

prospered with him beyond precedent up to that time of his life ; and the hope that he might do more and more good to his family and the country was seductive. His love for improvement had been from the beginning a passion ; truly laudable when kept within bounds. Beyond his seventieth year this passion increased : it became too strong ; and herein was error, though venial. I am certain that a mean or a sordid idea never harboured in his breast. Nearly £20,000 of incumbrance now resting on his estate, sprung out of securities granted to a friend, and to the public roads of Fifeshire. He died in his eightieth year. Neither he nor any one of his family was given to extravagance, in personal gratifications. We always lived within our apparent means : fully, but not foolishly. I lost in Wiltshire upwards of £6000. ; but the people of that county will witness to the cause. It had no concern either with extravagant living or mismanagement. My farming practice, for several years before I had to give in, was reduced to a perfect system. My servants, both Scotch and English, were truly exemplary. They were paid well, and worked hard, without either scold or scowl*.

* My servants carried the prizes for good ploughing again and again in Wiltshire, and I too had premiums from the Bath and Wiltshire Agricultural Societies, till I got sick of these worse than useless institutions, to expose the trifling and vanities of which I published in the Salisbury Journal of 21st Nov. 1814, the following Address, with challenges, which were never taken up.

TO FARMERS

Of the Hill Country of Wilts, Hants, and Dorset.

COULD it avail, farmers ! I should be glad to advise with you, at this time, as to the grand political causes which depress