

admitted to be correct. The real prosperity of a State will ever be found to depend on the welfare of the members composing it. With what propriety, indeed, can that country be said to be truly independent and flourishing, the Inhabitants of which depend upon foreign quarters for the chief necessaries of life, and are in general oppressed by want, and consequently unhappy. A Country, for instance, depending for its prosperity chiefly on Foreign Commerce, can never justly be considered as in a state of sound security, by reason of the fluctuations to which such commerce is inevitably and constantly liable. A change in political relations, restrictions upon trade, or the events of a war, will often suddenly reduce such a Country, from a state of power, abundance and rejoicing, to one of general weakness, distress and despondency. On the other hand, a Country in which Agriculture is so extensively pursued, as to afford its Inhabitants all the absolute means of subsistence, is not exposed to those evils, but if deprived of all foreign intercourse, may still remain comparatively prosperous and happy. It is, indeed, scarcely too much to affirm, that no Country has been invariably and eminently prosperous, in which agricultural occupations were despised or neglected. This has been exemplified and proved by the history of many Nations and Countries, both in ancient and in modern times.

Among the Romans, that ambitious and arbitrary people, who were almost constantly engaged in extensive and sanguinary wars, agricultural pursuits were, from the first period of their story, held in high estimation, and their most celebrated characters were often found actively employed in advancing them. Their improvements in this valuable art kept pace with their conquests, and wherever they established their dominion, they caused the labors of the field immediately to flourish. Not merely to the dread of their arms, and the nature of the government they established, but to that cause may in part be ascribed the acquiescence under their dominion of the Countries they subjugated, and the protracted preservation of their conquests. It was not until late in the decline of the mighty empire they established, that the mistress of so many nations was herself made to depend upon remote parts of her Territories for the first necessary of life; and that in consequence she sometimes experienced the horrors of famine. The neglect of this most important of all occupations may be considered as having accelerated the downfall of that gigantic and close cemented fabric, which the wisdom and the labors of so many generations had been occupied in rearing. Even Carthage, which was extensively busied in commerce, and which carried it to a greater degree of perfection than any other Country of her time, bestowed upon Agriculture particular and assiduous attention. It is recorded, that in the destruction of that City by its exasperated and merciless rival, when every monument of its skill, and nearly every other record or memorial of its science were diligently sought after and destroyed, the valuable works upon Agriculture, found among the spoils, were carefully preserved by that rival, who assiduously employed the information they contained.

In the history of some modern nations also, we may discover the important consequences of a careful attention to extend and improve this most useful occupation. In Great Britain, it has for many ages past been held in very high estimation, and has at this time arrived at a state of advancement which probably was never surpassed. Had there not been an extensive and unremitting application to its pursuit, how deplorable would often have been the situation of that country. At that period, especially, when assailed by the most formidable combination of foes, and when its commerce was excluded from almost every part of the Continent of

Europe, if it had not possessed, within itself, the chief means of subsistence to a sufficient extent, the extremes of distress would have ensued, and the bulwark of freedom would probably have fallen. Through its attention to Agriculture, even more than its Commerce, was that magnanimous country enabled to support those numerous and expensive armies and fleets which were engaged in preserving its own independence, and redressing the wrongs and restoring the freedom of so many other nations. It may be very fairly be concluded, that the power and greatness of France have always been principally owing to its extensive cultivation and pursuit of the several branches of husbandry. Even under the most arbitrary and oppressive systems of Government, heavily burthened with Taxes at one period, and its Commerce driven from the ocean at another, through its attention to Agriculture, the country has almost constantly kept its vast population sufficiently supplied with all the chief necessaries of life.

On the other hand, let us view the situation of some of the countries in which Agriculture has been neglected, or but partially pursued. In Spain, although many parts of it are highly favored by nature, there has long been a general inattention to tillage, in procuring the absolute means of subsistence; and the great improvements in husbandry, which have in modern times been made, are there but little understood. Hence it is notorious, that the peasantry and the lower orders of persons in that country, are in a more impoverished condition, and even more deficient in intellectual improvement, than those of most of the other nations in Europe. When possessed of the most extensive Mines of Silver and Gold, and prosecuting Commerce to a very great extent, yet, as a people, they still were poor and embarrassed. They afford, indeed, a striking example, that neither by the possession of those precious metals, nor by the state of advancement in commercial pursuits, is national wealth to be estimated. The Colonies in the West Indies afford another instance of the dependent and unhappy state of a country in which Agriculture is not pursued to such an extent as to furnish to the population the chief means of subsistence. Although those Colonies supply a great portion of the civilized world with such a variety of luxuries, and though such numbers there dwell with their splendor and magnificence, yet, during former periods the Population generally, according to reiterated complaints, was often but scantily supplied with some of the chief articles of food, and at times experienced even the horrors of want. Through a change in political relations, restraints imposed upon commerce, alterations in its channels, preventing them from obtaining regular and ample supplies of those primary articles, or from the price of their productions having been greatly diminished in the markets to which they were exported, they have often been speedily reduced from abundance and rejoicing, to distress and despondency. Frequent and extensive were the distresses and embarrassments they formerly experienced, and so convinced did they become of the true causes of them, that for some years past, they have resorted to the expedient of appropriating greater portions of their land, than they had previously done, to the raising of those articles of food, the most essentially requisite. In consequence of this, they have, latterly, in a great measure, prevented the recurrence of those evils. The Colony of Newfoundland, has ever been much in the same precarious and unhappy condition. If not from natural, from several other causes which might be explained, it has remained almost wholly dependent upon other countries for nearly all the means of subsistence. It is true this Colony has afforded an extensive source of wealth, and been of high importance to Great Britain, in many respects; and some within it, engaged in