

stancy, is often plotting their ruin. I would recommend to the consideration of the female sex, the following words of Chamont in the Orphan:

'Trust not a man, we are by nature false,  
Dissembling, subtle, cruel, and inconstant:  
When a man talks of love, with caution  
trust him;  
But if he swears, he'll certainly deceive  
thee.'

Assuredly, if they reflect how many of their sex have been gradually drawn from innocence to infamy, by the flatteries, protestations, and false endearments of ours, they would shun the very approach of flattery like death. I readily give up my own sex so far, for the benefit of the fair, and heartily wish they may have the good sense to despise flattery and the flatterer.

## ACCOUNT OF THE USEFULNESS OF WASHING THE STEMS OF TREES.

[By Robert Marsham, Esq. From the Philosophical Transactions.]

THE following account is a kind of postscript to my letter to Dr. Moss, lord bishop of Bath and Wells, in 1775, which the Royal Society did me the honour to publish in the Philosophical Transactions in 1777. In that I shewed how much a beech increased upon its stem being cleaned and washed; and in this I shall shew, that the benefit of cleaning the stem continues several years: for the beech which I washed in 1775 has increased in the five years since the washing eight inches and six-tenths, or above an inch and seven-tenths yearly; and the aggregate of nine unwashed beeches of the same age does not amount to one inch and three-tenths yearly to each tree. In 1776 I washed another beech (of the same age, viz. seed in 1741;) and the increase in four years since the washing is nine inches and two-tenths, or two inches and three-tenths yearly, when the aggregate of nine unwashed beeches amounted to but one inch and three-tenths and a half. In 1776 I washed an oak which I planted in 1720, which has increased in the four years since washing seven inches and two-tenths, and the aggregate of three oaks planted the same year (viz. all I measured) amounted to but one inch yearly to each tree. In 1779 I washed another beech of the same age, and the increase in 1780 was three inches, when the aggregate of fifteen unwashed beeches was not full fifteen inches and six-tenths, or not one inch and half a tenth to each tree; yet most of these trees grew on better land than that which was washed. But I apprehend the whole of the extraordinary increase in the two last experiments should not be attributed to washing; for in the autumn of 1778 I had greasy pond mud spread round some favourite trees, as far as I supposed their roots extended, and although some trees

did not show to have received any benefit from the mud, yet others did, that is, an oak increased half an inch, and a beech three-tenths, above their ordinary growth. Now though the beech gained but three-tenths, yet, perhaps, that may not be enough to allow for the mud; for the summer of 1779 was the most ungenial to the growth of trees of any since I had measured them, some not gaining half their ordinary growth, and the aggregate increase of all the unwashed and unmudded trees that I measured (ninety-three in number of various kinds) was in 1779 but six feet five inches and seven tenths, or seventy-seven inches and seven-tenths, which gives but eight-tenths and about one-third to each tree; when in 1778 (a very dry summer in Norfolk) they increased seven feet and nine-tenths, or near eighty-five inches, which gives about nine-tenths to each tree; and this summer of 1780 being also very dry, yet the aggregate increase was above half an inch more than in 1778. But the best increase of these three years is low, as there is but twenty of the ninety-three trees that were not planted by me, and greater increase is reasonably expected in young than old trees; yet I have oak now two hundred years old (1780) which is sixteen feet and five inches in circumference, or one hundred and ninety seven inches in two hundred years. But this oak cannot be properly called old. The annual increase of very old trees is hardly measurable with a string, as the slightest change of the air will effect the string more than a year's growth. The largest trees that I have measured are so far from me, that I have had no opportunity of measuring them a second time, excepting the oak near the honourable Mr. Legge's Lodge in Holt Forest, which does not show to be hollow.