

devising and perfecting new modes of cultivation. At his death, about the year 1812, his property which had cost £20,000 was valued at £500,000, and was even then in a state of progressive improvement.

Mr. Smithson Tennant, the successor of Dr. Watson in the chemical chair of Cambridge, and himself one of the individuals to whom one of the three prizes of £20,000 each, offered by Bonaparte for competition among scientific men of all nations, was awarded by the French Institute, inherited an estate of considerable extent, but of no great value, among the Mendip hills, in Somersetshire. When he succeeded to this property, Mr. Tennant was one of the most eminent chemists in Europe, and had already distinguished himself very greatly, by discoveries relative to the properties of lime as a manure, he being the first who ascertained that the magnesian kind was inimical to vegetation. His scientific knowledge was skilfully and sedulously employed in the improvement of his property; his operations have been published, but it is sufficient for our purpose to mention, that his property at the time of his death (which was occasioned by the overturning of a drawbridge in France, after the peace,) was at least ten times more valuable than it had been when it came into his possession, about thirty years before.

These are wonderful results, but they have all proceeded from adequate causes, and like every thing valuable in this life, were obtained in consequence of much composed exertion, and of the best faculties of man being exercised to procure them. Tennant and Watson received an education at Cambridge, which admirably fitted them for "seeking science in her coy abode," and their knowledge and its successful application need not excite our astonishment, but let us enquire how it happened that Mr. Smith, of Deanston, and the farmers of the Carse of Gowrie have

been enabled to avail themselves of the discoveries effected by the two talented professors, and even to excel them in the career of agricultural improvement.

Fifty years ago, a Professorship of agriculture was established in Cambridge, by Sir James Pultney; and Dr. Coventry, the first Professor, both by publications from the press and by oral instructions, endeavoured to excite the attention of mankind to his favourite pursuit, and to make them scientifically acquainted with its principles. The professor laboured successfully in his vocation, and at his decease, the important office was conferred on Mr. Low. This gentleman's opening lecture I had the pleasure of hearing in company with the most eminent of our men of science, and with some of the more noble and far descended of the British nobility.

The learned and ingenious Professor, stimulated by the high patronage he had received, delivered a discourse never exceeded in beauty of language, cogency of reasoning and felicity of illustration; all who heard him left the hall suitably impressed with the transcendent importance of the subject to which the Professor meant to devote his time and labour, and fully convinced that the agricultural chair of Edinburgh had been bestowed upon a gentleman whose talents and enthusiasm would leave nothing to be desiderated in the performance of its duties. The delighted audience were not deceived: if Dr. Coventry did much, Professor Low did ten times more to diffuse agricultural knowledge throughout Great Britain.

Mr. Smith of Deanston, and the persons in Scotland best acquainted with the science of agriculture, were indebted to these two Professors for that information, which when combined with industry and practical intelligence, has been followed with results so stupendous.

Having occupied a sufficient space