

feel sceptical upon the subject of such metamorphosis, let him visit the fairy bowers of Horticulture, and he will there perceive, that her magic wand has not only converted the tough and coriaceous covering of the almond, into the soft and melting flesh of the peach; but that by her spells, the sour sloe has ripened into the delicious plumb; and the bitter crab of our woods, into the golden pippin; that this again has been made to sport in endless variety, emulating in beauty of form and colour, in exuberance of fertility and in richness of flavour, the rarer productions of warmer regions, and more propitious climates. In our culinary vegetables the same progressive amelioration and advancement may be traced. Thus has the acid and disagreeable *Apium Graveolans*, (or *Smallage*), been changed into delicious celery, and the common Colewort, by culture continued through many ages, appears under the improved, and more useful forms of Cabbage, Savoy, and Cauliflower."

I may here observe that agriculture is indebted for many of its valuable and important discoveries to the delightful and interesting science of botany, which leads its votary from the feverish agitation of worldly pursuits to the contemplation of the beautiful economy of nature, teaching him to distinguish one plant from another, and imparting a knowledge of its properties. It is a science in which all is elegant and delightful, and as Smith observes—"Its pleasures spring up under our feet, and as we pursue them, reward us with health and serene satisfaction; whether we scrutinize the deep recesses of woods in wintry months, when the numerous tribes of mosses are displaying their minute, but highly interesting structure: whether we walk forth in the

early spring, when the ruby tips of the hawthorn bush give the first signs of its approaching vegetation, or a little after, when the violet welcomes us with its scent, and the primrose with its beauty; the yellow blossoms of the morning, that fold up their delicate leaves as the day advances—others that court and sustain the full blaze of noon, and the pale night-scented tribe which expand and diffuse their sweet fragrance towards evening, will all please in their turns." Natural science advances the improvement of the arts, increases the comforts and luxuries of life, and leads to discoveries of the most useful nature. By it Linnæus was enabled to detect the time when the *Cantharis Navalis*, a destructive insect, underwent its metamorphosis, and deposited its egg. This insect annually destroyed in the Swedish dockyards, timber to the amount of many thousand pounds. But after the discovery of Linnæus, the timber during the season of change and depositing of the destructive egg was immersed in water, and thus protected from its ravages. The same great philosopher, by the assistance of his botanical knowledge, discovered the cause, and the means of preventing a very fatal disease among the cattle in the north of Lapland, and which for many years was considered irremediable. The *Bread fruit*, by the scientific skill of Botanists, has been introduced into the West Indies; and while this science, which gives charms to the solitude of the forest, and increased beauty and interest to the wild mountain and cultivated valley, ministers to the enjoyment and necessities of man, it leads its delighted pupil to examine and admire the economy of that infinite Architect who gave man an organized structure and vital principles,