

PART II.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE AND MANIPULATION OF HEMP IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

"The soil for hemp," says Olivier de Serres, should be fat, fertile, easy to work, and in a temperate climate." It is found that it will do very well after turnips on friable loams and good sands, provided they be well manured. Spalding Moor, in Lincolnshire, is a barren sand, and yet, with proper care and culture, it has produced as fine hemp as any in England. In the Isle of Axholme, in the same county, the culture and management of it has been the principal employment of the inhabitants; and according to Leland it was so in the time of Henry VIII. On sandy loams the quantity is not so great as in a black rich mould, but the quality is much finer, and therefore better adapted to the fabric of hempen cloth. Hemp, in short, delights in valleys and the banks of rivers. Fresh broken lands in the midst of woods and forests are favorable to its growth; so also are gardens and other spots that have long been cultivated by the spade. The same is the case on a crop of broken up lucerne, on land in good heart, after a crop of oats has been taken; on broken up pasture land, and fresh drained marshes, and newly emptied pools. Count Gallesio regards as the best composition of hemp land that which is composed of one-third of silex, one-third of lime and magnesia, and another third of clay. "This mixture," he says, "forms a light soil, which does not harden and form a crust. The seed, sown thickly on such land as this, rises perfectly; the plants, finding themselves crowded, are unable to increase in bulk and breadth, and therefore shoot up lank and slender. Well rotted manure, acting immediately, favors and accelerates the development of the plant in an upward direction."

Hemp is esteemed a clearing crop, for it destroys all weeds that spring beneath it by overshadowing them and depriving them of their nourishment. As a general rule, it should not be too often repeated on the same ground. It may, however, be grown with success on the same land many years, by manuring annually; it is said it has been sown on the same for seventy years together. There is no doubt that by the unsparing use of fertilizers, almost any result can be obtained in gardening and agriculture. Hemp, if it stands for seed, is on all hands acknowledged to be an exhausting crop; but if it be cut or pulled without the seed, it is supposed by many to improve the land, and to be an excellent preparation for wheat.

"British Husbandry" testifies to the same effect. "Opinions differ in regard to its effects upon the soil, some considering it as a great exhauster, and others only in case of its being allowed to stand for seed, but all agree in admitting it to be an effectual cleanser of the land, for it grows with such