

present but a melancholy spectacle. Erected, as they evidently were, at a very considerable outlay of capital, fitted with all the necessary apparatus for the manufacture of oil, and still possessing every facility for obtaining the coal in the deposits near by, with convenient water-power for the various operations of manufacture, they are yet, to all appearances, profitless, and on the rapid road to ruin.

There are five buildings immediately connected with the manufacture of the oil, besides three others, also erected by the company, for the accommodation of the employees. The main building, which is of considerable size, was used for the first processes of manufacture, upon the raw material. In this building are stampers, two large revolving iron retorts, furnished with appropriate condensers, and a steam engine of considerable power, for revolving the retorts, and performing other necessary operations. Below the building are iron tanks, into which the crude oil was conducted, before being submitted to the second stage of the process. This second part of the manufacture took place in a different building, into which the oil passed by iron pipes, and was conducted into a second series of large retorts, (not revolving as before,) where the oil underwent its first process of refinement. This was as far as the manufacture was conducted, the crude oil being drawn off into barrels, and thus sent to various places in the United States, where it was more completely refined, and introduced into the market. Several thousands of gallons of oil have thus been manufactured and sent into the States. It was used for a variety of purposes, its quality being pronounced as equal to the very best varieties of coal oil.

It may very naturally be asked, why these large and expensive works are allowed to remain in idleness. It is more easy to ask the question, I think, than to supply a satisfactory answer. Of course, interested parties will reply, "It does not pay—there is not sufficient capital, &c." But *why* does it not pay? I am told that the reason of the failure is the duty laid on the importation of coal oils into the United States, where the only market is to be found. Let us examine this answer a little, and see whether the difficulty could not possibly be obviated. The first question which naturally suggests itself is, why is not the oil *refined upon the spot*? Why ship to New York and Boston a crude oil, to be there refined, thus being obliged not only to pay all the import duties, but to have the oil again refined where fuel and labor are dear? Why not take advantage of the fuel afforded by the yet uncleared lands, in the immediate vicinity of the works, and thus send off not the *crude* but the *refined* oil ready for use? Another fact suggests itself. Of course crude oil is useless for home consumption, but if refined to the proper degree for ordinary purposes, could not this oil find a home market sufficiently great to pay the cost of its manufacture? Large quantities of oil are used in the Provinces. Considering the cheapness with which it might be here manufactured, might it not compete favorably with the other oils so largely imported? There would seem to be no reason, why all the processes of refinement should not be conducted on the spot. The proximity