

and that Agriculture, as well as every other art, has prospered and been improved, in proportion as its principles have been inquired into and acted upon. Is it at all reasonable to suppose that Husbandry, which requires a high degree of attention and intelligence, is understood properly by men prejudiced against every new idea, ignorant of the nature of their own operations, and mere machines guided by early customs? It has been well said, "That a ploughman, or one who only goes through servilely the common course of Husbandry, can with no more propriety be denominated a Farmer, than an apothecary's porter can be called a physician." What else does he do, in his uniform, antient, and illiberal procedure, than recollect a few particular seasons and dates, and remember that such and such a work has always in his practice been performed at a certain period? Such an exhibition of the practice of husbandry would strike one with a sentiment very different from what is sometimes declared—"That Agriculture is the mother of arts." A very moderate degree of inquiry would lead men to see the folly and the injurious nature of such prejudices, if they are at all open to conviction; and no method whatever can be better fitted to produce this change, than the study of the improvements already made—the means used by which these improvements were brought round—and the rules deduced from them by men of experience, explained and enforced in cheap periodical publications.

A number of circumstances have indirectly prepared the Farmers of Scotland for profiting by information—such as the situation and laws of the country, the education and economical disposition of the people, the means of communication, &c. This information and knowledge, however, has been mostly derived from the exertions of men proceeding in the line of study and inquiry here recommended. Experiments made by individuals discovered properties and principles universal, or, at least, of very extensive benefit—treatises were written, in which were collected the various points ascertained—the Highland Society has diffused much useful knowledge—periodical publications have become the receptacles and vehicles of every new improvement in knowledge, thus accessible to every enlightened mind. The minds of Farmers, enlightened them with the ambition of excelling, and consequently was productive of the best results. A taste for the art became prevalent—it soon grew a fashionable employment—and men of the most liberal minds have contributed their exertions to the general interest of Husbandry; and in those districts of Scotland where this course has been followed, agriculture is conducted on the most enlightened principles, and to wonderful advantage. What a change is now to be seen between the present state of Scottish husbandry, and the view given of it by Lord Kames in his "Gentleman

Farmer!"* "About forty years since," his lordship says, "Husbandry was sadly imperfect—our draught horses miserable creatures, without strength or mettle,—our oxen scarcely able to support their own weight, and ten going in a plough, led on by two horses—the execrable husbandry of *infield* and *outfield* generally established—the ridges high and broad, in fact enormous masses of accumulated earth, that would not admit of cross-ploughing—ribbing, by which half the land was left untiled generally—summer fallow creeping in,—and a continual struggle for superiority between corn and weeds." In this way he goes on; and it is remarkable that scarcely one of the improvements which Lord Kames suggested has failed of being now realised.

In several quarters of Scotland, the state of agriculture presents appearances in many instances little superior to the view given by Lord Kames. Draining neglected—three white crops following one another successively, succeeded by a hay crop, very prevalent; and many other practices similarly foolish and unproductive. The prejudices of these Farmers against every change are almost insurmountable; and, notwithstanding all the means of information afforded them, anything opposed to their early practices is rejected and treated with the utmost contempt. In many counties, both of the west and north of Scotland, perhaps not one out of fifty Farmers (especially those of the lower order,) have ever changed their practice from *proper* or rational motives. A treatise on Agriculture is treated as a volume of heresy, and its projector as a hurtful member of society; and even such periodical works as might at least gratify curiosity, or afford matter for conversation on agricultural subjects, are never perused, though a great deal more of both time and money be in too many instances given to indolence or dissipation.

* The "Gentleman Farmer"—being a attempt to improve Agriculture on Rational Principles. First edition, 1776.



COBOURG, AUGUST 1, 1846.

This paper, when taken in connexion with the *Star*, will not cost the Subscriber anything additional, as we have determined to give the two papers for 15s. a year. If, however, it be taken separately, by itself, the Subscriber will be charged two and sixpence a year, payable in advance.

We beg to call the attention of our Subscribers to the proceedings of the London Farmers' Club, the publication of which is begun in this number. Much

valuable information has been given to the public by the gentlemen whose *practical experience* we quote; and we have no doubt but that when Township Clubs are once established in this District, we shall be able to lay before our readers information of equal utility resulting therefrom.

As this is the first number of the *Newcastle Farmer*, and having the proceedings of but one Club meeting to record, it cannot be expected that it should be filled exclusively with original reports. The discussion, however, of the London Farmers' Club given in this number upon the subject of "Manures," will be found worth the reading, and the Editors of the *Star and Gazette* have made arrangements for procuring the most approved old country Journals, for the purpose of assisting them, by extracts and otherwise, in making such remarks and comments upon the subjects discussed at the Club meetings, as may be useful. The Editors are no Farmers, nor is it necessary *they* should be for this purpose; and that they may not be misunderstood, they beg their readers distinctly to understand that this is not intended to be an "Agricultural Journal," but merely a memorandum, as auxiliary to the efforts now making to organize the Township Clubs, of days and places of meeting, and the reports of their proceedings.

Arrangements have been made by which it is to cost no more than the money actually laid out in purchase of paper, ink, and workmanship, which will not exceed 2½d. a number, and it is not thought that any farmer will grudge that small sum, if it were merely to be informed of the time of meeting in his Township, and the subject to be discussed. To those Farmers within the Newcastle District who may favour us with their names as Subscribers to our newspaper, the *Newcastle Farmer* will be sent *gratis*, and it is hoped that the great sacrifice which we thus make in labour and money, will be appreciated on the part of all the Farmers of this District, and that they will encourage us by becoming Subscribers.

It is, we understand, intended that each Club will appoint an efficient Secretary, whose duty it shall be to furnish a Report of the proceedings of each Meeting for publication, similar to the one which we give in this number for the Township of Hamilton; and in addition to this we shall be happy to receive and to publish,