

Nothing indeed appears to me more preposterous than the saying "the soil is worn out, is exhausted". Such expressions in a country like this, comparatively new to the old world, are particularly ridiculous. A soil that has been hardly in cultivation for a couple of Centuries already exhausted! What must then be that of those Countries furrowed by the plough these twenty centuries past? A soil from which nothing but a puny crop every other year is required, is so soon worn out! Then if such be really the case, Providence never intended this country to be inhabited by civilised man; I believe however, that the soil if not worn out, if not exhausted, is greatly fatigued; not indeed by the profitable crops that it is compelled to yield, but by the unprofitable and highly injurious ones that it is suffered to bring to maturity every year, and the whole year throughout. Crops much more exhausting during the alternate fallow, than could possibly be one of any utility, either for man or for cattle. It is that conviction that induces the Flemish farmers to keep their land in constant cultivation, and attend to the careful destruction and eradication of those weeds, which are here suffered to stand, to grow freely to maturity every other year, and to spread abundantly their seeds for future crops.

Next to that which has just been said, nothing excites more my wonder, than the premiums so generously and bountifully awarded, not for the encouragement of industry, but to accidental superiority in the bulk of animals, that might as well be the gift of nature, as the result of particular care. It would be just as reasonable to award a premium to him, who could produce the tallest tree, or the tree whose girth and contents of timber should surpass that of its neighbours, like itself the production of nature alone; nay it would have been as consonant with sound reason and common sense, to have granted a pension for life to the famous Lambert of bulky memory, whose weight was more than double the bulk and weight of any other human being of his age and height. That those who are favoured by such natural Curiosities, derive as much profit from their exhibition as they can, I certainly cannot, nor will not, either disapprove or censure; but that they are entitled to a mark of, or to a remuneration from Society, is certainly an unsupportable position. That public gratitude exhibited by liberal remuneration is only due to him, to whose industry and bodily and mental exertions, society is indebted for a lasting benefit.

I know that it will be said, that in awarding premiums, we merely follow the example of the Mother Country; but to whom are they there awarded, not to mere accidental superiority in bulk, in weight, in carcase, in tallow, in the weight and quality of the wool, No! but to the industrious exertions, to the often dearly bought experiments that have brought on that superiority: not to him who excels in quality or quantity