



"THE EARTH BEING MAN'S INHERITANCE, IT BEHOVES HIM TO CULTIVATE IT PROPERLY."

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THE FARMER'S MANUAL,

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XENOPHON has remarked, "that the arts thrive where Agriculture succeeds prosperously," and Mr. Gibbon has declared "Agriculture to be the foundation of manufactures; since the productions of nature are the materials of art." The mechanic and the artist holding themselves no share in the divisions of the earth, receive a voluntary tax from the owners of the soil; and these are instigated by their own interests to improve the estates, with the produce of which they may procure additional pleasures. The real interests, therefore, of the agriculturist and manufacturer are not irreconcilable but friendly, each depending for support on the successful prosecution of the labors of the other, and each receiving the most permanent advantage when a like prosperity is blessing the employments of his neighbour. It were well for some portions of the world if this truth could be as faithfully observed as it may be easily demonstrated—and the arms of the farmer and mechanic relieved from the imposition of duties and the straightness of distinctive protections be made free, to produce on the easiest terms the fruits of their respective labors, and to dispose of these in such manner and at such places as should promise the best returns. But this is not the subject on which we proposed to discourse our readers at this time, and

we must leave it, though perchance unwillingly. We return to our rough draught of the history of Agriculture.

It is quite impossible to fix with any degree of certainty, what time Agriculture was introduced into Britain. It was not unknown when Julius Cæsar first invaded the island, and he supposed it to have been introduced by the Gauls about one hundred years before that invasion. It is stated by Pliny that this people were acquainted with the use of marl as a manure, and that it was peculiar to them and the people of Britain. Lime, too, was used as a manure among them before the invasion of Cæsar.

Although after the establishment of the Romans in Britain immense quantities of corn were annually exported, the Picts and Scots soon disturbed the labors and destroyed the fruits of British industry, and the supervening wars in which they were involved by the Saxons, drove them from those portions of their country best suited to Agriculture. The rents and still more the low prices of land prove the great decay of Agriculture at this time—the price of an acre of the best land being no more than sixteen Saxon pennies, or four shillings of our money; four sheep being equal in value to an acre of the best land, and one horse to the value of three acres.

The Norman invasion improved Agriculture, for by that event many thousands of husbandmen from Flanders, France, and Normandy, settled in Britain and cultivated farms after the manner of their countries. Many Agricultural implements, like these now in use, though less perfect, were brought over and used by them. Summer fallowing of lands for wheat, and ploughing them several times, were frequently practised by the English farmers in this period. Ingulphus, abbot of Croyland, under the Conqueror, supplies an early and interesting instance of improvement. Richard de Rules, Lord of Deeping, he tells us, being fond of Agriculture, obtained permission from the abbey to enclose a large portion of marsh for the purpose of separate pas-