

THE
ADVANTAGES,

Which may arise to the

PEOPLE of IRELAND

By raising of

FLAX and FLAX-SEED,

CONSIDERED.

Together with

INSTRUCTIONS for SOWING and
SAVING the SEED, and Preparing the FLAX
for the Market.

Drawn up and Published by the Direction

OF THE

DUBLIN SOCIETY.

*Hinc anni labor ; hinc Patriam, parvosque Nepotes
sustinet.* Virg.

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BY
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DUBLIN SOCIETY
OF
MUSICIANS
FOR THE
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DUBLIN

THE
ADVANTAGES,
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FLAX and FLAX-SEED, Considered.

THE Linnen-Manufacture of *Ireland* was very inconsiderable in the Year 1700, but since that time it has gradually so improved and increased, that now it is become the principal Staple-Commodity of the Kingdom, and makes a third part in the Value of all our Exports.

It is by the help of this Commodity, that we have been able to maintain a Ballance in our Favour in our Trade with most other Countries, and to make such large Remittances in Money constantly to *England*.

There is hardly to be found in History, another Instance of a Nation, which has turn'd the Labour and Industry of its People almost at once into a new Channel, and brought a new Manufacture in so short a time to so great and general a Perfection.

The Benefit arising from this Trade to those Countries where it is carried on, appears from hence, that it gives full employment to the Inhabitants, increases their Number and Wealth, and raises the Value of their Lands. The Lands of *Ulster*, though naturally very coarse, and for the most part the worst in the Kingdom, yet by the help of this Manufacture are come to be valued almost equal with the best, and the common People live better there than in other Parts; that Province hath by the Industry of its Inhabitants brought more Money into the Kingdom than any other, considering that most of all the Linnen exported, as well as what is consum'd at home, is the Manufacture of the *North*.

It is computed that the Linnen made of the Produce of an Acre of Flax will yield at least thirty Pounds; and give full Employment to six People for a Year; 'tis also computed that

thirty thousand Acres are made use of in this Kingdom in raising of Flax, and that about 180,000 Hands are employed in working it up; three or four thousand Acres, over and above what we employ at present in raising of Flax, if duly managed, would produce as much good Seed and Flax as we import from foreign Countries, which amounts to the Value of 30 or 40,000 *l.* yearly. And if ten thousand Acres more were employed in raising of Flax, and the Produce thereof manufactured into Linnen, we should be able to export double the Quantity of Linnen we do at present, and give Employment to 60,000 idle Hands; and there is no doubt but we have three times that Number of People who live poor and idle for want of Work to be employed in. It is such an Employment of our People, and increase of our Linnen-Manufacture, and nothing else, that will enable us to answer the Demands upon us from abroad, and encrease our Money at home, and therefore we should endeavour by all proper means to spread that Manufacture into all Parts of the Kingdom. It has already made a considerable Progress in *Leinster* and *Connaught*, and spreads farther every day, in Proportion, as more People fall into Spinning and Weaving; and all the *Southern* Parts of *Ireland*, which formerly neglected or slighted all Applications made to them for promoting the Linnen-Manufacture among them, now strongly solicit the Linnen-Board for Flax-Seed, so that there is the greatest Prospect that in a few Years the Linnen-Manufacture will take Place, and be established in all the *Southern* Parts of the Kingdom, very much to their Benefit.

There is no reason to apprehend that we shall want a Market for all the Linnen we can make, since *England* alone takes off yearly from other Countries near the Value of two Millions *Sterl.* in Linnen. And 'tis to be hoped that *England* will give us further Encouragement to engage more universally in a Manufacture which does not hurt themselves, and which may take us off from such as they apprehend do interfere with theirs; it being found by Experience, that where the Linnen-Manufacture has prevail'd among us, the Woollen has proportionably declin'd. Add to this, that *Spain*, *Portugal*, the *West-Coasts* of *Africa*, and the *WestIndies*, are all supplied with Linnen from foreign Countries.

Flax and Flax Seed frequently fails in the *North* of *Ireland*, either from the badness of the Seasons, the unfitness of the Soil, their using foreign Flax-Seed which is often decayed, or from the degeneracy of the Seed of their own Growth, occasion'd chiefly by the Custom, which generally prevails among the People there, of pulling their Flax before the Seed is ripe, under pretence of having fine early Flax, by which means they either quite loose the Seed, or it becomes so starved and degenerate as to afford but a poor short Flax: These Misfortunes or Mismanagements oblige them many Years to purchase Flax from foreign Countries at a great Price to supply their Spinners, and in such Years, where-

in their Flax fails, many of their Spinners and Weavers are unemployed, either for want of Materials or Money to purchase them; and every Year they are under a Necessity of procuring several thousand Hogshheads of foreign Flax-Seed, which seldom fails to degenerate in two or three Years time, which makes them depend on other Countries for the very Being and Support of a Manufacture, which is of such Importance to us.

Now if the Inhabitants of *Leinster*, *Munster*, and *Connaught* would fall into the Business of sowing and saving their Seed and Flax in the proper manner, they might not only reap the Advantage of supplying the *Northern* Parts with what Flax and Seed they may want, but also lay the foundation of the Linnen-Manufacture among themselves.

Flax-Seed thrives best in a dry, warm, mellow fresh Soil, such as the Sheep-Walks of *Leinster*, *Munster*, and *Connaught* for the most part consist of; and in those Provinces there are many hundred thousand Acres of such Land very fit for Flax: The Method made use of in other Countries, to preserve their Flax and Seed from degenerating, is to sow it in fresh Ground well prepared and proper for it, and not too thick: To let the Flax grow till the Seed be full ripe, and to keep it in Stack till towards the Spring: Not to sow it two Years successively in the same Spot of Ground, but to shift it constantly into fresh Ground of the same kind, or of a different Nature.

'Tis the constant practice of good Farmets to change their Seed, and to sow their Lands with Wheat and other Grain that grew in a different Country or Soil rather than what grew on their own, in order to keep it from degenerating; and we are inform'd that about *Riga* and *Conigsberg*, from whence a great part of *Europe* is supplied with Flax and Flax-Seed, and where the People are not obliged to any other Country for the change of their Seed, in order to preserve it from degenerating, they sow in the Low-lands the Seed which grew the Year before in Up-land, and sow in the Up-lands, what grew on the Low-lands.

'Tis found by constant Experience, that all Seeds and Grain improve by being sown in a better and kindlier Soil than where they grew, and constantly degenerate when sown in a worse; our foreign Flax-Seed never fails to degenerate when sown in wet, clay Grounds, and such as have been before sown with other Grain, and abound with Grass and Weeds; but the same Seeds, tho become degenerate, yet if sown in a kindly warm Soil, will recover again, of this we have a remarkable Instance, in an Experiment which was made with a Barrel of the most degenerate Flax-Seed that could be got in the *North*, which being carried to *Munster*, and sown in some of the *Corcus* Lands in the County of *Limerick*, produced very good Flax there, and the Seed thereof sent back to the *North*, produced as good Flax as any of the *Dutch* Seed did.

Since

Since then the way to preserve Flax and Flax-Seed from degenerating, is to shift the Seed yearly into fresh kindly Soils, and since the Farmers in the *North*, and the Cottiers every where, are confined to very small Parcels of Land, and consequently cannot put this Method in Practice, and as great Quantities of Seed and Flax are annually imported to supply the Demands of the *North* and other Parts of the Kingdom, it would be very much to the Advantage of the Nation, if the People of the *Southern* Parts, who have great Quantities, and Variety of Land very fit for Flax, would raise Seed and Flax for the Supply of the rest; In this all Parts of the Kingdom would find their Account, the *Northern* Parts by being sure of a constant Supply of good fresh clean Seed from the *South*, and the *Southern* Parts by having a good Market for their Seed and Flax in the *North*, and the Nation in general by saving great Sums of Money expended yearly in the purchase of foreign Seed and Flax.

The Profit which the People of the *Southern* Parts may expect from sowing Flax will appear from hence, that the Charge of preparing Ground for Flax is less than for Corn, for if it be a mellow, rich, dry, ley Soil, one Ploughing with good harrowing is sufficient; and an Acre of good Flax rightly managed, will, as it stands in the Field, sell from 7 to 11 Pound; and if it be not sown too thick, and be left to grow till the Seed be full ripe, and kept in Stack till Spring, an Acre will produce from 15 to 22 Bushels of Seed, which if sold at the rate that *Dutch* Seed has been sold for of late Years, will yield from 6 *l.* to 9 *l.* for the Seed only; and surely if a much less Profit arose from the Seed, yet what would arise from the Flax also, would make it worth the Farmer's while to turn his Industry that way.

Now 'tis computed that an Acre of indifferent good Flax will produce 30 Stone of Flax at the least, of 14 Pound to the Stone, which made fit for heckling, will at the rate of five Shillings the Stone, yield 7 *l.* 10 *s.* and 'tis known that some Lands in *Leinster* have produced 60 Stone of Flax to an Acre; so that any one who will make use of good Ground, and order his Seed and Flax according to the Directions herein after mentioned, may by barely selling his Seed and Flax, without entering farther into the Manufacture, or being at much Expence, very well expect to get ten Pound an Acre clear Profit, which is more than can be made any other way.

But it may be objected, that it cannot be expected, that the People of the *Southern* Parts will apply themselves to the raising and saving of Seed and Flax, because they are not skilled in the right manner of doing it, or if they were, yet as the People among them are not able to work it up, there will be no Demand for their Seed or Flax, and consequently it will lie upon their Hands.

In Answer to this, we are to observe, 1st. That little or no Art or Skill is required to prepare the Land, sow and save the

Seed

Seed and Flax, so as to be fit for Market; the Directions herein after mentioned for that Purpose, which any one may put in Execution, will be sufficient to instruct them; nothing more being expected from them at present but to furnish the rough Materials to those in the *North* and other Parts, who want them for their Manufactures: 'Tis owned indeed that heckling and spinning of Flax, weaving of Yarn, and bleaching of Linnen, are particular Arts, and require Time, Skill and Experience to become Masters of them, and cannot be brought at once into general Use, where they were not known before; but it cannot be doubted, when the Material comes to be in plenty in the *Southern* Parts, but that the People will by degrees fall into the Manufacture of it themselves.

2dly. Tho there may not be any Demand at present in the *Southern* Parts for Flax and Flax-Seed, yet the Demands are very great in other Parts of the Kingdom; the Linnen-Board and private Merchants import yearly many Thousand Hogsheads of Flax-Seed, which commonly stand them in about 50 Shillings or 3 Pound a Hogshead or 7 Bushels, and this Year near 4 Pound, and when this is sold in Pecks and small Parcels to the poor Country People, they pay near the rate of five Pound a Hogshead, and as the Linnen-Manufacture is every day spreading farther not only in the *North*, but in all other Parts of the Kingdom, the Demand for Seed and Flax will proportionably increase. Great Quantities of Flax are also yearly imported from foreign Countries to supply our Wants; from all which 'tis evident that we shall not want a Market at home for any Quantity of Seed and Flax which may be raised in the *Southern* Parts.

In order to encourage the *Southern* Parts of the Kingdom to raise Seed and Flax for the *Northern* and other Parts, the Trustees of the Linnen-Manufacture have published the following Advertisement.

WHEREAS the raising of large Quantities of Flax-Seed in this Kingdom, will greatly contribute to the extending and carrying on the Linnen-Manufacture thereof, the Trustees for the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures, for the more Effectual answering of these Ends, are ready to receive Proposals in order to contract for Three Years, from *December 1732*, with any Person for a Quantity of Flax-Seed of the Growth of this Kingdom, raised by such Contractor in good Ground, and safely kept in Stack to the 1st of *December* in each Year, to be deliver'd at such Time and in such Places as will be agreed on, either in Hogsheads or Parcels, or in Sacks containing four Bushels; and for the farther Encouragement of such Contractors, and that the Flax-Seed contracted for, may be only of the best kind; it is propos'd to furnish them with a Quantity of Foreign Flax-Seed, at the Expence of the Board, for the first Year, not less than twenty Bushels, nor more than eighty Bushels to any One Person. The

Pro-

Proposals to be sent in Writing to the Linnen-Office in *Dublin*, before the first Day of *May 1732*. *Dublin-Castle*, the 22d of *January 1731*.

Signed by Order,

Christopher Usher.

This is great Encouragement to any Undertaker, the Trustees will furnish him *gratis* with as much foreign Seed, as he can have occasion for to begin with, and afterwards will take off his Hands all the Seed he shall raise from thence in the proper Manner, so that the Farmer may be sure of a good Price for his Seed by selling it, either to the Trustees, or others who may want it, and if he manages well, he may make Six Pound an Acre clear by his Seed, and near as much more by his Flax.

But it may be said, if Flax be let to stand till the Seed be full ripe, it will be coarse, and consequently of less Value.

In Answer to this 'tis to be observed, that if Flax-Seed be sown pretty thick on rich mellow light Soiles, such as our Sheep-Lands are, the Flax will still be fine, tho' it should be suffered to stand till the Seed be ripe, but if it be sown thin, 'tis allowed that the Flax will then be the coarser, but then it will be more in Quantity, stronger, and of more Service; and the longer it is kept the finer it will grow, according to the old Saying, *Wool may be kept to Dirt, and Flax to Silk*, and accordingly Flax has been kept in *Saxony* for 20 Years, and thereby became as fine as the Hair of one's Head. All the Flax imported into this Kingdom is of the coarse sort, all our Linnen under two Shillings a Yard, or from a 900 to a 1300 Cloth, may be made of this kind, and most of our Linnen consum'd at home, or exported abroad, is of that sort. Since then the general Demand of most Countries is for the coarser sort of Linnen, we ought to apply our selves chiefly to the making of that sort, which is most in Demand, and never fails to meet with a Market; when on the contrary fine Linnens may lie upon our Hands.

It may still be objected, that the *Southern* People reap a considerable Profit at present by keeping their Lands under Stock, and it being commonly believed that ploughing of Land is prejudicial to it, they will be the less inclin'd to employ any part of their Sheep-Lands in the raising of Flax and Flax-Seed.

To this I answer, that if the Seed and Flax of an Acre will produce Ten Pounds clear Profit, as is above mention'd, the Undertaker will get 10 or 20 times more in a Year thereby, than he can by Grasing, and the Nation get 30 times more, if the Flax be wrought up into Linnen. And provided you take but one Crop of Flax and two of Corn at most of it, the ploughing the Land will, besides the present Profit, be so far from being a Prejudice to the Land, that it will greatly improve it; for 'tis observed that Sheep-Walks in time grow mossy, which hinders the growth of the Grass, and subjects the Sheep to the Rot, and therefore

'tis

'tis good Husbandry to plow up Sheep-Lands once in twelve Years, which will not fail to destroy the Moss, and mend the Grass; and if at the last ploughing you sow *Clover*, *Reygrass*, or other Grass Seeds on such Lands, the Herbage will be of four times more Value than it was before, and continue so for several Years; from whence 'tis evident that the sowing of Flax-Seed, will produce a great Profit for the present, and may be the occasion of raising a great deal of Corn, and improving the Pasture and Herbage of our Lands both in the Goodness and Quantity of it.

The following Hints may be of use for the farther Advancement of the Linnen Manufacture of this Kingdom.

1st. It is recommended to those in the *North*, who commonly pull their Flax before the Seed is ripe, in order to have fine early Flax, to let the fourth part of their Flax grow till the Seed be ripe, which part should for that reason be sown so much the thinner, by which means they will have fine Flax for their present Occasions, and if the Seed be kept housed or in Stack, and the Soil be good, they will have tolerable good fresh Seed in the Spring, and not be so subject, as now they are, either to get no Seed at all, or to pay excessive Prices for it.

2d. The *Northern* Parts having gone a great way into the making of fine Linnen, and being much employed therein, it is recommended to the other Parts of the Kingdom, where it is intended to set forward the Linnen Manufacture, to apply themselves chiefly to the making of the coarser Linnens, which always find a Market, and require less Skill and Expence in the Management, and are as profitable to the Manufacturer as the fine, and by employing more Hands may be more profitable to the Publick.

3d. For the convenient supplying the *Northern* and other Parts with Seed and Flax, with as little Expence as possible in the Carriage, it is recommended to encourage the raising of Flax and Seed in those Parts of *Leinster* which border on the *North*, such as *Lowth*, *Meath*, &c. where the Land, as it is very good for Sheep, is also very good for Flax, and in all the other Parts of the Kingdom, which are near the Sea, or some navigable Rivers, by which means their Flax and Seed may be carried to *Dublin*, *Newry*, *Belfast*, and all other Places with little Expence.

4th, It would greatly encourage the People of the *Southern* Parts to raise Flax and Flax-seed, and be a great Ease and Benefit to all those who would be willing to set forward the Linnen Manufacture there, if Markets were set up, and constantly kept in several Cities and Towns in those Parts, for selling and buying Flax, Flax-seed, and Yarn; where the Farmer may be sure of selling his Commodity, and the Spinner and Weaver of buying up Materials for keeping them in Work.

5th. It is recommended, that in all such Places, where Markets for Flax and Yarn, &c. shall be Established, Flax-Dressers

be also settled for preparing the Flax for the Spinners, and that Spinners, Weavers and Bleachers be encouraged to settle there also.

6th. But above all others, Spinners ought to be first and chiefly encouraged, without them the Manufacture cannot go on any where, and with them it will prosper with ease every where. And therefore it is manifestly the Interest of every Gentleman of Estate in this Kingdom to furnish all the poor People living on their Estates, with Spinning Wheels and Flax; and tho' this may be some small Expence to them at first, yet the Poor in a little Time will be able by their Work not only to repay their kind Landlords all the Expence they shall be at, in the beginning on their Account, but go on afterwards in their Work upon their own Stock, and grow rich themselves, and greatly improve the Estates they live on.

7th. It would be very much for the Improvement of the Linnen Manufacture, if one Set of People or Country was wholly employed in raising and furnishing the Seed and unwrought Flax, another in heckling and spinning, and others in weaving and bleaching; for by this means each part of the Manufacture would be managed with more Skill and Dexterity, and with less Expence, as is found by Experience in all other Trades, where one sort of Tradesman is employed in one Branch of the Business only, and no other, and consequently must become better skilled in that part, and can afford his Work the cheaper: Whereas when the same Person is to go through every part of the Manufacture, he will not be good at any one of them; and will be taken off from such, as otherwise he could be best employed in. This farther Advantage would arise from making every part of the Linnen Manufacture a distinct Trade, that not only the Seed, Flax, and Yarn would be had cheaper, in greater Plenty, and in better order, but the Price of the Materials and Workmanship would be more settled and constant, which would be a great Advantage to all concerned in this Trade, who are often stopt and embarrassed in their Business by the sudden rising and falling of those Commodities.

In order that Gentlemen and Farmers of the *Southern* Parts, who are willing to apply themselves to the propagating of Flax and Flax-seed, may be fully instructed in the best manner of doing it, the following plain Instructions for Raising and saving the Seed and Flax, are herein set forth, taken from *Slator, Hall*, and other experienced Persons, which will sufficiently inform them of what ought to be done from the ploughing the Ground to the preparing the Flax for the Market, the raising the Material being the Point that ought to be most encouraged in those Countries at present, without entring farther into the Manufacture.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

RAISING and SAVING of FLAX and
FLAX-SEED, and PREPARING
the FLAX for the Market.

SECT. I.

Of Land fit for Flax.

LAND most natural for Flax, and where it thrives best, is a rich, mellow, dry, and warm ley Ground, such as the Sheep-Walks of *Leinster*, *Munster*, and *Connaught* generally are.

Lands good for *Barley* are also good for Flax, and such as have been lately brought in by Potatoes produce good Flax, provided they are well clear'd of the Roots of Potatoes and Grass.

If heathy Grounds be burn-beaten, that is, the upper Sod ploughed up, and burnt, and the Ashes of the Sods and Heath spread upon the Soil, they produce good Flax.

Grounds which are wet, cold, stiff, clayey and coarse are very unfit for Flax, and so are such as are hungry, barren and boggy. But loamy Grounds, in which Sand predominates over the Clay, are good for Flax, provided they are not too wet.

Flax does not strike its Roots above an Inch or two deep; and therefore does not require a deep or a fat Soil; it requires only a fine mellow Mould, two Inches deep, free from Weeds, nothing being so injurious to Flax as Weeds, which starve and suffocate it; and for this reason Flax thrives best in untry'd fresh ley Grounds, which if mellow, both afford a sufficient depth of Mould by one ploughing, and good harrowing, and are free't of all other Lands from Weeds.

S E C T. II.

Of Ploughing and Harrowing the Ground for Flax.

THERE are three Things, which ought principally to be observed in Agriculture or Tillage. 1st. That the Grain be suited to the Nature of the Soil. 2d. That the Soil be sufficiently broken and made fine by labouring, and by being exposed to the Sun and Frosts. 3d. That the Soil be well cleared, from time to time, of the Roots of Weeds and Grass: If these Maxims be carefully observed, very little Manure of any kind will be wanting.

If the Soil be rich, mellow and dry, such as our Sheep-lands commonly are, (which are therefore most recommended) then one ploughing will be sufficient, which is to be done in *February*, ploughing the Ground three or four Inches deep, and laying the Sod with the Grass-side down smooth and even, and in the latter end of *March* or beginning of *April*, when the Frosts are over, you are to harrow it, not cross-wise, but along the Ridges, and take care not to turn the green Sod in harrowing, for that would occasion a great deal of Trouble before you could break the Land and Sods fine enough, and would fill your Ground with Weeds and Grass; for that reason, first make use of middle-sized Harrows, which will not turn the Sod, and yet will tear the Mould off, and afterwards make use of finer Harrows, and work the Ground therewith, til you have made the Mould very fine, and about two Inches deep; breaking all the Clods and Lumps, and removing all Stones and Rubbish from off the Ground; and when your Ground is thus prepared, then sow your Seed.

If your Soil be a strong Loam, or more inclined to Clay than Sand, and wants the Winter's Frosts to break it fine, then you are to give it two Ploughings, the first in *October*, and the next in *March*, just before you sow your Seed, taking care to harrow it well before and after the last Ploughing.

But if your Soil be coarse or a stiff Clay, or a stubborn Gravel, (which are not recommended for Flax, and ought not to be used but when you have no other) you must then of Necessity give it three Ploughings, the first for Summer-Fallow, and proceed after as above mentioned, cross-ploughing it the second time, and harrowing the Ground well before and after the second and third Ploughings; and in Proportion as your Land is stiff, you are to plough it the deeper, to prevent the Water from lying too near the Roots of the Flax; nothing being so injurious to Flax as too much Water or a cold Soil.

In dry Soils the Ridges cannot be made too wide or too flat or the Furrows too shallow, there being no danger of Water, lying at the Roots in a light Soile; but in clayey stiff Soils the Ridges should be made higher, but flat, 8 or 10 Feet broad at most, and the Furrows deeper, in proportion to the stiffness of the Soil, in order to carry off the Water the better, and for this purpose proper Drains ought to be made to convey the Water from the Furrows.

But with regard to the plowing of Ley-Ground for Flax, whether the same be light and sandy, loamy, or clay, it cannot be doubted, if the same Tillage be given to it, as is requir'd for Corn, that is, a Summer-Fallow, and two or three Ploughings and Harrowings, but that such Land, if it be kindly, would produce an extraordinary Crop of Flax and Seed, and much better than it can do by one or two Ploughings only; and at the same time make the Ground fit for giving 2 or 3 very good Crops of Corn, which would make ample Amends for any extraordinary Tillage you give the Land: For as Flax destroys all Weeds, and does not enter but little above an Inch into the Ground, you may depend upon having on the same Spot, where you had your Flax, a good Crop of any other sort of Grain, provided such Grain strikes its Roots deeper than Flax does; it being the right Judgment in sowing, that where you sow Seeds of shallow Roots one Year, to sow the next Year Seeds which shoot their Roots deeper, for by this means each sort will meet with sufficient Nourishment in different, fresh, and unexhausted parts of the Soil, and not deprive one another of their due Food.

S E C T. III.

Of the Choice of the Seed, the Quantity, and manner of sowing it.

GOOD Flax-Seed is generally of a brownish yellow Colour, the Husk well filled and plump, with a little turn up at the end, and the Kernel white and hard; but decayed Seed is either of a paler yellow, or perfect black, broader and thinner by far in the Kernel than the good Seed.

The Dutch save the best of their Seed for their own use, and what they sell to Foreigners they frequently mix with decayed Seed, nay sometimes the whole Parcel brought to us from thence has been so spoiled and heated, either before or after it has been put on Ship-board, that not a Grain of it has been found to grow, and the Seed we have from the *Baltick* is generally mixed with the Seed of Weeds: Thus are we abused and cheated in foreign Flax-Seed.

If the People of the Southern parts of this Kingdom wou'd sow their Seed in good Land, and save the Seed thereof in the proper manner, it might always be had in good Condition, and wou'd equall if not excell any we import from abroad.

Three Bushels and a half of Seed are sufficient for a Plantation Acre of coarse Land, and four Bushels and a half are enough for an Acre of the Richest Land.

Flax-Seed sowed thin produces the best Seed, and in greatest quantity, and when sowed thick yields finer Flax, but less and worse Seed.

If Flax-Seed be sown very thick, scarce one Grain in Ten will grow; but if sowed thin, hardly a Grain of good Seed will fail, and therefore some think that three Bushels are sufficient for an Acre.

There can be nothing more pernicious to the raising of Flax, than sowing it too thick, for by so doing the Flax can never be Ripe, the Harl has no substance, the Seed produced is bad, both in quantity and quality, and the Flax will certainly lodge, before it is Ripe or fit for Use.

Sowing of Flax-Seed in an even and equall manner is of great Use, and may be soon learn't, but 'tis practice that will make one expert in it.

The Time for Sowing of Flax-Seed is from the latter end of *March* to the middle of *April*, the earlier the better, and for this reason a good Husbandman ought to have his Ground ready for Sowing by the 20th of *March*, that he may take hold of the first opportunity, which offers after, for Sowing his Seed; and take care not to Sow it two Years successively in the same spot of Ground, but to shift it into fresh Land, to prevent its degenerating.

When you have sown your Seed, you must get a pretty large Thorn-Bush, and fix thereon a weight of Timber or Stone, sufficient to make the Thorns to enter in some measure your Ground. This Bush must be dragged by an Horse over your new sowed Ground, and will cover the Flax-Seed much better than any Harrow can do; but because the Bush may be apt to be choaked by the Rubbish, there ought to be a small cord so fixed to the Bush, as that a Boy by holding that cord in his Hand, may by giving it a twitch, raise the Bush somewhat off the Land, which will make the Dirt and Rubbish to fall down from the Bush, all which must be removed from off the Ridges, that the Flax may spring equally.

After the Seed is sown and cover'd, it is of use to roll the Ground well with a Roller about 5 Foot long, and 15 Inches Diameter, made round, which is to be drawn in a Frame by a Horse. this rolling ought to be in dry Weather; for if it be wet, both Seed and Soil will cling to the Roller, and spoil all: The end of rolling is both to break the Mould finer and to make the

Soil

Soil lye close to the Seed, so as neither the drying Winds may hurt the Seed, nor Birds gather it, and the Trouble is not great, for one Horse will role six Acres in a Day.

When the Flax is grown about six leaves high above the Ground, the *Dutch* roll it with a roller made eight square, and six Foot long; this roller is drawn by a Horse shod with broad Leathern Shoes to prevent his cutting the Flax, as he Threads thereon, or his sinking too far into the Soil.

It wou'd be a great benefit to the Flax, if your Flax-land lay so, that Water may be conveyed to it at pleasure, in very dry Seasons; which often happen in the Spring, and beginning of Summer, the Watering of it at such a time, would make the Flax thrive exceedingly, and bring the greater Profit, in regard that Flax fails in such Seasons in most places.

S E C T. IV.

Of Weeding Flax.

FLAX must be carefully Wed, when it is about four Inches high; the Weeds must be cut with a sharp Knife, or Iron in the form of a Chissel, as near the Root as you can, but the Roots must not be pulled up, because that loosens and abuses the Flax.

The Weeders cannot hurt the Flax by sitting or lying on it, while they are Weeding; but they may do it much prejudice by standing on it, especeally if they have Shoes or Pumps on, the Heels of them being apt to cut the Flax.

S E C T. V.

Of Pulling and Rippling of Flax, and saving the Flax-Seed.

FLAX is known to be ripe or fit for pulling, when the Bowles or Pods, which contain the Seed, grow brown, and the Leaves towards the Root fall from the Stalk, and then you ought to pull your Flax; and if you observe some part of the Flax much finer than the rest, pull the Fine by it self, and the Coarse by it self, and manage them separately in the watering and dressing of the Flax. For the Coarser Flax is much sooner rated or water'd than the fine, and shou'd they be promiscuously pull'd and water'd together, the coarse Flax wou'd be spoil'd before the fine cou'd be sufficiently water'd.

When you have pull'd as much Flax as you can hold in your Hand, lay that down on the Ground, keeping the Roots together,

ther, and pull another handfull, which lay by the side of the first, or a cross it, and so proceed with the rest, there let them lie for six or seven Days to Weather, then take up as many of these handfulls as will make a Sheaf of the thickness of ones Thigh, and placing that side of the handfulls which lay next the Ground, on the outside of the Sheaf, bind them together in the middle, or near the upper end, that when these Sheaves are to be placed on their butts, those butts may be spread out, and the middle of the Sheaf left as hallow as a Bird-cage, that the Wind may freely pass thorough them; these Sheaves are to be left thus standing in the Field for eight or ten Days, two and two leaning on each other in long rows, or eight or ten of them placed on the Butts in a Circular form, leaning on each other untill they are so dry that there is no fear of heating in the Stack.

When the Sheaves are perfectly dry, then you are to House them, or Stack them in such a manner as may best preserve them from Rain or other Water, untill the Spring, when you have occasion to sow the Seed.

In making your Stacks, take care that there be a foundation made with Stones, sufficiently raised from the Earth, that no under Water or damp may prejudice the Flax; and if your ground and other circumstances incline you to make it into large Stacks, rather make it up in the form of a Rick, then large round Stacks, both for keeping it better aired, and that when you have occasion to take it down to Ripple, you may be at libery to take down but part of it, which you may easily do when it is in a Rick: whereas when 'tis in a round Stack, you must take down all at once, and thereby be more subject to be injured by accidental Showers, or wet Weather: But if you make it into round Stacks of a moderate size, you will avoid all these inconveniencies; but by all means take care to have your Stacks well Thatch'd, with a sufficient Water-cast to throw off the rain, and in making your Stacks place your Sheaves in such a manner, that the Seed pods may be kept dry and well aired.

The Flax which the *Dutch, Flemmings,* and People of other Countries intend for Seed, they never Ripple the same Season they pull it, but keep the Flax and Seed together, till the ensuing Spring, and in the mean time House or Stack it. There is no way so sure, safe and natural to preserve Seeds of all kinds dry, pure, and free from heating, as to keep them on the Stalks, and in the Pods wherein they grow, which keep them cool and free from moisture; whereas when they are separated from their Stalks and Pods, and heaped together, they are very apt to heat and sweat, and none more than Flax-seed, which is very Oily; and nothing but frequent turning and airing on dry Floors, will keep them from heating, growing Musty, and from losing their Colour.

In order to destroy Rats and Mice, which are fond of Flax-feed, it is requisite, if you are troubled with such Vermin, in forming the Stack, at every two Foot distance to place Reeds fill'd with Poison; for this purpose, with an equall quantity of white and yellow Arsenick, ground by an Apothecary to a palpable powder, mix a sufficient quantity of Malt-flower, wet the whole with Milk, and a little Canary-Wine, with a few drops of the Oyle of Anniseed, when the whole is in a PASTE, fill the hollows of the Water-reed cut about a Span long with this PASTE, and stop up each end of the Reed, if there be occasion, with small wooden peggs, so as the Poison may not drop out; the smell of the Canary and Oyle will draw the Vermin, and tempt them to knaw the Reeds, which they cannot do without eating some of the Poison, which will destroy them, and make that part of the Vermin which are not Poison'd, to desert the Stack, and never more come near it.

Some build their Stacks on Posts or round Pillars with large broad Stones on the top of the Posts, by which method they keep their Flax cool and airy, and prevent any Vermin from getting into the Stacks.

Others who have the Conveniency of fine dry Sand, have made use of it with success in banishing Vermin from their Stacks, by strewing and sprinkling the Sand on the Bowles, and Sheaves as they are placed in the Stack, for when the Vermin come to eat the Seed, they will be so disturbed by the Sand falling into their Eyes and Mouths that they will quit it.

In the middle or latter end of *March*, take down your Stack, and carry it into your Barn, and sever the Bowles or Seed-pods from the Stalks, this is better done by Rippling than by Thrashing, because the Rippling Combs do not break or disturb the Harl or Skin of the Flax as Thrashing does, and they sever the Leaves and Branches, as well as the Bowles from the Flax, which Thrashing will not do, and Rippled Flax lies better in Water, spreads easily on Grass, and is easier Swingled

The *Dutch* Rippling-Bench or Board, is made of a Board 8 Foot long, 15 Inches broad and 2 Inches thick, and rounded at the Top for one to fit a stride upon, it is fixed on Feet with braces about two Foot and a half high; in the middle of the Board is placed the Rippling-Comb, the Teeth whereof ought to be of Iron, and from 12 to 15 Inches long, and the edges of the Teeth ought to stand directly opposite to each other, the better to catch the Bowles of the Flax as it is Rippling.

When you Ripple your Flax, spread a winnow Sheet on the Floor under the Rippling-Bench, to receive the Bowles, and as you open the Sheaves, take out each handful by it self, of which the Sheaf was made, for each handful will cling together and separate from the rest of the Sheaf, when well made up, and no more than one handful can be Rippled at once: Two Persons may work at the same Rippling-Comb, each Person striking his hand-
C ful

ful alternately, and two others are to attend them, whose care is to open the Sheaves, and to hand to his Rippler the handfuls of Flax, of which the Sheaf was composed, and when the Rippler Ripples that handful, the Person who attends him receives that back, and supplies him with another handful; the Rippled Flax is to be laid by it self, observing to keep the handfuls together till you have a sufficient quantity wherewith to make a Sheaf, then the Person who attends the Rippler binds it in the middle into a Sheaf of about three Quarters of a yard in Circumference; when all the Flax is thus Rippled and bound in Sheaves, the next care is to Rate or Water it.

When the Bowles or Bells are thus Rippled from the Flax, you must immediately Thrash them well with Flails, as you do the Ears of Corn; or if your quantity be very great, and you have the conveniency of a large Barn, you may in less time and with less expence do it with Horses in the following manner, *viz.* lay the Bowles in a large ring, and tying 5 or 6 Horses together, the Head of one to the Tail of another, drive them round upon the Bowles, and with Brooms or Shovels keep under the Horses Feet the Bowles which will be apt to scatter by their treading it, and thus proceed till that parcel be sufficiently broken, and by this means you will Thrash a great deal in a Day, because the Bowles will be very dry for having been Stacked all the Winter.

When you have thus Thrash'd your Bowles, you are then to separate the Seed from the Thrash and Bowles with Sieves, first making use of those of a small mesh or little holes, to sever the dust and seeds of Weeds from the Flax-Seed, and when that is done, to make use of Sieves of a larger mesh, which will let the Flax-Seed thorough and none of the Bowles or Bells; for this purpose the *Dutch* make use of Sieves made with a large Parchment bottom, punch'd as full of small round holes as close and contiguous as can be, so as not to suffer the Flax-Seed it self to pass thorough, but only the dust and seed of the Weeds, this done they have another Parchment Sieve, punch'd with oblong holes, thorough which they sift the Flax-Seed, and sever it from the pieces of Bowles and Pods, which till then the Seed was mixed with, and can't pass thorough those oblong holes; some of those sort of Sieves are at the Linnen-board.

For the more easy cleansing the Seed, brought to us from the *Baltick*, from the seeds of Weeds, which are generally mixed with it, the Trustees of the Linnen-Manufacture have set up at their Ware-house in *Dublin* an Engine which does the Work well and with great expedition: This Engine is made round, in the form of a Cylinder or long Barrel, about 7 Foot long and 18 Inches Diameter, and covered with Velum or Parchment, punch'd full of little round Holes, and supported with a Frame of round pieces of Wood, this Frame turns upon two Iron Gudgeons, so plac'd that the upper end of the Cylinder lies 5 or 6 Inches higher than
the

the other, when the Cylinder is turn'd about by the help of a handle at the upper end, all the Seed which falls into it from a Hopper, is rolled frequently about, and by the means of some Barrs within side, takes some time before it comes out at the end, and in the passage, the Seed of Weeds, which are small, drop thorough the little round holes of the Velum into a Trough, and the Flax-Seed which is too large to pass thorough those holes, is discharged at the end of the Cylinder by it self; and if any of the Seeds of Weeds should happen to pass with the Flax-Seed, the repeating the Operation will entirely separate them: By this contrivance, two Women, one for turning the Cylinder, and the other for supplying it with the foul Seed, will cleanse more Seed in a day than 20 Women can do with Sieves.

Great care ought to be taken to cleanse the Flax-Seed from the Seed of Weeds, for if they are town with the Flax-Seed, they will occasion a great deal of trouble in weeding, and in the weeding time can hardly be distinguish'd from the Flax, and if suffer'd to grow with the Flax, will by starving it and twining about the Flax greatly injure it.

The method above described is the surest and least expensive way of having Flax-Seed in good order, free from all danger of heating, or losing Colour, and there is hardly a Seed thus saved but what will grow. And accordingly the Flax which the *Dutch* and *Flemings* reserve for their own sowing, they never Ripple the same Season they pull it, but House or Stack it till the Spring; but in regard that the People in this Country have not a Stock of Flax beforehand, and have occasion for all, if not the greatest part of their Flax to work up in Winter, and therefore cannot wait till the Spring following to Ripple and water their Flax; The Directions in this Case for saving the Seed are as follows.

Ripple no more of your Flax the first Season, than what you will have occasion for the Winter following. When your Flax has been pull'd in handfuls, and laid on the Ground to Weather for 5 or 6 Days, and then bound in Sheaves, and placed on their Buts leaning on one another till they are sufficiently dry as is above mention'd, then you are to carry the Flax to your Barn and Ripple it, and bind the Rippled Flax into Sheaves of about three quarters of a yard in Circumference, thus prepared it is fit for Watering.

But for the Bowles, Bells or Pods which you have Rippled from the Flax, you are to order them thus, after separating the Leaves and Rubbish from them, lay them out very thin on a Winnow-Cloth to dry in the open Air, and often turn them in a Day, but if your quantity be too large for that, or that the Weather does not answer, lay them very thin on a dry Malt-House floor, or boarded floors, and turn them twice a Day for the first Week, giving them all the Air that possibly you can, and as they grow dry lay them thicker, and turn them once a Day for the next

Fortnight, and twice a Week after till the Spring, when they are to be thrash'd and clean'd for use.

In order to keep the Bowles which you Ripple off the first Season, from heating, it wou'd be of use to lay up in some dry place the Bun or the Chaff or Bowles of your last Years Flax, and mix them with the green Bowles of the next Years growth, for being themselves very dry, they will be a great means of drying the green Bowles by sucking in their Moisture, and keep them from heating.

'Tis the practice in *Germany*, in order to prevent their Seed from degenerating, to give it a Years rest once in three or four Years, keeping it with the Chaff duly turn'd, till the Spring come twelve Month after it is pull'd, and 'tis found that Flax-Seed thus kept will yield a better Crop than otherwise it wou'd.

S E C T. VI.

Of Watering or Rating of Flax.

YOUR Flax being Rippled and bound in Sheaves as above mentioned, your next business is to Water or Rate it.

The intent of Watering of Flax is to make the Pith or Pulp of the Flax, commonly call'd the Bun, to separate from the Bark or Skin commonly call'd the Harl, and this is effected by putting the Flax into Water, and keeping it there several Days, which will raise a Fermentation in the Flax, and by rotting the Bun, will make it part easily from the Harl, and at the same time purge and soften the Flax.

The best Waters for rating of Flax, are standing Waters, which have been long exposed to the Sun and Weather, and are become soft, warm, and bear Soap, such as most of the Loughs in this Kingdom are; if you have not the conveniency of such Loughs, then you ought to make rating Ponds, which ought to be so scituated, that you may convey at pleasure Water from some adjacent stream into them in the dryest Summer, and take care not to make your Ponds in foul mouldring Grounds, Gravel or stiff Clay are the best for that purpose.

These Ponds may be made from 5 to 8 Foot deep and wide, and as long as the quantity of your Flax will require, and ought to be fill'd with Water so early in the Year, as that it may be sufficiently soften'd by the Weather, before you put your Flax into it.

All Waters that are hard and cold are improper for rating of Flax, because they not only check the Fermentation, which is requisite, but make the Flax hard and wiry; for that reason Rivers and running Streams are not so good, and especially such as have strong swift Currents, in regard they fret and tear the Harl from the Bun. Bog-Water, though it be soft, yet is very unfit for Flax, because it generally stains, and discolours the Flax, in such a manner, that such Stains can seldom be got out by the best Bleaching.

The

The Season for watering your Flax varies according to the time you ripple it. If you ripple it the same Season it is pulled, then immediately after rippling carry it to the Water; if you keep your Flax in Stack all the Winter, then the time for watering that Flax will be about the middle of *April*, and not sooner, or any time in the Summer after.

When you lay your Flax in the Water, lay the first Range of Sheaves the long way of the Pond, and the next Range a-cross the first, and so proceed alternately, till the Flax be piled so high, that when it is sunk, it will be about 14 Inches under the Surface of the Water; then must the Top of the Flax be cover'd with Fern or other Stuff, 2 or 3 Inches thick, and over the Fern a weight of Stones must be laid sufficient to keep the Flax and all under Water; for as soon as the Flax has been laid 24 Hours in the Water, it will so strongly ferment, as to require all Hands at work to keep it down, to the end the upper Range may be equally watered with the lower.

When the Flax has been three or four Days in the Water, then thrust your Arm as far into the Water as you can, and draw out some of the Straws of the Flax by the Buts, and bend some of them; if they break readily, instead of bending, and the Harl quits the Bun without difficulty, the Flax is sufficiently rated, but if the Bun does not readily break, or the Harl quit it, then you must repeat this Experiment twice a Day, until you have found thereby, that the Flax is sufficiently water'd; yet when the Fermentation gives over, so that the Flax sinks of it self, it is a Sign that it is sufficiently watered.

As soon as the Flax is discover'd to be sufficiently rated, it must be hasten'd out of the Water, to be grassed as speedy as possible, taking it up Sheaf by Sheaf, and giving each of them a gentle shake, or rinsing in the Water, to cleanse it from the Slime and Filth contracted in the Water, as it lay there purging and fermenting.

It is not possible to ascertain in what time Flax will be sufficiently rated, because this depends so much upon the Weather, the Quality of the Water, and the Nature of the Flax, that the time spent in rating will vastly differ: For if the Weather be hot, or hotter than ordinary, and the Water warm and soft, and if the Flax be green and coarse, the Fermentation will be the quicker and stronger, and consequently the rating will be sooner over; but if the Weather be cold and rainy, the Water cold and hard, and if the Flax be fine, or long kept, the Fermentation will be the slower, and the time necessary for watering will be the longer. So that the Farmer must have regard to all these Circumstances, and carefully watch the Time when his Flax is sufficiently rated, for over-watering will rot and spoil the Flax, but under-watering may be helpt by giving it more grassing afterwards: This is a certain Rule in rating of Flax, to rate the coarse by it self, and the fine apart by it self, because the fine takes several Days longer to rate than the coarse.

During

During the time of rating of your Flax, you ought not to let in any more Recruits of Water into your Ponds, than what is absolutely necessary to keep the Stones, laid over the Flax, continually cover'd, for bringing in a Quantity of fresh cool Water, will check the Fermentation, which ought to be avoided.

S E C T. VII.

Of Grassing of Flax.

WHEN your Flax is sufficiently rated, taken out of the Water and cleansed, then must it be grass'd in the following manner.

First the Bandage must be taken off, Sheaf by Sheaf, and the Flax spread in Rows as even at the Roots, and as thin as is possible, on a new mowed Medow, or on Ground where the Grass is short, leaving at the But-end of the Flax as much Room uncover'd as will receive the Flax, when turn'd over on the Butts; by which turning the Butts will remain in the Place they were on before, but the Heads will be on the opposite Side. Then proceed to make a second Row with the same Caution, only with this Difference, that there is no occasion for leaving a greater Distance between the Heads of the first Row, and the Roots of the second, than an Inch or thereabouts, that they may not entangle with each other, for the space of Ground which contained the first Row, when turn'd will contain the second; and proceed after this manner to spread all the Flax.

When the Flax has thus lain four or five Days, and has acquired the desired Colour, which is either white or yellow, then with the help of a long Wand, held in both Hands, and thrust under so much of the Flax as you then design to turn, you are to turn the Flax over upon the Roots, the Heads the other way, and the Roots still kept as even as possible, and so proceed Row by Row till the whole Field be turn'd; let it thus continue a Day or two to bleach and stiffen, or longer, if the Weather be not favourable. When the Flax is thus sufficiently stiffen'd, then the first dry Day take it from off the Grass, and gather as much of the Flax as will make a Sheaf, and without tying it, place it on the Butts, giving the upper end a little twist to make it cling together, and opening it very wide at the Bottom, as hollow as a Bird-Cage, that the Sun, Air and Wind may sufficiently dry it; and when it is very dry, and out of danger of heating, then carry it home in a dry Day, and either house or stack it, taking care if you stack it, to thatch it extraordinary well; for Flax is much more liable to be spoiled, if it receives Wet after it is sufficiently watered, grass'd and dried.

If the Weather prove wet, Flax will not suffer at all by standing in the Field, but if it prove windy and stormy, it will be apt to disorder the Flax, and mingle the Butts and Ends together, and

and thereby create a vast deal of Trouble to set all right again; for the Buts must be always kept together, when swung, heckled and spun. The only Remedy to avoid this Inconveniency, is either to water your Flax in *April* or *May*, when we are not troubled with Winds, or to sow early in *April*, that the Flax may be earlier ripe, pulled, rated, and grassed, before those Storms happen, which are so frequent about *Michaelmas*.

If your Flax has not been sufficiently watered, you may help that by letting it lye longer on the Grass, till you find the Bun will break readily, and the Harl separate well from it; but if on the other hand your Flax has been over-rated in the Water, then a Day or two after it is grass'd, and that the Flax is grown stiff, if the Bun breaks readily, such Flax should be immediately taken from off the Grass, and stooked on the Buts in the Field, till it be sufficiently dry, and then carried directly to the Barn, and not stacked; Flax over-watered should be the first that is swung and heckled.

If your Flax in grassing sinks to the Roots of long Grass, or be shaded by it, it will be hindered thereby from drying, and will soon rot, and therefore ought to be raised as soon as possible, and placed upon the Buts, and if it be cast down by Winds, it must be set up again immediately.

The *Dutch* never suffer their Flax to lye more than two or three Days on the Grass in order to stiffen it, unless they perceive it to be under-rated, and when it is stiffen'd, they immediately raise it on the Buts, to give it all the Benefit it can have from the Wind and Air, in order to give their Flax a beautiful Colour, which they conceive, it cannot have, if it be suffer'd to lye long upon the Grass, which would grow thorough it, and shade it, and prevent the Air from passing thorough it, as it would otherwise do when placed on the Buts; and if Rain or Dew falls on it in that Position, it will less hinder the Flax from drying, than it would do if the Flax lay flat on the Ground.

S E C T. VIII.

Of Breaking, and Swinging or Scutching of Flax.

BEfore you go about to break your Flax, see that your Flax be dry enough, so that the Bun will easily break, and separate from the Harl, if you do not find it dry enough, then dry it either on a Kiln, or over a fire, taking care to prevent its taking fire. The *Dutch* in such Case make use of a large Oven, which they make so warm, as that they can put their Flax with Safety therein, having first untied the Shaves and placed them on the Buts; then they stop the Mouth of the Oven as close as possible, and there let the Flax stand for the space of 12 Hours to sweat; this done they remove it thence, and bind it into large Sheaves, and cover these Sheaves with Cloths as close as they can, and there let them lye for six Hours to sweat.

When

When your Flax is sufficiently dry, then you are to apply yourself to the breaking of it, which is done with Breakes made with three Bars under and two above, the Mash of *Dutch* Breakes are made shallower than ours, and the Rollers of theirs are square, and not rounded as ours are, which keeps their Work tighter and steadier than ours do, their Breaks are somewhat shorter than ours, which has a good effect on their Flax, because they can manage them more nimbly, and whip their Flax, and turn it under the Break more readily, so as to break and squeeze the Bun to pieces, and the Mash of their Breaks being so shallow, the Harl runs no risk of breaking or tewing.

The dryer your Flax is made the easier will the Bun break, and the Harl separate from it, and not run so much to Tow, or Backings as otherwise it wou'd.

Breaking of Flax being the proper Business of the Swinger, he ought to do it at the same time he swings. Swinging of Flax, or scutching of it, as others call it, is to sever the Bun or Pith from the Harl or Skin, after that the Flax has been sufficiently broken by the Breakes, and this is done by the means of Scutching-Handles, which are about 14 or 16 Inches long, those used by the *Dutch* are about 9 Inches broad, thicker in the Middle, and fall off thinner towards the Edges; with these Scutching Handles the Swinger is to clear the Flax from all the Bun which sticks to it, and which was sufficiently bruised by the Break before, taking care in striking off the Bun, not to break or tear off the Harl: An expert Man can swingle Flax, more to the Profit of his Employer, by two Pound in a Stone, than another, who is not well skill'd in it, and the same may be said of Heckling,

The usual Price for breaking and scutching of Flax to be fit for the Market, is a Penny or five Farthings for a Pound Weight, or about 18 *d.* a Stone.

Thus you receive all the Instructions which are necessary for sowing and saving of Flax-Seed, and preparing of Flax for the Heckle and Market, and which require but little Skill or Expence to put them in Execution,

The Instructions for Heckling, Spinning, Weaving, and Bleaching, will be communicated in a proper time, as also the Instructions for the Management of Hemp.

As the *Dublin Society for Improving Husbandry, Manufactures, and other useful Arts in this Kingdom*, intend to communicate to the Publick their Observations and Instructions in all the principal Parts of Husbandry, they think they could not begin better than by recommending the raising of Flax and Flax-Seed, for the better extending and carrying on the Linnen-Manufacture in this Kingdom, which is of the greatest Importance to us.

Their Observations and Instructions for Improving other Parts of Husbandry will in like manner be Published in due time for the Use of the Publick.