

Undoubtedly Grape culture is a desirable branch of industry to introduce, and successful enterprize in it deserves encouragement. I only desire that Mr. De Courtenay should not, through over confidence, run into expenditure in procuring European Vines at the great risk of disappointment. I would try some of the European with the short pruning. I would also try the principal American varieties, and increase most the stock of the kind which answers best, and in this way little time need be lost. It would be well worth while to make immediately a plantation of the Clinton Vine, as it may be accounted that it will succeed certain and yield a good wine. If Catawba and Isabella, and other finer American varieties succeed, they may deserve preference on further planting, and if European varieties succeed, they may be better still, but of them I cannot help entertaining great doubts.

I will endeavour, at a suitable season, if I live, to visit Mr. Parker's Vineyard.

Believe me, &c.,

WILLIAM HINCKS.

Val de Courtenay,

Bury, October 8, 1859.

To Wm. Hutton, Esq., &c.

My Dear Sir,—I have just received your favour of the 4th instant, and am indeed grateful to you for the copy of Mr. Parker's most interesting communication. The information he gives as to the Clinton Grape is most important. I was aware that the most part of the other grapes he mentions could not succeed; but there are two kinds of Burgundy Grapes grown in Belgium that I am certain would answer, by being grafted on the Clinton in the way I mention—"Griffe en fente Couture."

I have no objection to your making what use you please of my letters, and, again thanking you for the interest and kindness you have shown

I remain,

W. DECOURTENAY.

P.S. I forgot to say that I think Mr. Parker's plan of transplanting Vines is a bad one, nor do I admit that good wine can ever be grown on any other soil than a sandy or gravelly one. The art of producing good wine is in the grafting and pruning, and if you think Mr. Parker would not think it a liberty, I would address him in detail on the subject of his able letter.

Cheviot Sheep.

An esteemed correspondent has sent us the following notice of this valuable breed of sheep, from a paper lately read at a meeting of the Newcastle Farmer's Club, England, by Mr. J. Lawson, of Longhurst Grange. Our correspondent is of opinion, in which we quite agree with him, that "although the rage at present is

for large sheep, yet the Cheviots, from their hardiness, and their excellent wool, might be very suitable for the higher and colder parts of our Province."

The first direct mention of Cheviot sheep occurs in 1372, when large tracts of the Cheviot hills are described as covered with a small, but very hardy race of sheep; and in 1792 they are noted as being without horns, of open countenance, lively eyes, long bodies, thin in chine and breast, clean and fine-boned legs, and yielding fleeces varying in weight from 2½ lb. to 3½ lb. Snow storms often perilled all the sheep on the Cheviot range of pastures; one storm is reported as having caused a loss of 90 per cent. on many farms; another noted as the 13 days' drift, swept away 75 per cent., and no hill farmer of 1794 will ever forget the drifty Saturday. The Cheviot race of sheep, in a national point of view, exceed all other breeds in economical importance, for there is no ground to believe that any other race of sheep known would yield as valuable an amount of produce on the Cheviot range of pasture. In no other country are such stormy hill pastures stocked with sheep in winter; and our naturalists assert that no wild sheep known could exist if exposed to similar inclemencies as the Cheviot sheep will bear with complacency; they possess the necessary requisites of hardness and activity, and grow heavy fleeces of a fine close fibre, equally efficacious in resisting cold and rain. They combine all the independence of a mountain race, with much of the docility and grazing qualities of the low-ground races; they form the connecting link between our greatest altitudes and our low pastures, easily adapting themselves to either, and have always formed an attractive stock for annually supplying our richest grazing pastures. They evince great attachment to the locality in which they are reared, and, when the ground is covered with snow, they are indefatigable in scraping to the grass or heath; they are often buried under the snow without sustaining any serious injury, and one case is on record of one being under snow 33 days, and, although unable to move when discovered, it survived and recovered its strength. They possess great powers of adaptation, and two or three generations suffice to acclimate them to almost any extreme of temperature, altitude, or humidity. The principal point in breeding is to produce such a type of stock as is most suitable to the climate and herbage, and it is imperatively necessary to have sheep fully equal to the severities of the climate, and of at least equal hardiness to their pasturage; and, where a breeder keeps these points steadily in view, and avoids any impurity of blood, I mean that serious deterioration will not assail such flocks. An ordinary Cheviot ram should have his fore and hind quarters of equal weight; fillets, haunches, and cills wide; ribs springing horizontally from back and falling deep down at sides; shoulders well slanted, free in motion, fine at top, and rising about half an inch higher