

bulk of the settlers into that form of worship ; and the labours of the early Methodist missionaries produced fruits throughout the Province, but especially on the Bay of Quinte, which are to this day manifest in the orderly walk and character of the people.

As it regards our mode of living, our food was coarse but wholesome. With the exception of three or four pounds of green tea a-year for a family, which cost three bushels of wheat per pound, we raised every thing we ate. We manufactured our own clothes, and purchased nothing except now and then a black silk handkerchief, or some trifling article of foreign manufacture of the kind. We lived simply, yet comfortably—envied no one, for no one was better off than his neighbour. Until within the last thirty years, one hundred bushels of wheat, at 2s. 6d. per bushel, was quite sufficient to give in exchange for all the articles of foreign manufacture consumed by a large family. We had no money except the old-fashioned Joe and Spanish milled dollar; we needed none. We were not rich, but we were emphatically a prosperous people; perfect contentment reigned throughout the land.

But now came pride. History is full of instruction as to the evils always attendant upon the introduction of wealth and pride into a poor country. After the late war, great numbers of the officers and other old-country gentlemen remained here. These having been accustomed to live like gentlemen in the old country, very naturally continued their old habits and customs in Canada; and making purchases and dispersing themselves throughout the various districts, the whole population has from that time to the present imbibed a propensity to extravagance in living, which has led to our present commercial embarrassment. The old-fashioned home-made cloth has given way to the fine broadcloth coat; the linsey-woolsey dresses of females have disappeared, and English and French silks substituted; the nice clean-scoured floors of the farmers' houses have been covered by Brussels carpets; the spinning-wheel and loom have been superseded by the piano; and, in short, a complete revolution in all our domestic habits and manners has taken place—the consequences of which are, the accumulation of an enormous debt upon our shoulders, and its natural concomitant, political strife; for who has ever heard of an embarrassed community being a peaceable one? The old aphorism, "when poverty comes in at the door, love flies out at the window," has as much force in our social constitution as in our domestic concerns.

Thus, gentlemen, I have endeavoured to give you a cursory glance at the rise and fall of Canadian farming-prosperity, and shall now with equal candour endeavour to point out a path by which we may at least arrest our downward course, and regain that position, both as a people and as individuals, which we have lost by extravagance and a want of the proper application of our industry.

I reduce the whole to four simple propositions:

1st, Reduce our expenses.

2nd, Cultivate less land.

3rd, Vary and increase the number of our farm products.

4th, Manufacture for ourselves.

The first step, then, is economy in our way of living. If we profess to be farmers, let us live like farmers. A man, his wife and daughter, are neither more comfortable nor more respectable in fine English broadcloths and French silks, than they would be in our own home manufactures: nay, is it not notorious that they are always more respected when dressed in home-made than in foreign cloths. I was almost a grown-up young man, before ever I knew that there were such articles as fine English and French goods. Time was, when our matrons and young women took pride in exhibiting—instead of concealing—their own articles of manufacture; aye, and when they were not ashamed to be found, during the haying and harvesting season, assisting their husbands, fathers and brothers. Neither did our farmers feel ashamed to be seen carrying to market the various minor productions of the farm, farm-yard or garden. *In those days, gentlemen, we were out of debt*; it was *then* considered disgraceful to owe more than they could pay. Is it considered so now-a-days? How many there are now, who would consider it quite derogatory to be seen in the old gray clothes, and attending personally in our markets the sale of these commodities. *In these days, gentlemen, we are in debt*; and I will add *dishonestly* in debt—dishonestly, because we are actually living upon other people's money.

But, gentlemen, do not imagine that I am excusing the other classes of society—these are more to blame than the farmers.

In the early history of this country, we all held, in our mode of dress, equipage, furniture, &c., one station, as it were, and when we saw nothing to envy we felt no inferiority; but with the advent amongst the rural population of government officers receiving large salaries, gentlemen of good incomes, professional men, merchants, &c., came also pride and envy amongst the farming population, until the extravagance of which I have been speaking has been carried to such an extent as to attract the observation and excite the ridicule of the traveller through Upper Canada. It is this extravagance which has entailed upon the country disgrace, and upon hundreds of families dishonour and ruin. I should most willingly see the incomes of all professional men, including all public officers, reduced to one-half their present amount, if it were for nothing else than for the benefit which would in consequence accrue to the farming interests of the country.

I am not willing to be, nor do I think I shall be, understood, in the observation which I have now made, as refusing to the professional man or the public officer a competent income; but I do wish to be understood as expressing a settled conviction that the extravagant salaries and incomes to a few have been the remote cause of the present deplorable state of indebtedness of the country, and consequently the primary cause of the depression and derangement in our commercial affairs, at this moment in existence.

The second evil to the prosperity of farmers,