

The query will very naturally arise in the reader's mind respecting the manner in which the flax crop will be disposed of, to give so large a return in profits as to cover the entire expense of cultivating five-sixths of an arable farm with other crops. To satisfy such enquiry, we would state, that we intend to ship our seed to Ireland for sowing, in which country it will command the highest price; and taking one year with another will net at *seven shillings and six pence* currency, per bushel of fifty-two lbs. The fibre will be spun into cordage, twines, and woven into factory linens, in our country, giving a return to the grower in profits, besides the profits to the manufacturer, of at least two pounds ten shillings per 100 lbs., reckoning twenty bushels of seed, and 500 lbs. of clean fibre per acre would equal, according to our calculation, the sum of twenty pounds for the produce of an acre of flax. It is only by good management that this amount of money could be realised from an acre of flax; but at the same time it may not only be done, but twice that amount of money can be had for the produce of an acre of this crop, if cultivated and managed upon the most approved principles.

Some may accuse us of boasting, and others of presumption, in unfolding our mind so freely upon this to us very important interest; but to satisfy the most fastidious mind that other motives besides vain-glory have throughout influenced our conduct in agitating this question, we shall occupy a little space in copying some extracts from a series of very able letters written on this subject by J. H. Dickinson, London, England, which were inserted in full in recent numbers of that very valuable paper the *Agricultural Gazette* :—

"As some parties have publicly expressed their opinions on the correctness of my statement that I and others have grown Flax, by which we had, after paying all expenses, £20 per acre profit, without including the seed, which the Irish farmers viewed as of little value until lately, when their error is proved by Mr. Warnes, and Mr. Farrow, Secretary to the Ipswich Flax Society, in whose reports will be found several instances of their members, gentlemen in Norfolk, having had last year 22, 29, and 32 bushels of seed to the acre, which they value for feeding at 6s. 3d. per bushel, although foreign seed sold in Ireland last year at 12s. 6d., and the English is equally good, my object is now to prove 'that my statements are not erroneous,' as some of the old school farmers would wish to make appear; therefore, in justice to myself and the subject, I shall add in proof such facts as I hope will not fail to produce such a spirit of inquiry as will 'prevent the practical farmers' of the present day 'from shutting up their ears' to farther statements 'from me and others on the subject.'

I was favored last winter by Capt. Skinner, Secretary to the Belfast Flax Improvement Society, with copies of their annual report; and on requesting that my letter on the cultivation of flax should appear in the *Agricultural Gazette*, I forwarded the reports to the Editor, being anxious to convince him that others agreed with me in opinion, and that by following up the Belgian system of cultivation, &c., as recommended by the Belfast Society, a much larger profit than £20 per acre was possible to be obtained; and, in proof of this, I referred to a Mr. Demann, who grew flax near Armagh, for which he got £140 per ton; I also informed him that I took my statements as to the value and quantity grown in Ireland in 1843, on 112,200 acres, from a circular sent me by Mr. John Cramsie, Flax-market, Belfast, who averages that year's production at 56 stone per acre, as stated in this letter.

Now, as it always happens that the finer the quality is, the greater the produce per acre, from 60 to 70 stone, and sometimes more, it is not unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Demann (judging from Mr. Cramsie's average of 56 stone per acre), has had 60 stone; if so, his expense and profit is,

50 stone of flax produced on 1 acre,	£ s. d.
and sold at 17s. 6d. per stone.	87 10 0
According to the reports of members of the Ipswich Flax Society Mr. D. should have had on such superior flax 29 bushels of seed, at feeding price, 6s. 3d.	9 1 3

Deduct expenses :—	61 11 3
Added to my own experience, I have the authority of an Irish flax-grower and flax-merchant, Mr. Acheson, Tanderagee, for the items of expenses incurred growing an acre.	10 0 0

Mr. Demann's profit appears to be.	£51 11 3
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