience alike prove the truth of the assertion, that a country's rise and prosperity depend not so much upon its own resources and natural endowments, as upon the character and efforts of its inhabitants.

We have been led into this train of thought and observation, from reflecting upon the present condition of affairs in our own province—Nova Scotia. We wished on the establishment of this Magazine, not alone to create and foster a taste for native literature, but also aimed at elevating and improving the general position of the country, by enlisting as contributors to its pages, those who had the well-being of the Colonies at heart, and whose opportunities and abilities would lead them to advocate and urge such measures as might tend to promote our welfare, and to enlist the public sympathy, in that which should be common cause—native prosperity! We regret, that, but a partial response has been made to our aspirations, and that nearly a year has passed since the establishment of 'THE PROVINCIAL,' while the apathy manifested by those of literary ability among us with regard to the agricultural, fishing, commercial and manufacturing interests, continues as before. We would now once more earnestly call attention to a matter demanding by its importance, the energies and aid of all. Those possessing ability and information necessary to the task, have too long allowed these subjects to remain unnoticed, and we now invite every Nova Scotian, able to aid the work by his pen, (and we have numbers who can do this) to the advocacy of such undertakings as will prevent our province from retrograding, and tend to keep our people at home. The pages of 'The Provincial' are open to promote this object, and we shall be glad indeed to receive the contributions of any who will meet our call in the right spirit, and strive with us to advance the welfare of our country.

When we look round upon the fair land which is our birth-place, and mark its many resources and facilities for agricultural and mercantile success, we cannot but ask how it is that elsewhere—in parts that were wilderness and unknown, while ours was in possession of all the advantages of civilization and improvement—are now flourishing cities, giving homes and employment to thousands of the industrious but superabundant population of Europe, astonishing the stranger by their magnificence and wealth, while we stand much as we did then, with undeveloped resources, and without progression in prosperity and importance.

Nova Scotia is undeniably rich in internal advantages. Her soil though not generally equal to some parts of the adjoining republic, in fertility, is still most prolific in its returns to the husbandman, where industry and skill have been properly applied; while some portion of the province is, indeed, unsurpassed in an agricultural point of view. The farmer, if resolved to prosecute his calling with diligence and care, may realize a competence, and bequeath a valuable property to his children. No one department of labour in Nova