

ers, the conformation of whose plantations renders them liable to this kind of winter exposure, to spread over the surface, particularly on and around the hills, a slight covering of rough dung, or any kind of litter or straw, before winter sets in. Indeed this would be an equally good precaution for wheat, as far as it is practicable. A slight covering even, of a non-conducting substance, will frequently prove an effectual preserver of vegetable life under very rigorous skies, and by its gradual decomposition will become converted into food for the plant. The destruction of crops by "winter killing," as it is called, sometimes occurs to a very serious extent. In the county before mentioned, we saw hundreds of acres of winter wheat that had been quite destroyed, and the blanks filled up with spring crops. In the case of hops, the vacant hills had to be replanted, producing no fruit of any consequence the present year, and not a full crop even the next; the loss therefore being very great. From the peculiar character of the present summer, we should expect the hop-crop in Canada will prove short, and not of the finest quality; and the latest accounts we have received from England, represent hops as being seriously injured by the attacks of aphides, which in that country sometimes produce a total blight. Prices, therefore, will probably rule high.

THE CULTIVATION AND PREPARATION OF FLAX.

The subject of an extension of flax culture is now receiving the closest attention not only in Ireland, but in many parts of England and Scotland. It appears that the demand for linen manufactures is rapidly extending, while the supply of cotton, at least from the United States, would seem to have reached its maximum, and will probably fall, before long, very short of the actual requirements of the manufacturer. Public attention is now being turned to flax, not as a substitute, but rather as an *auxiliary*, to cotton; and should the experiments now being made in England on a rather extensive scale, in working up the flax fibre upon the ordinary machinery used for cotton, woollen or silk, prove generally

successful,—and of this there is, so far, every reason to hope,—the most important advantages both to agriculture and manufactures, may be confidently anticipated.

That the soil and climate of many parts of Canada are well suited to the growth of flax admits not of a reasonable doubt; the chief impediments, that have hitherto operated in this country—and also, it would appear,—although in a less degree, in the British Islands, to an extensive cultivation of this valuable article have been the difficulty of preparing the fibre and the want of a constant market, at a remunerating price. These objections however seem likely to be speedily removed, by the adoption of improved processes and new and cheaper machinery in the preparation of the fibre; and a progressively increasing demand for its manufactured products, in various parts of the world.

We agree with a correspondent in another column, whose opinion on matters of this kind is entitled to every attention and respect, that this is a subject which legitimately falls within the province of our newly appointed Board of Agriculture; and we have no doubt but that body will give the matter early and proper attention. *The Canada Company*, with their wonted discriminating liberality, have announced two premiums for 1852, in connection with the Provincial Agricultural Association; one for *Flax* and the other for *Hemp*; and we have no doubt but the Association will second this patriotic effort. The Company's munificent prize for wheat, during the last four years, has produced already a marked improvement in this important grain; a production in which Upper Canada stands unrivalled on the American continent. May we not therefore reasonably expect that by the employment of similar means, like beneficial results may be obtained in regard to flax and hemp?

We have made these few introductory observations with a view of bringing before our readers, in this and succeeding numbers, some extended extracts from an interesting pamphlet, recently published in England, by the Chevalier Claussen, who by his mechanical ingenuity and indomitable perseverance has already introduced