

tle of ourselves. Just be so good as to answer the following question, and you will oblige your humble servant and in some sense render justice to Lower Canada. If a French acre produce 25 minots, how many Imperial and how many Winchester bushels will one English acre produce.

Wm. Bea.

Virtue, Roadhead, September 27, 1850.

STATISTICS OF ENGLISH GARDENS AND PARKS.

NO. 1.

At the request of several subscribers, we intend to give, occasionally, notices of some of the best gardens and parks in both England and Ireland. The Statistics of Scotch Gardens, &c., will be also continued as heretofore.

During a short tour recently made in the south of England, I had an opportunity of visiting the residence of Sir George Staunton, at Leigh Park, so justly celebrated for its selection of rare and valuable plants, and particularly for the perfection in which many of our rarest tropical fruits are cultivated. Nor should this celebrity be confined to that very important branch of horticultural skill, as everything grown appears to obtain an equal share of skilful attention, and to afford similarly satisfactory results. The residence itself does not form any very important feature, but it is delightfully situated in the midst of a thickly wooded and undulated country, about 10 ten miles distant from Portsmouth, enjoying a moderate share of elevation, it commands a considerable extent of view. The pleasure ground or demesne, in immediate connection with the house, consists of between 20 and 30 acres, and is most tastefully laid out in the gardenesque style—the irregularity of surface contributing largely to its beauty; not very distant from the mansion, there is point of sight from which a considerable portion of the ground is seen to great advantage. The eye of the beholder cannot fail being struck with the very handsome sheet of water which reposes in beautiful irregularity of outline below. The first conclusion the mind arrives at after drinking in the beauty of the prospect is, that it must be natural: but much to our surprise we were informed that it is all artificial, and, if we mistake not, has been made within the last few years. Be this it may, it is truly a most happy combination of Nature and Art—nay, rather it is Art so beautifully allied to Nature, that she has immediately claimed its work as her own. This sheet of water is of considerable extent, and is much enlivened by two neatly rigged vessels riding at anchor on its peaceful surface. In addition to this feature, the contrast between the dark foliage of the shrubberies, and the rich light green of the velvety sod sloping to the very water's edge, has a charming effect when viewed from the elevated position alluded to.

Proceeding round the lake, I noticed a very pretty oriental looking Turkish smoking saloon, in a retired spot, not very far from its margin; and in near proximity to this, an ornamental bridge of Chinese design, if I remember correctly. At no great distance from this, I was shown by Mr. Scott a small pond, rendered, at least to me, highly interesting, as it contained a nice collection of our rarer hardy aquatic plants, and among others the *Anacharis Æsinastrum*, a plant which, till within the last few years, was not known to exist in the old world, being confined altogether to North America, and what renders it more interesting, in this very pond it made its first appearance, without there being any possibility of tracing it satisfactorily to its transatlantic origin; indeed, the fact of its having been discovered since, in several widely distant localities, even as far north as Berwick-upon-Tweed, tends to strengthen the belief of its British origin. Returning to the house, on ascending the hill, we find a very handsome temple, dedicated as "sacred to parents and friends," as the inscription above the portico "*sacrum parentibus et amicis*" intimates. A glance at the interior was all my time would admit of, that being but sufficient to excite a wish to examine more minutely the many beautifully sculptured busts it contained. These objects we have here mentioned are but a few out of the many which are scattered through, and contribute largely to the beauty of the grounds. In connection with the mansion is a large conservatory, or it may be perhaps more appropriately termed an orangery, as it contains the finest and healthiest collection of Orange trees I have ever had the fortune to see. The structure is about 60 feet long, 40 feet wide, and about 14 high. The roof being on the ridge and furrow system, the plants are all in the most luxuriant state of health it is possible to imagine, loaded with their large and richly coloured fruit, and filling the atmosphere with the delicious fragrance of their flowers. When standing in the centre of such a house, there is really little left for the imagination to work out, in order to fancy yourself transported to the Orange groves of Andalusia. Besides Oranges, we observed fine plants of the Shaddock, the Lemon, and the Lime, all laden with fruit. We also noticed large specimens of the Tea Tree, *Thea viridis*, and the Camphor, *Larus Camphora*. This conservatory is accessible from the dining-room, being separated by glass folding doors; and how delightful must it not be to cast the eye up such an avenue, whose sides are formed by richly laden Orange trees, the branches bending to the ground from the weight of their golden crop—and now and then to admit a few of those gentle zephyrs, which have been sporting amid such exquisite fragrance. Surrounding this structure is a neat little geometric flower garden, and though rather early in the season to be seen to much perfection, it looked remarkable gay,