

per to give a short statement of it. Sweden is one of the most northern and barren countries in Europe. Stockholm, the capital, is nearly in the Latitude of 60 degrees—almost one thousand miles to the north of Halifax. The whole kingdom is overspread with rocky mountains and lakes, having little land capable of culture, and is subject to all the severities of so high a Latitude. But Sweden has been fortunate in producing a number of eminent men, who made great improvements in Natural History—particularly in Agriculture, and in Botany and Chemistry, both of which are subservient to Agriculture. To evince this it will be sufficient to mention the names of *Linnaeus*, *Wallerius*, *Cronstedt*, *Bergman*, and *Gyllenberg*. These men applied the principles of Science to the improvement of Husbandry; and under their directions, this most useful art greatly flourished. To encourage this and other arts connected with it, the present King of Sweden, one of the most enlightened monarchs of the age, instituted a new order of Knighthood, called the *Order of Vasa*, which is conferred on such as have distinguished themselves in Agriculture, Commerce, or Science, and is held in the highest estimation.* The consequence of this prudent management is, that Sweden affords bread and provisions in plenty for its inhabitants, which, without those measures, must be imported from abroad, or the people would perish; and a country which we would think scarcely habitable, or worth cultivation, abounds not only in the necessaries, but in all the conveniences and comforts of life.†

It is needless to enlarge farther on this point. Agriculture, like all other arts, has its rules and principles; a knowledge of these is necessary to carry it to that degree of perfection which it is capable of; and in proportion to the knowledge and application of those principles, it will attain perfection. The notion that we should disregard those rules and principles must originate from profound ignorance, is repugnant to the common sense and experience of mankind, and would seem to imply as little reflection in those who hold it, as there is in the tree that vegetates, or in the plow that divides the earth.

Agriculture may be justly deemed the parent and nurse of
arts

* See *Coxe's Travels*, Vol. IV.

† Something similar to this has occurred in the Prussian dominions. The King of Prussia, (father of the late illustrious Frederick) a monarch of distinguished abilities, gave every possible encouragement to Agriculture, and made several excellent regulations in its favour. Baron *Bisfeld* tells us, that the best way of paying court to the King, was by attention to Husbandry. The consequence was, that in a few years the sands of the Marche of Brandenburg, the heaths and morasses of Prussia, were covered with a plentiful harvest of the finest corn; and the sandy desert which extended to the very gates of Berlin, was converted into excellent land by a kind of economical enchantment. *Bisfeld's Political Institutes*.