

It may be proper here to caution you against a vulgar error which prevails much; namely, that Agricultural knowledge derived from Books, is mere Theory and Speculation, without practice. For want of knowing better, some call it *Book-Knowledge*, and spurn it away as utterly useless. This notion is altogether groundless. By inspecting the present publication, you will find that the rules and directions contained in it, are the result of long and extensive practice in Husbandry; they point out the methods that have, upon repeated trial, proved most successful. In different countries, and in different parts of the same country, a great variety is found in the mode of conducting Husbandry. Some of these are preferable to others; and when they are collected, and accurately registered, the judicious Farmer can select the best, and adapt them to his own particular soil and situation. Hereby he avails himself of the experience of others, and avoids the errors to which he would otherwise be exposed; and certain it is, that Agriculture has in this way received many of its most valuable improvements—particularly in Great-Britain, with which we are best acquainted. This will appear evident from the following brief detail, which is the more necessary, as the prejudice it would remove, interferes with the design of the Society, and will be injurious to the Province.

The first book on Husbandry in our language, was written by Mr. *Fitzherbert*, Judge of the Common Pleas in the reign of Henry VIII, and was published in the year 1534. He is called the Father of English Husbandry; being the first among us who studied the nature of soils, the laws of vegetation, and wrote on the subject. His treatise was intitled, *The Book of Husbandry*, and contained the result of his observations and practice for forty years. It kindled emulation for the improvement of Agriculture, which was in a very imperfect state at that time in England; and both stimulated and instructed people in the culture of their land.

The next writer of eminence that shall here be mentioned, is Sir *Hugh Platt*, who lived in the time of Queen Elizabeth, when Carrots, Turneps, &c. were usually imported into England from Flanders. He was reckoned the most ingenious and judicious Husbandman of that period. His *Paradise of Flora*, and his own unwearied exertions, discovered and brought into general use a great variety of manures, which were not known or thought of before.

Sir *Richard Weston*, who was Ambassador to Frederick V, Elector Palatine, and King of Bohemia, published a *Discourse on the Husbandry of Brabant and Flanders*, in 1645. The Flemings were then deemed the best Farmers in Europe; and their success proceeded from the just idea they had of Husbandry,