

what gives a preference to the whole redounds proportionately to the parts.

The salt marshes are flats of different extent, lying along the sides (chiefly the windings and recesses) of rivers, bays, or creeks, overflowed in stormy weather, or by higher tides, and at any rate by spring-tides. They have originally been banks of river or sea sletch, from which the ordinary height of the water has in the course of time retired : or they have been flats of land, lying so low as to be occasionally overflowed by any extraordinary rising of the water ; and I suppose their respective difference of quality may depend much upon which of these ways they have been formed.

In their natural state they produce coarse hay, which is of better or worse quality, and more or less luxuriant, according to the quality in the substance of the marsh. This hay is fit to support neat cattle in winter ; but only the best sorts of it are fit for working cattle, horses, and sheep.

Being so frequently overflowed, the marshes, excepting the higher or more eminent spots of them, are generally wet, or somewhat approaching to swampiness ; consequently, liable to be poached and injured by cattle being permitted to walk or pasture on them, unless the tides are
banked