

was \$1,500,000." Mr. Kirkwood (from the Parliamentary returns) computed that in 1853, Great Britain imported 70,113 tons of flax valued at £60 per ton, or £4,206,780; and if we add to this the quantity that year produced by Ireland (about 40,000 tons), at the same rate, £2,400,000, would make a total of \$34,000,000 and upwards in one year. Mr. Kirkwood gave, in his report made in 1854, a detailed account of the estimated quantities of flax then produced in one year in Russia, Austria, the Zollverein States, France, Holland, Great Britain and Ireland, Egypt, Belgium, Scandinavia, Spain, Portugal, the Italian States, Turkey, and North America, in the whole amounting to 452,000 tons, valued at £60 per ton, or a total of £27,000,000 stg.; and computed that it would occupy 1,800,000 acres to produce that quantity.

In the year 1859, the total exports of flax seed from Belgium, France, Ireland, Rotterdam, Lubeck, Stetten and Russia, is estimated at about 11,000,000 bushels.

In 1861 there were in Great Britain and Ireland nearly six thousand factories, employing directly and indirectly 4,568,082 persons, or 6 per cent. of the population, in manufactures of cotton, wool, worsted, flax and silk; and of these there were employed in the manufacture of flax 417 factories of 18,322 horse-power, driving 1,288,043 spindles and 7,689 power looms, employing 80,264 persons directly, and estimated to be the means of supporting upwards of 300,000.

Many years ago it was thought that in the United Kingdom there was a capital of \$500,000,000 embarked in the various branches of flax, cotton, wool, and silk manufactures.

In the factories of Dunbar, McMaster & Co., at Guilford, and Richardson, Sons, & Owden, near to Newry, in the north of Ireland, are two factories exclusively devoted to the manufacture of flax, the buildings and machinery of which is of the most perfect kind—each of these give employment daily to upwards of 2,000 hands, and a capital of above \$1,000,000; and have given rise to the erection of buildings, in extent, equal to no inconsiderable towns. But all this immense trade did not settle in Ireland without exertion: it did not happen by chance, or by reason of that country being better adapted for it than many other countries. It was not its water powers which encouraged this trade, for most of these manufactures are worked by steam. The climate and soil of Ireland, as in Canada, were adapted for the cultivation of the plant; the advantages of it were seen by a few energetic wise men, who made exertions by which they procured the coöperation of the inhabitants, and aid from the Government,

and public associations to promote it. There is no data by which to estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the population of Ireland at the time flax began first to be extensively cultivated.

The Hon. T. Darcy McGee, in his history of Ireland, informs us that "the Session of 1785 (of the Irish Parliament) was first occupied with debates relating to what might be called the cross channel trade between England and Ireland. The question of trade brought with it the question of revenue, of the duties levied in both Kingdoms, of the conflicts of the commercial law and the necessity of their assimilation;" but "No definite commercial treaty between the Kingdoms was entered into until the Union." England made laws for the protection of her British subjects, however detrimental they might be to the Irish trade. The first attempts in Ireland to promote the linen trade, were only intended to supply the domestic wants of the country; and it was not until much later times, that she became a great producer and exporter.

Any estimate which may be made of the entire value of the linen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland, cannot have pretensions to accuracy, though we may for example sake, take the amount given a few years ago by Mr. William Charley—a gentleman who took much pains to arrive at a correct estimate. He gave the Home and Foreign trade of Great Britain and Ireland, at eleven million pounds stg., annually, and allowed two thirds of it to Ireland, which nearly corresponds with other returns. The trade has much increased since that. However, it will answer the present purpose to set down the annual Irish linen trade here, at eight million of pounds, stg.; (\$40,000,000) which is undoubtedly under the mark. In apportioning the entire trade, those who have given much attention to this, have allowed, say 30 per cent. for raw material; 30 per cent. for profits, wages, superintendence, wear and tear of machinery, interest of capital, coal, &c., and allow the remaining 40 per cent. to divide amongst those employed in the manufacture; and estimating \$80 per year as the average wages of each, would give us 200,000 persons receiving \$16,000,000 yearly wages for their manual labor employed in the linen manufacture of Ireland.

Then, supposing Upper Canada to produce this year 50,000 acres of flax, at 300 lbs. per acre, or a total of 15,000,000 lbs. of fibre at 10 cents per lb.; and calculating at the same rate we have done for Ireland, this would be worth, when manufactured, \$5,000,000—of which, \$1,500,000 would be for raw material, \$1,500,000 for profits—use of capital and wages of superintendence, \$2,000,000