

fact? Is it not rather a matter of surprise that, even in our own country, though much has been said in favor of its pleasures and profits, comparatively little has been *done* towards encouraging its study,—that the first symptoms of improvements in its practice were scarcely discoverable two or three centuries ago,—and that all that has yet been done towards elucidating the principles upon which enlightened practice depends, or towards carrying these principles into operation, is the property of the present age. To speculate on causes producing this apathetic if not retrograde, practice of Agriculture in England, (for the Romans left Britain a much greater amount of practical knowledge on the subject than was employed even in the Elizabethan age,) is not our object. The argument we would urge is, that however far scanty the wants of a limited population may account for the scanty efforts made to supply those wants, the increased wants of an increased and still increasing population, are now such, as in some measure explain the increased efforts which have been made lately, and demand a continuance of them, in order that the riches of our country may continue to increase, and that a great population may obtain a great amount of comforts. In illustration of our assumption of increased wants, (upon which we base our conclusion of the necessity for an increased supply of the products of agricultural skill,) we have, according to the calculations of the Poor-Law Commissioners, the fact that the increase of population in England is 230,000 per annum, and that is an increase requiring annually 59,000 tenements, (a Manchester and a Birmingham), 27,227 cattle, 64,715 lambs, 70,319 sheep, 7,894 calves, (equal to the produce of 81,000 acres of pasture land); also, at 56 oz. daily for a man, wife, and three children, 105,000 qrs. of wheat, equal to the produce of 28,058 acres of land, at 30 bushels (which is more than the regular average) per acre. Being altogether the produce of 109,000 acres of good land required every year to feed the increase of our population. To those tinged with Malthusian scepticism, and who may doubt the capability of Agriculture to keep pace with population, it will not be necessary to urge the existence of a wise and beneficent law by which productiveness and population progress by equal steps. The fact that our present population of 15 millions is more plentifully supplied with bread than one of 2 millions was 250 years ago, is the best evidence of what *has been done*. And the calculation of Mr. Pusey, that if we can raise the quantity of wheat a single bushel per acre, on the lands now under cultivation in England and Wales only, it will add to our income 475,000 qrs. of wheat, which, at 50s per quarter, is equal to £1,200,000, or the interest of a capital of £24,000,000 sterling, gained forever to the country, is no small incentive to future effort. If such great results, then, arise from such limited means, when we look at our uncultivated, and our half-cultivated acres—if we ex-

amine what observing practice has already accomplished, and view the structure of inductive facts which science has already erected, can we doubt either that there are 'fresh fields and pastures new' in the terra incognita of Agriculture, or that we shall be able to find them? In no branch of this agricultural inquiry, however, can we labor with a greater chance of success, than in that which relates to the nature and application of manures—and especially of those manures which are now wasted or neglected. Manures are matters which supply the plants with food—the materials from which, in obedience to certain laws, it erects, maintains, and perfects its structure. By acquiring, therefore, a correct knowledge of their economy, we acquire the power of ministering to the wants of vegetation, and of increasing the products of the soil.—Hannam 'On the Economy of Waste Manures.'

Agriculture in English Literature.

Lavergne, the distinguished French Rural economist, in commenting on the English taste for a Country life, has the following:

The national literature, as expressive of manners and customs, contains throughout marks of this distinctive trait in the English character. England is the country of descriptive poetry; almost all their poets have lived in the country and sung of it. Even when English poetry took ours for its model, Pope celebrated Windsor Forest, and wrote pastorals; if his style was not rural, his subjects were. Before him Spenser and Shakespeare wrote admirable rustic poetry; the song of the lark and nightingale still resounds, after the lapse of centuries, in Juliet's impassioned farewell to Romeo. Milton—the sectarian Milton—employed his finest verse in a description of the first garden, and in the midst of revolutions and business, his fancy carried him towards the ideal fields of *Paradise Lost*.

But it was principally after the Revolution of 1688, when England, now free, began to be herself, that all her writers became deeply impressed with the love of country life. It was then that Gray and Thomson appeared; the first in his celebrated *Elegies*, and among others his "Country Churchyard," the other in his poem of the *Seasons*, striking in delightful sounds the favorite cord of the British lyre. The *Seasons* abound with amiable description; it is sufficient to instance the hay-making harvest and sheep shearing, the latter being already in Thomson's time, a great business in England; and among the pleasures of the country, his account of trout fishing. The angler, at the present day, may find in this little descriptive picture, his favorite art fully detailed. The feeling is everywhere lively and spontaneous—enthusiasm, real and deep, for the beauties of nature and the sweet