

Surely the agriculturists of East Lothian would not regard the emancipation of their colonial brethren from a barbarous system of agriculture? Surely they would rejoice at the colonial farmers, like themselves, getting four-fold returns? And the obvious way to turn Mr. Cobden's remarks to good account is just that which Mr. Buchanan has always insisted on—viz: by the emigration of the distressed operatives of the mother country to the colonies, and by encouraging the colonial agriculturists to take such action as is needful to render the employment of the operators among them safe to both the producers on the farm, and the producers in the factory, thus brought to their own door.

MR. BUCHANAN'S DENUNCIATION OF
DEPENDANCE ON WHEAT-GROWING.

(From his speech at the Toronto Dinner to the Opposition, on 17th December, 1863.)

"We must be economical not only in applying the people's money for their own benefit, but securing for our own people all the employment we can, in making the articles we require, seeing that when the manufacturers live in a foreign country they are not consuming the productions of the Canadian farms. No country can be great without having rotation of crops, and no country can have this without having a manufacturing population to eat the produce which is not exportable. [Cheers.] And so glaringly untrue is the industriously circulated notion that such policy would be injurious to the agricultural class, that my whole object in insisting on limiting the Province's imports of manufactures, and raising up factories alongside our farms, is to benefit the Canadian farmer, and through him all other classes, knowing full well, as I do, that it is the only solid and permanent foundation for the prosperity of the country. I was long ago warned, by witnessing the sad fate of Lower Canada, whose soil had been exhausted by over-cropping with wheat. Lower Canada blindly followed the interested or ignorant advice of the British

Political Economists, and confined herself to *growing wheat for export*, little dreaming how large a percentage each year it took to represent the deterioration of the soil under such treatment of it. And what I wish for Upper Canada is a system of rotation of crops, to render which possible it is essential for us to have an oppidanic or manufacturing population to eat the vegetables and other perishable or bulky productions of the Canadian farmer. * * * * *

"But it is well for Canada that she can afford to throw theories to the winds, having a certain and unfailing barometer of her great interests. In her farmers, Canada has a great class, the prosperity of which secures the prosperity of all other classes; so that the *true economical policy of Canada is to promote the prosperity of the Canadian farmer*. And how this is to be done is the simply political question of the Canadian patriot. [Cheers.] Yet—to the shame of British statesmen be it said—a question so momentous to Canada was known to have no consideration in England, when she, in 1846, diametrically altered her policy and repealed all the old distinctions between Canadian and American produce in her markets. The direct and immediate effect of this precipitate introduction of free imports (for it is not Free Trade) into the mother country was most disastrous to Canada, and was more likely to prove subversive of her loyalty than any thing that could have been anticipated; for it left the Canadian farmer (on the north bank of the St. Lawrence) only the English market for his produce in which he has to compete (after paying all freights and expenses across the Atlantic,) with wheat of countries where labour and money are not worth one-third what those are in Canada, while it gave to the American farmer (on the south bank of the St. Lawrence) this English market of which to avail himself, whenever it suited him, in addition to the American market.

"Happily the British Government saw in time the error committed in bringing about a state of things in which it would have been impossible to retain, upon British principles, the Canadas—British prin-