

#### Flax Manufacture in the United States.

It is somewhat curious that some earnest attention is not given to the establishment of the linen manufacture in the United States, which, in its present condition, does not begin to supply our requirements, as the accompanying figures will exhibit: The imports of manufactured flax into the United States from 1871 to 1881 amounted to \$177,747,371, or nearly \$18,000,000 per annum. The importation of linen in 1883 was as follows:

Brown linen under 30 cents, yard.....	\$10,924,649
Brown linen above 30 cents, square yd. . . . .	2,280,120
Handkerchiefs under 30 cents, yard.....	488,409
Handkerchiefs above 30 cents, square yd. . . . .	583,672
Burlaps, etc.....	4,391,675
Thread, lace and insertings.....	1,012,759
Thread and twine.....	733,654
Other flax manufactures, N.O.P.....	814,614

Total imports of flax manufactures, 1883. \$21,231,552

We now manufacture cotton, wool, worsted and silk fabrics in enormous quantities, and of quality certainly not inferior to the best made abroad; but though we convert many tons of flax yearly in making cordage, carpet yarns, threads and coarse cloth, we make no fine linens, shirting, sheeting, toilet or table linens.

We have good authority for the statement that we can, and do, grow flax in this country of as good quality for the purpose of making fine linen fabrics as the best from any part of the world; and there is apparently no insuperable difficulty in the way of our introducing and successfully establishing this branch of manufacture to supply our domestic needs. This is a subject which our capitalists have apparently overlooked.