

corn, followed by potatoes or carrots. If proper amount of manure is applied yearly, the onion may be cultivated many years on the same land with decided advantage.—*From Washington Report.*

THE DISCOVERER OF ANNAT BARLEY.

At the present time it may not be without interest to some of our readers to ascertain the origin and history of the Annat Barley, and to hear something of the genial old man to whom it owes its existence.

Mr. Archibald Gorrie was born in the district of Logie Almond, Perthshire, in the year 1777. In boyhood he received what was then considered "a good country school education." This was afterwards supplemented by various studies in his early life, to an extent which will be indicated by the facts we have to mention respecting his discoveries and writings. Although "by birth an Agriculturist," yet Horticulture soon became his favorite pursuit, and he was placed as an apprentice in the gardens of Logie House, under Mr. Peter Barnet, father of the Mr. Barnet who afterwards became Superintendent of the Experimental Garden of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, Edinburgh. From Logie House gardens Mr. Gorrie removed to Dupplin Castle, also in Perthshire, where, under the then Superintendent Mr. Millar, and with George Don, the celebrated Forfar botanist, as a companion, he enjoyed every advantage for prosecuting his favorite study of British Botany and other departments of the Natural History of his native land.

Towards the end of the last century he had charge of the hot house department in Leith Walk nursery, where he first became acquainted with the late Mr. J. C. Loudon, who succeeded him in that charge; an acquaintance which was again renewed when Mr. Loudon continued the publication of his Gardener's Magazine, and was continued till the close of that talented writer's useful life. And we believe that after his death a living remembrance of that friendship was cherished by Mrs. Loudon, who continued to correspond with Mr. Gorrie. A knoll near Annat Cottage is called "Loudon's brae" having been planted with Conifers, chiefly obtained from Mr. Loudon. During the last fifty years, Mr. Gorrie, acted successively as gardener, general manager, and factor, on the property. During a considerable portion of that period he rented the neighbouring farm of Shanry, and his previous acquaintance with Horticulture was of great service in prompting to the introduction on his farm of improvements in cultivation and novelties in cropping. He reached the ripe old age

of eighty, and was cut off by an attack of bronchitis on 21st July, 1857.

The introduction and improvement of useful and ornamental plants was always a favorite pursuit with him, as will long be testified by the numerous fine specimens of Conifers and other rare trees, which adorn the estate where he spent the greater part of his life. Among his contributions to fruit trees may be mentioned Lawson's Golden Gage Plum, Annat Park Apricot, Annat Beurre Pear, Annat Scarlet Apple, &c., while as a florist he was the first to introduce the cultivation of that now general favorite, the Pansy, into Scotland, if not into Britain.

Several notices of Mr. Gorrie's efforts in Agricultural improvement occur throughout Messrs. P. Lawson & Son's *Agriculturist's Manual*, in which we find the following notice of the celebrated Annat Barley:—"This new and very superior barley is the produce of two ears picked in a field on the farm of Flaw Craig, Carso of Gowrie in 1830, since which period it has been grown by Mr. Gorrie, (its discoverer, at Annat Garden, hence its name.) In 1834 it was sown on a ridge in the middle of a field, with common barley on the one side, and Chevalier on the other. In bulk of straw it seems to have the advantage of both these kinds. It was five days ripe before the former, and about a fortnight before the latter. It was also about 2½ lbs. per bushel heavier than the Chevalier. (See *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, March 1835.) The grain is even more round and plump than that of the Chevalier, of a bright yellow transparent colour."—*Lawson's Agric. Man.* P. 40.

In 1834 *Vicia villosa* was added to the list of British forage plants by Mr. Gorrie, who discovered its seeds in a cargo of Dantzic wheat, and pointed out its applicability as a winter tree. In the same year he discovered a fertile seeded variety of the tall Fescue Grass (*Festuca elatior fertilis*), which was subsequently propagated; and in 1840 he introduced the wood Millet Grass (*Milum effusum*) to cultivation. (*Lawson's Treatise on Cultivated Grasses*, &c., P. 17.) In short the cultivation of the natural grasses, and herbage and forage plants, afforded him a constant source of profitable recreation.

Few rural writers who originate in his sphere of life, ever acquire a simple, chaste style of writing such as characterised Mr. Gorrie's literary productions. His mind was well stored with knowledge, but that expression is scarcely applicable where the knowledge was not laid up as in a storehouse, but was so completely assimilated that his mental character grew, as it were upon it. In communicating his thoughts to others, he did not merely deal out facts and items in the crude form in which they had been received; they be-

come so elaborated by the (perhaps insensible) operation of his powerfully original mind, that it was impossible to draw the line of distinction between what was acquired knowledge, and what was spontaneous thought. And in this lay the secret of his success in rendering interesting the most barren details of rural operations. We have long regarded Mr. Gorrie as one of the most intelligent writers on rural affairs and natural history which Scotland has produced; and Scotchmen will do well to cherish his memory as that of one who in his quiet and unobtrusive life did great and lasting good to their country, by his personal influence, by his modest writings, and by his improvements in the art of rural industry.

In private life, Mr. Gorrie was a man of genial and generous disposition,—of exemplary piety, strict in the observance of religious ordinances, and ever ready to give friendly advice to the young—as a genuine christian would, without one particle of hypocrisy or self-sufficiency; but he was also ever ready to check even the appearance of evil. He had withal a quiet humour, and no one can forget the joyous smile that played upon his countenance as he told some droll story of a crack-brained naturalist, or enthusiastic gardener, or blundering farmer. It did one's heart good to see an old man so happy.

CHEVALIER BARLEY.

(*From Lawson's Agriculturist's Manual.*)

Ears resembling those of the Common Two-rowed or English Barley, but containing on an average two or four grains more in each; grain rounder or more plump; sample every way superior to that of the Common Barley, but not so well adapted for sowing on late soil, being eight or ten days longer in ripening. This sort was introduced from England into Scotland, and in a few years came into general cultivation in the agricultural districts.

Crop 1834.—Sample in grain and straw by Sir Anthony Mainland Lander; weight 56½ lbs. per bushel. By Mr. A. Gorrie; weight 54½ lbs. And in straw by Mr. Morris, farm manager, Invermay.

Crop 1835.—Sample in grain by Richard Garret, Esq., Great Harroudon, Northamptonshire, obtained the prize at Earl Spencer's Show in September; weight per bushel (33 quarts) 58 lbs.; produce per acre about 58 bushels. Communicated by Mr. Garret to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. Also, samples in grain by Messrs. Jacob Wrench and Sons, seedsmen, London, weight 56½ lbs. per bushel; an average sample of the Edinburgh Market, weight 56½ lbs. per bushel; and by Mr. J. McLaren, Castle Hill, Inchtute,