

bapdry, which was to clear their fields entirely of weeds, and keep them in fine tilth; so as to make them resemble a garden. Sir Richard Weston explained the Flemish mode of cultivating Corn and artificial Grasses; and it is asserted that England profited in Agriculture to the amount of many millions, according, by the directions laid down in his treatise. There were several able writers on Agriculture cotemporary with Sir Richard; and these again were succeeded by *Hartlib*, *Evelyn* and other men of enlarged and philosophic minds, who zealously exerted themselves for the improvement of Agriculture, and various branches of Natural History, which are closely connected with, and subservient to it.

The present century has produced a great number of excellent writers on Agriculture. Mr. *Tull* shall be first mentioned. He was an ingenious man, and a good practical Farmer. He introduced, or at least promoted, the Drill and Horse-Hoe Husbandry. His Theory was peculiar, yet he realized it to great advantage. He thought that earth was the food of plants; that manure served no other purpose than to lighten the soil by the fermentation it occasioned, which enlarged the pasture for the roots and fibres of plants, and supplied them more abundantly with nourishment; and that by sufficiently pulverising the soil, the same purpose would be equally answered. Although his system was not found adapted to general use; yet it had this good effect, to lead men to see the importance of keeping their land perfectly clean, and in good tilth by frequent plowing, hoeing, harrowing, &c. It will be sufficient to mention the names of those who succeeded Mr. *Tull*, some of whom are alive at this day, and enriching the public with their useful writings—these are *Liste*, *Mortimer*, *Bradley*, *Hales*, *Harte*, *Baker*, *Ellis*, *Randal*, *Stillingfleet*, *Home*, *Hunter*, *Young*, *Marshall*, &c. &c. These respectable characters united science with experiment and practice, for the improvement of Agriculture; and their writings, with those of various Societies instituted in Great Britain and Ireland, for the same laudable purpose, enlightened the minds of all who read them, removed the strong prejudices in favour of ancient modes of culture, and were instrumental in raising the practice of Husbandry to a state of perfection beyond that of any other country.*

A similar spirit has for several years past prevailed in most parts of Europe, to the great advancement of Agriculture, and benefit of mankind. But the case of Sweden is so peculiar, and the effects of industry, when directed by science and judgment, are so remarkable in that kingdom, that it may be proper

* See *Harte on Husbandry—the Appendix to Weston's Treatise on practical Agriculture and Gardening—and Bath Society's Papers*, Vol. II. p. 310—344.