

impossible in the usual time allotted to a paper of this description to examine the condition, &c., of the various productions of the country: I will therefore confine my remarks to one department only—viz:

OUR IRON MANUFACTURES.

Among the variety of manufactures, there is none which affects so largely the personal comfort of a people, and the national welfare, as those made from Iron. To enumerate all the articles into which this metal is converted, would fill a volume. We can merely give an abstract of its utility.

It is the principal material in the construction of our railroads. In navigation, it is indispensable. In building the steamboat the engine, its propelling power depending upon it—in the construction of sea going vessels, its uses are various; and it is fast becoming the entire material in their construction. In all manufactures of wool, iron, cotton, and metals of every description where machinery is required, its great utility is acknowledged. In our domestic conveniences, we find an endless variety, while nearly every class of mechanics depend upon it for their tools and implements.

What a list of articles might be enumerated that are used in the defence of a nation, in the conveyance of an army, in short, we hardly move without coming in contact with it as an article of usefulness.

A country blessed by nature with a mineral, apparently so valuable, and with facilities for converting it into the various instruments for which it is adapted, may be said to be favoured. Let us examine our condition in this respect.

We have an abundance of this metal, favourably situated and of superior quality. I will endeavour to show its position and extent by an extract taken from the Illustrated Catalogue of the Chrystal Palace Exhibition, London, and written by Sir W. E. Logan:—

“The country abounds in ores of iron, consisting of the magnetic and specular oxides and hydrated peroxide or bog ore. The first occurs chiefly in a formation consisting of gneiss interstratified with important bands of highly crystalline limestone, and the formation sweeps through the Province from Lake Huron to Labrador, keeping at a variable distance north from the left bank of the St. Lawrence river at its lakes, crossing the river at the Thousand Islands, only below Kingston, to form a junction with a great peninsula-shaped area of the same, occupying a mountainous region in Northern New York, between Lake Champlain and Ontario.

“The ore appears to be in beds running with the stratification usually highly inclined, and the beds occasionally attain a great thickness.

“A bed which is now worked in the township of Marmora, and of the iron resulting from which, samples have been sent, presents a breadth of one hundred feet, another the ore of which has been mined and smelted on Madoc, has been traced several miles with a breadth of twenty five feet. On a Lake in South Sherbrooke, there is a 60 feet bed; in South Crosby, a bed 200 feet in width comes upon the Rideau Canal, where it is not far removed from great water power; and in Hull, there is a 40 feet bed, at no great distance from the navigable waters of the river Ottawa.

“From all these localities and others, specimens have been contributed, and