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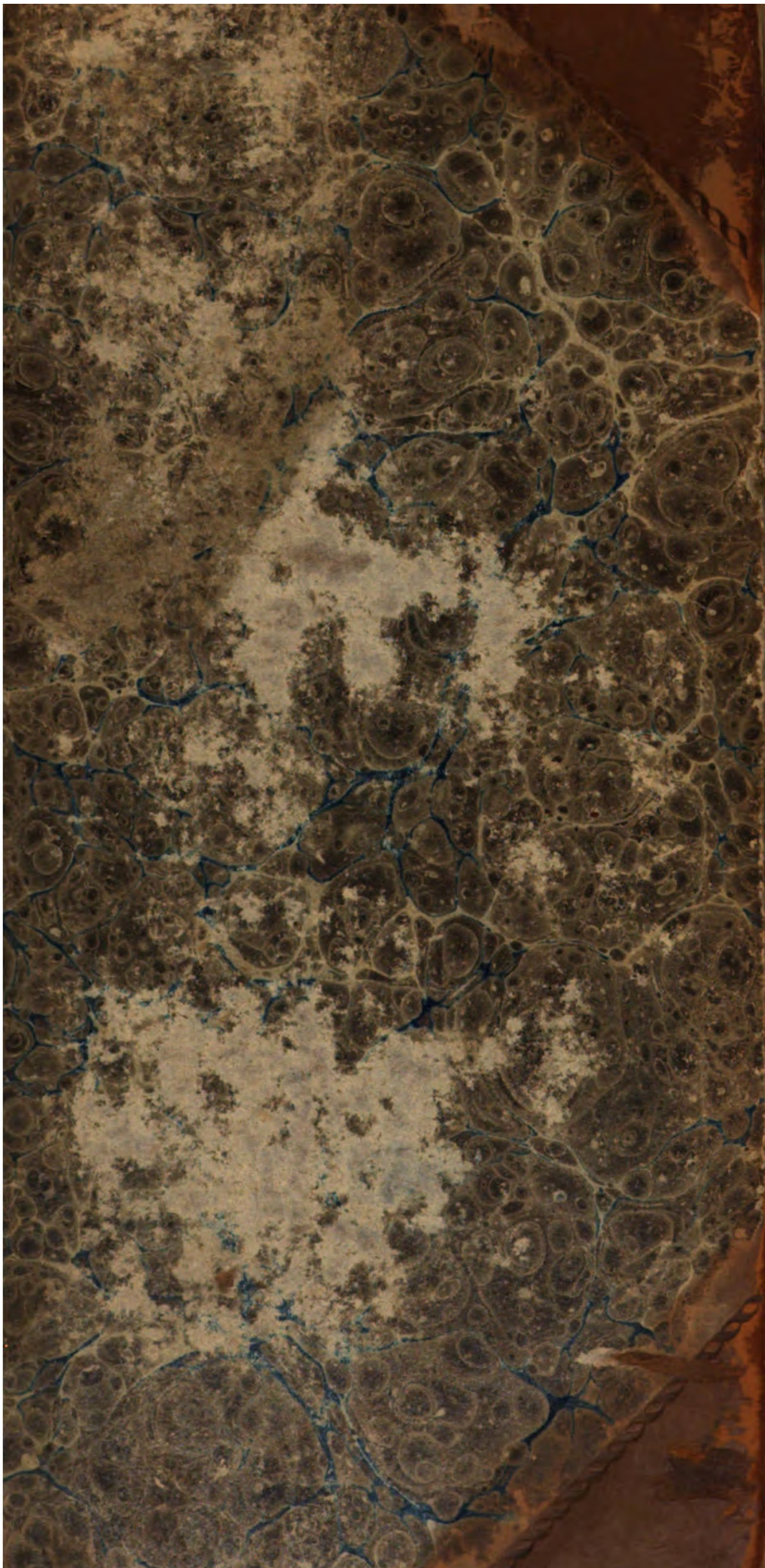
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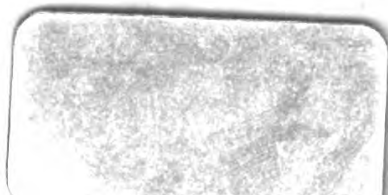




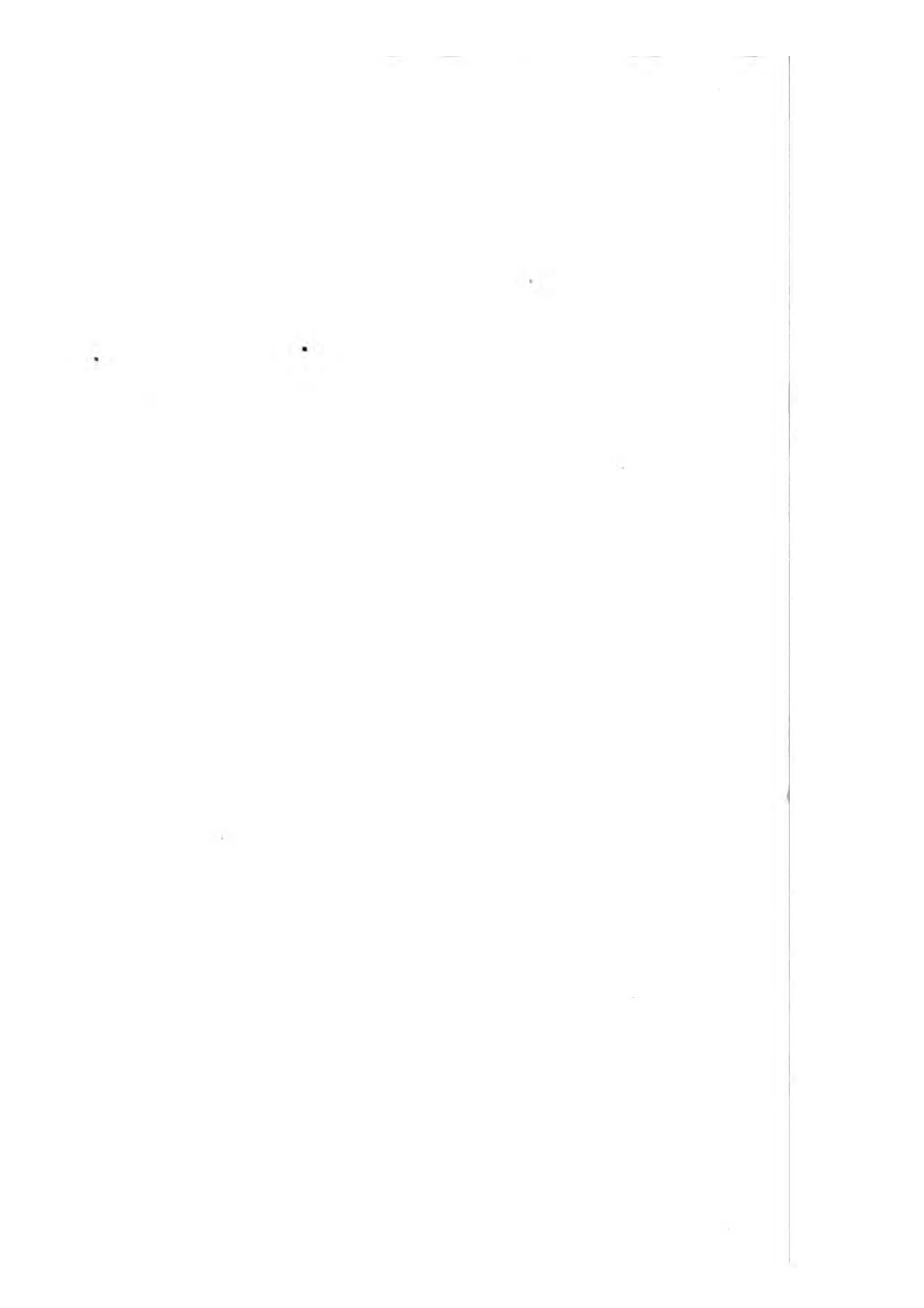
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THE
CORRESPONDENCE
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

Edinburgh :
Printed by James Walker.

THE
CORRESPONDENCE

OF

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

WITH

REMINISCENCES OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS WHO
HAVE APPEARED IN GREAT BRITAIN, AND IN FOREIGN
COUNTRIES, DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

ILLUSTRATED BY FACSIMILES OF
TWO HUNDRED AUTOGRAPHS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.



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1831.

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VOLUME SECOND.

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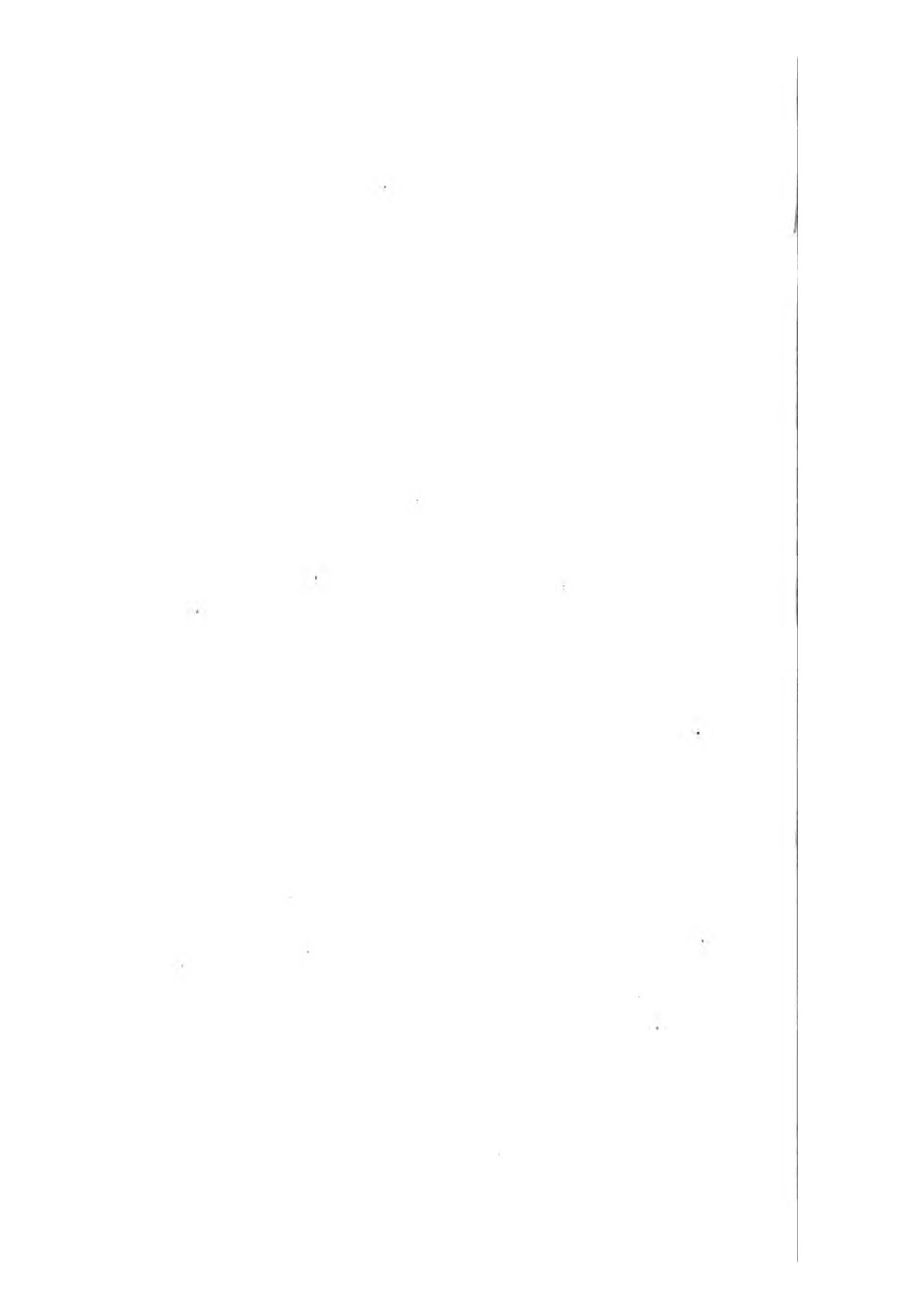
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PART XV.

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE.

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THERE is no individual who, at the time, lamented more deeply than myself, the separation of America from Great Britain, or who now more sincerely rejoices at that event. I am fully convinced, that an overgrown empire is a great political evil, and “*That numerous remote possessions are as destructive to a political body, as corpulence to the human frame.*” The improvement of the parent state is neglected, from the attention which its governors must pay to distant colonies, whilst the interests of those colonies are very imperfectly attended to *. Great Britain and Ireland are countries large enough for any one government *to manage well* ; and if our naval and military strength were concentrated for our own defence, no other state would venture to attack us.

Ever since the separation, I have uniformly endeavoured to promote a good understanding, and a friendly intercourse, between the two countries. With that view, I entered into a correspondence with the most celebrated men that the new empire had produced ; and gave a cordial reception to any natives of America, who visited Great Britain. I likewise

* The neglect shown to the circumstances and government of our American colonies was quite unpardonable, and necessarily produced the separation.

most anxiously transmitted to America any information that could further its agricultural interests; and gave any aid in my power to the improvement of its live stock.

No individual anticipates with greater pleasure the height of prosperity which America is likely to reach; and it is by no means improbable, that the new world will, in various respects, eclipse the old, unless we exert ourselves, with our utmost energy, to maintain our ancient supremacy.

I.

GENERAL WASHINGTON.

There was no circumstance, from which I derived greater satisfaction, than from carrying on, for a great number of years, a friendly intercourse with the First President of the United States of America; and I have now much pleasure in laying his communications before the reader, as they display, to so much advantage, the powerful talents,—the generous views,—and the unbounded philanthropy of that celebrated statesman.

The peculiar predilection which General Washington has so strongly and so frequently expressed, in the subsequent letters, for agricultural improvement, which he preferred to every other pursuit, is a circumstance which I am desirous should be recorded, for the benefit, both of the present, and of future times, from a desire that it may make a due impression upon the minds of those, who might otherwise be induced to dedicate themselves entirely, either to the phantoms of military fame, or to the tortures of political ambition.

I feel anxious to record the praises which this distinguished statesman has bestowed on the establishment of the British Board of Agriculture, an institution respecting which, he remarks, that he entertained the most favourable idea of it from the first; and that the more he saw and reflected afterwards

on the plan, the more convinced he was of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to Great Britain, *but to all other countries* *.

The wish which the founder of the American Republic has expressed, to have a similar agricultural establishment in America, I have also judged it expedient to publish, in the hopes that the recommendation of so great a man will at last be generally adopted, as indeed it has already been in some degree, by the establishment of a Board of Agriculture in the state of New York.

It may be proper to give a short account of the origin of the following correspondence.

About the year 1790, I began to be engaged in those extensive statistical inquiries, regarding the general state of Scotland, and the means of promoting its improvement, which were not only interesting to this country, but to every civilized part of the world; and having resolved to send copies of the first papers which were printed respecting these inquiries, to several distinguished characters in foreign countries, I could not think of neglecting an individual, so pre-eminently conspicuous, as the President of the United States of America. In answer to the first letter I had the honour of addressing to him, I received the communication, dated the 20th day of October 1792.

I embraced every opportunity of transmitting to him, from time to time, the additional papers which were afterwards printed on the subjects of our correspondence, accompanied by letters, of which I have only a copy of one, in which I endeavoured to demonstrate the advantages which might be derived from establishing a Board of Agriculture in America. Of that letter, I beg leave to subjoin the following extract, as it tends to explain more fully General Washington's answer of the 6th day of March 1797, stating the circumstances

* See Letter, No. 3, 1795, July 10.

which at that time prevented the immediate adoption of the measure.

Extract of a Letter from Sir John Sinclair to General Washington, dated Whitehall, London, 10th September 1796.

The people of this country, as well as of America, learn, with infinite regret, that you propose resigning your situation as President of the United States. I shall not enter into the discussion of a question, of which I am incompetent to judge; but if it be so, I hope that you will recommend some agricultural establishment on a great scale, before you quit the reins of government. By that I mean a Board of Agriculture, or some similar institution, at Philadelphia, with societies of agriculture in the capital of each state, to correspond with it. Such an establishment would soon enable the farmers of America to acquire agricultural knowledge, and, what is of equal importance, afford them the means of communicating what they have learnt to their countrymen.

I scarcely think, that any government can be properly constituted, without such an establishment. As mere individuals, four things are necessary; 1. Food; 2. Clothing; 3. Shelter; 4. Mental Improvement. As members of a large community, four other particulars seem to be essential, namely, 1. Property; 2. Marriage; 3. Laws for our direction in this world; and, 4. Religion, to prepare us for another. But the foundation of the whole *is food*; and that country must be the happiest, where that *sine qua non* can be most easily obtained. The surest means of securing abundance of food, however, is by ascertaining the best mode of raising it, and rousing a spirit of improvement for that purpose; for both of which the countenance and protection of the government of a country *is essential*. The trifling expense for which such an institution might be supported, is another argument in its favour.

I am induced, more particularly, to dwell upon this circumstance, as it might be in my power, on various occasions,

to give useful hints to America, were there any public institution to which they might be transmitted.

Before I conclude, permit me to ask, Is there no chance of seeing General Washington in England? I should be proud of his accepting an apartment in my house; and I am sure that he would meet with the most flattering reception in every part of the island, but from none with more real attachment and regard, than from, &c.

The most important communication I received from General Washington was owing to the following circumstance:

At the commencement of the year 1796, the aspect of public affairs in Great Britain became of the gloomiest description. Such was the success of the arms of France, and such the terror which they inspired, that the Continent seemed to be completely subdued; while the affairs of Great Britain itself were so unfortunately conducted, as to give rise to the most serious apprehension, that it could not much longer continue the contest. The minister who then governed this country, (the Right Honourable William Pitt), was gifted with extraordinary talents, and almost unequalled powers of eloquence. He was much better calculated, however, to shine in a popular assembly, than to conduct a war, more especially in conjunction with other states, whom it was necessary to conciliate, and to rouse to the greatest possible exertions. He had not himself acquired any knowledge of foreign nations; and he would not listen to the communications of those, who wished to give him *true information* respecting their characters and views,—how far they might be depended on,—and what they were capable of effecting. For some years, I had been in habits of great intimacy with him; during which period, every suggestion, transmitted by me for his consideration, was almost uniformly attended to. But latterly, from an inordinate confidence in his own resources—an unwillingness to listen to *disagreeable truths*, (which an independent character felt it his duty to state, when any

occasion required it),—and a dislike to those, who would not be completely subservient to him, on all occasions,—he, all at once, altered so much his style of behaviour towards me, that our connexion was dissolved.

At that time, any person who did not believe in the *infallibility* of William Pitt, was considered a sort of public enemy. Disgusted with a nation, which had thus submitted itself to the control of one individual, whom I considered in the light of a personal enemy, and seeing but little prospect that the country would be extricated from the difficulties in which it was involved, unless a different system was pursued, I naturally thought it necessary, to look out for an asylum for myself and family, where we might live at a distance from the calamities of Europe, which seemed more likely to increase than to diminish. I was thence induced to apply to my respectable correspondent, General Washington, to know what part of America was the most desirable, as a place of residence, for a British emigrant.

This short narrative will explain to the reader, the circumstances which led General Washington to transmit to me, the following account of the several states of America. Owing to the difficulty, however, of removing a numerous family, and unwillingness to quit a country, for which I had naturally a strong predilection, and whose commercial interests, and agricultural prosperity, I still hoped it might be in my power to promote, the plan of emigration to America was, after full deliberation, given up. This was attended with fortunate consequences to the country. From the difficulties into which the country had got, the minister was induced to adopt a measure recommended by me, that of issuing two millions of Exchequer bills, by the loan of which the commercial interest was saved from almost general bankruptcy; and soon afterwards, he supported with his influence, the plan of establishing “*A Board of Agriculture*,” proposed by me in the House of Commons, where it met with considerable opposition, but whose establishment, (to which the support of the minister

most essentially contributed), I trust will prove an important era in the history of that first of arts.

It is only necessary to add, that, by various accidents, neither *the original copy*, nor the *duplicate* of the subjoined letter reached me ; but fortunately *a triplicate* was sent, which safely arrived, and from which the following is printed.

General Washington's Account of the several States of America.

Philadelphia, 11th December 1796.

SIR,

The near view which you have of the Revolution in France, and of the political state of things in Europe, especially those of Great Britain, has enabled you to form a judgment with so much more accuracy than I could do, of the probable result of the perturbed state of the countries which compose that quarter of the globe, and of the principal actors on that theatre, that it would be presumption in me, at the distance of 3000 miles, to give an opinion relatively to either men or measures, and therefore I will proceed to the information required in your private letter of the 11th of September, which I will give you from the best knowledge I possess, and with the candour you have a right to expect from me.

The United States, as you well know, are very extensive, more than 1500 miles between the north-eastern and south-western extremities,—all parts of which, from the seaboard to the Apalachian Mountains, (which divide the eastern from the western waters), are entirely settled, though not so compactly as they are susceptible of, and settlements are progressing rapidly beyond them.

Within so great a space, you are not to be told, that there are great variety of climates ; and you will readily suppose too, that there are all sorts of land, differently improved, and of various prices, according to the quality of the soil,—its contiguity to, or remoteness from, navigation,—the nature of the improvements,—and other local circumstances. These

premises however are only sufficient for the formation of a general opinion, for there are material deviations, as I shall mention hereafter.

In the New England states, and the Pennsylvania inclusively, landed property is more divided than it is in the states south of them. The farms are smaller, the buildings and other improvements generally better, and, of consequence, the population is greater; but then, the climate, especially to the eastward of Hudson's river, is cold,—the winter long,—consuming a great part of the summer's labour in support of their stocks, during the winter;—nevertheless, it is a country abounding in grass, and sells much fine beef, besides exporting many horses to the West Indies. A mildew or blight, (I am speaking now of the New England states particularly), prevents them from raising wheat adequate to their own consumption; and of other grains they export little or none, fish being their staple. They live well notwithstanding, and are a happy people. Their numbers are not augmented by foreign emigrants; yet, from their circumscribed limits, compact situation, and natural population, they are filling the western parts of the state of New York, and the country on the Ohio, with their own surplusage.

New Jersey is a small state, and all parts of it, except the south-western, are pleasant, healthy, and productive of all kinds of grain, &c. Being surrounded on two sides by New York, and on the other two by Delaware river and the Atlantic, it has no land of its own to supply the surplus of its population; of course, their emigrations are principally towards the Ohio.

Pennsylvania is a large state; and, from the policy of its founder, and of the government since, and especially from the celebrity of Philadelphia, has become the general receptacle of foreigners from all countries, and of all descriptions; many of whom soon take an active part in the politics of the state; and coming over full of prejudices against their own government,—some against all governments,—you will be en-

abled, without any comment of mine, to draw your own inference of their conduct.

Delaware is a very small state, the greater part of which lies low, and is supposed to be unhealthy. The eastern shore of Maryland is similar thereto. The lands in both, however, are good.

But the western parts of the last-mentioned state, and of Virginia, quite to the line of North Carolina, above tide-water, and more especially above the Blue Mountains, are similar to those of Pennsylvania between the Susquehanna and Potomac rivers, in soil, climate, and productions; and, in my opinion will be considered, if it is not considered so already, as the garden of America; forasmuch as it lies between the two extremes of heat and cold, partaking in a degree of the advantages of both, without feeling much the inconveniences of either; and with truth it may be said, is among the most fertile lands in America, east of the Apalachian Mountains.

The uplands of North and South Carolina, and Georgia, are not dissimilar in *soil*; but, as they approach the lower latitudes, are less congenial to wheat, and are supposed to be proportionably unhealthy. Towards the seaboard of all the southern states, (and farther south the more so,) the country is low, sandy, and unhealthy; for which reason I shall say little concerning them; for, as I should not choose to be an inhabitant of them myself, I ought not to say any thing that would induce others to be so.

This general description is furnished, that you may be enabled to form an idea of the part of the United States which would be most congenial to your inclination. To pronounce, with any degree of precision, what lands could be obtained for, in the parts I have enumerated, is next to impossible, for the reasons I have before assigned; but, upon pretty good data, it may be said, that those in Pennsylvania are higher than those in Maryland, (and I believe in any other state), declining in price as you go southerly, until the rice swamps

of South Carolina and Georgia are met with; and those are as much above the medium in price, as they are below it in health. I understand, however, that from thirty to forty dollars *per acre*, (I fix on dollars, because they apply equally to *all* the states, and because their relative value to Sterling is well understood), may be denominated the medium price in the vicinity of the Susquehanna, in the state of Pennsylvania; from twenty to thirty on the Potomac, in what is called the valley; that is, lying between the North Mountain and Blue Mountain, which are the richest lands we have; and less, as I have noticed before, as you proceed southerly. But what may appear singular, and was alluded to in the former part of this letter, the lands, in the parts of which I am now speaking, on and contiguous to tidewater, (with local exceptions), are in lower estimation than those which are above and more remote from navigation. The causes, however, are apparent: 1. The land is better; 2. Higher and more healthy; 3. They are chiefly, if not altogether, in the occupation of farmers;—from a combination of all of them, purchasers are attracted; and of consequence, the price rises in proportion to the demand.

The rise in the value of landed property, in this country, has been progressive, ever since my attention has been turned to the subject, (now more than forty years); but, for the last three or four of that period, it has increased beyond all calculation, owing in part to the attachment to, and the confidence which the people are beginning to place in their form of government; and to the prosperity of the country, from a variety of concurring causes, none more than to the late high prices of its produce.

From what I have said, you will have perceived that the present prices of land in Pennsylvania are higher than they are in Maryland and Virginia, although they are not of superior quality. Two reasons have already been assigned for this; first, That in the settled part of it, the land is divided into smaller farms, and more improved; and second, Being in

a greater degree than any other, the receptacle of emigrants, these receive the first impressions in Philadelphia, and rarely look beyond the limits of the state; but besides these, two other causes, not a little operative, may be added; namely, that until Congress passed general laws, relative to naturalization and citizenship, foreigners found it easier to obtain the privileges annexed to them in that state, than elsewhere; and because there are laws here for the gradual abolition of slavery, which neither of the two states above mentioned have at present, but which nothing is more certain than that they must have, and at a period not remote.

Notwithstanding these obstacles, and although I may incur the charge of partiality, in hazarding such an opinion *at this time*, I do not hesitate to pronounce, that the lands on the waters of Potomac will, in a few years, be in greater demand, and in higher estimation, than in any other part of the United States. But, as I ought not to advance this doctrine, without assigning reasons for it, I will request you to examine a general map of the United States, and the following facts will strike you at first view: That they lie in the most temperate latitude of the United States;—that the main river runs in a direct course to the expanded part of the western country, and approaches nearer to principal branches of the Ohio, than any other eastern water, and of course must become a great, if not (under all circumstances), the best highway into that region;—that the upper seaport of the Potomac is considerably nearer to a large portion of the state of Pennsylvania, than that portion is to Philadelphia, besides accommodating the settlers thereof with inland navigation for more than two hundred miles;—that the amazing extent of tide navigation afforded by the bay and rivers of Chesapeak has scarcely a parallel. When to these are added,—that a site at the junction of the inland and tide navigations of that river is chosen for the permanent seat of the general government, and is in rapid preparation for its reception;—that the inland navigation of the river is nearly completed to the extent above-

mentioned;—that its lateral branches are capable of great improvement at a small expense, through the most fertile parts of Virginia, in a southerly direction, and crossing Maryland, and extending into Pennsylvania in a northerly one, through which, (independent of what may come from the western country), an immensity of produce will be water-borne, thereby making the federal city the great emporium of the United States;—I say, when these things are taken into consideration, I am under no apprehension of having the opinion I have given, relative to the value of land on the Potomac, controverted by impartial men.

There are farms always and every where for sale. If therefore events should induce you to cast an eye towards America, there need be no apprehension of your being accommodated to your liking; and if I could be made useful to you therein, you might command my services, with the greatest freedom.

Within full view of Mount Vernon,—separated therefrom by water only,—is one of the most beautiful seats on the river, for sale, but of greater magnitude than you seem to have contemplated. It is called Belvoir, and did belong to George William Fairfax, Esq. who, was he living, would now be Baron of Cameron, as his younger brother in this country, (George William dying without issue), at present is, though he does not take on himself the title.

This seat was the residence of the above-named gentleman before he went to England, and was accommodated with very good buildings, which were burnt soon after he left them. There are near 2000 acres of land belonging to the tract, surrounded in a manner by water. The mansion-house stood on high and commanding ground. The soil is not of the first quality; but a considerable part of it lying level, may, with proper management, be profitably cultivated. There are some small tenements on the estate, but the greater part thereof is in wood. At present, it belongs to Ferdinando Fairfax, son of Bryan Fairfax, the gentleman who will not, as I said before, take upon himself the title of Baron of Cameron. A

year or two ago, the price he fixed on the land was (as I have been informed), $33\frac{1}{2}$ dollars *per* acre. Whether not getting that sum, or whether he is no longer disposed to sell it, I am unable with precision to say, for I have heard nothing concerning his intentions lately.

With respect to the tenements I have offered to let, appertaining to my Mount Vernon estate, I can give no better description of them, and of their appearances, than what is contained in the printed advertisement herewith inclosed. But that you may have a more distinct view of the farms, and their relative situation to the mansion-house, a sketch from actual survey is also inclosed, annexed to which I have given you, from memory, the relative situation and form of the seat at Belvoir.

The terms on which I had authorised the superintendent of my concerns at Mount Vernon, to lease the farms there, are also inclosed; which, with the other papers, and the general information herein detailed, will throw all the light, I am enabled to give you, upon the subject of your inquiry. To have such a tenant as Sir John Sinclair, however desirable it might be, is an honour I dare not hope for; and to alienate any part of the fee-simple estate of Mount Vernon, is a measure I am not inclined to, as all the farms are connected and parts of a whole. With very great esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

It is a singular circumstance, that a person in such an exalted situation as General Washington, should have leisure to write, *with his own hand*, a great number of letters, to an entire stranger, and some of them of considerable length. I was thence induced to have eight of them engraved, in the handwriting of that distinguished warrior and statesman, and to deposit the originals in the British Museum, as the precious relics of a great man fit to be preserved in that valuable re-

pository. I think it right, however, now to publish the whole collection ; but as they are numerous, and some of them long, I shall print them in a smaller type, as this work is limited, and as such a number of interesting communications from the most distinguished characters on the Continent of Europe remain to be inserted.

LETTERS from General Washington on Agricultural Matters.

No. 1.

Philadelphia, 20th October 1792.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 18th of May, inclosing the pamphlet and papers which you had the goodness to send me.

While I beg your acceptance of my acknowledgment for the polite mark of attention in transmitting these things to me, I flatter myself you will be assured, that I consider the subject therein recommended as highly important to society, whose best interests, I hope, will be promoted by a proper investigation of them, and the happiness of mankind advanced thereby.

I have to regret that the duties of my public station do not allow me to pay that attention to agriculture, and the objects attached to it, (which have ever been my favourite pursuit), that I could wish ; but I will put your queries respecting sheep into the hands of such gentlemen as I think most likely to attend to them, and answer them satisfactorily ; I must, however, observe, that no important information on the subject can be expected from this country, where we have been so little in the habit of attending, either to the breed or improvement of our stock. With great respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 2.

Philadelphia, March 15. 1793.

SIR,

I hope you will have the goodness to excuse the delay which has taken place in transmitting answers to your queries respecting the sheep of this country, agreeably to the promise I made you in a letter which I had the honour of writing to you the 20th of October last. The session of Congress which commenced the 5th of November, and did not close until the 3d of this month, is offered as the principal cause of the delay.

The paper herewith inclosed, is from one of the most intelligent gentlemen farmers of this state, (Pennsylvania), living not more than five miles from the city. His details respecting the sheep of this state will apply, without *much* variation, to those of other states in the union; in the extremes, however, of which they are, I think, more indifferent; and in Virginia and Maryland best of all, both for wool and mutton, and easiest raised on account of the temperature of the climate.

On my own farms, near the head of the tide-water of Potomac, (which river divides the states of Virginia and Maryland), I keep more sheep than is usual in this country, (from 750 to a thousand head); and whilst I resided thereon, and could attend to the management of them myself, their fleeces averaged full 5 lbs., and the mutton from 18 to 20 lbs. a quart. But this was the effect of care, and the choice of good rams.

Mr Arthur Young, with whom I have been in the habit of corresponding eight or ten years on agricultural subjects, and matters relative thereto, requested a lock of wool from my sheep, which was accordingly sent in an entire fleece of average weight and quality, on which I received the observations which are contained in the inclosed extracts from his letter.

In looking over the pamphlet which you were so obliging as to send me, entitled, "An Analysis of the Political State of Scotland," which is a specimen of the useful information to be expected from your researches, I cannot but express myself highly pleased with the undertaking, and give my best wishes for its success: for I am fully persuaded, that when enlightened men will take the trouble to examine so minutely into the state of society as your inquiries seem to go, it must result in greatly ameliorating the condition of the people, promoting the interests of civil society, and the happiness of mankind at large. These are objects truly worthy the attention of a great mind, and every friend to the human race must readily lend his aid towards their accomplishment. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

Go. WASHINGTON.

No. 3.

Philadelphia, July 20. 1794.

SIR,

I am indebted to you for your several favours of the 15th of June, 15th of August, and 11th of September of the last, and for that of the 6th of February in the present year; for which and the pamphlets accompanying them my thanks are particularly due. To say

this, and to have suffered them to remain so long unacknowledged, needs explanation. The truth is, they came to hand, the first of them, about the opening, and the second set, towards the close, of a long and interesting session of Congress, during which my time was much occupied, and at the end thereof I had a pressing call to my estate in Virginia, from whence I have not been returned more than ten or twelve days.

I have read with peculiar pleasure and approbation the work you patronise so much, to your own honour and the utility of the public. Such a general view of the agriculture in the several counties of Great Britain is extremely interesting, and cannot fail of being very beneficial to the agricultural concerns of your country, and to those of every other wherein they are read, and must entitle you to their warmest thanks for having set such a plan on foot, and for prosecuting it with the zeal and intelligence you do.

I am so much pleased with the plan and execution myself, as to pray you to have the goodness to direct your bookseller to continue to forward them to me, accompanied with the cost, which shall be paid to his order, or remitted so soon as the amount is made known to me. When the whole are received, I will promote, as far as in me lays, the reprinting of them here. I know of no pursuit in which more real and important service can be rendered to any country, than by improving its agriculture, its breed of useful animals, and other branches of a husbandman's cares; nor can I conceive any plan more conducive to this end, than the one you have introduced, for bringing to view the actual state of them in all parts of the kingdom, by which good and bad habits are exhibited in a manner too plain to be misconceived; for the accounts given to the British Board of Agriculture, appear in general to be drawn up in a masterly manner, so as fully to answer the expectations formed in the excellent plan which produced them, affording, at the same time, a fund of information useful in political economy, serviceable in all countries.

Commons, tithes, tenantry, (of which we feel nothing in this country), are in the list of impediments, I perceive, to perfection in English farming; and taxes are heavy deductions from the profit thereof. Of these we have none, or so light as hardly to be felt. Your system of agriculture, it must be confessed, is in a style superior, and of course much more expensive than ours; but when the balance at the end of the year is struck, by deducting the taxes, poor rates, and incidental charges of every kind, from the produce of the land, in the two countries, no doubt can remain in which scale it is to be found.

It will be some time, I fear, before an agricultural society, with

congressional aids, will be established in this country. We must walk, as other countries have done, before we can run. Smaller societies must prepare the way for greater; but with the lights before us, I hope we shall not be so slow in maturation as older nations have been. An attempt, as you will perceive by the inclosed outlines of a plan, is making to establish a state society in Pennsylvania, for agricultural improvements. If it succeeds it will be a step in the ladder. At present it is too much in embryo to decide on the result.

Our domestic animals, as well as our agriculture, are inferior to yours in point of size; but this does not proceed from any defect in the stamina of them, but to deficient care in providing for their support, experience having abundantly evinced, that where our pastures are as well improved, as the soil and climate will admit,—where a competent store of wholesome provender is laid up, and proper care used in serving it, that our horses, black cattle, sheep, &c. are not inferior to the best of their respective kinds, which have been imported from England. Nor is the wool of our sheep inferior to that of the common sort with you. As a proof, after the peace of Paris in 1783, and my return to the occupations of a farmer, I paid particular attention to my breed of sheep, (of which I usually kept about seven or eight hundred). By this attention, at the shearing of 1789, the fleeces yielded me the average quantity of $5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of wool; a fleece of which, promiscuously taken, I sent to Mr Arthur Young, who put it for examination into the hands of manufacturers. These pronounced it to be equal in quality to the Kentish wool. In this same year, *i. e.* 1789, I was again called from home, and have not had it in my power since to pay any attention to my farm; the consequence of which is, that my sheep, at the last shearing, yielded me not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. This is not a single instance of the difference between care and neglect; nor is the difference between good and bad management confined to that species of stock: for we find that good pastures and proper attention can, and does, fill our markets with beef of seven, eight, and more hundred weight the four quarters, whereas from 450 to 500, (especially in the states south of this, where less attention hitherto has been paid to grass), may be found about the average weight. In this market some bullocks were killed in the months of March and April last, the weights of which, as taken from the accounts which were published at the time, you will find in a paper inclosed. These were pampered steers, but from 800 to a thousand the four quarters is no uncommon weight.

Your general history of sheep, with observations thereon, and the proper mode of managing them, will be an interesting work when completed; and with the information and accuracy, I am persuaded,

it will be executed under your auspices, must be extremely desirable. The climate of this country, particularly that of the middle states, is congenial to this species of animal ; but want of attention to them in most farmers, added to the obstacles which prevent the importation of a better kind, by men who would be at the expense, contributes not a little to the present inferiority we experience.

Mr Edwards would have it as much in his power, as most of our farmers, to solve the queries you propounded to him. In addition to which, a gentleman of my acquaintance, (who is also amongst the best farmers of this country,) to whom I gave the perusal of your propositions, has favoured me with some ideas on the subject, as you will find on a paper herewith inclosed.

The sample you were so obliging as to put into the hands of Mr Lear for me, of a Scotch fabric, is extremely elegant, and I pray you to accept my thanks for it, as I entreat you also to do for the civilities shewn to that gentleman, who has a grateful sense of them.

Both Mr Adams and Mr Jefferson had the perusal of the papers which accompanied your note of the 11th of September. With great respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 4.

Philadelphia, November 9. 1794.

SIR,

By Mr Bayard, (a respectable young gentleman of this city), who will have the honour of presenting this letter to you, I take the liberty of putting into your hands a work, which only made its appearance a few days ago : " A View of the United States of America, in a series of papers."

I have not read it yet, and therefore shall say nothing for or against the merits of it, further than that the author is a man of intelligence and accuracy, and (being the commissioner of our revenue), possessed the means of official information ; which, of course, has enabled him to detail matters depending thereon, with truth and precision.

If the performance should afford you any satisfaction, or convey any information which was unknown to you before, it will give pleasure to, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 5.

Philadelphia, July 10. 1795.

SIR,

I could not omit so favourable an opportunity as the departure of

Mr Strickland affords me, of presenting my best respects to you; and my sincere thanks for the views of agriculture in the different counties of Great Britain, which you have had the goodness to send me, and for the diploma, (received by the hands of Mr Jay), admitting me a foreign honorary member of the Board of Agriculture.

For this testimony of the attention of that body, and for the honour it has conferred on me, I have a high sense; in communicating of which to the Board, I shall rely more on your goodness, than on any expression of mine, to render it acceptable.

From the first intimation you were pleased to give me of this Institution, I conceived the most favourable ideas of its utility; and the more I have seen, and reflected on the plan since, the more convinced I am of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to your own country, but to all others which are not too much attached to old and bad habits to forsake them, and to new countries that are *just beginning* to form systems for the improvement of their husbandry.

Mr Strickland has not been idle since he came to this country. To him, therefore, for a description of the climate,—the soil,—the agriculture, and improvements generally,—the modes of carrying them on,—the produce of the land,—the draught cattle,—domestic animals,—and the farming implements which are used by our people in the eastern and middle states, through which he has passed, I shall refer you. Nothing, I believe, has escaped his observation that merited notice.

You will add to the obligations already conferred on me, by directing your bookseller to supply me regularly with all such proceedings of the Board as are intended for the public; and when they are in a fit state for it, that they may be neatly bound. To this request, I pray he may be desired to add the cost, which shall be paid at sight to his order here, or remitted to him, as may be most convenient and agreeable to himself.

[The remainder of this letter was merely a conclusion, in the usual terms, and is wanting, having been cut off, and given to a gentleman, who requested it as a particular favour; “There being nothing, he declared, which he wished for more, than to have in his possession a specimen of the handwriting, and above all, the signature, of the illustrious Washington.” *London, 10th February 1800.*

JOHN SINCLAIR.]

No. 6.

Philadelphia, 20th February 1796.

SIR,

When I last had the honour of writing to you, I had hopes, though I must confess they were not of the most sanguine sort, that I should have been enabled ere this to have given you a more satisfactory account of the business you had been pleased to commit to me, than will be conveyed in this letter.

Doubts having arisen, from peculiar calls on the treasury of this country for money, (occasioned by the expenses of our wars with the Indians,—the redemption of our captives at Algiers,—obtaining peace with that Regency and Morocco,—together with other demands in addition to the ordinary expenditure of Government), that funds with difficulty would be provided to answer them, without imposing additional taxes, a measure wished to be avoided; I was restrained, (after consulting one or two influential members of the Legislature), from introducing your plan for a contribution; and under these circumstances, I avoided communicating the “Extracts from the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture, respecting Mr El-kington’s mode of draining,” &c. except to one gentleman only, in whom I had entire confidence, and who, I knew, was always disposed to promote measures of utility. These being the grounds of my proceeding, I shall hope, although your expectations may be disappointed, you will receive the information as an evidence of my candour.

Agreeably to your desire, I have put the “Outlines of the 15th Chapter of the proposed General Report from the Board of Agriculture, on the subject of Manures,” into the hands of one of the most judicious farmers within my reach; and when his observations thereon are received, they shall be transmitted to you. I wish my own engagements would allow me time to attend, more than I do, to these agreeable and useful pursuits; but having been absent from what I consider my proper home, (except on short occasional visits), for more than seven years; and having entered into my sixty-fifth year, a period which requires tranquillity and ease, I have come to a determination to lease the farms of my Mount Vernon estate, except the mansion-house farm, and a grazing one three miles off, which I shall retain in my own occupation for amusement, whilst life and health is dispensed to me. And, as many farmers from your country have emigrated to this, and many more, according to their accounts, desirous of following, if they knew beforehand where, and on what terms, they could fix themselves compactly, in a healthy and populous

country, I have taken the liberty to inclose you the copy of a notification, which I have published in some of the Gazettes of the United States; that in case any farmers, answering the descriptions therein contained, are about to transplant themselves, to whom you might be inclined to give the information, that you may have it in your power to do so. But let me entreat you, Sir, to believe, that I have no wish to its promulgation, farther than I have declared,—that I have no intention to invite *emigrants*, even if there are no restrictive acts against it; and if there be, that I am opposed to it altogether.

As wheat is the staple produce of that part of the country in which this estate lies, I shall fix the rent therein, at a bushel and half for every acre of arable land contained within the lease;—to be discharged, in case of failure of that crop, at the price the article bears in the market. Two or three years ago I sent Mr Young a sketch of these farms, with all the fields, meads, and lots, with their relative situations laid down from actual surveys.

I have but little expectation that arrangements will be made, by the time limited, for giving possession of the farms next year; nor should I wish to do it with such unskilful farmers as ours, if there was a prospect of obtaining them from any other country where husbandry was better understood, and more advantageously practised. It is time, however, to conclude; for I feel ashamed at having employed so much of it in matters interesting to myself only; and I shall do it with assurances, as sincere as they are warm, of being, Sir, your most obedient and obliged servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 7.

Philadelphia, 12th June 1796.

SIR,

A long and interesting session of Congress, which did not close until the first day of the month, and the laws which required to be carried into execution promptly, will, I am persuaded, be admitted as a reasonable excuse for my not writing to you since the 20th of February last, agreeably to assurances then given. But what apology can I offer *now*, that I am about to give you the result of the inquiries you requested me to make, when it will be found to fall so far short of what you might have expected, from the time which has been taken to render it?

Your wishes on this head I communicated to Richard Peters, Esq. who is one of the most intelligent, and best practical, as well as theoretical farmers we have; with a desire that he would advise with others, and condense their observations in a summary statement.

Why this was not done, and *why he* could do no more, you will find in his own original letter, with the questions and answers therein inclosed.

To Mr Peters's experience with respect to gypsum as a manure, let me add the following, as an unequivocal evidence that it has no effect on stiff, heavy land, that does not absorb or permit the water on the surface, occasioned by superabundant falls of rain or snow, to penetrate quickly, which is the case generally with the soil of my estate at Mount Vernon. The experiments and proof to which I allude were made eight or nine years ago, at the rate of from one to twenty bushels of the plaster of Paris to the acre, (among other things, to ascertain the just quantum to be used). I spread it on grass grounds, and on ploughed land. On the latter, part of it was ploughed in,—part harrowed in,—part scratched in with a light bush,—while another part lay undisturbed on the surface; all with oats, in the spring. But it had no more effect in *any* instance, *then* or *since*, than so much of the earth it was spread over would have had, if it had been taken up and spread again.

If any thing should hereafter occur on this, or any other subject, which I may think worthy of your attention, in this interesting branch of your pursuits, I shall not fail to communicate them to you; being, with very great esteem, respect, and consideration, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 8.

Philadelphia, 10th December 1796.

SIR,

Since I had the honour of writing to you in June last, I have been favoured with your letters of the 14th and 30th of May, and 10th of September, accompanying the additional Appendix to the Chapter on Manures,—your Address to the Board of Agriculture,—and other valuable productions relative to that important subject.

For your goodness in sending these to me, I pray you to accept my best thanks; and regrets, at the same time, for the inflammation in your eyes; which, to a man as actively and as usefully employed in one of the most interesting pursuits that can occupy a rational mind as you are, must be doubly afflictive. If my wishes could contribute to a removal of the malady, they would be offered with much sincerity.

The result of the experiments entrusted to the care of Dr Fordyce, must be as curious as they may prove interesting to the science of

husbandry. Not less so will be, an intelligent solution of those queries relative to live stock, which are handed to the public.

A few months more,—say the third of March next*,—and the scenes of my political life will close, and leave me in the shades of retirement; when, if a few years are allowed me to enjoy it, (many I cannot expect, being upon the verge of sixty-five †), and health is continued to me, I shall peruse, with pleasure and edification, the fruits of your meritorious labours for the improvement of agriculture, and shall have leisure, I trust, to realise some of the useful discoveries which have been made in the science of husbandry,—patronised by you, so much for the interest of mankind, and your own honour.

Until the above period shall have arrived, and particularly during the present session of Congress, which commenced the 5th instant, I can give but little attention to matters out of the line of my immediate avocations. I did not, however, omit the occasion, at the opening of the session, to call the attention of that body to the importance of agriculture. What will be the result, I know not at present; but if it should be favourable, the hints which you will have it in your power to give, cannot fail of being gratefully received by the members who may constitute the Board.

The articles entrusted to the care of Dr Edwards came safe; and while all of them are curious, and entitled to my particular acknowledgments, none deserve to be held in higher estimation than the heads of the Egyptian wheat. They came much too late, however, for our usual seed time; but I delayed not a moment in sending them to my manager at Mount Vernon, with particular directions how to dispose of them to the best advantage,—reserving one head as a resource, in case of failure from late sowing.

Certainly no good reason can be assigned why the hemp of New Zealand should not thrive with us, as that country lies in about the same southern latitude that our middle states do in the northern. The hemp of the East Indies grows well here, (from my own experience), and I have no doubt of the tea plant succeeding in South Carolina and Georgia.

The gentlemen whose names you have mentioned in your letter of the 10th of September, will, I am persuaded, be grateful for your civilities. The true policy of this country is to live in peace and amity with all the world; and I am sure it is the wish of the government that it should do so, as long as is consistent with the respect that is due to itself.

* 1797.

† This letter is dated 10th December 1796.

I cannot conclude without requesting your acceptance of my grateful acknowledgments, for the expression of your wishes to see me in Great Britain, and under your hospitable roof. But I believe there are few things more certain than that, when I have retired to Mount Vernon, I shall never go twenty miles beyond the limits of it ; unless, perchance, I should visit some landed property (under leases), at the distance of about seventy miles from it.

With very great esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, Sir,
your most obedient and obliged servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 9.

Philadelphia, March 6. 1797.

SIR,

On the 11th of December I wrote you a long letter ; and intended, before the close of the last session of Congress, (which ended on the third instant, conformably to the constitution), to have addressed you again ; but, oppressed as I was with the various occurrences incident thereto, especially in the latter part of it, it has not been in my power to do so during its continuance ; and now, the arrangements necessary to my departure from this city, for a more tranquil theatre, and for the indulgence of rural pursuits, will oblige me to suspend my purpose until I am fixed at Mount Vernon, where I expect soon to be, having resigned the chair of Government to Mr John Adams on Friday last, the day on which I completed my second four years' administration.

Under the circumstances here mentioned, I should not have troubled you, at this time, with so short a letter, but for the purpose of accompanying it with two or three pamphlets on the subject of agriculture, one of which treats more extensively on gypsum, as a manure, than any I have seen before. The other two will only serve to shew, that essays of a similar kind are making in this infant country.

I am sorry to add, that nothing *final* in Congress has been decided respecting the institution of a National Board of Agriculture, recommended by me at the opening of the session. But this did not, I believe, proceed from any disinclination to the measure, but from their limited sitting, and a pressure of what they conceived more important business. I think it highly probable that *next* session will bring this matter to maturity. With the highest esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 10.

Mount Vernon, 15th July 1797.

SIR,

Since my last to you, dated in Philadelphia, the 6th of March, I have been honoured with yours, and Lord Hawke's joint favour of the 28th of March 1796, introductory of Dr Scandola, who gave me the pleasure of his company in June last, and whom I found a very sensible and well-informed man.

I have also received your separate favours of the 21st of February and 29th of March, in the present year, the last accompanying your printed account of the origin of the Board of Agriculture, and its progress for the three years after its establishment. For your kindness in forwarding of them, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

I will keep one copy of this work myself, and shall read it, I am sure, with pleasure, so soon as I have passed through my harvest, which is now nearly finished; the other copies shall be put into such hands as I conceive will turn them to the best account.

Your not having, in either of the letters acknowledged above, mentioned the receipt of two from me, dated the 10th and 11th of December 1796, the last a private and very long one, fills my mind with apprehension of a miscarriage, although I do not see how it should have happened, as they went with several other letters under cover to Mr King, (our Minister in London), who in a letter to me, dated the 16th of February following, after giving information of what he had done with my other letters, adds, "and as soon as Sir John Sinclair returns to town, I will also deliver the letter addressed to him."

Was it not for this information, I should, by this conveyance, have forwarded a duplicate.

The result of my inquiries of members of Congress, attending the December session, raised so little from the details I had the honour to give you concerning the prices of land, &c. in my private letter of the 11th of December, as to render a second edition unnecessary. The reduction, however, in the price of our produce since last year, (flour having fallen from 15 to 7 or 8 dollars a barrel, and other articles in that proportion), may occasion a fall in the price of lands also. A stagnation it has already produced, and I have been told a reduction also in some of the latter sales.

Our crop of wheat this year, from the best information I have been able to obtain, will be found very short; owing to three causes,—an uncommon drought last autumn,—a severe winter, with but little snow to protect it,—and, which is still more to be regretted, to what with us is denominated the Hessian fly, which has spread devastation,

more or less, in all quarters. Nor has the latter wheat escaped the rust. The grain, however, except where the rust appeared before it was hard, is extremely fine. We are equally unlucky in our oats, occasioned by a severe drought since the month of April.

With sentiments of high esteem and regard, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 11.

Mount Vernon, 6th November 1797.

SIR,

Since I had the honour of writing you, on the 15th of July, I have been favoured with your letter of the 13th of February, introductory of Thomas M'Donald, Esq. and your note of the 9th of June by General Kosiusko, together with the surveys, and papers accompanying both. For your goodness in sending them, I pray you to accept my best thanks ; and that I may not be a burdensome member of the Board, I inclose a small bill of exchange, to be deposited in the hands of your bookseller, to defray the cost of the several copies of your works which may be forwarded to me. When this is expended, I will make another deposit, for the same purpose.

As neither of the notes, the receipt of which is acknowledged above, nor any other, has intimated, in the most distant manner, that my letters of the 10th and 11th of December, (the latter a private one), had ever reached your hands, I now do, as well for the purpose of evincing that I was not inattentive to your request, as to give information which may yet (though late) be useful, forward a duplicate of the private letter, from a press copy taken at the time, and of my last also of the 15th of July ; being more disposed to trouble you with a repetition of the sentiments then expressed, than to lay under the suspicion of inattention to your command.

I can now, with more certainty than on the 15th of July, inform you, that lands have fallen in price ;—ascribable to two causes ; the shocking depredations committed on our commerce (within the last six or eight months by the French), and the reduction in price of our produce,—both contributing to render cash a scarce, and of course a valuable article.

Our crops of grain are, in places, tolerable, but, upon the whole, belong mediocrity in quantity, whilst the grain is fine. This also, that is the shortness of the crop, will assist in reducing the price of lands still lower.

An eight years' absence from home, (except occasional short visits to it), has thrown my building, and other matters of private concern,

into so much disorder, that at no period of my life have I ever been more engaged than in the last six or eight months, to repair, and bring them into tune again. This has prevented me from looking into the agricultural surveys of the counties of England and Scotland, with the attention I propose to do the ensuing winter. I shall certainly be very desirous of having a complete set of them, and if any are missing will apply accordingly, as it is my intention to have them classed, and bound neatly.

With great pleasure, I received a visit from Mr M'Donald a few days ago, who fully answers the character given of him, as a polite and sensible man.

With great respect, and the highest esteem and regard, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,
G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 12.

Mount Vernon, 28th November 1797.

SIR,

The copy of Mr Parkinson's letter, and my answer, both of which are inclosed for your perusal, and the latter to be forwarded, are the best apology I can offer for giving you the trouble of this address.

As he has taken the liberty of naming you as a gentleman to whom he is well known, I have followed his example, (as he writes to me on an interesting subject,) in doing the same, to inquire, if he should make the application in person, which his letter contemplates, whether his character,—abilities as a farmer,—and capital, are such as to enable him to stock and manage a farm, the rent of which would be, (according to his choice of those I have to let), from 1000 to 1800 dollars *per annum*, or wheat equivalent.

I should not, my good Sir, have used the freedom to ask this information, had not Mr Parkinson declared that it was by your advice he has made the application, and means to pursue it in March next. If he can come under such auspices, it would recommend him strongly to me; and to know it in time, would be pleasing to your much obliged, and most obedient servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 13.

Mount Vernon, 15th May 1798.

SIR,

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance and civilities, my good friend and neighbour, the Rev. Bryan Fairfax, who is, though he has not taken upon himself the title, the Baron of Cameron.

Ill health, and advice that sea-air might be a mean of restoring it, have induced him to take a voyage to England. The integrity of his heart, and benevolence of his mind, need only to be known to procure him esteem : and as I can vouch for these, I shall introduce him to you as a gentleman worthy of your attention. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

Go. WASHINGTON.

No. 14.

Mount Vernon, 10th July 1798.

SIR,

It is not more strange than true, that your letter of the 15th of July 1797 was not received by me until the 28th ultimo, accompanied with the original surveys of the counties of Clackmannan, Kinross and Stirling. The packet appeared to have passed through the hands of Mr King, (our Minister), and to have been forwarded by a Mr Frederick Lee, in the ship *Adriana*. But through what circuitous route, to be eleven months on its passage, is not easy to determine, as it came from the post-office to me without explanation, but in very good order.

I perceive, too, in looking over my file of unanswered letters, that I am indebted for your obliging favour of the 24th of February, received since I had the honour to address you on the 15th of May, by my neighbour and friend the Rev. Mr Fairfax ; and that my thanks are, in a particular manner, also due to the politeness of the Board of Agriculture for directing a complete set of its works to be neatly bound, and sent to me.

The manner in which the early wheat, (respecting which you inquire), came into this country, is not ascertained. The history of it, so far as it has come to my knowledge, I will relate : A farmer, walking in a field of wheat when it was in bloom, discovered a plant or two that was perfectly ripe ; and carefully separating it from the rest, sowed it at the usual time the following Autumn. From this *small* beginning, (about seven years ago), this state and those adjoining are well in seed. The grain is white, full and heavy ; weighing, generally, two or three pounds more the Winchester bushel than wheat in common. It makes excellent flour ; and in light loamy land, inclining to sand, it is said to be more productive of grain, and less of straw, than other kinds. It is a tender plant, and apt to receive damage, both in the field and granaries. It will not, from report, bear transportation. Of a vessel load sent to Philadelphia for seed, hardly any of it vegetated ; and some farmers go so far as to declare, that they are obliged to spread what is intended for seed thin

on their barn floors, and turn it frequently, to prevent the injury above mentioned. From my own experience, I can add but little; for as my land is heavy, stiff, and slow, not much of it has been sown; but, from the growth of the present year, I send you a sack, that by experiment you may ascertain the utility of cultivating it in England. It is fit to harvest three weeks sooner than the Lamas. To give it the best chance to escape injury on shipboard, I have requested the owner of the vessel, Mr William Wilson of Alexandria, to give it in particular charge to the master, desiring him to keep the sack in his cabin or steerage.

The Egyptian wheat, a head or two of which you had the goodness to send me about two years ago, has not answered with me. The first year it shot out lateral branches from the heads pretty generally, but in this year few or none appeared; and in neither year did the grain fill well; and it appears to have sustained more injury from the severity of our last winter than other kinds, although all suffered in the extreme in the middle and upper parts of this, and the states bordering thereon, occasioned by the long winter and severe frosts, with very little snow. Nearer the seaboard, contrary to what is usual, they have had more snow, and of course the crops of winter grain are better; but, on the whole, they are remarkably short. With very great esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

No. 15.

Mount Vernon, 20th January 1799.

SIR,

On the 10th of July last, I had the honour to write you a pretty long letter on various subjects; and hearing, some considerable time afterwards, that the ship (Suffolk) by which it had been sent, was captured by a French cruiser, from whence none of my letters ever reach their address, I did, not long since, transmit a duplicate, which, though unaccompanied with the early wheat that the above vessel contained, I hope has met a better fate.

I wish also that the proceedings of the National Board of Agriculture, which you informed me it had the goodness to direct should be neatly bound, and sent to me, may not have fallen into the same rapacious hands, as they have never been received.

It is now some time since I had the honour to receive your favour of the 6th of June, accompanying "The History of the Origin and Progress of the Statistical Account of Scotland," for which I pray you to accept my best thanks. That letter should not have remained so

long unacknowledged, had it not been received a few days before I commenced a journey to Philadelphia, on business with the Secretary of War, where I was detained near seven weeks, and so closely occupied in the matters which carried me there, as to render all minor considerations inadmissible.

It is not for me, Sir, to express any opinion with respect to the change in the Presidency of the national Board of Agriculture. I have no doubt but that Lord Somerville is a very meritorious character, and well deserves the honour to which he is elected. I am also perfectly well satisfied, that no one, as far as my opportunities have enabled me to judge, could fill that office with more zeal, more honour to himself, and more usefulness to the public, than Sir John Sinclair; and none who will merit, in a higher degree than himself, the thanks he has received. Happy is it then for the nation, to possess such characters to choose from.

No one is more deeply impressed than I am, of the importance of national encouragement to agriculture. No one can approve more of such an institution, as you have been the promoter of, than myself; nor no one who wishes more ardently than I do, to see such a measure adopted in the United States. But we must look, I fear, to a more tranquil period for the accomplishment of it; endeavouring, in the meanwhile, to draw all the advantages we can, from the labours of others. With great respect, and sincere esteem and regard, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

G^o. WASHINGTON.

The melancholy event of General Washington's death, was announced to the President of the United States in the following letter from his secretary, Mr Lear.

SIR,

It is with inexpressible grief that I have to announce to you the death of the great and good General Washington. He died last evening between ten and eleven o'clock, after a short illness of about twenty-four hours. His disorder was an inflammatory sore throat, which proceeded from a cold, of which he made but little complaint on Friday. On Saturday morning, about three o'clock, he became ill. Dr Dick attended him in the morning, and Dr Craik of Alexandria, and Dr

Brown of Port Tobacco, were soon after called in. Every medical assistance was afforded, but without the desired effect. His last scene corresponded with the whole tenor of his life. Not a groan, not a complaint, escaped him in extreme distress. With perfect resignation, and in full possession of his reason, he closed his well-spent life.

TOBIAS LEAR.

To the President of the United States.

It is unnecessary to add, that the intelligence of this distressing event was rapidly spread throughout all America, and received with the deepest symptoms of sorrow and regret; nor was there any part of Europe, where those who felt any respect for integrity and virtue, did not consider the death of General Washington as a public calamity.

The following letter from Mr Lear, is the last communication I received from the Washington family :

Mount Vernon, February 23. 1801.

SIR,

At the request of Mrs Washington, I have the honour to inform you, that your letter to her of the 2d of June, and the work therein mentioned, came safe to her hands. While she desires me to express her acknowledgments for your respectful and honourable mention of her in your letter, she begs you will be assured of the grateful sense which she entertains of the noble and disinterested sentiments which led to a publication of this work.

Although she has no consolation in this life for her irreparable loss, yet she would be ungrateful not to acknowledge, that the universal testimonies of respect and veneration, which are evidenced for the memory of the friend of her heart, give her all the comfort which she is capable of receiving; and she begs you will accept her best thanks for the very handsome

manner in which you have expressed your sense of the virtues and merits of the deceased.

Before I close this letter, permit me, my Dear Sir John, to express the sense which I have of your polite attentions to me in London, and to assure you that it would afford me the greatest pleasure to be useful to you in any way in my power. With very great respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

TObIAS LEAR.

Reflections on the Character of General Washington.

Whoever has embraced this opportunity of perusing the preceding letters from General Washington, will, I am confident, concur with me in the following reflections :

1. That nothing could possibly place the character of this distinguished statesman in a more estimable light, than to find the same individual, whose military exploits had spread his fame over the universe, and who had been invested with supreme power in the country where he was born, amidst all his various public avocations, carrying on an extensive correspondence with the native of a distant country, on agricultural and other general inquiries useful to mankind.

2. The reflecting and philosophic mind must contemplate with pleasure and delight, a person, elevated by the voice of his fellow-citizens to the summit of political authority, who, instead of wishing to aggrandize himself, and extend his own power, was anxiously bent to quit that situation, to which so many others earnestly aspired, and return to the comfort and enjoyment of private life; belying thus the insinuations of those malignant spirits, who are perpetually railing against those talents and virtues, which, conscious of wanting themselves, they cannot imagine to exist in others.

3. Is there, on the whole, any individual, either in ancient or modern history, who has prouder claims to distinction and pre-eminence, than the illustrious author of these letters? His military talents were early celebrated, first in the ser-

vice of Great Britain, and afterwards in that of America. His powers as a statesman, and the founder of a constitution, which, with British prejudices, I may consider as inferior to our own, but which promises to secure the happiness of the great nation it was formed to govern, cannot possibly be questioned. His public virtue, as the uncorrupted magistrate of a free people, who reluctantly accepted supreme authority, when his acceptance of it was judged necessary for the public good, and who hastened to resign it when his resignation could be made consistently with the public safety, can hardly be equalled in history. His literary endowments also were unquestionably of a superior order. His letters in this collection, his addresses to the American Congress, and his farewell oration, when he quitted, for the last time, the presidency of the United States, are models of each species of composition. To have a well-spent life closed, after a short illness, without having his strength or faculties impaired by any previous disorder, or any untoward circumstance having occurred, that could materially affect his feelings, or could possibly tarnish his fame, is an uncommon instance of good fortune. The scene in which he acted also, and the objects which he achieved, are the most memorable which history furnishes; for it was such a man alone who, by combining the force, and commanding the confidence of thirteen separate states, could have dissolved those ties which subjected America to Europe, and to whom the political separation of two worlds is thus to be attributed. But above all, what distinguished this celebrated warrior and statesman is, that to all those military and public talents, and to those literary endowments, which are so rarely united in the same person, he added the practice of every virtue that could adorn the private individual. It were in vain for me to attempt, adequately to express the ideas I entertain of a character, in all respects so peculiarly splendid. The pen of the immortal Shakespeare is alone competent to the task; and on the tombstone of the illustrious Washington let it be engraved,—

His life was gentle, and the elements
 So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up
 And say to all the world, *This was a man,*
 ————— *take him for all in all,*
We shall not look upon his like again *.

II.

JOHN ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA.

Mr Adams was the first Ambassador sent to this country by the United States of America, after their independence had been acknowledged by the British Government. His Majesty, George the Third, upon this occasion, behaved with the utmost propriety. When Mr Adams was introduced to him, he said, "I was the last man in Great Britain who wished to acknowledge the independence of North America, but I shall be the first to oppose any attempt that may be made to restore their dependence upon the mother country."

I had a good deal of friendly intercourse with Mr Adams, during his residence in London, and shewed him every attention in my power. He was quite a republican in his ideas, his principles, and his behaviour. After having been placed at the head of his own country, he lived to a great age, honoured and respected by all who knew him.

I had the pleasure of receiving two letters from him, which I think it right to preserve in this collection.

No. 1.

Philadelphia, March 2. 1793.

SIR,

I received the letter you did me the honour to write me last summer, with your projects of a Natural History of Sheep, and a Survey of Scotland.

* Julius Cæsar, Act V. Scene 5; and Hamlet, Act I. Scene 2.

You could not have made a wiser choice. The natural history of that animal, so useful to man, must be very useful as well as very curious: and a detail of particulars relative to your native country, must be interesting to all, but especially to the inhabitants of it.

You are apprehensive that you and I shall not meet again, and not without reason. Yet I assure you, a voyage to this country, and a journey through it, might be made in as short a time very nearly as you required for your tour of Europe; and you will find beauty and fame at least, though not much power. This is the only rising country in the world, and it rises with a rapidity that outstrips all calculation. I wonder that travellers are not more inquisitive after it.

Europe discovers a disposition to try over again the old experiment of elective governments: but they will find that giving them the name of representative governments, will not prevent them from having the same effect upon the emulation and ambition of the human heart which they ever had.

We, in this country, enjoy a delicious tranquillity at present, and if your European fermentations should not disturb us, shall continue to be happy.

If you, Sir John, will do us the honour to come and see us, you will be treated with a cordial civility, notwithstanding your title; and no man will be more happy to receive you than, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

I was much struck with the above expression, "*notwithstanding your title.*" But its nature was fully explained by a communication from George William Erving, Esq. American consul in London, of which the following is an extract:

"I have received, by this day's post, your letter, with four packets for the President of the United States, which I shall forward by the first conveyance. Presuming that you have been led into a misapprehension, as to the proper address of the President, by some late paragraphs in the English news-

papers, and being perfectly assured, that you would wish to be correct in this particular, I take the liberty of observing to you, that the constitution of the United States gives no titles to its officers, and allows of none to be used by our citizens; and that, consequently, the most simple form of address must be most acceptable to the President."

No. 2.

Mount Wollaston, near Boston, May 24. 1805.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR,

A natural history of this country has been long desired, by every inquisitive mind. Although the calls of my profession, and the more serious demands of the political interests of my country, turned my attention, almost half a hundred years ago, from investigations of this nature, yet I have never been insensible to their pleasures and advantages. In 1779, called upon to frame a constitution of government for my native state of Massachusetts, I inserted in the body of it, that it should be at all times the duty of the Legislature, to encourage the interests of literature, and particularly a natural history of the country. Very lately this dormant record has been recollected by individuals, who have raised by subscription a sum, which, aided by a grant of land from the Legislature, has laid a foundation for a professorship at our University at Cambridge.

William Dandridge Peck, Esq. is the professor, and will have the honour to deliver you this letter. I can claim no right, Sir John, to introduce this gentleman to you. Not for my own merit, but on account of his, I thus presume. I have spent so much of my life in the service of others, and so little in my own, that in my old age all my attention is necessarily employed in my own trifling private affairs. This misfortune has made it impossible for me to make to you the returns for your obliging literary communications from time to time, which decency, and even gratitude, required. But Mr Peck has so much merit, in science and literature in general, and in

natural history in particular, that I am sure you will thank me for introducing him to your acquaintance. His travels in Europe are intended to inform himself of every thing relative to his professorship, which he can procure an opportunity of seeing. Any advice or civilities you may be so good as to shew him, will be very grateful to the Academy of Sciences here, of which Sir John Sinclair, as well as Mr Peck, are members; to our University at Cambridge, and to men of letters in general in this country, after whom it would be ridiculous to mention, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

III.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mr Jefferson was undoubtedly one of the ablest men that America has produced. Being considered superior to almost any of his countrymen for literary acquirements, he was employed to draw up the declaration of independence, a paper distinguished for its ability *. He was appointed ambassador from America to France, and I had first the pleasure of being introduced to him at the table of the Marquis de la Fayette, with whom I had become acquainted in consequence of an introduction from the celebrated Mirabeau. Mr Jefferson afterwards came to England, where I endeavoured to shew him every attention in my power, of which I received the following flattering acknowledgment:

* A work has been recently published, both in this country and in America, entitled, *Memoirs and Private Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, late President of the United States, now first published from the original manuscript, and edited by Thomas Jefferson Randolph. This work fully proves the great abilities, and genuine patriotism, of this distinguished character; to which I hope America will do justice, by erecting a monument to his memory. Such monuments are honourable to the dead, and *incitements to the living*, who are thus induced, by every exertion in their power, to merit the applause of a grateful country.

No. 1.

Mr Jefferson's compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and thanks for the pamphlets he was so kind as to send him. Their author, as well as their subject, interest him in them. He had the honour of calling at Sir John Sinclair's yesterday, to take leave, and to make a thousand acknowledgments for the many attentions and kindnesses he has been pleased to shew him. He begs leave now to do it in writing, and to express the pleasure it will give him should he have an opportunity of proving to Sir John Sinclair, at Paris, how sensible he has been of his goodness. He wishes him every possible felicity.

Tuesday, April 25. 1786.

Mr Jefferson, indeed, said, that there was no other individual in London who had paid him any particular attention, which rendered my civilities to him peculiarly gratifying.

The first letter I received from Mr Jefferson, after his return to America, is interesting, on account of the hint he gives regarding the warehousing of foreign corn, which is really of no use but to the merchant, to whom the interests of the grower is generally sacrificed.

No. 2.

Philadelphia, Aug. 24. 1791.

DEAR SIR,

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your two favours of December 25. and May 14, with the pamphlets which accompanied them, and to return you my thanks for them. The corn law, I perceive, has not passed in the form you expected. My wishes on that subject were nearer yours than you imagined. We both, in fact, desired the same thing for very different reasons, respecting the interests of our respective countries, and therefore justifiable in both. You wished the bill so moulded as to encourage strongly your national agriculture. The clause for warehousing foreign corn tended to lessen the

confidence of the farmer in the demand for his corn. I wished the clause omitted, that our corn might pass directly to the country of the consumer, and save us the loss of an intermediate deposit, which it can ill bear. That no commercial arrangements between Great Britain and the United States have taken place, as you wish should be done, cannot be imputed to us. The proposition has surely been often enough made; perhaps too often. It is a happy circumstance in human affairs, that evils which are not cured in one way, will cure themselves in some other. We are now under the first impression of the news of the king's flight from Paris, and his recapture. It would be unfortunate were it in the power of any one man to defeat the issue of so beautiful a revolution. I hope and trust it is not; and that, for the good of suffering humanity all over the earth, that revolution will be established and spread through the whole world. I shall always be happy, my Dear Sir, to hear of your health and happiness, being, with sentiments of the most cordial esteem and respect, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

TH. JEFFERSON.

I afterwards, however, received a communication from him of still greater importance. Though a friend to the revolution in France, as appears from the preceding letter, yet his sentiments on that subject seem to have been materially changed, when he saw the dangerous extent of ambition which Bonaparte exhibited. As Mr Jefferson was supposed to be fixed in his enmity to Great Britain, I could not prevail on our ministers to believe, that he could feel the least wish favourable to the preservation of the prosperity of England.

No. 3.

Washington, June 30. 1803.

DEAR SIR,

It is so long since I have had the pleasure of writing to you, that it would be vain to look back to dates to connect the old

and the new, yet I ought not to pass over my acknowledgments to you for various publications received from time to time, and with great satisfaction and thankfulness. I send you a small one in return, the work of a very unlettered farmer, yet valuable, as it relates plain facts, of importance to farmers. You will discover that Mr Binns is an enthusiast for the use of gypsum; but there are two facts which prove he has a right to be so; 1. He began poor, and has made himself tolerably rich by his farming alone. 2. The county of Loudon, in which he lives, had been so exhausted and wasted by bad husbandry, that it began to depopulate, the inhabitants going southwardly, in quest of better lands. Binn's success has stopped that emigration. It is now becoming one of the most productive counties of the state of Virginia, and the price given for those lands is multiplied manifold.

We are still uninformed here whether you are again at war. Buonaparte has produced such a state of things in Europe, as it would seem difficult for him to relinquish in any sensible degree, and equally dangerous for Great Britain to suffer to go on, especially if accompanied by maritime preparations on his part. The events which have taken place in France have lessened, in the American mind, the motives of interest which it felt in that revolution, and its amity towards that country now rests on its love of peace and commerce. We see, at the same time, with great concern, the position in which Great Britain is placed, and should be sincerely afflicted were any disaster to deprive mankind of the benefit of such a bulwark against the torrent which has for some time been bearing down all before it. But her power and prowess at sea seem to render every thing safe in the end. Peace is our passion; and though wrongs might drive us from it, we prefer trying every other just principle of right and safety, before we would recur to war.

I hope your agricultural institution goes on with success. I consider you as the author of all the good it shall do. A better idea has never been carried into practice. Our Agri-

cultural Society has at length formed itself. Like our American Philosophical Society, it is voluntary, and unconnected with the public, and is precisely an execution of the plan I formerly sketched to you. Some State Societies have been formed heretofore; the others will do the same. Each State Society names two of its members of Congress to be their members in the Central Society, which is of course together during the sessions of Congress. They are to select matter from the proceedings of the State Societies, and to publish it, so that their publications may be called, *L'Esprit des Sociétés d'Agriculture, &c.* The Central Society was formed the last winter only, so that it will be some time before they get under weigh. Mr Madison, the Secretary of State, was elected their President.

Recollecting, with great satisfaction, our friendly intercourse while I was in Europe, I nourish the hope it still preserves a place in your mind; and, with my salutations, I pray you to accept assurances of my constant attachment and high respect,

TH. JEFFERSON.

I accidentally found my answer to this important communication, which I beg leave to subjoin:

DEAR SIR,

On various accounts I received with much pleasure your obliging letter of the 30th of June last, which only reached me at this place on the 19th of November. I certainly feel highly indebted to Mr Binns, both for the information contained in the pamphlet he has drawn up, and also for his having been the means of inducing you to recommence our correspondence together, for the purpose of transmitting a paper which does credit to the practical farmers of America.

As to the plaster of Paris which Mr Binns so strongly recommends, it is singular that whilst it proves such a source of fertility with you, it is of little avail in any part of the British

islands, Kent alone excepted. I am thence inclined to conjecture, that its great advantage must arise, from its attracting moisture from the atmosphere, of which we have in general abundance in these kingdoms without the intervention of that agent; and the benefit which has been found from the use of this article in Kent, (one of the driest counties in England), tends to countenance this hypothesis.

I hear with peculiar pleasure that a Central Society or Board of Agriculture has been established in America, which I hope will prove of singular utility to that thriving empire. Regarding that important institution, and the subject of European politics in general, I beg herewith to transmit some additional observations.

Ever since I have been engaged in public life, which commenced in the year 1780, it has been my constant wish, to encourage as much as possible, an intimate connection between the two countries, and to cultivate a friendly intercourse with the many respectable characters which America produces. In that particular I have been extremely successful; and I consider it as a circumstance of peculiar good fortune, that it has been in my power to establish a friendly correspondence with the distinguished statesman, who now fills the Presidency of the United States.

Accept of my best wishes for the happiness of the new empire in general, and more especially of those, who are so laudably and successfully employed, in directing its counsels, and promoting its prosperity.

Charlotte Square, Edinburgh,
1st January 1804.

I have now the pleasure of laying before the reader a communication of very considerable importance. It contains the sentiments of, perhaps, the greatest statesman that America has produced, on the infinite advantages that would result from a cordial and perpetual alliance between Great Britain and the United States of America. In these sentiments I most

heartily concur, and I do not yet despair of seeing them realized :

No. 4.

Monticello, July 31. 1816.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of November 1. came but lately to my hand. It covered a prospectus of your Code of Health and Longevity, a great and useful work, which I shall be happy to see brought to a conclusion. Like our good old Franklin, your labours and science go all to the utilities of human life.

I reciprocate congratulations with you sincerely on the restoration of peace between our two nations, and why should there have been war? For the party to which the blame is to be imputed, we appeal to the "Exposition of the Causes and Character of the War," a pamphlet which, we are told, has gone through some editions with you. If that does not justify us, then the blame is ours. But let all this be forgotten, and let both parties now count soberly the value of mutual friendship. I am satisfied both will find that no advantage either can derive from any act of injustice whatever, will be of equal value with those flowing from friendly intercourse. Both ought to wish for peace and cordial friendship; we, because you can do us more harm than any other nation; and you, because we can do you more good than any other. Our growth is now so well established by regular enumerations, through a course of forty years, and the same grounds of continuance so likely to endure for a much longer period, that, speaking in round numbers, we may safely call ourselves twenty millions in twenty years, and forty millions in forty years. Many of the statesmen now living saw the commencement of the first term; and many now living will see the end of the second. It is not then a mere concern of posterity: A third of those now in life will see that day. Of what importance then to you must such a nation be, whether as friends or foes. But is their friendship, Dear Sir, to be

obtained by the irritating policy of fomenting among us party discord, and a teasing opposition: by bribing traitors, whose sale of themselves proves they would sell their purchasers also, if their treacheries were worth a price? How much cheaper would it be, how much easier, more honourable, more magnanimous and secure, to gain the government itself, by a moral, a friendly, and respectful course of conduct, which is all they would ask for a cordial and faithful return? I know the difficulties arising from the irritation,—the exasperation produced on both sides,—by the late war. It is great with you, as I judge from your newspapers; and greater with us, as I see myself. The reason lies in the different degrees in which the war has acted on us. To your people it has been a matter of distant history only,—a mere war in the Carnatic: with us it has reached the bosom of every man, woman and child. The maritime parts have felt it in the conflagration of their houses and towns, and desolation of their farms; the borderers in the massacres and scalpings of their husbands, wives and children; and the middle parts in their personal labours and losses in defence of both frontiers, and the revolting scenes they have there witnessed. It is not wonderful, then, if their irritations are extreme. Yet time and prudence on the part of the two governments may get over these. Manifestations of cordiality between them, friendly and kind offices made visible to the people on both sides, will mollify their feelings, and second the wishes of their functionaries to cultivate peace, and promote mutual interest. That these dispositions have been strong on our part, in every administration from the first to the present one,—that we would at any time have gone our full half-way to meet them, if a single step in advance had been taken by the other party, I can affirm of my own intimate knowledge of the fact. During the first year of my own administration, I thought I discovered, in the conduct of Mr Addington, some marks of comity towards us, and a willingness to extend to us the decencies and duties observed towards other nations. My desire

to catch at this, and to improve it for the benefit of my own country, induced me, in addition to the official declarations from the Secretary of State, to write, with my own hand, to Mr King, then our Minister Plenipotentiary at London, in the following words: "I avail myself of this occasion to assure you of my perfect satisfaction with the manner in which you have conducted the several matters committed to you by us; and to express my hope, that through your agency, we may be able to remove every thing inauspicious to a cordial friendship between this country and the one in which you are stationed,—a friendship dictated by too many considerations not to be felt by the wise and the dispassionate of both nations. It is therefore with the sincerest pleasure I have observed, on the part of the British Government, various manifestations of just and friendly disposition towards us. We wish to cultivate peace and friendship with all nations, believing that course most conducive to the welfare of our own. It is natural that these friendships should bear some proportion to the common interests of the parties. The interesting relations between Great Britain and the United States are certainly of the first order, and as such are estimated, and will be faithfully cultivated by us. These sentiments have been communicated to you from time to time in the official correspondence of the Secretary of State; but I have thought it might not be unacceptable to be assured, that they perfectly concur with my own personal convictions, both in relation to yourself, and the country in which you are." My expectation was, that Mr King would shew this letter to Mr Addington, and that it would be received by him as an overture towards a cordial understanding between the two countries. He left the ministry, however, and I never heard more of it, and certainly never perceived any good effect from it. I know that, in the present temper, the boastful, the insolent, and the mendacious newspapers on both sides will present serious impediments. Ours will be insulting your public authorities, and boasting of victories; and yours will not be sparing of provocations and abuses of us. But, if those at

our helms could not place themselves above these pitiful notices, and throwing aside all personal feelings, look only to the interests of their nations, they would be unequal to the trusts confided to them. I am equally confident, on our part, in the administration now in place, as in that which will succeed it; and that, if friendship is not hereafter sincerely cultivated, it will not be their fault. I will not, however, disguise, that the settlement of the practice of impressing *our citizens* is a *sine qua non*, and a preliminary, without which treaties of peace are but truces. But it is impossible that reasonable dispositions on both parts should not remove this stumbling block, which, unremoved, will be an eternal obstacle to peace, and lead finally to the deletion of the one or the other nation. The regulations necessary to keep your own seamen to yourselves, are those which our interests would lead us to adopt, and that interest would be a guarantee of their observance; and the transfer of these questions from the cognisance of their naval commanders, to the governments themselves, would be but an act of mutual, as well as of self respect.

I did not mean, when I began my letter, to have indulged my pen so far on subjects with which I have long ceased to have connection; but it may do good, and I will let it go; for although what I write is from no personal privity with the views or wishes of our government, yet believing them to be what they ought to be, and confident in their wisdom and integrity, I am sure I hazard no deception in what I have said of them, and I shall be happy indeed, if some good shall result to both our countries, from this renewal of our correspondence and ancient friendship. I recall with great pleasure the days of our former intercourse, personal and epistolary, and can assure you, with truth, that in no instant of time has there been any abatement of my great esteem and respect for you.

TH. JEFFERSON.

IV.

JAMES MADISON, ESQ. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I had not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr Madison ; but from the respectability of his private character, and the dignified situation he held, as President of the United States, I was induced to send him a fac-simile copy of General Washington's letters to me, and to express my wish that we should correspond together on agricultural topics. I received from him the following answer.

Washington, May 30. 1816.

SIR,

I did not receive the communications with which you favoured me in November last, until very lately. I beg leave now to acknowledge them, and particularly to thank you for the fac-simile copy of General Washington's letters.

I pray you, Sir, to be assured, that I feel the just value of the interest you take in what concerns my country, and of the solicitude you manifest for the fame of a citizen whose memory is so dear to it. I need scarcely add, that I shall at all times be ready to give proofs of my respect for the offer of correspondence which is made to me. Accept, Sir, assurances of my esteem and consideration,

JAMES MADISON.

Mr Madison afterwards transmitted to me a very able communication on agriculture, fully proving both his knowledge of that art, and the ability with which he could explain his sentiments regarding it.

In a communication from Dr Waterhouse of Cambridge, in the state of Massachusetts, the progress of the United States of America, *and the administration of Mr Madison*, are represented in the most favourable colours.

Cambridge, 17th May 1810.

This wonderful country is growing beyond all example great. While every thing magnificent with you, in the old world, is, as it were, in the preterperfect tense, our magnificence is seen by the mind's eye, in the future.

The Congress of these United States has, in its last session, eternized its fame, by the numerous acts it has passed, chiefly calculated to make men wiser, better, and happier: An University, not like this of Cambridge, which is the child of the state of Massachusetts, but one that shall be the daughter of the nation. Beside the annual increase of our navy, and adding to the number of our military schools,—roads, and canals, connecting distant cities, and the lakes, with the ocean, are about commencing. Two grand astronomical observatories, at each end of the union, on the sea-board, are about to be founded. *In a word, Madison, whose real character is little understood in Britain, is aiming to extend the empire of mind over this vast region. He is turning the spirit of chivalry, that was kindling up, during our short but severe war, into the roads of science.* England views us only as it regards trade and commerce, *which are but secondary objects with our wise men.* Very few regard us as a *philosophical nation*, mainly intent on a great name in the best of things. We shall, I hope, reflect back the tide of descending glory to its source.

V.

JAMES MONROE, ESQ. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mr Monroe was of Scotch extraction, and descended from a family with which I happen to be connected, my grandmother being of the same stock. I had therefore much pleasure in receiving the subjoined letter from him, when elevated to the proud situation of President of the United States.

Washington, November 17. 1817.

SIR,

Although I have not had the honour of a direct communication with you heretofore, your very respectable character and distinguished merit have long been known to me. I avail myself, therefore, with pleasure, of the opportunity which your letter of May the 27th last affords me, of succeeding my predecessors, in the high trust committed to me by my country, in the relation which they have severally borne to you. My family was from the Highlands of Scotland, a place called Fowlis, lately owned by Sir H. Munro. My ancestor emigrated about the year 1745, having been an adherent of the house of Stuart, and induced to leave the country, in consequence of its misfortunes. He settled on the Potowmack, in Virginia, where I was born. Though young at the commencement of our revolution, I took part in it; and its principles have invariably guided me since. Nothing can be more deeply fixed in the judgment and heart of any one, than are the principles of our free system of government in mine. Though so many years have elapsed since my family migrated to this country, as to make us, in a great measure, a distinct race, I have nevertheless always looked to Scotland, and to those of the same origin there, with peculiar interest. To be in any degree connected, or allied with you, cannot fail to afford me much satisfaction.

Your researches, and works on agriculture, I shall receive with much pleasure; and will endeavour to communicate to you, in return, whatever may be interesting in this country on that subject. I well know, however, that I shall soon show how far I am in this, as in other respects, from having any pretension to the knowledge and merit of my illustrious predecessors.

My particular object in this is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, to acquaint you of the pleasure with which I shall communicate with you in future, and to make known to you the bearer, Mr Rush, our envoy extraordinary to your

court, whom you will find to be a man of talents and great worth. With great consideration and esteem, I am your very obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

The answer I beg leave to subjoin.

10th April 1818.

DEAR SIR,

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your interesting communication, dated at Washington, November 17. 1817. By some accident, it did not reach me until within these few days, otherwise I should have had the pleasure of sooner acknowledging its receipt.

I am happy to find, that we are descended from the same progenitors, though, after the lapse of so many years, the connection is remote ; but, in the words of Dr Johnson, “ Relations are ready made friends ;” and every thing that tends to unite the human species for useful purposes ought to be kept up.

After being engaged in political discussions for a number of years, I have retired from public business, and have now devoted myself to literary pursuits, in which my favourite object is the collection and diffusion of useful knowledge, with a view of adding to the comfort and happiness of the human race. For that purpose, I have already published *a Code of Health and Longevity*, and *a Code of Agriculture* ; and I am now engaged in preparing *a Code of Political Economy*, the nature of which the inclosed prospectus will explain. When “ *The Codean System of Literature*” is more matured, and exemplified in regard to these great subjects, I shall have the pleasure of writing you more fully on the advantages to be derived from such a plan. To America it must be peculiarly interesting thus to have the substance of the information of the old world transferred to the new, *arranged and condensed*.

I hope that a copy of the Code of Agriculture has been re-

ceived. I am now preparing a second edition of it, in which any errors in the matter or the language shall be corrected. I shall take an early opportunity of sending you over a copy of that edition, that it may be known in America in its perfect form.

In my correspondence with General Washington, I strongly inculcated the establishment of "*a Board of Agriculture*," and I understand that he recommended that measure to the attention of Congress. The expense is a mere trifle, and the advantages would be incalculable. Perhaps under your auspices that plan might still be carried through. It would immortalize, to all future ages, the administration of the present distinguished President of the United States of America. Any information that might be necessary, respecting the formation of the Board of Agriculture here, of which I was the founder, I shall be happy to transmit.

With my best wishes for your health and happiness, I remain, Dear Sir, &c.

I afterwards received another communication from Mr Monroe, to which I was happy to pay every attention in my power.

No. 2.

Virginia, April 7. 1826.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN,

The bearer, Lieutenant Monroe, my nephew, being about to visit Scotland, on some private concerns of high interest to him, I take the liberty to introduce him to your acquaintance. Should advice be necessary to him, may I ask of you to give him the aid of yours. He is a youth of integrity and honour, who will pay due attention to any suggestions which you may be so kind as to make, on the subject which calls him there, and which he will explain to you.

Retired as I now am to private life, and engaged in literary and agricultural pursuits, it will always afford me great

pleasure to receive any of your friends who may visit this country, and to shew them all the attention in my power. I recollect, with great interest, the connection which exists between us; and regret much, that, while in England, I had not the pleasure of cultivating a more intimate personal acquaintance with you, in consequence of your engagements at that period in Scotland. With great respect and regard, I am,
Dear Sir John, sincerely yours,

JAMES MONROE.

VI.

WILLIAM PINKNEY, ESQ. MINISTER FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

It is a maxim in the American government, to send none but their ablest men on diplomatic missions; and amongst these Mr Pinkney was eminently distinguished. I had great pleasure in a friendly intercourse with him, and the following letters are a sufficient proof on what friendly terms we corresponded.

No. 1.

London, October 7. 1808.

DEAR SIR,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 3d instant, and will, without delay, communicate the object of it to the Secretary of State, for the purpose of being made known to the President.

It cannot but give him pleasure to promote the interests of agriculture in every part of the world, and especially here; and I am persuaded, that an intimation having that tendency will need, to his enlightened mind, no recommendation. If any recommendation were necessary, I know of none that

would be more likely to be effectual than yours ; and I shall, accordingly, in my letter, make use of your name.

I need not say how cordially I join in your wish, that the intercourse between our countries may be speedily revived.

Mr Hall is much indebted to you, as very many of his countrymen (and none more than myself) have been, for your kindness.

I beg you to be assured of the sincerity, of the respect, and esteem, with which I have the honour to be, Dear Sir, your faithful humble servant,

WM. PINKNEY.

No. 2.

London, December 5. 1808.

DEAR SIR,

One of my young countrymen, (Mr Robert Walsh), for whom I have a particular regard, is on a visit to Edinburgh, where he intends to pass part of the winter. Will you permit me to introduce him to you, and to recommend him to your kindness ?

I can assure you, that he is deservedly valued by all who know him, for the goodness of his heart, and for those various attainments in useful and ornamental knowledge, which are so emphatically in their place in the charming society of your capital.

I am sure that I do not yield too much to the partiality and friendship when I say, that to a highly cultivated taste for literature and the arts, this gentleman unites a rich and vigorous understanding, an elegant and ardent genius, and the best disposition in the world.

With England, Ireland and France, he is already well acquainted ; but he very justly considers, that he has done nothing while Scotland remains to be seen and studied.

He is, of course, ambitious of being known to you ; and he pays me the compliment of supposing, that my introduction will be no disadvantage to his reception.

I beg you to excuse the liberty I venture to take with you, and to believe me to be, with the greatest respect and the most sincere esteem, Dear Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

WM. PINKNEY.

VII.

RICHARD RUSH.

From my correspondence with the father, the celebrated Dr Rush, I took an early opportunity to offer my services to the son, when he arrived in England, more especially as he was accompanied by his lady, who was an excellent specimen of the American female character. I do not recollect, indeed, having spent a pleasanter day, than when they visited us, at Ormly Lodge, on Ham Common. He was in appearance quite the republican, wearing his own hair, unpowdered, even when he went to court; but his manners were in the highest degree polite, courteous and agreeable, and his correspondence was equally distinguished by its politeness.

His first communication was as follows :

Mr Rush presents his compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of his obliging note of the 9th of this month, inclosing a letter for the President of the United States, which Mr R. will have great pleasure in forwarding by an early opportunity to America.

Mr R. is greatly sensible to the kind intentions which Sir John is so good as to express towards him; and at some future day, when he may be able to command the leisure, knows of few things that would yield him so much pleasure as the opportunity of visiting Ormly Lodge.

London, April 12. 1818.

It was July before he could conveniently pay us a visit in the country, when he wrote me, that if Friday the 24th of July, was convenient for Lady Sinclair and myself, it would give Mrs Rush and him more than a common gratification to pass it with us.

The following communication, introducing his friend Mr Weeks, shows the friendly terms on which we corresponded :

London, June 15. 1821, 51. Baker Street.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

Mr Weeks, a citizen of the United States, of great respectability and worth, intending to be present at the Holkham sheep-shearing this season, I have led him to believe it probable that he may meet you there. Should this be the case, he will have the honour to hand you this letter ; and as one of his objects in coming abroad is to see and hear what appertains to good agriculture, I have told him, and he himself knows, how much he would lose, should no opportunity be offered to him of making your acquaintance. Permit me, therefore, to commend him to your kind conversation and auspices during the Holkham festival.

With a full sense of your many past kindnesses to me, I remain, Dear Sir, with very cordial respect and esteem, your most faithful and obedient servant,

RICHARD RUSH.

VIII.

COUNT RUMFORD.

From similarity of pursuits, I had contracted a cordial friendship with Count Rumford, a well-known native of America. He was a man of an ardent mind, which enabled him to conquer many difficulties ; and by his inquiries regarding the proper application of heat, he introduced many useful dis-

coveries, which will find their way to many countries, even where the name of the inventor may remain unknown.

Among a number of communications, the following is one of the most important, as it exhibits the distinguished philosopher, placed at the head of an army in a foreign country, yet anxious to withdraw from active life, and to resume the more pleasing employment of scientific investigation.

Munich, 16th October 1796.

I thank you, my dear Sir John, for your friendly letter, which I have just received. I am glad your new kitchen answers your expectations, and hope it will be imitated. I ought to have begun my letter by acquainting you, that immediately on my arrival here from England, I delivered to the Elector the diploma you sent him; and that I had it in charge from his most Serene Highness, to express to you his thanks for your attentions to him. He appeared to me to be much pleased at being chosen a member of your Board, and will, I am confident, have great satisfaction in contributing as much as possible to the success of your laudable undertakings. I have projected several new experiments, from the results of which I hope to get some new light with respect to vegetation and nutrition; but I am at present so much employed with business of a very different kind, (the command of the Bavarian army), that I have no leisure to give to my favourite pursuits. But as the alarms which were the occasion of my being called upon to take the command in chief of the Bavarian troops, have subsided since the French armies have left our neighbourhood, I hope soon to be able to put up my sword, and resume the more pleasing occupations of science and philosophical experiment.

Wishing you much success in your endeavours to promote the prosperity of mankind, by the introduction of useful improvements, I am, my Dear Sir John, with unfeigned regard and esteem, your affectionate and most obedient servant,

RUMFORD.

P. S.—I am very sorry, indeed, to hear you have withdrawn yourself from the “*Great Council of the nation.*” Pray don’t let yourself be disgusted or discouraged. The cause is good, and perseverance will in the end command success.

IX.

JOHN JAY, ESQ. OF NEW YORK.

There is no man with whose correspondence I was more highly gratified than with that of Mr Jay. He entered so fully into all my views, and seemed so deeply impressed with the numerous advantages likely to result from them, as to give me additional energy in my endeavours to carry on, and complete them.

The following letters respecting the Board of Agriculture seem peculiarly well entitled to be preserved.

No. 1.

Albany, 7th November 1797.

DEAR SIR,

I was yesterday honoured with yours of the 15th July, together with the papers mentioned in it, and for which accept my thanks.

The three departments into which you divide the business of the Board comprises objects no less important than various. To methodise and compress the mass of *useful* knowledge acquired respecting each of these, will require patient perseverance as well as judgment. Give that great work time to mature, that it may be as perfect as possible.

We, in this country, are as yet so far behind you in these excellent arts, that we can cast only a few mites into your treasury. You will teach us useful lessons in agriculture; and they will cost us nothing,—which is more than we can say for some of the other lessons we are learning.

It is asked, how long the same root or plant may be cultivated to advantage in the same field or spot. I well remember that, (excepting from 1776 to 1784), potatoes have been annually planted, for at least forty years, in the same spot of ground, on a farm at Rye, which formerly belonged to my father, but now to my brother; and that spot yields, on an average, one year with another, as much now as ever it did. The land is rich, being a black mould, on a strong loam, with clay under it; and manured every year with dung from the barn-yard.

It was the common practice to put dung in the furrows or trenches, and then lay the seed potatoes *upon* it. For some years past it has been said, that the seed potatoes should be *first* placed in the furrows, and long dung put *upon* them, and then covered as usual with earth. Last year I planted a small piece of ground, (not rich, but stiff, and inclined to bake), alternately in those methods; and the fact was, that the rows where the dung was placed over and *upon* the seed potatoes, yielded more than the rows where the dung was placed *under* them. This is the only experiment of this kind which I have made, and therefore do not regard it as conclusive.

I frequently hear it asserted, that *long* dung is better than rotten dung, in the *furrows*, for potatoes; and several reasons are assigned why it should be so; but why it should be so is less interesting than how it actually is. To this latter question I cannot yet give a decisive answer.

You have so many letters to read as well as to write, that unnecessary prolixity can neither be proper for me, nor pleasant to you.

With the most cordial and best wishes for the prosperity of the Board, and the health and happiness of their President, I am, Dear Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN JAY.

No. 2.

Royal Hotel, Pall Mall, 1st April 1795.

DEAR SIR,

Accept my thanks for the paper inclosed in the letter which you was so obliging as to write yesterday. You give very good advice to farmers; but it is probable that the information you diffuse, together with the examples you propose, and which indeed you set, will have greater influence than admonitions.

Your Board is an excellent institution, and will be productive of extensive benefits, while its attention continues to be so unremitted, and well directed. The honour they have done me will induce me to make such communications to you from time to time, on agricultural subjects, as may appear to me to be interesting; and, although I cannot promise that they will be of much importance, yet I flatter myself they will be regarded as marks of that attention which it will always give me pleasure to evince. I am, Dear Sir, your obliged and obedient servant,

JOHN JAY.

No. 3.

Bedford, West Chester County, State of New York,
8th August 1816.

DEAR SIR,

I have received the papers which you were so obliging as to send me. Accept my thanks for them. Gratitude is due to those who employ their time and talents in promoting the common welfare. Your exertions to improve agriculture, and render it more productive, are known and acknowledged. The paper on "Milldew in Wheat" I have sent to New York to be published. The multitude of interesting facts which have been collected during the last twenty years, doubtless furnish materials for a comprehensive system of husbandry. Such a work, ably executed, would be useful.

Credit is also due to your endeavours to make known and excite attention to the means which conduce to health and longevity. The proposed edition of the "Code" on these subjects, in one octavo volume, will be better calculated for general use, and extensive circulation, than the larger work from which it is to be extracted. It hope it will soon be finished, and find its way to this country. I must be an agreeable reflection to you, that you have been "diligent in well doing."

My health has for years been declining; and my age reminds me, that the re-establishment of it is not to be expected. What you have written of the flesh brush will induce me to use it more frequently: it can do no harm, and may do good; and that is no inconsiderable recommendation.

With the best wishes that your health and longevity may be such, as to give additional weight to your remarks respecting them, I am, Dear Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN JAY.

X.

ROBERT FULTON, ESQ.

This celebrated engineer does great credit to the talents of America. He came over to England to improve himself in the line of his profession. From my being a public character, I found him naturally anxious to be introduced to me, and we had frequent conversations together, on the plans he had suggested for the destruction of the armament at Boulogne. His fame, however, will principally rest on his connexion with that great discovery, "*Navigation by steam.*" Understanding that Dr Logan of Stenton, near Philadelphia, who had come over to England in the year 1810, could furnish me with some information regarding the commencement of this

discovery, I applied to him for the purpose of obtaining it, and received the following answer :

St James's Place, April 20. 1810.

DEAR SIR,

I regret that it is not in my power at present to afford you the full information you require respecting the steam-boats, as used in the United States. About twenty years ago, a person of the name Ramsay applied to the legislature of Virginia, for the exclusive privilege of using a steam-boat on the rivers within that state; about the same time, a Mr Fitch claimed the like indulgence from the state of Pennsylvania; both said to be citizens of the United States, and each claiming a priority of right to the invention. Neither of their plans answered their own sanguine expectations, and were discontinued after a few experiments. In both instances the boats were propelled by oars or paddles. Mr Fulton, on his return from Europe, a few years since, built a steam-boat in New York, of 130 feet in length, 20 feet in width, and drawing not more than three feet of water. The boat is propelled by two water wheels fixed on each side of the boat, at about one-third of its length from the bow. This vessel has for some time been navigated on the north river, with great success, between New York and Albany, a distance of 160 miles, performing the voyage in thirty to thirty-five hours. Last year a boat, on a similar construction, was navigated between New York and Brunswick in New Jersey, passing through New York bay, frequently agitated by a heavy sea. And also one was navigated on the river Delaware. These boats are only calculated for passengers, and their light travelling baggage, and are used for no other purpose. I am of opinion the plan will not answer for vessels of burden constructed to carry merchandise, on account of the power necessary to overcome the resistance of the water.

The above is the best information in my power, in answer to your letter. I met some gentlemen from America at the

table of Mr Pinkney last Sunday, but could not procure the full information you require.

Accept assurances of my esteem.

GEO. LOGAN.

There is every reason to believe, that steam-boats were first tried in Scotland by Mr Millar of Dalswinton, and Mr Henry Bell of Helensburgh. But though they had proved the practicability of the plan, it seems to have been reserved for Mr Fulton to perfect it *on a great scale*. He certainly got the first hints in the course of an excursion he had made to Scotland; and though not the inventor, he justly claims the merit of being the first great improver of this species of navigation.

The following letter proves the friendly interest which he took in my pursuits :

SIR JOHN,

I have read with attention your very interesting Code of Health and Longevity. It is an additional proof of the benevolence of your mind and goodness of heart. You will find a real reward for such labours in your own feelings, and the respect of mankind. I return it to you with my sincere thanks.

ROBT. FULTON.

Sunday, the 28th of April 1805,
Sackville Street, No. 13.

XI.

DR LOGAN.

This respectable American resided at Stenton, near Philadelphia, and was distinguished by his ardent zeal for agriculture. When he visited England, therefore, we necessarily became acquainted, being so zealous in the same pursuit.

After his return to America, I had the pleasure of receiving from him the two following communications :

No. 1.

Stenton, March 20. 1815.

DEAR SIR,

It is with the highest gratification I congratulate you on the return of peace between Great Britain and the United States. You well know the anxiety of my mind, when in London, to prevent the direful conflict; by which both nations have lost many valuable citizens, and millions of money, without acquiring one single advantage. But this calamitous event is not attributable to the people of either nation, but to the infatuated councils of both. This is evidenced by the universal joy pervading every class of citizens, even before the terms of the peace were known.

Hostilities having ceased, it is probable a treaty of friendship and commerce will be contemplated. Should this desirable event take place, it is to be hoped the negotiation will not be tarnished by temporary expedients, or mere local considerations, injurious to the general interest; but that a spirit of magnanimity will prevail, as the soundest policy to insure the peace and future prosperity of both countries. Accept assurances of my esteem and friendship.

GEO. LOGAN.

No. 2.

Stenton, June 20. 1816.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Owing to some unaccountable delay, your letter of the 31st October did not come to hand till a few days since.

As a citizen of the world, I thank you for your various exertions to promote the happiness and prosperity of the great family of mankind. I have no doubt your useful work on Health and Longevity will sell in the United States; and,

agreeably to your desire, I will with pleasure unite with my friend Walsh, in promoting the circulation of it.

I most sincerely congratulate you on the restoration of peace between our countries ; suspended for a time, by the short-sighted policy and folly of both governments, neither of which can expect any advantage from a state of war,—the bane and scourge of every thing valuable in civil society.

My country is making the most astonishing improvements, particularly in agriculture, which is becoming fashionable, even with our wealthy merchants. The facility of intercourse through the United States is yearly increasing, by means of turnpike roads and steam boats. One boat for passengers across the Delaware, propelled by horses instead of steam, will convey one hundred persons in one trip. How deeply to be regretted by every honourable and honest man, that a country so situated, enjoying all the blessings of heaven, should be cursed with the calamities of war, owing to the pride, ambition, or cupidity of its rulers.

Pray let me hear from you soon. I shall think it my duty to do you every service in my power, as a small retribution for your private and public services.

Pray accept my earnest wishes for your prosperity and happiness. Accept assurances of my esteem and friendship.

GEO. LOGAN.

XII.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, ESQ.

Among the Americans who have visited this country, Mr Morris was one of the most distinguished for talent ; and I have met but few, who could rival him in conversation, being possessed of much general information, and communicating it with great readiness and ability. I subjoin a specimen of his epistolary talents.

Altona, 7th July 1796.

Your kind note, my Dear Knight, was duly received in London at the time when I was packing up for my departure ; and I did not then acknowledge it, because it announced to me that you were off for the north. I hope your journey has been, in all respects, agreeable, and that the President of the Board of Agriculture has seen every where fields smiling with abundance. The prospects on the Continent, so far as I can see or learn, are very fair ; and at this season there seems to be little danger as to the fulfilment of what the earth now promises. By this day the harvest has arrived in the south of Europe, and you will learn what it is. Whether the husbandman may eat it in peace, is a question whose decision is not in the human will. I shall not therefore attempt to solve it. By the bye, I observe that Monsieur Buonaparte has, in a late address to the Tyrolese, imitated, in some measure, the famous proclamation of the Duke of Brunswick. Those who found the latter horrible, admire the former for its energy. Such is the justice and impartiality of mankind. If I judge rightly of those mountaineers, Monsieur Buonaparte will not find favour with them ; and after committing himself by such sanguinary declaration, he will, by adhering to it, excite indignation, or by abandoning it contempt. Adieu, my Dear Knight. Believe me ever and truly yours,

GOUV. MORRIS.

In another communication, he mentions, that in some parts of Connecticut, they sow a border of flax, to intercept a small black bug, which is frequently found in the pease. This is a circumstance well entitled to the attention of such British farmers as are liable to this injury.

The following letters do not require any particular explanation: they are printed merely as a proof of the friendly attention I uniformly paid to the natives of America, and the grateful feelings with which that attention was received; and it is hoped that their publication will be an inducement to others to adopt a line of conduct which will greatly tend to consolidate the friendship which ought to exist between the two countries. The letters are printed in the order of time at which they were respectively dated.

No. 13.—*Letter from Dr Enoch Edwards.*

Gravesend, September 14. 1796.

DEAR SIR,

By the orders of the Captain, I was obliged to set off yesterday earlier than I intended. I however received the papers you were so good as to send; and the time of my passage will very much of it be taken up in reading them, and all the rest I received of you before.

When I get to Philadelphia, I suppose, after rambling so long, I shall, what we call settle down, and be able to make communications of more value than I have ever had leisure to do heretofore.

We have many valuable characters there in the agricultural line, whose knowledge I intend to endeavour to bring out; for as to you, the mass of information must be very great: the difficulty is to collect it.

I know few characters among us of more real merit than the author of that letter I read with you,—I mean the brother of our friend, Mr West. He was one of the first among us in America, who struck out entirely in a new system of farming; and is one of those fortunate men who has understood how to unite theory and practice in such manner as to succeed. In short, in his way, I think him equal to his brother in his. I have seen very beautiful pictures, &c. at Newman Street, No. 14.; yet I declare I never in my life, in any part of the world, saw a much more beautiful sight, than the bul-

locks,—the flocks,—the clover,—the watered meadows,—the orchards,—and, above all, the bower of Mr West, in Delaware county, Pennsylvania.

He is, besides being a good farmer, a member of the Legislature of our state. I think him a very worthy person to be made a member of your Board of Agriculture, on his own account; and I think you could not pay a handsomer compliment to his brother, who has really taken it into his head to make you the greatest favourite he has in England. He is very fond of what he calls marked characters. His being surprised with a thing of that kind I know would make him grateful.

I will be a faithful correspondent when I get to America; and if ever you do me the justice, (which I have no reason to doubt of), to give me answers, you may direct to me at Philadelphia. One caution I will now mention. When you send letters to the Pennsylvania or New York Coffee-House, let your servant see the waiter at the bar absolutely put them into the bag of a ship for those places, otherwise they will lay them down, and afterwards put them in a bag, (for many hang together), for Jamaica or India. My best respects to your good lady; and believe me to be your grateful and sincere friend,

EN. EDWARDS.

No. 14.—*Letter from Dr Rush of Philadelphia.*

Dr Rush returns his respectful compliments to Sir John Sinclair, with his thanks for his polite note, and the prospectus of a large and interesting work which accompanied it. The prospectus will shortly be republished in Dr Coxe's Medical Museum, through which it will have an extensive circulation in the United States.

Dr Rush sends Sir John Sinclair herewith a copy of a small pamphlet on the injurious effects of ardent spirits upon the bodies and minds of men.

The Doctor cannot conclude his note, without doing homage to the talents and zeal discovered by Sir John Sinclair in his various publications, all of which have so eminently for their objects, the happiness of nations and individuals. They

have made their author known, and rendered his character dear, to the friends of science and humanity in every part of the United States.

Philadelphia, May 14. 1805.

No. 15.—*Letter from Colonel Humphreys.*

Colonel Humphreys returns his respectful compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and is extremely obliged by his polite attention. He has the pleasure to assure Sir John, there is no country in which his useful and persevering labours, to ameliorate the human condition, are more highly appreciated than in the United States of America.

Colonel Humphreys hopes to have the satisfaction of visiting this country again, and of paying his personal respects to Sir John Sinclair.

36. Piccadilly, August 14. 1807.

No. 16.—*Extract Minutes of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.*

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, held October (10th month) 8. 1816:

On motion,

Resolved unanimously, That the President be requested to return our grateful acknowledgments to Sir John Sinclair, for his polite attention to the society, evidenced by his presenting to it his valuable accounts of Flemish agriculture,—of improving fruit-trees by peeling the bark,—and improved mode of growing corn by means of the drill-barrow. The society receive this testimony of Sir John Sinclair's personal civility, with the greater pleasure, because it evinces his liberal wishes to promote, in all countries, the prosperity of the primary means of insuring the independence and comforts of the people of all nations, by the improvement of an art to which he has devoted a great portion of a useful life.

Extracted from the minutes.

ROBERTS VAUX,
Secretary.

No. 17.—*Letter from Richard Peters, Esq. President of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.*

Belmont, near Philadelphia, October 26. 1816.

SIR,

With great pleasure I comply with the request of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, by transmitting its resolution of the 8th instant. Nothing is so well calculated to preserve amity between nations, as reciprocal communication of good offices among the individuals who compose them. The agriculturists of all countries have a common interest in all the improvements whereof the art, to which their labours are devoted, is susceptible; and those who promote such improvements are benefactors to the people of all countries, wise enough to cherish that art. Sir John Sinclair has long, and eminently, distinguished himself as one of those benefactors. I have a double pleasure in the charge devolved on me; because it evinces the sense which the Philadelphia society entertains of Sir John Sinclair's attention and politeness to it; and furnishes me with an occasion of assuring him of the respectful consideration and sincere esteem with which I have the honour to be his very obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS,
President.

No. 18.—*Letter from Robert Sinclair, Esq. at Baltimore in North America.*

State of Maryland,
North America, 11th Mo. 30th 1819.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

Having read thy Code of Health, and many of thy agricultural writings to my edification and profit, and having for many years felt great interest for the improvement of agriculture, believing it to be the basis on which the prosperity of our nation must rest, and the most innocent employment for man:

I say, reading thy useful books, and the expense and pains thee has been at, to bring about the establishment of the Agri-

cultural Society of London, the usefulness of which will not only extend to children unborn, but to nations not yet known, has made me feel almost acquainted with thee, and in consequence I have taken the liberty to write thee a few lines, in hopes I shall be excused from my intrusion on thy useful and important moments.

Agriculture is every where becoming one of the most favourite subjects of conversation; and in some of our neighbourhoods, great improvements have been made. I have a small farm of something less than 200 acres of woods, from which I have sold 3500 dollars' worth in one year, besides what was used on the farm. The soil is a dark sandy loam, well suited for all kinds of roots, as also grain and grass: distant from this city about five miles.

I have been thus particular, in hopes, by thy opportunities and general knowledge, thee could give some hints, in what probably would be the best product, and best rotation, so near a city, whose population is between sixty and seventy thousand souls, and yielding plenty of manure in the city, cheap,—as I am well assured, that we are in an infant state of culture here, to what you are, and what we may be.

If there is any book lately published, that would suit in my particular case, (perhaps on field gardening), I would thank thee for the title, and place to be bought at; as also the best grasses to sow with clover for hay, as it is desirable to have them to ripen at the same time, which we have found not to be the case with Timothy. But I shall submit it all to thy better judgment, and be thankful for any information thee may think proper to communicate: And it would be exceeding grateful to my feelings, if chance would put it in my way in any degree to be useful in return.

So conclude thy friend most respectfully,

ROBERT SINCLAIR *,

Near 48 years of age.

* This letter also contained an account of Mr Sinclair's parentage and family, which it is not thought necessary to print.

No. 19.—*Letter from George William Featherstonehaugh of Featherstone Park, Duansburgh, New York.*

Featherstone Park, Duansburgh,
New York, March 6. 1820.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you, through his Excellency the American Minister, a pamphlet published by the Board of Agriculture of the State of New York. The Board is desirous of establishing a correspondence with the Board of Agriculture in England, and has charged me with that particular duty. I hasten therefore to make you, Sir, acquainted with the existence of what is an entire new feature in the economical institutions of the United States, and to express a hope that our wishes to enlarge and extend the knowledge of the great principles of rural economy, by adding to the observations and facts, for which the world is so much indebted to the Board of Agriculture in Great Britain, will be favourably received by that Board. I cannot conclude this letter, without assuring you of the great estimation in which your name is held in this country, as an indefatigable patron of the best interests of mankind; and of the very true respect and consideration with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

G. W. FEATHERSTONEHAUGH.

No. 20.—*Letter from Macall Medford, Esq.*

Kent County, Maryland, August 12. 1823.

DEAR SIR,

In consequence of your civility to me while in London, and general good disposition to Americans, I take the liberty of addressing you, to ask you to do me a favour.

As we are very deficient in this country in the article of chaff-cutters, and wanting to import one of the best, I take the liberty of writing to you, to request that you will be so good as to write a few lines, and inform me the name of the

manufacturer of such as you would recommend ; also the price and manufacturer's place of residence.

I am happy to say that we have had an uncommonly productive season this year. Our wheat and Indian corn crops are very fine ; and although the Hessian fly made great ravages in the wheat this spring, the favourable weather seemed to counteract its effects. But I am sorry to say that our wheat is generally more filthy, or contains more darnel, than was ever known before ; which has led many to suppose that, from being cut by the fly, or some other cause, it degenerates into darnel.

Pray, Sir, have you any information on this subject, or do you believe it possible that such a change can take place ?

If I can at any time be of service to you, or give you any information of the state of agriculture in Maryland, which will be of use to you, I shall be very happy to do so. I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient humble servant,

MACALL MEDFORD.

No. 21.—*Letter from John S. Skinner, Esq. Secretary to the Maryland Agricultural Society.*

Office of the American Farmer,
7th November 1828.

I have it in my charge from the Maryland Agricultural Society, incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of this state, to acquaint you with your having been unanimously elected a member of this association. I beg you to be persuaded, that I derive peculiar gratification from the performance of a duty so congenial with my own feelings.

The great and everlasting services you have rendered the cause of agriculture, and the high sense of their value to our own country, are but feebly indicated by this token from the Maryland Agricultural Society ; but the sincerity with which it is offered will insure for it a just appreciation, in forwarding their diploma, as an evidence of membership, and of the high consideration of the society. I beg to add the assurance,

that in personal veneration and esteem for one, who has so ably devoted his life to the most important concerns and best interests of the human race, no one can exceed your faithful friend and obedient servant,

J. S. SKINNER,
Cor. Sec. M^d. Ag. Soc.

No. 22.—*Letter from Mr Eliphalet Pearson, Secretary to the Cambridge Academy of New England.*

SIR,

Your favour of 5th June last, accompanying two of your statistical pamphlets, destined for our Academy, was received 15th October; and at the next meeting of the society, which was yesterday, they were communicated. The members present were highly gratified by receiving the outlines of a work, the execution of which must have required immense labour and invincible perseverance,—a work, which, while it gratifies the laudable curiosity of the inquisitive, is directly calculated to meliorate the condition of tenants and labourers, to advance the real interest of proprietors, and to furnish government a rich fund of necessary and important information,—a work not necessarily confined in its operation to one kingdom, but serving as a model for the imitation and consequent advantage of every kingdom and nation of the earth. For this token of your regard, be pleased, Sir, to accept the thanks of the Academy, which I am directed to present you. In reply to your suggestion, permit me to echo the sentiment, and to say, it would be very important, if, animated by your example and success, and by the patriotic zeal of the enlightened clergy of Scotland, our Academy and clergy could be induced to engage in a similar inquiry. But that jealousy, which is characteristic of a republic, will, I fear, long obstruct and discourage the execution of so noble a plan in this country. Something however might, and I hope will be, attempted with success.

With sentiments of profound respect, permit me to sub-

scribe myself, Sir, your most obliged and most obedient humble servant,

ELIPHALET PEARSON,
Cor. Secretary.

Cambridge, 15th November 1798.

CONCLUSION.

It is impossible for any one, who is at all acquainted with the history of the United States, not to respect a country that has possessed so many distinguished characters as America has done; and far less is it possible for an individual like myself, not to wish prosperity to a country that has produced so many personal friends and well-wishers. Were it possible, after completing the literary labours I have undertaken, to visit that country in person, what delight would I not feel in seeing a new empire, which, from the advantages it possesses, is likely to rise pre-eminent over every other which the world has hitherto witnessed! But, as a personal visit is so unlikely, I am tempted to embrace this opportunity of stating a few points, which, with great deference, I beg to submit to the consideration of the people of that interesting country.

1. I rejoice to find that the foundation of the prosperity of America will be founded *on agriculture*. Nothing can be more just than the doctrine inculcated by the celebrated Dr Franklin, that there are only three ways by which wealth can be acquired by a nation: The first by war, as the Romans did, by plundering their conquered neighbours; that is, by *robbery*: The second by commerce, which is generally *cheating*: The third by agriculture, *the only honest way*; for man thus receives, by a kind of continued miracle, wrought by the hand of God in his behalf, the increase of seed thrown into the ground, as a reward for his innocent life, and virtuous industry.

2. A cordial friendship between Great Britain and America, is the next point to which I wish to call the attention of both countries. They can do each other endless mischief; but they ought to consider, that a mutual friendship would contribute most essentially to the permanent happiness of both. What good can America derive from any other country, compared to the benefit which a perpetual connexion with Great Britain would secure? What state or confederacy could venture to attack either country if they were united? In that case, the prosperity of the one would increase the happiness of the other, and we should really feel a reciprocity of interest.

3. The unburdened revenue which America must soon possess, will enable it to accomplish many objects, which no other country has hitherto been able to reach. A *universal system of education* ought to be considered as the best foundation of national prosperity. A human being cannot be properly called "*a man*," unless his faculties have been brought to all that perfection of which they are respectively capable. Even the new plan of infant schools ought not to be neglected*; and if universities were established on a great scale, many able men from Europe would be induced to accept of appointments in them, with very moderate encouragement.

* In regard to infant schools, they are brought to such a degree of improvement by Mr Wilderspin, who resides at Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, as to excite the astonishment of all who have seen them. It would be well worth while for the American government, to send some promising young men to be taught by him the whole process.

— " Prudent caution, needful to avert
 Impending evil imperiously requires,
 That permanent provision should be made
 For "*The whole people*" to be taught and trained.
 So shall licentiousness and black resolve
 Be rooted out, and virtuous habits take
 Their place; and genuine piety descend
 Like an inheritance, from age to age."

WORDSWORTH.

4. The best means of obtaining an abundant revenue, is by the establishment of a judicious system of circulation. This subject, which is by far the most important branch of the science of political economy, is at last beginning to be understood ; and the absurdity of making the whole wealth and happiness of a country to depend upon the possession of a certain quantity of gold and silver, (of which a nation may be plundered in the course of its commercial transactions), will soon be generally recognised. A judicious system of banking, therefore, such as that established in Scotland, with some improvements, of which it is susceptible, would greatly promote the happiness, and secure the prosperity of America, and cannot be too strongly recommended to the attention of the government of that country *.

5. It is with much diffidence that I venture to touch upon a subject, respecting which there is a great diversity of opinion. I mean the propriety of having a religious establishment in the several states.

From various circumstances, unnecessary here to detail, a great diversity of sects prevail in the new empire of America, and even in the same state. It is not possible, therefore, to expect, that any one religious system can become universally prevalent. Nor is it desirable ; for there can be no doubt, that the existence of different sects is rather favourable than otherwise to the progress of religion, and tends to promote the purity of conduct in those who profess it. The one sect proves a check upon the other ; and both the clergy and laity are more strict in their conduct than if they were cordially united. But though different sects may advantageously prevail in the same state, yet this ought not to prevent one of them from being considered as the religion of the state, and to be *partly* paid at the public expense, the other

* Ricardo, whose authority in such questions stands so high, strongly recommends a paper circulation exclusively, convertible, not into coin, *but into bullion*, at a fair price. See Correspondence, vol. i. p. 370.

pastors entirely depending upon private contributions. The established clergy would then be like professors in the universities, who have salaries from the state, and who likewise receive fees from those who attend their lectures. But though there should be in every state an established religion, that should not entitle those who profess it to any peculiar political privileges. In this respect, all sects should be upon the same footing.

My reason for dwelling so much on this subject is, the infinite importance of religion. Man is the only being on the face of the earth who can be called religious, or who can form an idea of a Spirit who created and governs the universe, before whom he is afterwards to appear, and to whom he is accountable for all his actions. What a pre-eminence does not this give to the human species over all other creatures by whom this world is inhabited? How despicable and ridiculous the idea, that man, who is so fearfully and wonderfully made, has sprung from an accidental combination of atoms, that he is not obliged to any superior being for his existence, and that, when his life terminates, he perishes for ever!

6. A belief in the existence of a Divine Being necessarily inculcates the necessity of worshipping him, and, from the remotest antiquity, every seventh day has, in various countries, been fixed upon for that purpose. That we should abstain from our common labours on that day, and make it a day of rest from secular occupations, is, in every point of view, highly useful. In every age and country, the observance of a Sabbath ever has been, and ever must be, the great support of religion and virtue among mankind; and no practice can be more advantageous to human society, than to assemble, in a place appropriate to public worship, every seventh day, and to dedicate it to social and religious purposes.

7. The last point I shall venture to touch upon, I do with great reluctance; but it is well known, that in republican governments, the services of those who are placed in public stations are, in general, very inadequately paid while they hold

those offices, and that there is afterwards no subsidiary remuneration. This is not only a cruel, but it seems to me a very impolitic system. It restricts the great offices of the state to those who, after being deprived of their employments, are able to support themselves on their private fortunes. It has been said, indeed, that some of these have been reduced, in their old age, to the greatest pecuniary difficulties, without any imputation of extravagance. If I were an American, I should say, “ *This ought not to be ;*” and I should, with great deference, beg to suggest, that persons who have held the highest offices of state, in the great empire of America, should be entitled, during their lives, to one-third, or even to one-half of the salary they enjoyed, as a public benefaction for the services they have performed to their fellow-citizens.

I hope that the good people of the United States of America will excuse the liberty I have taken in submitting these hints to their candid consideration, as it could only have originated from an anxious wish to promote their permanent prosperity, which I consider to be of peculiar importance to the human race, as an example to other nations.

PART XVI.

TRAVELS IN FRANCE,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN FRANCE,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

As I visited France on three different occasions, my account of it might have been extended to several volumes ; but so many details of travels in that country have been already published by British subjects, that I think it advisable to suppress many observations which otherwise I should probably have inserted.

I.

TOUR IN 1775.

My first excursion was taken soon after I came of age, with the view of accompanying, to the south of France, for the recovery of his health, a younger brother, (Lieutenant James Sinclair,) to whom I was much attached. After visiting Paris we went to Dijon, and thence by Avignon to Aix en Provence, to which we were recommended as salutary for his complaints.

We were much delighted with the gaiety and good humour which seemed every where to characterise the peasantry. One trait occurred at a village in Burgundy, which I still recollect with pleasure : Observing some grotesque

figures near the door of the inn where we were changing horses, my brother burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, in which I could not refrain from joining. A bystander, instead of being angry at the merriment we enjoyed at the expense of his countrymen, exclaimed, with much good humour, "*J'aime ce joli musique.*"

On reaching Avignon we went to the *Table d'Hôte*, where we found a large company, all of whom appeared to be natives of France, and other parts of the Continent. I found myself seated next to a gentleman of remarkably grave aspect, and dignified manners, dressed in a Spanish cloak. Never having studied Spanish, I addressed him in French, which he perfectly understood; and we held much conversation on different subjects. At last, to my great astonishment, he said, in English, with a very northern accent, "Your fellow-traveller and you suppose that you are the only Scotsmen at table; but I also have the honour to come from Scotland." He proceeded to explain the circumstances under which he left his native country; adding, that he was now partner in a Scotch commercial house at Cadiz. While we were congratulating each other on this accidental rencontre, the gentleman who presided at the table inquired the cause of our satisfaction; and when it was explained to him, he immediately requested silence, and addressed me to the following effect: "We rejoice, Sir, to hear that you and your companion are Scotsmen. No race of people is more respected at Avignon. On the expulsion of the Stuarts, a number of their partizans settled here, where they have left descendants much esteemed, and who are proud of their Scotch extraction. We are delighted in the opportunity of shewing attention to the natives of your country. They will always find a cordial reception at Avignon." He then gave as a toast, "*Success to Scotland, and its worthy inhabitants.*" The sentiment was drank with much enthusiasm.

From Avignon I proceeded with my brother to Aix en Provence, where the climate, instead of being warmer than that

of Scotland, proved at the season of the year when we came there, to be much colder and more disagreeable than that to which we had been accustomed. Not taking those precautions against the weather to which the natives attended, I soon suffered for my imprudence. Dressed in silk stockings and thin shoes, I ventured to walk about, and soon got frost-bitten. Having never heard of such an accident in Scotland, I was quite unprepared for it, and treated it with such neglect, that in March, when I returned to Paris, I escaped with much difficulty the necessity of having one of my toes amputated. This led me to lay down a rule, which I have since carefully attended to, and which I recommend to every traveller: "Adopt as much as possible the customs of the country where you reside, in regard to clothing, diet, and hours; you will thus avoid diseases and accidents to which you must otherwise be liable." There is an excellent old maxim to the same effect: "*Live at Rome as the Romans live.*"

II.

TOUR IN 1785-6.

DURING the Christmas holidays in 1785, after much severe parliamentary duty, I was induced, partly for the sake of a little relaxation and amusement, to take a short excursion to Paris. I had it likewise much at heart to collect useful information, but I found this attended with greater difficulties than I had expected. The Parisians then dined at 2 o'clock, so that little could be done before dinner. After dinner nothing but amusement was attended to. The streets were narrow and crowded, and from the want of pavements, there was no walking with safety, as in London. The horses were indifferent, and so ill fed that they were soon knocked up; and people of rank did not live together, but were scattered over the whole town. I do not recollect, however, having spent

six weeks, on the whole, more pleasantly or more usefully. I was then in the prime of life, a member of the British House of Commons, and known as an author on financial and other political subjects. Hence my reception among the various interesting classes with which Paris then abounded, was in the highest degree gratifying.

My fellow travellers from London to Paris were very interesting characters :

1. *Montgolfier*.—The most distinguished was *Joseph Montgolfier*, the elder and the most ingenious of the two brothers who had originally thought of constructing a balloon. I found him possessed of a great fund of natural good sense, and of much acquired knowledge. He was a great chemist, an able arithmetician, and was conversant in many branches of belles lettres. On the whole, he was certainly one of the ablest and best informed men I had ever met with. He was thoroughly master of the Newtonian philosophy, and always spoke of Newton with the profoundest respect. Like him, he was often so immersed in study, that he became totally abstracted in it; and I witnessed, on the road to Paris, many unaffected instances of absence of mind. It was about the year 1767, that the two brothers first conceived the idea of constructing something that would float in the air. They had made, however, no attempt for that purpose, until Dr Black had published his discoveries in regard to the different kinds of air, and the superior lightness by which some of them were distinguished. The merit of the discovery, Montgolfier always said, was principally owing to Dr Black's writings. I pressed him to give the world an account of its origin and progress. His answer was, " My time must be otherwise employed. It is my business to make, and not to print on paper." I remarked to him, " In one respect you are more fortunate than even Columbus. *Vous avez decouvert Columbia, et elle ne pas nomme l'Amerique.* You have all the direct merit of the discovery, though others may have indirectly contributed to it."

What a disgrace to France, that it did not render such a man independent !

When we came to Dover, we amused ourselves with discussing the various modes of crossing from England to France. That by means of a balloon gave rise to some pleasantries. We afterwards discussed the idea of having a wooden floating bridge, ten feet wide, and ten feet high ; the passage being 25 miles broad, Montgolfier calculated that it would require 14,000,000 feet of oak, which at 2s. 6d. *per* cubical foot, (the price of oak in France at that time), would amount to L.1,750,000. Montgolfier therefore contended, that for L.3,000,000 Sterling at the utmost, a wooden floating bridge might be constructed from Dover to Calais, on a larger scale than the one originally proposed, which would defy any tempest that could arise. The interruption to navigation, however, was an insurmountable obstacle to such an attempt. It was amusing, after this discussion, to hear in a farce acted in one of the Theatres at Paris, the following lines put into the mouth of a projector,

“ Pour dompter les Anglois,
“ Il faut battre un pont sur les Pas de Calais.”

We likewise discussed the idea of having a subterraneous passage under the Channel ; but the procuring of air was a difficulty that could not easily be got the better of. The only means we could contrive for getting that obstacle surmounted, was, to *compress air in barrels*, and transmit it in that state, to be let out in the centre of the excavation. It was the discussion we had upon this subject which has ever since made me extremely partial to the idea of trying excavations, and more especially the Tunnel under the Thames.

2. *Reveillon*.—Another of my fellow travellers was *Monsieur Reveillon*, a celebrated maker of paper, whose manufactory was certainly one of the objects the best worth seeing in Paris. He employed between 300 and 400 workmen ; his goods excelled those of England in beauty, and his painted

hangings in particular were quite inimitable. Having begun with nothing, he had by this time accumulated, by his ingenuity and industry, L.40,000, and it was expected that he would soon become the richest citizen in Paris. His house was most magnificent, (equalling Devonshire House in size), and he insisted on my remaining with him for some days, until I was accommodated with lodgings. The first balloon exhibited in Paris was made at his manufactory, and he had no small share of merit, in executing the ideas which the two Montgolfiers had conceived regarding its construction, by which they were enabled to gratify, what otherwise they might not have had it in their power to have done, the curiosity of the Parisians regarding the new invention.

3. *Specimen of a day spent in Paris, compared to one in London.*—During my stay in Paris at this time, my great object was, to breakfast with the learned,—to dine with great political characters,—and to sup with the gay,—of which style of living, I find in my notes the following instance.

Soon after my arrival, I was invited to breakfast with the Count de Catuelan, to meet the celebrated Monsieur Le Roi, and other academicians. M. de Catuelan was a native of Brittany. He had one of the finest libraries in Paris, which particularly abounded with English books. His brother was first president of the parliament of Brittany, and derived great credit, from the spirit with which he supported the privileges of that respectable body against the encroachments of the Crown. The conversation was scientific and instructive, and it gave me a very high idea of the literati of France.

On the same day I was asked to dine with the celebrated Necker. His appearance was heavy, and there was no spirit or vigour in his eye. He was very reserved, as might be expected from an ex-minister, in a very delicate situation. When I pressed him to come to England, he said that he never expected to revisit that country. It is unfortunate that the marriage between Mademoiselle Necker and Lord Rivers'

son did not take place, as it would have detached him from French politics.

When the dinner party at Monsieur Necker's separated, I went to the Convent de Belle-Chasse, to wait on the celebrated Madame Genlis. I found her remarkably clever, but no beauty at that time, whatever she might have formerly been.

I then went to sup at Monsieur Mirbeck's, who gave a *fête* to a select party of twenty *of the gayest people in Paris*. There was music, but no cards. I observed that the instruments, both there and at Monsieur Necker's, were English. The conversation was sprightly, and well calculated for the lively company who were assembled on that occasion.

It may be interesting to contrast the events of that day with one spent in London, which I had dedicated to the amusement of a Spanish gentleman, whom I had met with abroad.

I took him first to breakfast with Sir Joseph Banks, in Soho Square, where he met with a number of distinguished literary characters.

We thence proceeded to the celebrated dock-yard of Mr Perry, on the banks of the Thames, where he witnessed a launch of one of the largest Indiamen that had ever been built. He was astonished, not only with the sight, which was quite new to him, but with the elegant and numerous company assembled to see it, and the excellent entertainment which was given upon the occasion.

I then took him to a dinner given at the Free Mason's Tavern, by the Highland Society of London. The Duke of Sussex presided with his usual ability and success. Nothing astonished the Spaniard more, than to be thus in a manner at once transported into a foreign country, where the dress, the language, the instruments of music, the music itself, and the whole scene, was different from any thing he had ever before witnessed, exhibiting the manners and customs of a century or two preceding.

I concluded with taking him to hear the celebrated Billington sing ; and, on the whole, he said, that he had never before been a partaker of such a *variety of entertainments*, and of so gratifying a nature, *on the same day*.

4. *Necker*.—The origin of Monsieur Necker's great fortune is thus related. He was a banker, of not much note ; but he happened to get into the direction of the Old East India Company, which consisted chiefly of "*the noblesse*," and they being entirely ignorant of business, trusted every thing to him. They got into great distress for money to send to the East Indies to purchase an investment. He advised them to direct their correspondents at Cadiz, Hamburgh, and London, to draw for the sums they wanted upon each other, and at last upon Paris, at 3 months' date, so as to be able, by the sale of the effects they got from the East, to pay the money they had borrowed. Their correspondents informed them, that they would only undertake this plan for one year ; and when Monsieur Necker saw the Company again involved in difficulties, he told them, " Calculate what your money cost you last year, and I will furnish you with the same sum at the same interest." This they agreed to, though it was at the rate of above 12 *per cent*. He afterwards prevailed upon them to give him their assistance to raise the money by way of lottery. Finding the tickets would sell to advantage, he took the whole lottery into his own hands, and actually gained, by the profits of the tickets, and the 12 *per cent*. of interest, between L.70,000 and L.80,000.

But Necker acquired an influence in the East India Company, not only by his talents for business, but by his eloquence. Monsieur le Roi informed me, that he heard Necker deliver his sentiments at a meeting of the East India Company with such ability, that, though many men of much intelligence spoke at the same time, he was by far the most eloquent, and carried along with him the whole assembly.

His rise as a politician was certainly greatly owing to Madame Necker's literary assemblies, to which all the *beaux esprits* of Paris resorted. I have heard it asserted, that Necker's works, in particular his book "*Sur le Commerce des Grains*," was written with the assistance of Monsieur Thomas of the French academy; but this is quite a mistake, for that book was written in consequence of a conversation which M. le Roi himself, who mentioned to me the circumstance, had with M. Necker; and it was executed by him in a very short period of time.

Necker's fort was great application, and sense sufficient to take advantage of the ideas of others. When any person proposed a plan to him, his usual answer was, "Give me your plan in writing, and I will consider it."

The last time I dined with Monsieur Necker, I found the ladies very conversable, but he was still reserved. He said, that he had not examined the English translation of his great work *on finance*, but he understood it was rather inaccurate. Madame Necker observed, that so eloquent a work could hardly be translated into a foreign language. Mademoiselle Necker was then preparing for her marriage with the Swedish ambassador, Count Stael. It is understood that she was not overfond of the match; but it was a court affair, and entered into by Monsieur Necker, in hopes of his being again placed at the head of the financial department. Count Stael was much connected with Count Fersen, a Swedish nobleman of Scotch extraction, his name being properly Macpherson, who had much influence at Court; and it was supposed that the marriage, would greatly promote an event of which M. Necker was passionately desirous, namely, his return to office*.

* During my visit to Sweden, in 1786, I heard some curious particulars regarding Mademoiselle Necker's marriage. The Baron de Stael was originally only a minister at the court of France; but, in order to give him any chance of marrying Mademoiselle Necker, who had refused Generals, he was appointed ambassador. He was so enriched with the marriage, getting, it is said, L. 80,000 sterling on his wedding day, that he was enabled to assign to his friend, Count Fersen, all his ministerial allowances.

5. *Madame Genlis*.—Spent a very pleasant morning, (2d January 1786), with Madame Genlis, with whom I afterwards dined; was much pleased with her conversation; saw many of her works in painting, enamelling, wax-work, paper, &c. which were most ingeniously executed; was astonished that so distinguished an authoress should have leisure to learn, and to execute so well, such inferior objects. Was much gratified with the veneration she expressed for the memory of Richardson, whose tomb she went to visit when in London. The name of the Duchess de C., mentioned in her *Adele et Theodore*, was *Cerifulco*, and her living nine years in a dungeon is a fact. Madame de Genlis saw her at Rome, but she spoke to none except her own family.

6. *Buffon*.—In the course of my residence in Paris, at this time, I had the pleasure of seeing frequently the celebrated Buffon, and was highly gratified with his friendly attentions, and his conversation. He had a little of the garrulity of old age, but not disagreeably so. He said that Milton was the greatest poet that ever existed, and that the *Newtonian system* must stand for ever. He read to me some part of his correspondence with the Empress of Russia, which was extremely interesting, and he gave me his engraved portrait, which I shall ever hold dear, as a most flattering mark of his esteem. The regard with which I had the pleasure of inspiring him, will appear by the following communication:

*Letter from the Count de Buffon, dated au Jardins du Roi,
Paris, 24th August 1787.*

“ Le Comte de Buffon, et le Chevalier son frere, sont infiniment sensibles au souvenir de Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair, et le remercient de la carte qu’il a bien voulu leur envoyer de son grand voyage, fait en fort peu de tems. Il est tres vrai, que l’on peut voir, en aussi peu de jours, beaucoup de choses et de personnes; mais il n’appartient q’au Che-

valier Sinclair, de les voir aussi bien, et d'en rendre un aussi bon compte.

“ La santé du Comte de Buffon est toujours dans le même état, auquel Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair a bien voulu prendre quelque intérêt : il souffre toujours de son mal trop opiniâtre, et n'a d'autres médecins que le courage et la patience. Il supplie Monsieur le Chevalier de ne point oublier le Jardin du Roi, dans le cours de ses nouveaux voyages : il y seroit reçu avec toutes les distinctions, dues à son rang, et à son mérite personnel.”

7. *The Count de Sarsfield.*—Among the respectable characters who favoured me with their attentions at Paris during this short excursion, was the Count de Sarsfield, of Irish extraction. He invited me to meet some of the most respectable characters in France, in particular, the Duc de Rochefoucault, (one of the most distinguished of the French noblesse for wit and vivacity), and the Duc de Charost, a little deformed man, but one of the most amiable characters in France, being devoted to the public good, and, indeed, a perfect philanthropist. The conversation was not very interesting, but lively and facetious. The French, at least the higher orders, think it almost a crime to be serious, more especially in company; and it was one of the greatest advantages that England then enjoyed, that the upper ranks of that great nation were so immersed in frivolous pursuits, that matters of real importance were in the highest degree irksome.

8. *On the Commerce and Manufactures of France.*—Among the distinguished personages I occasionally met with in Paris at this time, was *Monsieur Abeille*, secretary to the Council of Commerce, and Inspector-General of the manufactures of France. He said that he had read, for above fifty years, on an average, at least eight hours a-day. He had a number of persons under him, who were employed to translate any book which he thought might be of use to France, and it was

afterwards printed and circulated at the public expense. In France, manufactures and commerce receive every assistance that the Government can give. In England, they are, in a great measure, left to themselves. Which plan ought to be preferred, would require a discussion too extensive for a work like the present. It may be proper, however, to observe, that on visiting Mademoiselle Bertin, the celebrated *marchand des modes*, who was then at the head of fashion, and who traded to an immense amount in millinery goods all over Europe, she told me, "That nothing then went down but *English gauze, English ribands, and English fashions.*" What a reverse has now taken place ! which, I have no doubt, must have originated from the encouragement given by the Government of France to the industry and manufactures of their own country.

9. *On the rage for painting and statuary.*—I went the usual round of seeing the pictures and statues, which abound in so celebrated a metropolis as Paris ; and when I heard the praises that were bestowed upon them, I could not help exclaiming, "Is it not much more wonderful to see a man who is little better than a statue, than a statue who resembles a man ? What a superior artist is he, who could design and execute such a wonderful piece of mechanism as the human frame, even in its most defective state, and who could enable it to perpetuate itself throughout endless generations ? The finest statue resembles nothing but the skin or *outward crust* of that wonderful machine."

10. *Danger of an intimate connexion between France and England.*—In the course of this tour to Paris, I was much struck with the danger to which our manners and morals are liable, should an intimate connexion take place between the two nations. There is hardly an exception to the rule, that those who affect the manners of France in England are effeminate, dissipated, and idle, whereas those who adopt the man-

ners of England in France are bold, manly, and active, either in the closet or in the field. If these different and opposite characters increase in the two countries, in consequence of a more intimate connexion between them, the consequences must be very fatal to the interests of Great Britain, and the character of its inhabitants.

11. *Parisian novelties*.—The Parisians, as usual, had a number of novelties, with which they amused themselves ; as, 1. A new sort of metal to answer the purpose of coppering ships ; 2. Curiosities from Peru, resembling much Egyptian antiquities ; 3. Animal magnetism, which was then much in vogue ; 4. Biscuits made from potatoes ; 5. Hoffman's new mode of engraving ; 6. The Sieur Bennemin's art of hatching fowls artificially, by a machine, (price L.25 Sterling), which would hatch 200 eggs artificially in 21 days, or at the rate of 3000 fowls *per annum*. But none of these objects attracted more than a momentary attention.

12. In the original account I had drawn up of this excursion to Paris, many characters were described of little or no importance at present, and a number of particulars were detailed, which it is unnecessary now to enter into. One circumstance, however, struck me much, namely, the great attention then paid to foreign politics. In France, the ministers of state had in general fixed times for seeing the king ; but the minister for foreign affairs could demand an audience whenever he judged it necessary, were it even at midnight.

III.

JOURNEY TO PARIS ANNO 1816.

My journal of this excursion is unfortunately lost, but I have found an abstract of the political information I had col-

lected at the time, which contains some interesting particulars, and I am therefore induced to submit them to the reader's consideration.

Hints regarding the internal and political State of France, drawn up in February 1816.

1. The late changes of ministers in France, in particular the removal of Talleyrand and Fouché, was a most fortunate circumstance, for their favourite object was, to embroil England and Russia, whereas all well-disposed Frenchmen wish, that France, England, and Russia, should be united, to preserve the tranquillity of Europe, which it is in their power, *if united*, to secure.

2. The house of Austria is the greatest enemy that France has, from its anxiety to recover Lorraine, and to acquire Alsace; and, in particular, it is dangerous to the house of Bourbon, having Napoleon II. to set up, whenever it finds a favourable opportunity.

3. The plan of organising a domestic force, sufficient, with the Army of Occupation as it is called, to prevent any successful attempt to bring about another revolution, is in a great measure accomplished. The following is the royal force in and near Paris. Its fidelity may be relied on, at least great care has been taken to keep out suspicious characters, and to discharge them when they are discovered.

INFANTRY.

Six regiments of French guards, at 2000 men each,	12,000
Two regiments of Swiss, at 2000 men each, not yet arrived, but soon expected,	- - - - 4,000
	<hr/> 16,000

CAVALRY.

Eight regiments of cavalry, at 700 men each,	- 5,600
	<hr/> 21,600

Of the whole, about 12,000 men are so disposed of, that they could be brought together in less than an hour. If Paris can be kept quiet, no serious disturbance will take place in any other part of France. Indeed, there is no person at present, in whose favour the revolutionists would unite, and choose as a leader. They admit that Bonaparte, with all his faults, is the only individual fit to manage such an enterprise, which renders it the more necessary to keep him secure. Some are alarmed at the circumstance, that about 40,000 men of the army of the Loire, had not their arms taken from them when they were disbanded; but they are in much too scattered a state to be greatly apprehended.

4. The departments are in general to be depended on. The principal exceptions are Dauphiny, Champagne, Burgundy and Alsace. Also the town of Lyons. Much apprehension is entertained, that the sale of the church and crown lands will be annulled, tithes restored, &c. If their minds were quieted in regard to these particulars, it would promote much the tranquillity of France, and secure the throne of the Bourbons. The departmental legions are raising but slowly. In the interim, the national guards officiate. It is a pity that the common men have no pay, as the duty is in many cases severe, and it is so much time lost to an industrious workman, perhaps with a large family.

5. The hostile spirit of the Vendéans, to the government of Bonaparte, was of infinite consequence to the Allies. An English gentleman who lived near Tours informed me, that he saw about 30,000 men, of Bonaparte's best troops, marched into that country. Had that force joined the French army at the battle of Waterloo, it would have been attended with the most serious consequences. Some attention should be shewn to the Vendéans *now*, to keep up their attachment to England, which may still be of essential service.

6. They are of opinion in France, that it is quite impossible to have a paper currency there, owing to their recollection of the assignats, mandats, &c. The French also have a

great deal of egotism and selfishness, and not the same public spirit as the English. They likewise insinuate, that France is not a *sacred* territory, as it was formerly called, but liable to be attacked, at all points, by its numerous enemies. Were it an island, like Great Britain, the case would be different. They cannot conceive by what manœuvres, or tricks, (*ruses*), the English have made their bank notes equal to coin.

7. The French, in their present humbled state, have a great antipathy to the English, whom they call, "*une nation insupportable.*" Their spleen is much gratified by a pamphlet just published, entitled, "*Decadence de l'Angleterre,*" printed in English as well as French, to give it more authenticity. The original is said to have been written in English by Sir Henry Schults; but there is no such name, and it is evidently written by a Frenchman, and translated by him into bad English, by which it is easy to detect the imposture. There are many on the watch to keep up the exasperation. They say that the Venus de Medicis, though sent to Italy, will find its way to London. This should be publicly contradicted. The interference of the English officers in the escape of La Valette has given great offence, being pronounced as an undue meddling with the interior government of an independent country. In short, they take advantage of every circumstance to irritate and inflame.

8. I found the agriculture of France in a very deficient state, and likely rather to degenerate than to improve. The farms in Picardy are large. Some farmers have fifty horses, but not more than fifteen ploughs, putting sometimes four horses in a plough. They cultivate every acre, but would raise more corn if they ploughed one-third less ground. They say that the climate of France is too dry for turnips. They have few sheep; but they are in great hopes of immense advantages from the introduction of the merinos, and they manage them very skilfully. The circumstance that will prove so injurious to the agriculture of France is this: By a law passed in the time of the Republic, which is still in force, at

the death of the parent, his lands are equally divided among his children except in the case of hereditary titles, when a considerable portion is allotted to the eldest, who inherits the honours. The operation of this law is reducing the proprietors to a state of indigence, and impoverishing the farmers still more, who want capital to undertake agricultural improvements; one proof, among many others, how much the prosperity of a country depends on its internal regulations.

Additional Hints regarding the State of France.

The population of France, according to its present limits, is about 27 millions of souls.

The ordinary revenue is about 721 millions of francs, or 30 millions sterling; but various extra sums are brought forward to meet the estimated expenses of this year, which amount in all to 800 millions of francs, or L.33,000,000 sterling.

The public credit of France is at the lowest ebb. At the present price of the French funds, the purchaser gets $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for his money. Considerable sums have been already sent over from England to be laid out in the French funds, and if the Government could inspire any confidence, more British capital would be placed in them. The Minister of Finance is endeavouring to do without a loan; but his budget is furiously attacked.

I asked by accident a French officer if he had been at the battle of Waterloo. His answer was, that none but the *Coquins* of the Revolution had been there. Upon my remarking to him that the number of these *Coquins* had been much diminished, he replied, *Pas assez*, (not enough). A most intelligent person afterwards informed me, that one-tenth of the population of France were still for revolutionary measures, the other nine-tenths wished for peace; but that a large proportion of them were not friendly to the House of Bourbon, many being for Napoleon II, many being attached to the Orleans family, and great numbers are anxious for a republic. The anarchists, being scattered over the whole kingdom, may be kept under. On both sides of the water there are

numbers ripe for mischief, who take advantage of every circumstance to exasperate and to inflame, whom it is much for the interests of both Governments to watch and to keep down.

The Bonapartists have still great weight. It was proposed in the budget that a sum to the amount of 135 millions of francs, or L.5,625,000 sterling, contracted during Bonaparte's last usurpation, should be included in it. This has given great offence to the royalists. It is said that the late Minister of Finance, (Louis), left about three millions sterling *in cash*, in the treasury, when he fled with the King, which enabled Bonaparte so speedily to fit out his army. Money is still distributed among the common people to keep up the spirit of disaffection. This is not a time, (it is said), when 135 millions of francs should be given to the adherents of Napoleon.

The Ministers seem anxious to do all they can for the service of the King, and work very hard. I had the honour of a long audience with each of the three principal. I saw the Duke of Richelieu at eleven in the morning, the Count de Corvetto, the Minister of Finance, at five, and the Count de Vaublanc at seven in the evening. Several ladies attended the evening levee of the Minister of the Home Department, a revival of the gallantry by which the old court of France was so peculiarly distinguished, but which must sometimes interfere with the attention that ought to be paid to more serious concerns.

The *Savans* assure me, that the French might now be moulded to the wishes of the existing Government, if the necessary steps were taken for that purpose *. The Ministers are of a different opinion, and think that some time must elapse before any thing can be made of them. The interval is *extremely critical*.

Memorandum regarding Napoleon.

The Emperor was at first remarkably civil to the Queen of Prussia, and affected to entertain a great respect for, and ad-

* What a pity, that the measures which had occurred to the Savans had not been tried.

miration of her ; but, before they separated, he took something so much amiss, that he flew into one of his violent fits of passion, in the course of which he declared, “ Madam, I know your tricks and enmity against me. I know of your going on board an English frigate, to endeavour, if you possibly could, to settle some new scheme of hostility against me. But you may tell your favourite nation, that my vengeance is not yet sufficiently satiated, and that the plans are already laid, which will enable me, before Christmas next, to avenge myself on the English.”

The following is the character given of Bonaparte by his brother Lucien : “ My brother Napoleon, (he said), is often led away by passion, and is then like other men ; but if ever he bends his whole mind to any one object, for arranging the plan to obtain it, and carrying the measures into effect which are necessary to accomplish it, I believe there never was his equal.”

*Of the principal Circumstance which led to Bonaparte's
Abdication.*

I met an intelligent foreigner accidentally, who gave me the following anecdote :

He had an opportunity of being well acquainted with several of the French Marshals, who assured him, that the reason for their giving up Bonaparte, was an evident decay in his intellectual faculties, after his reverses in Russia : They affected his mind so much, that he never was afterwards the same man he had been. His plans were constantly varying ; he would order 40,000 men to march to one place, and before they had gone half the way, they were countermanded, and marched to another ; in short, he had no fixed system, and was constantly getting into scrapes. They saw, therefore, that it was in vain to adhere to him, and that the attempt might terminate in the ruin of France.

To this weakness of mind is to be attributed his abdication, when he had it in his power to have marched and join-

ed Soult with above 20,000 faithful adherents, and thus would have been enabled to make a fresh struggle.

General Moreau.

The following character of General Moreau was drawn up by an American gentleman, who knew him well at New York, anno 1810.

General Moreau is a man of frank, unreserved manners, with an honest countenance, and convivial disposition; of some acquired knowledge, (having received a liberal education), and natural quickness of perception. He has a good library of books; and has learnt enough of the language to converse with tolerable facility in English. He resides in winter at New York, receiving much company; and in summer, at a country-house he has bought on the Delaware, between New York and Philadelphia, where he spends his time in shooting and fishing. He entertains the highest opinion of the talents of his fortunate rival, and the worst possible of his principles. He believes that Bonaparte really intended an invasion of England some years ago,—and he, (Moreau), thinks it difficult, but by no means impracticable. Bonaparte did not expect a conquest; but he expected to be able to destroy the principal arsenals, and to dictate a peace in the capital. Moreau says, that the best generals are seldom employed by Bonaparte, who wants none near him, but those to whom he may be permitted “*donner des coups de pied dans les os des jambes;*” and that they do nothing well without him.

My informant does not think General Moreau has any political correspondence in France; and he considered any attempt to overturn the present government as vain. He thinks Bonaparte’s destruction is likely to come from his own army, when exasperated by extreme hardships, or any reverse of fortune. Moreau has still a predilection for a republican government; and some idea that it might have answered in France. He has a respect for the British Government, and national character. Mr. Jefferson and his party avoided

shewing any attention to General Moreau, for fear of displeasing Bonaparte.

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

I.—THE DIRECTOR BARTHELEMY.

From similarity of pursuits, I had contracted a very intimate friendship with that distinguished Savant M. Barthelemy; and when he became a Director of the French Republic, I was induced to send him some publications on agricultural subjects, a branch of science to which he was extremely partial. To that communication I received the following answer:

J'ai reçu avec beaucoup d'intérêt le billet que Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair a bien voulu m'écrire, en date du 12. Juin, et l'utile ouvrage qu'il y a joint. Je n'ai pas manqué de faire connoître, l'un et l'autre, au Directoire Executif. Personne ne desire plus que moi de concourir au succès des sages vues que Monsieur le Chevalier exprime dans son billet, et de voir arriver le moment où nos deux nations ne connoîtront plus d'autre rivalité que celle qui leur sera inspirée par leur desir de perfectionner l'agriculture et tous les arts amis de la paix.

BARTHELEMY *.

à Paris, le 12. Messidor,
30. Juin 1797.

* Translation.

I have received with much satisfaction the note which Sir John Sinclair was pleased to write to me, under date of the 12th June, with the useful publication that came with it. I did not fail to make known, both the one and the other, to the Executive Directory. None desire more than myself to concur in the

I communicated the letter to Mr Pitt, then at the head of the British Government, as a proof that the leaders of the French Republic were not averse to a pacific intercourse between the two countries; but, to my astonishment, he considered it in the highest degree improper that any such communication should have been made by me. I have no doubt, if a contrary system had been adopted, that through the medium of Director Barthelemy, the general nature of the terms that could have been agreed to might have been ascertained, and perhaps a peace concluded between the two hostile nations, founded on the basis of mutual benefit. The tyrannical government of Napoleon would then never have been heard of; the wasteful expenses of the late war would have been avoided; and the oppressive consequences of that war, which we now so fatally experience, would have been prevented.

Had I then known the sentiments of the Chancellor Thurlow, which he stated to me in his confidential letter, dated 27th January 1798, (see vol. i. p. 123), it is not improbable, or at least impossible, that Mr Pitt might have been compelled to negotiate, more especially as it would have been in my power, in Lord Thurlow's words, "*to have brought about some previous understanding between the parties.*"

2.—THE DUKE DE RICHELIEU.

When Louis XVIII. was placed on the Throne of France, he had a difficult game to play. If he took for ministers those statesmen who had been trained up during the Revolu-

wise views expressed in the note of Sir John Sinclair, and to see the moment arrive, when the two nations will know no other rivalship, than such as will be dictated by their wishes to improve agriculture and all the arts favourable to peace.

(Signed) BARTHELEMY.

Paris, 12. Messidor, O. S.
June 30. 1797.

tion, he would have employed persons who were accustomed to business, and distinguished for ability, but on whose attachment he could not confidently rely. On the other hand, if he chose his ministers from among the emigrants, he would have pitched upon those, on whose personal attachment he could depend, but who, perhaps, were not equal to their competitors, in regard to information, experience, or talents. On the whole, the King, after his restoration in consequence of the battle of Waterloo, thought it most for his interests to dismiss the Prince de Talleyrand, and to nominate the Duke de Richelieu in his room.

The Duke had received an excellent education, and knew well all the principal languages in Europe. When the Bourbon Family were exiled from France, he entered into the Russian army, and distinguished himself much, both by his military services, and afterwards as Governor of the Crimea. He certainly was one of the most respectable of those who were included in the list of emigrants, and he was well calculated to shine as a courtier, being distinguished for polished manners, and the elegance of his address. But when he was appointed, in 1814, President of the Council, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, he unfortunately adopted a plan to get rid of those liberal institutions which had been established by the charter. This rendered him extremely unpopular. He gave also great offence to the French nation in general, by taking an active part in procuring the condemnation and death of the celebrated Marshal Ney. Having lost his influence at court, he resolved to retire, and resigned his offices in the month of December 1821. His death, in the March following, was attributed to chagrin.

On my arrival in France in January 1817, I regretted much to see the weakness of the new government, owing to the state of its finances; and in the course of an audience with the Duke, I stated to him my conviction, that all its financial difficulties might be got rid of, by the establishment of a paper currency. He requested me to send him my plan for

that purpose, which I did accordingly, and received in return the following communication :

Paris, 16th Janvier 1817.

MONSIEUR *,

Je suis très sensible à l'attention que vous avez eu de m'adresser votre plan sur les moyens de retablir nos affaires de finance. J'y ai reconnu l'homme exercé aux grandes opérations économiques; et je suis bien persuadé, que si un plan fondé sur la création d'un papier monnaye pourrait réussir aujourd'hui en France, le succès serait sans doute assuré à celui que vous proposez. Mais vingt ans de troubles, de guerres, et d'évènemens extraordinaires, m'ont point encore effacé le souvenir du papier monnaye qui y servit de premier aliment. L'experiences deja faites ont prouvé que, la capitale exceptée, un signe monétaire, autre qu'un signe metalique, quelque libre qu'en fût l'adoption, n'aurait aucun succès en France. La Banque de France a inutilement tenté d'établir des comptoire d'escompte à Lyon, à Rouen, à Lille. It faut donc nous resigner encore à user de nos moyens actuels de circulation.

Je ne suis pas moins reconnoissant de la peine que vous avez prise, et je vous prie d'en agréer mes remercimens, ainsi que l'assurance de la considération très distinguée avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

RICHELIEU.

* Translation.

Paris, 16th January 1817.

SIR,

I am very sensible of your attention in sending me your plan as to the means of re-establishing our financial affairs. I recognised in it a man versed in the operations of political economy on a great scale; and I am fully persuaded, that if a plan, founded on the creation of a paper money, could be carried into effect at this time in France, success would undoubtedly attend that which you propose. But twenty years of troubles, wars, and extraordinary events, have by no means effaced the remembrance of the paper money, which was the first thing

I had every reason to be gratified with the Duc de Richelieu's civility to me, an entire stranger to him ; and in an audience with which he favoured me, he displayed more knowledge of financial and political subjects than I had expected.

3.—THE DUC DECAZES.

This Minister distinguished himself among all the eminent public characters that France has recently produced, by an anxiety to promote the national industry. He was not only a friend to manufactures, commerce, and to agriculture, but he likewise patronized literature and the arts, and, in short, was a thorough statesman. Being induced to send him a copy of my Code of Agriculture, I received, in return, the following communication :

MONSIEUR *,

J'ai reçu votre lettre, en date du 1^r Mars courant, et l'ex-
emplaire de votre *Code d'Agriculture*, dont elle est accom-
pagné.

Je prendrai connoissance avec un veritable intérêt de cet
important ouvrage, dont je me propose de faire traduire les
parties qui peuvent interesser l'industrie agricole de la France.

that fed the flame. Experience has already proved, that, the capital excepted, any other circulating medium than a metallic currency, however willingly it might be adopted, could have no success in France. The French Bank has vainly tried to establish discount branches at Lyons, at Rouen, and at Lisle. We must content ourselves with our existing means of circulation.

I am not the less grateful for the trouble you have taken ; and I beg you to accept my thanks, along with the assurance of the very distinguished regard with which I have the honour to be your very humble and very obedient servant,

RICHELIEU.

* Translation.

SIR,

I have received your letter, dated the 1st of March, and the copy of your Code of Agriculture by which it is accompanied.

I shall, with real satisfaction, make myself acquainted with this important work, and shall cause such parts to be translated as may prove most interesting to the agricultural industry of France.

Votre réputation, Monsieur, et les services que vous avez rendus à ce premier des arts, m'étaient parfaitement connus. Je recevrai, avec reconnaissance, toutes les communications que vous voudrez bien me transmettre ; et je m'empresserai de vous faire connoître, en retour, tout ce que pourra être fait dans notre pays, pour l'amélioration d'un art si éminemment utile à l'humanité, et aux progrès duquel vous avez consacré de si louables travaux. J'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) Le C^{te} DECAZES.

Paris, 17. Mars 1819.

This able Minister unfortunately failed in his attempts to establish a constitutional government in France, and was compelled to resign his office. He soon afterwards retired to his country residence, and wisely dedicated himself to the pursuits of agriculture.

4.—THE COUNT DE VILLELE.

In a popular assembly, those who are possessed of a talent for eloquence, if they conduct themselves with common prudence, will always acquire distinction and power ; but the Count de Villele was not only an able speaker, but a real statesman, and deeply conversant with the arcana of politics. When the British Government wished to establish the prin-

Your reputation, Sir, and the services which you have rendered to this first of arts, were perfectly well known to me. I shall receive, with gratitude, all the communications you may have the goodness to transmit to me ; and, in return, I shall most readily impart to you whatever may be done, in our country, for the amelioration of an art so eminently useful to humanity, and to the progress of which you have devoted such laudable exertions.

I have the honour to offer you the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) THE COUNT DECAZES.

Dated, Paris, 17th March 1819.

ciples of free trade, he strongly objected to the doctrines on which they acted, as at least inapplicable to the state of France; and, in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies, stated his opinions with a degree of ability and force that has been rarely equalled*.

From his known zeal for agricultural improvement and statistical information, I was induced to inform the Count, that a most respectable author, Monsieur Cordier, proposed translating the Analysis of my Statistical Account of Scotland, and was anxious to have it published under the auspices of so distinguished a minister. A translation of his answer I subjoin, having sent the original to Monsieur Cordier:

Paris, 23d December 1824.

SIR,

I have received the letter by which you do me the honour to announce to me the intention which you entertain to publish, in an abridged form, the great statistical work which you drew up in regard to Scotland some years ago. You inform me, at the same time, that M. Cordier, principal engineer of bridges and roads in the department of the north, is preparing to give a French translation of this analytical abridgment.

You have, at the same time, the kindness to add, that you would attach some value to its appearing under my auspices.

I cannot but feel very highly flattered, Sir, by the wish which you express on this occasion, and I should have great pleasure in seeing my name appear at the head of the translation made by M. Cordier, since it is intended to naturalize amongst us a work, undertaken from useful views, and which is recommended, by anticipation, to the attention of all enlightened men, by the reputation of its author.

Receive, Sir, the assurance of my distinguished esteem.

(Signed) The Minister Secretary of State for
the Finances. COUNT DE VILLELE.

* For an account of this celebrated Speech, see the Appendix, No. 2.

5.—THE COUNT DE VAUBLANC.

This Minister was possessed of considerable talents, but was more of a courtier than a statesman. As he was a man of gallantry, his levees were attended by both sexes; and he had established it as a rule, that females who came alone were first admitted;—next any distinguished foreigners,—and then any females who were accompanied by their husbands. In the course of an audience with which he favoured me, I mentioned to him the great advantage that Scotland had derived from its paper currency, and offered to procure for him the charter granted to the Bank, and some account of its constitution and forms of proceedings; of which offer a memorandum was taken. He was soon afterwards dismissed; but that memorandum being found in the office, his successor became extremely anxious to obtain the information I had mentioned, and, in the name of his successor, a letter was written to me by Monsieur Becquey, one of the ablest men in France, then Under Secretary of State, applying for it.

[Ministère de l'Intérieur, 3^e Division, Bureau du Commerce.
Renseignemens offres sur la Banque d'Ecosse, &c. No.
7988.]

Paris, le 5. Juin 1816.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

J'accepte avec empressement l'offre que vous voulez bien faire d'adresser à Monsieur le Ministre de l'Intérieur, les ren-

* Translation.

SIR,

I accept with pleasure the offer, which you are so kind as to make, of addressing to the Minister of the Interior, the information regarding the constitution of the Bank of Scotland, and other private banks, which you had promised to his predecessor. I feel all the value of such communications, accompanied by the observations of so distinguished an author. I request that you will be pleased to transmit to our Ambassador in London, the different communications which you may have the goodness to intend for his Excellency.

Receive, Sir, the assurance of my most distinguished consideration, &c.

seignemens sur les statuts de la Banque d'Ecosse et autres banques particulieres, que vous aviez promis à son prédecesseur. Je sens tout le prix de pareilles communications, accompagnées des observations d'un écrivain aussi distingué. Je vous prie de vouloir bien remettre à notre Ambassadeur à Londres les diverses informations que vous avez la bonté de destiner à son Excellence.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distingué.

Le Sous Secrétaire d'Etat au Département de l'Intérieur,
BECQUEY.

It appears from M. Becquey's letter, that the business of the Secretary of State for the home department in France is divided into several branches,—that distinct books are kept of the business of each branch,—and that every letter is regularly numbered. In this way no subject is lost sight of, and every communication that is received, can be at once referred to.

Having sent to M. Becquey the information he requested, I received, in return, the following letter of acknowledgment :

[Ministère de l'Intérieur, 3^e Division, Bureau du Commerce.
No. 8929. Remerciments des Charters de la Banque d'Ecosse.]

Paris, le 5. Juillet 1816.

MONSIEUR *,

Je vous dois de sincères remerciments pour l'envoi des charters de la Banque d'Ecosse, et pour les lettres que vous

• Translation.

SIR,

Paris, 5th July 1816.

I owe you sincere thanks for sending me the charter of the Bank of Scotland, and for the letters of the 18th June, which you have taken the trouble to write to his Excellency the Minister of the Interior, and to myself.

The document alluded to conveys a very grand idea of the extent of the establishment, when we see the successive augmentation of its funds increased to five times the value of its original capital. But unavoidable considerations im-

avez pris la peine d'écrire le 18 Juin, à S. E. le Ministre de l'Intérieur et à moi.

Les actes dont il est ici question, donnent une bien grande idée de ce vaste établissement, quand on y voit les augmentations successives de son fonds portées à quinze fois la valeur du premier capital.

Mais il se présente des réflexions assez naturelles, lorsqu'on examine si quelque chose de pareil pourrait être transporté en France aujourd'hui.

Le principe le plus certain à l'égard de tout papier de crédit à établir ou à admettre, c'est que le montant en soit proportionné aux besoins de la circulation qui peut être prévue. En ce moment la France, où le commerce et les grandes entreprises de divers genres ne se développent que lentement et avec peine, n'éprouve pas un besoin pressant d'augmenter

mediately suggest themselves, when we come to reflect, whether any similar establishment could be introduced into France at the present time.

The principle most easily established, or admitted, with regard to all paper credit, is, that it should be proportioned to the wants of the regular circulation, the extent of which may be calculated. At this moment, as commerce and extensive speculations of different kinds develop themselves slowly and with difficulty in France, there is a pressing necessity to avoid augmenting any currency of nominal value. It is to be feared, that to multiply it to any extent, would be to render it superabundant, and to compromise that currency in public opinion, a circumstance which might be attended with rather hazardous consequences.

Thus, in spite of the advantages of creating a paper medium, which could be lent to landed proprietors, and used in advancing the interests of agriculture, this medium could not fail to find its way very soon into commercial circulation, until, being absorbed by the increase of the products, and the general impetus thus given to trade, a present evil would arise, whether real or imaginary, which would neutralize all the good proposed by the measure. The moment, therefore, does not seem to have arrived, to engage in a plan so vast; and it appears, on the contrary, that all this Government can do at present, is to patronise those persons who would undertake, upon solid grounds, to offer their united aid to agriculture.

Notwithstanding, Sir, it is not less agreeable to the minister to have received proofs of your zeal for the general good, and the common prosperity of all. I feel pleasure in expressing to you his gratitude and my own.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my perfect regard.

Under Secretary of State of the Interior,

BECQUEY.

le signe courant des valeurs. Il serait à craindre, en le multipliant à un certain point, de le rendre surabondant, et d'en compromettre le cours dans l'opinion, circonstance qui pourrait avoir des conséquences assez délicates.

Ainsi, malgré l'avantage de créer une valeur qui peut être prêtée aux propriétaires, et versé dans les améliorations dont la culture des terres est susceptible, cette valeur ne pouvant manquer d'être reportée aussitôt dans la circulation commerciale, jusqu'à ce que l'accroissement des produits et du mouvement général ont pu l'absorber, un mal présent, soit réel, soit d'opinion, pourrait devancer le bien qu'on se proposerait. Le moment ne semble donc pas venu de s'occuper d'un plan si vaste ; et il paraît que tout ce que le Gouvernement peut faire aujourd'hui, c'est de favoriser les particuliers qui entreprendraient, sur des bases solides, de s'unir pour offrir des secours à l'agriculture.

Quoiqu'il en soit, Monsieur, il n'en est pas moins agréable au Ministère d'avoir reçu des preuves de votre zèle pour le bien général et pour la prospérité commune. J'éprouve de plaisir à vous exprimer la gratitude du Ministre et la mienne.

Agreéz, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

Le Sous Secrétaire d'Etat au Dept. de l'Intérieur,
BECQUEY.

M. Becquey was considered to be one of the ablest men in France, and, from his varied talents, general knowledge, and experience in business, a most valuable assistant to persons in office ; but however useful such men are in subordinate situations, they are not in general possessed of minds sufficiently expanded, for a thorough consideration of those new and untried measures, which the necessities of the state often require. In this case, there would have been no difficulty in limiting a paper circulation, so as to prevent its being depreciated from over-abundance.

6.—THE COUNT CHAPTAL.

Among the celebrated philosophers of whom France has so much reason to be proud, M. Chaptal is one of the most distinguished. His knowledge of chemistry has rarely been equalled, and his publications on that subject are among the most valuable yet extant. But the treatise he published in 1819, “*Sur l’Industrie Française*,” was the work which obtained the greatest success, greatly owing to his having been appointed Minister of the Interior by Napoleon. He was thus enabled to collect that statistical information, regarding several branches of industry in France, of which he made such valuable use. Both his own attention, and that of the Emperor Napoleon, were first directed to those inquiries, by a letter I had written to him on the 24th of May 1802, to which I received the following answer :

SECRETARIAT.—BUREAU DE LA STATISTIQUE.

Réponse à la Lettre du 24. Mai, (4. Prairial).—Enregistrée à l’arrivée, No. 166.—Enregistrement du Départ, No. 91.

Paris, le 20. Prairial, an 10. de la République Française, une et indivisible.

Le Ministre de l’Intérieur à Monsieur John Sinclair, Chevalier Baronet, et Membre du Parlement de la Grand Bretagne*.

J’ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m’avez fait l’honneur de m’écrire le 24. Mai. Je vous remercie bien sincère-

* Translation.

I have received, Sir, the letter which you have done me the honour to write to me on the 24th May. I thank you very sincerely for the communication which you are so kind as to make, of your observations on statistical researches. I should be very glad to have some copies of them, which I would transmit to the prefects, and your example and your views, Sir, could not fail powerfully to encourage those amongst us, who cultivate a science still new, and the materials for which it is difficult to collect in a country so long and so deeply convulsed.

ment de la communication que vous voulez bien me donner de vos observations sur les recherches *statistiques*. Je serois bien aise d'en avoir quelques exemplaires, que je ferois passer aux préfets; et votre exemple, et vos vues, Monsieur, ne pourroient qu'encourager efficacement ceux, qui, parmi nous, cultivent une science encore neuve, et dont les materiaux sont difficiles à rassembler, dans un pays si longtems et si profondément troublé.

J'ai remis au Premier Consul l'exemplaire que vous lui destinez; il me charge de vous en faire ses remercimens, Monsieur.

Je vous en dois encore pour les deux ouvrages que vous avez joints à vos observations: ce que vous faites, Monsieur, est toujours d'un homme de bien et d'un vrai philanthrope. Vous aimez, et vous servez votre patrie, sans haïr, ou même sans oublier, le reste du monde; et vos vues sont toujours dirigées vers le bien du plus grand nombre.

Je desire ardemment, que nos relations se multiplient et s'étendent. Il me semble que les deux pays doivent gagner à la communication de lumieres.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, de recevoir l'expression de ma profonde estime.

(Signé) CHAPTAL.

I was highly gratified by having thus been the means of introducing statistical inquiries into France, and I had flattered myself, that under the authority of Napoleon, and by the

I have delivered to the First Consul (Bonaparte), the copy intended for him, and he desires me, Sir, to return to you his acknowledgments.

I owe these to you also for the two works with which you have accompanied your observations. What you do, Sir, is always worthy of a good man, and a true philanthropist. You love and serve your own country, without hating, or rather without forgetting, the rest of the world; and your views are always directed to the welfare of the greater number.

I cordially desire that our relations may be multiplied and extended. It seems to me, that the two countries can only gain by the mutual communication of knowledge.

I request you, Sir, to receive the expression of my profound esteem.

exertions of so able a character as Count Chaptal, no doubt could be entertained of the undertaking being successful. But the renewal of the war necessarily directed the attention of the French Government to pursuits of a very different nature. The inquiries, however, then instituted, furnished Monsieur Chaptal with such information regarding the various branches of French industry as enabled him to complete the valuable work he has published upon that subject.

In order to avail myself of this new field of statistical information, I had resolved to pay a visit to France, and communicated my intention to M. Chaptal, in the following letter :

SIR,

It is recorded, as one of the wisest sayings of one of the most distinguished characters of antiquity, “ That those countries are likely to be the most happy, where either philosophers were kings, or kings were philosophers ;” or, in other words, where persons entrusted with the powers of government are brought forward, not by petty intrigues, or for trivial accomplishments, but are elevated to high situations, from the real and solid merit they possess. Any individual who is acquainted with the character and writings of the present Minister of the Interior of France, must know how to apply these observations.

It is usual, however, for statesmen, when distinguished for their personal merit, to rely too much on their own information and talents,—to despise the suggestions of others,—and never to countenance any measure, unless it has occurred to themselves. I am happy to find at least one exception to this general rule ; for you, with a liberality of spirit hitherto unexampled, have taken under your protection, inquiries carried on, not only by an entire stranger, but by the inhabitant of another country, regarding particulars which have generally been considered more interesting to a philanthropist, than to a minister of state, and which were more likely to

gratify the mind of the contemplative philosopher, than of the active and ambitious statesman.

It is with peculiar pleasure therefore, that I return you my best acknowledgments for the attention you have been pleased to pay to my inquiries regarding statistics and longevity. I hope that much valuable information has, by this time, been collected in your office regarding both these subjects; and as I wish much to examine such interesting particulars upon the spot, it is my intention to take the earliest opportunity in my power of visiting Paris. But as the advantage to be derived from that visit must, in a great measure, depend, on the quantum of useful information that is collected, permit me to request, that you will have the goodness to direct the necessary returns, regarding statistics and longevity, to be made by the different officers in whose department they respectively lie, as soon as circumstances will admit of it.

Besides statistics and longevity, it is my intention, at the same time, to carry on inquiries connected with the two interesting topics of agriculture and finance. I wish, in particular, to complete, the materials I have collected, for drawing up a work, already in considerable forwardness, and which I hope will be of general utility, namely, "An Analysis of all the Sources of Public Revenue." In the department of agriculture much is to be learnt in every country, and many of the provinces of France, more especially your late acquisitions in Belgium, are celebrated for superior cultivation.

But I shall not detain you any longer from more important avocations. With much respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

JOHN SINCLAIR.

London, 10th January 1803.

Circumstances prevented me from taking the excursion alluded to, which I regretted much, as I trusted that it would have been the means of bringing statistical inquiries to a high degree of perfection in France.

My intercourse with Count Chaptal was very unexpected-

ly renewed, by the following very flattering communication, by which I had the pleasure of finding, that my services in the cause of statistics, had not been forgotten in France :

MONSIEUR *,

La Société de Statistique, qui vient de se former à Paris, s'est empressée de satisfaire aux premiers vœux unanimes de ses membres, en offrant aux hommes qui, comme vous, Monsieur, ont si puissamment contribué aux progrès de cette science, et à mettre en évidence les importantes applications un témoignage spontané de sa reconnaissance, et une preuve de sa haute estime pour leurs travaux.

La Société de Statistique vous à nommé, Monsieur, à l'une des deux places d'associés libres étrangers créés par ses statuts ; et je me félicite d'être son organe, et d'avoir l'occasion de vous exprimer les sentimens bien distingués avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

Le Président de la Société de Statistique,

Le C^{te} CHAPTAL.

Paris, ce 5. Avril 1830.

To which I sent the following answer :

MONSIEUR LE COMPTE,

Owing to circumstances which I cannot account for, the

• Translation.

SIR,

The society for carrying on statistical inquiries recently formed at Paris, hasten to fulfil the first wishes with which they are impressed, that of offering to such distinguished characters as you, who have so powerfully contributed to the progress of that science, the spontaneous testimony of their gratitude, and a proof of the high esteem in which their labours are held.

The society have named you, Sir, to one of the two places of foreign associates created by their laws ; and I feel a peculiar pleasure in being the organ appointed to express their sentiments upon this occasion, &c.

LE C^{te} CHAPTAL.

Paris, 5th April 1830.

favour of your letter, dated Paris, 5th April 1830, only reached me three days ago, otherwise I should have had the honour of sooner acknowledging the receipt of so agreeable a communication.

I rejoice to hear, that so important an institution as "*A Statistical Society*," has been constituted at Paris; and I am much gratified by the honour of being nominated an associate in a manner so peculiarly flattering.

I have now completed my statistical labours, by drawing up an Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland, which was printed in twenty-one volumes; but the "*Abrégé*" is condensed into one. I shall have the honour of sending a copy to you; and if it were translated and printed under the auspices of the Society, I flatter myself that it would give the literati of France, a high idea of the nature and advantages of statistical inquiries. It might as well, indeed, be contended, that medicine can be improved without the advantages of anatomy, as that the body-politic can be advantageously governed, without a minute inquiry, or dissection of all its parts.

With my respects to the members of your excellent institution, and with much regard for its excellent president, I have the honour to be, Monsieur le Comte, your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

Brown's Hotel, Palace Yard, Westminster, London,
9th July 1830.

7.—MIRABEAU.

I had the pleasure of meeting with this celebrated political character at Berlin; and as we accidentally resided in the same hotel, we became extremely intimate. Finance was one of his favourite studies; and he had formed so high an idea of the History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire, that he proposed translating it into French. He informed

me, in confidence, that he was sent to Berlin, by M. Calonne, for the purpose of preventing any change in the political system in the Court of Prussia, which had begun to shew a decided predilection to an intimate connection with England, in preference to that with France. All other measures having proved unsuccessful, Mirabeau resolved to try the effect of female charms. He accordingly sent for the widow of a Prussian officer, who happened to be a French woman, and distinguished for her beauty and talents. She came under the pretence of presenting a petition to the King, to obtain a pension for her husband's services. She was to be introduced to the King in person, when it was expected, that so interesting a circumstance, would make a great impression on a sovereign, who was not insensible to female beauty. But Mirabeau told me, with much chagrin, that the plan had not been successful. The King saw her, behaved to her with the greatest politeness, and granted her request, but never saw her afterwards. Mirabeau was much vexed that a plan, from which he had expected so much credit, should have proved unsuccessful.

I had great reason, on the whole, to be gratified with the results of this accidental meeting with Mirabeau. He gave me much important political information in the course of our conversations together, and before I left Berlin, he presented me with letters of introduction to three of his particular friends, who, he said, were the only three persons in Paris worth the knowing. These were, 1. The Marquis de la Fayette,—2. M. Panchaud, the celebrated banker,—and 3. The Abbé Perigord, since well known by the name of the Prince de Talleyrand. The two former I had the pleasure of finding in Paris, but the latter was in the country when I reached that metropolis. The reception I received from the two former, proved the high regard they entertained for Mirabeau, and the respect they paid to any recommendation from him. I have found only the following communication from him, in his own handwriting, when he sent me his letters of introduction to his friends in Paris; and his wish to detain to the very last moment, the

manuscripts he mentions, proves, how highly he appreciated the information they contained

Note from Mirabeau.*

Je vous renvoïé votre portrait de Pitt, avec quelques corrections de style; et il y joint les trois lettres, que vous avez désirées pour Paris. Faites m'écrire, je vous prie, jusqu'à quelle heur precise de demain matin, ou de ce soir, je puis garder les feuilles que vous m'avez confiées. J'espere avoir l'honneur de vous voir encore, avant votre depart.

19. Novembre 1786.

8.—THOMAS WALPOLE, ESQ.

Though Mr Walpole was a native of England, yet he generally resided at Paris, and was much connected with Necker, and other French politicians and statesmen. I was therefore anxious to cultivate a friendship, and to carry on a correspondence with one, from whom I was always sure of receiving interesting information, of which the following letter is a proof.

Paris, 12th April 1786.

DEAR SIR,

I must begin my answer to the letter you favoured me with by Mr Eden †, with my congratulations on the honour his Majesty has bestowed upon you in so distinguished a manner, and by thanking you for all the kind things you say, and the useful ones you are so good to send me. I presented the

* Translation.

I return your portrait of Pitt, with some corrections on the style. I inclose the three letters which you wished to obtain for Paris. Send me word, I entreat you, until what hour precisely of to-morrow morning, or of this evening, I may keep the papers which you have entrusted to me. I hope to have the honour of seeing you before your departure.

19th November 1786.

† Afterwards Lord Auckland.

verses to Mr Necker, which have circulated a good deal here. He and his lady desire me to return you their best compliments ; and Madame de Staël will yet relish the natural simplicity of Scotch music, till she is more habituated to like nothing in nature that is not decorated by French conceit or fashion. There is no probability, I believe, of her changing the French embassy for an English one. She is too much admired here, perhaps, to wish it, and her frequent attendance at Versailles deprives me of the pleasure of seeing her so often as I used to do. Besides, a miserable fit of the gout, which I have had for the first time in my life, has confined me so long, that I have seen but little of the world. I believe the statement you sent me accurate as to the particulars it contains ; but the total short of the real sum raised, because several negotiations are made from time to time with the states of Languedoc, Brittany, and other provinces, which are only heard of at the moment, and if not noticed at the time, are not easily recovered. The recoinage of their gold is not yet complete. Hitherto it does not amount to 300 millions or thereabouts. Every day's transaction betrays the Comptroller-General's want of money and of resources, which is the only comfort for what I observe in Great Britain ; and I should join in a deception which is plausible, because necessary, although I think some better method might have been contrived than the commissioners appointed for purchasing stock ; and I would most certainly not have named two bank directors. But much more is to be said upon that important business than a letter can convey, and perhaps my ideas are bolder and more extensive than the times and circumstances will bear, for I fear that the disease is of a nature that must bring on its own crisis and remedy. Something of that sort may happen here first. The alteration in the coinage drains the country of its silver, and overwhelms it with gold, so that all great payments are now made in the latter species. This may produce inconveniences, which, however, will be easily remedied, for a time at least, by some new legerdemain of their present financier

empirie, who is considered *as a most charming man*, which is the best title for promotion and support in a country, where the ladies have great influence. But I will not detain you any longer from your more serious operations, which I doubt not will be of service to your country. This I most earnestly wish ; and have the honour to be, Dear Sir, your most faithful and obedient humble servant,

THOMAS WALPOLE.

9.—COUNT DE BUFFON.

Among the numerous distinguished characters in France with whom I had formed an intimate friendship, during my journeys to the Continent, there was none for whom I felt a higher degree of esteem, than for the celebrated Buffon ; and it was peculiarly gratifying to find, that the regard was reciprocal, of which the following letter is a sufficient evidence.

Montbar, le 16. Juillet 1786 *.

Je réponds à la hâte, Monsieur, à vos aimables nouvelles, et je ne vous écris presque que pour le seul plaisir de m'en-

* Translation.

I answer in haste, Sir, your obliging letter, and I scarcely write with any other view than that of having the pleasure of conversing with you for a moment, for I doubt if this letter will find you at St Petersburg. You inform me, that you will not be there at the end of August. However this may be, permit me to renew, at all risks, the compliments and thanks which my heart has already addressed to you very frequently, for the honourable place which you assign to me in your noble triumvirate. It is honourable and gratifying to be distinguished by a deserving Englishman like you ; for even if you should be angry, I must say, that it is rare even for persons of distinguished merit in your nation to carry their homage beyond London. This is what renders my heart and my mind more sensible to the illustrious tribute which you have offered to the French. I may add, that you are well requited, for they know how to appreciate you. If you have the happiness to see the august and great Empress, do not forget, I entreat you, the most respectful of her admirers. Have the goodness to present to her the homage of the eternal gratitude which I have the honour to owe her.

I myself intend soon to renew the tribute, which she has condescended to

tretenir un moment avec vous, car je doute que cette lettre vous trouve à St Petersburg. Vous m'annoncez que vous n'y serez plus à la fin d'Aout : quoiqu'il en soit, permettez-moi de vous renouveler à tout hazard, et les complimens, et les remercimens, que mon cœur vous a déjà fait bien des fois, pour la place honorable que vous m'accordez dans votre beau triumvirat. Il est glorieux et doux d'être distingué par un digne Anglois telle que vous ; car dussiez-vous vous enfacher, je vous dirai, qu'il est rare, que les gens même d'un mérite distingué, de votre nation, portent leurs hommages hors de Londres. Voila ce que rend mon cœur et mon esprit plus sensible au tribut illustre que vous avez offert aux François. Au surplus, vous êtes bien payé de retour ; car ils savent vous apprecier. Si vous avez le bonheur de voir l'auguste et grande Imperatrice, n'oubliez pas, je vous supplie, le plus respectueux de ses admirateurs ; ayez la bonté de lui présenter l'hommage de l'éternel reconnoissance que j'ai l'honneur de lui devoir.

Je compte lui renouveler bientôt moi-même un tribut qu'elle a daigné me permettre de lui offrir, en lui présentant la continuation de mes ouvrages. Permettez-moi de vous porter envie, Monsieur, puisque vous êtes apporé, de contempler et d'admirer cette grand souverain. Vous me permettraï aussi de vous adresser lorsque vous serez de retour à Londres, mon portrait en camayeux, que je vous ai promis, mais que le peintre ne m'a pas encore remis ; ou bien si vous venez à Paris cet hiver, j'aurai l'honneur de vous le presenter moi-même. J'ai celui d'être, avec toute reconnoissance et tout respect, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

LE COM^{te} DE BUFFON.

permit me to offer to her, by presenting to her the continuation of my works. Allow me, Sir, to envy you, as you are enabled to contemplate and to admire this great Sovereign. You will also allow me to transmit to you, when you shall have returned to London, my protrait in cameo, which I promised to you, but which the painter has not yet delivered to me ; or if you are at Paris this winter, I shall have the honour of presenting it to you myself. I have also that of being, with all gratitude and all respect, your very humble and obedient servant.

10.—THE COUNT D'HAUTERIVE.

The French have long distinguished themselves by their knowledge of political economy, and among the numerous writers on this subject, the Count D'Hauterive is accounted one of the most eminent. Having expressed, in the strongest terms, his approbation of my statistical and agricultural labours, I was induced to address a letter to him, requesting his assistance in getting my works on agriculture better known than they were at that time in France. His letter proves, that the system I had adopted,—that of collecting a great store of facts, as the foundation of an accurate knowledge of the subject to be treated of,—met with his thorough approbation; and that he had recommended that system to the attention of his countrymen, in a work he was then preparing for the press.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

Je suis extrêmement flatté de la confiance que vous voulez bien me témoigner; elle serait très bien placée, si j'avais au-

* Translation.

SIR,

I am exceedingly flattered by the confidence which you have reposed in me. If I had as much ability as inclination to serve you, it would be very well placed; but there is really no art or science of which I am so ignorant as of agriculture, which, nevertheless, I know to be a very difficult art, and a very extensive science.

I am not ignorant, however, of what it owes to your zeal, your knowledge, and your useful labours; but I regret that your preceding works are not so well known in France as they ought to be, and that nobody has undertaken to make translations of them, or at least extracts from them, for our agriculturists, which would have insured to the one with which you are now occupied the reception which it merits, as it seems to me that it can only produce its full effect, where its predecessors have already conferred credit on their author. You have, Sir, proceeded by degrees in England: You have established a Board of Agriculture, which appears to be a very superior institution, in every respect, to those idle and useless establishments, distinguished in Europe by the name of Agricultural Societies; you have afterwards published an immense number of works on the subject, in all its parts. It is thus that we ought to begin, before

tant de moyens que de desir de vous servir ; mais nulle science et nul art ne me sont aussi étranger, que l'agriculture, qui est en même-tems un art très difficile, et une science très étendue. Je n'ignore cependant pas ce qu'elle doit à votre zèle, à vos connaissances et à vos très utiles travaux ; mais je regrette que vos précédens ouvrages ne soient pas répandus en France comme ils devraient l'être, et que personne ne se soit occupé d'en faire pour nos agriculteurs des traductions, ou du moins des extraits, qui eussent fait desirer et accueillir ici celui dont vous êtes aujourd'hui occupé, et qui ne me semble devoir produire tout son effet que là où ses prédécesseurs ont déjà donné un grand crédit à leur auteur. Vous avez, Monsieur, procédé par degrés en Angleterre ; vous avez fondé un Bureau d'Agriculture, qui me semble une institution bien supérieure, à tous égards, à ces établissemens inutiles et oiseux qui se décorent vainement en Europe du nom de Société d'Agriculture ; vous avez ensuite publié un nombre immense de mémoires sur toutes les parties de l'art ; c'est ainsi qu'il nous faut commencer avant de pouvoir sentir tout le prix d'un ouvrage fondamental et professionnel, tel que celui que vous vous proposez de publier. Ce que nous manque par dessus tout ce sont les faits ; et ce dont nous avons plus besoin encore c'est l'envie et les moyens d'en recueillir. Je publie dans ce moment un ouvrage, où je m'attache particulièrement à éclairer notre public sur ce besoin, et sur ce défaut de moyens. J'y rends une pleine justice à votre Bureau d'Agriculture, au bon esprit de vos compatriotes, et au zèle

we can feel all the value of a professional and fundamental work, such as you are about to publish. What we particularly want is facts, and, above all, a greater desire to collect them, and better means of doing so. I am just publishing a work, in which I have been at particular pains to enlighten the public here regarding this defect. In it I have done ample justice to your Board of Agriculture, to the exertions of your countrymen, and to the honourable zeal which animates you. I shall have the honour of transmitting it to you very soon. Accept, Sir, the assurance of the very sincere and distinguished consideration with which I have the honour to be, your very humble and very obedient servant,

(Signed) D'HAUTEBIVE.

Paris, 7th July 1817.

honorable qui vous anime. J'aurai incessamment l'honneur de vous l'adresser.

Agréez, Monsieur le Chevalier, l'assurance de la considération très sincère et très distinguée, avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

D'HAUTERIVE.

Paris, 7. Juillet 1817.

The Count D'Hauterive soon afterwards wrote to me again in the following terms :

MONSIEUR *,

J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser un exemplaire d'une Essai sur l'Economie Politique que je viens de publier. Je regrette de n'avoir pas connu plutôt les beaux travaux du Bureau d'Agriculture que vous avez fondé, et dont j'ai lieu de croire que vous avez conservé la direction. L'impression de mon ouvrage était terminée, lorsque Mr. Seguier a eu la complaisance de m'envoyer les trois volumes de votre intéressant rapport sur l'Ecosse ; mais je regrette de n'avoir pas eu le

* Translation.

Paris, July 22. 1817.

SIR,

I have the honour of presenting you with a copy of an Essay upon Political Economy, which I am about to publish. I regret that I was not sooner acquainted with the admirable labours of the Board of Agriculture, which you founded, and which I have reason to believe you still preside over. The printing of my book was finished when M. Seguier had the kindness to send me the three volumes of your interesting Report upon Scotland ; but I regret not having had time to read them with sufficient attention, and regret still more not having consulted the voluminous collection of which you speak in your Prospectus, and which is probably the result of instructions addressed and circulated by the Board of Agriculture. I have begged of M. Seguier to try to procure them. If my work should seem to you worthy of your attention, you will perceive, in reading it, what pleasure I should have in seeing that the series of questions which form probably the basis of these instructions are conceived and digested in systematical forms and rules ; for then the desire which I express in every part of my work, and its leading object, would be completely fulfilled. Accept, Sir, I entreat, the assurance of my high esteem and very profound respect,

(Signed) D'HAUTERIVE.

tems de les lire avec une suffisante attention ; et je regrette plus encore de n'avoir pu consulter la volumineuse collection dont vous parler dans vos prospectus, et qui est probablement le résultat des instructions adressées et repandues par le Bureau d'Agriculture. J'ai prié Mr. Seguiet de chercher à se les procurer. Si mon ouvrage vous paraît digne de votre attention, vous jugerez, en le lisant, quel plaisir j'aurais à voir que les séries de questions, qui forment probablement le corps de ces instructions, sont conçues et rédigées dans des formes et d'après des règles systématiques ; car alors les vœux que j'exprime dans tout le cours de mon ouvrage, et en même-tems son objet, seraient complètement remplir.

Agreéz, Monsieur le Chevalier, je vous prie, l'assurance de ma haute estime, et de ma considération la plus parfaite et la plus distinguée.

D'HAUTERIVE.

Paris, le 22. Juillet 1817.

11.—M. MATT. DE DOMBASLE.

My anxiety to have my agricultural labours known in France, was gratified in the most satisfactory manner, when the translation of the Code of Agriculture was undertaken by Monsieur M. de Dombasle, who is justly considered to be the most eminent agriculturist in France. It rarely happens that an author, who is qualified, by his information and talents, to compose an original work on any important subject, will condescend to be the translator of the labours of another. He communicated his intentions, of drawing up that translation, in the following very flattering terms :

Nancy, 7th Nov. 1821.

SIR *,

I have the honour to inform you, that on the 3d of this month the Central Society of Agriculture of Nancy inscribed your name on the list of its Foreign Correspondents.

* The original, by some accident, has fallen by.

The Diploma shall be transmitted to you without delay. I hope that you will not refuse the lustre which your name would procure it, to a Society now in its infancy.

I beg leave here to express all the satisfaction which I experience, in a choice so honourable to the Society; and to add, how much I am personally flattered, with the sort of brotherhood, which this gives me, with the person whom I consider to be the first agriculturist in Europe.

I have been occupied, Sir, for some time, in translating your excellent "*Code of Agriculture.*" If any thing can contribute to raise agriculture in France to the rank of a science, which we could not till now pretend to do, it will certainly be the publication of this work in French, being the most systematic, the most concise, and, in my opinion, the most perfect, which has hitherto been written in any language.

In the course of my translation, which is already well advanced, I have perceived more than once, that I should require information respecting some particulars. If you would have the extreme kindness to permit me to apply to you, to obtain such information, it would be a motive for gratitude, which I would well know how to value, and in which all the French agriculturists, who know how to appreciate your useful lessons, would participate with me.

I have already met with some words of which I do not well know the meaning; for instance, I do not know what is meant by the insect called *wire-worm*. I have not been able to find it out, nor even to make a probable guess, as it does not extend its ravages with us, to grain sown on clover, when ploughed up, as is the case in England. I do not know either, what is the plant called "*rib-grass,*" of which I have not yet seen the botanical name given. Perhaps, indeed, it may have escaped me while reading, and I may find it out in the continuation of the translation.

This work, to which, notwithstanding its importance, I am able to devote only a short time every day, will still require

three or four months; but I hope it will be published about that time.

I beg that you will accept the expression of the respectful sentiments, with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) MATHIEU DE DOMBELLE *ainé*.

12. M. DE MARNIERE.

The History of the Revenue of the British Empire was the first work that gave, to the Statesmen on the Continent, any just ideas of the real nature of the financial system of Great Britain, and the principles on which it was founded. Among the foreign literary characters who corresponded with me upon that subject, Monsieur de Marniere was one of the ablest; and I had much pleasure in receiving from him the following communication:

Paris, 6. Jan. 1802.

Je vous adresse, Monsieur *, deux ouvrages que je viens de faire imprimer, l'un sur le crédit commercial, l'autre sur

* Translation.

Paris, January 6. 1802.

SIR,

I send you two works which I am about to publish; one is upon commercial credit, the other on the establishment of a bank at Paris. You will not be surprised, Sir, that although I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance, I should pay this homage to talents so distinguished as yours. You have afforded me another excuse for laying before you my feeble productions, by having yourself added to the science of finance, so valuable a work as that on the Public Revenue of England. You will observe, at the end of the Essay on Commercial Credit, a Prospectus of a translation of that work. The success which has attended my present brochure, induces me to hope that the public, and the French Government, will view my translation favourably, and they expect its appearance with some interest. I earnestly trust that you will read my labours with similar indulgence, and that you will accept of me without regret as your translator. The greater number of Frenchmen now in London, and, among others, the Duke of Harcourt, and M. de Barentin, Chancellor of France under Louis XVI., are acquainted with me.

l'établissement d'une banque de circulation à Paris. Vous ne vous étonnerez pas, Monsieur, que sans avoir même l'avantage d'être connu de vous, je rende cet hommage à des talens aussi distingués que les vôtres. Vous me trouverez une excuse de plus pour offrir mes foibles productions à un homme qui a donné sur les finances un ouvrage aussi précieux que l'Histoire du Revenu Public de l'Angleterre. Vous verrez à la fin de l'essai sur le crédit commercial un prospectus de la traduction de cette histoire. Vous remarquerez même que l'ouvrage qui précède ce prospectus n'est, pour ainsi dire, destiné qu'à mettre le public à portée de juger si j'avois en finances les connaissances nécessaires pour entreprendre de traduire le vôtre. Le succès qu'a eu cette brochure me permet de penser que le public et le Gouvernement François verront avec plaisir ma traduction, et l'attendent avec quelque impatience. Je souhaite beaucoup que vous lisiez mon essai avec la même indulgence, et que vous m'acceptiez sans regret pour traducteur. Le plus part des François qui sont à Londres, et entre autres le Duc d'Harcourt, et M. de Barentin, Chancelier de France sous Louis XVI., me connoissent.

Je suis, Monsieur, avec la haute considération qu'inspirent vos talens, et la réputation dont vous jouissez, votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur,

LE CH^R. DE GUER.

Je signe ici le nom sous lequel je suis connu à Londres. Mais les nouvelles loix données aux François, proscrivant les

I remain, Sir, with the respect which your talents and the reputation you enjoy inspire, your very humble and obedient servant,

THE CHEVALIER DE GUER.

I have here signed the name by which I am known in London : but, as the new French laws proscribe titles and names of estates, my address is, to M. de Marniere, care of M. Santereau, Rue St Croix, of the Directory at Paris.

When I first printed my two works, I was not permitted to prefix my name ; and I delayed writing to you till this moment, when I have at length obtained leave to do so.

titres et les noms de terre, mon adresse est à M. de Marnière, chez M. Santereau, Rue Ste Croix de la Brétonerie à Paris.

Quand j'ai fait imprimer mes deux ouvrages, je ne jouissois pas ici d'assez de liberté pour y mettre mon nom, et j'ai attendu pour vous écrire le moment où je l'ai enfin obtenue.

13. M. TESSIER.

Among the celebrated characters who distinguished themselves by their zeal for agriculture, M. Tessier was one of the most eminent. He entered with the greatest zeal into all the exertions made by the Board of Agriculture for the improvement of that art; and he wished his own country to derive advantage, from the important information which that Board had accumulated. He watched for a favourable opportunity to induce the French Government to enter into his views; and it appears, from the subjoined letter, that he was at last successful.

MONSIEUR *,

Le desir de connoitre le plutôt possible les travaux interessans, dont s'occupe et que publie le Bureau d'Agriculture

* Translation.

SIR,

The desire to be acquainted, as soon as possible, with the interesting labours of the Board of Agriculture, induces me to beg you will procure for me those works, a list of which is subjoined :

1st, The Agricultural Reports of the several counties, as they have been definitively published.

2d, The Chapters of the General Report; both those which have been published under the name of Outlines, and the Appendixes published at the same time, as well as the Chapters printed to be presented to Parliament.

3d, The Discourses delivered by the President, at the Meetings of the Board, and the subsequent Reports.

4th, Any Particular Memorials, which the Board may have published exclusive of the general plan.

5th, and more especially, All that you have published yourself of your great work on Scotland, of which you have sent me the Prospectus.

d'Angleterre, m'engage à vous prier de me procurer ceux, dont voici l'état :

1^o, Les Etats Agricoles des Comtés, tels qu'ils sont définitivement publiés.

2^o, Les Chapitres du Rapport General, tant ceux qui ont été publiés sous le nom d'*Outlines*, et les Appendix publiés en même-tems, que les chapitres arrêtés et imprimés pour être présentés au Parlement.

3^o, Les Discours faits par le President aux assemblées du bureau, comptes rendus, &c.

4^o, Les Mémoires Particuliers, que le bureau pourroit avoir publiés hors de plan general.

5^o, et particulièrement, Tout ce que vous avez publié personnellement de votre grand ouvrage sur l'Ecosse, dont vous m'avez envoyé le Prospectus.

En fin, s'il y a d'autres ouvrages nouveaux, également in-

In short, if there are any other new works equally interesting to Agriculturists, you will do me a pleasure to send them to me at the same time. After these have been sent, you will vastly oblige me, by transmitting to me all the publications not included in these, as fast as they come out.

I have received from you, the engravings of your best breed of horned cattle; we possess them in one of our departments, where I discovered them. I should like to have all the remaining engravings of the other sorts of cattle, as soon as they are completed.

Some one had taken upon himself to ask you, if you had seen the specimen of a yellow fleece, sent by Mr Anderson from the East Indies. One does not easily rely on the faith of newspapers. If you have seen it, or only a specimen of the fleece, is the colour natural?

If I can be of service to you in any way, pray apply to me. Our Government is too enlightened not to feel how much scientific communications, and especially those which regard the progress of agriculture, ought to be encouraged. The present Minister for the Home Department is friendly to that important branch. It is he who, through his colleague the Minister of the Marine Department, procures me the advantage of making you the preceding requests, and who is so obliging as to undertake to defray, in my name, the price of the books which will be so acceptable to me. I shall be happy at the same time to hear from you. Remember me particularly to Mr Arthur Young.

Wishing you health, with the assurance of my esteem and respect,

TESSIER, Member of the National Institute
for the Sciences and Rural Economy.

Paris, 24. Frimaire, year 7.
(14th December 1798.)

teressans pour l'agriculture, vous me ferez plaisir de me les envoyer en même-tems. Après cet envoi, vous m'obligerez infiniment de me faire parvenir toutes les publications qui n'y seront pas comprisés, à mesure qu'elles auront lieu.

J'ai reçu de vous les gravures de votre meilleure race de bêtes à cornes. Nous la possédons dans un de nos departemens, où je l'ai trouvée. Je voudrois avoir toutes les autres gravures des autres espèces de bétail, à mesure qu'elles seront faites.

Quelqu'un d'étoit chargé de vous demander, si vous avez vu cet echantillon de toison jaune, envoyée par Mr Anderson de l'Inde ici : on ne croit pas aisément sur la foi des journaux. Si vous l'avez vue, est ce un morceau de toison de mouton, ou d'un espèce de cigogne ? Sa couleur est-elle naturelle ?

Je puis être à portée de vous servir dans le même genre, vous pouvez vous adresser à moi. Notre gouvernement est trop éclairé pour ne pas sentir combien les communications pour les sciences, et surtout pour les progrès de l'agriculture, doivent être protegées. Le Ministre actuel de l'Interieur est ami de ce bel art. C'est lui, qui par son collègue, le Ministre de la Marine, me procure l'avantage de vous faire les demandes qui precedent, et qui veut bien se charger de faire acquitter, en mon nom, le prix des livres, qui me seront si agréables. Je serai charmé, en même tems, d'apprendre de vos nouvelles. Rapellez-moi au souvenir de Monsieur Arthur Young.

Salut, estime et devouement,

TESSIER, Membre de l'Institut National
des Sciences et Arts, Division d'Eco-
nomie Rural.

Paris, ce 24. Frimaire, an 7.

(14. Decembre 1798.)

14.—M. SILVESTRE, SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL AND CENTRAL SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE.

This estimable character devoted himself to the pursuits of agriculture, and took an active part in conducting the pro-

ceedings of the Royal and Central Society of Agriculture at Paris. We had much correspondence together, of which it may be sufficient to give the following specimen. His attachment to me was strengthened by the idea, that his family had originally come from Scotland.

Paris, le 16. Decembre 1817.

Société Royale et Centrale d'Agriculture.

MONSIEUR ET RESPECTABLE COLLEAGUE *,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, en date du 24. Novembre, avec la copie de celle que le Ministre de l'Intérieur de France vous a adressée, ainsi que la motion que vous avez faite au Parlement d'Angleterre, rela-

* Translation.

Paris, December 16. 1817.

Royal and Central Society of Agriculture.

SIR, AND RESPECTABLE COLLEAGUE.

I received the letter, which you did me the honour to write me, dated the 24th of November, with the copy of that sent you by the Minister of the Interior of France, as well as the motion you made in the English Parliament, relative to the establishment of a Board of Agriculture. The flattering expressions of the Minister relating to yourself, appear to me very natural; it is right that the chief promoter of Agriculture in France should give testimony of his high respect for the zealous supporter of it in England. It does not belong to us unfortunately, to order the insertion of this honourable letter in the *Moniteur*. It is the Minister alone who can cause its insertion, and I have written to him to mention your wishes on the subject.

We have noticed, with very lively interest, your "Code of Agriculture." The work contains many discoveries, the publication of which will be useful in France, and in every European country. Most other works merely concern English agriculture. You do not speak of the French translation, which you have announced as being now executing under your own superintendence in London. Our Society has not the means of causing this translation to be made and printed at Paris. Such an undertaking ought to be the object of private industry. Undoubtedly the Society will see with pleasure the enlarged circulation of another good work; and if your book were translated I should be the first to procure a copy. Tell me whether this translation is already begun, and when it will be finished.

And with the renewed assurance of sincere friendship and high esteem, I have the honour to remain, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

The Perpetual Secretary of the Society,
SILVESTRE.

tivement à l'établissement du Bureau d'Agriculture. Les expressions flatteuses du Ministre à votre égard me semblent très naturelles ; il est juste que le chef de l'Agriculture en France donne des témoignages de sa haute considération envers le zélé promoteur des progrès de l'Agriculture Anglaise. Il ne nous appartient malheureusement pas d'ordonner l'insertion de cette lettre honorable dans le *Moniteur* ; c'est le Ministre seul qui peut provoquer cette insertion, et je lui écris pour lui manifester votre vœu à cet égard.

Nous avons pris connoissance avec un vif intérêt de votre Code d'Agriculture. Cet ouvrage renferme beaucoup de documens dont la publication serait utile en France, et dans tous les pays de l'Europe ; beaucoup d'autres aussi concernant uniquement l'Agriculture Anglaise. Vous ne me parlez pas de la traduction que vous m'aviez annoncé devoir faire exécuter sous vos yeux à Londres. Notre Société n'a aucun moyen de faire faire et imprimer cette traduction à Paris ; une pareille entreprise doit être l'objet de l'industrie particulière. La Société verrait sans doute avec plaisir un bon livre de plus dans la circulation ; et si votre ouvrage était traduit, je voudrais être le premier à m'en procurer un exemplaire. Mandez-moi si cette traduction est déjà entrepris, et à quelle époque elle sera terminée.

Veillez bien agréer la nouvelle assurance du sincère attachement et de la haute considération, avec lesquelles j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, et cher collègue, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

Le Secrétaire perpétuel de la Société,

SILVESTRE.

15.—M. DE LASTEYRIE.

I have no where met with a more zealous friend to agriculture than Monsieur Charles de Lasteyrie. I have much pleasure, therefore, in laying before the reader, the first com-

munication I received from him, which proves the ardent zeal, for the improvement of that art, with which he was animated. No man could be more deeply impressed with the idea, that the horrors of war ought not to interrupt the intercourse of nations, regarding subjects interesting to all countries, and of utility to the human race.

A Paris, ce 6. Mars 1798.

MONSIEUR *,

Votre zèle pour l'avancement de l'agriculture, et vos travaux utiles à ses progrès, m'ont fait penser que vous ne refuseriez pas d'entrer en correspondance avec moi. Je me suis déterminé à vous faire cette demande, d'après l'assurance que m'en a donné mon ami M. Wadstrom, Suedois, qui ne vous est pas inconnu.

* Translation.

Paris, March 6. 1798.

SIR,

Your zeal for the advancement of agriculture, and your useful works on its improvement, induce me to believe, that you will not refuse entering into correspondence with me. I have resolved to make this request of you, in consequence of the assurances given me by my friend Mr Wadstrom, a Swedish gentleman, who is not unknown to you.

I pursue the same career with yourself ; with less science, it is true, and less celebrity ; but animated, I dare hope, with an equal enthusiasm.

The war now existing between our two nations, has nothing to do with men devoted to the sciences. Their aim is to enlarge the boundaries of knowledge, and mutually aid each other. The learned of your country have more than once given us proofs of this disposition. Your philanthropic sentiments induce me to hope, that you will not refuse to impart to us that information of which we stand in need.

If I, in my turn, can be useful to you, do not hesitate to command me ; all the ardour of my nature will be devoted to your service.

I confine myself, at present, to the request, that you will transmit to me, in France, the newest and most comprehensive work, in your own tongue, upon the different branches of agriculture and rural economy. If you possess nothing complete in this respect, I would be glad to know what nearest approaches to it.

As I entertain the design of translating it into French, I should wish to have the best work, which would embrace the greatest number of the different branches of agriculture. Neither Miller nor Arthur Young are the books I want. It

Je marche dans la même carrière que vous, avec moins de lumières et de gloire, il est vrai, mais j'ose me flatter d'être animé du même zèle.

La guerre qui existe entre les deux nations n'a rien de commune entre les hommes qui se livrent aux sciences. Leur but est d'en étendre les limites, et de se prêter des secours mutuels. Les savants de votre nation nous ont donné plus d'une fois des preuves de ce genre. Vos principes philanthropiques me font espérer que vous ne refuserez pas de nous communiquer les lumières donc nous pouvons avoir besoin.

Si je puis de mon côté vous être utile, ne craignez pas de m'importuner. Je mettrai à vous servir tout le zèle dont je suis capable.

Je me borne pour le moment à vous prier de me faire passer en France l'ouvrage le plus récent et le plus complet dans votre langue, sur les diverses branches d'agriculture et d'économie rurale. Si vous ne possédez rien de complet en ce genre, je vous demanderai toujours ce qui en approchera le plus.

is not my desire to translate too voluminous a work : I should therefore like the cost not to exceed two or three guineas.

Mr J. Walker, an Englishman, now in Paris, has kindly undertaken to remit to you, in London, payment of the sum which you will lay out for me. He incloses, in my letter, a bill, upon presenting which you will receive payment of the money I owe you.

As soon as peace is restored between two nations formed for friendly alliance, I propose visiting your country. The flourishing state of your agriculture, ought to be an example to other nations. It is to you we must apply for correct views on this subject.

If you should like any information regarding our agriculture, or any seeds of plants suitable for the nourishment of man or beast, I shall be happy to satisfy you.

I would beg you to send me the work which you think most suitable for me, by the first safe opportunity that offers. The Chevalier Gallois, our ambassador to England for the exchange of the French prisoners, might perhaps assist you in procuring a conveyance.

And I remain, with every sentiment of esteem, yours, &c.

CHARLES DE LASTEYRIE.

My address is at Paris, Rue de la Planche, No. 337. Fauxbourg St Germain.

Comme c'est dans le dessein de le traduire en Français, je desirerois d'avoir le meilleur ouvrage qui embrassera le plus grand nombre des différentes branches d'agriculture. Miller ni Arthur Young ne sont pas les ouvrages que je veux. Comme l'ouvrage que je veux traduire ne doit pas être trop volumineux, je desire qu'il ne passe pas la somme de deux ou trois guinées.

Mr J. Walker, Anglois, actuellement à Paris, a bien voulu se charger de vous faire remettre à Londres le montant de la somme que vous débourserez pour moi. Il a incéré dans ma lettre un bon, sur la presentation du quel on vous remettra l'argent que vous aurez dépensé.

Lorsque la paix sera rétablie entre deux nations faites pour l'aimer, je me propose de voyager dans votre pays. L'état florissant de votre agriculture doit servir d'exemple aux autres nations ; c'est chez vous qu'il faut aller chercher les lumières de ce genre.

Si vous desirez quelques renseignemens sur notre agriculture, ou quelques semences de plantes propres à la nourriture des hommes ou des bestiaux, je me ferai un plaisir de satisfaire à vos demandes.

Je vous prierai de me faire passer l'ouvrage que vous jugerez me convenir le mieux par la première occasion sûre qui se présentera. Le Cier Gallois, envoyé en Angleterre pour l'échange des prisonniers Français, pourra peut-être vous donner quelque moyen de me le faire parvenir.

Recevez les sentimens d'estime avec lesquels je suis,

CHARLES DE LASTEYRIE.

Mon adresse est à Paris, Rue de la Planche, No. 337. Fauxbourg Germain.

16.—THE DOCTOR HALLE.

In preparing the Code of Health and Longevity, I derived great advantage from a paper drawn up by the celebrated

Professor Hallé on “*Hygieine*.” I was induced, in consequence, to send him a copy of my Code, and, in return, received the following interesting communication. It is written in English; a language which the Professor seems to have thoroughly understood, though it was necessary, in some cases, to alter the spelling.

SIR,

I received, with gratitude, both your letter and your valuable work, entitled, *The Code of Health and Longevity*, that had been transmitted to me by the very good and honourable Dr Hall. I look upon it as a very precious gift; and I was very much pleased with your kindness, in the account and elegant translation inserted in it, of my article *Hygieine*, printed among the other articles of medicine in the *Methodical Encyclopædic Dictionary*.

The work, of which a sort of *prospectus* is inserted at the end of that article, is far of being finished. The title of it, indicates a design very convenient with that of your *Code*; but the pursuits in which I am engaged in it, is directed to a very different purpose. I design to teach, (if it would be possible), all the fundamental knowledges of *Hygieine*, that is, to reduce the experience to a theory and a science, the principles of which will guide them in the practice of the art. That plan must be necessarily more extensive than that of a work like yours, immediately directed from observation to practice; but, by consequence, your book will be more profitable to mine, than mine would have been to yours. I thank you a thousand times for it; and when mine will be to be published, I design to inscribe it to you, whatever it will be, as a gage of unalterable esteem. In the middle of political convulsions, of the warlike furies, of the ambitious and troublesome pretensions of the governors of kingdoms, that friendship among those which pursue the research of truth and nature, is a sort of federation between the honest people, for the good of human society, the comfort of the distressed world, and the pre-

servation of all the social virtues. With much esteem, I remain, Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

HALLÉ.

Paris, May 22. 1808.
Street Pierre Sarrazin, No. 10.

17.—PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES IN FRANCE, REGARDING SIR JOHN SINCLAIR'S WORKS ON AGRICULTURE.

1. *Admission into the Royal Society of Agriculture in Paris, an. 1787.*

à Paris, le 12. Janvier 1787.

MONSIEUR *,

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que vous avez été élu correspondant de la Société Royale d'Agriculture, à la séance du 11. de ce mois. La compagnie me charge de vous engager à lui faire part de vos découvertes en économie rurale et domestique, se proposant d'en enrichir les Mémoires, dont je vous adresse les trois premiers volumes.

J'ose me flatter, Monsieur, que vous voudrez bien répondre aux vues de la Société, et me procurer, en mon particulier, la satisfaction de voir se renouveler souvent l'occasion de profiter de vos lumières.

* Translation.

Paris, January 12. 1787.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you, that you were elected Correspondent of the Royal Society of Agriculture, at their meeting on the 11th of this month. The Society commissions me to request you to communicate to them your discoveries in rural and domestic economy, as they intend by that means to enrich their Memoirs, of which I send you the three first volumes.

I flatter myself, Sir, that you will be willing to meet the views of the Society, and to afford me, in particular, frequent occasion to profit by your opinions.

I have the honour to remain, very respectfully, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

BROUSSONET,
Secretary of the Royal Society of Agriculture.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très respectueusement, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

BROUSSONET,
Secrétaire perpétuel de la
Société Royale d'Agriculture.

2. *Resolution of the National Institute of France.*

Paris, le 9. Fevrier 1816.

Le Secrétaire perpétuel pour les Sciences Naturelles, à Monsieur le Chevalier Baronet Sir John Sinclair.

MONSIEUR *,

La classe me charge d'avoir l'honneur de vous remercier du beau présent que vous avez bien voulu lui faire. Elle a déposé honorablement la collection de vos ouvrages dans la bibliothèque de l'Institut, pour que les Membres de la compagnie puissent les consulter, et mettre à profit vos savantes recherches et vos immenses travaux dans les diverses branches des sciences utiles à l'humanité.

J'ai l'honneur, Monsieur le Chevalier, de vous offrir l'hommage de ma haute considération.

G. CUVIER, *Sec.*

* Translation.

Paris, February 9. 1816.

SIR,

The class has deputed to me the honour of thanking you for the beautiful present you have been pleased to make them. They have already honourably disposed of the collection of your works in the library of the Institute, in order that the members may be able to consult and to profit by your learned researches and great labours in the different branches of sciences useful to humanity.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, with the highest esteem, &c.

G. CUVIER.

3. *Resolution of the Academy, 3d December 1817.*

Paris, le 3. Decembre 1817.

Le Secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie pour les Sciences Naturelles, à Monsieur le Chevalier Baronet Sir John Sinclair, Conseiller Privé de S. M. Britannique, et Fondateur du Bureau d'Agriculture d'Angleterre.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

L'Académie a reçu avec reconnaissance le projet de Code Rural que vous avez rédigé pour la Grande Bretagne, et a chargé un de ses Membres de lui rendre un compte détaillé de cet ouvrage. Elle entendra ce rapport avec l'intérêt que lui ont inspiré depuis long-tems à vos savantes recherches dans la science de l'agriculture. L'Académie me charge de vous remercier, en son nom, de l'envoi de ce écrit, qu'elle a fait déposer honorablement dans la Bibliothèque de l'Institut, à la suite de la belle collection des ouvrages dont vous lui avez déjà fait present.

J'ai l'honneur, Monsieur le Chevalier, de vous offrir l'hommage de ma haute consideration.

G. CUVIER.

* Translation.

Paris, December 3. 1817.

SIR,

The Academy received with gratitude the Prospectus of the Rural Code which you have digested for Great Britain, and have requested one of its members to prepare an accurate account of the work. The Academy will await this report with an interest proportionate to the respect they have long felt for your accurate knowledge of science and agriculture. The Academy have appointed me to thank you, in their name, for this further gift, which, along with the fine collection of works you have already presented to them, they have caused to be honourably placed in the library of the Institute. I have the honour to remain, Sir, with the highest respect, &c.

G. CUVIER.

4. *Resolution of the Academy of Dijon.*

Dijon, le 14. Mai 1818.

Le Secrétaire de l'Académie des Sciences, Arts et Belles Lettres de Dijon, à Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Membre du Parlement d'Angleterre, Fondateur de la Société d'Agriculture de Londres.

MONSIEUR *,

L'Académie des Sciences, Arts et Belles Lettres de Dijon a reçu, avec les sentimens de la plus vive reconnaissance, l'exemplaire de votre ouvrage, intitulé, "The Code of Agriculture, including Observations on Gardens, Orchards, Woods and Plantations." L'Académie a été très sensible au don que vous lui faites, et elle m'a chargé de vous en faire agréer ses vives remerciemens. Je m'en acquitte avec d'autant plus de plaisir, que cette circonstance me fournit l'occasion de vous assurer de la haute estime que vous ont vouée les agriculteurs Français.

C'est en employant sa fortune pour la perfectionnement de l'agriculture, que l'on mérite bien de l'humanité, et que l'on acquiert du droit à la vraie gloire comme bienfaiteur des hommes.

Recevez, Monsieur, les assurances de la vénération profonde qu'a vouée au "*Patriarche de l'Agriculture Anglaise*," celui qui se dit, son très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

J. VALLOT, Sec.

• Translation.

Dijon, May 14. 1818.

SIR,

The Academy of Sciences, Arts and Belles Lettres at Dijon, have received with sentiments of the liveliest gratitude, the copy of your work, entitled, "The Code of Agriculture, including Observations on Gardens, Orchards, Woods and Plantations." The Academy is very sensible of your kindness, and have requested me to return you their best acknowledgments. I do so with the greater pleasure, since I am thus afforded an opportunity of assuring you of the high esteem in which you are held by French agriculturists.

It is by using our fortunes in the perfecting of agriculture, that we deserve well of mankind, and acquire a right to true glory as public benefactors.

Receive, Sir, the assurance of the very profound veneration in which "*The Patriarch of English Agriculture*" is held by your very humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) J. VALLOT, Sec.

18.—CONTRAST BETWEEN PARIS AND LONDON.

The respective characters of the inhabitants of Paris and London are well exemplified by the following circumstances :

Paris.

When Bonaparte put the Duke d'Enghien to death, all Paris felt so much horror at the event, that the throne of the tyrant trembled under him. A counter revolution was expected, and would most probably have taken place, had not Bonaparte ordered a new ballet to be brought out, with the utmost splendour, at the opera. The subject he pitched upon was, "*Ossian, or the Bards.*" It is still recollected in Paris, as perhaps the grandest *spectacle* that had ever been exhibited there. The consequence was, that the murder of the Duke d'Enghien was totally forgotten, *and nothing but the new ballet was talked of.*

London.

A plan was brought forward in Parliament, sanctioned by the Ministers of the Crown, by which a system, under which the country had prospered for above twenty years, was to be overturned. The public seemed to be appalled,—the stocks rapidly fell,—and the most dismal apprehensions were entertained of the consequences that would result from the proposed change. The Ministers were alarmed; but instead of bringing out "a new ballet," as would have been done in Paris, they brought forward "*a New Loan.*" The terms of the loan, and the profit to be derived from it, became the great subjects of discussion; and the dangers to be apprehended from the new system were no more thought of.

It were much to be wished, that they may be as little thought of some years hence.

PART XVII.

TRAVELS IN THE NETHERLANDS,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.



TRAVELS IN THE NETHERLANDS,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

FLANDERS has long been considered the most productive and best cultivated country on the Continent of Europe. In regard to agricultural machinery and live stock, Great Britain is certainly superior; but in the other branches of husbandry, we may derive several useful lessons from our Flemish neighbours. For the purpose of ascertaining the practices which might advantageously be adopted by us, from the example of Flanders, I thrice visited that country.

It may be proper to begin with stating, that during a period of forty-four years, ending anno 1814, the average prices of the principal sorts of grain, were higher in England than in Flanders, in the following proportions:

Table of the average prices of wheat, barley and oats, for forty-four years, ending an. 1814, calculated in English money.

	Flanders.			England.			Difference.		
Average of Wheat, .	L.1	19	10	L.3	2	10	L.1	3	0
———— Barley, .	1	2	8	1	12	3	0	9	7
———— Oats, .	0	14	2	1	1	11	0	7	9

The difference was certainly greatly owing to the currency of the two countries for some part of that time being different. The English prices, for several years, are calculated, in the paper circulation of England, which, for a period of

about twenty years, was nearly one-fifth higher than the metallic currency of Flanders. The difference, however, may likewise be ascribed, 1. To the natural and political advantages which Flanders possesses; 2. To the economical mode of living adopted by the Flemish farmers; and, 3. To the skilful manner in which they carry on their operations in husbandry.

I.—THE NATURAL ADVANTAGES BY WHICH FLANDERS IS DISTINGUISHED, AND THE FAVOURABLE POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES ENJOYED BY THE FLEMISH FARMERS.

Flanders enjoys important advantages over the greater part of Great Britain in regard to soil and climate. A greater proportion of its territory is capable of being rendered productive; and its climate being warmer, and less variable, it sooner brings the produce of its soil to perfection. Hence, in that celebrated district called the Pays de Waes, their crops of wheat and of winter barley are reaped in the end of July, or the beginning of August, and their oats in the end of that month. It is much owing to a favourable climate also, that they are enabled to raise double crops, on the same land, in the same year, without which they could not procure that quantity of manure, so essential for the cultivation of a farm according to the Flemish system. The second crops raised in the same year are, 1. carrots; 2. turnips; 3. spurry; or, 4. yellow clovers. The turnips are sown immediately after the crop of grain is reaped. The land is slightly ploughed for that purpose. The turnips never grow large, but are of great use in feeding milch cows, and it is remarked, that they never give any taste to the milk or butter. The spurry is only sown after the crop of grain is cut down; but the turnips, and the yellow clover, in spring, on the growing crop.

Among the political advantages enjoyed by the Flemish farmers, may be enumerated, their not being subjected to such high rents and taxes as in England; their not being liable to

poor rates, church rates, and road assessments, at least to the same extent; and, since the Revolution, their being exempted from the payment of tithes.

2.—THE MODE OF LIVING PRACTISED BY THE FLEMISH FARMERS.

The industrious and economical habits, of the generality of the farmers in Flanders, have long been celebrated. The whole family are employed in their farming concerns. The women rise early for dairy purposes. The men servants live in the house, and feed with their masters. Nothing can surpass the simplicity and economy of the whole establishment*.

3.—A GENERAL VIEW OF SOME OF THE USEFUL PRACTICES ADOPTED BY THE FLEMISH FARMERS.

The skilful manner in which the Flemish farmers conduct their operations in husbandry, can only be briefly touched upon in a work of so limited a nature as the present. The following particulars, however, merit to be particularly attended to.

1. *The Abolition of Fallows.*—The most intelligent Flemish farmers maintain, that under skilful management, fallowing is not necessary even in the strongest soils. They particularly recommend substituting a crop of beans for a fallow,—cultivating the beans in drills, in the same manner as turnips and potatoes. In some parts of the Netherlands beans are raised for forage merely,—given green to hogs, who are peculiarly fond of them in that state,—or dried and given to sheep, to horses, or to fattening cattle. In this way, a great number of

* In the correspondence connected with this section, a letter will be given, containing a particular account of the mode of living practised by the Flemish farmers.

stock may be fed, and a great quantity of manure obtained, instead of a naked fallow, and the ground may be thoroughly prepared for the ensuing crop. The crop of beans will produce as much food for stock as a moderate crop of turnips, while it protects the soil, during the heat of summer, from the exhausting influence of the sun, and mellows it for producing the succeeding crop of wheat. The cultivation of the winter bean may greatly facilitate the proposed system.

2. *Invention of the Binot.*—The abolition of fallows, has been greatly promoted in Flanders, by the invention of an implement called “*The Binot*,” which resembles a plough with a double or snuffler share, and two mould-boards, but no coulter. It elevates the land into small ridges, that it may be more quickly dried, more easily weeded, and more completely receive the beneficial influence of the atmosphere. Root weeds are collected in the dry period of the spring, and either burnt, or mixed in a compost with hot lime. Even the strongest and heaviest land is thus rendered tender and friable, and by these operations loses that hardness which clayey soils often acquire, after having been long cropped, without being occasionally completely pulverised. Using the binot once is not only equal to two ploughings, but it goes over a greater extent of land in the same space of time, and the same strength of cattle. I have not the least doubt, by the general use of this implement, that fallows might, in a great measure, be abolished, and two millions of acres added to the productive territory of the country*.

3. *Cultivation of Flax.*—There is no particular, in which the systems of husbandry between England and Flanders differs more, than regarding the culture of flax. In England it is

* I brought with me a *Binot* from Flanders, and employed Messrs Cooke, Fisher and Company, at their Agricultural Repository, Wanslow Street, opposite to the Pantheon, to make them. The price was five guineas.

considered to be a scourging crop; but the best farmers in Flanders contend, that it may be raised, once in six years, without the least injury to the soil; and, when the crop sells at a high price, the soil in which it is grown is, in the course of the culture, completely cleared of weeds, and the succeeding crop, whether wheat or rye, is better than after fallow. By raising this valuable crop, instead of a naked fallow, the farmer is enabled to sell his grain, in the course of a rotation, at a cheaper rate than otherwise he could afford it.

4. *Manures.*—The Flemish farmers are peculiarly distinguished by their great attention to manure. It is a principle with them, that the fertility of the soil entirely depends on the riches you give it, and that a farmer cannot be too attentive to the collection and application of this source of wealth.

But the principal circumstance to be attended to on this subject is, the application of Dutch ashes to improve the crops of clover, and the succeeding crops of wheat. It is quite incredible the beneficial effects resulting from the application of this manure. The price is about fivepence sterling *per* bushel, and from eighteen to nineteen bushels would be sufficient *per* English acre. The whole expense, freight included, would not probably exceed from ten to twelve shillings *per* acre, freight included. These ashes are subject at present to a duty, the remission of which I in vain applied for to the Treasury*.

5. *Change of Seed.*—In Flanders, changing the seed is more regularly and systematically attended to than in England. Mr Hanolet, a great farmer near Fleurus, renews his seed of wheat every two years from the neighbourhood of Lisle, and finds the greatest benefit from it; and other farmers procure their seed from Holland. By such changes, when properly conducted, the quantity of produce is increased,—

* They are likely now to be had even at a lower rate, in consequence of the separation of Holland and Belgium. The ashes destroy the vermin that injure the crop of clover.

the quality of the grain is improved,—it becomes less liable to disease,—and, if the seed is brought from earlier districts, the crop is sooner ripened.

6. *Weeding*.—It is hardly possible to conceive, how much attention is paid by the Flemish farmers, to the weeding of their land. In their best cultivated districts their exertions are incessant, and frequently from twenty to thirty women may be seen in one field kneeling, for the purpose of greater facility in seeing and extracting the weeds. The weeds collected in spring, particularly when boiled, are much relished by milch cows; and in various parts of Flanders, the farmers get their lands weeded by the children of the neighbouring cottagers, solely for the privilege of procuring these weeds for their cattle, and thus converting a nuisance into a benefit. Where such enormous sums are bestowed on the maintenance of the poor in country parishes, they might surely be employed in so beneficial an operation as that of weeding land.

7. *Rock-Salt*.—Monsieur Mosselman, who occupied a large farm at Chenoi, near Wavre, imported rock-salt from Cheshire, from the use of which, in three respects, he derived the greatest advantage; 1. By allowing sheep to lick the lumps of rock-salt, placed at their command for that purpose, the rot was effectually prevented; 2. His cattle, to whom lumps of it were given to lick in their mangers, were protected from infectious disorders; and being rendered more healthy, and induced to take a greater quantity of liquid, gave more milch; and, 3. A small quantity pounded, was found very beneficial to horses, when new oats were given them, if the oats were at all moist. The addition of salt also, would be of great use to horses when fed with potatoes.

8. *Preventing the Maladies of Wheat*.—This is the most important subject of any connected with the improvement of agriculture. The miseries are frightful which this country

has experienced from the diseases to which its crops of wheat are liable; and though the means of preventing them have been ascertained on the Continent, I have in vain endeavoured to prevail on the farmers of Great Britain, to avail themselves of those most valuable discoveries*.

That destructive disease, "*the smut in wheat*," is prevented by various processes practised in this country; but in the Pays de Waes they have ascertained that verdegris, blue vitriol, or the sulphate of copper, is an infallible remedy. It is reduced to powder, in the proportion of about half a pound English of verdegris to six bushels of wheat. It is then mixed with as much human urine as would enable the light grains to swim at the top, that they may be skimmed off; for which purpose the grain should be often stirred in the vessel. The seed is kept for three hours in this liquid. It is then dried, with or without lime, and sown. There is no danger of injuring the seed by this preparation; but cows' urine is more hazardous, from the quantity of ammonia it contains; and if it is used, one hour's steeping is sufficient.

The following is the simplest and most effectual mode of preventing smut, and by which, it is supposed, that the grain is less liable to be affected by other maladies:

Dissolve three ounces and two drachms of sulphate of copper, copperas, or blue vitriol, in three gallons and three quarts, wine measure, of cold water, for every three bushels of grain that is to be prepared. Into another vessel, capable of containing from fifty-three to seventy-nine wine gallons, throw from three to four Winchester bushels of wheat,

* To this subject I paid particular attention during my excursion to the Netherlands in 1815; and I published the result of my inquiries, in a tract, entitled, "*Hints regarding the Agricultural State of the Netherlands*," immediately after my return; but the interesting information it contained, did not meet with the attention I had expected, and much injury to our crops of wheat has been the consequence.

into which pour the prepared liquid until it rises five or six inches above the corn. Stir it thoroughly, and carefully remove all that swims on the surface. After it has remained half an hour in the preparation, throw the wheat into a basket that will allow the water to escape, but not the grain. It ought then to be immediately washed in rain or pure water, which will prevent any risk of its injuring the germ, and afterwards the seed ought to be dried, before it is sown. It may be preserved in this shape for months.

Copperas, also, has been successfully used in England; for it appears that Mr Joseph Butler of Killimarsh, in Derbyshire, was accustomed to dissolve two pounds of blue copperas in as much chamber ley as will wet twelve bushels of wheat, and after soaking, he dried the wheat in quick-lime*.

The reader will be able to judge, from the preceding short hints, what a fund of agricultural improvement may be obtained, by the introduction of various useful practices from Flanders into Britain; and such improvements cannot be too highly appreciated; for the discovery of a new plant,—or the invention of a new implement,—or the introduction of a new system of husbandry, may be the means of rendering a country independent of other nations for food, and of adding millions to its wealth.

It must not, however, be imagined, that husbandry has been carried to such perfection in Flanders, that the Flemish farmers have nothing to learn. On the contrary, there are many useful hints which they may derive from their brethren in Great Britain, some of which it may be proper briefly to enumerate †.

* Derbyshire Report, vol. ii. p. 116.

† A very able account of the husbandry of Flanders, by the Rev. Thomas Radcliff, drawn up in one volume 8vo, at the desire of the Farming Society of Ireland, was printed in London, an. 1819.

ON THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE ADOPTED FROM
GREAT BRITAIN BY THE FLEMISH FARMERS.

It was impossible to give the Flemish farmers an adequate idea of the superior excellence of the British implements. The iron ploughs and harrows,—the scarrifier or grubber, for pulverizing the soil, and clearing it of weeds,—the various sorts of drill machines,—and the threshing mill in particular, were to them quite incomprehensible; nor did they approve of the idea of superseding manual labour by the use of machinery. There is one improvement, however, which is not liable to this objection, namely, the use of iron or stone pillars for corn-stacks. At present their grain is either housed in barns, in which state it is liable to the depredations of vermin, or built upon the ground, by which the stacks may sustain great damage, either from damp or vermin.

The live stock also, might in general be greatly improved by crossing with English breeds. The Flemish sheep cannot be compared with those of England, either for wool or carcase. Their hogs are also of a very inferior sort, being long and narrow, instead of short and compact. Their cows produce considerable quantities of milk, but their shape might be greatly improved, by which they might be fattened at much less expense.

They have lime in abundance, but they do not use it in sufficient quantities. They might easily import it from Sunderland into Ostend, *in shells*, (or burnt, but unslacked, lime), and thence it might easily be conveyed by canals into the interior.

It would be of immense importance for the Flemish farmers, to strew salt on the surface of the ground where flax has been sown. It is found greatly to increase the crop, and to improve the quality of the flax, and, in particular, it adds to the quantity of the seed produced by the ensuing crop. About three bushels of common salt, or, which is still better, of

pounded rock-salt, *per* English acre, strewed on the surface of the ground, where flax has been sown, is sufficient.

I have strongly recommended to the Flemish farmers, the cultivation of the Swedish turnip for oil, instead of rape or cole seed, the crop of which is precarious; whereas the Swedish turnip hardly ever fails, however severe the winter. It may likewise be transplanted as well as rape, yields as much weight of seed, and is equally valuable for producing oil.

The potatoes in Flanders are of a very inferior quality, and it would be of material advantage to the Flemish farmers, to procure from Great Britain or Ireland the seed of the most improved varieties of that plant.

The turnips raised in Flanders are, in general, second or after crops; and the beautiful and productive system of raising turnips *in drills*, so usual in all parts of Scotland, and which is now spreading all over the united kingdom, is unknown. What a treasure it will be to Flanders when that excellent practice is introduced there?

The practice of the Flemish farmers, of having a spring crop of corn after a winter one,—for instance, spring rye after winter wheat,—is so contrary to all ideas of improved husbandry, that it cannot be too speedily abandoned.

In the management of their grass lands, the Flemish farmers also seem to be deficient. They are not accustomed to a mixture of rye grass with their clover, by which solidity is given to that succulent plant; and they do not seem at all aware of the great importance of keeping land for some time in grass, as a means of improving the fertility of the soil.

Other particulars occurred in the course of the survey I took of Flemish husbandry, but these are the most important.

When drawing up these observations on the husbandry of the Netherlands, intelligence reached me, of the frightful disturbances, with which that "*happy country*," (as it was when I last visited it in 1815), is now unfortunately afflicted. My heart sinks within me, when I think of the dismal change

that has now taken place ; and I am shocked with the idea, that many of those worthy characters, whose farms I had examined with so much pleasure, and in whose houses I had received the most hospitable reception, should have perhaps perished in the dreadful conflict, or been reduced to beggary and ruin.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING FLEMISH HUSBANDRY.

No. 1.—*Correspondence with the Public Offices, regarding the Inquiries carried on in the Netherlands.*

Understanding that I was likely to find, in the public offices at Brussels, the information collected by the French Government, regarding the agricultural state of the Netherlands, I applied to the two public officers the most likely to furnish me with that information. I subjoin a translation of their answers, as a proof of their liberality to those employed in useful inquiries, and of their politeness to an entire stranger.

Translation of a Letter from the Intendant of the Department of the Dyle.

The Intendant of the Department of the Dyle has the honour of presenting his compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and begs to inform him, that by coming in person next Saturday, at one o'clock, to the 12th division of his office, he may obtain all the information regarding agriculture, that can be procured for him there.

Tuesday, 11th April 1815.

Translation of a Letter from the Duke D'Ursell, Minister of the Interior in the Netherlands.

The Commissary General of the Interior has the honour of informing Sir John Sinclair, that the correspondence of the Minister of France, with the Prefects, regarding agriculture, has not been consigned to the Commissary of the Interior :

but that, to gratify the wish of Sir John Sinclair, he has addressed a circular letter to the Superintendants of the Departments, to desire them to send all the documents in their possession on this subject; and that, when they are received, Sir John Sinclair shall be apprised of it, and may have them communicated to him.

In the mean time, if he wishes it, he will be welcome to see the statistical information given by the Intendants, at the 4th section of the General Commissariat.

(Signed)

The Commissary General of the Interior,
The Duke D'URSELL.

Brussels, 15th April 1815.

No. 2.—*Correspondence with M. F. Vanderstraeten.*

In the year 1816, an intelligent Flemish agriculturist came over to England, with the intention, if he met with sufficient encouragement, to publish a work, explaining all the details of Flemish husbandry; and to prove the importance of his undertaking, he drew up a comparison between the agriculture of England and of Flanders, of which the following is a copy:

Mr Arthur Young calculates the value of four crops, under the Norfolk husbandry, at L.19 : 14 : 1, making the produce *per acre*, one year with another, L.4 : 18 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$, and the farmer's profit, L.1 : 2 : 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ *.

On the other hand it is calculated, that the Flemish system of husbandry, at English prices, would produce L.19, 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{7}$ d. *per acre*, and that the profit of the farmer would be L.9, 17s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. †.

Difference of produce *per acre*, 14s. 6d.

Difference of profit *per acre*, L.8 : 15 : 6.

In twelve years, according to the Norfolk system, the English farmer gets twelve crops in twelve years, namely :

* Vanderstraeten's Improved Husbandry, p. 54.

† Ibid. p. 67.

	Crops.
Wheat,.....	3
Barley,.....	3
Turnips,.....	3
Clover,.....	3
	—
	12

Whereas in Flanders they have

	Crops.
Wheat,	4
Rye, or barley,	4
Flax, hemp, cole-seed, or potatoes, 4	
Roots and vegetables for cattle, 12	
	—
	24

The gross produce of two of the crops, hemp and flax, is worth more than the *twelve Norfolk crops put together* *.

Having a good opinion of the work he intended to publish, I resolved to give the author every assistance in my power, and wrote him a letter approving of his undertaking, to which I received the following answer :

MONSIEUR †,

Une absence m'a empêché d'avoir plutôt le plaisir de répondre à la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire

* Vanderstraeten's Improved Husbandry, p. 54.

† Translation.

Brussels, June 13. 1818.

SIR,

Absence from home has prevented me from having sooner had the pleasure of replying to your letter, which you did me the honour of writing to me on the 20th of April last ; and in which you inform me, that you have prevailed, (though with great difficulty), on the Board of Agriculture of Great Britain, to offer a reward of L.200 Sterling to the person who will give the best account of Flemish agriculture.

I am infinitely obliged, Sir, by the favourable opinion you have the goodness

le 20. du mois d'Avril dernier, et par laquelle vous me faites part, que vous avez engagé, quoique avec une grande difficulté, le Bureau d'Agriculture de la Grande Bretagne, à offrir à la personne qui rendrait le meilleur compte de l'agriculture Flamande, un prix de £.200 sterling.

Je vous ai, Monsieur, la plus grande obligation de l'opinion favorable que vous avez la bonté d'avoir, que mon ouvrage de l'Histoire Complète de l'Agriculture Flamande serait propre à remplir les vues du Bureau ; mais comme je ne l'ai jamais destiné pour un concours quelconque, et que je n'ai plus songé depuis Mai 1816, époque de mon retour du dernier voyage que j'ai fait dans votre Isle, à faire l'application des vues qu'il contient à la Grande Bretagne, je ne serais pas du nombre des

to entertain of my work on the History of Flemish Agriculture, which you think might answer the expectations of the Board ; but as I never meant it for such a purpose, and as I have never thought, since May 1816, (when I returned from my last visit to your island), of applying the sentiments it contains to Great Britain, I will not be among the number of the competitors. I shall content myself with having been the first who had the honour of making known to the Ministers of your King, on the 31st of October 1814, and to the whole English nation, in January 1816, the superiority of the Flemish agriculture over that of every other country, and the possibility of its introduction into Great Britain.

The publication of my work will take place on the Continent, but its appearance depends upon circumstances, as the expense of printing will be very great ; if it does appear, I shall have the honour of sending you two copies, with a request that you will send one to the celebrated Mr Arthur Young, to whom I beg you will present my respects, and recall me to his remembrance.

My friends, Messrs John Woollett and Sons, through whom you send your treatise to me, tell me that they have sent you a copy of my last little work. I entirely approve of their having done so, hoping that you will keep the copy for your own use, in case you may have mislaid that which I had the honour to present to you ; or if not, that you will give it to one of your friends ; because my intention, (as I have had the honour of informing you), is quite fixed, not to compete either with a pamphlet or larger work. I am, with esteem, your very obedient servant,

FERD. VANDERSTRAETEN.

P. S.—As I discover in my progress every day, or, to speak more correctly, very often, facts more or less interesting, and as I project still making a tour of three or four months, in order to try to discover others, I shall not put the finishing hand to my work till my return : it is therefore impossible for me to fix the time of its appearance, the more especially as there is nothing to hasten me.

concurrents. Je me contenterai d'être le premier qui ait eu l'honneur de faire connaître aux Ministres de votre Roi dès le 31. Octobre 1814, et à la nation Anglais en Janvier 1816, la supériorité de l'agriculture Flamande sur celle de tout autre pays, et la possibilité de son introduction dans la Grande Bretagne.

La publication de mon ouvrage aura bien sur le Continent, mais elle depend de quelques circonstances, car les frais d'impression seront tres consequentes : si elle a lieu, j'aurais l'honneur de vous en envoyer deux exemplaires, avec prière d'en remettre un au respectable Monsieur Arthur Young, auquel je vous prie de faire mes complimens, et de me rapeller à son souvenir.

Mes amis, Messrs John Woollet et Fils, auxquels vous avez adressé votre susdite, Monsieur, pour me le faire parvenir, me marquent, en me l'envoyant, qu'ils vous ont expédié un exemplaire de mon dernier opusculé. J'approuve leur conduite sous ce point de vue unique, que vous garderez cet exemplaire pour votre usage, au cas que vous eussiez égaré celui que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous offrir, ou dans le cas contraire, que vous en ferez présent à un de vos amis ; car mon intention, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire, en bien prononcé, de ne concourir ni avec opusculé ni avec ouvrage. Je suis, avec estime, votre très obéissant serviteur,

FERD. VANDERSTRAETEN.

Bruxelles, ce 13. Juin 1818.

P. S.—Comme je découvre dans mes journées tous les jours, ou, pour parler plus correctement, assez souvent, des faits plus ou moins intéressans, et comme je projette encore de faire un voyage de 3 à 4 mois, afin de tâcher d'en découvrir d'autres, ce ne sera qu'à mon retour que je mettrai la dernière main à mon ouvrage. Il m'est, per consequent, impossible de fixer l'époque où il paraîtra, n'y ayant d'ailleurs rien que presse.

To this communication I sent the following reply :

SIR,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter, dated Brussels, the 13th of June. I regret that you do not propose to enter into a competition for the premium of the Board of Agriculture, as Flemish husbandry is a topic to which you have paid such successful attention. I hope that you will soon commence the printing of your valuable work, and, in addition to the copies you propose giving to Mr Young and me, I hope that you will present one to the Board of Agriculture, as I trust that in return it would vote you its gold medal, or a piece of plate, as an honorary mark of its esteem, and approbation of your labours.

I regret to hear that you intend postponing, for two or three months longer, commencing the printing of your work. I inclose some papers respecting the uses of salt in agriculture, and if you can procure any information respecting that important subject, in the course of your intended tour, it would be extremely desirable. Any information respecting the diseases of wheat would likewise be of much consequence, and, in particular, to explain, why the rust (*la rouille*, as it is called in French) is not so frequent in Flanders as in England. It is probably owing to the quantity of Dutch ashes the farmers use, so full of saline particles, which are so hostile to corruption. A comparison between the climates of England and Flanders,—also of the produce between the crops of Flanders and England,—and proofs that land can be kept quite clean, without what we call drilling in England, would be most important subjects of discussion.

Wishing you health and success in your great undertaking, I remain, with esteem, your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

Ormly Lodge, near London,
22d June 1818.

From anxiety to procure accurate information regarding the husbandry of Flanders, I had prevailed upon the Board of Agriculture, to offer a premium of L.200 for the best account of Flemish agriculture. But before the papers transmitted to the Board, in competition for that premium, had been examined, the Minister of the Crown, (Lord Liverpool), had resolved to extinguish the Board, and orders were given, that all the papers belonging to that institution, should be deposited in the Tower of London, where they are still kept, inaccessible to the perusal of any one,—as if manuscripts, full of information of the highest importance to the agriculturists of the country, ought to be carefully concealed, as prejudicial to the public interest.

There is no circumstance that can be more unfortunate to a *populous country*, than any neglect on the part of the government, to that most undeniable of all its duties, the providing of abundance of food for those they govern. In early ages of society, when the population is thinly scattered, and the most fertile soils alone are cultivated, such attention is not essential; but the more populous a country becomes, the more important the duty is, of promoting the interest of agriculture. What would be thought of the general of an army, who felt no anxiety to secure subsistence for his troops? In the same manner, it is incumbent upon the governors of a state, to secure abundance of provisions for their subjects, by encouraging domestic production, and rendering them independent of foreign supply, which must always be precarious.

Nearly forty years have now elapsed, since I first proposed in Parliament the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, which was fortunately agreed to. By its means, two millions of acres were rendered productive, and instead of depending on foreign importations, such a quantity of grain was raised, that, for some time, we could not find a market for our own produce. A clamour against the farmers, however, having been

raised, they were reprobated as public enemies, and the importers of foreign grain were held up, as the nation's best friends and benefactors. It then became the fashionable doctrine, that inferior lands should be driven *out of cultivation*; and thus a large proportion of the territory of the country was to be rendered a *perpetual desert*. What a mistaken idea!

No. 3.—*Letter from M. Delbecq, Secretary to the Royal Society of Agriculture and Botany at Ghent.*

HONORABLE BARONET*,

La Société, longtems privée de vos nouvelles, s'intéresse à vous voir jouir de la meilleure santé. Elle me charge de vous

* Translation.

May 1822.

HONOURABLE BARONET,

The Society, long deprived of any communication from you, is anxious to see you enjoy better health, and appoints me to take the opportunity of a gentleman of this town visiting London, to write to you. He will deliver this letter to you; and to him you may, with all confidence, entrust the answers, the questions, or the dispatches which you may think proper to transmit to the Society.

The Society of Ghent is applied to, from all quarters, to reclaim the memoirs on the tenure of the Flemish lease, sent in competition to the Board of Agriculture in London, seeing that the Society engaged many estimable persons to compete. I beg, therefore, that my excellent friend, Sir John Sinclair, would be pleased to tell me what answer I ought to make to the reasonable demands made upon the Society for these memoirs; and what I must say in the Ghent papers for the information of those interested in this competition.

The Flemish farms would ensure the greatest riches; but the sale of their products has not been equal, for the last two years, to that of the years preceding; corn, cattle, all sell at a low price. The rents are disproportionate,—the landlord suffers. He is always at work, however, in the hope of being one day more fortunate; though at present deprived of many things, he trusts all to Providence.

M. Ch. Van Hoorebeke, of this place, the benefactor of agriculture and botany, died last year. He is regretted by all the friends of husbandry, and much lamented by a family of four young orphans deprived of their father.

The Society of Ghent, in sending you, by this opportunity, its notices and programmes, takes the liberty of recalling itself to your memory.

Make use, and with all confidence, my Dear and Honoured Sir, of the offer of my services, which I have now the honour to repeat to you, and be pleased to

écrire, par occasion de départ d'une personne de notre ville pour Londres, qui vous remettra la présente, et à laquelle vous pouvez en toute confiance remettre les réponses, les questions ou les envois, qui vous jugeriez à propos de faire à la Société.

On s'adresse de tout côté à la Société de Gand, pour qu'elle réclame les mémoires sur la tenue de la ferme Flamande, envoyés en concours au Bureau d'Agriculture de Londres, vû que la Société a engagé plusieurs personnes estimables à concourir. Je prie donc, mon bien estimable ami, Sir John Sinclair, de vouloir m'écrire ce qu'il faut que je réponde aux demandes opportunes que l'on fait à la Société pour ces mémoires ; et ce qu'il conviendrait que je fasse insérer dans les feuilles de Gand, pour instruire les personnes intéressées dans ce concours.

Les terres de notre Flandre promettaient la plus grande richesse ; mais la vente de ses produits ne répond plus depuis deux ans à ce que la vente leur en assurait les années précédentes. Céréales, bestiaux tout se vend à bas prix. Les loyers sont disproportionnés, le cultivateur souffre, et toujours laborieux, et dans l'espoir d'être plus heureux un jour, il se prive de bien de choses, attendant tout de la Providence.

M. Ch. Van Hoorebeke, de notre ville, qui a bien mérité de l'agriculture et de la botanique, vient de mourir : il est regretté par tous les amis de la culture, et fortement pleuré par une famille privée d'un père de quatre bien jeunes orphelins.

La Société de Gand, en vous remettant par cette occasion ses notices et programmes, prend la liberté de se rappeler à votre bon souvenir.

Disposez toujours, et avec assurance, mon Cher et Honorable Baronet, des offres de service que j'ai l'honneur de vous

accept of them without hesitation. I have the honour to remain, Honoured Sir, your very humble and affectionate servant,

J. B. DELBECQ, &c.

réitérez aujourd'hui, et veuillez les accepter avec confiance. J'ai l'honneur d'être, Honorable Baronet, votre très humble et très affectionné serviteur,

J. B. DELBECQ,

Secrétaire Perpétuel de la Société Royale d'Agriculture et
de Botanique à Gand.

Le Mai 1822.

No. 4.—*A Brief Statement of the Industrious Practices of the Flemish Farmers.*

M. Hondt d'Arcy, a member of the Society of Agriculture at Ghent, transmitted to Sir John Sinclair the following account of the daily distribution of labour on a Flemish farm, as practised by M. Martens, who cultivates some land about three miles from Ghent, of which he is the proprietor.

In the winter season, the whole family rise at half past four in the morning. The Miss Martens, as well as the young women in the house, immediately go to the cow-house to milk nearly a dozen of cows, which are milked three times a-day. In the winter time, at five o'clock in the morning,—at mid-day, and about six in the evening;—and in summer, at four o'clock in the morning,—at eleven o'clock,—and at seven in the evening. Each cow gives from fifteen to thirty litres of milk per day. Mr Martens, his sons, and the farm-servants, are occupied in preparing food for the cattle, giving them their morning food, baking bread, making butter, boiling the thread of flax, &c. Madame Martens, or one of her daughters, prepares breakfast at six o'clock, when the whole family, master, mistress and domestics place themselves at the same table, as they do at dinner and supper. At six o'clock and a half, the daughters go to Ghent to sell their milk and butter, and the male servants work in the fields or in the barns. In the interval of the labours of the farm, the women are employed in spinning and in preparing lint for the weaver. In the spring and summer they never spin, except when the bad weather

does not permit them to weed or plant, or to assist in carrying on the other operations of husbandry.

The evenings of the autumn, the winter and the spring, are employed in manufacturing linen. They dine at mid-day, and sup at seven in the evening; after which their occupations are continued till nine o'clock, when they go to bed.

No. 5.—*Communication from M. Desmazieres of Lisle, regarding Smut and Rust in Wheat.*

The two most destructive maladies to which wheat is liable, are, 1. *Smut*; and 2. *Rust*, sometimes denominated *Mildew*. The first can be effectually prevented by various processes, in particular by the application of the sulphate of copper, or verdegriis; the second cannot be so easily got rid off. On this subject I have received the following interesting communication from M. Desmazieres of Lisle, who has paid particular attention to that subject:

Lisle, le 15. Mars 1818.

MONSIEUR *,

J'ai reçu en son tems la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, ainsi que quelques feuillets du Code d'Agri-

* Translation.

Lisle, March 15. 1818.

SIR,

I received in course of post the letter which you did me the honour to write me, along with some sheets of the Code of Agriculture, which you published last year. If I have been tardy in replying, the delay is only to be attributed to the difficulty I found in translating this excellent work. I had occasion for the assistance of some one, not merely an *Englishman*, but an English *naturalist*, before your ideas could be properly understood by me. At last I found what I wished; and it was with the greatest pleasure that I became acquainted with your judicious observations, which will be very useful to me in a new work I contemplate writing, upon all the diseases of cereal plants.

It will still undoubtedly require some years before the effects of sulphate of copper can be properly appreciated. A new experiment is never immediately successful, but generally, only in proportion to its degree of utility. If this metallic salt should be esteemed an efficacious remedy for the smut, it is all that is wanted; for, in the case of rust, there yet exists, properly speaking, no cure, and I will further say, that none *could* exist, unless such as would act exclusively, and

culture que vous avez publié l'année dernière. Si j'ai tardé à répondre, ne l'attribuez qu'à la difficulté que j'ai éprouvé de

directly, upon the seed when committed to the earth. What I advance appears to be no hypothesis, and I trust I shall prove it by the nature and development of the fungus, which occasions this destructive plague.

In fact, what is rust? a fungus, *l'uredo rubigo vera*, which appears at the beginning of June in the form of very small oval pustules, and which overrun the bark. Small whitish spots succeed, hardly discernible, and scattered over the two surfaces of the leaves, the branches, and the stalk. Presently the skin falls to tatters; and these spots are converted first into a yellow dust, and then red, which detaches itself, and falls easily to the ground, which thus receives, and in great abundance, the germs of future infection. The grain produced by an infected plant is small, poor, and of a pale colour; but it is wholesome, that is to say, it contains none of the rust. It is almost useless, then, to try any operation on the plant for the cure of this malady. *It is the earth itself that must be purified.* The ground about to be sown or planted, must be covered with lime, or watered with the solution of the sulphate of copper, before and after tillage, if we wish to reap a pure harvest. I tell you my opinion, *at the same time inviting you to try the actual experiment.*

But if the washing of the seed is insufficient to prevent rust, it is most efficacious against smut, and "watering" is absolutely necessary to prevent this latter evil. The microscopic fungus which produces it, *l'uredo caries*, attacks only the grain, which is entirely filled with it, and the powder, which spread only in a very small degree before, remains in the grain when gathered and threshed. Some means must be found of destroying this contagious fungus, and this has been pretty well brought about by different workings, and various operations in use up to this day. Then how comes it, one might ask, that a field where seed has been well prepared should sometimes yield smutty plants? I reply to this question, that the seeds of rottenness, like those of smut, may be more or less scattered over the earth, at the very moment of cutting down the crop. Hence it follows, that the preparation of the ground, as proposed above, would be useful even in this latter case. In fine, I should deem it necessary, for preventing these two maladies, *to purify both the land and the grain.*

The Society of Amateurs of Science and Art of this town, to which I enjoy the advantage of belonging, would esteem it an honour to be permitted to name you, Sir, among the number of its correspondent members. Having always, from its very infancy, sought to associate with itself persons respectable both for virtue and talent, the Society has a right to the public attention; and its high reputation, so justly merited, permits it to rank among its confederates a great number of the members of the Royal Institute of France, and of the principal learned societies in Europe. All this leads me to hope, Sir, that you also will be willing to contribute to its glory, by allowing me to introduce you there, according to the forms prescribed by its rules, (of which I here send you a copy), trusting that you will give a favourable answer to my request.

In the expectation of your valuable information, and wishing you all the success due to your labours and enthusiasm, I beg you to receive the assurance of my complete devotion,

F. DESMAZIERES.

faire traduire cet excellent ouvrage : il me falloit non seulement un Anglois, mais encore un Anglois naturaliste, pour que vos idées me fussent bien rendues. Enfin, je viens d'obtenir ce que je désirois, et c'est avec le plus grand plaisir que j'ai pris connoissance de vos judicieuses observations, que me seront très utiles dans un travail nouveau que j'entreprends sur toutes les maladies des plantes céréales.

Il faudra vraisemblablement encore plusieurs années pour que les effets du sulfate de cuivre soient bien appréciés : une pratique nouvelle ne s'établit point desuite, et généralement, comme son degré d'utilité pourroit le faire désirer. Si l'on juge ce sel métallique un remède efficace contre la carie, c'est tout ce que l'on peut désirer ; car pour la rouille, *n'existe encore à proprement parler aucun remède*, et je dirai plus, *il ne sauroit y en avoir*, tant que l'on agira seulement et directement sur la semence que l'on doit confier à la terre. Ce que j'avance ne me paroît point une hypothèse, et je crois le prouver par la nature et le developpement du fungus qui occasione ce fléau destructeur.

En effet, qu'est ce que la rouille ? un champignon, *Puredo rubigo vera*, qui paroît dès le commencement de Juin, sous la forme de très petites pustules ovales, et que recouvre encore l'épiderme. Elles offrent alors de petites tâches blanchâtres, à peine proéminentes, et distribuées sur les deux surfaces des feuilles, des grânes, et de stiges. Plus tard l'épiderme se déchire en long, et ces tâches se convertissent en une poussière jaune, puis rousse, qui se detache et tombe facilement sur la terre, qui reçoit dès lors, et en grande abundance, les germes d'une infection future. Le grain produit par la plante rouillée est petit, retraits, d'une couleur pâle ; mais il est sain, c'est-à-dire, qu'il ne contient point la rouille. Il est donc presque inutile de lui faire subir une opération pour cette maladie. *C'est la terre même qu'il faudroit purger ; c'est le champ qui doit êtreensemencé ou planté, que l'on devroit couvrir de chaux, ou arroser avec la dissolution de sulfate de cuivre, avant et après le labour, si l'on veut obtenir une moisson pure.* Je

vous communique mon opinion, *en vous invitant à entreprendre des expériences directes.*

Mais si le lavage des semences est insuffisant pour la rouille, il n'en est pas de même pour la carie. Ce lavage, au contraire, devient très nécessaire pour cet accident du froment. Le champignon microscopique qui le produit, *l'uredo caries*, n'attaque que le grain, il en reste tout rempli, et sa poussière, qui ne se répand que très peu au dehors, persiste dans le grain récolté et battu. Il faut donc alors détruire ce fungus contagieux par un moyen quelconque, et c'est ce que l'on fait assez bien par les divers chaulâges, ou opérations diverses d'écrites jusqu'à ce jour. Mais d'où vient, me dira l'on, qu'un champ dont les semences ont été bien préparées donne encore quelquefois plusieurs plantes cariées? Je réponds à cette question, que les germes de la carie peuvent, comme ceux de la rouille, se distribuer tant-soit-peu sur la terre dans le moment où l'on coupe la moisson. D'où il suit que la préparation du champ proposée plus haut, seroit encore utile dans ce dernier cas. En résumé, il faudroit donc, selon moi, pour se préserver de ces deux maladies, *purger la terre et purger le grain.*

La Société des Amateurs des Sciences et des Arts de notre ville, à laquelle j'ai l'avantage d'appartenir, se feroit un honneur, Monsieur, de pouvoir vous nommer du nombre de ses membres correspondans. Dès son berceau ayant toujours cherchée à s'unir aux personnes respectables par leur mérite et par leur talent, elle a droit à la considération publique, et sa haute réputation, justement méritée, lui permet de compter parmi ses associés un grand nombre de membres de l'Institut Royal de France, et des premières sociétés savantes de l'Europe. Tout me fait donc croire, Monsieur le Baron, que vous voudrez bien aussi contribuer à son éclat, en me permettant de vous y présenter, selon les formes prosrites par ses réglemens, dont je vous remets ci-joint une copie, dans l'espérance que vous accueillerez favorablement ma demande.

Dans l'attente de vos chères nouvelles, et en vous souhai-

tant tous les succès dus à vos travaux et à votre zèle, je vous prie d'agréer les assurances de mon parfait dévouement.

F. DESMAZIERES.

The Answer to M. Desmazieres's Letter.

SIR,

Your letter of the 15th of March only reached me about four or five days ago. I take the earliest opportunity in my power to answer it. I am very glad to hear that you propose writing more fully on the maladies of cereal plants. The "*carie*" there is no difficulty of preventing; and I am also in great hopes, that a remedy has been discovered for the "*rouille*." In the printed papers I sent you, you will see that in Cornwall, where the ground is manured with salt, the crop of wheat *is never infected with that malady*; and I have lately been informed by Mr Silvestre of Paris, that the same circumstance occurs in the southern provinces of France, where they raise the "*salicor*." The ground of that description being much impregnated with saline particles, the wheat is not subject to rust. Any experiments, therefore, to be tried *for purging the earth*, ought to be with salt; but I am rather inclined to think, that as salt is an enemy to putrefaction, when used in large quantities, it operates by keeping the plant in a wholesome state, and enabling it to resist the attacks of the fungus.

I hope that you propose soon publishing the result of your inquiries, not as perfect, but with a view of explaining the progress you have made, in hopes that you may thus procure the assistance of other friends to the improvement of agriculture.

I have perused "*The Rules of the Society for the Advantage of Arts and Sciences at Lisle*," and it will give me much pleasure to be connected, as a corresponding member, with so respectable an institution.

With my best wishes for your success in the important pur-

suits in which you are engaged, I remain, with much esteem,
your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

Ormly Lodge, Ham Common, Surrey,
13th August 1818.

No. 6.—*On the Excellent Conduct of the Highland Regiments
in Flanders.*

During my residence in Flanders in 1816, I was happy to learn that my countrymen, who composed the Highland regiments quartered there, had conducted themselves in such a manner, as to acquire, not only the esteem, but the affection of the people of that country. My friend, the Viscount Vanderfosse, having expressed, with much enthusiasm, his sentiments in their favour, I was induced to request, that he would briefly state what occurred to him upon the subject; and I received, in consequence, a communication from him, of which the following is a translation * :

Brussels, 5th January 1816.

SIR *,

You desire that I should commit to writing, the praises I bestowed yesterday on the Scotch regiments, which have so valiantly defended our country and our laws at the battle of Waterloo. I shall endeavour to repeat the words I used, since a Scotchman, enlightened and patriotic as you are, has thought them worthy of remembrance.

Since the arrival of the English troops on the Continent, their discipline was remarked, by all those who had any communication with them, and, in particular, by those who, like myself, had an opportunity of seeing them in this country during the campaigns of 1793 and 1794.

At that epoch your soldiers displayed the greatest bravery; but England had not yet accumulated those numerous laurels,

* The original has, by some accident, fallen by.

acquired under the command of the great and immortal Wellington.

Among these admirable soldiers, the Scotch deserve to be particularly commemorated; and this honourable mention is due to their discipline, their mildness, their patience, their humanity, and to their almost unparalleled bravery.

On the 16th and 18th of June 1815, their valour was displayed in a manner the most heroic. Multiplied, constant, and almost unheard of proofs were given, I do not say merely of courage, but of a devotion to their country, quite extraordinary and sublime.

Nor must we forget that these men, so terrible in the field of battle, were mild and tranquil out of it. The Scotch Greys, in escorting the French prisoners on the evening of the 18th, shewed compassion to these unfortunate victims of war, while as yet the result of that decisive day was unknown, and perhaps uncertain.

I am not afraid of giving myself up to those feelings of gratitude, which all the Belgians will ever entertain towards those without whom they would no longer have had a country; but even gratitude shall never carry me beyond truth. All that I have now said in praise of your excellent countrymen would, I am sure, be confirmed, if necessary, by all the inhabitants of this kingdom; and the more you inquire into details and facts respecting their virtue and their glory, the more would the reality of what I have now repeated, at your desire, be established.

Receive, Sir, the renewed assurances of my esteem and gratitude towards your loyal nation; and permit me to join in the cry, at the sound of which your excellent countrymen have braved the most imminent dangers, and have triumphed over them, "Scotland for ever."

I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

VISCOUNT VANDERFOSSE,
First Advocate at the Supreme Court
of Justice at Brussels.

No. 7.—*On the Advantages which Flanders might derive from the Introduction of the Drill System.*

The superiority of the drill system over the broadcast, was strikingly exemplified by an experiment made by M. Auguste Weiland of Ostend. He sowed forty “*French ares*” of beans broadcast, and other forty *ares* in *drills*, at two feet interval.

The next year the same land was sown with winter barley broadcast.

The land that had been under broadcast beans produced only 512 sheaves, whereas the land that had been drilled produced 580.

The winter barley, on the land that had produced the broadcast beans, amounted only to 580 sheaves, but on the part that had been drilled, 675 sheaves. The soil, when the broadcast beans were removed, was hard, difficult to be worked, and covered with weeds; whereas the drilled part was clean, friable, and in fine tilth.

* This important experiment is more fully detailed in Radcliff's Report of the Agriculture of Flanders, p. 7.

PART XVIII.

TRAVELS IN HOLLAND,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

VOL. II.

M

TRAVELS IN HOLLAND,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

I TWICE visited Holland, first in 1786, and next in 1815, at an interval of nearly thirty years. I consider it to be a most interesting country, and well worthy of the attention of any inquisitive traveller, who prefers useful information, to mere amusement,—or solid sense and virtuous habits, to frivolity and dissipation.

1. *Situation and Natural Advantages.*

Holland is far from being so disadvantageously situated, or so deficient in natural advantages, as is commonly imagined. It has a considerable extent of sea-coast, which is favourable to its fisheries and commerce. It has some navigable rivers within its limits, another great source of wealth. The country being flat, it can make, with little difficulty, a number of very useful canals. It commands the supply of an immense back country, (all the interior parts of Germany), and likewise monopolises the sale of the greater part of the productions they can export. The country, in general, consists of meadows and rich pastures, and the soil being fertile, the produce is abundant. The climate does not deny to the laborious every real necessary of life; and it is evident, from the appearance of the people, that it is not unhealthy.

2. *Character of the Dutch.*

It is impossible to deny that the Dutch are distinguished by a great desire for cleanliness, both in their persons and houses,—that they have a great spirit of industry,—and they are peculiarly distinguished for mercantile probity. Their hospitality I have every reason to celebrate. They are also very charitable and attentive to their poor, and, in general, are temperate and sober.

It is likewise well known, that many distinguished characters in literature, and the arts,—and many gallant soldiers, and able seamen, were natives of Holland. Indeed, a nation that has produced, a Grotius, an Erasmus, a Boerhaave, a De Witt, a Vandyke, a Maurice of Orange, a Van Tromp, and a Van Ruyter, cannot be accounted deficient in talent.

It has been remarked, that the Dutch are naturally slow in forming their resolutions, and their passions are not easily inflamed, but when once roused, they are obstinate, and even headstrong.

3. *State of Parties in Holland in 1786.*

The inhabitants of the towns, the army, and the dissenters of all descriptions, (as the Roman Catholics, the Arminians, &c.) were in general patriots or republicans. The inhabitants of the country, on the other hand, the navy, and the Calvinists, or those of the established religion, were attached to the House of Orange.

The causes of the dissensions which then prevailed in Holland, arose from, 1. Political, and, 2. Religious causes; and, 3. from Foreign intrigues.

1. *Political Causes.*

The old spirit of republicanism was still kept up by many in Holland.

The friends to *democracy*, are by principle afraid of a *Stadt-*

holder ; but on the whole, they were more inclined to favour him than the *aristocratic* party.

The *aristocracy* in Holland first raised the standard against the House of Orange, and are still expecting, by pulling him down, to raise their own power and influence.

They roused the population to action, and armed them, &c. ; but the people, finding their own strength, would be led no longer. The aristocracy then wished to draw back, but were prevented by the intrigues of the French.

The leading people of the province of *Holland* were at the head of the opposition, thinking, if there was no Stadtholder, that they would govern every thing. Indeed, before the last revolution in favour of the Stadtholder, (an. 1747), the republican and aristocratical families governed every thing.

2. *Religious Causes.*

None but real Calvinists were admitted into situations of power in Holland ; but the number of dissenters from the established church was very great, and indeed was supposed to comprehend above one-half of the whole body of the people. The Catholics were very numerous, particularly in the country. The Anabaptists also are a considerable body ; but the Arminians were the Prince's most formidable religious enemies. They were very rich, and spent large sums of money in maintaining the cause they had espoused. They were excluded from power by the exertions of Prince Maurice, and they have never pardoned the House of Orange for that old grudge.

3. *Foreign Intrigues.*

Such, however, is the power and popularity of the House of Orange, that even the late Prince would not have lost his authority and influence, had it not been for the interference of France.

The French had then reduced, the plan of exciting of disturbance in a free country, to a regular system.

1. They overran the country with their agents, in order to ascertain its real state, the disposition of the people, &c. The number and variety of the French agents in Holland, during my first visit in that country, was so great, that every Dutelman, it was said, might have a French spy, like a dog, to his mind, whether he preferred a young or an old, a male or a female, a tall or a short, a soldier or a merchant, &c. he might be accommodated to his taste. There were eight or nine agents or emissaries in Amsterdam alone. Some resided there under the pretence of commerce, as a Monsieur Pinsot, a great traveller, who was appointed Consul at Amsterdam. Others came, they said, for amusement merely. But what struck me much was, that I found at Amsterdam the Baron de Portal, and the Chevalier de Ternant, two of the principal officers employed by France to carry on their intrigues in America. Ternant, in particular, was a very insinuating and able man. He spoke English perfectly well, *and is now learning Dutch*. The true criterion by which a *deep French emissary* may be known is, that he devotes his time to learn the language of the country to which he is sent. He likewise affects to be a citizen of the world, and he is always talking of the good of mankind, the happiness of the human race, &c.

2. The next part of their system was to buy up all the newspapers. They found this plan to answer peculiarly well in Holland, for the people there, associate very little together, and believe nothing but what they find in the newspapers.

3. They employed clever people to write popular books and pamphlets. Many were published with numerous falsehoods regarding the tyranny of the House of Orange, the mischiefs which Holland suffered from the commercial rivalry of England, &c.

4. First, above all other arts, they found that *of bribery* the most efficacious. The sum it cost the French to bribe the Dutch was astonishing. It was calculated that the amount they had expended before the peace in 1782, was at least

L.500,000, and that, since the peace, as much more had been lavished for the same object. They bribed the Dutch, however, with their own money, which they borrowed in Holland, and probably never thought of repaying. The objects for which the French had put themselves to all this trouble and expense were very important.

1. They strengthened themselves, and they weakened England; 2. They expected to get material assistance from the Dutch in the East Indies, where they proposed next to attack us; 3. In the event of a war, the enmity of Holland would very materially distract our naval operations, and would expose our coasting trade to much loss; and, 4. If they got the command of Holland, they expected to make it their bank, and to be thus enabled to raise, in future, any loans for which they might have occasion.

4.—*Amsterdam, and the neighbouring villages of Brock and Sardam.*

This city was supposed to contain about 280,000 inhabitants. The principal building in it was the Exchange. It is superior to that in London, and possessed, when I visited it, some good pictures by Rembrandt and Vandyke*. The India house was but a poor building, and much out of repair; but the warehouses were magnificent, and proved the opulence of the Company. Above 1300 people were employed about the yard and the warehouses. The view of Amsterdam, from the top of the India-house, or the Stadt-house, was magnificent; but the town did not appear so large as I had expected, being thickly inhabited. The harbour was supposed to contain from 1000 to 1200 vessels; but there were three times as many ships employed in the port of London as in that of Amsterdam.

* Why should not the Exchange of London, the Bank, the East India-House, the Stock Exchange, and other public institutions, encourage the arts, by having pictures and statues executed by British artists?

The Work-house seemed to be well regulated. There were, on an average, from 600 to 700 people in it; but the expenses were from L.6000 to L.7000, and hence they cost the public about L.10 each.

Nothing could exceed the splendid hospitalities of the merchants of Amsterdam. The Hopes and the Wilkinsons, being of Scotch and English extraction, were particularly attentive to me; but even the Dutch merchants, as the Muilmans, the Bosts, &c. paid every attention in their power, to a Member of the British Legislature. The collection of pictures by the Hopes was peculiarly valuable. An Italian, who had settled in Amsterdam in the mercantile line, M. Crevenna, had one of the best libraries in Europe; in particular, an immense number of bibles. The beauty of the type, or the rarity of the book, were almost the only particulars to which such a collector attended; and M. Crevenna's librarian told me, that in regard to commerce and finance, (the two principal objects of my inquiry), *there was nothing interesting*; what he meant to say was, *nothing elegantly printed*.

A stranger, who resides at Amsterdam, will naturally be induced to visit two celebrated villages in that neighbourhood, Brock and Sardam.

The neighbourhood of Brock is quite enchanting, and with its painted houses,—beautiful vessels in its harbour,—and delightful environs, resembles more the scenery of a theatre, than a real representation. But the great difficulty was, to obtain permission to see the inside of one of those celebrated habitations, more especially as the only person in the village, who was accustomed to allow strangers to enter his house, had recently lost a son. Having accidentally met an old gentleman, who seemed to be civilly inclined, he at first agreed, on our pressing solicitation, to admit us; but when he came to his own door, his heart failed him, and he told us, that he had changed his mind. We next went to a shop; but upon applying to a female who kept it, she became frightened,—ran for a man in the house,—refused to sell us any thing,—

and desired us to get out of the shop as quickly as possible. We made several other attempts equally unsuccessfully. At last we went to the Orphan-house, which is very neatly kept; and it struck me, that dismissing our servants, and taking the director of the Orphan-house with us, we might stand *some chance* of admission. After several unsuccessful attempts, even with him, we succeeded at last. The house into which we were admitted was remarkably neat, both within and without. The furniture was uncommonly elegant; there was a great deal of fine china, and much rich plate; and I found, that their fear of having their house robbed, as well as of having the rooms dirtied, occasioned their shyness of admitting strangers. The Emperor Joseph, the late Duke of York, and others who came with numerous attendants, had tried in vain.

Their best rooms were shut up, and were never opened but on great occasions. They have one door, where they enter when they are married; and another, which is never opened but to carry out the dead.

Brock was unquestionably the richest village for its size in the world. Many of the inhabitants were worth from 10,000 to 20,000 pounds; and there was one woman in the village worth L.200,000, in consequence of a great accumulation of fortunes in her person, by the death of her relations, by whose "*will*," however, she must marry an inhabitant of Brock.

The village of Sardam is not so celebrated as Brock. At a distance, one is much struck with the number of wind-mills in the neighbourhood of the village, and on entering it, with the variety of elegant bridges, in the Chinese style, over the canals. The principal curiosity is the house which Peter the Great inhabited, when he was learning, at Sardam, the art of shipbuilding. There was an heiress, with an immense fortune at Sardam, whose name was Fish, but who was determined, it was said, not to get into *the net* of any one.

General View of the State of Holland, anno 1786.

The revenue of Holland was then about L.3,800,000, and the public debts L.45,000,000 Sterling.

The Dutch army was in a much better state than was commonly imagined. The navy was sufficiently numerous for Holland; but the ships were hastily built, and many of them were rotting very fast. The pay of the captains of their ships of war was very small. The principal part of their income was derived from supplying their ships with provisions, which they did as cheaply as possible; and from the bad quality of those provisions, good seamen were prevented from relishing the service.

It is certain that the Dutch fishermen make very bad sailors for a man-of-war. Their best sailors, for warlike purposes, come from Bremen, Hamburg and Jutland.

The commerce of Holland consists of six different branches.

1. For her own internal consumption, which must always continue much the same.

2. For the supply of the immense back country, through which the Rhine, &c. flow. It is the interference of Antwerp with this important branch, that has always made the Dutch so much afraid of having the Scheldt opened.

3. The exportation of their own productions, and those of the German districts with which they carry on a commercial intercourse.

4. The *Cabotage*, as they call it, or carrying trade; that is, supplying one nation with the productions of another.

5. Their colonial trade with their settlements in the East and West Indies, in Africa and America; and,

Lastly, Their commerce with foreign nations.

For carrying on these branches of commerce, the Dutch have many advantages; as, 1. The great capitals they possess; 2. Holland being considered the centre of exchange; 3. The complete establishment of freedom of persons, and security of property, which greatly promotes a spirit of indus-

try ; and, lastly, The Bank of Amsterdam, which is the heart of their commerce, and keeps their industry and their wealth in perpetual circulation. The most intelligent merchants assured me, that they could not carry on the same trade anywhere else, even in England, where these advantages were not enjoyed to the same extent.

It is well known, however, that the commerce of Holland greatly depends on the current interest. When money can be had at 2 or 3 *per cent.*, and when 3 *per cent.* more can be gained by commerce, goods are bought up and kept till a market can be found for them. But when money rises to 6 *per cent.*, commerce becomes languid, as it is not so necessary for monied people to embark in it.

The fisheries are still of some importance to the Dutch, but principally for their own consumption. The number of cod and herring vessels were not above 200, manned at the rate of six men each ; or, in all, 1200 sailors ; no great naval resource. But they have a number of boats upon the coast, who are constantly employed in catching fish, both for the London and Dutch markets, and are very skilful.

It merits particular attention, that many of the King's subjects in Hanover, more especially from Bremen and Verden, called *Hollands-gangers*, are much employed in the Dutch fisheries, know all the secrets of their mode of fishing and curing herring, cod, &c. ; and it would not be difficult to get some of them to settle in Scotland, and to teach the Scotch. They also know the art of making peats in the Dutch style, with a mixture of clay, which is greatly superior to the Scotch.

The distilleries are still considerable, to the value of £.180,000 sterling ; but it is said that they lose much, by inattention to the refuse of the still, depending solely upon the spirit.

During the American war, they raised considerable quantities of tobacco, and, in one year, to no less an amount than forty thousand hogsheads, worth L.25 each, or, in all, a mil-

lion sterling. But tobacco is now worth only L.10 *per* hogshhead. They raise it on very poor ground, (a sandy soil in Gelderland), by means of sheep's dung, which they employ the poor to collect and to mince. By means of this manure, properly applied, they can raise tobacco on the poorest soil.

I found that learning was at a very low ebb in Holland. Dr Maclaine, a Scotch clergyman, was reckoned the ablest writer in Holland; next to him was Vander Speigel of Zealand. Van Goens, of Utrecht, a very able writer, rendered himself so obnoxious, by defending boldly the cause of the Stadtholder, and pointing out the hazards of quarrelling with England, that he was obliged to leave his own country, and to reside at Basle in Switzerland. In regard to statuary or painting, there were no artists of celebrity.

ADDITIONAL HINTS,

Collected in the Course of a Second Tour to Holland, in March 1815.

I entered Holland from the Netherlands on the 3d of March 1815, and slept at Breda, a strongly fortified town, distinguished for several important historical events.

Some of the roads in Holland are made with small bricks, placed on their sides; but they cannot be a lasting material. In the neighbourhood of Flanders, the roads are paved with stone, brought from Namur, at the expense of about sixpence sterling *per* stone. The system of Macadam might be advantageously introduced into that country.

I found several ferries in Holland, but they did not seem to be well regulated. The boats were not so well constructed as those of the Queensferry in Scotland, nor had they proper piers on either side.

In some of the towns in Holland the streets are made so slippery, in consequence of goods being conveyed *in sledges*,

(traineaux), instead of carriages with wheels, that horses not accustomed to go on such a road, cannot keep their footing. Being at Rotterdam on a Sunday, I could not get the shoes of my horses frosted, which is of use in such cases, and was therefore obliged, to have some coarse woollen cloth put round the feet of the horses, by which means they were enabled to surmount the difficulty. At Amsterdam likewise, goods are carried in sledges, to save the streets ; but broad wheels would answer much better.

The fish from Sheveling to the Hague, are all conveyed in carts, *drawn by dogs*, which is much superior to the plan, so universal at Edinburgh, that of having them carried on the backs of women.

Agriculture *.

The ridges in Holland are about thirty feet broad, and raised very high, to prevent the water from doing mischief.

Waste Lands.

It is found in Holland an advantageous mode of improving waste lands, to raise broom, and to burn the plants, when grown to a good size, for manure.

The following receipt I purchased from the Count Rosenberg's shepherd, near the Hague, as being quite infallible :

Cure for the Foot-Rot in Sheep.

Gold Leaf,	3 ounces.
Verdegris,	6
Vitriol,	3
Burnt Alum,	3

All to be well pounded, and reduced into a fine powder, and afterwards boiled in a pound and a half of ordinary honey. It is to be

* It is said in Holland that agriculture is carried to greater perfection in Japan than in any other country. The Dutch botanists, who have been there, assert, that there is scarcely a single plant in the whole empire *that grows naturally*.

used cold. The foot, after being thoroughly washed and cleaned, to be anointed with the ointment, as soon as the malady is discovered, and once a-day, if it has lasted any time. It has never been found to fail, even with the Merinos, so liable to that disorder.

Meadows.

Holland is celebrated for its meadows, which are frequently flooded. This is not done artificially; but in high tides, the fresh water is forced back, and drowns the country. This flooding is not reckoned good for the meadows in winter, but is of use when it can be effected slightly in summer. The meadows are full of mole-hills, and no pains are taken to extirpate the moles. It might be expected that they would be destroyed by the floods; but, the earth being of a loose quality, they escape by getting deeper into the ground.

When the water deposits any kind of mud, flooding is useful, but when it deposits sand, it is injurious.

Mode of Paying a National Debt.

In Holland a part of the public debt is paid in this way: There is a lottery, and those are paid who come up first.

Conduct of the French in Holland during the Government of Napoleon and his brother Louis.

The French, in general, are fond of war, because they are poor, and wish to enrich themselves at the expense of their neighbours, whom they plunder with but little ceremony. During the period, however, when the French were in possession of Holland, they did less injury to the inhabitants than was apprehended. Louis, whom Napoleon had appointed King of Holland, was anxious to ingratiate himself with his subjects, and governed them with as much lenity as he could venture to indulge in. The principal injury done to Holland during that period, was neglecting their canals and dikes, so essential for the prosperity, and indeed the existence of that country. All the wise regulations for preventing any nui-

sance being thrown into the canals were neglected; and the preservation of the dikes was so little attended to, that had it continued much longer, the safety of the country would have been endangered.

Bonaparte's Escape from Elba.

It was on Saturday the 11th of March 1815, that intelligence arrived at the Hague of Bonaparte's escape from the isle of Elba. On the 14th I met with some officers of a Swiss regiment, quartered at Gorcum, who informed me, that a number of officers and soldiers at Paris, had worn, for some time, by way of distinction, a sprig or strip of violet, denoting their attachment to Bonaparte, and their hopes of his return to France, at the commencement of the violet season. It shews a most extraordinary negligence on the part of the French Government, never to have paid any attention to that circumstance; and though I heard it at Gorcum on the 14th of March, it was never mentioned in any of the papers printed at Paris, till the 15th of that month.

On the Appointment of Ministers by the new Sovereigns after their Restoration.

It was remarked to me, during my residence in Holland, that the Prince of Orange, (when he became King of the Netherlands), had been obliged to employ in his service several of the revolutionary party, (as Van Maanen), who had shewn great talents during the former government. The King of France, to a certain degree, followed the same system. In fact, in times of great convulsions, and in the course of revolutions of a general nature, men of energy and talents take the lead, and, when the revolution ceases, or is even overturned, it is for the public interest, that such men should, (if they can be trusted), share in the government. This is not much relished by their political opponents, who are anxious for a complete counter revolution; but it is for the interest of

the Sovereign and the State, that such men should be employed.

On the General State of Holland.

Holland is far from being a despicable country, and the great wealth acquired by its inhabitants has been well employed in the improvement of their country, and in forming dikes, making canals, erecting mills for drainage, and building substantial habitations. No where are the houses better timbered than the Dutch. The windows are too large and numerous, which makes their houses cold in winter. A medium size, on that account, is much to be preferred.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF HOLLAND.

I.—THE EARL OF ATHLONE.

After paying my respects to the Prince of Orange, who had been compelled, by the republican party in Holland, to take up his residence at Nimeguen, I proceeded to the Chateau of Amerengen, where Lord and Lady Athlone then lived. The name of the family is De Ginkell, of Dutch extraction, but ennobled by William III., for their services in Ireland. The house was large, and had something imposing in its appearance. It was moated round with ditches, had much wood in the neighbourhood, and seemed, on the whole, a pleasant place of residence. I arrived on the 1st of December 1786, and the weather was still so fine, that we resolved to attend a ball at the neighbouring Chateau of Zulstein, (belonging to the Rochford family), given by a Dutch gentleman, who rented it from the Earl of Rochford, then proprietor. The ball was kept up with so much spirit, that it was two o'clock in the morning before we returned to Amerengen. Lord Athlone was a warm adherent to the

Prince of Orange, and suffered much from the part he had taken. Lady Athlone was very sensible and intelligent. She was the mother of nine children, and a grandmother*.

From Lord Athlone I received very important information regarding the taxes of Holland and Utrecht. The following communication proves the friendly terms on which we corresponded together :

DEAR SIR,

Having seen your happy return to London, I have sent, according to my promise, the model of a hay-rick to Sir James Harris, with desire to transmit it to you to London ; and I have inclosed in it a paper, with all the dimensions and prices in this country. I suppose you will have somebody to translate it into English. The most customary manner to make them is without the foot ; but it was necessary to do it in this model, to keep it together. I hope it will be answerable to your purpose.

I suppose you are now in the middle of parliamentary business, and which will take up all your time, for I see by the newspapers that you have much important business to transact, and especially your commercial treaty with France, which I hope will not be the means of leaving out of view a treaty with this unfortunate country, and the renewing of the so unfortunately broken union between them. I hope that your noble friend is convinced of the utility of it for both the countries, and that he will not leave us a prey to the treacherous and insidious conduct of France, who will, if possible, ruin this country only to deprive England of any use of her once flourishing ally. In fact, since you left us, matters do not go backwards for his Serene Highness and his party. But with no support, how can we do against the party supported by the whole credit of France? And you know that, on the

* Lady Athlone strongly reprobated the fashion of small waists. She said, that any young woman who adopted that fashion, must either be a corpse or a martyr with her first child.

Prussian side, we have nothing to expect. I do not pretend that England should, in this moment, venture a war with France for our sake ; but, in my opinion, it would be sufficient to let them understand that England will not suffer a revolution in this country.

We have abandoned the idea of placing Lord Aghrim in the army, on account of some difficulties in the proper manner of effectuating it. I hope there will be another way of settling him in England, according to my wish. I am, with great regard, Dear Sir, your most humble servant,

ATHLONE.

Amerengen, 3d February 1787.

2.—M. DE FAGELL.

The name of Fagell has long held a high rank among the statesmen of Holland ; and I had the pleasure of frequently meeting with M. A. W. C. de Fagell in London, who represented that family. When he was afterwards appointed one of the Ministers to the King of the Netherlands, I was induced to send a proposal to him, for improving the communication between Brussels and the Hague, to which I received the following answer :

La Haye, ce 16. Janvier 1816.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER*,

La lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, ce 12. de ce mois, m'a donné une nouvelle preuve de votre zèle pour tout ce qui peut intéresser le bien public. Aussi je vous remercie, Monsieur, de tout mon cœur pour l'envoi de vos

* Translation.

The Hague, January 16. 1816.

SIR,

The letter which you have done me the honour to write to me the 12th of this month, has given me a new proof of your zeal for the public good. I cordially thank you for sending me your observations upon the means of establish-

observations sur les moyens d'établir une communication plus facile entre la Haye et Bruxelles. Je n'ai pas manqué de mettre votre projet sous les yeux du Roi ; et comme vous en avez fait passer également une copie à Monsieur le Duc d'Ursel, je ne crains pas de vous assurer, qu'il sera examiné avec la plus scrupuleuse attention.

J'ai encore des remerciemens à vous offrir pour l'envoi des portraits des personnes qui ont vécu extraordinairement ; ces exemples sont beaux, mais difficile à atteindre.

Je saisis avec plaisir, Monsieur le Chevalier, cette occasion pour vous renouveler l'assurance de la considération distinguée avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur le Chevalier, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

A. W. C. DE FAGELL.

3.—BARON DE NAGELL.

I do not recollect to have met with a statesman of more pleasing manners, than Baron de Nagell. We first became acquainted in London, where the Baron had lived for some time as accredited Minister from the House of Orange. On my announcing to him, on the 15th March 1815, my arrival at the Hague, where the Prince of Orange then resided, I had the pleasure of receiving the following friendly note in return :

Monsieur de Nagell will be extremely happy to receive Sir John Sinclair to-morrow, half past one o'clock, *at his of-*

ing a readier communication between the Hague and Brussels. I have not failed to lay your project before the King ; and as you have also sent a copy to Monsieur le Duc d'Ursel, I have no scruple in assuring you, that the plan will be examined with the closest attention.

I have, besides, many thanks to offer you for sending the portraits of persons who attained extraordinary longevity. It would be excellent, but difficult to follow their example.

I gladly take advantage, Sir, of this opportunity to renew the assurance of the high esteem with which I have the honour to be your humble and obedient servant.

fice, and to make use of that opportunity to renew an acquaintance *which has always been to him so agreeable*.

Hague, the 15th March 1815.

Nothing could be kinder than the reception I met with; and he gave me every assistance for collecting information I could possibly desire; in particular, by introductions to General Jassens, the Secretary at War, and to Baron Lampsins, who had the charge of the Prince's library. By his means, I was enabled to obtain very important information regarding the management of the Dutch dairies, which the farmers of Holland are very unwilling to disclose.

4.—COUNT HEIDEN.

The Count was at one time the Prince of Orange's Minister, and a very able man, but rather unpopular. It was said that the Prince did not pay that attention to his advice to which it was justly entitled. Having transmitted to him two copies of the plan I had engraved, of my extensive journey through the northern parts of Europe, I had the pleasure of receiving from him the following polite acknowledgment:

* Le Comte de Heiden a reçu, avec bien des remerciemens, le billet du Chevalier Sinclair, par lequel il a la bonté de lui envoyer deux exemplaires des cartes de son voyage au nord de l'Europe. Suivant ses intentions, il a eu l'honneur d'en remettre un au Prince d'Orange, qui lui en témoigne sa sen-

• Translation.

The Count de Heiden acknowledges, with many thanks, the note of Sir John Sinclair, along with which he had the goodness to send him two copies of the plan of his journey to the north of Europe. According to Sir John's desire, he has had the honour to deliver one of them to the Prince of Orange, who returns him thanks for this mark of attention. Sir John will be kind enough to receive, at the same time, the expressions of gratitude, and the sentiments of esteem and respect of his very obedient servant,

HEIDEN.

sibilité. Monsieur le Chevalier voudra bien recevoir aussi les expressions de la gratitude, et les sentimens d'estime et de consideration de son très devoué serviteur,

S. A. C^{te} HEIDEN.

Ce 1st Sept. 1787.

5.—COMMUNICATION FROM LIEUT.-GENERAL DE VANDER BORCK, REGARDING THE AGRICULTURE OF HOLLAND.

MONSIEUR *,

Je m'imprime de vous accuser la reception de la lettre, que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, pour me communi-

* Translation.

SIR,

Honsdork, near Breda, April 5. 1815.

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you did me the honour to write me, acquainting me with the questions upon which you desire the necessary information, with a view to your ascertaining the state of agriculture in this country. These questions would lead me into great detail, seeing the great variety of our soil, as well as of their produce, which depends upon the sun and different localities. But as this detail goes beyond the bounds of a letter, I intend to acquaint you with the distinctions, when I reply to your questions on this subject. If I can thus meet your wishes, I shall be delighted to be able to contribute in some way to your researches, which have so often excited my admiration, and merit, from the enthusiam they evince, the gratitude of all men who love the prosperity of their country. But I am sorry to think, that the picture I have to offer you, is any thing but satisfactory; for the history of our agriculture shows, that the misfortunes of the times in which we live, have totally ruined our farmers, and have made them abandon those operations which they had been enabled to carry on, by time being given them to pay their rents, and by the exemption from taxes, indulgences which the new Government have altogether done away with. I do not know if I can continue an undertaking I have myself in hand at this moment, namely, the taking in of a very extensive piece of uncultivated and sterile land which was of no utility, but which now actually gives life and nourishment to a population of 36 souls, and the produce of which affords sufficient food for 18 horned cattle, and 2 work-horses; without counting the amusement I derive from it, and the facilities it affords me for the culture of so many sorts of wood, which improve my estate, and embellish my avenues. But as it is now all burdened with enormous taxes, notwithstanding the exemption formerly granted, it is to be feared, that in the position in which unexpected events have thrown us, I may lose the fruit of thirty years of expense, and the useful observations which long experience has enabled me to make for posterity. If circumstances should permit me to do what I propose, viz. to make you acquainted with the particulars of our rural economy in this country,

quer les demandes, sur lesquelles vous desirez les informations nécessaires, afin de connoître l'état où se trouve l'agriculture de ce païs. Ces questions exigent un assez grand detail, vu la grande varieté qui se trouve dans nos terres, ainsi que dans les productions qu'elles nous donnent, et qui tiennent au sol et aux localités. Mais comme ce detail passe les bornes d'une lettre, je me propose de vous faire connoître ses distinctions, en répondant à vos questions à ce sujet. Si je puis remplir par-là votre but, je serois charmé d'avoir pu contribuer, en quelque façon, à vos recherches, qui ont souvent excité mon admiration, et dont le zèle doit vous meriter la reconnaissance de tout homme qui aime la prospérité de sa patrie. Mais ce qui me fait de la peine, c'est que la tableau, qui j'ai à vous offrir, n'est rien moins que recreatif, et que l'histoire de notre agriculture vous faire voir que les malheurs du tems où nous vivons ont totalement ruinés nos cultivateurs, et les a fait abandonner les defrichemens, qu'ils avoient entamés en faveur des remises et exemption des impots, qui leur avoient été accordés, mais que les usurpateurs n'ont pas respectés. J'ignore si je pourrois continuer mon entreprise, qui consiste dans un defrichement assez étendu d'une terre inculte et sterile, qui n'étoit d'aucun rapport, mais qui donne actuellement la vie et la nourriture à une population de 36 ames, et dont la produit suffit pour nourrir 18 bêtes à corne et 2 chevaux de labourage, sans compter ce qui sert à mon agrément en particulier, et la culture de plusieurs espèces de bois, qui amelioreront mon terrain, et embellissent mes avenues. Mais comme tout cela a été grevé des impots énormes, malgré les exemptions accordées, il est à craindre, que, dans la position où des evenemens inattendus nous ont jettés, je ne perds le fruit de trente années du depense, et les observations utiles qu'une

I will have the honour, Sir, to transmit my paper to the address you gave me, or to any other which will reach you, if you quit your present abode.

In the meantime, I beg you to accept my assurance of the very high regard with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

L. W. P. VANDER BORCK.

longue experience auroit pu me donner pour la posterité. Si les circonstances me permettent de travailler, à ce que je me propose, de vous faire connoître de notre œconomie rurale dans ce païs, j'aurois l'honneur, Monsieur, de vous le faire passer à l'adresse que vous m'avez donné, ou à tel autre que vous trouverez bon de me faire parvenir, si vous quittez votre sejour actuel.

En attendant, je vous prie d'agréer les assurances de la parfaite consideration avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

L. W. P. VANDER BORCK.

a* Honsdork, près Breda, ce 5. April 1815.

6.—UNION OF HOLLAND AND FLANDERS, AND THE ERECTION OF THE NEW KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

During my travels through Flanders and Holland, in 1815, the erection of the kingdom of the Netherlands, by the union of Holland and Flanders, was frequently the subject of discussion, and on various accounts it was maintained, that it would not be durable. The following reasons were assigned in support of that opinion :

1. The difference of religion, Calvinism being the established religion in Holland, and Popery in Belgium. The Roman Catholic clergy in Flanders, were thence decidedly inimical to the plan of a union, and viewed, with hostile eyes, any regulations favourable to the Protestant interest. 2. A commercial jealousy has long subsisted between Amsterdam and Antwerp; the former being convinced, that the shutting of the Scheldt was essential for its prosperity, and the latter, that if the navigation was re-established, Antwerp would soon regain its former commercial ascendancy. 3. The difficulty in fixing on a capital for the united kingdom;—the Hague, Brussels, Ghent, or Antwerp, all made pretensions to this honour. An attempt was made to surmount this difficulty, by making the

Hague and Brussels alternately the seat of Government. But this ambulatory system did not work well. 4. The manufacturing interests of Belgium were extremely hostile to the union; for, while it was the interest of Holland to import British manufactures, and to send them into the interior of the Continent, the manufacturers of Flanders were anxious to prevent any such importation from other countries, and wished not only to supply themselves, but their neighbours with goods. 5. There was a great commerce between Belgium and France. The Belgians sent lace, cattle, and other agricultural productions to France, and in return took wine and millinery. The balance, it was said, was in favour of Belgium; hence the Belgians are anxious to avoid laying a foundation for a future dispute with France, which would annihilate so beneficial a branch of commerce. Besides, if a contest arose with France, Flanders would probably become the seat of war.

On the whole, the separation of the two countries which has now taken place, was foreseen. It might have been avoided, if the King of the Netherlands had not trusted to the aid of his powerful allies,—had not run so much counter to the new ideas of liberty which had become so general,—and had shewn less partiality to his Dutch subjects, and paid more attention to the Belgians. It is evident that the latter, considered their interests to have been sacrificed to those of Holland, and were glad therefore, to emancipate themselves from so grievous a yoke. On the other hand, it must be admitted, that the Belgians, having a strong partiality for France, could not be depended on, (the generality of them speaking the language of that country,—many of their principal nobility living during the winter season in Paris,—and many of the farmers finding a market in France for their productions), and that they had already entirely forgotten the tyranny to which they had been formerly subjected, under the government of Napoleon, when they were oppressed with heavy taxes, and their children were liable to all the horrors of a conscription.

PART XIX.

TRAVELS IN DENMARK,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN DENMARK,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

SECT. 1.—*Of the Soil and Climate of Denmark.*

THE soil of Zealand and Holstein is in general excellent, and well entitled to better cultivation than it in general meets with. The climate, however, is not very favourable, and seldom agrees with strangers. It is violently hot in summer, and consequently very relaxing; and the winters are wet and damp, with less snow than might be supposed, considering its northern situation.

SECT. 2.—*Of the Character and Manners of the People.*

The ancient Danes are represented to have been a strong, hardy, and martial race of men; but ever since the establishment of a despotic government, *anno* 1660, they have not maintained their former reputation and glory. The Nobles were too often inclined to be expensive and luxurious; and the Commons were idle and dispirited. The diet of the peasants is very poor; and they are much addicted to spirituous liquors. In general, they wear nothing but wooden shoes; which cramping the circulation, and giving the muscles of their feet no play, occasion sometimes lameness, and hence the generality of them walk very indifferently. There are, however, a number of respectable characters in Denmark, who do credit to their country.

When I visited Denmark in 1786, the people seemed to

have no turn for manufactures, and were awkward about the most common articles. A smith, even at Copenhagen, was two days in furnishing me with a small key ; and after all made it very indifferently. Their leather was particularly bad and slight, and their wooden work very clumsy. They had got a tolerable hat-manufacture, and a china one, which they had brought to great perfection, both in regard to strength and beauty ; and they have since, I understand, in various other respects greatly improved. It was not, indeed, from want of genius, but from want of encouragement, that they did not make a figure in the arts. This is proved by the excellence which the celebrated Thorwaldsen has reached, who is acknowledged to be the first sculptor in Europe ; and for grandeur of conception, and the ability with which he executes his designs, if he does not surpass, he at least rivals the far-famed Canova. Professor Oersted also, is admitted to be one of the most distinguished literary characters in Europe.

The Danes were inclined to imitate English agriculture, gardening *, and other improvements. But industry can never flourish in a country where so many festivals are observed †, and where property is not carefully protected. They had an example of industry before their eyes, above a century ago, from a Dutch colony settled on the isle of Amack, in the neighbourhood of Copenhagen. But the Amakers remain the same people, as active and laborious as ever ; and so do the Danes, in general working no more than is absolutely necessary ‡.

* The Danish gardeners have a curious practice of covering the blossoms of their fruit-trees in the day-time, and leaving them exposed to the open air at night. This keeps them back until the season is favourable ; and hence they hardly ever lose their wall-fruit. They also raise, in the winter-time, cauliflowers in their cellars, so as to be ready early in the spring.

† About St John's day, (the 24th of June), in particular, they are idle for three weeks.

‡ The manners of the Danes are modelled more after the English than the French fashion. They have *clubs*, in imitation of those in London, where nothing but the English language is spoken. This has given rise to some odd mistakes. One gentleman, in particular, thought that *ch* was always pronounced *k*, and ordered a good *kicking*, instead of *chicken*, for his dinner.

SECT. 3.—*Of the Political System of the Danish Court.*

A short statement of the situation of Denmark, will clearly explain what its politics *must* be. It can do nothing in favour of England in time of war, (except permitting its subjects to enter into our service), unless Russia heartily joins us. Its dominions are very scattered, and very liable to be attacked. Sweden, even when I visited that country in 1786, looked with a wistful eye at Norway; and it was then a rooted principle among the Swedes, that Denmark should possess nothing to the north of the Baltic. The Norwegians disliked the Danes; but, fortunately for Denmark, they detested the Swedes most cordially; and, from the strength of their country, it was supposed, that they would always be able, with their militia of 25,000 men, to defend themselves against any attack that was likely to be made upon them. But, on the other hand, the Danish islands of Zealand, Fionec, &c. in severe winters, are very accessible to the Swedes over the ice; the very idea of which keeps them in perpetual awe of such warlike neighbours, who have often been at the very gates of Copenhagen. The fleet of Denmark is indeed superior to that of Sweden; but, in the winter season, when the Baltic is frozen over, that is of no importance.

Besides, war is always dangerous to a despotic government. The Court knows well that the people are far from relishing their present situation,—that they could not bear any additional taxes,—and that possibly advantage might be taken of public distresses, to procure a restoration of some of their former privileges.

They recollect farther, with much satisfaction, the advantages of the armed neutrality during the late war. It was amusing to them to be spectators of a bloody contest, without danger or expense. The addition to their commerce also, particularly in the article of freight, was very great. In short, it would be very difficult to prevail upon the Danes to support us in any war we may happen to be engaged in, especially in opposition to the wishes of Russia, whose claims upon Hol-

stein are well known, and who have guaranteed to them the payment of the duties at the Sound, which forms so important a branch of their finances. Indeed, the whole revenue of the kingdom being swallowed up by the peace establishment, and its credit being at the lowest ebb, no material assistance could be expected from it, except at an enormous expense.

SECT. 4.—*General Remarks on the State of Denmark.*

It is unfortunate for Denmark and Sweden that they are mutually so jealous of each other. Russia takes advantage of that circumstance, to keep them both under, and to tyrannize over the north. Of the two, the Danes seemed the most inveterate. They were anxious to be considered a braver, a richer, a more polite, and a more learned nation than their neighbours; and the most agreeable of all topics, is to compare them with the Swedes, and to cast the balance in their favour. In regard to learning, they have the advantage in one point, namely, in the number of volumes they had published; 25,000 distinct works have been printed in Denmark, and it is said not above 18,000 in Sweden.

The capital, (Copenhagen), is admirably situated, were it not so much exposed to the attacks of the Swedes during the winter season. It is well fortified, and could stand a siege for some time, were it ably defended. The inhabitants were numbered anno 1786, and amounted to about 94,000 souls. Its most remarkable buildings are, the Royal Palace, a great but heavy edifice, principally built from the profit of English subsidies, and the Tower of the famous Tycho Brahe, of a very peculiar construction, being perfectly round, and formed so that a coach and six may drive to its top.

The Danish fleet was entirely kept in the harbour of Copenhagen, but in so very dangerous a situation, that it might be easily destroyed by any desperate incendiary. The ships were by far too contiguous to the harbour, into which merchantmen are admitted, and were moored by much too close to each

other. An artificial harbour could easily be made, that might hold the fleet in perfect safety, could the expense of it be afforded.

The Danish regulations for manning the fleet, and for the discipline of the navy, are reckoned the best in Europe. The number of registered seamen in Denmark and Norway in 1786, are about 50,000 ; and it is said that 16,000 were in our service during the last war. The sum appropriated for the marine did not exceed L.200,000 *per annum*. But they proposed having in all 50 sail of the line, and to build three sail every two years.

The army and militia, until improved by the attention of the Prince, were in very bad order. The common soldiers were mostly recruited in Germany, at the expense of L.20 *per head* ; but having no national attachment, they took every opportunity of deserting to Sweden, where they found shelter and protection. The militia of Norway were reckoned the flower of the Danish forces ; and the Norwegian guards in particular, were supposed to be as fine a body of men as any in Europe.

The public revenue did not exceed a million *per annum*, of which L.100,000 arose from the duties of the Sound, a resource which cannot always be depended on, as nothing but the joint guarantee of Great Britain and Russia preserves it in existence. It is certainly a remnant of barbarism, to demand a toll for the liberty of passing an old castle, and to threaten a piratical attack upon those who endeavour to evade it. Besides, Sweden possesses one side of the strait, and consequently seems to have an equal claim to a similar exaction.

The Danes have an idea, that their power and command over the entrance into the Baltic may yet be increased. The deepest part of the Sound is contiguous to them, and they assert, that by filling up two or three channels, no vessel of any burden could pass, but through the harbour of Copenhagen. As it is, a ship of 90 or 100 guns must lighten itself

considerably, before it can sail from the Baltic into the German ocean. This is a circumstance entitled to particular inquiry, since, were it practicable, it would be the easiest mode of keeping the naval ambition of Russia within moderate bounds.

The commerce of Denmark would be considerable, were it not so cramped by monopolies, prohibitions, and exorbitant duties. The principal article it imports from Great Britain is coal, which would be consumed in larger quantities, were it not for a very particular circumstance. Ashes, by the custom of Denmark, is the perquisite of the house-maid. Wood yields great quantities, which sell well; and as hardly any are produced by coal, the house-maids of Copenhagen, therefore, remonstrate against the use of that species of fuel, and will hardly serve in a family where it is burnt. It is said that freestone might answer well in the Danish market, and many other British commodities, were the importation of them permitted.

The Danish East India Company was supposed to be flourishing, and indeed the shipping of the Company had increased from three to fourteen sail. But its prosperity was very fallacious. It principally arose from the permission which they gave to British merchants, to fit out ships under Danish colours, upon paying 8 *per cent.* for the value of the ship and cargo, going out and coming home. The goods brought from India were almost entirely the property of English Nabobs, who used to remit their fortunes through the medium of the Danish Company, but who left none of their wealth in Denmark. The enormous sums they drew from it, almost drained the country of specie, and made the exchange so unfavourable, that it was with the utmost difficulty the Danes could keep it within any reasonable bounds.

To conclude, so far as I could judge from a short residence in those countries, both Denmark and Sweden are kingdoms on too small a scale for the present state of European society, and will never enjoy much political happiness, until, ei-

ther by conquest or marriage, they are united. Both the Danes and Swedes endeavour to follow the example of their wealthier neighbours, in keeping up a splendid court, in maintaining considerable armies, and in fitting out formidable fleets. But a system of so expensive a nature cannot long be pursued without the most grievous oppression, and indeed has already reduced both countries to a state of misery and dependence. Were they united, instead of being in a manner the vassals of Russia, they might keep that empire in awe, and might soon become, one of the most powerful and respectable monarchies that Europe has to boast of.

DANISH CORRESPONDENCE.

I.—COUNT BERNSTORF.

Among the ministers of Denmark, in modern times, Count Bernstorf is admitted to be the most eminent. His family came originally from Holstein, but they have been for some time settled in Zealand. He succeeded an uncle who affranchised all his peasants, and to whose memory a marble monument was erected at their sole expense, as a token of their gratitude. He was a tall good looking man when I saw him, about fifty, with two sons and a daughter grown up, and several younger children. His family were all by a former lady, who was full sister to his second wife. This seems an improper connexion to an Englishman. His house, the Castle of Bernstorf, where he lived in a very splendid style, is charmingly situated within a short distance of Copenhagen. The family seemed to be well arranged, and very happy in each other. He was much troubled with the gout, a distemper rather unusual in the northern parts of Europe. He held the foreign department, and was by far an abler man, and better

politician than I had expected to meet with in Denmark *. He was very anxious to procure information from every quarter; and, I am persuaded, keeps the envoys from Denmark very alert at their duty. He seemed well disposed towards England; but, I suspected, was still better inclined to support the political objects of the two imperial Courts of Petersburgh and Vienna. No circumstance can prove more strongly the short-sightedness of human policy. If the party of the Queen-Dowager had at that time the government of Denmark, it would have followed the system of Prussia, our intimate ally. But at present, a jealousy of, and opposition, to the views of the Court of Berlin may be expected, and, from our connection with Prussia, even a coldness towards us. Yet, at the time, the revolution which took place in the Danish administration, and the appointment of Bernstorff to be minister, was reckoned a fortunate circumstance for England.

Letter from the Count de Bernstorff to Sir John Sinclair.

MONSIEUR †,

J'ai attendu le moment que l'assemblée du Parlement vous rappelleroit à Londres, Monsieur, pour vous remercier de la lettre obligeante que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire. Elle m'a fait un fort sensible plaisir. Le souvenir d'un homme tel que vous est très flateur. Vous n'avez pas été méconnu en Dan-

* The more populous a country, the greater must be the number of persons to devote themselves to politics, and the better chance there is of having able ministers.

† Translation.

SIR,

I have waited till the meeting of Parliament should recall you to London, to thank you for the obliging letter which you have been so good as to write to me. To be remembered by a man such as you is very flattering. You have not been unappreciated in Denmark; and if you preserve a friendly feeling for a nation who has long known your value, you will only return those sentiments which she will always preserve towards you.

I am also very thankful for the kindness which you have shewn M. de Torckelin; but I am much more so, for the opportunity which you have afforded me, of assuring you of the very high respect with which I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

nemarc ; et si vous conservez de l'amitié pour une nation, qui a sçu vous aimer, vous ne ferez que le rendre des sentimens, qu'elle vous conservera toujours. Je suis aussi tres reconnoissant des bontés que vous avez eu pour M. Torkelin ; mais je le suis encore bien davantage de l'occasion que vous m'avez donné de vous assurer de la consideration parfaite et distinguée, avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et obéissant serviteur,

BERNSTORF.

Copenhagen, 8. Mar. 1788.

2.—COUNT BERNSTORF JUNIOR.

There is nothing that could be more gratifying to a person, anxious to promote the interests of agriculture, than to have been the means, not only of encouraging the arts of husbandry at home, but likewise of spreading a spirit of improvement in foreign countries. It was with much pleasure therefore, that I received the following letter, from the son of my old friend and correspondent, the Cabinet Minister Bernstorf, who so feelingly expresses his hopes, that the regard I had entertained for his father, should be extended to the son. Every possible aid that I could possibly furnish, was given to so respectable and so laudable an application. Other instances will appear, in the course of this correspondence, of persons of rank and property, being induced to visit this country for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of agriculture.

London, 19th July 1800.

SIR,

Immediately after having taken the liberty to send you a letter from Count Purgstall, in purpose to procure me the honour of your acquaintance, I grew sick, and was extremely sorry on my not being able to call upon you, and not less mortified, being recovered again, to learn your having left the

town, which disappointed me uncommonly ; wherefore you will give me leave to plead now my apologies by means of the pen, and to rely upon your kindness.

Besides the advantage of your acquaintance in every respect, which I am afraid I am likely not to enjoy before the next year, I wanted very much your advice, which I had all reason to presume your kindness would not refuse me. One of my chief motives in visiting England, is the wish, to make myself acquainted with the agriculture of this country, which you would undoubtedly have given me the most satisfactory information of, and I would have been extremely happy to follow your advice. May I, however, now venture to ask you, whether you would think it proper for me to visit the farms of the Rev. Mr Close of Hordle, in Hants, and of Rev. Mr Bate Dudly in Essex, who are, as I am told, reckoned particularly skilful farmers, and at least by name certainly well known to you. But if, knowing them perhaps personally, you would exceed your goodness in recommending me to them by a few lines, I would be infinitely obliged to you. I am ashamed indeed of your certainly finding me very intrusive ; and I ought to hope, that the regard you always honoured my late father with, might speak a word for the son. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

COUNT BERNSTORF.

3.—SIR FREDERICK NIELSON.

A respectable Danish gentleman, Sir Frederick Nielson, who was the master of his Danish Majesty's Stud, came to Scotland, in 1824, to make an agricultural tour in that country. I had much pleasure in giving him letters of introduction to the persons most likely to furnish him with the information he wished for ; and previous to his return to Denmark, I was favoured with the following communication from him :

Leith, 11th July 1824.

Before I left my native land, my mind was pleasingly occupied with the thought of becoming personally acquainted with the individual, who has done so much for his own country, and the world in general, in the very department, which has chiefly engaged my own attention, during the best period of my life. But I have to lament, that an untoward fate only allowed me to see you, Sir, for a few moments; some of which were even employed by you, in furnishing me with letters of introduction to your friends, by whom my residence in Scotland might be rendered agreeable and useful. You will therefore permit me, Sir, while on the point of leaving this highly cultivated and most interesting country, to return you, in this manner, my best thanks, accompanied by expressions of my most particular esteem.

In reply to your question communicated in your letter to my countryman Mr Feldborg, I beg leave to state, that I am not aware of any Capercailies existing in any park or forest, belonging to his Danish Majesty, or any other individual in Denmark. Should such, however, be the case, I beg you to rest assured, that I shall feel a singular pleasure in complying with your wishes, as I may thus have another opportunity of being recalled to your friendly recollection.

With the best wishes for your own happiness, and that of your most estimable family, I have the honour to subscribe myself, with great regard and heartfelt gratitude, Sir, your much obliged and truly devoted servant,

FR. C. E. NIELSON *.

* As a proof of the estimation in which my exertions in behalf of agriculture were held by the Danes, I subjoin a note sent me by M. Neergaard, a Danish author, who sent me some of his works, accompanied with the following communication :

Rue Jacob, No. 11. Paris, le 24. Janvier 1816.

Bruun Neergaard, correspondant de la Société d'Agriculture de Paris, a l'offrir quelques'un de ses mémoires, au Pere de l'Agriculture Anglaise.

4.—PROFESSOR OERSTED.

The present King of Denmark is extremely anxious to introduce improved modes of farming into his dominions ; and with that view he directed, that a translation of the Code of Agriculture should be made into Danish, and published at his expense. I had the pleasure of receiving a copy of that translation, from the celebrated Professor Oersted, with the following letter :

Copenhagen, the 2d March 1824.

DEAR SIR,

In sending you herewith a copy of the Danish translation of your celebrated Code of Agriculture, I am glad to have the occasion of expressing you my thanks, for the kind reception I enjoyed with you, and of testifying for you my high esteem and consideration. Your most humble and most obedient servant,

OERSTED.

5.—PROFESSOR THORKELIN.

Among my Danish correspondents, Professor Thorkelin was one of the most interesting. He was a native of Iceland, and had revived the literary character of that country, which had long been dormant. He was peculiarly conversant in northern antiquities, and was also well acquainted with several other branches of science.

The ardour with which he entered into my pursuits will appear from the following communication :

Copenhagen, November 24. 1792.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

If I have not yet returned my warmest thanks for the kind

letter with which you were pleased to honour me, through the care of Mr Silberschildh, it was because I was in expectation of being able to satisfy your wishes relative to the Icelandic sheep. However, in this I have failed. The vessels going from hence to that unfortunate island have, in a great measure, been prevented from reaching their destination on account of the Greenlandic ice, which has more than ever, in the course of last summer, surrounded Iceland. In the meantime, I have frequently desired Mr Abildgaard, the veterinarian professor, to give you every information in his power, and I know that the Count Reventlow has done the same. Mr Abildgaard has given me his word, and is now going to England, after a short excursion to Berlin. You deserve the most lasting thanks of the public, nay of the whole civilized world, for your *Analyse de l'Etat Politique d'Ecosse*. It is here not only admired, but adored and followed. It has given rise to new ideas : to a new society in Norway, who have united themselves in order to make the present state of that long-forgotten kingdom publicly known. Posterity will bless you for your patriotic exertions, which, though they are particularly advantageous to Great Britain, will be of immense benefit to those who are so happy as to derive information of your labours. Your *History of the Revenue* is already translated into German ; and here it is resorted to by all our financiers. The *Analyse*, too, and the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, together with your plan for improving the sheep breed, is announced as preparing for the press at Leipzig.

In the spring, I shall beg leave to send you an *Essai*, which I have written on the state of Iceland, previous to the descent of the Ostmen ; it is now printing. At the same time you will have a copy of the medal on the birth of the infant Princess *Maria Louisa*. It will be worthy both of the Prince Royal, the delight of the Danish people, and the united citizens of Copenhagen, who by this means pay him publicly their homage.

Would to Heaven you would take a second tour towards

the North. This is the wish of every one who had the good fortune of seeing you here. Accordingly, the Count Bernstorff, Count Reventlow, and the Chevalier Bulow, have ordered me to assure you of their best regard.

As to myself, nothing will ever be more dear to me than to preserve untarnished that respect and gratitude with which I for ever remain, Dear Sir John, your most obedient, very humble, and much obliged servant,

G. THORKELIN.

PART XX.

TRAVELS IN SWEDEN,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY,

AND OF NORWAY.

TRAVELS IN SWEDEN,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY,
AND OF NORWAY.

SECT. I.—*Of the Situation of Sweden in regard to its Neighbours.*

THE monarchy of Sweden is much diminished in point of extent, compared to what it was a century ago. Russia possesses some of its most fertile provinces : others now belong to Prussia ; and Bremen and Verden are annexed to Hanover. The only counterpoise is the acquisition of Norway, which had long been among the titles of the Swedish Crown. When the late King Gustavus mounted the throne, particularly after he had freed himself from aristocratical fetters, he certainly had resolved to signalize his reign, by recovering some part of what his ancestors had lost. He put his army on the best footing his finances would admit of, was perpetually forming camps, reviewing his troops, collecting ammunition and stores, and making every possible preparation for war. This naturally excited the jealousy of his neighbours, which was not a little heightened by some imprudent speeches, which he either actually made himself, or which were made for him. For instance, when Russia was at war with the Turks, “ That he would certainly pay a visit to his neighbour the Empress, at Petersburgh, and would carry with him 30,000 friends to insure a cordial exception.” The Danes, and even the Russians, (though the latter will not confess it), are not a little

afraid of the warlike spirit and character of the Swedes. In particular, during the late Turkish war, Russia was very apprehensive of an attack. It suspected, with some reason, that the Swedes secretly fomented and encouraged Pugatchef's rebellion: 40,000 Russians were therefore sent into Finland, and large bodies of troops into Livonia, as the Livonians (particularly since all their old privileges and rights were abolished) have betrayed a strong inclination to return again under the Swedish government. Hence also the new fortifications in the neighbourhood of Riga. But as the Danes and Russians would probably unite in a joint attack upon Sweden, should it make the smallest movement, the Swedes see the necessity of lying by for the present, and of watching for some favourable opportunity of acting to advantage.

One thing both the King and the people of Sweden are very anxious to get rid of, and that is the payment of the Sound duties. But they know that cannot be effected without a war, which would be paying dear for the acquisition; particularly, as Russia would infallibly support Denmark in the contest. They are planning canals, therefore, to let small vessels through, across a neck of land, by which passing Elsinour and the castle of Cronberg would be avoided. But I doubt much the possibility, or at least the utility of the measure. The Danes, however, are very jealous of it; and one who resides in Count Bernstorff's family was sent over to inspect the ground, and to see if the attempt was practicable.

SECT. 2.—*Connexion with France.*

France has long considered Sweden as one of its surest allies. The French themselves have very imprudently said, that they keep the Turks and Swedes, like two wild beasts in their dens, to be let loose for the purpose of fighting, whenever they think proper. The connexion between the two countries was maintained by various circumstances.

1. A mutual jealousy, if not hatred of Russia.
2. The interest that France took, and the assistance it gave to Gusta-

vus, in effecting the late revolution. 3. By giving great encouragement to Swedish officers who enter into their service, either by *sea* or *land*. 4. By contriving that numbers of the Swedish nobility shall be educated in France; and, 5. By a considerable diplomatic expenditure, which has a great effect in a court on so small a scale as that of Sweden. The Marquis de Pons, who was the French Ambassador when I was at Stockholm, was at great expense to keep up the dignity of his country, to secure partizans at the Court of Stockholm, and to procure information. He had the largest private hotel in Stockholm, which was intended for the Princess-Royal. He gave his physician 1000 livres *per annum*, which is reckoned a great salary there: but he took care to give it to the King's own physician. His entertainments were very magnificent; but he complained that the Swedes did not associate with him. In fact, they are not very rich, and are very prudent. The richest man in the country (Baron Geer) had not L.5000 Sterling a-year. Count Fersen, the second in point of wealth, has only L.3000. Very few have L.2000 *per annum*; and therefore they very properly resolved, not to set themselves on a footing, or to keep company with one, who, in addition to his own private fortune, received L.6000 *per annum* from his sovereign.

By a treaty between the two Courts, Sweden got the little rock or island of St Bartholomew in the West Indies, of no great value or importance, and France stipulated for the privilege of building a naval magazine at Gottenburgh. But no step was taken to accomplish that object. It was at one time intended. But the French demanded, that all goods should be admitted duty free, and without inspection. This the Swedes refused, justly apprehending that it would become a magazine of smuggled goods. It is very difficult, however, to discover what was the real intention of the Court of Versailles in making the treaty, as it was in general the policy of that Court, and was particularly so during Vergennes' administration, to cover their real designs *with clouds of negotiation*,

that the objects they had actually in view, might become the more mysterious and impenetrable.

SECT. 3.—*Opposition to the Crown in the Diet of 1786.*

Nothing could be more firm and unanimous than the opposition that Gustavus met with at the diet assembled in 1786, particularly on the part of the nobles and the peasants. The opposition was headed by Count Fersen, who, on account of his estate, connexions and abilities, is reckoned the most powerful man in Sweden; and he was supported by Baron Geer, who is by far the richest person in the country. At one time, the spirit of opposition had run so high, and had so much pervaded all ranks of people, even the military, that the King was in a manner totally deserted; and if Count Fersen had proposed in the diet, the restoration of the old constitution, it would have infallibly taken place. But he either wanted inclination or spirit. Indeed, he is so much attached to the Court of France, where his son resided at the time in high favour, that he might be afraid of taking so bold a step; and perhaps his ambition is satisfied, with holding the balance between the crown and the people.

SECT. 4.—*Disposition of the Court and Country of Sweden towards England.*

The court seems rather to prefer a French, but the country, in general, I am convinced, would relish better an English alliance. The character of the Swedes and that of the English resemble each other much, which gives all the better part of the nation a partiality for England. But what both the Court and the country would prefer, is a war between France and England, and the advantages of a lucrative neutrality. The day I was introduced at Droningholm, the King said to Sir Thomas Wroughton, “When shall we have another maritime war? We long much for it in Sweden.” And no wonder, for it occasions a great additional consumption of their commodities; a greater demand for them, and consequently a

higher price ; and an opportunity of making immense sums of money, by freighting their ships to the powers at war, and by acting as commercial agents. One of their merchants very honestly declared, that he was almost ashamed of the money he made during that *golden era*, as he called it, namely, the American war. Their ships are now unemployed ; the exchange is turning again greatly against them, and their specie is going fast out of the country. In short, they are again getting into very great distress.

SECT. 5.—*Conduct of England to Sweden.*

The King (Gustavus) had a great desire to see England, and assembled the diet, which had nearly proved so fatal a step to him, in order to procure money for making the journey. It is said, that he has also a strong desire to be made a knight of the garter, and, in particular, to see an installation, in which, and in his taste for shews, he might be gratified. When in England, I am persuaded that an advantageous treaty of commerce might be made with him. At any rate, we might secure an absolute neutrality in war, and full liberty to his subjects to enter on board our fleet. Indeed, that kind of assistance (*a supply of seamen*), is the very thing we should wish for, as the most useful of any. If Denmark and Sweden aid us openly, we must pay them, for they cannot afford the expense themselves. It is to the full as cheap, therefore, and much more manly, politic, and creditable, to have our own ships and officers, and to mingle with our own sailors a certain proportion of foreign seamen. The northern courts would give permission, and *perhaps encouragement*, to their seamen to enter on board our fleet, for a small subsidy of perhaps £.20,000 each *per annum* ; and were that the case, I am persuaded, that from twenty to thirty thousand foreign sailors, might be expected from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. This resource was not sufficiently attended to during the last war ; though such is the partiality of the Danish and Swedish sailors to the English service, that some who were taken prisoners during

that war, in our ships, rather chose to continue in captivity, than to enter on board the French fleet.

But though admitting common seamen is a politic and useful measure, yet on no earthly consideration, ought any foreign officer to be received into our naval service. It is said that the *Ardent* of 64 guns, the only ship of the line taken by the French last war, or at least that remained in their possession, was captured, in consequence of the treachery of a foreign officer, who having discovered, in our service, our private signals, immediately deserted to the French, and communicated them to our enemies. Any discovery of that kind is of the most dangerous nature, and ought on no account to be risked. Indeed, the less experience and the less skill other nations have, the more must the naval character of the English shine on their proper element.

I had every reason to believe that Sweden, for a subsidy of L.50,000 *per annum*, would have entered into a treaty with England, Russia, and Denmark, to counterpoise the family compact, and to guarantee to us all our American, Indian, and other remote possessions. If that plan had been adopted, prior to the American war, it would have prevented all the mischiefs which have resulted from that unfortunate contest; for, if such an alliance had taken place, France and Spain could never have given any support to the colonies. But British ministers seldom pay sufficient attention to foreign politics.

As to the people of Sweden, we have advantages for securing their good wishes, which ought not to be neglected. Above sixty of the noblest and most powerful families of Sweden are of Scotch extraction, and not a little proud of their origin. Count Fersen, the most powerful man in Sweden, is properly a Macpherson. Duval, who was Landt-Marshall, or at the head of the last diet, is properly a Macdoul. The Baron de Geer, the richest of their nobles, and the second in point of influence, is of Dutch extraction; but then all his iron, in which his wealth consists, goes to Eng-

land, and naturally connects him with that country. Advantage also should be taken, of the belief of the people, that the English and the Swedes resemble each other much, in manners, spirit and government, and that even their language was originally the same.

Of the Herring Fishery at Gottenburgh.*

Mr Robert Crosswall, a native of Scotland, having settled at Gottenburgh, was accidentally induced to engage in the herring fishery there, which had not been previously carried on to any great extent. By his means it was raised to a very extraordinary height; for the sale of salted herrings being limited, he devised a plan for extracting the oil from fresh herrings by boiling, thus producing an article which sold well, and was always in demand. The quantity of oil depends much upon the quality of the fish. When herrings were lean, the produce was only at the rate of from one and a half to two gallons *per* barrel; but when the quality of the fish was good, the same quantity yielded from three to three and a half gallons of oil.

The produce of the fishery in 1785 was as follows :

	Barrels.
Salted herrings sent to the several ports of Sweden,	37,500
Ditto exported to foreign parts, - -	116,977
	<hr/>
Total,	154,477
	<hr/>

The quantity of herring oil exported to foreign countries, *an.* 1787, amounted to 34,056 ahms, and to different places in Sweden, 1554 more; making a total of 35,616 ahms. Each ahm contains four ankers, and was then worth L.2 *per* ahm; so that, even at that low price, the total value of the oil manufactured came to L.70,220. It was calculated, that from the inferior quality of the fish in 1787, it cost the manufacturers

* Besides the fishery at Gottenburgh, considerable quantities of herring are caught, and oil manufactured, at two places, called Marstand and Undewalla.

of oil L.16 *per* ton, whereas, in 1785, it stood them only from L.10 to L.12 *per* ton.

The bad fishing of 1786 ruined Crosswall, who was obliged to sell all his works, and had very little surplus. I was extremely anxious to get him settled in his own country, for by his means, the Swedish mode of fishing, and, above all, the mode of manufacturing herring oil, would have been introduced here. This would have been of immense consequence to our fishermen, as oil is an article which must always be in demand. The British herrings also, being richer in quality than the Swedish, would have produced a much greater quantity. Besides, the refuse of the fish would have been a most valuable manure, and easily transportable. But all my exertions for bringing Crosswall over were unfortunately in vain. It is to be hoped, however, that the manufacturing of herring oil will be promoted, as a great national object, by the Fishery Board now established in Scotland, and for that purpose, that premiums will be given to those who manufacture the greatest quantities. The fisheries at Wick and Thurso, on the coast of Caithness, are of great value, but might be considerably improved, if a part of the quantity caught were converted into oil. Indeed, that mode of consuming herrings, would be indispensably necessary to be attended to, if the herring fishery were greatly extended, as the market for salted herrings is so limited, that, by a great fishery, the price of herrings might be so much reduced, that the adventurers would sustain a loss, instead of deriving a profit, from their undertaking.

SECT. 7.—*Observations on the Character, Manners, and Government of the Swedish Nation.*

The character of the Swedes, particularly such as are uncontaminated by their pernicious connexion with France, is very respectable. Their courage in war has never been doubted. They are, perhaps, more hardy than their neighbours the Danes, which may in some measure be attributed, to their living in a country, where there is more frost and snow, and less

rain, than in Denmark. They are also very ingenious and intelligent; fond of literature, and entitled to claim at least an equality with other nations, for their chemical and botanical knowledge, it being difficult for any country to produce rivals to Berghman and Linnæus. Above all, they are distinguished for the prudence and morality of their private conduct, for a manly spirit of liberty, and a warm zeal for promoting the public interests of their nation.

They have many disadvantages to struggle with. Their soil is in general poor and sandy, full of stones and rocks, and naturally running to wood. Their climate is very indifferent, their summers being too hot, hardly producing any grass*, and not always favourable to grain; and their winters are so severe, that they are frequently obliged to take off the straw that covers their own houses, to keep their cattle from starving. Were it not for the red rye, which they sow in October, and reap in the August following, Sweden would have been long ago depopulated. As it is, they are hardly ever able to raise grain enough for their subsistence; and the expense of purchasing food from other countries, keeps them in perpetual poverty and dependence.

The Swedes have carried their manufactures to as great perfection as could well be expected. Their iron is perhaps the best in Europe. Their leather, hats, gloves, cabinet-work, &c. are excellent. But they can never rival England as a manufacturing nation, both from the want of natural products, (wood and iron being the only ones they have in any great perfection or abundance, their copper-ore being very poor), and because, by their northern situation, they are excluded from a commercial intercourse with other countries for so many months in the year. As it is, their trade would be very insignificant, were it not for their extensive lakes and inland navigations, and had they not the best roads of any country in Europe, England alone excepted.

* They should try feeding their cattle with the roots of grass, as is done in India and other hot climates, where the want of moisture prevents the growth of herbage.

Their system of government, when I visited that country in 1786, was very defective. In England, we find it difficult enough to manage two Houses of Parliament; but in Sweden there are four: The Nobles, who alone are 700 in number, the Clergy, the Burghers, and the Peasants, or Commons*. They all consulted in separate houses; and three of them must agree in opinion, and obtain the King's approbation, before any bill passes into a law. This is not always practicable, as there is a great deal of jealousy, and no principle of union, among the different orders. In short, as M. de Shack-Rathlow, a very able Danish Minister of State, remarked to me at Copenhagen, it was very absurd in the King of Sweden, when he set about making a revolution, that he did not sweep away every remnant of the old constitution, and establish a simple monarchy in its stead. It is said that the King intended it; but finding his adherents startle at the idea, he was obliged to pursue those half-measures, which seldom answer in the end, and will probably occasion, in some future period, the restoration of the old constitution, with stricter checks on the regal authority than was ever before thought necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF SWEDEN,
AND NORWAY.

I.—THE BARON EDELCRANTZ.

In the course of my long experience, I never met with any individual, possessed of talents more respectable,—of information more generally useful,—or of principles more correct, than a native of Sweden, “The Chevalier,” afterwards “*Baron*

* One would suppose, that the peasants were taken out of their proper sphere when they commence legislators. But I understand, that such as are sent to the Diet are, in general, shrewd and sensible men, and more intelligent than could well be supposed, considering their opportunities. None but real peasants can be elected; insomuch that the holding of any office, whether civil or military, or being in any of the three learned professions of law, physic, or divinity, is a sufficient disqualification.

Edelcrantz." I received from him a communication, on the subjects of health and longevity, full of valuable observations, which I had much pleasure in publishing*.

The following is a copy of the first letter, I had the pleasure of receiving from him, after his return to Sweden :

MY DEAR SIR,

The many different concerns, in which I have been engaged since my return from England, and the calamitous situation of this country, have till yet forcibly drawn my attention from all foreign objects, and from the communication with those interesting and respectable persons in other countries, whose acquaintance I always shall regard as the principal fruit of my travels, and amongst which your name, Sir, stands in the first line.

The storm here seems, however, now to cease ; we begin to breathe again ; a milder prospect opens itself to our eyes,—the prospect of peace, with all its happy consequences, and the hope of a perfect neutrality, which recalls to my mind England and Sir John Sinclair.

Since the letter, Sir, with which you favoured me last summer, I have waited with great impatience, the pleasure of seeing your son, with his companion, but they have not appeared. In the fact, Sweden could not claim a great share of their attention, and most probably your son has preferred the shortest way to meet his father.

I have perused with great satisfaction, your very interesting work on Longevity, astonished at the immense quantity of learning and useful knowledge with which it abounds. Although I cannot pretend to be a judge of such a work, it seems to me certainly to be the most complete and instructive we have upon the subject. Perhaps, in order to be still more useful, it wanted to be still more compressed ; but here, as in natural philosophy, the last degree of condensation requires

* See the first edition of the Code of Health, vol. ii. Appendix, No. 2. p. 7.

much more power, and presents more difficulty, than the first. I am particularly obliged to you, Sir, for the honourable mention you have made of my trifling communications, which did not expect to find its place amongst those scientific researches. With the first opportunity I intend to send you a Swedish book, of some merit, which I see you did not know, *Westerdale, au hälsans bevarande*.

Some time ago I made a plan, and was collecting materials to an *Essay on the comparative value of Agriculture and Manufactures, in states, in a moral as well as a political respect* *. The subject, though not new, may be considered under some new points of view, by the events of the time. It is after all interesting, and nearly connected with the questions agitated by the philosophers and politicians of the day, and with the happiness of mankind in general. But this and others of my favourite pursuits have yielded to the duties of my office, as President of the Academy of Arts and Superintendant of the King's houses, which I was invested with at my return from England.

I shall always be happy to hear, my Dear Sir, that you did not want yourself the precepts for preserving health, which you collected for the benefit of mankind; and I remain, with great esteem and regard, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

A. M. EDELCRANTZ.

Stockholm, 6th June 1809.

His next communication came to inform me, that I had been elected a member of the Academy of Agriculture at Stockholm.

MONSIEUR †,
L'Academie d'Agriculture à Stockholm, instituée il y a

* It is an unfortunate circumstance, that this work was never completed by an author so capable of doing justice to the subject.

† Translation.

SIR,
The Academy of Agriculture at Stockholm, instituted some years ago, by the

quelques années par le Prince Royal de Suède, desirant de s'associer, en qualité de ses membres honoraires étrangers (dont le nombre est fixé à douze), les personnes en Europe les plus distinguées par leurs expériences, leur lumières et leur zèle pour les progrès de l'agriculture, a d'abord fixé ses regards sur vous, Monsieur, comme le premier fondateur et le plus zélé promoteur en Angleterre d'une institution, dont l'objet, les recherches et le but sont les mêmes que les siens.

Permettez, Monsieur, qu'en vous présentant le diplôme de Membre de l'Académie, signé par son august président, j'aie l'honneur de vous renouveler en même tems l'assurance de ma profonde reconnaissance des bontés et de l'attention obligeante, que vous voulez bien me témoigner pendant mon séjour en Angleterre et en Ecosse il y a 15 ans, ainsi que l'expression des sentimens de la haute consideration avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être toujours, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

L. BARON D'EDELCRANTZ,

Président du Département de Commerce, et Directeur
de l'Académie d'Agriculture à Stockholm.

18. d'Aout 1817.

Prince Royal of Sweden, desiring to unite to itself, as foreign Honorary Members, (the number of which is limited to twelve), those persons in Europe, who are most distinguished by their experience, their knowledge, and their zeal for the progress of agriculture, has from the first fixed its attention upon you, Sir, as the founder, and the most zealous promoter in England, of an institution whose objects and aim are the same as our own.

Allow me, Sir, in presenting to you your diploma as Member of the Academy, to renew at the same time the assurance of my profound gratitude for the obliging attention that you were pleased to shew me during my residence in England and in Scotland, about 15 years ago, and also to express to you the high consideration with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient and very humble servant,

(Signed) LE BARON D'EDELCRANTZ,

President of the Commercial Department, and Director
of the Academy of Agriculture at Stockholm.

18th August 1817.

2.—BARON D'ARMFELT.

The Abbé Pierrard, accompanied by two young Swedish noblemen, came to Edinburgh, to prosecute some branches of education at the University. He informed me, that he had received an application from Baron d'Armfelt, to request my advice in the management of his estate in Finland; and on my desiring him to give me, in writing, the particular information required, he sent me the following communication:

Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair * a eu la bonté de permettre à l'Abbé Pierrard de lui présenter, par écrit, les renseignements que M. le Baron d'Armfelt désire avoir, sur la culture de ses terres en Finlande. Voici l'extrait de la lettre de M. le Général d'Armfelt: “ *Puisque vous avez fait la connoissance de Sir John Sinclair, qui est le héros de l'économie rurale, vous pourriez, peut-être, mon cher Abbé, me procurer par lui des semences de turnips d'une bonne espèce, et d'autres semences qui supporteroient le climat de la Finlande; il ne m'en faut pas beaucoup, car je commence mon économie par échantillon.*”

La terre de M. d'Armfelt est dans les environs d'Abo, entre le 60^{ème} et 61^{ème} degré de latitude. La majeure partie de cette terre est encore en friche, et l'on y manque de bras pour la culture.

* Translation.

Sir John Sinclair has had the goodness to permit the Abbé Pierrard, to present him, in writing, the information which the Baron d'Armfelt desires to have regarding the cultivation of his estates in Finland. The following is the extract of the letter of General d'Armfelt: “ Since you have made an acquaintance with Sir John Sinclair, who is the hero of rural economy, you will be able, perhaps, my dear Abbé, to procure through him some turnip seed of a good sort, and other seeds which will stand the climate of Finland. I don't need much of it, for I begin by small experiments.”

The estate of Monsieur d'Armfelt is in the environs of Abo, between the 60th and 61st degrees of latitude. The greater part of this land is still waste, and there is a want of hands to cultivate it.

A number of questions were annexed, which it is unnecessary here to print.

The information requested was of course sent to the Abbé, to be transmitted to Baron d'Armfelt.

Soon afterwards I received the following communication from the Abbé. It is delightful to see such magnanimous sentiments displayed by the brave Swedish nation, who fortunately escaped the attacks with which they were then threatened.

L'Abbé Pierrard *, et Messieurs ses élèves se sont présentés chez Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair, pour lui souhaiter un bon voyage, le remercier des bontés qu'il a eu pour eux, et lui en demander la continuation. Ils espèrent avoir l'honneur de lui présenter leurs devoirs à Londres, au mois de Juillet prochain.

D'après les nouvelles qu'ils viennent de recevoir de Stockholm (en date du 7 Decembre), les Suédois se voient menacés des François par la Zéelande, des Danois par la Norwége, et des Russes par la Finlande ; mais il paroît que l'on y craint moins la mort que la honte de soumettre.

15. de l'an 1808.

* Translation.

The Abbé Pierrard and his pupils, called at Sir John Sinclair's, to wish him a pleasant journey,—to thank him for the attention he has shewn them,—and to ask a continuation of it. They hope to have the honour of paying their respects to him in London next July.

According to the intelligence they have just received from Stockholm, dated 7th December, the Swedes see themselves threatened by the French from Zealand, by the Danes from Norway, and by the Russians from Finland ; but it appears they fear death less than the disgrace of submitting.

15th January 1808.

3.—M. SPARRMAN OF STOCKHOLM.

Stockholm, 25. Octobre 1792.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

C'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que je viens de recevoir et de lire votre très intéressant Prospectus ou Analyse de l'Etat Politique d'Ecosse. Je ne sais pas par qui m'été delivré cette ouvrage, utile pour la société, et dont on ne peut que trop désirer la continuation. Deux planches sur le brebis, avec des questions par rapport à cette animal, me sont parvenu en même temps ; mais je ne saurrai pas encore vous satisfaire la-dessus, en attendant, pour mieux reussir, le General Sinclair, votre correspondant aussi ici et moi. Nous nous avons adressé à un ami, et bon naturaliste, le Chevalier et President Carlson, qui nourrit beaucoup des brebis dans son fief Maelby. Le Museum Carlsonianum est à le dit Chevalier, dont nous avons donné 4 volumes, avec des planches enluminées, à voir chez Sir Joseph Banks et Mr White, bookseller, Fleet Street.

* Translation.

SIR,

It is with much pleasure that I have just received and read your very interesting Prospectus or Analysis of the Political State of Scotland. I do not know through whom I have been favoured with this work, so useful to society, and of which we cannot too much desire the continuation. Two engravings of sheep, with queries respecting that animal, reached me at the same time ; but I cannot yet satisfy you on the subject, as I am waiting for the arrival of General Sinclair, who is your correspondent here, as well as myself. We have written on the subject to a friend and good naturalist, the President and Chevalier Carlson, who rears many sheep on his estate of Maelby. The Museum Carlsonianum belongs to this gentleman ; the work now extends to 4 volumes, with coloured engravings, to be seen at Sir Joseph Banks' and Mr White, bookseller, Fleet Street.

The bearer of this letter is Mr Vervignac, formerly pacificator at Avignon and French minister here, a man of much information and merit, well able to appreciate yours, and who would gladly avail himself of your knowledge.

Again, Sir, I congratulate you upon your laudable enterprise, the History of Sheep, of which I even now can foresee the complete success in your hands. I therefore consider it a sacred duty to satisfy you as to your queries, which I shall communicate to other friends and persons of knowledge, to excite them to contribute to the advancement of this science, and to your satisfaction. I remain, &c.

Le porteur de cette lettre sera Monsieur Vervignac, ci-devant pacificateur à Avignon, et Ministre François ici, homme de beaucoup des connoissances et de merite, qui sauroit bien apprecier les vôtres, et qui seroit flatté de profiter de vos lumières.

Encore, Monsieur le Chevalier, je vous felicite à votre entreprise laudable, (l'Histoire sur le Brebis), et dont je peut bien à cette heure prévoir une reussite parfait entre vos mains; c'est pourquoi que je regard comme une devoir sacré de vous satisfaire sur vos questions, et dont je communiquerois encore à d'autres amis et connoisseurs, pour les exciter à contribuer à l'avancement de cette science, et à votre satisfaction.

C'est avec beaucoup d'estime, Monsieur le Chevalier, que je suis votre très humble serviteur,

ANDRE SPARRMAN.

4.—MAJOR STJERNSWARD, OF ENGELHOLM, IN THE
PROVINCE OF SCANIE IN SWEDEN.

This spirited agriculturist addressed to me the following interesting communication, in language, though not very pure, yet abundantly expressive: I had much pleasure in complying with his wishes.

Engelholm and Engeltofte, 8th January 1808, Schweden.

BARONET,

Do not take it ill, that a stranger, living so far from England and Scotland, dares to write this letter. As far as the agriculture is valued in Europe, one knows your name, and endeavours of bringing the economy to a perfect light, whereof my native country already has begun to reap fruits, through the favour of the Earl of Kellie, who has been so good as send to me some serviceable people. This has attracted the attention of my king, who has given a proof of his acknowledgment to the Earl of Kellie, and sent a recommendation

for me to the British government, that I might be permitted to agree some work-people. Baronet! Send to Schweden a gleam of your light. Be you the protector of this colony, as the Earl of Kellie is its first benefactor. Permit me to cast myself into your arms. Lead and conduct a ready will, and a great ignorance to the true aim. I possess with debt 10,000 acres of the best ground, in a not barbarial climate; though, with respect to the knowledge of the agriculture, in a barbarial land. I will distinguish me; and if I am permitted to do it under the greatest master in Europe, I will endeavour to do it well.

I hope the name of Sinclair, by fortitude (valour) eternised in Schweden*, gives to this, its second native country, a proof of its wish, that the happiness of mankind may increase. Pardon me when I do not write correct, and honour me with a favourable answer. I live for ever, with the most distinguished regard and esteem, your most humble and obedient servant,

C. G. STJERNWARD.

5.—C. ANKER, ESQ. OF NORWAY.

The inhabitants of Norway are a most respectable race of people, and peculiarly distinguished by their attachment to Great Britain. It was with much pleasure, therefore, that I cultivated a friendship, and showed every attention in my power to any of them with whom I happened to become acquainted. Among these, Mr C. Anker was one of the most eminent, and from him I had the pleasure of receiving the following communication. It is written in English, as he was a perfect master of that language.

* Alluding to officers of the name of Sinclair, who served under Gustavus Adolphus in Germany, among whom was my great-great-grandfather, John Sinclair of Tannach and Brims.

DEAR SIR,

When I was at Leith I did not fail to call on you, and I hope your servant or butler, to whom I communicated my name in writing, has mentioned it.

Though I was greatly disappointed in not meeting you, my Dear Sir, I still flattered myself, that the opening of Parliament would bring you up to London, and that I might there have had the much-desired satisfaction, to renew acquaintance, with so valuable a friend, and to have enjoyed the comfort of conversing, without reserve, upon the distressing subject of my suffering country, (Norway), and the unaccountable, nay, cruel usage, an innocent people meets with, even from Great Britain, whom we, simpletons, imagined to be our best friends.

Among numbers of other privations, I had to submit to that of your not coming to town.

Permit me now, Sir John, to address you in favour of the bearer, Mr Smith, professor in botany. He is my countryman, and just arrived from Norway. Scotland, and most particularly the Highlands, are the first objects of his attentions relatively to agriculture, and the remarkable improvements therein, chiefly owing to your example and celebrated exertions.

Any kindness, good advice and instructions bestowed on Mr Smith, will highly oblige, Dear Sir John, your faithful, humble servant,

C. ANKER.

London, 6. York Street, St James's,
the 27th August 1814.

6.—MR JOHN COLLETT OF ULLEVOLD, NEAR CHRISTIANIA, IN
NORWAY.

The establishment of a British Board of Agriculture was considered, by the more northern countries in Europe, as being of peculiar importance to them, from the hopes they en-

tertained that they would thus be not only enabled to obtain a thorough knowledge of British husbandry, but that they might likewise derive advantage from the observations of British agriculturists on the plans they had adopted. Impressed with these ideas, I received the following letter from a Norwegian proprietor and farmer, Mr John Collett, whose conviction was, that the Board of Agriculture was established, not for Great Britain alone, but that the whole universe was to be benefited by its exertions. The extinction of that Board, therefore, by the ignorance or the jealousy of a British Minister, was a general subject of regret, in every part of the Continent where agriculture was at all the object of attention.

Ullevold, near Christiania, in Norway, the 5th April 1805.

SIR,

By the particular desire of Mr George Begtrup, Professor of Husbandry at the University of Copenhagen, I take the liberty to send you a description of my essays in husbandry at my estate Ullevold, near Christiania, in Norway.

As it is your great and laudable object, Sir, to benefit, not alone your own country, but the whole universe, Professor Begtrup presumed that you probably might wish to have my description of Ullevold inserted in the transactions of the Board. If this should be approved of, the bearer of this letter, the Rev. M. Rossing, clergyman to the Danish Church in London, might be prevailed on to undertake the translation.

It is my intention to print a continuation of my Essays, which I hope will be of some importance for the husbandry of Norway, and other northern climates. When the book is printed I will take the liberty to forward it to you.

If any of your friends should ever visit Norway, I will be happy to shew them every civility, and to give them every possible information concerning the method of my cultivation. I remain, with great regard, Sir, your most humble servant,

JOHN COLLETT.

PART XXI.

TRAVELS IN RUSSIA,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN RUSSIA,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY*.

SECT. I.—*Of the Character and Manners of the Russians* †.

THE Russians, as might be expected from their remote and isolated situation, are behind the other nations of Europe in point of civilization. They are naturally, however, prone to acts of kindness and charity; and the various revolutions which have taken place in Russia, without almost any bloodshed, furnish a strong evidence of the good temper of the people. If the Russians had been naturally cruel, such events would have furnished numberless pretexts to a licentious soldiery, and others acting under the influence of real or supposed provocations, for gratifying their private malice. The nobles who reside in the country were, in some cases, tyrannical to their peasants and other dependents; but by an edict of Catherine II, the power of masters over their peasants was limited within certain boundaries; and they are denied the privilege of corporal punishment, except through the medium of the civil power. Domestic servants are in general compelled to such tedious attendance, waiting for hours every day in

* An account of the Empress Catherine will be found in vol. i. p. 7;—of the Emperor Paul, ib. p. 10;—of the Princess Daschkow, ib. p. 149;—and of the Marechall Romanzoff Sadounaisky, ib. p. 209.

† The following observations are chiefly applicable to Russia in 1786, and are extracted from my Journal, written at that period; since which, great alterations have taken place, both in the political power, and the social state of that vast empire.

the hall of their master, hardly venturing to open their lips, that to a person of any feeling, no life could be more insupportable.

All over Russia, but particularly in the towns of Moscow and Petersburgh, the greatest luxury prevails. The rich nobles think nothing of destroying a field of barley, to procure a single dish of green grain, of which they are very fond. At the commencement of the season, they will sometimes give from 50 to 100 rubles for a *sterlet*, or small sturgeon, about the size of a cod. Oysters will fetch, when they first arrive, a ruble, or 3s. 6d. per dozen; and it is said that the Prussians might establish a powerful interest at the Court of Petersburgh, by contriving the means of supplying it earlier with that favourite article.

The whole winter at Petersburgh is one continued scene of dissipation; but it becomes tiresome from its uniformity. Foreigners are well received there, and a person who has the talent of enabling them to pass their long winter of seven months, with as little *cunni* as possible, is in great request. They play much at cards, billiards, chess, &c., and sometimes very deep. As in other countries where gambling is fashionable, some take every advantage, when an opportunity presents itself, and borrow money without ceremony, and without any idea of repayment. The Russians seem very jealous of one another, and to take a pleasure in exposing their mutual failings to strangers. The courtiers affect a mixture of the French and English manners, but are seldom to be depended on for strict integrity. In the country, respectable characters are oftener met with than in the towns, but even these tinctured by the vices of their education. Hence, it is contended by those who are hostile to this great empire, that Russia may be compared to an ape on the back of a tiger, or to the generality of the houses at Petersburgh, which, *without*, are well plastered, and have a handsome enough appearance, but *within*, are made up of bad bricks, and other miserable materials.

The common people in Russia still wear their beards and their old dress, which resembles the Asiatic. Of late, high-crowned hats have become very common; and having no pockets, they put their handkerchiefs, (which should be there called *hat*, and not *pocket* handkerchiefs), in the crown of their hats. They are not remarkable for their cleanliness. Their outer garments being made of sheep-skins, are generally offensive; and as they consume great quantities of garlic and raw onions, it is not pleasant to be near them. Having no beds, they sleep upon benches, and never change their garments even when they sleep. They are very fond of being intoxicated; but, what is remarkable, are good-humoured in their cups, and there are hardly ever any violent quarrels among them. They are very superstitious; never pass a church without making the sign of a cross, a custom which they regularly observe, even in Moscow, where there are about 1000 churches. They are rather deficient in point of invention, but will imitate any thing, and will come very near, if not fully equal the original they were ordered to copy. Many of the Russian nobles, like the old senators of Rome, employ their slaves, or peasants, in different manufactures, and sell the produce of their industry at Moscow and Petersburgh. The more ordinary practice is to share the produce of such industry between the lord and his boor or peasant. The latter, it is true, cannot claim, as a right, the fruits of his labour; but so different is the national feeling on this subject, that a lord would not dare to urge his right, by seizing the whole, to which, in strict law, he is entitled. Hence it is well known, that peasants have possessed fortunes of from 10 to 20,000 rubles, without feeling any apprehension that their masters would prefer claims to any part of it, though legally entitled to seize the whole.

SECT. 2.—*Of the Government of Russia.*

Nothing can be conceived more despotic than the government of Russia. The Court interests itself in every thing; in

mariages, in law-suits, in the purchase of estates, &c. The general laws of succession and inheritance are established by edicts * ; but when a testator chooses to deviate from these, his dispositions are valid, if he can procure the sanction of the court.

The *knout* has still a great influence over the people, of which the following story is a proof : In the winter of the year 1785, some very smart lines were written, ridiculing the foreign ministers at Petersburg, to the great amusement of the Empress, and of the whole Court. This encouraged the author to write some additional verses, in which the Empress herself was not spared. The libel, as it was called, was immediately ordered to be burnt, *with a knout*, by the common executioner : A hint which soon put an effectual end to the pasquinades of Petersburg.

But as the nature of the Russian government can be known from so many printed volumes, it is needless to dwell upon it here.

SECT. 3.—*Of the Political State of Russia.*

The following, as well as I could learn from various authentic quarters, was, in the year 1786, the real political state of the Russian empire :

Its population, including its Tartarian and Polish subjects, was then little short of 25 millions ; and it might have about 20 millions of effective subjects, in a military and financial view †.

Very regular accounts are annually drawn up of the Russian commerce ; but such is the extent of the empire, that

* By those edicts a widow inherits one-fourth of all moveable property, and one-seventh of all immoveables. Every female child is entitled to half as much as falls to the mother's share, if unmarried and unportioned, viz. one-eighth and one-fourteenth. The rest of the estate goes to the sons, or nearest relations of the deceased, in equal portions, no preference being given to primogeniture in any succession whatever.

† After the partition of Poland in 1794, the population of the empire was estimated at 32 millions.

they are often two years behind hand ; and, in 1786, the latest account I could find was for the year 1783, when its foreign commerce was as follows :

			<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Copecks.</i>
Exports by sea,			19,815,318	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Exports by land to Poland, Turkey, China, ...			3,688,313	47 $\frac{3}{4}$
			<hr/>	
			23,503,631	59 $\frac{1}{4}$
Imports by sea,	14,809,112	38 $\frac{1}{4}$	} 19,251,476	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imports by land,	4,442,364	16 $\frac{1}{4}$		
			<hr/>	
			Balance, 4,252,155	4 $\frac{3}{4}$

Which, at six rubles to the guinea, is above L.700,000 sterling. The quantity of specie imported that year amounted to R. 2,808,131,40 c., or about L.470,000 sterling, the whole of which, with the exception of 164,408 rubles, was imported into Riga, and is a sufficient proof of the importance of that town, and of the province of Livonia, to the Russian empire *. The number of ships that arrived, or, according to our technical phrase, that entered inwards, that year, amounted to 2637, of which 587 were British.

The establishment of the army in 1786 was about 450,000 men, including 100,000 Cossacks, and other irregular troops. Of that number about 30,000 were deficient. But the non-effectives, in a government like Russia, are soon supplied. Each proprietor of land, in proportion to the number of his peasants, is obliged to furnish, on the shortest notice, one or more. The landlord must pitch upon the stoutest, and the fittest for service ; and to prevent desertion, he immediately shaves his beard, and cuts his hair short, in the military form ; after which no person will dare to harbour or protect him.

* It was enacted by the tariff 1782, that all custom-house duties on goods imported into, or exported from Riga, should be paid in rix-dollars, or some other coin of equal fineness, which accounts for so large an importation of specie into Riga ; but by a posterior tariff, an. 1796, permission was given to pay the duties *on imports* into Riga in the national paper currency, or in copper, at certain stipulated rates.

The soldier's pay is very small, and is principally paid in grain, each individual receiving a certain quantity of buck-wheat, sufficient for his maintenance, which he boils, and eats without further preparation. It is so very nourishing a diet, that a similar plan should be tried in our army and navy, particularly on foreign service.

The troops, both horse and foot, are in very good order, particularly the common men, who are very hardy, feed very plain, can drink the puddle of a ditch, and are accustomed to sleep upon benches with their clothes on, the peasants having no beds in Russia. I should imagine, at the same time, that some disorder would be apt to break out in a Russian army, in the course of a long campaign, from the poor, and frequently unwholesome quality of the provisions on which they subsist, and from their being deprived of their hot-baths, so necessary, even when they are at home, and in their own houses, for their health. The Russian officers are much inferior to the common soldiers; but there are many German, and a few British officers, in the service; and the Empress is training up a number of young cadets, the children of the nobility, to the military profession.

The artillery alone amounted to about 30,000 men, and their arsenals are full; and convinced that much depends upon artillery, in modern warfare, there are 300 cadets annually bred up to be regular engineers.

One great advantage which Russia possesses in a military view, is the cheapness and abundance of saltpetre, and consequently of gunpowder. The saltpetre is principally collected in the Ukraine, and the neighbouring provinces. They burn beech-wood, spread the ashes upon old encampments, for the purpose of attracting saltpetre, which is easily separated. During the American war, they began to export gunpowder and saltpetre. The latter is reckoned by far the strongest and best of any made in Europe.

Their fire-arms are very bad, and a regiment of 1000 men are never exercised without two or three muskets bursting, and killing or wounding some of them.

The fleet is formidable. The number of their line-of-battle ships, in the Baltic, at Archangel, built, building, and repairing, were about forty; of which, however, not above twenty-five are actually fit for service.

Altogether it is proposed to keep up fifty sail of the line in the northern seas; of which eight sail are to mount 100 guns each; a very absurd plan, considering how difficult it is to get such vessels down the Baltic, and particularly past the Sound.

The number of seamen for the Baltic alone, according to the establishment signed by the Grand Duke, as Lord High Admiral, for the year 1786, was as follows:

	<i>Number.</i>
The officers and seamen,	13,000
Marines,	4,600
Artillery,	3,200
Galleys,	2,000
	<hr/>
Total,	22,000

They employ some English builders, but are training up Russians to that profession; one in particular, who follows the footsteps of the most experienced of the English builders, attempting one week to perform what the other executed the preceding. They have got, from the indulgence given to the Russians, as our allies and friends, every naval machine invented by us; a favour which they shamefully abuse, as they give to every other nation the same advantage; and even the French officers who were at Cronstadt, *anno* 1786, obtained, without difficulty, the English mode of making blocks, which they had often endeavoured in vain to procure from Great Britain.

They build cheap; but some of their ships are only fir; and even their oak, which comes from Casan, does not last above ten years *; consequently nothing but perpetual attention can

* There are three kinds of oak in Russia. The best oak, in the opinion of Admiral Knowles, was little, if at all inferior to the English.

keep up their navy. The gradation of oak, in point of endurance, is as follows :

The Russian and American may last about.....	10 years.
The French, Polish, and German, about.....	15
The best Danish and Swedish, about	20
The common English, about	25
But the best English will hold out 40 or 50 years.	

In the course of the year 1787, they proposed to have in the Black Sea the following fleet: One 74 gun ship, two 64, and fifteen 50 gun ships, besides frigates; and when they were ready, they proposed sending some of their best sailors from Petersburg to man them.

Their naval officers, for want of experience, are very indifferent *practical* seamen. But they know more of the *theory* of their profession than even the English; and, as hardly any of the British officers, who go into their service, can stand the test of a Russian examination, and the questions usually put to those who stand candidates for promotion, it has been found necessary to submit the justice of their pretensions entirely to Admiral Greig's judgment and discretion.

Both the army and navy are much injured, by a regulation which permits such as have the rank of major to retire from the service. The Russians are so fond of a country life, particularly as it gives them an opportunity of acting the despot, and tyrannizing over their peasants, that almost all of them who have estates, quit the army and navy as soon as they can, and retire into the country.

In regard to the common sailors, they are mostly inland people. But, so docile are the Russian peasantry, that, as Admiral Greig assured me, in twelve months he could make a Russian, who had never seen the sea, a very tolerable sailor. Their courage and intrepidity, both by sea and land, cannot be doubted, and, were they properly officered, they have spirit enough for any thing. According to the Princess Daschkow, Scotch officers and Russian soldiers would conquer the universe. Their armies would then unite the qualities by which

British troops are distinguished, namely, the active spirit of the French, and the cold intrepid firmness of a German battalion.

The *Public Revenue* amounted, in 1786, to 42 millions of rubles, or seven millions sterling. If peace continues, it is likely to increase, particularly the customs, and the farm, or monopoly of brandy. It is calculated that the latter branch *alone* might be brought to 24 millions of rubles, or four millions sterling, without including foreign brandies. I was assured that the revenue might be raised, by proper management, and in times of peace, to about eight millions sterling *per annum* *, a sum which it would be very difficult for Russia to expend, without the utmost extravagance.

The *Public Debt* of Russia, in 1786, did not much exceed three millions of rubles, or £.500,000. It was all due to the *De Smitts* of Amsterdam, and their friends; who, receiving 5 *per cent.* for their money, (interest so much better than that of Holland), were not very anxious about the repayment of the principal †.

It is said that a treasure of silver is deposited in the citadel, arising from a certain portion of the produce of the mines of Nerzinski, which has been annually laid up since the middle of the reign of Elizabeth, and never touched. But I doubt it much.

Among other public resources, there are two of considerable advantage in point of profit, though attended with many public disadvantages: 1. The power assumed by government of adulterating the coin; and 2. Of issuing paper money to any amount, without check or limitation, and without any risk of competition from private banks.

The number of *bank-notes* issued since the commencement

* It actually reached that amount in 1800.

† The public debt of Russia, exclusive of the paper money in circulation, amounted, in 1793, to about eight millions sterling, chiefly owing to the Russian Government having undertaken to pay all the existing mortgages due to foreigners, on the districts of Poland which fell to the share of Russia, on the final partition of that kingdom.

of paper currency in Russia, *anno* 1768, to the year 1786, was enormous, above 130 millions of rubles; but it was reduced that year to 83,750,000 rubles, or about fourteen millions sterling. To answer or realize this sum, there may be twenty millions of rubles, *in copper*, in the citadel of Petersburg, enough to keep these notes in credit in times of peace, but which the first appearance of war would injure, and perhaps destroy*.

Various projects for establishing banks were attempted, both in the reign of the Empress Catherine, and of the Emperor Paul, but none of them succeeded.

The resources of Russia, in the event of another war, might be very considerable, were economy at all attended to. In the public works carried on at present, perhaps one half of the money, said to be laid out, is embezzled,—a large proportion of which, in case of a war, might be devoted to warlike purposes. Very considerable savings might likewise be made in the article of favourites, and other expenses about the Court.

The political state of the Russian empire, in 1786, was, however, truly respectable.

SECT. 4.—*Of the Political System of Russia, and its Views of farther Aggrandizement.*

It is not without reason that many politicians dread the farther aggrandizement of the Russian empire. No power, within this century past, has made such important acquisitions. It has also adopted those very principles which rendered Rome the mistress of the world; the first of which was, to borrow from its neighbours every useful institution; and the second, to embrace every opportunity, whether fair or otherwise, of adding to its territory and its power. Its lust of acquisition is far, however, from being satisfied.

* The credit of the state paper of Russia became so low, that the value of the ruble fell from 48d. to 10d. Some measures were afterwards adopted to check this evil, by which the course of exchange was raised, in 1803, to 16d. *per* ruble.

From its northern neighbours, Sweden and Prussia, it can look for nothing of any consequence; though Swedish Finland is a province which the Swedes would probably resign, were they assisted in conquering Norway from Denmark*.

In regard to Poland, it certainly intends to keep that country in a state of dependance, until it is able either to seize the whole, or the greater part of it.

Its views of conquest extend to the farthest extremities of the east, and perhaps still more so to the south; though its acquisitions on the side of Persia are not likely to be very great, having many fierce and warlike nations to contend with, at the foot of Mount Caucasus.

Some Russians assert, that it would be an easy matter for the Empress to conquer all China. Her object at present, however, is only to secure one side of the river *Amour*, for which she has taken a great attachment, and troops had marched for that purpose prior to the year 1786. Both sides of that river, it is said, belong to China; but without some possessions there, no successful attempt, either for trade or conquest, can be made towards the Continent of America. On the banks of the *Amour* there is, I understand, a fertile country, a tolerable climate, and wood for building ships in abundance.

An expedition to those countries, under the command of Captain Billings, an Englishman, has been for some time past going on. He set out from Petersburg in June 1785. His ships were, a brig of 200 tons burden, and a tender. He was to carry with him 220 people. He was a young, active, and enterprising officer, but had hardly experience enough to prosecute so extensive and so tedious a plan, as that which he was directed to execute, with sufficient steadiness and ability †.

* It is singular that this arrangement, which was communicated to me in 1786, should have since taken place.

† He returned to Petersburg in 1795, and his papers were given into the Admiralty there. Souer, who acted as his secretary, has, since his return, published a quarto volume, giving a very fair and faithful account of the expedition, as far as it goes, and containing some very curious matter.

It shews, however, the ambitious views of the Russians, who are not satisfied with the boundless dominions they possess in Europe and Asia, but are already grasping in idea rich and extensive territories in the American hemisphere.

But the grand object which the Empress has in view is, the Turkish empire. Some plan of partition was certainly concerted between the Emperor and her, at the famous meeting of Mohilew. What the plan was is not exactly known, but is pretty shrewdly guessed at. The Empress's second grandson is called *Constantine*, and is taught the modern Greek language, in hopes that he may one day govern the ancient Grecian empire; but there is little prospect of such absurd plans being ever realised. All Europe must unite to check the ambition of a sovereign, who makes one conquest only a step to another.

But, extensive as the Russian empire has become, it is yet far from rivalling the grandeur of the Roman Empire, while it is deeply affected with many of those vices which occasioned the decline of the latter. It may still, however, continue to rise in the scale of importance and power, till, overstepping the bounds of national ambition, and real strength, it falls to pieces by grasping at objects subversive of its true interest; and will thus lose substantial benefits, for empty bubbles, which will burst, when they appear to swell, and to shine most temptingly.

SECT. 5.—*Of its late Acquisitions, the Crimea and the Kuban.*

The acquisition of the *Crimea* was a natural object for Russia to aspire to. It was managed with the greatest dexterity by Prince Potemkin, and does infinite credit to his abilities. It was unexpected and unknown even to the Emperor of Germany, and for some time gave him a good deal of jealousy, and had almost opened his eyes to the folly of his connexion with Russia. At present, however, it is of little value. Above 100,000 of its inhabitants have deserted it, and hardly 40,000 now remain. The country is very unhealthy to those who are

not accustomed to the climate, and the water and springs in the plains are peculiarly unwholesome. Some of the natives, however, live to be above 100 years old.

The *Kuban* is at present a possession, not only unprofitable, but even ruinous. New and brave enemies are every day starting up. There are six nations about Mount Caucasus, so numerous and powerful, that it requires 40,000 men to defend the frontiers. In any encounters which have as yet taken place, the Russians have seldom had much to boast of. They have not a prisoner in their possession ; for so desperate are those people, that whenever any of them are taken, they put themselves to death. The Russian soldiers die in numbers, from the quantity of grapes they delight in eating, which are very abundant in those countries, but of a very bad quality. In short, from war and diseases, so many of the troops quartered there are cut off, that the Crimea and the *Kuban* have been emphatically called the grave of the Russian army ; and hints have been thrown out, that Prince Potemkin would be some time or other called to account for his conduct there. The expense of those acquisitions is also enormous, and swallows up a considerable part of the effective revenue of the empire.

The Russians entertain high expectations of carrying on a great trade in the Black Sea, and contend, that Constantinople might be more easily supplied with grain from the Ukraine than from Egypt. But they have a number of difficulties to contend against, more especially the danger of the plague ;—the expense of quarantines ;—the impossibility of insurance, without which no great or steady commerce can be carried on ;—the uncertainty of peace, which is a great check to speculation and enterprise ;—the jealousy of the Turks, which will bring on new duties, and additional checks from them, in proportion as the commerce increases ;—lastly, the rivalship of the grain of Poland down the Dneister, and through Moldavia, and of the dominions of the Emperor down the Danube. These obstacles are almost insurmountable ; yet many Rus-

sians amuse themselves with the idea of a Muscovite sovereign at Constantinople, fed from the Ukraine*.

SECT. 6.—*Of the Conduct to be observed by Great Britain towards Russia.*

The system to be pursued in regard to Russia is a very plain one. The advantages, naval, military, and commercial, which that country derives from a connexion with us, ought to be clearly explained, so as to carry conviction to the meanest capacity; but at the same time in so delicate a manner, that Russian pride, at present so highly inflated, may not be hurt.

It is certain, that a very advantageous treaty of commerce might be concluded between the two countries. But for some time past the Court of Petersburg has shown no inclination to be intimately connected with us. The tariff 1767 was tolerably favourable; but a new one was promulgated *anno* 1782, of a very different nature. By it the mode of levying the customs was changed from a duty by the weight or measure, to one *ad valorem*. Thus the duties upon cottons, and other English manufactures, were doubled; and as the customs in general were raised from 30 to 40 *per cent. ad valorem*, in many cases it was tantamount to a prohibition; and, at any rate, is hardly compatible with any very extensive consumption.

By such impolitic regulations, Russia loses in four different ways. 1. A considerable loss of revenue; for the customs, upon moderate duties, would rise considerably. 2. A loss of circulation; for if the Russian peasants were tempted to purchase goods by their abundance and cheapness, they would not be inclined to bury so much of the specie of the country as they are accustomed to do at present. 3. A loss of commerce; for were our manufactures more liberally admitted, the English would search the most distant provinces of

* This was of late very nearly realized.

the empire for consumers, and in return would take many articles which are perfectly dead and useless at present. It was the wealth and capital of England which occasioned the rapid progress of the British colonies in North America; and were Russia wise, she might secure a considerable share of the same advantages for her distant and uncultivated provinces. 4. A loss of effective subjects; for the best mode of civilizing the wild Tartars, and her other barbarous subjects, and of rendering them useful, would be, to introduce and establish commerce among them, which none but the English have either spirit or capital enough to attempt.

Should a new treaty be entered into, it is indispensably necessary to have an exact equalization of alien duties in both countries; for there is much danger of an increase of Russian, and a decrease of English navigation and shipping, if it is neglected. Also strict laws against fraudulent bankruptcies, which are frequent in Russia; together with easy means of recovering payment from the natives in the country, who are very dilatory and backward in discharging their debts. In regard to a commercial treaty, it is in general to be observed, that any partial preference ought not to be insisted on. All that should be required is, protection of property, and equal rates on exports and imports; and with these stipulations, no dangerous competition need be apprehended.

In settling the terms of the treaty, it would be proper not to trust implicitly to the information or opinions of the British factory; for their profit arises from the exportation of Russian commodities to England; whereas we ought to look to the importation of English commodities into Russia, as being a matter of more consequence to us.

But our best chance of obtaining an advantageous treaty of commerce with Russia, is to prove that we can make ourselves independent of it, either by raising at home the articles we draw from it, or procuring them from other countries. The principal commodities that we ought to have in view are, hemp, timber, iron, leather, and tallow.

Of these, hemp is the most important, both on account of the magnitude of its value, amounting to L.400,000 sterling *per annum*, and because without that article we are not an independent naval power. It is surely impolitic to trust entirely for naval stores to a nation, that has of late connected itself with France, and engaged in armed neutralities: nay, that imagines England dare not take any hostile step against it, lest by refusing to supply us with naval stores, it should annihilate the British navy.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether we could supply ourselves with hemp, I went to the Ukraine, the province where it is principally raised; and I am fully convinced, that by public attention and encouragement, there would be no difficulty in making ourselves completely independent in regard to that important article. The ideas we entertain in England regarding the cultivation of hemp, are very erroneous. Instead of seeing miles of country, or even large fields covered with it, as I was led to expect, I found that every peasant, in proportion to his industry or his wealth, raised only from five to ten, twenty, or thirty poods, in a small spot or garden, near his house; nor did I see, except at Kromy, 200 acres together, in the neighbourhood of any one village, or even town, in the whole country where it grows. Upon a calculation it is certain that from 60 to 70,000 acres would produce all the hemp that we require. In the Ukraine, they make use of the very same spot of ground without intermission, to which they gave two, three, or even four times as much manure as they bestow on their arable land. But in England it might be introduced in the course of a rotation of crops, and would answer particularly well after grass. The longest stalks grow six feet high, and are the best for seed; but the shortest produce the best hemp. It sells on the spot at from 30 to 120 copecks per pood, according to its quality; 100 copecks make 3s. 6d. English, and sixty-three poods a ton.

There is nothing that would more humble the pride of Russia, than our raising this article for ourselves. If a bounty

of 30s. *per acre* were given in Great Britain and Ireland, it would soon introduce the cultivation of it on a great scale; and the bounty might be gradually diminished as it became less necessary. Some weak politicians would startle at the expense it might occasion; but little do they think of the enormous additional price that we pay for hemp, in time of war, which could not be the case were it raised in our own fields, and which would quickly reimburse the expense of the bounty; nor do they consider the risk of having the operations of our fleet entirely crippled for the want of that article, if it were either intercepted by the enemy, or if, in consequence of any dispute with Russia, the exportation of it from that country were prohibited. We might encourage indeed the cultivation of hemp in Poland and in Prussia, and procure from thence considerable quantities; but unless we raise it among ourselves, we can never account ourselves independent in point of naval strength.

The other articles we draw from Russia are of less importance. *Timber* we might procure from Norway and Sweden, and from the other states in the Baltic, or, were it necessary, even from North America. There is every reason to imagine that we may soon be able to supply ourselves with *iron*, from the discoveries daily made, in regard to the making of malleable iron with charred coal; and, at any rate, peat would answer as well as wood for the purposes of the furnace. *Russian leather* might easily be made at home, the preparation being no longer a secret, the smell by which it is distinguished, and which is found so destructive to the insect tribe, arising from a certain proportion of the pitch of the birch-tree being used in the manufacture. In regard to *tallow*, it is only imported in such large quantities for the purpose of making hard soap; but if, by a wise alteration in the duty, soft soap had the balance cast in its favour, oil instead of tallow would then be consumed, with which we might supply ourselves, greatly to the advantage of our Greenland, and even herring fisheries. For in that event we would find it beneficial to boil our her-

rings into oil, according to the Swedish practice ; and oil is the basis of soft, as tallow is of hard soap.

I am very ready to confess, that *commercial* must sometimes give way to *political* views and interests, nor are some sacrifices to be grudged in point of profit, could we secure Russia in a sincere and hearty connexion with this country. For distant as it is, its friendship is of the utmost importance, as it would always insure an alliance either with the Emperor or with Prussia, with Sweden or with Denmark ; in short, so formidable a confederacy, that France would never venture to attack us.

In regard to the idea, that Russia may be raised to such a height, as to endanger the independence of Europe ; powerful as it may become, yet, in these enlightened times, with a million of fighting men in Germany alone, no such danger is to be seriously apprehended. Besides, this is an event in which we are less interested than the other European states, since Russia can never reach us, without treading on the necks of France and Germany, either of which, assisted by us, might keep Russia within proper bounds, and repel any invasion from that quarter, however formidable ; moreover, the greater that other nations are, of the less comparative importance must France become, on whose permanent friendship we cannot rely.

CONCLUSION.

Of the Advantages and Disadvantages of the Russian Empire.

Russia is in the happiest of all political situations, its dominions being so placed, that they can hardly be attacked to advantage, and consequently it is safe at home : and abroad it has the choice of allies ; for it can play the game of Denmark against Sweden, the Emperor against Prussia, and France against England, or *vice versa*, as may best suit its

real or supposed interests. Being thus courted on all hands, it has easily contrived to gain by all the alliances it has made with other powers, without making hardly any return.

What return, for instance, has England received, for its naval assistance against the Turks, for preventing its navy being crushed by the House of Bourbon, and gaining, through the medium of British officers, the memorable battle of Chesme? None. Nor will the Emperor gain more by his impolitic connexion with that country, whose ambition scarcely knows any bounds.

The commercial advantages of the empire are too well known to require being enumerated, there being hardly any commodity, of essential use, that it does not furnish within its own bounds; and it produces a variety of articles, so necessary for other countries, that it is enabled to lay considerable duties, even upon their exportation.

The body of the people, also, are hardy, brave, and docile, and peculiarly well calculated for filling the humbler stations of life, whether as soldiers or seamen, as husbandmen or artisans.

The disadvantages Russia labours under are,—the miseries of a despotic government,—the amazing luxury of the Court and capital,—the idleness, inattention, and, in some instances, as in the case of the armed neutrality *, the corruption of its ministers,—the extent of its dominions, which renders it so difficult to be governed,—the number of surrounding enemies, who separately are of little consequence, but who might be formidable, were they to understand each other, and to make a joint attack,—lastly, the hazard of revolutions in a country so accustomed to them, and the starting up of another Pugatchef, who, under the pretence of giving liberty to the peasants, might occasion the dismemberment of the empire.

* The real history of that celebrated transaction is given in the Appendix, No. XI.

RUSSIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

I.—LE COMTE DE ROMANZOFF,

Chancellor of the Russian Empire.

From the friendship which I had established with the celebrated Marshal Romanzoff Sadounaisky *, it naturally followed, that I should not be unknown to his son, Le Comte de Romanzoff, who was elevated, by the Emperor Alexander, to the high office of Chancellor of Russia. I had several communications from him on agricultural subjects, more especially regarding his wish, that I should recommend to him a Scotch overseer for the management of his farms in Russia. The following letter relates to those statistical inquiries which I was anxious should be carried on in Russia :

Petersbourg, à 25. Juin V. P. 1815.

MONSIEUR †,

Je vous suis très obligé de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, et de l'envoi de l'opere statistique de

* See the Marshal's letter to me, vol. i. p. 209.

† Translation.

SIR,

Petersburgh, June 25. 1815.

I am extremely obliged by the letter which you did me the honour to write me, and for the copy of the statistical work upon Scotland, which I have read with deserved interest. Being anxious to introduce it to the knowledge of my countrymen, I wrote immediately to the Minister of the Interior to acquaint him with it, and to request that he would have it translated and printed in a paper which is published under his auspices, and is in great circulation. I have reason to believe, Sir, that this will be done.

You continue to sustain, in an honourable manner, the noble task which you imposed upon yourself. You labour, Sir, to enlighten men upon the sources of public prosperity, and on the manner of appreciating them.

Accept, I entreat you, Sir, the assurances of the real and very distinguished regard with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

THE COUNT DE ROMANZOFF.

l'Écosse, que j'ai lu avec un juste intérêt ; et desirant le porter à la connaissance de mes compatriotes, j'avois écrit par le champ à Monsieur le Ministre de l'Interieur, pour le lui communiquer, et le prier de le faire traduire et le faire imprimer dans une feuille qui se publie sous ses auspices, et a beaucoup de vogue. J'ai lieu de croire, Monsieur, que cela se fera.

Vous continuez à soutenir d'une manière honorable la belle tâche que vous vous êtes imposé vous-même. Vous travaillez, Monsieur, à éclairer les hommes sur les sources de la prospérité publique, et la manière de les apprécier.

Agréez, je vous prie, Monsieur, les assurances de la considération réelle et très distinguée avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et obéissant serviteur,

LE COMTE DE ROMANZOFF.

2.—THE COMTE DE MARCOFF.

During my residence at Stockholm, I had formed an intimacy with Monsieur de Marcoff, who was Minister from the Court of Petersburgh to the King of Sweden. I found him a very able man, distinguished by a flow of easy and pleasant conversation, occasionally interspersed with lively sallies of wit, and much information regarding the political state of Europe. He was a warm Russian patriot, and had a high idea of the power and importance of that empire. He was much disliked by the King, and by the Swedes in general, on that account, and for undervaluing, and seeming to despise their country. He was afterwards appointed third Minister in the foreign department at Petersburgh ; for in that great branch of politics they have three Ministers. He was supposed to be a decided enemy to France, and attached to the English interest. The following letter from that distinguished statesman proves the friendly terms on which we corresponded together :

MON CHER BARONET *,

J'ai reçu, comme un gage d'un souvenir qui m'est bien précieux, et la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, en date du 14. Mars dernier, et les exemplaires dont vous l'avez accompagnée, de l'avis bien intéressant que vous avez publié, sur la situation politique de l'Europe. Je me suis conformé a vos intentions à l'égard de ce dernier, en le communiquant aux personnes qui sont le plus en état ici d'apprécier la valeur des observations que vous y exposé. On ne sauroit y méconnoître l'homme qui s'occupe depuis si longtemps, et avec tant d'utilité, des affaires publiques.

J'ai toujours vivement désiré, Monsieur, de visiter votre patrie, mais les circonstances ont toujours contrarié l'accomplissement de ce vœu. J'espère cependant ne pas mourir avant de l'avoir satisfait. Parmi les objets de contentement que je m'en promets, je compte pour beaucoup, je vous prie de le croire, la satisfaction de renouveler personnellement votre connoissance, et de vous offrir l'assurance de la très parfaite consideration avec laquelle je suis, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

LE COMTE DE MARCOFF.

A St. Petersburg, le 2. Mai 1804.

* Translation.

MY DEAR BARONET,

I have received, as a mark of remembrance which is truly dear to me, both the letter you did me the honour to write to me, dated the 14th of March last, and the publications which accompanied it, with the interesting hints therein contained, which you have given to the public, on the political state of Europe. I have fulfilled your intentions respecting the latter, in communicating it to the persons who are best able here to appreciate the merit of the observations you have stated. One cannot but discover in this work the man who has employed his attention for this long time past, and with so much utility, on public affairs.

I have always, Sir, anxiously desired to visit your country; but circumstances have hitherto counteracted the fulfilment of my wishes. I hope, however, before I die, to put them in execution. Amongst the objects of satisfaction which I promise to myself on this occasion, I highly value, and request you will be assured of it, the pleasure of renewing our personal acquaintance, and make you a tender of every assurance of the most perfect consideration with which I am, Sir, your most humble and most obedient servant,

LE COMTE DE MARCOFF.

St Petersburg, May 2. 1804.

3.—COMPTE GREGOIRE ORLOFF*.

The ancestor of the Orloff family, it is said, was a Strelitz, whom Peter the Great was going to put to death with his own hands, for aiding his sister Sophia, but who showed such magnanimity on the occasion, that Peter pardoned and advanced him. The father of the present Orloffs had a considerable fortune for a Russian, amounting to 10,000 rubles, or L.1800 *per annum*; but, according to the custom of that country, his fortune, at his death, was equally divided among his children; and he left five sons, who were thus placed in very indifferent circumstances. Prince Orloff, the eldest son, and Chesminskoy, the third, had a principal hand in the revolution, which deprived the Emperor, Peter III. of his throne. The history of the elder brother, Prince Orloff, is well known. He was long the Empress's favourite; but neglecting her, and attaching himself to other women, fell into disgrace. It is said that he got some horrid potion, which drove him mad, in which state he continued for some time before his death. The Empress was very liberal, not only to him, but to the whole family, and distributed among them, at different times, above two millions sterling. The second son, Jwan or John, was a plain, heavy-looking, but an intelligent country gentleman, fond of business, and who kept the affairs of all the family in order. The character of the third, Alexis, called Chesmenskoy, from his naval victory over the Turks at Chesme, shall be afterwards given. The fourth brother, Feodor or Theodore, were he not so indolent and lazy, is capable of any thing. The fifth, whom I did not see, is, I am told, the ablest of them all, but prefers domestic happiness, and lives very comfortably with his family, which is a very large one, in the country. The Orloff family, it was supposed, were not likely

* Author of a valuable work, entitled, "Mémoires Historiques, Politiques et Littéraires, sur le Royaume de Naples," published at Paris, an. 1819.

to engage again in public business ; but would always be much respected, particularly while the present Empress reigned, who accounted them real friends, and the surest supports of her throne.

All the Orloffs who were living, when I visited Moscow, resided there or in its neighbourhood. That capital was the general receptacle of all the discarded favourites, the discontented courtiers, and the independent nobility of Russia, who lived there in society together, and with more freedom, than could well be supposed, under so despotic a government. Some of these proud nobles are so impatient of controul and restraint, that if the Court comes to Moscow, they retire into the country. When the Empress was there, *anno* 1785, Count Sheremetof, who has 120,000 peasants on his estate, pretended that he was not well enough to stir abroad, and the Empress actually went to pay him the first visit, which he condescended to return the next day. He gives his physician 2000 rubles, or L.330 of salary *per annum*, and there are two or three others of the nobles that do the same.

The Orloffs are particularly infected with the *pigeon-mania*, which still prevails in Russia. They have, in that country, a species of the pigeon, which fly in a spiral or circular manner, upon one wing ; and after ascending out of sight, come down in the same way, and alight upon the very same spot, or perhaps upon the same finger from whence they mounted. A first-rate pigeon of this sort is worth L.300 sterling. They fly best in hot weather, and Count Feodore assured me, that he has spent a whole morning, with the greatest satisfaction, in seeing them exhibit. The Orloff family are supposed to have laid out L.20,000 sterling in this amusement. A merchant who had some famous pigeons of this kind in his possession, demanded 20,000 rubles for a house and pigeon-house he had to dispose of. “ Including the pigeons, (said one of the Russian nobles), I would give you 14,000 rubles (or L.2330) for your property, but without them, not 2000 ru-

bles, (L.330).” Thus valuing the pigeons at about L.2000 sterling.

I had frequently met with Count Gregoire Orloff in London, and we had formed a very cordial friendship. Among the various letters I had received from him, the following are selected, from the friendly style in which they are written :

DEAR SIR JOHN,

Your kind letter of the 8th of December reached me only few days ago. That is the very reason why I could not answer sooner, and express you all the feelings of my gratitude, for the continuation of your constant friendship.

We left London the 11th December, and we came to Paris the 16th.

We had a very boisterous passage with the steam-boat, and with a contrary wind, notwithstanding we came in four hours. The Countess has been very unwell, and every one who was on board, excepting myself.

We have the most charming and mild winter I ever saw. No frosts or snow till this moment. Letters from Russia announce a very mild winter, and they could not go in sledges till January.

I will be very happy to see you again in Scotland next summer, but for a longer stay. My visit, as short as it was, had for me great many pleasant remembrances, being so well received by every body in Edinburgh, and particularly by yourself and your family.

The Countess's health has not made any progress since we left England. She is still in the same state. She wishes to be remembered to you and your ladies.

I regret very much that we did not meet with Archy, nor in Scotland nor in England.

There is no news which are deserving to be mentioned to you. The two Houses of the Parliament are being with the laws of the liberty of the press, which the Government does

not like. In the House of Commons, the laws proposed by it has been accepted with a great majority. It is probable that the same will be adopted in the House of Lords. They have very little ideas of the representative government in this country; and I am afraid will never have. The French character is too violent, too passionate, and particularly too changeable.

Remember me kindly, Dear Sir John, to all your friends, who I had the pleasure to meet with you, and particularly to your good ladies; and believe me sincerely and truly your servant,

ORLOFF.

Paris, 5. Rue d'Artois,
the 20th of February 1822.

Brighton, the 15th of October 1823.

DEAR SIR,

I don't know when I can flatter myself with the idea that I am still in your memory. You have been so kind to me six years ago, that I dare to write you this few lines. I was in hopes to find you in London, but I was quite disappointed in hearing that you are now in Scotland, and in this late season it is a rather too long a journey. I had the displeasure not to meet with our friend Archibald Macdonald, who was just gone from Brighton few days before we arrived.

Pray let me know about yourself, and how you are in health and spirits, and when you are still going with the improvements in the agriculture. I had the pleasure of writing to you from Paris last year; but as I never had any answer, I suppose my letter did not reach you.

Since I have seen you, I have been in Italy, Russia and Germany. I saw in my own country a great improvement in a very interesting branch of industry, the establishment of a very large flocks of merinos, and the great consequence that they go on as well in the north as in the south part of the empire. As now the permission is granted to export

wool it is a great encouragement, and it is sold with great facility and for very good prices. This is a now very useful branch of commerce for our country, and particularly happy, as you take very little now of our productions; particularly there is no demand of iron and timber. Even copper has very little chance. The best articles for exportation are tallow and hemp.

I would be very happy to have your opinion about this last production. Some of our governments, when the land is very fat and good, continue its cultivation; but the land suffers great deal from it. Common manure does not correct it. What should be done in such instance? I hope, my dear Sir, you will be so kind to deliver me your opinion.

In the governments of *Nigney*, *Nowgorod*, *Turnbost*, *Puna*, *Simbiron*, *Swintost* and *Veroney*, the ground is so fat, so good, that we cannot use manure. I have tried it, and the consequence was, that the corn grows amazingly large, more in straw, and the grains are much fewer.

In all the governments the common manure, which is very abundant, has no employment, and is destroyed by fires. It is a pity that one cannot have so much in the neighbourhood of Moscow, where the land is wanting it very much, and produces very little, or rather nothing, without manure.

In some parts of the empire, where the population is very large, and it is want of land, I found great many establishments, quite new, of several kinds of manufactures, particularly of silk and cotton goods. These manufactures are upon a very small scale; but larger villages are full of *metiers*, which the villagers are establishing themselves, and without any assistance. So I have near Moscow, about sixty versts, a village of 800 peasants, when I found to my astonishment beautiful things, manufactured in silk, by the peasants, with their wives and daughters. For ten years it was perhaps two or three *metiers*; now they are more an hundred, and they find in Moscow and in this vicinity more purchasers as they want.

Countess Orloff sends you her best compliments as to your

ladies, to whom I hope you will remember me kindly. Her health is in general much better; but she has not yet recovered the use of her legs, which are still very obstinate. We are here on account of her health, and shall stay as long as she can bathe. Then we return to Paris, where we have spent last year. I hope the weather will permit us to stay in Brighton as long as December.

When you do me the honour to favour me with an answer, send it to Brighton, *Relle, via* France, and be so kind to give me your own direction. Have you not the intention to make a trip to London?

I am now collecting letters of eminent people, as politicians, warriors, and literatures or scientific people. Could you not procure some letters of your great Scotch people? I was so happy to have in my possession already letters from Hume and Robertson. I have letters of living English and French great people. When you could procure me some of your dead and living men, you do me a great favour.

Adieu, my dear Sir John. Excuse my boldness, and believe me as truly and sincerely yours, &c.

ORLOFF.

In the last paragraph of the above letter, he expressed an anxiety to procure some letters of eminent Scotchmen; and, being a person who never spared any pains to accomplish any object he had undertaken, he resolved to set out for Edinburgh for that purpose. To my astonishment, therefore, late one evening, a gentleman entered my study, whom I recognised to be the Count. He said that he had come from Brighton to Edinburgh, on purpose to procure from me letters written by the great authors that Scotland had produced. It was impossible to refuse an application from an old friend, who had come from such a distance, for the sole object of making the request in person; and I accordingly presented him with some letters from Dr Adam Smith, and other distinguished Scotch

authors, which, he said, amply repaid him for the trouble he had taken.

4.—COUNT ALEXIS ORLOFF CHESMENSKOY.

Alexis, the third of the Orloff family, who got the title of Chesmenskoy, from his naval victory over the Turks at Chesme, was a very singular person. He was about 6 feet 2 inches in height, but so very large and bulky withal, that he looked much taller. He was perhaps the strongest man in Europe, being able to carry a soldier of a middling size in each hand, when his arms were extended; nor could two men, however strong, with the advantage of handkerchiefs to pull by, separate his knees if he put them together. He lived in a magnificent style, and was, on the whole, one of the most respectable characters to be met with in Russia. During my stay at Moscow I lived with him on the most intimate terms, and, so ardent was his friendship, that I scarcely know any one, on whose exertions, in any emergency, I could have more thoroughly depended.

The first communication I received from him was written in English, probably by some friend who understood that language.

Moscow, 4-16. May 1805.

DEAR BARONET,

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you some years ago, when I was in Germany, for which I am reprehensible of not having answered, and must therefore demand your indulgence. I have since been favoured with your much esteemed of the 3d of January last, inclosing a Sketch of your intended work on Longevity, translated in the French language, which I have perused with great satisfaction, and shall impatiently await the result thereof. I am extremely happy to learn that you are well, and have as yet faculties sufficient of undertaking a work of such an extent.

My daughter finds herself pretty well, thank God, and returns you her respectful acknowledgment for your kind remembrance. As for myself, have only to add, that the present state of my health is but changeable; still, in consideration of my years, think myself happy with the portion Providence is as yet pleased to bestow upon me, and do not repine. I heartily wish you all manner of prosperity, and hope to be frequently favoured with a few lines from you. In the meantime, remain respectfully, Dear Baronet, your sincere friend and most humble servant,

COMTE ALEXIS D'ORLOV CESMENSKOY.

P. S.—For to live long we ought to regulate ourselves accordingly.

Translation of a Letter from Count Alexis Orloff Chesmenskoy to Mr Smirnove, Chaplain to the Russian Embassy in London, regarding Sir John Sinclair's Inquiries as to the Management of Horses, and the Breeds of Sheep in Russia.

SIR,

Your letter, dated the 1st of November 1794, with the inclosed copy of Sir John Sinclair's, I had the pleasure to receive in due time, for which I return you my thanks. You apologize for giving me the trouble, by referring to Sir John Sinclair's letter to you. I can only say, that your compliance in executing his commission, does you honour as a Member of the Board, and to me it gives not the smallest trouble. I have perused your letter with great satisfaction, and although I am very fond of economical pursuits, yet I feel much the want of that knowledge which Sir John possesses. This gentleman, in his journey through Muscovy, afforded me the pleasure of his acquaintance; we conversed then upon a variety of subjects; but as I am not much acquainted with either the English or French languages, and as Sir John was not then much versed either in the Italian or German, it is possible that a mistake might have happened in the mean-

ing of some expressions concerning the management of horses ; for as we used to talk a great deal of them, I recollect to have related to Sir John, that our common horses, as well as those of the Kozaks, which are reared in the open deserts, suffer an amazing degree of cold, want of food, and other hardships, with surprising patience, and that they can take their rest, having no straw under them, without any inconvenience ; but that all our other horses are treated with more tenderness. Our stables and stalls are built in the same manner as those of other countries, but we do not manage our horses as they do in England, where they have their beds under them continually ; but we put in the straw in the evening, and in the morning take it away. Likewise those who are fond of horses, do not keep them in very warm stables during the severity of the winter, that when they go out they might not be liable to catch cold so easily.

I have been favoured with several letters from Sir John Sinclair ; with the last, I received a book and a drawing of a ram. In it he expressed a wish to know the different breeds of our rams. I acknowledge myself very guilty in not having hitherto sent him an answer. I beg of you to make my best excuses, and assure him that it is to me a very great satisfaction to have a share in his valuable friendship ;—that I return him thanks for all his attentions, and entertain a perfect regard and esteem for his having undertaken a plan so salutary, and so useful to mankind, the fruits of which are by far the most advantageous of any that we can procure from the bowels of the earth.

To satisfy his curiosity about sheep, pray tell him, that those of Great Russia are of little value ; they are small, and their wool is rough. Those of the Ukraine and Little Russia are better, larger, and their wool longer and somewhat softer. They are of different colours, in some places white, and in others black. We have a great many brought from Silesia, and a few from Spain. Those which were bred here from the Spanish, although their wool be still softer than that got from

the native sheep, yet it differs widely from the true Spanish. We have a particular breed of rams got at Crimea, whose skins are chiefly made use of by the nobility for their winter-caps, trimmings and linings of their pellices, &c. Amongst the Kalmucks, in their hordes about Orenburgh, there is a kind of very large ram; they are chiefly of dark greyish colour; their wool is very long and rough, but their meat is delicate. On the hind part of their body, that is, about the rump, they have from twenty to forty pounds of fat; and this fat is different from that found in the common ram; it resembles more the meat of the cow's udder. This is all I know of sheep, which I beg you will communicate to Sir John; only he must forgive me my silence, for I do love and esteem him; and, if he should wish to have any or all the above-mentioned sorts of rams sent him, I shall undertake the commission with pleasure.

I am, with perfect regard, and very sincere good wishes,
Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

COUNT ALEXIS ORLOW CHESMENSKOV.

Mosqua, January 11-22. 1795.

The hints as to the management of horses, contained in this letter, are extremely valuable.

5.—THE COMTE WORONZOW.

The Woronzow family is one of the most distinguished in Russia. The eldest had resided in England as ambassador, and, on his return to Russia, was placed at the head of the commercial department, where his opinions were held in high estimation, for he was a laborious and plodding man, and was much admired at a court, where very few of the nobility can undergo the labour of application to business.

He was succeeded in the English embassy by a younger brother, who was justly considered to be one of the most re-

spectable characters in the diplomatic line of any at the Court of London. On resolving to visit Russia, I was particularly anxious to form an acquaintance with him, and was highly gratified with the very flattering terms in which he expressed himself on that occasion.

Le Comte Woronzow * presente ses complimens, et se fait reconnaissance, à Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair, pour l'excellent ouvrage dont il a bien voulu lui faire cadeau. Plus il connaît le mérite de ces ouvrages, plus il s'estime heureux d'avoir eu l'honneur de faire la connaissance de leur estimable auteur. Il y a longtemps qu'il desirait de la faire, et ses vœux sont exaucés.

I afterwards found Comte Woronzow most anxious to promote the measures I was pursuing for the general improvement of agriculture and statistics in all countries, as appears from the following communication :

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER †,

Je m'empresse de vous remercier des ouvrages intéressans que vous m'avez fait, Monsieur, l'honneur de m'envoyer. Je

* Translation.

Count Woronzow presents his compliments, and his best thanks to Sir John Sinclair, for the excellent work which he has presented him with. The more he discovers the merit of these works, the more he appreciates the honour of having made an acquaintance with their esteemed author. It is long since he entertained a wish to do so, and his desire is now accomplished.

Sunday, the 14th of May 1786.

† Translation.

SIR,

I hasten to return you my best thanks for the interesting works which you have done me the honour to send to me. I shall not fail to dispose of them in the manner you desire, and I have no doubt that your researches will be universally seconded, and your labours accompanied by those acknowledgments due to objects of such general utility.

With sentiments of the most distinguished esteem, I have the honour to be, &c.

S. C. WORONZOW.

Harley Street, 19th May 1792.

ne manquerai pas d'en disposer de la manière que vous le désirez ; et je ne doute pas que vos recherches soient universellement secondés, et vos travaux accompagnés de la reconnaissance due à des objets d'une utilité aussi générale.

C'est avec les sentimens de la consideration la plus distinguée que j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur le Chevalier, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

S. C. WORONZOW.

6.—THE PRESIDENT OF THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE AT ST PETERSBURGH.

I had the honour of being admitted a Member of the Imperial Agricultural Society of St Petersburg in 1792 ; and having communicated my intentions of sending to that respectable institution, a copy of my Code of Agriculture, as soon as an opportunity of transmitting it occurred, I was favoured, in return, with the following polite acknowledgment from the President :

MONSIEUR LE BARONET *,

La Société Impériale Economique de St Pétersbourg a reçu de vous, son très honoré membre, la lettre datée le 9^{me} Juin 1817, dans laquelle vous annoncez l'impression de votre Code de l'Agriculture, et en voulez bien nous promettre l'envoi.

* Translation.

SIR,

St Petersburg, August 4. 1817.

The Imperial Agricultural Society of St Petersburg has received from you, its much honoured member, the letter dated the 9th of June 1817, in which you mention the publication of your Code of Agriculture, of which you are pleased to promise us a copy. The Society will receive it with gratitude, as a learned work, tending to advance the interests of agriculturists, and will make use of it accordingly. Receive the testimony of the regard and high respect with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

The President of the Imperial Society of Agriculture at St Petersburg.

La Société le recevra comme ouvrage savant, et utile au bien-être des cultivateurs, avec reconnoissance, et en fera usage conforme à son but. Recevez le témoignage de la considération et du haut respect, avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur le Baronet, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

President et Metropolitain de Siestroncowicz.

St Petersburg, ce 4. d'Août 1817.

7.—PRINCE GABRIEL DE GAGARIN.

This Prince held a high office at Moscow,—that of “*Procureur de Senat.*” I had a letter of introduction to him, which I had the pleasure of delivering on my arrival there, (the 11th of September 1786). The Prince had been eight months in England, but had not learnt to speak English. We had a good deal of discussion together in French, regarding the Ukraine, (which I proposed to visit in my way to Poland), the commerce of Russia, &c. He maintained, that Constantinople could be much more easily supplied with grain from the Ukraine, than from Egypt. His conversation was remarkably polite and intelligent; and so attentive was he to the comfort and safety of a total stranger, that, as appears from the subjoined letter, he actually sent a non-commissioned officer from Moscow to Kiow, as a protection, in travelling through a country which was sometimes attended with danger.

A circumstance, which, at the time, I thought of little moment, insured me the most flattering reception at Moscow. The Empress, it seems, made it a rule, to speak to none introduced to her, who was not in some respect or other distinguished. When I was presented, being a member of the British Parliament, and known as an author on finance and political subjects, she gave me a most favourable reception;

and when I came to Moscow, I was pointed out as the gentleman “*whom the Empress had spoken to.*” Had I gone in the Highland dress, and been introduced as a Scottish chief, my reception would have been still more gratifying, from the novelty of the garb, and the favourable opinion entertained on the Continent, of the Scottish character.

MONSIEUR *,

Très flatté d’avoir fait votre connoissance, mes regrets de vous perdre sitôt n’en sont que plus vifs et plus sensibles ; et ce qui augmente mes désagremens, c’est que je suis obligé de partir aujourd’hui pour la campagne, et par là je me vois hors de la possibilité de vous continuer mes services. Je suis assuré cépendant que mon oncle y suplécra. Le porteur de celle-ci est le bas officier qui vous accompagnera jusqu’à Kiow ; c’est un brave homme, et j’espère que vous en serez content. Il vous remettra aussi une lettre pour Mr. le Gouverneur de Toula. Je vous supplie, Monsieur, de m’accorder une place dans votre souvenir, et de me croire toujours avec la considération la plus distinguée, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

GABRIEL, PRINCE DE GAGARIN.

Mercredi, ce 2. de Septembre,
à 6. heures du matin.

* Translation.

SIR,

Being much flattered by your acquaintance, my regret to lose you so soon, is sincere in proportion ; and what increases my mortification is, that I am obliged to set out to-day for the country, and am thus deprived of the possibility of being of further use to you. I am fully persuaded, however, that my uncle will supply my place. The bearer of this is the under officer, who will accompany you to Kiow. He is a deserving man, and I hope you will be pleased with him. He will also deliver to you a letter for the Governor of Toula. I entreat you, Sir, to grant me a place in your remembrance, and to believe me always, with the highest respect, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

GABRIEL, PRINCE OF GAGARIN.

8.—ADMIRAL GREIG.

This brave and skilful officer was a native of Scotland, and having entered into the service of Russia, was soon raised, by his merit, to the command of her fleets, in the management of which he greatly distinguished himself. Having gone in search of the Swedish fleet, he met only four ships, three of which escaped, but one, mounting 64 guns, struck on a rock, and was set on fire by the Russians. Five hundred of her crew were taken prisoners. The Empress immediately sent to her admiral the order of St Andrew; to which he replied, “ This decoration is only given to men of high birth, or to those who have signalized themselves by illustrious deeds; I cannot claim it on either ground. I shall preserve the order with becoming respect; but will only wear it when I have acquired a title to do so *.”

Having expressed a wish to visit Cronstadt, I had the pleasure of receiving the following communication from the admiral, informing me that his barge would attend me at Oragnebaume, to convey me to that celebrated arsenal:

Admiral Greig presents his best compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and returns him many thanks for the letters transmitted to him.

The Admiral will be happy to have the honour of seeing Sir John in Cronstadt on Tuesday next, if it does not derange his other engagements; and, if that day suits, the Admiral's barge will attend Sir John at Oragnebaume, by 9 o'clock in the morning, and wait his arrival there.

Cronstad, August 11. 1786.

Cronstadt was a place well worth the seeing. The number of vessels was very great; and there were two harbours, one

* Segur's Memoirs, vol. iii. p. 340.

for ships of war, and the other for merchantmen. Great works were carrying on there, entirely under the admiral's direction. The fortifications, originally made solely of wood, they were covering with stone. They were likewise making dry docks, for building and repairing eighteen sail of the line, and erecting barracks for 30,000 seamen.

Cronstadt is certainly a strong place, both *by nature*, the access to it being extremely difficult, and *by art*, the fortifications being skilfully constructed.

9.—THE BARON DE STRANDMAN.

I have rarely met with a more zealous friend to agriculture than the Baron de Strandman. He had resided five years in England, devoted to the study of agriculture. He afterwards went to Scotland, and having subsequently gone to Paris, he thence proposed to visit the celebrated Monsieur de Fellenberg, at Hofwyl, near Berne, accompanied by four pupils of the Imperial Institute of St Petersburg, who were entrusted to his care. On his return home, he proposed founding in Livonia, his native country, some great establishment, in hopes of enlarging the interest and utility of agriculture, that most important of all the arts. It is impossible not to wish every possible success to an undertaking so truly laudable.

MONSIEUR LE BARONET *,

La lettre, pleine de bontés, que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser d'Ormy Lodge, en date du 2. Oct. dernier, m'est ar-

* Translation.

Paris, November 13. 1817.

STR,

Nelson's Hotel, New Road of St Augustin.

The very obliging letter which you were pleased to write to me from Ormy Lodge, dated the 2d of October last, reached me at the very moment of my departure from London. I beg you to believe that I will esteem myself very happy, in being enabled to devote my attention, in my own country, to making the principles of your system of rural economy more generally known and followed. It was with very great pleasure that I yesterday attended a meeting of

rivée au moment même de mon départ de Londres ; et je vous supplie de croire, que je m'estimerai fort heureux de pouvoir contribuer un jour dans ma patrie à rendre les principes de votre système d'économie rurale plus généralement connus et suivis. C'est avec un plaisir tout particulier que j'ai assisté hier à une séance de la Société Centrale d'Agriculture de Paris, où votre estimable ouvrage, intitulé, Code of Agriculture, dont j'ai attendu avec tant d'impatience la publication, a été l'objet d'une longue et intéressante conversation. Me trouvant sur le point de quitter Paris, ensemble avec les quatre élèves de l'Institut Imperial de St Petersburg, placés sous mon inspection, pour aller rejoindre M. de Fellenberg à Hofwyl, près de Bern, je vous prie, Monsieur le Baronet, de me permettre de vous offrir encore mes services pour être porteur de votre ouvrage, qui, je ne doute guères, sera reçu avec un grand empressement par les agriculteurs Suisses, et surtout M. de Fellenberg.

the Central Society of Agriculture of Paris, where your excellent work, entitled, "The Code of Agriculture," (whose publication I have looked for with so much impatience), was the subject of a long and interesting conversation. Upon the point of quitting Paris, as I now am, along with the four pupils of the Imperial Institute of St Petersburg, placed under my care, on our way to join M. de Fellenberg at Hofwyl near Berne, I entreat you, Sir, to allow me again to offer you my services as the bearer of your work, which, I doubt not, will be received with great delight by the Swiss agriculturists, and, above all, by M. de Fellenberg.

A residence of five years in England, where I devoted myself with great ardour, and a delight arising from a natural love of agriculture, to the different branches of rural economy, and an excursion which I lately took to Scotland, a country celebrated on many accounts, have made me, Sir, ambitious of the honour of holding communication, if it were possible, with your excellent Board of Agriculture ; and I need not deny, that I should have great pleasure in discharging the duties of a corresponding or foreign member. As I purpose becoming one day the founder of an agricultural establishment in Livonia, my own country, an exchange of ideas and useful discoveries in agriculture will not fail to advance the interests of this important science.

M. Morier, Consul-General to his Britannic Majesty, has kindly undertaken the conveyance of this letter ; and I entreat you, Sir, to receive my sincere expression of the high respect and esteem, with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

BARON DE STRANDMAN.

Un séjour de cinq années en Angleterre, où je me suis voué avec un grand zèle, et avec un plaisir qui previent d'un penchant naturel pour l'agriculture, aux différentes branches de l'économie rurale, et un voyage qui je viens de faire en Ecosse, ce pays distingué sous bien des rapports, me fait ambitionner l'honneur, Monsieur le Baronet, de rester en communication, s'il y a moyen, avec votre excellent Bureau d'Agriculture ; et je ne saurois vous dissimiler que c'est avec bien du plaisir que je me chargerai des fonctions de votre correspondant ou membre étranger. Me proposant de devenir un jour fondateur d'un établissement agricol dans la Livonie, ma patrie, un échange d'idées et de découvertes utiles en agriculture ne manquera pas d'offrir beaucoup d'intérêt et d'utilité pour cette science importante.

M. Morier, Consul-Général de S. M. Britannique, a la bonté de se charger de l'expédition de cette lettre ; et je vous prie, Monsieur le Baronet, de recevoir ici l'expression bien sincère de la haute considération et du dévouement avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur le Baronet, votre très humble et très humble serviteur,

BARON DE STRANDMAN,

Conseiller de la Cour de S. M. l'Empereur de Russie,
et Chevalier de l'Ordre de St Wolodimer.

Paris, ce 13. Novembre 1817,

Hotel de Nelson, Rue Neuve de St Augustin.

10.—BARON KLOPMAN.

From Stockholm I sailed to Riga, where I arrived on the 1st of August 1786. Next day I dined with the Comte le Brown, Governor-General of Livonia. I was there introduced to Baron Klopman of Mittau, who turned out to be a most valuable acquaintance. He was perfectly well acquainted with the character and history of all the most distinguished personages in Russia, and more especially in St Petersburg.

The account he gave me of Comte Brown was extremely interesting. He was of Irish extraction, and came to Russia to make his fortune. Though he was originally in rather straitened circumstances, yet being placed, by the favour of the Russian sovereigns, in very lucrative situations, and being withal economical, he had acquired an immense fortune for Russia, namely, an estate producing L.6000 *per annum*, and L.100,000 in money. He married a second wife, and, to prevent the children of the first marriage from being dissatisfied, he divided among them every shilling he was worth at the period of his second marriage.

From Baron Klopman, I was favoured with three letters written in English, a language with which he was well acquainted, and expressed with that liveliness and good humour by which he was peculiarly distinguished.

No. 1.

Mittau, 14th August 1786.

SIR,

I was, a few days ago, most agreeably surprised by a specimen of the new invented Swedish stone paper, which you pleased to send me, and for which I return you my hearty thanks.

Now, I suppose, you are in the midst of all the fine company of Petersburgh, in assemblies, routs, drums, and earthquakes. There you'll see all the enchanting beauties of the vast empire, amiable without affectation, and handsome without great art. In short, you'll find them very agreeable, and full engaging enough to prevail upon your remaining in Petersburgh till Christmas, and then I hope to be with you. I beg to be remembered to Mr Fitzherbert, and the house of Nariskin, as also to all friends in the line.

Pray command me, whenever you find opportunity for; and believe me, with the greatest esteem and sincerity, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

B. KLOPMAN.

No. 2.

St Petersburg, 14th September 1787.

DEAR SIR,

Nothing, I am sure, could have given me more satisfaction and pleasure, than receiving a letter from a friend, whose acquaintance ever shall be in the highest esteem to my memory, and which I should be glad to cultivate in any region of our globe. I sincerely thank you for the map of your great tour of Europe. It shews the greatest exactness, agility, and contempt of all fatigues. I am here these two months past, and suppose shall remain here till after St Catherine's. I have renewed, as you may suppose, my old acquaintances, the fair Countess, and the house of Nariskin, which you certainly must remember, for their great politeness and friendship shown to all strangers. I have made some new acquaintances, especially of the beau sex, amongst which a most fine and beautiful lady, just come out of the country, something of the Greek blood, and the figure of Angelica Kauffman's drawings, with brilliant eyes, full of meaning, innocence and sensibility of heart. I wish you could see her; you would not hesitate a moment to give her *la pomme de Paris*. I sincerely wish to make once more a trip to old England, to see my old friends again, and to renew to you the sincerest sentiments of my heart, with which I ever shall be, Dear Sir, your most obedient and devoted servant,

B. KLOPMAN.

Not having more but one of my Crimea medals, I beg you to accept of the inclosed one. Adieu.

No. 3.

Mittau, 23d July 1789.

SIR,

I beg leave to present you a medal which I had struck on the surrender of Oczakow, an event so remarkable in the history of Russia, and so glorious to the hero. Pray accept of it, as a small token of that high esteem, and particular friendship,

which you have raised in me, when I had the pleasure of making your agreeable acquaintance. Won't you be tempted to make another trip to St Petersburg, where delicate pleasure and brilliant amusements abide? You are still in great remembrance; and when I was last there, I had a fine conversation with the pretty and amiable ladies in the house of M. Nariskin, who inquired much after you. Adieu! Wishing you health and happiness, the greatest blessings in human nature, I am, with truth and attachment, Dear Sir, your most obedient and devoted servant,

B. KLOPMAN.

II.—M. PLESCHEEF.

The advantages resulting from statistical inquiries were but little known in Russia. I was extremely anxious, therefore, to have them introduced into that country. With that view I was induced to send the plan I had pursued, in drawing up the Statistical Account of Scotland, to M. Pleschééf, an intelligent author, who had published "A Geographical Sketch of the Russian Empire." It was considered to be the best account of that country, that had hitherto been given to the public; and I had great hopes that an author, who had succeeded so well on a small scale, might successfully attempt a work on a greater one. His answer I subjoin. But however ready the author was to engage in such an undertaking, and however anxious he might be to complete it, I am apprehensive that it did not receive that aid from the government, without which no great undertaking of a statistical nature can be completed in such a country as Russia.

MONSIEUR *,

Je suis bien sensible à l'honneur que vous m'avez fait, de

* Translation.

SIR,

St Petersburg, September 25. 1792.

I am very sensible of the honour you have done me, in communicating to me the plan of your researches for the complete history of sheep, along with the Pro-

me communiquer le plan de vos recherches pour l'histoire complete de la brebis, ensemble avec le Prospectus de l'Analyse precieuse et infiniment ingenieuse de l'Etat Politique de l'Ecosse.

Je voudrois pouvoir contribuer quelque chose à l'égard du premier ; mais comme toutes les observations faites relativement aux brebis de ce pays-ci doivent être en langue Russe, je ne sçais si vous pourrez en retirer de l'utilité. Si j'en trouve, cependant, qui soient dignes de vous être offertes, je veux essayer de vous en envoyer quelquesunes, en reconnoissance du plaisir que me procurent vos ouvrages utiles et interessans, et en vue de vous témoigner l'estime et l'admiration que m'inspire votre caractère genereux, energique et philosophe, et votre travail infatigable pour le bien et l'utilité publique.

Je suis enchanté et très flatté, Monsieur, que mon *Precis Geographique de l'Empire de Russie* ait rencontré votre approbation dans la traduction qu'en a fait Mr. Smirnov. Il m'a

spectus of the valuable and infinitely ingenious Analysis of the Political State of Scotland.

I should wish to be able to contribute something to assist you in the first work ; but as all my observations regarding the sheep of this country ought to be made in the Russian language, I do not know if they could be of any use. If, however, I can think of any worth offering you, I shall send them to you, in acknowledgment of the pleasure which your useful and interesting works afford me, and with the view of shewing you the esteem and admiration with which your generous, ardent, and philosophical character inspires me, labouring as you do indefatigably for the public good.

I am delighted and much flattered, Sir, that my *Geographical Summary of the Empire of Russia* has met with your approbation in the translation made of it by Mr Smirnov. It was impossible for me to enlarge it, on account of the restrictions which were laid upon me, and the little time that was given me for the work by Madame the Grand Duchess, who desired only a very concise abridgment of its actual state and subdivisions. Perhaps one day I may attempt to give, on a more philosophic and extensive plan, a complete statistical description of Russia ; and undoubtedly nothing could more facilitate this design, than the inestimable model which you have had the goodness to present to me, and which, beyond all dispute, should be considered as a solid basis, and a classical rule for all those who are occupied in similar researches.

With the renewed assurances of my liveliest gratitude for all that you have been pleased to communicate to me, I have the honour to be, with the sincerest respect and veneration, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

S. PLESCHEEF.

été impossible de faire rien de plus ample, à cause des restrictions qui m'ont été faites, et de peu de temps qui m'a été donné pour cet ouvrage par Madame la Grande Duchesse, qui n'a voulu avoir qu'un abrégé très concis de la Russie, dans son état et sa repartition actuelle. Il se peut qu'un jour je travaille sur un plan plus philosophique et plus étendu, pour donner une description statistique complete de la Russie ; et sans doute rien ne pourra mieux m'en faciliter les moyens d'en venir à bout, que l'inestimable modèle que vous avez eu la bonté de me communiquer, et qui peut, sans contredit, être considéré comme une base solide, et une regle classique pour tous ceux qui s'occupent de pareilles recherches.

Tout en vous réitérant les assurances de ma plus vive reconnoissance, pour tout ce que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer, j'ai l'honneur d'être, avec le respect et la veneration la plus sincere, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

S. PLESCHEEF.

St. Petersbourg, Septembre 25. 1792.

PART XXII.

TRAVELS IN POLAND,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN POLAND,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

SECT. I.—*Of the Soil and Productions of Poland.*

POLAND is a remarkably champaign country. I travelled in it from the boundary near Kiew in Russia, to Cracow, (above 500 English miles), without seeing a hill of any height, or a stone of any size, except at Berdecrow, not far from the borders of Russia, and at Dubienki, above 100 miles farther on the road to Warsaw. The soil is in general light, but fertile. The trees, the plants, the grain, and even the weeds, grow to a great height. Agriculture, however, is in a most deplorable state, (see the letter, No. 3. p. 298.); and I scarcely saw any well-dressed fields, except some in the neighbourhood of Cracow. Poland, notwithstanding its defective husbandry, yet, owing to the fertility of its soil, *and the regularity of its climate*, produces some excellent wheat; for, in winter, the crop is completely covered, for several weeks with snow, which is much better for the plant, than constant rains, or alternate falls of snow and thaws, so usual in Great Britain.

Poland is celebrated for its timber; and it is a maxim there, that though the planting of an ash, in a seedling state, may be practised, because that tree is provided by nature with numerous fibrous roots, and consequently suffers but little from its removal, yet that the oak, the birch, and all the pine

tribe, should be raised from seed sown in the very ground where the trees are to be raised.

An experiment was tried with trees raised on the same ground, partly from seed sown, and partly from seedlings transplanted, when it was proved, that the trees raised from the seed, were greatly superior.

There are several trees peculiar to Poland, which ought to be propagated in this country ; in particular, the *Swirk*, a species of fir ; the *White Oak* of the Palatinate of Bresk ; and the Polish *Maple*, which grows to a great size *.

Another valuable production of Poland is *honey*, which the bees obtain from a species of lime-tree found in Lithuania, and in some provinces of Russia, and called there the Linden. The bees extract some food from even *the leaves* of the Linden ; but it is in *the blossom of the tree*, that they find the matter which produces that pure, white, and highly flavoured honey so peculiarly valuable. For collecting it, the bees are restricted to a period of three days ; it having been ascertained, that, at the end of that time, the valuable saccharine matter in the blossoms is most commonly exhausted ; and, indeed, it sometimes happens, if bleak weather sets in at the time when the blossoms appear, that none of that superior saccharine matter can be obtained. The delicious liquor made from it, is called, in Russian, *Leepétz*. It is said to possess this great property, that no person who drinks that liquor is troubled with the gout. Nothing can surpass the honey itself, for taste, or flavour.

The linden tree grows in all good soils, but delights in clay. Its cultivation is certainly too much neglected in Britain, which is the more to be regretted, as it is a quick grower, in addition to its valuable property of producing such excellent honey †.

* See a most interesting paper on the subject of planting trees, by A. P. Hove, Esq. a native of Poland, in the communications to the Board of Agriculture, vol. vii. p. 281, which ought to be separately printed and circulated.

† When the trunk of the linden becomes from nine to ten inches in diameter, it is the best wood of any for making hives, being impervious to rain, while

SECT. 2.—*Character of the Poles.*

This subject may be discussed under four heads ; 1. The rich nobles ; 2. The inferior gentry ; 3. The peasants ; and, 4. The Jews, who form a numerous and distinct body of the people.

1. Among the rich nobility of Poland, there are many individuals of high character, more especially those who have visited foreign countries, or been educated abroad. But those who have lived at home, are in general not equally respectable or intelligent, having a high opinion of themselves,—delighting in their hereditary privileges, by which they are enabled to tyrannize over their vassals,—and attached to an elective monarchy, for the sake of the corruption so usual at such elections. The women are remarkably handsome and accomplished ; but are said to be sometimes so incorrect in their conduct, that divorces were not uncommon.

2. The inferior gentry are, in many particulars, respectable. They have a warlike spirit ; but prefer the cavalry to the foot service. The champaign nature of their country, renders horse necessary, to a considerable extent, for its defence ; but the infantry has now become, for real strength, greatly preferable. Some of this class keep post-houses, and receive the money for the horses ; but their wives are paid for the victuals or entertainment. In order to insure a welcome reception, it is necessary to give the landlord a glass of wine, and a cup of tea or coffee to the landlady. I found only one landlord who spoke Latin, which formerly was so prevalent in that country. One postilion complained, in that language, that the *via est magna, etiam maxima*.

3. The lower orders are a poor, oppressed, and miserable set of slaves, working for bread only, and hardly allowed that by their lordly masters. It is no wonder that Poland is weak, considering the distressed state of the peasantry ; for how can

it admits the cool air, so necessary for the health of the bees. Hives made of this wood are so much esteemed, that they sell at a higher price than any other sort.

they be brave, that have nothing to fight for, and are very ill paid for their labour, when they receive wages ?

4. The Jews are in immense numbers; and notwithstanding the risk of exciting the avarice of the Poles, the women are accustomed to wear many pearls, and rich dresses, on their Sabbath. I found them in every part of Poland I visited, and every where equally abundant.

In regard to the general character of the nation, the Poles are much inclined to litigation; and though their tribunals are said to be both partial and ignorant, and they have hardly any laws of their own, but are obliged to depend on the enactments of the Roman Civil law, yet they are perpetually engaged in law-suits, and often ruin one another by them. This, joined to their rivalry at the election of Nuncios, old hereditary feuds, national pride, and disputes at the election of their kings, while that miserable system continued, rendered them perfectly disunited, and incapable of exertion. Hence, though they were accustomed to talk as highly as ever, of the necessity of maintaining the Polish laws,—of preserving the liberties of Poland,—and of upholding the power and character of the Polish nation, yet the stamina of the country was gone, and a spirit of selfishness prevailed, which no country, however rich or powerful, or however happily situated, can long withstand.

SECT. 3.—*The Polish Diet.*

I felt a great curiosity to attend a Polish Diet; and fortunately arrived at Warsaw when one was held there.

There is hardly any resemblance between the Polish Diet and the English Parliament, at least at present. It might have been otherwise, when the English Parliament assembled, as the Diet did in 1786, in the king's palace.

The senators were not hereditary, but only elected for life, even the lay members. Nor could the number of senators be increased by the king, as the House of Peers may be in England. The Ministers of the Crown, by virtue of their office, were senators.

The number of electors, or nobles, in Poland, in 1786, notwithstanding the dismemberment, amounted to about 160,000.

The two Houses sometimes deliberated together, as was the case in Scotland. Indeed there was a greater resemblance between the Polish and the Scotch, than the English Parliament.

About two-thirds of the Nuncios wore the Polish dress, which is manly and becoming, and peculiarly calculated for cavalry, as the Highland dress is for infantry.

The government was entirely feudal, with this additional disadvantage, that it was a union of two feudal kingdoms; and consequently there were double Officers of State, as two Grand Marshals, one for Poland, and the other for Lithuania, &c. This word *Grand* has contributed much to make Poland *little*. There were so many Grand Marshals, Grand Constables, &c. that the nobility thought of nothing but carrying on the intrigues by which those high-sounding titles were acquired. Hence, little attention was paid to the public interest; and the King, it was said, was almost the only real patriot in the country.

When I attended the Diet, I observed, that each of the four Grand Constables had a long and powerful *baton*. When the Diet assembled in a hall, if any disorder arose, they beat the floor with those batons so violently, that no man could hear his nearest neighbour, which soon compelled silence. But when the Diet assembled in the fields, it is said, that two of these grand constables went with their batons, and knocked down any refractory member. I procured one of these batons, which had been used at the Diet in 1786, and sent it to Mr Speaker Addington, (now Viscount Sidmouth), as a proof, how difficult it was found, in foreign countries, to preserve that order, which he had the merit of enforcing, by means less harsh in themselves, and more honourable to the British character.

SECT. 4.—*Population and Roads.*

The population of Poland, according to Cox, was about

nine millions; but I was assured, by a very intelligent Nuncio, that it scarcely amounted to eight millions.

The roads, (if they could be called such), were miserable; and over any little rivulet or morass, there were trifling little timber bridges, the access to which was made with small branches and rotten wood. The roads were so execrable, that I could hardly make above fifty miles during an entire day and night, though dragged on by eight tolerably good horses. When the nobility travelled, they were generally accompanied by a hussar; and, when it became dark, they used flambeaux.

SECT. 5.—*Mode of Living.*

Nothing could exceed the splendid style of living at Warsaw among the higher ranks. They had French cooks and Italian confectioners, and spared no expense in getting the best provisions of all descriptions. The Tokay wine, in particular, was of a superior quality. They were enabled to secure the best sorts, as Cracow was the great entrepot for the sale of that celebrated liquor. In passing through that city, in my way to Vienna, I resolved to visit the cellars of Monsieur Barszdt, who was the most celebrated dealer in that article, and supplied the Comte d'Artois with it in considerable quantities. His best was nearly 40 years old, and 70 bottles of it cost 130 ducats, besides all the charges from Cracow to Danzig, and thence to Paris, or London. It was kept in hogsheads, and half hogsheads, until it was fit to be used. What made it so dear was, the quantity of wine it required to keep the hogshead always full, which they call *nourishing it*. It is advantageous buying it in casks, as the lees of the Hungary, gives the white Bourdeaux wine the same flavour. It never answers to have Tokay mixed with water.

SECT. 6.—*Interesting Historical Information.*

At different times, I had a good deal of conversation with Mr Littlepage, an American, for whom the King had taken a great fancy, and whom he appointed one of the secretaries

for foreign affairs. I found him very intelligent and communicative. He was in the service of France during the American war, and was at Cadiz, when D'Estaing was assembling his forces for an intended attack upon Jamaica. He said, that nothing could be more ridiculous, than the pompous accounts given in the British House of Commons, of the combined fleets at that time: That instead of 60, only about 48 ships were fit to go to sea: That though the land forces, it was said, would amount to about 20,000 men, yet a fever had broken out among them, and hardly 10,000 would probably have been effective when they landed. In short, the peace was reckoned *a God-send*, both by the fleet and army.

The information he gave me, regarding Lord Howe's celebrated expedition for the relief of Gibraltar, was still more important. Mr Littlepage was on board the combined fleet when Lord Howe arrived. It had suffered greatly by a gale of wind, immediately before Lord Howe appeared, and only 25 sail were ready for action when he came in view. Had he attacked them when in that state, he might have destroyed the whole. Lord Howe was an excellent naval officer, but not calculated to act with energy, in any new or unforeseen emergency. Had Lord Nelson been placed in the same situation, he would at once have seen the disordered state of the enemy, would have attacked them without the least hesitation, and would probably have gained a victory, not less complete, and perhaps more important, than even the battle of the Nile, or of Trafalgar.

SECT. 7.—*Departure from Warsaw.*

I left Warsaw on the 10th of October, with great regret. Nothing but the long journey I had in prospect, and the temptation, at that season of the year, of the finest possible weather for travelling, could have induced me to leave so delightful a place, and to pay it so short a visit. In the course of a long journey of 7500 miles, I no where met with a more agreeable society, or more splendid entertainments, nor did I

see any where, a greater number of men, distinguished for their figure, spirit, and intelligence, nor of women, more justly celebrated for beauty, elegance, and vivacity.

Owing to the shortness of my stay at Warsaw, my correspondents are not numerous, as I had not time to form any great intimacy with the natives of that country*.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF POLAND.

I.—COUNT SEVERIN POTOCKI.

In the commencement of the year 1786, I had an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with, and shewing some civilities to, the Comte Severin Potocki, a branch of one of the most distinguished families in Poland. I find the inclosed communication from him, written in English, which, though not perfectly pure, shews the great proficiency he had made in that language.

Count Potocki returns a thousand thanks to Sir John Sinclair, for the copy he has given him of the *Operis plane Aures*, as one of the very few instances of Polish books translated in English. He takes the liberty to offer him a work of another Polish author, which, though certainly rather a panegyric than a history, is very much to be trusted. He hopes, that it can be of some use to a gentleman curious, in every way of learning, and who gives us some hopes to visit our northern countries. Comte Potocki would be very happy, if Sir John Sinclair would ever effect them, and give him an opportunity for acknowledging, at least one part of all the civilities he received from him, this year in London.

Thursday, 13th April 1786.

* A letter from Stanislaus, King of Poland, and another from Lord Whitworth, who was our ambassador in Poland, when I visited that country in 1786, have been already printed in vol. i. p. 23.

2.—COUNT CHLAPOWSKI.

Among the number of distinguished foreigners, who applied for my aid, in procuring information regarding British agriculture, Count Chlapowski was one of the most zealous, and it gave me very great pleasure to promote his views. The improvement of a country, however, cannot be effected by zeal, unless accompanied by skill, and, above all, by perseverance, and that is the circumstance, to which the failure of so many plans for the improvement of agriculture, in foreign countries, ought to be attributed. It would be an interesting object of inquiry, for any person who proposed travelling abroad, with some useful object in view, were he to endeavour to ascertain, to what extent foreign countries have been improved, by the introduction of British agriculture, and to what extent British agriculture might be advanced, by the introduction of foreign practices.

MONSIEUR *,

Je suis revenu que tout à l'heure du Norfolk, et je suis obligé de partir pour la Pologne demain, desirant joindre à Harwich le même paquet qui m'emmena de Hambourg. Je suis extrêmement fâché d'être privé par-là de l'honneur et du plaisir d'aller à Ormly Lodge, vous remercier à la bonté que vous avez eu de me donner des lettres d'introduction pour les East Lothians et pour Holkham. Je vous dois, Monsieur, tout le plaisir que j'ai eu à m'instruire chez les respectables

* Translation.

SIR,

London, September 9. 1818.

I have just returned from Norfolk, and am obliged to set off for Poland tomorrow, as I wish to join at Harwich, the same packet which brought me from Hamburgh. I am much disappointed in being thus denied the honour and the pleasure of going to Ormly Lodge, to thank you for your kindness in giving me letters of introduction for the East Lothians and Holkham. I owe to you, Sir, all the happiness which I have had in my acquaintance with those respectable persons to whom you recommended me. I regret having had so little time to myself. I will certainly avail myself of the first opportunity which occurs to return to this country, in order to obtain instruction from it, (so far as lies in my power), for a country so much in arrear as ours, and which has every possible obstacle to contend with.

I entreat you, Sir, to accept the assurance of my regard, and the distinguished sentiments with which I have the honour to be, &c.

personnes auxquelles vous m'avez recommandé. Je regrette d'avoir eu si peu de temps à moi; et je profiterai certainement de la première facilité que j'aurois pour revenir dans ce pays, continuer à prendre bon exemple, autant qu'il se peut, pour un pays aussi en arrière que le nôtre, et qui a toutes les entraves possibles.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, d'agréer l'assurance de ma reconnaissance et des sentimens distingués avec lesquelles j'ai l'honneur d'être votre tres humble et obéissant serviteur,

D. CHLAPOWSKI.

Londres, 9. Septembre 1818.

3.—M. SERWINSKI.

It was pleasing to find, that the natives of foreign countries, were not only ready to avail themselves, of the useful practices of Great Britain, but were likewise ready to communicate to us, any information which they thought might be of service to British agriculture. It was therefore, with much pleasure, that I received the following communication from a Polish gentleman, respecting an implement, which he considered to be of considerable importance.

Nothing will satisfy the opponents of British agriculture, until the farmers of this country are reduced to the necessity, of cultivating the soil with instruments, that may be purchased for four or five shillings sterling, and which may be worked with two small oxen or even cows. It is melancholy to think, the state of dependence on foreign supplies, to which this country may be reduced, by oppressed agriculture.

Ciclesnica, près Bixta, en Pologne,
le 10. Novembre 1820.

MONSIEUR *,

Parmis les instrumens aratoires décrits par les plus célèbres agriculteurs, tels que l'Abbé Rozier, Arthur Young, Albrecht

* Translation.

SIR,

November 10. 1820.

Among all the instruments of tillage, described by the most illustrious agriculturists, such as the Abbé Rozier, Arthur Young, Albrecht Thaer, and others,

Thaer, et autres, je ne trouve aucune mention de l'instrument aratoire usité dans tout le grand duché de Lithuanie, dans certaines Russies, et dans une grande partie de la Pologne. Cet instrument, nommé dans la langue Polonoise *Socha*, est de la plus grande simplicité ; presque chaque paysan le construit lui-même, et qui a besoin de l'acheter ne le paye pas davantage que 8 à 10 florins de Pologne (4 à 5 schellings). C'est cependant avec cet instrument que l'on cultive la terre dans un pays d'une immense étendue : les récoltes en bleds y sont très abondantes, dont le superflu avant le maximum de votre pays s'exportait même en Angleterre. Il faut ajouter encore qu'il ne faut que deux petits bœufs, ou deux petites vaches, pour labourer la terre avec cet instrument. Après cette courte description de cet instrument, je suis presque sûr que vous voudriez voir, et essayer cet instrument, ou, peut-être, en augmenter la collection des instrumens de la Société Royale d'Agriculture, (Board of Agriculture), dont vous êtes le fondateur. S'il en est ainsi, vous n'avez, Monsieur, qu'à m'ordonner ; je me ferai un vrai plaisir de vous l'envoyer tel que les paysans d'ici le construisent, par les bateaux que descen-

I find no mention of that used in tilling the grand duchy of Lithuania, in certain parts of Russia, and in a great part of Poland. This instrument, called in the Polish language *Socha*, is of the greatest simplicity. Almost every peasant can construct it himself ; and he who is obliged to buy it, pays no more than eight or ten florins Polish money, which is four or five shillings in England. It is nevertheless with this instrument that a country of immense extent is cultivated. The harvests of wheat are there abundant, and the superfluity of the grain, which is more than the maximum of your country, is exported into England. It must also be stated, that only two small oxen or two small cows are necessary to cultivate the ground with this instrument. After hearing this, I am very sure that you will wish to see it and try it, or perhaps to add it to the collection of the instruments of the Royal Society of Agriculture, of which you are the founder. If this is the case, you have only to acquaint me, Sir, and I shall have sincere pleasure in sending you such an instrument as the peasants here construct, by the boats which sail down the Bog, and then the Vistula, for Dantzic. You have only to give me the address of some merchant at Dantzic, who will transmit it to you at any port you may mention. If you should honour me with an answer, I request you will address to me by *Varsovie, Cielesnica, près Biztá*, and the letter will be sure to reach me. I have the honour to be, with all the esteem which is due to a man so celebrated and so justly renowned over all the world, &c.

dent le Bog, et puis la Vistule, pour se rendre à Dantzig, en me donnant seulement l'adresse de quelque negociant á Dantzig, que pourrait vous le faire passer dans quelque port que vous lui indiqueriez. Si vous m'honorez d'une réponse, je vous prie de mettre sur l'adresse par *Varsovie, Cielesnica, près Bixtá*, et la lettre ne manquera pas de me parvenir. J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec toute l'estime qui est due à un homme dont la celebrité est si justement établie sur toute la terre, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

ANDRE SERWINSKI.

Answer to M. Serwinski.

Sir John Sinclair had the honour of receiving Mr. Serwinski's obliging communication of the 10th November last, respecting an instrument for the cultivation of land, called "*Socha*" in Poland; and he begs to inform Mr. Serwinski, that similar instruments are made use of in the more remote parts of Scotland. Experience, however, has now taught the superior order of Scotch farmers, that none but instruments *of the strongest and best construction*, drawn by horses or oxen *of the best quality*, will cultivate land *to perfection*. Sir John is also persuaded, that the instrument recommended, more especially with the "*stock*" or cattle described as sufficient to draw it, can only be used in light lands; whereas a large proportion of the arable land in Great Britain, consists of strong and stiff soil.

Sir John returns Mr. Serwinski his best thanks for his obliging attention, in transmitting to him any hints which he considered to be material; and begs to add, his best wishes, for Monsieur Serwinski's success in the important pursuits of agriculture.

133. George Street,
Edinburgh, 14th February 1821.

It evidently appears from these letters, and from a variety of other communications inserted in this volume, that a great spirit for agricultural improvement, existed on the Continent,

as well as in this country, which was often checked, by the want of success *in trying plausible experiments*. I was thence led to draw up the following paper, pointing out the hazard of attempting any extensive speculations, until experience, *on a small scale*, had justified the attempt; for the most plausible plans of improvement, may encounter unexpected difficulties, which may render them abortive. The following statement, furnishes some striking examples of the justness of that remark.

Anecdote illustrating the Hazards attending Speculations in Farming.

Several years ago, a very ingenious person, the inventor of some useful machines, for which he had taken out patents, but from which he did not derive the profits he had expected; and who found also, that the profession he followed, (that of a writing-master), produced but a moderate income, formed an idea, that he could make his fortune, by an improved mode of cultivating the soil. With this view, he took up his residence in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where he purchased eight Scotch acres of land, from which, by means of his new system, he expected to derive an income of L.1600 *per annum*. His plan was, to plant 5000 gooseberry bushes *per acre*, making in all 40,000; and in the interstices between the bushes, to raise cabbages and other vegetables, by the sale of which he expected, to be enabled to defray, both the expenses of the cultivation, and the interest of the money he had paid for the ground. He admitted, that no profit could be made till the fifth year, when the bushes would come into full bearing; but he calculated, that though the bushes were reduced from five thousand, to about four thousand plants *per acre*, yet that each bush, on an average, would produce three Scotch pints, which, (making allowances for the rivalry of other cultivators), he would be able to sell at the rate of fourpence *per pint*, or one shilling *per bush*. Thirty-two thousand bushes, therefore, even at that low price, would produce L.1600 *per annum*. Hence the plan, seemed to him certain of success. It was in vain that his friends pointed out an objection which he had not taken into his consideration, namely, the hazard of not finding a market for such a quantity of the same article. He was too sanguine to admit of any difficulty in effecting a sale. The event however proved, that the difficulty anticipated, was perfectly

well founded. The gooseberry bushes produced an abundant crop ; and both the quantity and quality of the fruit exceeded his most sanguine expectations. But the occasional inclemencies of the season,—the numbers destroyed by the boys and women sent to pull them,—the circumstance, that a large proportion became ripen early at the same time,—and the fruit being of so very perishable a nature, that it could not be preserved in a perfect state for above a day or two,—all combined, to render the plan unsuccessful ; and a very small proportion of the crop, under these disadvantages, ever came to market. He was reluctantly compelled therefore, to extirpate the gooseberry bushes, and to try some other expedient.

He had heard of the great value of a crop of carrots, when produced on ground properly manured and cultivated ; and he determined to sow his eight acres with that root. The carrots throve, and, to all appearance, were an excellent crop ; but when raised to be sent to market, a large proportion of them were diseased, having got the distemper called “ *Fingers and Toes* ;” and nobody could be found to purchase them.

Still, however, he was not discouraged ; and being unwilling entirely to lose a crop, from which he had expected to derive so much profit, and having heard that carrots contained much sugar, and consequently afforded a great deal of nourishment, he bought an immense quantity of poultry, invented machines for scraping, boiling, and washing the carrots, and fed his poultry with them to a remarkable state of fatness ; but, alas ! even these were not marketable ; for although he sold a few of them, nobody who once bought them, would purchase them again ; for their flesh *appeared to be quite raw*, even when well cooked, in consequence of their having been fed on so red a substance as carrots.

It is much to be regretted, that so ingenious and persevering a character, should have experienced so many disappointments ; and it will be admitted, that the plans he tried, were sufficiently plausible, to justify his making the experiments above detailed. Perhaps the gooseberry experiment might have been more successful, had he converted the fruit *into wine*, which, when properly made from that fruit, is an excellent and wholesome beverage.

PART XXIII.

TRAVELS IN THE AUSTRIAN
DOMINIONS,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN THE AUSTRIAN DOMINIONS,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

SECT. I.—*Journey from Warsaw to Vienna.*

I entered Austrian Poland on the 14th of October 1786. The custom-house officers acted their parts with much civility. My foreign servant, who knew how to manage those matters, having frequently travelled on the Continent, placed, with a significant sign, the usual perquisites under a candlestick in the room where we met; and after my trunk had gone through a slight examination, no farther trouble was given. At the entrance into Vienna, however, the examination was much stricter; and they searched the very pockets of the servants.

In all countries travellers, should be put to as few inconveniencies as possible, on these occasions. In fact, it is rather to satisfy the curiosity or avarice of custom-house officers, than for any chance of public gain, that a rigorous examination is permitted.

I found, on my arrival in Austrian Poland, that great improvements had been carried on in that country. There were more good roads in the Emperor's Polish provinces, than in all the rest of Poland put together. The inns were more commodious, and better served; and the people were more industrious than in the neighbouring Polish districts. They had flax, hemp, potatoes, and cabbages in great abun-

dance, and produced even in the fields. In short, every thing denoted a better police, and a superior government.

From Warsaw to Vienna was a journey of seven days. On the road I crossed a branch of the Carpathian mountains, which, even at that season of the year, (about the middle of October), I found whitened with snow.

SECT. 2.—*Political State of Austria, an. 1786.*

The dominions of the Emperor, at this time, contained about 12,000 square miles, and 20 millions of inhabitants. The amount of the imperial revenue was kept quite a state secret, but was supposed to be about 72 millions of florins, or 8 millions sterling*.

Austria, from the various advantages it possesses, ought to be a great military power. The Hungarians are trained as horsemen from their infancy, and are ready-made cavalry. They can purchase excellent horses in Hungary for L.10 sterling each.

The Styrians, Carinthians, Upper Austrians and Saltz-burgers, are all mountaineers, excellent riflemen,—as strong-bodied and active as the Scottish Highlanders, and much attached to their sovereign.

The Bohemians and Moravians are good cuirassiers and heavy cavalry; and the Polish provinces produce excellent soldiers, and superior horses. From those provinces, also, corn and cattle in abundance might be furnished for the armies.

The mercantile interests of Austria were much injured by the Emperor's absurd and exclusive regulations. Commerce must be reciprocal to be advantageous. If a nation refuse to purchase from other nations, there is an end to that exchange of commodities, which, *by diminishing the expense of carriage*, renders commerce flourishing. To have an advantageous trade, it is necessary to import, as well as to export. Count Zinzen-

* In 1802, the population of Austria was estimated at 23 millions of souls, and its revenue at 10 millions sterling. Pinkerton's Geography, vol. i. p. 345, and 346.

dorf informed me, that until he had the accounts made up, the Emperor and his Ministers were ignorant that there existed any advantageous export trade. How long it would be suffered to remain in that beneficial state was extremely doubtful. Many of the Emperor's subjects were much dissatisfied with his absurd prohibition of *Dutch herrings*, which furnished a *cheap luxury to the poor*, and gave a relish to the miserable fare they commonly lived on.

SECT. 3.—*Vienna, and the State of Society there.*

The town is admirably situated in a fertile plain, watered by a branch of the Danube; and though, in extent, greatly inferior to Paris or London, is perhaps as large as any capital ought to be. When a metropolis is overgrown, it is difficult to procure, at reasonable rates, an adequate supply of provisions;—the upper ranks become luxurious and dissolute;—and the lower orders idle, and so vicious, that it is very difficult to keep them under proper subjection.

The Imperial Ministers of State, and the *Corps Diplomatique*, live well. In the morning, each individual pursues his own amusement; and in the evenings there are always two or three houses open and ready to receive them. At these assemblies men and women meet to see and to be seen; and because every night there are several houses open, where idle people can go and lounge in, they maintain, that society is on the best possible footing at Vienna. There were generally two or three card tables. The rest of the company stare at each other, without enjoying much interesting conversation. In short, such a life soon becomes tiresome to any man to whom time is precious.

For a temporary residence, Vienna is rather an expensive place. A stranger is no sooner presented to any of the Ministers of State, than the courier, the footman, &c. call at his lodgings, and he is informed, that “*Les gens de Prince Kaunitz, de Prince Colleredo, &c. souhaitent Monsieur un heureux arrivé à Vienne.*” And one, two, or three ducats are

the expected donation. About Christmas, this perquisite will cost a stranger about L.20 or L.30, in addition to the usual expense of other places on the Continent.

At some of the great houses shops were opened, where it is expected that the visitors should purchase some articles; and occasionally there are lotteries, a ticket in which you are under the necessity of purchasing, so that an acquaintance with the great becomes so expensive, that many are obliged to avoid it.

They play much at cards, but not so deep as at Petersburg. Loto was becoming very general, and more fashionable than whist.

The nobles and the gentry did not appear to be either highly educated or well informed. Of the young men who promised favourably in point of information or talents, the Count Bergen and the Baron Wrbna seemed the most likely to distinguish themselves. They were both *à l'Angloise*. The young frenchified Austrians were commonly a very despicable set*.

The ladies were numerous, and many of them handsome. A Spanish grandee, who came to Vienna to be married, got immediately a list of from eighty to ninety ladies, among whom to choose his partner for life. The married women are rather free in their conversation, and some of them not very correct in their conduct.

The English were exceedingly popular in Vienna, and indeed all over the Austrian empire. In Hungary they are peculiarly respected, more especially as that country boasts of a constitution resembling the English. Many of the natives of Vienna speak the English language, and above 600 understand it. A Colonel Baillie, affecting the Frenchman, and calling himself "*Monsieur de Baillie*," was much despised and ridiculed. The English, however, are so numerous, that they are sometimes held very cheap. This furnishes a useful lesson to

* In Pinkerton's Geography, vol. i. p. 349, a very deplorable account is given of the young Austrian nobility, so late as the year 1802.

young noblemen on their travels ; because, unless they can contrive to make themselves agreeable, no one pays them any attention ; while an ensign of foot will be greatly caressed, if his manners are prepossessing.

There were two ladies at Vienna, the Countess de Thun, and Madame de Bergen, whose houses were always open in the evening for the reception of the English. The society at Madame de Thun's was particularly agreeable, when one became well acquainted with the visitors who resorted there ; but it took some time to understand the tone of the society, as they had innumerable nick-names, and jests among themselves, the key to which it was impossible at once to discover.

I found the conversation principally related to local subjects, and it was seldom that any useful or important topic was introduced. Politics were cautiously avoided. During the war ending in 1782, the events which then took place, were often discussed at Prince Kaunitz's assemblies. This gave an artful German Baron an opportunity to acquire the reputation of great learning and knowledge on various subjects. When from the papers he found that Gibraltar, Boston, Jamaica, or any other place was likely to be the subject of the day, he read all he could find in geographical books on that topic, and appeared quite an oracle.

The roads in the neighbourhood of Vienna are extremely dusty, which, it is said, produces many consumptions. These, however, are supposed to be principally owing to the intense-ness of the cold, against the effects of which sufficient precautions are not always taken. The dust likewise occasions complaints in the eyes. Numbers of men, on that account, wear ear-rings, which, they assert, are good for the eyes ; the hole in the ear, and the weight of the ear-ring, drawing any humour in the eyes to those parts.

SECT. 4.—*Observations on the Character and Conduct of
Prince Kaunitz.*

He was born in 1712, and, when I saw him, in 1786, was

about 74. For that age he was remarkably healthy. He rode every day, either in the open air, or, when the weather was unfavourable, in a *menage couvert*, and eat most voraciously. He is the proudest, and, at the same time, the vainest of all mortals; and it is hardly possible to conceive, the existence of such a character, in a civilized European country, for it seemed much more analogous to that of a despot, trained up with all the blandishments of an eastern seraglio, than to the freedom of European society. But flattery, on weak minds, has every where the same effects. He is so inflated with pride, that he thinks he has no equal, and perhaps, that such a human being hardly ever before existed. He is convinced, that he is the only man in Europe, who knows the real interest of each sovereign in it, and is inflated with other ideas equally ridiculous. He thought himself so much wiser than his predecessors in the councils of Vienna, that he would chalk out a new system. He abandoned, therefore, the English alliance, and resolved to unite the two rival houses of Austria and Bourbon, by marrying an Austrian archduchess to the future sovereign of France. The mischievous consequences resulting from that alliance are well known.

Having, as he supposes, no equal, he thinks it beneath him to entertain either friendship or enmity. He considers himself the only good horseman and architect in the universe. "When I die," he says, "*equitation will be lost*;" and he maintained, that all former architects were ignorant men, who knew nothing of the matter. Had he time, he affirmed, that he would undertake to draw up the plan of a theatre, with this advantage, that the side boxes were to have *a front view of the stage*.

His mode of living is as follows. His niece, a good-humoured little widow, resides with him, and superintends his household. He has every day a table of eighteen or twenty covers. His courier goes about a day or two before, and by a verbal message invites the company. He dines at six, and, as the opera begins about seven, on these nights, he finds it difficult to get a sufficient supply of good company, and

young strangers are generally taken in to dine with him. He certainly gives very good victuals; but seldom more than two bottles of wine to eighteen or twenty people. It was once remarked as a wonder, that an Englishman had drunk four glasses during dinner. After he has dined, he sits for a quarter of an hour picking and cleaning his teeth. There never was a more disgusting toilet. He then returns to the drawing-room, where he spends the evening, and where all the principal people of Vienna come and go just as they please.

He sometimes plays at billiards there, but always with a servant, as if it was beneath him to place any person of rank on a footing with him.

I saw the Archduke and Archduchess paying him great court, and with much humility. The Emperor also comes occasionally, and there is an arch from the ramparts to Kaunitz's house, which he crosses, when he chooses to come privately. His influence at Court, however, is very much diminished since the accession of the Emperor, which chagrins him not a little.

He treated the Pope, the Grand Duke of Russia, and the Duke of York, with the greatest hauteur;—was indignant that the Pope should ask him if he knew Italian. “*Je le connais au fond,*” he answered; and was very angry with the old *Galliard*, as he called him, for supposing that Prince Kaunitz was ignorant of any thing.

He is very fond of horses, and, if he likes a horse, will ask for it without ceremony. Lady Craven sent him one she had received from a Turkish Bashaw; but, after trying the horse, he sent it back very ungallantly, saying, it did not suit him.

He has a remarkably fine set of teeth for his time of life, in consequence of the great care he has paid to their preservation. From the regular exercise he takes, and attention to his health, he is likely to live long. But it was generally remarked that his understanding, (*never a strong one*), had begun to be impaired.

On the whole, I do not recollect, either in my own extensive experience, or in any history, either ancient or modern,

to have seen or heard of such an example of weakness, pride, and self-sufficiency.

SECT. 5.—*Of the Austrian Generals.*

Marshal Lacy was the Emperor's military favourite. He was certainly an able man, and well calculated for conducting the official management of an army in the departments of adjutant and quartermaster general; but, for actual service, Marshal *Laudohn* is unquestionably the superior officer. I understand that neither of them, though the first is of Irish, and the second of Scotch extraction, entertain the least friendly feeling towards England. On the contrary indeed, Lacy is a decided partisan of France. *Laudohn* has the Scotch features distinctly marked in his countenance. He speaks no English, and very little French.

SECT. 6.—*Sir Robert Murray Keith.*

He was descended from an ancient family in Scotland,—was bred to the military profession, but preferred the diplomatic line, and was the British minister at Denmark, when Queen Matilda was in such danger from the conspiracy against her. For his services on that occasion he was promoted to the superior embassy at Vienna, where he is much liked and respected. He holds the English character very high, and says, that of 600 English who had been recommended to him, not one, (with a single exception), was ever detected in a lie. He is a zealous patriot, indefatigable in business, and punctual to a minute. He has great quickness in decyphering, and soon discovered what was meant by the following characters, without having seen the key,

Drzf mzl wk bke jkfolw fk kozw frgg xhjrok
What, man? do you pretend to read this cypher?

The Key.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
z y x w u t s r q p o n m l k j i h g f e d c b a

He considers Vienna to be the centre of European politics, and often complains that the British ministers, neither pay the ne-

cessary attention to his communications, nor are sufficiently regular in writing to him. He says, that he has been sometimes a month without receiving a single dispatch. "It would be better, he remarked, to send me packets of old newspapers, than to leave me totally neglected."

On my arrival at Vienna, I received from him the following friendly note :

Sir Robert Keith presents his best compliments to Sir John Sinclair, and assures him of the most hearty welcome to Vienna, where he will spare no pains to make his stay agreeable. He has ordered a servant to carry the last English newspapers to Sir John's lodgings.

On the whole, none of the foreign ministers could rival, in regard to abilities, our own ambassador, Sir Robert Murray Keith; nor was it possible to have any representative more truly anxious to fulfil the duties of his office, or to promote the interests of his country. At some courts they are not fond of having able foreign ministers sent to them, lest they should make important discoveries. Frederick the Great pitched on a very able man to reside at Vienna. The Emperor treated him very ill, upon which Frederick sent a person distinguished for his deficient intellect, and to him the Emperor behaved with all the politeness and affability imaginable.

SECT. 7.—*Baron Born.*

This celebrated mineralogist was a person of first rate abilities, but distinguished by the greatest simplicity of manners. In the course of his mineralogical investigations in the winter season, he contracted a disorder, by which, for above sixteen years, he had been tortured every winter, with almost intolerable pains in his limbs, rendering his existence, at that season of the year, almost intolerable. I have seen him bite the table with anguish; and in his agony he exclaimed, "Si j'étois un Anglois, je me tuerois *."

* If I were an Englishman, I would kill myself.

He said, that the system of amalgamation, (which is by far the best process that has ever yet been discovered, for extracting metals from ore), was invented by the Arabians. It answers for gold, silver, copper, lead, and perhaps tin; but not for iron. It makes copper so pure, that it resembles the copper brought from China, in colour and other properties. Baron Born's process, not only extracts a greater quantity of metal, but he will do, with half an ounce of mercury, what the Spaniards at present can hardly effect with fifteen ounces. He calculates, that it will add at once to the produce of the Spanish mines two millions of florins, (German), or about L.220,000 sterling. By his exertions, the mineral productions of the Austrian dominions were raised to about sixteen millions of florins, or L.1,700,000 sterling*.

The only means of restoring the value of the British mines, now so much depreciated, would be, by the introduction of the same processes in this country.

Baron Born informed me, that they make iron as well with charred peat or turf, as with the charcoal of wood, at St Gallens in Styria. Works for that purpose might be established in the Highlands of Scotland, in districts where ironstone and peat abound.

I received from this distinguished mineralogist, a copy of his Treatise on Amalgamation, which I got translated by Raspe, a German mineralogist, into English. But unless "a board for mines" were established, to direct the public attention to improvements in the art of mineralogy, the efforts of any private individual will be of very little avail.

* An account of the mineral productions of the Emperor's dominions in Germany, an. 1783.

Gold,	24,000	} merks or half pounds.
Silver,	120,000	
Copper,	60,000	} quintals.
Tin,	3,000	
Lead,	40,000	
Iron,	800,000	
Cobalt, sulphur and Saxon blue,	24,000	

SECT. 8.—*Dr Ingenhouz.*

The Doctor was a native of Holland. He lived much in London, and was particularly intimate with that respectable physician, Sir John Pringle, who was President of the Royal Society.

The Empress Maria Theresa having desired Sir John to recommend a physician to inoculate her family, he sent Doctor Ingenhouz. This makes him very attentive to the English. He is famous for his skill in the modern discoveries of electricity, fixed air, &c.

The Doctor has always some curiosities to shew his friends, as an apple, which smells very pleasant, and is so enormously large, as to weigh a pound; also green-frogs, which are as handsome as such an animal can be; and amusing, from the manner in which they hunt flies in the glasses in which they are kept, &c.

Miscellaneous Hints.

It was stated by Baron Born, that the first drawn, or purest coal tar, is found, by the people in the Tyrol, to be an excellent remedy for curing the wounds of cattle and horses. It is called stein-oil in that country.

In the Emperor's gardens near Vienna, I was struck with the wool of the *Cactus melicactus*. It grows to perfection in Jamaica and our other West India Islands, and it is said, might be converted into a species of fine cloth.

The Austrian muskets are primed at the mouth, and thus the tedious process of priming is avoided. This is accomplished, by making the touchhole larger than is usually the case. But as sometimes more powder gets into the lock than is necessary, they have a guard to protect the eyes of the soldier from the flame.

I was surprised to see the streets often filled with felons loaded with heavy chains, guarded by soldiers of the police, and employed in sweeping the streets. They were dressed

like monks ; and until I heard the rattling of their chains, I thought that it was a new order of that fraternity.

AUSTRIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

I.—PRINCE ESTERHAZY,

Ambassador from Austria to the Court of London.

There is no part of the Continent, where the exertions of the Board of Agriculture, for the improvement of that art, were more highly appreciated than in Hungary ; nor is there any district in Europe possessed of greater natural advantages for the practice of improved husbandry. Nothing indeed is required, but skill and capital, and easy access to foreign markets, to render Hungary one of the most productive and thriving countries in Europe. I had frequent discussions with Prince Esterhazy, both on the improvements which might be made in the vast possessions belonging to his family there, but also on the means of meliorating the financial circumstances of the Austrian empire ; and had at one period an intention of taking another short excursion to the Continent, for the promotion of these objects. The following letter will explain, how zealously the Prince entered into my views :

MY DEAR SIR JOHN,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging letter of the 22d ultimo, inclosing a document the value of which I fully appreciate, and for which I feel particularly obliged, but still more so for the offer of your personal services in aiding the execution of your valuable views, founded upon such extensive experience for improving the agricultural and financial state of a country. I am exceedingly happy, that at your advanced age you are in the enjoyment of good health. I am, my Dear Sir John, yours truly,

ESTERHAZY.

2.—COUNT ZINZENDORF.

He was the Comptroller-General of the Finances,—an intelligent man, and very laborious, and would have been communicative, had he not received express orders to keep every thing in his department *as secret as possible*. He strongly remonstrated against the prohibitory system, and the imposition of heavy duties on the importation of foreign goods, but in vain.

In various ways the prohibitory system proved highly disadvantageous. It greatly diminished the revenue,—it prevented the exportation of goods in return for those imported,—and compelled the subjects of the Emperor to be satisfied with inferior articles. Hence, owing to the enormous duty of 60 *per cent.*, there was hardly any good wine to be met with at Vienna, except at Sir Robert Keith's and the French Ambassador's.

On the subject of finance, I was favoured with the following communication from the Count :

Le Comte de Zinzendorf * rend mille graces très h. à Monsieur le Chevalier de Sinclair de ses deux brochures sur les

* Translation.

The Count de Zinzendorf returns many thanks to Sir John Sinclair for his two pamphlets upon English finance. He will read them with the greatest attention as soon as he has got them bound. The interesting work upon the nature and species of all the taxes in use in the different states of Europe, of which Sir John Sinclair makes mention, will give him still more pleasure, and he entreats him not to forget his promise of sending it to him.

I subjoin here a list of some German works upon finance, and upon the public administration of them.

Some of these books treat upon some particular state in Germany, others confine themselves in preference to a single branch of political economy. The best are undoubtedly No. 12, 13, 25, 31. Sir John Sinclair will find there some reflexions upon the general mode of administering them, as well as notions upon the finances and taxes of the different states of Europe ;—the whole discussed upon principles which harmonize together, and are founded upon justice, the nature of things, and upon the general interest of every class of inhabitants in a well-organized state.

Vienna, 28th October 1786.

finances Angloises. Il les lira avec la plus grande attention aussitôt qu'il les aura fait relire. L'ouvrage intéressant, *Sur la nature et l'espece de tous les impôts en usage dans les différens états de l'Europe*, dont Monsieur de Sinclair lui a parlé, lui fera encore plus de plaisir, et il le supplie de ne point oublier sa promesse, de le lui envoyer.

Je joins ici, Monsieur, une liste de quelques ouvrages Allemands sur les finances et sur l'administration publique. Quelques uns d'entre ces livres ont trait à tel état particulier de l'Allemagne ; d'autres s'occupent de préférence de quelque branche seulement de l'économie politique.

Les meilleurs sont, sans contredit, No. 12, 13, 25, 31. Monsieur le Chevalier de Sinclair y trouvera des reflexions sur l'administration publique en général, ainsi que des notions sur les finances et les impôts de différens états de l'Europe,—le tout discuté d'après les mêmes principes cohérens entre eux, et fondés sur la justice, sur la nature des choses, et sur l'intérêt général de toutes les classes des habitans d'un état policé.

Vienne, ce 28. Octobre 1786.

3.—COUNT PURGSTALL.

This respectable nobleman received part of his education at Edinburgh, where I had the pleasure of making his acquaintance, and of shewing to him those attentions to which so promising a young man was justly entitled. He was so much pleased with Scotland, that he married a lady there, and then settled in his own country in Austria, where, I understand, he is deservedly much respected, and shews an example to others, in the improvement and management of an estate.

I had the pleasure of receiving from him the subjoined letter, introducing Count Bernstorff, the son of my old and esteemed friend, the Prime Minister of Denmark. He came to England, for the purpose of acquiring agricultural information, and naturally expected any assistance with which it was in my power to furnish him.

Hainfell, November 27. 1799.

DEAR SIR,

The obliging attention you favoured me with while I was in Scotland, induced me to take the liberty to introduce to your acquaintance Count Bernstorff, a second son of the late Prime Minister in Denmark. The character of Count Bernstorff is, I am sure, sufficiently known to all statesmen, and therefore I need say no more to you; but I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of acknowledging the obligations I owe to him, having lived for a long time in his house, where I was always treated as one of his children. The brother of the gentleman who will have the honour of presenting this letter to you, is at present at the head of the foreign department, and though yet very young, fills his place with universal approbation. My friend wishes particularly for agricultural information, and it is with pleasure I introduce him to Sir John Sinclair, whom to get acquainted with, is the anxious desire of every German who goes to England in search of knowledge. I have the honour to be, yours very sincerely,

PURGSTALL.

4.—ABBE DENIS.

During my stay at Vienna, I received the greatest attention and civilities from the Abbé Denis, who was accounted one of the most distinguished literary characters in Germany. He drew up, and published, a translation of Ossian in German, and seems to have been one of the greatest admirers of the Celtic bard. The Abbé was so good as to send me, several copies of the celebrated *Senatus Consultum* against the Bacchanals, engraved from the original, which, as a curious remnant of antiquity, I had the pleasure of sending to the universities of England and of Scotland, by whom the donation was highly appreciated.

MONSIEUR *,

Depuis votre depart de Vienne, je n'ai pas laissé de suivre vos traces jusqu'au jour de la session, dans laquelle vous

• Translation.

SIR,

Vienna, August 20. 1787.

Since your departure from Vienna, I have never ceased watching your progress, up to the very day of the meeting at which you dislodged Lord Elcho from your august assembly ; and since that time I have had the honour of knowing the author of the " State of the Alterations which may be proposed in the Laws for regulating the election of Members of Parliament for Shires in Scotland." Conceive, then, Sir, the pleasure which your obliging letter gave me, in which you assure me of your remembrance. I place a great value on it, and am now about to give you an account of the literary commissions with which you honoured me.

I was much delighted to learn that the copy of the *Senatus Consultum* has deserved the attention of your *scavans* ; on which account I send you, by the desire of the worthy head of the Imperial Library, M. le Baron Swieten, eight other copies for your friends, and particularly one for the celebrated Mr Macpherson, for whom I have done as much as was in my power, to make known his merit to my German countrymen, by means of translations. I beg of you to thank him, at the same time, for his promise of an Ossian in the original tongue, which, I hope, will henceforward silence all those who make it their business to spread doubts as to its authenticity, as if that was not sufficiently proved by the internal character of the immortal songs themselves, such as I defy any modern author to compose without betraying himself.

I add a copy of *Malthæus Ægyptius* upon the same *Senatus Consultum*, which is found superfluous in the Imperial Library, and this I do with the consent of the said Mr Baron Swieten.

I was also very happy to procure for you a copy of the *Tabula Pentingeriana*, still in *Albis*, for the price of twenty-two and a half florins. You will thus have the satisfaction of getting it bound to your own taste. It will be almost impossible to get the table alone, without the commentary ; but, nevertheless, I shall not lose sight of your commission. You know that there was a divinity called *Fortuna Libraria*, who lived some time since, who sometimes verifies what Ovid says :

*Semper tibi pendent hamus
Quo minime reris gurgite piscis erit.*

For the Mineralogical Chart of Hungary I have made many inquiries, and our mineralogists have assured me that it is very difficult to find. Nevertheless, in turning over my geographical papers, I have discovered it, and I beg of you to accept of it, such as it is, for my sake.

Messrs Artaria undertake to send you every thing, by their correspondent Mr Torre, in about a month. You can then send me the money by your very worthy minister, Sir Robert, because I have no relation in London.

In conclusion, as you are a zealous antiquarian, and a great admirer of all

avez delogé de votre auguste assemblée Lord Elcho, et depuis ce tems-là j'ai l'honneur de connoître l'auteur du *State of the Alterations which may be proposed in the Laws for regulating the Election of Members of Parliament for Shires in Scotland*. Jugez-en, Monsieur, du plaisir que m'a fait votre obligeante lettre, par laquelle vous m'assurez de votre souvenir. J'y mets un très-grand prix, et je m'en vais maintenant vous rendre compte des commissions littéraires dont vous m'avez honoré.

J'étois bien charmé d'entendre, que la copie du *Senatus Consultum* a mérité l'attention de vos savans; ainsi je vous envoie, avec l'agrément du digne chef de la Bibliothèque Imperiale M. le Baron Swieten, huit autres copies pour vos amis, et particulièrement une pour le célèbre M. Macpherson, dont j'ai fait, autant qu'il m'étoit possible, connoître le mérite à les Allemands par mes traductions, en vous priant de le remercier en même tems de la promesse de notre Ossian en langue originale, lequel, à ce que j'espère, fera taire enfin tous ceux qui se font une affaire de repandre des doutes sur son authenticité, comme si elle n'étoit suffisamment prouvée par le caractère intérieur même de ces chants immortels, dont je defie tout auteur moderne de faire des semblables sans trahir son siècle et ses connoissances.

J'y joins un exemplaire de *Matthæus Ægyptius* sur le même *Senatus Consultum*, qui se trouvoit superflu à la Bibliothèque Imperiale, et cela du consentement du dit M. le Baron Swieten.

J'étois aussi assez heureux de vous procurer, Monsieur, une copie de la *Tabula Pentingeriana* encore *in Albis*, pour le prix de vingt deux et un demi florin; ainsi vous aurez la satisfaction de la faire relire à votre gré. Il sera presque impossible d'attraper la Table seule sans le Commentaire. Mais je ne

that called in the Fortunate Isles *Classical Learning*, I send you upon another page some verses composed here.

And, requesting you to honour me with a place in your remembrance, I am always, with the greatest esteem, Sir, yours, &c.

perdrai pourtant de vue votre commission. Vous savez qu'il y a une divinité appelée *Fortuna Libraria*, qui vérifie quelquefois ce que dit Ovide :

Semper tibi pendeat hamus
Quo minime reris gurgite piscis erit.

Pour la Carte Mineralogique d'Hongrie, j'ai fait plusieurs recherches ; et nos mineralogistes m'ont assuré qu'elle est très-difficile à trouver. Cependant, en feuilletant mes cartes géographiques je l'ai decouvert, et je vous prie de l'accepter telle quelle, pour l'amour de moi.

Messieurs Artaria se chargent de vous envoyer le tout par leur correspondant M. Torre ; mais après un mois. C'est alors, que vous pourrez me faire parvenir l'argent par votre très-digne ministre Sir Robert, parce que je n'ai aucune relation à Londres.

Au reste, vous voiant, Monsieur, amateur zélé de l'antiquité savante, et de tout ce qu'on appelle aux Isles Fortunées *Classical Learning*, je vous joins à l'autre page quelques vers faits ici.

Et vous priant de me conserver quelque place dans l'honneur de votre souvenir, je serai toujours, avec la plus parfaite estime, Monsieur le Chevalier Baronet, votre très-humble et très-obéissant serviteur,

DENIS,

Conseiller Imp. et Garde de la Bibl. de la Cour.

Vienne, ce 20. Août 1787.

P. S.—Je n'ai reçu encore que la lettre par la faveur de M. le Chevalier Keith.

5.—PROFESSOR TRAUTMANN OF VIENNA.

The Agricultural Society of Vienna, having elected me one of its Honorary Members, I thought proper to communicate to its Secretary, my plan of publishing “ *A Code of Agri-*

culture,” with the view of condensing, into a small compass, all the most essential principles of that art. The encouragement I received from several foreign associations, induced me to persevere in that laborious undertaking, and to complete a work, which was likely to spread a spirit of agricultural improvement, not only at home, but in every part of the European Continent, and of America, where husbandry was at all valued.

MONSIEUR *,

Veillez bien accepter l’expression de ma vive reconnaissance pour la flatteuse lettre du 10. Juin, dont vous avez bien voulu m’honorer.

Je m’acquitterai du devoir agréable de communiquer à la Société d’Agriculture de Vienne, dans sa séance prochaine, le plan de votre ouvrage, qui va être imprimé sous le titre “ Code d’Agriculture.”

Cet ouvrage, le fruit mûr des vos recherches immenses et

• Translation.

SIR,

Vienna, September 5. 1817.

Will you accept the assurance of my lively acknowledgments for the flattering letter of the 10th of June, with which you were pleased to honour me.

I will perform the agreeable duty of communicating to the Society of Agriculture at Vienna, at its approaching meeting, the plan of your work, which is about to be printed under the title of the “ Code of Agriculture.”

This book, the matured fruit of your great and indefatigable researches, will be received with eagerness, and will, in a short time, be translated and circulated throughout Germany.

His Imperial Highness, the Archduke John, the most serene protector of our Society of Agriculture, requests me to assure you, that he entirely partakes in your wise and luminous views upon this important object, and that consequently he is anxious to contribute, as far as lies in his power, to their execution.

In truth, it is only by a mutual exchange of opinions and experience, that agriculture, the chief source of the prosperity of states, can ever attain that degree of perfection of which it is susceptible.

The Society of Agriculture at Vienna has the greatest pleasure in counting among its members the illustrious founder of the Board of Agriculture, and already anticipates the happiest results from the liberal footing on which you correspond with them.

Accept the renewed assurance of the high regard with which I have the honour to be, &c.

infatigables, sera reçu avec empressement, et, en peu de temps traduit, sera répandu en Allemagne.

Son Altesse Imperiale, l'Archiduc Jean, le serenissime protecteur de notre Société d'Agriculture, me mande de vous assurer, qu'il partage entièrement vos sages et lumineuses vues sur cet objet important, et que, par conséquent, il s'empressera de contribuer, autant qu'il pourra, à leur execution.

En verité, ce n'est que par un échange mutuel de connoissances et d'expériences, que l'agriculture, la première source de la prospérité des états, peut atteindre le degré de perfection dont elle est susceptible.

La Société d'Agriculture de Vienne compte, avec le plus grand plaisir, le celebre fondateur du Bureau d'Agriculture parmi ses membres, et se rejouit d'avance des resultats heureux d'une correspondance liberale.

Agréez encore l'assurance de la haute consideration avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

L. TRAUTMANN,

Professeur et Secrétaire Perpetuel de
la Société I. R. d'Agriculture de
Vienne.

Vienne, le 5. Septembre 1817.

6.—DOCTOR VON HOPSEN.

Among the zealous friends to the improvement of agriculture in the Austrian dominions, with whom I had the pleasure of corresponding, Doctor von Hopsen was one of the most eminent. I received several communications from him, chiefly written in the German language. From the following letter it appears, that he was not only ready to receive information, but to furnish it, when he thought that he had any thing useful to communicate. The seeds of the turnip-rooted cabbage he sent, were successfully tried; but unless an experimental farm is established, to ascertain the properties of new plants, it is difficult to introduce any unknown varieties into British husbandry.

SIR,

I cannot possibly express to you, with how much respect your invaluable works have inspired me towards you, both as a cosmopolite, and as a man of letters. But sentiments on such subjects would be an inadequate test of admiration. I have therefore tried, upon my estate, the practices you recommend. The great part of them has succeeded; but Lord Somerville's double plough, and Duckett's skim-culter, do not answer. I have been unable to put up the far-famed four-horse threshing-machine, (which, as well as every other implement, I procured of the full dimensions); because, in order to diminish the expense of the carriage, the iron axle, and the plates into which the upright of the great horse-wheel are fastened, were not sent along with it. My threshing-machine differs considerably from those which drew in 1804 and 1814. In the latter the bevel wheels are 18 feet diameter,—the horse course 27 feet. In mine, the horse, which is a cog wheel, as large as the horse course, $26\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter, and about 17 cwt. heavy. I do not know why my friend chose this one, since all Englishmen concur in the praise of the bevel wheels; and I cannot conceive how the machine can be stopped in a moment. If, most honoured Sir, your valuable time should admit of it, I request an explanation of these particulars. I particularly wish to know, whether there is any description of the threshing machine, accompanied by engravings, with drawings of the carpenter's work, and how bearers or supports of the great horse wheel are fastened to one another, and then to the axle, with the iron plates, or whether I could not obtain a sketch of it. I should most gratefully repay all expenses.

It would afford me the greatest pleasure, if you would choose me for your German correspondent. I may here remark, that I have a flock of 800 merino sheep, than which the King of Spain has not a finer one; the exportation of which is not prohibited here. We have no machines; but instead of the exhausting and weak turnip, I inclose here a few seeds of a new variety of the sweet turnip-rooted cabbage. It grows

large, 8–12 lb. on an average. Two years ago I have four samples to the Archduke John, which weighed 112 lb. (our weight is to the English as 81 to 100). The leaves, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., will keep for two months. Its appearance is like that of the ruta бага; its produce, as compared with the latter, as 2 to 5,—with potatoes, as 2 to 7. It lasts until the next crop of clover, and feeds as nourishingly as oats, particularly pregnant sheep and draught-oxen, and it does not exhaust the soil; the mode of cultivation exactly like that of cabbage, two in a square. It must not on any account be sown thick, and requires to be four times horse-hoed. With all respect, I remain, &c.

JOS. VON HOPSEN.

Idolsberg, 6. Nov. 1817.

PART XXIV.

TRAVELS IN PRUSSIA,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

TRAVELS IN PRUSSIA,

AND

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF THAT COUNTRY.

IT is a most satisfactory circumstance, after having briefly detailed the political circumstances of such extensive empires as Russia and Austria, who were subjected to all the caprices of the tyrannical Potemkin, or the crotchets of that weakest and vainest of all mortals, Prince Kaunitz, to have an opportunity of describing the dominions of a monarch, governed by the sage and enlightened counsels of the celebrated Hertsberg, by whose zeal for improvement in the arts of peace, joined to Frederick the Great's talents for war, Prussia was raised, from being merely a secondary power, to be one of the highest rank in Europe.

SECT. I.—*Entrance into Prussia, and travelling there.*

The frontier between Saxony and Prussia, is very barren, and its principal natural production, Scotch fir.

Prussia was the best country I ever visited, for putting to the test a traveller's patience and good temper. The roads were very sandy and indifferent, and the drivers so slow, that I could not travel, with six horses, above three English miles per hour. All the promises of "*Good drink gelt,*" (or abundant drink money), made no impression on the stubborn clowns who drove me. Upon inquiry, however, I discovered that

the circumstance might be accounted for. It seems that the King of Prussia, either obliged the peasants in the neighbourhood, to furnish travellers with horses, who did it very reluctantly, or contracted with some person in the vicinity to supply them, and sometimes the postilion himself was the contractor. Such persons were peculiarly anxious not to injure their horses by quick driving. Nothing, however, is wanting to make good roads in Prussia, excepting pains and money, joined to the skill of Macadam, and a proper style of driving, by good regulations, might easily be secured*.

On my arrival at Berlin, I was obliged to fill up the blanks of a paper, which contains an account of the name, situation, country, &c. of every person who enters the gates, and which is laid the same night before the governor of the town, and next day before his Majesty.

SECT. 2.—*Of Berlin, the Society there, &c.*

It was said that Berlin, including its garrison, contained about 140,000 inhabitants. The town seemed large, but was not well inhabited. The houses were more remarkable for exterior elegance, than for their interior furniture or embellishments. Indeed, many buildings having splendid outsides, are let in floors to mechanics. The palace was a miserable old edifice, and very ill kept up. The arsenal looked well without, but the interior was as plain as possible. In the neighbourhood of the arsenal, there was a good view of the town, and of the finest buildings it possesses. The Catholic church, on the outside, partakes of the ancient style of architecture.

Berlin, when I visited it, was a place better adapted for the

* It would be very easy to improve the posting in Prussia; 1. By abolishing all *legal drink gelts*, and that perquisite, as in England, should be left to the traveller's discretion. 2. The stages were in general too long, and ought to be divided. 3. All stopping to give water to their horses, except at a half-way house, ought to be expressly prohibited. It is astonishing how much time is thus unnecessarily wasted: And, 4. lastly, The traveller should have easy access to justice, and a speedy decision.

residence of the grave and solid, than of the gay. There was no theatre, but a German one, with, in general, but indifferent actors ; and very little company attended it, at least of the higher orders. Formerly there were nine French theatres in Germany, but in the year 1786, *not one*. The fashion ran strongly in favour of English works. At Dresden, when a play translated from the French into German was announced, nobody went ; but the theatre was full, when an English play was acted, particularly if written by Shakespeare. Hamlet has drawn nine crowded houses in succession.

At Berlin, the Court was only held on Sundays, and was principally attended by military officers. There were no houses opened every evening, for the reception of idle people to lounge in, as at Vienna. Once a week there was an assembly, with a supper, at the houses of the several ministers of state, in rotation ; but though they called it "*a conversazione*," there was no speaking ; almost the whole company sat down to play at cards, until supper was announced. At a conversation of this kind, I counted, that out of eighty-seven who were present, eighty-two sat down to the card table. At one given by Count Fink de Finkenstein, the Prime Minister, they commenced, after supper playing at blind man's buff ; but it was said, as an apology for so uncourtly a game, that it was done to amuse the young Princes, who were present.

It is astonishing, in a country so celebrated for attachment to music, that private concerts, accompanied with dancing, should not have been thought of, as a pleasanter, and fitter sort of amusement for young people, than cards.

The usual style for an invitation to dinner, was a mere verbal message by a footman or a courier, which would necessarily have occasioned a number of mistakes, were not the society so very confined, that every one knew who gave a dinner, and who were invited to it. The dinners were miserably long and tedious, and the guests eat most voraciously. The old custom in Germany was, to get up between the services, and to walk about in another room, until the second service

was put on the table, and ready to be devoured. I did not observe that they were addicted to drinking to any great excess, at least in any part of Germany where I was a visitor.

I attended one entertainment given by the Prince de Sacken, who was the richest subject in the Prussian dominions, being possessed of 70,000 crowns, or about L.12,000 sterling *per annum*. He lived with great splendour, but, at the same time, with such attention to economy, that he hardly spent two-thirds of his income. It was the longest dinner I ever witnessed, for the company sat eating for nearly five hours.

The young men were mostly trained to the military profession. The young women were brought up with all the simplicity of the Scotch system of education, being early taught the management of domestic concerns. I was surprised to see many ladies riding astride, and was informed that it was not at all uncommon in other parts of Germany.

I found learning in rather a low ebb in Berlin. Frederick the Great was certainly the first literary character in his country. Count Hertsberg, who was at the head of the Berlin Academy, principally confined himself to political writings, and was rather to be considered a man of strong natural good sense, and great solidity of judgment, than a bright genius. Monsieur de la Grange, a Piedmontese, was a celebrated geometer, and was considered to be the most eminent scientific character at the time in Berlin. He was a man of great modesty, as well as merit, but did not seem to be possessed, of that general fund of knowledge, which I had been taught to expect from him. When I attended the academy, I found the Count de Hertsberg there. It immediately struck me, that I should never have found a Kaunitz or a Potemkin at the literary associations in the countries which they governed. Indeed, in Russia, the Princess Daschkow was placed at the head of the Imperial Academy at St Petersburg, as better calculated, than any of the male nobility, for that situation.

SECT. 3.—*The King.*

I have already given a short account of Frederick William, King of Prussia, and of my interviews with him and his brother Prince Henry*. It may be proper here to observe, that a system was adopted by that sovereign, which was necessarily attended with injurious consequences. Besides the established public ministers, the King had two confidential friends, with whom he privately consulted,—Monsieur Wilner in civil matters, and Colonel Bischoffwarder in military concerns; and it was supposed, that through them, any application might be more directly conveyed to the King than through any of his ostensible ministers. These wheels within wheels tend to make the machine too complicated. It is difficult enough to govern a great kingdom, without useless intricacies. The King was accused of being unsteady, in consequence of his having adopted this system, and his having followed, sometimes the advice of his private councillors, and at other times of his public ministers. The latter, of course, became careless in their management of public affairs, from the uncertainty of their opinions being acted upon, and hence the business of the state is inefficiently conducted. Favourites too, whatever be their real merits, are universally unpopular.

I was much amused, during my stay at Berlin, with an intrigue carried on by the Court of France, under the directions of the celebrated Count Mirabeau, to induce the new King of Prussia to prefer a French to an English alliance. A French lady (the Comtesse de Vincent), who passed under the fictitious character of Madame d'Erencier, veuve d'un officier François, lived at the hotel in Berlin where I resided (*La Ville de Paris*), but was quite inaccessible. She had staid eight days at Potsdam, to see the King, but in vain. She then came to Berlin,—took the most expensive rooms at the Hotel,—lived in a most extravagant manner; in particular, had most magnificent suppers, and sometimes only for herself

* See vol. i. p. 24.

and her female companion. She produced splendid liveries, hired several servants, exhibited a number of diamonds, and asked for scales to weigh her gold. In short, she had done every thing to make herself talked of, in hopes of becoming a Duchess of Portsmouth; but she did not find a Charles II. in Prussia. It shews to what astonishing lengths a Court like France could condescend to go, to gain a favourite object. Mirabeau said to me, "If the King would only take a mistress, we would soon have him*."

SECT. 4.—*Count Hertsberg.*

This great statesman was a native of Pomerania. He was very early initiated into public business, and was much employed during the seven years' war. In 1763 he was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs, and shewed so much diligence and ability, that Frederick became jealous of him, and would never give him the "*Aigle Noir*," (the first Prussian order), to which he was justly entitled for his distinguished merit and services. This might be partly owing to his venturing to differ in some points from Frederick, and likewise to the attention that Hertsberg occasionally paid to the rising sun, Frederick's nephew, who afterwards became King, and who took the earliest possible opportunity of bestowing the "Black Eagle" on the minister. Count Hertsberg is certainly a most judicious and well-informed statesman. He is also a political author of considerable note. He is an avowed friend to monarchy, and zealous for the preservation of the Germanic constitution, as it is. He has always been a staunch Prussian patriot, and a firm friend to an alliance with England, considering the French as a nation not to be depended upon †. His pri-

* An account of the result of this attempt is given, p. 120.

† Frederick, on the contrary, was always at bottom a Frenchman, an admirer of the French nation, and, till latterly, had a thorough confidence in its professions. His eyes were opened too late to be of any use to England. The system of his successor was totally different; but the change was too violent, resembling more a temporary flood than a regular current.

vate fortune was only about L.1500 *per annum*, and his appointments did not yield him above L.2000 more,—little enough for a minister of state. He was married, but had no family.

He raises a good deal of silk on his estate, and never wears any silk or velvet that is not manufactured from the produce of Prussia. It furnishes some employment to the poor, but is not otherwise beneficial.

He presented me with a copy of his works; also with a medal struck on the accession of Frederick William to the throne, and of one which he gives to the most successful cultivators of silk.

In one of his able discourses, he has briefly stated the proper system for Prussia to pursue :

* *La Prusse doit prendre une part décidé à la conservation de l'équilibre de l'Allemagne et de l'Europe. Elle doit le faire, en toute occasion, selon les regles et les principes d'une politique grand, sage, juste et genereux, toujours préférable aux appas trompeurs d'une politique ambitieuse et intéressé, mais seductrice et fausse dans le fonds †.*

SECT. 5.—*Origin of the Germanic League.*

I was curious, when in Prussia, to ascertain the origin of the Germanic league, intended to oppose the exchange of Bavaria for the Netherlands, which would have given such power to Austria, by consolidating its dominions, as would have been highly injurious to the German empire, and to Prussia in particular.

It seems that old Frederick had no conception of it, until

• Translation.

Prussia ought to take a decided part in the preservation of the equilibrium both of Germany and of Europe. She ought to act, on all occasions, according to the rules and principles of a system, great, wise, just and generous, which is always preferable to the deceitful allurements of an ambitious and interested policy, which, in the end, will be found false, though seductive.

† *Dissertation par M. de Hertsberg, La Prusse doit prendre une part décidé à la conservation de l'équilibre de l'Allemagne et de l'Europe, p. 38.*

the 18th January 1785, when a messenger arrived at Berlin from the Duke de Deuxponts, with a dispatch, dated the 15th January, informing the King of Prussia that, on the 3d of January, the treaty of exchange had been signed at Vienna between the *Emperor* and the *Elector*, by the interposition, and with the consent of *Russia*. The treaty had been previously communicated to France, which was bribed to give its consent, by having some trifling share of the spoils, Luxembourg, &c. Count Romanzow, the Russian minister at Ratisbon, announced it to the Duke de Deuxponts, and menaced him with total destruction for withholding his consent. The old King thought the measure so ruinous to France, that he could not credit its conclusion. But being at last convinced of the *febleness* and *timidity* of the French administration, he gave himself over to the counsels of Hertsberg, who was the real father of the Germanic league, and carried it through by his writings and activity. Frederic William entered with great eagerness into the idea; and borrowing 300,000 ducats from the Duke of Courland, sent 200,000 to Deuxponts. Old Frederic managed Hanover with his usual dexterity, requesting that measures should be privately taken, no extraordinary ambassador sent, no communication with the ministers of England; and, in fact, Sir John Stepney was the first who told it to Mr Pitt, after the accession of Hanover had been arranged.

The prevention of the proposed exchange saved Germany from the ambitious projects of the Emperor.

SECT. 6.—*Of the Commerce of Prussia.*

Prussia is certainly well situated for trade. It has a considerable range of sea-coast, and many navigable rivers. Count Hertsberg calculates that the natural and artificial productions of Prussia amount to 40 millions of florins, or L. 6,600,000 sterling, of which one-half is exported*. But I should imagine that this is greatly exaggerated. One great advantage

* See Hertsberg's Dissertation, 24th January 1786, p. 36.

Prussia has, is the command of those rivers through which the greater part of the productions of Poland, some part of Germany, and the Austrian dominions must pass. The transit duties on those commodities not only yield a considerable revenue, but it is certainly of much consequence to any enterprising merchant in Prussia, who is engaged in an export trade, to have that advantage, without paying for it. Corn, and excellent timber of various sorts, are the principal articles of commerce. Prussia enjoys almost a monopoly of amber; but the sale of that article has become very insignificant.

SECT. 7.—*Manufactures.*

The manufactures of Prussia, with the exception of the linens of Silesia, were principally for home consumption. There was a manufacture of China at Berlin, which employed 500 workmen. The articles were very dear, but so well designed, that I purchased two of the plates, which I took with me to England, to present to Mr Wedgwood. In return, he sent me a complete desert of his ware, with the same border, informing me, at the same time, that he had sold more of that pattern than of any he had ever tried.

SECT. 8.—*Agricultural Improvements.*

It was by attention to the internal improvement of his dominions, rather than to foreign conquests, that the most celebrated statesman of modern times, justly called Frederick the Great, raised his dominions, notwithstanding the disadvantages of situation, soil and climate, to that height of prosperity and power which they attained during his reign. His practice was, to lay out about L.300,000 sterling *per annum* in the encouragement of agricultural improvement, which he considered as manure spread upon the ground, to secure an abundant harvest; and, in fact, instead of being impoverished by such liberal grants, he thereby increased his revenue so much, that he was enabled to leave a treasure behind him, amounting to above 12 millions sterling*.

* Code of Agriculture, second edition, p. 515.

SECT. 9.—*Of Magazines of Grain.*

The late King of Prussia left, besides his treasure in money, subsistence for his army for three or four years, stored up in magazines. He bought grain in considerable quantities in Poland and in Germany, when cheap, converted it into flour or meal, and preserved it for a number of years in casks, closely pressed down. The Prussian regulations on this point ought to be ascertained and adopted. During the late years of famine, the King of Prussia made a great deal of money, by selling from his stores. Perhaps a mixture between the regulations of Holland and Prussia, as to public magazines, might answer our purpose best.

SECT. 10.—*Military System of Prussia.*

The great object of inquiry, in regard to the Prussian monarchy, certainly was its military system, by the excellence of which, it was raised to such high importance among the states of Europe. In regard to that subject therefore, I propose to enter into some detail.

The Prussian army, in 1786, contained the following numbers :

Infantry,.....	139,229
Cavalry,.....	43,739
Artillery,	11,335
	<hr/>
	194,303

The army consisted of three classes; 1. Natives, resembling the militia in England, and only called out six weeks in spring, and three weeks in autumn. About one-third of the whole were on this footing. 2. Another third of the army consisted of foreigners, who could be depended on, and were not likely to desert; and 3. The other third were actual soldiers, partly foreigners and partly natives, who were in constant service, in general shut up in garrisons,—having no hopes of getting their liberty but by desertion, and who often

killed themselves in despair. The army is highly disciplined ; they march with the greatest regularity, and never wound or kill each other, which is often the case when men are disorderly ; and it gives great confidence to the whole, when they can mutually support each other.

The Prussian exercise is so extremely simple, that, with the aid of an able drill, I was fully master of it in a fortnight. The musket, I found, was brought to very great perfection. Their ram-rods being heavy, and their touch-holes wide, they force a sufficient quantity of powder into the lock, and priming is no longer necessary. They have also invented a cover for the lock, which enables them to fight, with as much regularity and quickness, in wet weather, as in dry.

But what they excel all other troops in, is their marching in great bodies, and with the utmost regularity. The following are the circumstances to which they attribute this great advantage.

In the first place, the men are admirably drilled, and disciplined *in detail*, which enables them to move regularly, when they are in great bodies.

2. In marching, *they always touch each other's elbows*, which forms a kind of cord for the whole line. The one rank, also, always marches directly behind the other.

3. In the field, the profoundest silence is kept, and the smallest noise is heard. But to communicate the orders to the whole line, and indeed to the army, the signals are made by a *coup de canon*, which cannot be mistaken.

4. They are, in general, taught to march with one kind of step, which is slow, easy, natural, and regular * ; and all their movements being few and simple, it is impossible to mistake them.

Lastly, they have not a great number of commissioned officers, but proportionably a greater number of sergeants and

* They march to the sound of these words, " ain and swenskie, twa and swenskie ;" or, one and twenty, two and twenty, which exactly fills up the time required.

corporals than in any other service, which is of the greatest advantage in preserving good order.

These five particulars being considered, the great regularity of the Prussian troops, when moving in large bodies, or at reviews, will no longer seem a circumstance not to be accounted for.

But however ably the Prussian army might be trained, it could not have obtained the reputation it had acquired, unless it had been skilfully commanded. The abilities of Frederick the Great, as a general, are universally acknowledged, and he was trained up under Marshal Keith, whose merits are well known. When I visited Berlin in 1786, the Duke of Brunswick and Marshal Moellendorff, were the two generals the most looked up to. The talents for war, possessed by the former, were, I understood, greatly overrated. He was competent to the task of commanding well a body of cavalry, but was quite unfit for the management of a numerous army, or the conduct of a great battle. This, unfortunately, was proved at the battle of Jena. As to Marshal Moellendorff, he certainly was at the top of his profession. He was tall, about six feet in height, with great openness and good sense in his countenance, and united, to so great a degree, modesty and merit, as was extremely engaging. He gave me his opinion of an able general, to the following effect: "He ought to have a good coup d'œil, a great knowledge of tactics, and a cool head." In these few words, he described his own military character and merits.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIVES OF PRUSSIA.

1.—COUNT HERTSBERG.

I had various communications from Count Hertsberg, on questions connected with statistics and agriculture, subjects regarding which we took the warmest interest. The fol-

lowing is the first letter which I had the pleasure of receiving from him. I give it in English, as by some accident the original, in French, has been lost.

Berlin, 19th August 1792.

I return you many thanks for your Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland; and wish I could converse with you on a number of subjects, which are equally interesting to both our countries. I entirely approve of your very excellent idea, that of investigating the interior state of every district, by reports from the ministers of each parish; and I am of your opinion, that, if provided with good models, no class of men could be more proper for so important an undertaking, than the parochial clergy, who have usually the requisite knowledge and capacity, as well as the necessary leisure for that purpose. I earnestly wish, that I could imitate here, in my dear country, your very patriotic example.

It was very satisfactory to find, that he approved of the plan I had adopted, and would have pursued the same system in Prussia, had he continued in power.

The original of the second letter, with which he favoured me, I have found. It was sent by the Count de Reder, who was intrusted with a confidential communication from the Count to me. I regret much not having received it *, as I felt a great anxiety to know the reasons which induced Count Hertsberg to quit his situation as head of the Prussian cabinet; but I suppose, it was owing to the circumstance I have already alluded to, namely, the impolitic system adopted by the King, of consulting secret advisers, as well as his ostensible ministers of state. Under such a system, a great and high-minded minister, could not long remain in office. When the King of Prussia parted with Count Hertsberg, it was in a manner cutting off his right arm.

* I happened to be absent from London when the Count came there.

MONSIEUR *,

Je ne sais pas si vous aurez reçu les réponses que je vous ai faites, pour vous remercier de m'avoir communiqué vos ouvrages intéressans sur les Bergeries, et sur les notions statistiques des villages de l'Ecosse ; projet que je trouve très bien imaginé, et que je ferois aisément exécuter en Prusse, si j'étois encore à la tête de son cabinet, que j'ai quitté par des raisons que pourra vous communiquer la porteur de la présente, Mr. le Comte de Reder, Chambellan du Roi, et ci-devant son Ministre à la Cour de Dannemarc, qui fait un voyage en Angleterre, pour apprendre à connoître ce pais intéressant, et sur tout son économie rurale. Si vous voulez faire sa connoissance, vous trouverez en lui un gentilhomme, instruit, intelligent et digne de votre attention. Je l'ai chargé de quelques ouvrages statistiques et économiques, sur tout un en Allemand, sur ce que nous appelons ici la *Koppelwirthschafft*, qu'il vous fera voir, si vous entendez l'Allemand, et vous expliquera en tout cas. Je serois bien aise de savoir votre sentiment là-dessus, et si vous avez quelque chose de semblable en Angleterre. Je suis, avec une très parfaite considération, Monsieur, votre très humble et obéissant serviteur,

HERTZBERG.

Berlin, le 8. Mars 1793.

* Translation.

SIR,

I do not know if you have received the answer I sent you, to thank you for having communicated to me your interesting works on the different breeds of sheep, and on the statistics of Scotch villages ; a project which I consider well imagined, and which I could easily put into execution in Prussia, if I were still at the head of her cabinet, which I have quitted, for reasons you will learn from the bearer of this letter, M. le Count de Reder, chamberlain to the King, and formerly his minister at the Court of Denmark, who takes a journey to England to obtain some knowledge of that interesting country, and especially its rural economy. If you feel inclined to make his acquaintance, you will find in him a gentleman well informed, intelligent, and worthy of any attentions you may pay him. I have burdened him with some statistical and economical works, especially one in German, upon what we call here the *Koppelwirthschafft*, which he will shew you if you understand German, and will at all events explain to you. I shall be very glad to know your opinion thereupon, and whether you have any thing similar in England. I am, &c.

Of the third letter from Count Hertsberg, I have only a translation, but I have no doubt of its correctness. It relates to some interesting points in agriculture.

The manufacture of silk seems to have made considerable progress under his auspices, though one would have supposed that it was not well calculated for the meridian of Prussia.

SIR,

I have received the two letters you did me the honour to write to me, dated the 25th March, informing me of having received your diploma as a Member of our Agricultural Society of the Marche of Brandenburg, and that I was elected an Honorary Member of the British Board of Agriculture. I am highly sensible of this mark of your attention, and I shall not fail on my part in a suitable return, as far as lies in my power, particularly in communicating every thing published here on the different subjects of agriculture. We are chiefly engaged at present on the question, Whether it is right to divide farms of a certain extent into three parts, leaving the third fallow, or to divide them into four parts, or separate them into seven, nine or thirteen parts, according to the custom of Mecklenburgh, making a larger division for fallow to be turned into pasture, and to have so much less want of manure yearly? The King having proposed this question to the Academy, I caused the same to be discussed, for and against, with a prize of 50 ducats for the best essay. I sided in opinion with the Academy, to leave the fourth part of the farm in fallow, as practised by myself on my estate of Britz, in addition to what we call in German, *Salpzubzulhom*, or the custom of turning out the cattle to remain on the fallow land eight hours a-day.

I can only send you this piece in German. You may probably find means of having it translated. But I presume this argument will not apply to England, because you have not

large fields, and that the farms are either small or of a medium size ; though I cannot coincide in opinion with your Mr Young, who prefers large farms, because the possessors have more means of rendering them productive, which argues against personal industry and population, which I think ought always to be preferred.

I also add some other small economical pieces, which perhaps I have already sent to you, as, *The Description of my Estate of Britz* ; another, *On the Mode of rooting up Trees*, to save timber, and to employ, for the same purpose, flint walls ; finally, a French pamphlet, in which you will find a translation of two German orations, delivered by me at Stetten, on occasion of erecting a marble statue to the Great King, Frederick II. towards which I expended out of my own purse 200 guineas.

I continue making great progress in the culture of national silk, and I flatter myself, that favoured by the season this year, we shall have an ample harvest, and that our manufacturers will prosper by the downfall of Lyons, since foreigners have already called for our silk manufactures. I don't know whether I have sent you any of those medals which I have caused to be struck, and given to every one who gets 5 lb. of silk for the first time, adding 2 gold Fredericks, or 2 guineas, and inserting his name in our Gazettes. By these means I have extended the cultivation of silk to a thousand chambers, or markets in villages, by having spacious rooms built, which answer the purpose of schools in the winter, and in the summer for silk. At all events I send you one of these medals.

I am, with the highest respect,

HERTSBERG.

2.—BARON HUMBOLT.

This celebrated literary character was, for a short time, Minister from Prussia at the Court of Great Britain.

Having a wish to obtain some information regarding Prus-

sian agriculture, I applied to the Baron upon the subject, whose answer I subjoin.

à Londres, ce 23. Octobre 1817.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER * ,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, en date du 14. de ce mois, et vous en remercie sincèrement. Je regrette de ne pas pouvoir entrer moi-même dans l'objet sur lequel vous me parlez, mes fonctions ne me permettant pas de m'occuper de la science de l'agriculture. Quoiqu'on connoisse en Prusse très exactement tous les progrès que cette science a faits en Angleterre, et tous les livres qui ont paru ici la-dessus, et que plusieurs personnes de chez nous aient fait des voyages en Angleterre pour cet objet seulement, je ne doute pas qu'on ne seroit charmé d'apprendre, en plus grand détail, les résultats de vos travaux, Monsieur. Le meilleur conseil que je pourrois vous donner, seroit de vous adresser pour ce effet à Monsieur Thaer, Conseiller d'Etat et Professeur à Berlin, qui a écrit des ouvrages très-estimés sur l'économie rurale.

Veillez recevoir, Monsieur le Chevalier, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

HUMBOLT.

* Translation.

SIR,

London, October 23. 1817.

I received the letter which you did me the honour to write me, dated the 14th of this month, and I thank you for it sincerely. I regret my inability to enter into the object upon which you speak, as my duties forbid my engaging in the science of agriculture. Although all the progress which that science has made in England is well known in Prussia, as well as all the books which have appeared there on the subject, and though many persons of celebrity have undertaken travels into England solely for this purpose, I have no doubt, Sir, but that every one will be delighted to learn, in greater detail, the results of your labours. The best advice I can give you, is to write upon this subject to Monsieur Thaer, State Counsellor and Professor at Berlin, who has published some very estimable works on rural economy.

I beg you to accept, Sir, the assurance of my very distinguished regard.

3.—COUNT ITZENPLITZ.

I do not recollect having met with a more estimable character than Count Itzenplitz of Prussia. We became acquainted in 1793, when I found him full of zeal for the improvement of agriculture, and making every possible exertion for acquiring a complete knowledge of that art. Having derived much benefit from a visit to England, he resolved, that his youngest son, who was fond of husbandry, should participate the same advantage. With that view, he sent him to England, with the following letter addressed to me :

SIR,

Having had the honour to be acquainted with you in the year 1793, which I passed in England, and since favoured with several letters, in one of them you will entitle me, Honorary Member of the Board of Agriculture, I should think to neglect my fatherly duty, to send a beloved son to England, without a letter to you Sir John, to that man who, in the times of war and distress, so well deserved the civic crown. As I am convinced, that had not you, from twelve to fifteen years, *before* the unlucky continental system of Bonaparte, directed the capital and the industry of your countrymen to agriculture, England would not have enjoyed, that plenty of corn of every kind, and the wicked intentions of the modern Attila would have been much more obtained,—to starve England, and to provoke riots by distress.

In your kind letter, Edinburgh, 4th November 1793, you favour me with the compliment, to cooperate with you to the mutual improvement of both our countries, and I never forgot this in my life. My son can lay a notice before you, I wrote in these days for our friends in England, by which you will see, that in our own estates we found a pretty large scale to promote husbandry, and not having farmed any part of them, agriculture has been the principal occupation of my life. For a short time in the years 1811 till 1813, I had even an in-

fluence upon the royal domains and forests; and though the time of war, and the precarious state of our kingdom, did not allow to do much for so immense possessions, my good intentions to preserve and to mend them has been acknowledged, so that it may be said, that my feeble merit upon agriculture added the title the family Itzenplitz bears at present.

My son Henry, though very young, is as fond of husbandry as his parents, and is happy now to attend Dr Lichtenstein on his tour through Europe, who is travelling to enrich the Zoological Museum at Berlin. I desire you, Dear Sir John, to patronize the travellers, and, if possible, to give directions to them to see some of the best managed farms not far from their tour, which will be communicated to you. Mr Lichtenstein passed several years on the Cape, and published a description upon this part of the British possessions, which is the best in the German tongue. You will find Mr Lichtenstein a very learned man, deserving your protection. Lady Sinclair, I hope, is well; I beg to present my respects to her. Believe me, with the greatest respect, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ITZENPLITZ.

Berlin, March 16. 1819.

This letter was accompanied with a short account of the Itzenplitz family, which the Count sent me, from a full conviction, that I felt much interested in its prosperity and welfare. It is written with so much paternal affection, and *naïveté*, that I thought the perusal of it would be acceptable to every reader accustomed to the pleasures of domestic society. It was as follows:

Baron Itzenplitz enjoys still, in his fiftieth year, very good health, lives mostly in the country, residing at one or the other of his estates, travelling very often between them, and only in the winter comes to town for some months.

Lady Itzenplitz, though very delicate of health, has had four children, two sons and two daughters.

Baron Itzenplitz has devoted his time, since he left England, November 1793, to public affairs, and to agriculture. He got, by inheritance, large estates on the borders of the Oder and Spree, which, with his paternal estates on the Havel and the Elbe, Providence preserved in good condition in the unhappy times of war and distress.

In 1815, leaving public services, Baron Itzenplitz was created Count by the present King, and can now devote the latter part of his life to the sciences, husbandry and gardening.

He intends, if peace favours his intentions, to inclose all his fields, and to try if landscape gardening and real husbandry can be united, in this country, upon a pretty large scale. His estates contain 8000 English acres of arable land, as many of wood, more than 1000 cattle, and 8000 fine-woolled sheep, the wool of which has been sold several times in England.

Mr Henry, the youngest son, will present a catalogue of the collection of plants cultivated on the principal seat of the Count at Lunersdorff, thirty English miles from Berlin towards the east, and will desire the friends of his parents, to give him an opportunity to get seeds of trees and shrubs, or other plants imported into England since 1793, hardy enough to bear the winter in the open air in this climate. The hot-houses and green-houses here, are too small to receive much more plants; but our gardens and woods are to be enriched as much as possible.

Mr Frederic Joseph, the eldest son of the house, is still in the army: He is now aide-de-camp of a very good general of cavalry, M. de Marwitz. He has not yet determined to quit this very comfortable situation, and to be married.

Miss Charlotte was married in 1813, very young, but does not yet enjoy the happiness to be a mother. Miss Augusta, the only child still remaining at home, is very delicate of health. She does as much as her force allows, to learn every thing to cultivate the spirit.

Mr Henry is very happy to see England, and we wish much to know what our friends there think of him.

Baron Itzenplitz having had the advantage to be married very young, wishes his children to do the same, or at least to see them in a fair way of life, useful for their country. When there is an end of this task, he should like to travel again, and to come over to England, if heaven bestows upon us peace and plenty, and if advancing age will allow it. Baron Itzenplitz hopes to see again Sir Joseph Banks and Sir John Sinclair; and it makes him happy to think that it may yet be possible.

There is something very pleasing in the above narrative, to which I was tempted to give the following answer :

Sir John Sinclair has received, with much pleasure, the account of the Itzenplitz family, in whose successful progress he takes a warm interest. He regrets much that he has seen so little of the Count Henry Itzenplitz, who promises to do credit to his connexions, but he will, with much pleasure, promote the object of his excursion to England; and he shall be extremely happy to have the pleasure of seeing Count Frederic Itzenplitz when he takes a journey to the British isles.

Sir John Sinclair, after having been about thirty years in Parliament, has given up public life; and his eldest son, George Sinclair, Esq. now represents his native county of Caithness in Parliament.

Sir John has had, in all, fifteen living children; but he had the misfortune of losing one about twelve months ago, his eldest daughter, Hannah Sinclair, who left behind her a posthumous work, "*On the Principles of the Christian Faith*," which has already gone through eleven editions in Great Britain, besides an impression in America, and a printed translation into French by Monsieur Levade, Professor of Theology at Lausanne. As no work in modern times has been more admired, or indeed, on the whole so much run upon, Sir John sends his friend, Count Itzenplitz, a copy of it, in case it

should be thought right to publish a German edition of it at Berlin.

Sir John has completed a number of literary works, the nature of which is explained in the engraving of a pyramid herewith sent. “*The Code of Agriculture*,” which completes the pyramid, is translating into German at Vienna,—into Danish at Copenhagen,—and, he believes, into other European languages. The Minister of the Interior has recommended it to all the agricultural societies in France.

Sir John is extremely anxious to establish, in every country in Europe, what he calls “*The Codean System of Knowledge*,” the nature of which is explained in the paper herewith sent.

Lady Sinclair requests to be particularly remembered to Count Itzenplitz; and Sir John begs to assure him, of his sincere wishes, for the Count’s health and happiness, and for the prosperity of his family.

Ormsly Lodge, Ham Common, Surrey,
7th June 1819.

No. 4.—COUNT DOHNA WUNLACKEN.

Among the number of foreigners who have visited this country, for the purpose of obtaining useful information, there were two Prussian noblemen who came to Scotland in 1806, Count Dohna Wunlaeken and Count Finkenstein, who seemed to pay particular attention to agricultural pursuits. The former brought with him a letter of introduction from Monsieur de Schoen, a Prussian gentleman, who had derived much advantage from an excursion to England. The letter, which was written in English, is dated at Berlin, December 30. 1805, and commences with the following paragraph:

“I dare hope you will recollect myself, to whom you have shewn so much kindness, when I have been in England in the years 1798 and 1799. By your kind instructions, and by your

advice, I have been able to collect that knowledge of the English agriculture which I got. I now do myself the honour to recommend to you the bearer of this, Count Dohna, a countryman, and a near relation to me, who visits your country on the same purpose as I have travelled through it. He is himself owner of an estate, and you will find an instructed farmer."

From Count Dohna, I had the pleasure of receiving the following communication, previous to his returning home :

" Having not now the fortune of meeting you again in this place, I hope you will excuse the liberty which I take, to direct to you these few lines, in which I wish particularly to express to you once more, my most sincere thanks for all the goodness which you have marked to me, and to my friend Count Finkenstein, who presents his respects to you. We are both very much indebted to you, Sir ; and it is obvious, that for a stranger's travelling through Great Britain, in my opinion the most interesting country in the world, nothing could be so highly useful, as your kind advice, and your directions.

It would render us very happy, if, on any occasion, we could be enabled to prove to you, our readiness to be to your service ; and, if possible, to assist you, in future peaceable times, in the execution of one of your grand plans, *to unite different countries for the interest, and perhaps afterwards, by the interest of agriculture.*

We have been much gratified by an excursion to the Highlands ; but the weather was so inconstant, that we could only perform the short tour. The Carse of Gowrie is a very interesting district, where industry, joined to the natural fertility of the soil, produces wonderful effects. I have the honour to be, &c.

COUNT DOHNA WUNLACKEN."

Edinburgh, 28th August 1806.

Conclusion to the Travels through the Northern Parts of Europe.

Such is the substance of the information I collected, in the course of a long and extensive tour throughout the northern parts of Europe. From such a survey of the political, agricultural, and commercial state of so many interesting countries, I thought that some important advantages might be derived to my own. But unhappily, from the complicated nature of our government, and the extent of our empire, so much attention is paid to the management of the two Houses of Parliament, and to the concerns of our distant possessions, that domestic improvements are but little attended to. His Majesty, (George III.) expressed a desire to know the political state of the three northern powers, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia; and I drew up accordingly, for his information, the substance of the information I had collected, regarding those three countries; but his unfortunate illness prevented him from paying that attention to it which otherwise he would have done. I abstained from publishing an account of my travels at the time, as much of the information I had received was confidential, and related to public characters then living. This reason for delay is now at an end, as forty-eight years have elapsed since my journey took place. I flatter myself however, that others may be induced, from such a model being laid before them, to adopt a similar plan, from which ultimately, many important public advantages may be derived.

The following table will give some idea of the time required for the completing this extensive journey, from which it appears, how much may be effected by activity, and perseverance, in the short period of even a few months.

1786.		1786.	
May 29.	Left London.	Oct. 4.	Arrived at Warsaw.
30.	Embarked at Gravesend.	17.	—— at Vienna.
June 16.	Landed at Gottenburgh.	Nov. 8.	—— at Berlin.
22.	Arrived at Copenhagen.	Dec. 5.	—— at Amsterdam.
July 11.	—— at Stockholm.	23.	—— at Brussels.
Aug. 1.	—— at Riga.	29.	—— at Paris.
8.	—— at Petersburgh.		
Sept. 10.	—— at Moscow.	1787.	
23.	—— at Kiew.	Jan. 16.	—— at London.

In all, the journey, by sea and land, amounted to 7500 miles, and was finished in about seven months and a half. However short the time may appear, yet it is certainly possible, by great activity and perseverance, even in seven or eight months, to see the objects best entitled to attention, and the persons most distinguished for their power, their beauty, or their talents, in the greater, and, (what, in many respects, is justly accounted), the most interesting part of Europe.

In regard to the rapidity of the journey above mentioned, it is in general to be observed, that the life of man is too short to be spent in travelling only, and that those who arrive at an age proper for surveying foreign countries, can seldom spare more than a few months at a time, from their private or public avocations, for that purpose. In that short space, however, they may acquire some *general idea* of the nature of several foreign governments,—the character of their sovereigns,—the views and objects of their ministers,—and the state of the country, as to its agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, and various other important particulars.

Besides, a native of these kingdoms, after travelling abroad, must feel more satisfaction in living at home, and must be convinced, that there is no country, where he can enjoy greater comforts, or more real advantages, than in the British Islands.

HINTS ON TRAVELLING, AND RULES TO BE LAID DOWN
REGARDING IT.

General Remarks.

How absurd are many of the young Englishmen who travel abroad. One of them, who afterwards became an English Marquis, with a large fortune, said, when he came to Berlin, “*Thank God! I have come to a place where there is nothing to be seen;*” by which he meant, no collection of pictures or statues, no great library, no museum of minerals, &c.

Another traveller, who afterwards became a cabinet minister, always expressed the utmost horror at associating with the people of the town where he had got to. “*Would to God,*” he said, “*that I was in a place, where there were no natives!*” and I heard both these foolish speeches repeated, as being very clever and witty.

Unless it is to see either things or men, I should be glad to know, what could induce these gentlemen to go abroad, if, in their own country, they were not liable to be arrested.

The objects of every traveller ought to be, 1. Information, and 2. Amusement.

1.—*Information.*

In every country into which a traveller goes, if he is a man of sense and observation, he will discover something useful.

Every nation has some part of its government,—some regulations in its system of laws and its police,—some branches of its commerce,—some mode of cultivating the ground,—some new practices in gardening,—some new plants or fruits,—some improvements in architecture,—some peculiar manufacture,—or some ingenious machines, &c. that may be worthy of attention.

As it is of great consequence for one country, to know the real political situation of every other, all kinds of *Tables*, where useful facts are brought into a small compass, ought to be procured.

Specimens of all kinds of the manufactures of a country, including those which exist, and even flourish at home, ought to be purchased. They give new ideas to our workmen, which are often of immense consequence*.

In some cases there are improvements in philosophical instruments, or discoveries in mineralogy, which may be of immense consequence.

There are also some discoveries in medicine, as the Eau de Cologne, Riga balsam, &c. which it would be desirable to procure.

2.—*Amusement.*

Though information is the great object of a traveller, yet amusement ought not to be neglected. Hence the nature of the national music should be examined, and the instruments on which it is played,—the style of the national dances,—the games, more especially for the lower orders,—the theatres, and the plays acted there; for the character of the people may, in some respects, be judged of from the style of their dramas †.

Curious customs also may be noted down, and their causes investigated.

General Rules for a Traveller, principally intended for the use of persons of considerable fortune, and of mature age, who may resolve to spend a few months in visiting Foreign Countries.

1. A traveller ought to consider himself entitled to ask any question he may think necessary, for the sake of acquiring information. Thus, “Why do the Russian peasants wear such high crowned hats?” Answer, “Because in their com-

* Wedgwood's manufactures of black earthen-ware, and all those set up in imitation of it, were owing to the importation of a few antique Roman vases from Herculaneum.

† Formerly there were nine, now not one French theatre in Germany. Shakspeare's plays are now the great favourites in all parts of that country. French plays, translated into German, are quite neglected, whereas Hamlet has filled the theatre nine times running.

mon dress they have no pockets, and hence they are obliged to keep their handkerchiefs in their hats."

2. He ought to consider himself as in a manner the representative of his country, and consequently ought to act with liberality and spirit, suffering himself to be imposed upon, which all travellers are, with as good a grace as possible*; and above all, not disgracing himself and his country with mean vices, as drinking to any undue excess, &c. &c.; and

3. He ought to be well informed as to the state of his own country, and to be enabled to give to others, the same information as to the state of its army, navy, agriculture, commerce, revenue, &c. that he wishes to obtain regarding other nations.

In preparing for a journey the following particulars ought to be kept in view: 1. That a thorough knowledge of the French language is absolutely necessary before he sets out; for he cannot expect to make a great progress, in any language, during a rapid journey. The German also, in the northern parts of Europe, and the Italian in the southern, would be extremely useful.

2. He ought to purchase all the most valuable printed books of travels in the countries through which he proposes to pass; also *l'Etat de Cours de l'Europe*, and the best maps that can be procured.

3. He ought to obtain as much private information as possible, from persons who have gone through those countries before, but who have not published an account of their travels.

4. Besides letters from the foreign department, to our ministers abroad, he ought to obtain as many recommendations as possible to each place he intends to go to. He can hardly have too many, for he may find one dead, another sick, a third in the country, and so on. His letters ought to be of three sorts; 1. Foreign ministers of state; 2. Literary characters; and 3. Commercial men. Let him not trust too much

* The best mode of preventing imposition, is always to make a bargain beforehand.

to the English ministers, for they are not in general much to be depended upon, having such a multitude of applications, from other travellers, coming to the place where they reside.

5. A good travelling servant is absolutely necessary; one who has been in the countries he proposes to visit, and understands the languages spoken there. No expense ought to be spared to get a good one, for much of the comfort of the journey will depend upon him. At the same time, it is necessary to watch his proceedings, and closely to examine his accounts.

6. It is necessary to purchase a very strong carriage, but as light as is consistent with strength. A vis-a-vis is the best shape, made so that it can be converted into a bed. You should carry in it no baggage, but your papers. For your baggage and servant, a covered cart, on springs, will be the best mode of conveyance, and the expense of horses will be nearly the same. Fire-arms also are necessary; and some mode of fastening the door of your apartment when you sleep, by gimlets properly constructed.

7. A militia uniform is the most convenient dress*. Your servant ought to be well dressed, as well as yourself; for the effects of dress, on the common people, in all countries, but more especially in those not frequently visited by strangers, is very great, and ought not to be totally overlooked †.

8. A traveller should have with him some specimens of English produce and manufactures, as some engravings, in particular caricatures, transparent leather, Scotch pebbles, &c. to give away to those who have been civil to him.

9. It is necessary to have circular notes, or good letters of credit; but a traveller should never boast of his credit or resources to any one. Also to have been introduced to his so-

* At court, a Scotchman ought to wear the Highland dress, being so elegant and manly, and the Scottish character being much respected on the Continent.

† In regard to clothing, it is desirable to have a large night-gown, made of cotton or linen, to be used as a wrapper, in case of damp sheets, or blankets likely to have vermin in them.

vereign at home, otherwise he cannot expect to be admitted into any foreign courts.

10. It may be proper to have a small chest with medicines, as in many places good drugs are not always to be met with.

Before a traveller sets out, it is necessary for him to consider, whether he ought to look out for a companion, or to travel alone.

To have a companion, is certainly an agreeable circumstance *on some occasions*, but how difficult is it to find one man who, in his disposition or temper, exactly suits and tallies with another; who would go a long journey with perfect harmony; who would sometimes lead with ease, and at other times be led without grumbling? Should a friend, in every respect perfectly suitable, occur, it may be worth the trying.

On the other hand, when travelling alone, you have many advantages. One man is more easily introduced into company than two. He is fully master of his own time, and can alter his plan, as he finds it necessary or agreeable. He has also time for reflexion and reading, and is not so likely to be interrupted when he wishes to write down an account of his journey, without which, the objects he has seen will make no lasting impression, nor are they easily recalled to the memory*. After travelling also, for two or three days alone, when he arrives at an inn, it gives him a greater zest for society. Occasionally likewise, you may meet with an agreeable person, going part of the journey you propose to take, who will be glad to accompany you.

The following hints may likewise be of use to a traveller:

I. As his purpose is to see foreign men and manners, he ought to associate as much as possible with the natives,—seeming always satisfied with the reception he has met with from them,—learning a little of their language,—keeping up a connexion with any whose ancestors came originally from any

* For facilitating taking notes, get books for writing in, of the octavo form, interleaved with blotting paper, so that there is no occasion to stop for a single moment in writing your remarks.

part of the British Islands, (sixty noble families in Sweden came originally from Scotland),—and often mentioning any circumstance that connects the two countries together. Thus Denmark is connected with England by alliance, and mutual interests; Sweden, by its constitution, and its attachment to liberty, &c. But he should not carry his complaisance, or a desire to ingratiate himself so far, as to convey information from one country to another, that may be injurious to the former.

2. When he arrives at any town, let him send immediately for an almanack to see the *Carte de Pays*, and the names of the people. It is hardly possible, *unless one sees a name written or printed*, to remember the sound. Letters and characters are much more marked than sounds. Therefore write all names down, and learn to pronounce them. Purchase also any printed account of the town or place, and any plan that may have been published of it.

3. Lose no time also, in getting a very intelligent valet de place. On your arrival, send him about with cards, and your letters of introduction, with messages to any person you may wish to see soon. Seldom write a note or letter, as strangers are very apt to fall into mistakes as to the title, &c. of foreigners, who, on such points, are easily offended.

4. When you leave any town, send cards, *p. p. Congé*, to every body, as a proper mark of attention to those you have been obliged to. And,

5. Take particular care, for the honour of your nation, to fulfil any promise you have come under, as to sending books, presents, &c. to your foreign acquaintances.

PART XXV.

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH SEVERAL
DISTRICTS AND COUNTRIES,**

**WHICH THE AUTHOR HAS NOT VISITED, OR AN ACCOUNT OF
WHICH HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN IN THIS VOLUME.**

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SEVERAL DISTRICTS AND COUNTRIES,

WHICH THE AUTHOR HAS NOT VISITED, OR AN ACCOUNT OF
WHICH HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN IN THIS VOLUME.

I.

VARIOUS PARTS OF GERMANY, AND THE NEIGHBOURING
DISTRICTS.

I.—THE COUNT DETLER CHARLES D'EINSIEDEL, OF DRESDEN.

SAXONY has justly been accounted a country likely to produce important practical information on the subject of husbandry. I was thence extremely anxious to set on foot a communication, between a respectable society, established in that electorate, and the Board of Agriculture; and in consequence of some papers transmitted by me, I received the following interesting letter, from the Director of that Society, (Count Einsiedel), one of the Saxon ministers of state.

It is the more important, because it was by means of the Saxon Society, that the Spanish breed of sheep was first introduced into Germany, and that system of management was invented, by housing the sheep during the winter months, which has proved so advantageous to the proprietors of land in that country. Under this system, the Saxon wool has become even superior to the original Spanish. This proves what may be effected in the line of agricultural improvement, by skill, attention and public encouragement*.

* It was in the year 1765 that the Elector of Saxony, (Augustus Frederick), procured 100 rams and 200 ewes from Spain. A valuable account of the management of the Spanish breed of sheep in Saxony will be found in the Communications to the Board of Agriculture, vol. i. p. 276.

MONSIEUR *.

Vos lettres du 15. Juillet et du 7. Novembre de l'année passée, que vous avez bien voulu adresser, en qualité de Président du Bureau d'Agriculture en Angleterre, à la Société

* Translation.

SIR,

Dresden, September 12. 1798.

Your letters of the 15th of July and of the 7th of November of last year, which you were pleased to address, as President of the Board of Agriculture in England, to the Agricultural Society of Saxony, were read with great satisfaction at its general meetings, held every six months, immediately on their being received, and the printed paper which accompanied them, namely, the plan according to which they are arranged, have led us to entertain great hopes of your patriotic researches. I have been appointed, in consequence, as the Director of the Society, to offer you our particular acknowledgments, and to inform you of our zealous wishes to meet the confidence, which your desire to establish a more extensive communication with us, manifests on your part. Our labours having been commenced in the year 1767 with a similar idea, viz. that of distributing circulars to be filled up by different persons, we have been put in possession of a great number of statistical details connected with our country. We have been able to bring together in this manner, by a general *coup d'œil* of the diversity of climates, situations, latitudes, soils, and customs, those objects, by the proper combination of which, certain fixed principles can be established, calculated to strengthen advantages, and remedy defects, in revising the just means of government, or in reciprocally supplying knowledge and encouragement to meet the views of a beneficent administration.

You will receive, Sir, for the Board of Agriculture, through the hands of Mr Taylor, merchant at Manchester, the Memoirs and Reports of our Agricultural Society, along with the above-mentioned table. The 8th volume of the Memoirs contains an alphabetical index of the contents of the Reports, up to the year 1789. The writings, essays, projects, designs, models, &c. published separately, and remitted to our Society for examination by their authors, (the greater part of whom are members of our body), will be found added to the reports, and we offer you any communication or notice which may possibly be deemed worthy of your attention.

As our plan does not aim precisely at reforms, we are more attached to practical utility; and, restrained by the fear which the agriculturist entertains for speculative undertakings, our attention is rather directed to the publication and establishment of what has been already tried, especially in a foreign country, than in labouring to make new discoveries. And this is the reason why our Memoirs are not more frequently published. Our attention is chiefly devoted to corresponding with others, and we are particularly anxious to acquire, by this means, such knowledge, and such enlightened and extended views, as we are accustomed to see emanating from the English nation and its illustrious societies. Your attention to husbandry well deserves imitation, and we highly approve of the prizes intended to excite the young cultivator to a better management of his farm.

Economique en Saxe, ont été lues dans ses assemblés générales, tenues par semestre, à la suite de la réception de l'une et de l'autre, avec grande satisfaction, et les pièces imprimées,

Our farmers plough three or five times to one trench, in order to turn up fallow ground ; and all other ground they plough twice ; for wheat and rye ridges are generally raised more or less large, and arched, as they are required. The chief furrows, which conduct the choaked-up water, are always laid out by the agriculturist himself. The harrows have their teeth made of iron or wood, either for heavy or light soil. The crops, or the harvests, for the most part follow in a rotation of three or four, and, in fertile countries, with a rich soil, of five or seven years. They begin with rape, which is followed by wheat, barley, clover, and finished with wheat, barley, and herbs. In the best state of farming, we commonly find at least the twelfth part of the produce of the land in wheat, nearly the tenth in rye, and from the sixth to the eighth in barley and oats.

The custom of enriching the soil increases more and more. The lime kilns have been multiplied beyond all expectation. More marl has been dug than we thought could have been found. The practice becomes more and more common of carting the mould which collects on the border of fields, or on the banks of ditches, or the compost found in woods, consisting principally of rotten leaves and branches, over arable ground, either to heighten it, or to fill up places sunk by moisture. Manure is also mixed with the mould. Recently the urine of animals has been employed with great success, collected by the draining of the stables into stone canals, of twelve paces in diameter, there to be fermented with rain-water and snow, and afterwards placed in reservoirs in fields, there to spread in the Swiss manner. The fodder and the grass is also made better, by distributing, towards the end of winter, the remainder of the saline mixture, prepared for manure.

Thus the produce of grains, shrubs, herbs, and fodder is much augmented. The potatoe is particularly improved ; with us it supports the mechanic, as well as the manufacturers spread over the country, and the labourer of small possessions. The kind which Mr Howard first made known fed cattle, sheep and swine ; but to this we add abundantly clover, sainfoin and lucerne : the first is best when dry, the last when it is mowed and dried. These crops are repeated five times, and afford as solid nourishment as grain. Peas, beans, roots, cabbages, beet-roots, (*Beta cicla* Linnæi), turnips and beans, are at the same time not much neglected. The greater the resources, the greater the facility of feeding the animal in the stable, without grazing, never permitting him to get out but to take the air ; and this practice is adopted in all well-organized establishments. Epidemical disease is thus prevented, which corrupts the pasture and the moisture, and the ground is considerably enriched. Even sheep come to be supported in this way to much advantage, and in great numbers, by the large agriculturists. The other species of cattle have shown themselves equally susceptible of farther improvement. The Swiss cattle and the Spanish sheep have prospered very well, and great care is taken to renew and choose them well. Their second produce is equal to double their first, and their second is equal to triple

qui y étoient jointes, nommément le plan, d'après lequel elles sont redigées, nous ont fait concevoir un grand espoir de vos recherches patriotiques. J'ai été chargé, en conséquence, comme Directeur de la Société, de vous témoigner notre reconnaissance distinguée, et notre zèle à répondre à la confiance que votre désir d'établir une communication étendue, manifeste de votre part. Nos travaux ayant été préparés l'année 1767, dans une pareille idée, en faisant circuler une table à remplir, cette indication nous a fait rassembler un grand détail du local des economics de notre pays. On concentre de cette manière le plus solidement, sous un coup d'œil général d'après la diversité des climats, situations, sols, engrais, usages, &c. les objets, sur la combinaison desquels on peut établir des principes sûrs, qui font valoir les avantages, et remédient aux defectuosités, en réclamant l'appui du gouvernement, ou en se suggérant réciproquement les connoissances et encouragemens, qui répondent aux vues d'une regie bienfaisante. Vous agréerez, Monsieur, que je vous fasse parvenir, par l'entremise de Mr. Taylor, negociant de Manchester, pour le Bureau d'Agriculture, de la part de la Société Economique, ses Mémoires et Rapports, avec la table susmentionn e. Le 8.

at least. New experiments prove the utility of inoculating for the *variola ovina*, in visibly diminishing its ravages. We have not been so fortunate in stopping the destructive progress of vermin, caterpillars, and wood-lice in our forests. Our consumption of fuel is very great, as manufactories, founderies, forges, brewhouses, distilleries, use an immense quantity; this calamity, therefore is not trivial. Oil, sea-coal and turf are indeed very plentiful; but the saving in carpentry, machinery and combustibles, must be calculated that the evil may not be magnified. Great care is likewise necessary. The quantity of wood for carpentry is much diminished. A good deal of wheel work and iron pipes are used; and in regard to fuel, the Swedish practice is approved, that of causing the circulation to proceed vertically, and of producing as great a pressure of cold air as possible, which is made to pass through the flame.

I hope, Sir, this little summary may suggest to you a choice of subjects on which to write to us. The society places a high value on your correspondence; and the better to prove this, they beg of you to accept the subjoined diploma, by which they request you to allow your name to be added to the number of their honorary foreign members.

It is very flattering to me to be able to assure you, that it is with the most perfect regard that I remain, &c.

volume des premiers contient un indice alphabétique du contenu des seconds jusqu'à l'année 1789. Les écrits, essais, projets, dessins, modèles, &c. &c. publiés séparément, et remis à la Société pour en prendre connoissance par leurs auteurs, la plupart membres de notre corps, se trouvent consignés à la suite des Rapports, et nous en offrons toute communication ou notice, qui pourroit être jugée digne de vous intéresser. Notre plan ne visant pas précisément à des reformes, nous nous sommes plus attachés aux secours ; et retenus par la considération de la crainte, que le cultivateur nourrit envers l'économe spéculatif, notre soin s'est porté plutôt à publier et établir ce qui a été déjà mis en pratique, surtout dans l'étranger, qu'à travailler à de nouvelles découvertes : et c'est la raison pour laquelle nos Mémoires ne paroissent pas fréquemment. La correspondance nous occupe davantage, et il nous sera précieux d'acquérir par elle des connoissances et avis aussi éclairés et étendus, que nous sommes habitués à voir répandre par la nation Angloise, et ses illustres Sociétés. Votre attention à l'agronomie mérite beaucoup d'être suivie, et nous applaudissons bien aux prix destinés à former le jeune cultivateur à la meilleure direction des sillons.

Les labours se donnent chez nous trois ou cinq fois avec le soc à une tranche pour retourner le guéret, et avec celui à deux tranches, et deux versoirs pour les autres travaux. Pour le froment et le seigle, on dresse presque généralement des planches, plus ou moins larges et voutées selon le besoin. Les maîtres sillons, qui éconduisent l'eau engorgée, sont toujours disposés par l'économe même. Les herses ont leurs dents de fer ou de bois d'après le terrain fort ou léger. Les solles, ou les suites des cultures, alternent par périodes de trois et quatre ans la plupart, et dans les contrées fertiles de cinq à sept ans, avec un seul engrais. On commence alors par le colsat, qu'on fait suivre du froment, de l'orge, du trèfle, pour finir par du froment, de l'orge, et des pois. Quand tout est en bon état, nous percevons au moins le douzième en froment, jusqu'au dixième en seigle, et le sixième jusqu'au huitième en orge et avoine.

Les engrais s'augmentent de plus en plus. Les fours à chaux ont été multipliés au delà de toute attente. La marne a été creusée plus qu'on l'avoit su être à la main. On étend de plus en plus l'usage de charrier du terreau, qui s'est laissé glisser sur le bord des champs, ou que fournissent les bords des fossés, ou les branches amoncelées dans les bois de futaie, pour en recouvrir la terre labourable, ou la hausser, ou combler les places évasées par l'humidité. On mêle aussi le terreau au fumier, qui doit être transporté. Récemment on a entrepris, avec grand succès, l'emploi de l'urine des bêtes, recueillie par la pente des étables dans des rigoles de pierre de 12 pouces de diamètre, pour l'y faire fermenter avec de l'eau de pluie et de neige, autant que dans la suite, dans des réservoirs placés dans des prairies, pour l'y répandre avant chaque crue, à la Suisse. Les fourrages et les herbes aux prés l'améliorent encore, en y sèment vers la fin de l'hiver, un résidu de salines, préparé pour être engrais.

On parvient ainsi à augmenter richement les récoltes en grains, et gerbes, en légumes, et fourrages. La patate y profite surtout ; elle nourrit chez nous autant le manoeuvre, que le manufacturier répandu dans la campagne, et le laboureur peu possessionné. L'espèce que Mr. Howard a fait connoître le premier, fait vivre le bétail, la brebis, et le cochon. Nous y ajoutons cependant amplement le trèfle, le sainfoin, et la luserne ; le premier le mieux quand il est séché, la dernière fraîche et séchée. Ses coupes se répètent cinq fois, et donnent une nourriture aussi solide que les grains. On néglige tout aussi peu les pois, vesces, choux raves, choux bettes, (beta cicla Linnæi), turneps, navets, et fèves. Plus on se pourvoit de ces ressources, plus on parvient à la facilité de nourrir la bête à l'étable, sans la faire paître, en ne la laissant sortir, que pour se promener à l'air ; et cette pratique est adoptée dans tous les arrangemens bien organisés. On se met par-là à l'abri des épidémies, que proviennent de la corruption de la pâture et de l'abreuvement, et on augmente l'engrais considérablement. Même les brebis viennent d'y être habi-

tuées avec grande utilité, soutenue en beaucoup de nombre à de grosses œconomies. Les races des bêtes ont été également susceptibles de bien plus de perfection. Le bétail Suisse et la brébis Espagnole ont très bien réussi ; et on met grand soin à les rafraichir et à les bien trier. Leur produit va au double à l'égard du premier, et relativement à la seconde au triple pour le moins, au delà de qu'on en retiroit auparavant. De nouvelles expériences viennent de prouver d'utilité de l'inoculation de la *variola ovina*, en diminuant ses degats visiblement. Nous réussissons moins à arreter les progrès destructeurs de la vermine en chenilles, et scaribées dans nos forêts au bois de construction et de chauffage. Notre consommation de l'un et de l'autre étant fort grande, puisque les manufactures, fontes, forges, brasseries, distillations, &c. exigent de grandes fournitures, on se trouve en grande detresse. La houille, le charbon de terre, la tourbe supplée richement à la verité ; mais l'épargne à la charpente, au machines, et au combustible doit s'y joindre, pour ne pas empirer encore le mal. Aussi on y donne grand soin. On a diminué beaucoup le volume du bois de charpente ; on employe assez de rouages et de canaux de fer ; et en fait de chauffage on s'en tient aux principes Suedois, en faisant aller verticalement la circulation, et effectuant la plus forte pression de l'air froid, qui passe par la flamme.

Que ce petit précis puisse vous suggérer, Monsieur, un choix des objets de communication. La Société Economique y met un grand prix ; et pour le faire connoitre de son mieux, elle vous prie d'accepter le ci-joint diplôme, par lequel elle désire vous pouvoir agréger au nombre des membres honoraires étrangers.

Il m'est bien flatteur de pouvoir vous assurer par ces lignes, que c'est avec une très parfaite considération que je suis, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

LE COMTE DETLER CHARLES D'EINSIEDEL *.

Dresde, ce 12. Septembre 1798.

* When shall we have an English minister of state, capable of giving such valuable information, regarding the agriculture of England ?

2.—THE CHEVALIER BURCKHARDT.

Among the natives of Germany who visited Scotland, the Chevalier Burckhardt, from Bavaria, was one of the best informed, and most intelligent. He was also an excellent performer on some instruments of music, a qualification which several natives of Germany possess, and which seems to me a useful accomplishment, if too much time is not devoted to it. Attention to music is a most pleasing occupation, softens the temper, and often diminishes the distresses of the mind; and, in large societies, it furnishes safer occupation than any other species of amusement, and one infinitely superior to cards or dice.

It was extremely gratifying to have received the following letter from the Chevalier, regarding his residence in Edinburgh, with which he seems to have been much pleased, though he only met with that attention, and those civilities, to which he was justly entitled.

11. Ampton Street, Gray's Inn Road,
London, May 20. 1830.

DEAR SIR,

Business of importance having obliged me to hasten suddenly to London, I lament that it was utterly out of my power, to do myself the pleasure of calling on you before my departure.

It was originally my intention to return to Edinburgh shortly; but different commissions sent me from Carlsruhe, and which still occupy much of my time, will, I fear, prevent me from fulfilling this plan, and having the opportunity of expressing, in person, my grateful acknowledgments for the agreeable, as well as flattering reception I experienced at your residence. Be assured, that the recollection of the time spent in your amiable circle, will always afford me much pleasure; and, had I an opportunity of proving these sentiments, it would gratify one of my first wishes.

A friend to all branches of agriculture, I am convinced that I can nowhere find a better reply to the following question, than from you, from whom this country has derived so much useful and important information on this subject. My question is this, What are the best English works on agriculture in general, and particularly on the breeding of sheep and horses?

My best compliments to the ladies; and with every sentiment of respect, I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly,

CH. BURCKHARDT.

P. S.—My address in Germany is, “Buhl, near Bayreuth,” where it would give me much pleasure to see you, or any of your friends, if by accident, or otherwise, they should visit that part of Bavaria, which is considered interesting. I should be happy to communicate with you on any information you may require, on agricultural affairs, in that part of the world.

3.—M. FISCHER OF ANSPACH, IN GERMANY.

I received a letter, written in German, from M. Fischer in Anspach, a translation of which I subjoin. It shows an uncommon zeal for the improvement of that art; and nothing could be more satisfactory, than to be able to comply with the wishes of so zealous a friend to the improvement of agriculture.

Creilsheim, in the Principality of Anspach,

20th October 1802.

SIR,

Your much-esteemed name is not only known in England, but also in Germany, where it is mentioned by every friend to agriculture with reverence.

Excuse, therefore, a German, whose pleasure is agriculture, and whose official duty obliges him also to study the improvements of it; but who, not being acquainted, either with the English or French languages, takes the liberty to address you

in German, and hopes, from your unrestrained ardour for the benefit of agriculture in every country, that you will grant his request.

For many years past I have occupied myself in making experiments in foreign grain, grass, and oil seeds, and perhaps not without some benefit to my native country.

I have had the good luck to obtain seeds from the remotest parts: but not yet from England, where agriculture is in the highest esteem, and where it has received its greatest support under your auspices.

At the beginning of the last year, 1802, I applied to my former prince, the Margrave of Anspach, at Brandenburgh House, to whom I am not unknown, but hitherto in vain, not having yet received any answer from him; but, perhaps, you, Sir, as the exalted friend of agriculture, and one whom the world honours on that account, will be more gracious, and comply with my request, by sending me some of the best sorts of English grain, particularly of wheat and oats, as well as seed for pasture, in small samples, that I may make experiments with them on German ground, and thereby extend my knowledge.

By way of Hamburgh or Paris, I may easily receive them, and perhaps, by next spring, find my warm wishes fulfilled.

I am sensible of the great liberty I take, and that any other, but the exalted mind of Sir John Sinclair, would take it amiss; but this I am in no dread of from you, for the fame of your name all over Europe supports me; therefore nothing further remains, but to assure you of the great esteem and reverence I have for you.

JOHANN BERNHARD FISCHER,

His Prussian Majesty's Councillor, and Commissary for Husbandry in the Province of Anspach, Member of the Agricultural Societies in Potsdam, Strasburg, Leipsic and Cassel.

4.—M. SCHMIDT OF STUTTGART.

The zeal for the improvement of agriculture which exists in the various states of Germany, will hardly be credited in

this commercial country. Among other instances of that zeal, one of the most striking is, a resolution taken by the King of Wurtemberg, to send one of his most intelligent subjects, (Monsieur Schmidt of Stuttgart), for the purpose of collecting agricultural information, and purchasing specimens of the most improved breeds of cattle in this country. It appears also, from the subjoined letter, that his Majesty not only procured information from us, but was anxious to send in return, any mechanical, or other discoveries, that were likely to be acceptable here. Since the dissolution of the Board of Agriculture, a common centre of communication between this country and foreign nations, no longer exists, and Great Britain must soon lose the superior rank which it formerly held, for agricultural information.

SIR,

I have delayed answering your kind favour of the 10th February last, until I received further orders from his Majesty the King of Wurtemberg, concerning the purchase of cattle. His Majesty having determined upon the Devon and Hereford breeds, I hasten to inform you of this his resolution, and to express to you, in his name, his thanks for your obliging offer to assist him in the purchase of Scotch cattle, until some future period. I have now bought the Durham, Alderney, and Suffolk Polls, and his Grace the Duke of Bedford, is just engaged to procure the two above-mentioned breeds, so that we are able to make some fair experiments, which of the five will best suit our climate.

Our Board of Agriculture will be highly gratified to enrol you as a fellow of that institution, which, I make no doubt, will take place at the next election.

Within a few weeks, I expect to be able to send you a correct drawing of the thrashing machine, used in Tyrol, which his Majesty has ordered to be sent to you, upon my request. I shall be glad to hear your opinion on this important subject.

I expect every instant a small box, containing a drawing,

in four sheets, of our threshing machine, which his Majesty, my Sovereign, ordered to be forwarded to me, and presented to you, as a mark of the high esteem he entertains for you.

In regard to the interesting work you are about to publish, I should like to know, how many sheets it will contain, in order to regulate things accordingly.

Pray, Sir, tell me, is any such article to be got in Great Britain as what they call "Himmaleh Barley," of which the Archduke John of Austria is said to have received a sample?

I have the honour to subscribe myself, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

SCHMIDT.

London, 2d April 1824.

5.—BARON VOGHT OF HAMBURGH.

In the following letter, No. 1, this intelligent agriculturist, gives a short account, of the method he had fallen upon, of expressing, *by numbers*, the fertility of any given soil, from its two component parts, the physical and chemical quality of the soil, and its richness, from manure, &c.

The friend he introduced, (Dr Julius), proved a very intelligent and interesting character.

The other communication, No. 2, proves the Baron's strong regard for the person to whom the letter was addressed, and the interest he took in the prosperity of his family.

No. 1.

Footbec, the 28th March 1825.

DEAR SIR,

It is perhaps presuming too much on the right of ancient, though long interrupted acquaintance, if I take the liberty of introducing the bearer, my friend, Dr Julius, to your acquaintance. Highly esteemed among our best physicians, he is also one of our first literary characters, and possessing a very extensive knowledge in almost *omni scibili*. You will be highly pleased by his conversation. In a tour through your blessed island,

he wishes to get more particularly acquainted with the actual state of medical science in Great Britain, and the manner in which your hospitals are kept. Though this is the particular object of his journey, he is not less desirous, as deserving, to make the personal acquaintance of those men, who stand foremost in the esteem and the admiration of the Continent; and for that reason it is, that I yielded willingly to his desire, of being introduced to the Author of the Code of Health and Longevity,—to the man who, more than any man living, has promoted the statistical knowledge of his country, and, by his unremitting endeavours, has been so useful to the progress of agriculture in Great Britain.

It is in the supposition, that this science still has some interest for you, that I charged my friend to hand to you, my Dear Sir, the last number of an agricultural magazine, that just now left the press, and that, with the single exception of the report on a sheep farm, is entirely my own work. If you have, among your agronomical friends, somebody who reads German, he may perhaps be induced to pay some attention to the first letter, containing my observations on *the influence of vegetation in improving the soil in its texture and quality, independently of what it may add to its richness*, page 1-19.

The following letter has an object merely local, containing some advice to our distressed farmers, quite discouraged by the low price of their produce, and by that unnatural rise and fall of the prices, due to the legislation of grains in Great Britain, which has proved as destructive to the farming interest with you, as it has with us.

From page 82, to 128, it contains all the experiments made in the years 1822 and 1823, on the cultivation of potatoes in my farms. Perhaps they are deserving of some notice, as they are the first instance of practical application, of what we call *the static of agriculture*, or the method of expressing, by numbers, the fertility of any given soil, from its two component parts, *the physical and chemical quality of the soil, and its richness from manure, &c.*

We express thereby the degrees of fertility wanted, to produce a given weight of produce *per* acre, the degrees of exhaustion produced by the crops, the degrees of fertility at last, which may be added either to the *soil*, by mixture or cultivation, or to its *richness*, by the different kinds of manure, with reference to the variety of the produce, and the variety of the soil.

The object is of the highest importance. Since eight years I have gathered many hundred observations, and I hope, in a few years more, to be enabled to communicate to my agricultural friends, a series of most interesting results.

In order to satisfy the impatience of a part of the agronomical public, I am publishing just now a sketch of the plan, in which, along with my friends Thaer, de Wullfen and de Thunen, we began our work with a few remarks, suggested by the operations of the following years. I will send it you if an opportunity offers. In the meanwhile, give me leave to repeat to you, the often expressed sentiments of my sincere and respectful esteem. Ever yours,

VOGHT.

No. 2.

MY DEAR SIR,

I thank you heartily for having procured me the acquaintance of Mr George Sinclair. He has been several times at my house, and has not left Hamburgh without regretting it. I hope he will spend a year or two with advantage at Gotha. He is a very pleasant young man, and was soon much beloved by every body here. I discovered, with pleasure, in him, that active disposition of mind, and that clear judgment, that enabled his father to render such conspicuous services, not only to his own country, but to Europe in general. I have, with pleasure, learned by him how your leisure is employed.

I own, that I venerate too much the plough, not to lament sincerely, that you seem to have left off these pursuits, by which we all were so much benefited. What would not the Board of

Agriculture have become under your direction? What a paltry thing is it now? Well, may all this serve to *prolong the life, and increase the health*, of future generations, who, in one way or another, must bless your memory.

It is among my warmest wishes to see once more your country, where I spent some useful and agreeable days. My absence, however, cannot be of long duration. My farms, and the Hamburgh Institute for the poor, whose progress gives me infinite pleasure, require my steady attendance. I had a thought of spending part of the winter at Paris, from where I intended to pay you a visit; but the continental war has covered poor Germany with crowds of eastern, and western, and northern barbarians. Who knows how far that may extend. Under these circumstances it would not be prudent to leave home.

Let me beg the favour from you to remember me to my worthy Edinburgh friends, Mr and Mrs Dugald Stewart, Fraser Tytler, Dr Gregory, &c. I seldom have seen so many worthy characters united in one place, and in one circle of society.

I would beg to present my best respects to Lady Sinclair, if our short acquaintance could make our presence to be remembered. I remain, with great regard, your faithful, obedient servant,

VOGHT.

I got for Mr George Sinclair a passport from M. de Bourienne, French Minister here, necessary for him, as he was to go through a country still occupied by the French troops.

I had but to mention the name of his father, whose philanthropy had made him venerable to all nations, and I obtained it without difficulty.

6.—JOSEPH EWART, ESQ.

Secretary to the British Embassy at Berlin.

Among the persons employed in the diplomatic concerns of this country, in foreign parts, Joseph Ewart, Esq. Secretary to the embassy at Berlin, seemed to me one of the ablest; and he was always ready, to give every aid in his power, to any British traveller who visited the Court where he officiated. It was greatly by his means, that Holland was rescued from the influence of France, in the year 1788; and he was equally successful in other diplomatic negotiations. It appears, from the following letter, what pains were taken, before any young man *was fixed* in the department of foreign affairs at Berlin, that he should be well acquainted with foreign countries; but in Great Britain, it is to be lamented, that political influence is more required, than the fitness of the candidate for the office to which he aspires.

Berlin, 1st March 1788.

MY DEAR SIR,

This letter will be delivered to you by M. de Brockhausen, the favourite *élève* of Count Hertsberg, at whose house you saw him here; and I beg leave to recommend him to your kind attention and good offices, during the short visit he has received his Prussian Majesty's permission to make to London, before being fixed as *Conseiller*, in the department of foreign affairs here.

You will find M. de Brockhausen remarkably well informed, not only in every thing that relates to this country, but also with respect to France and Holland, where he has been employed in the late famous negotiations; and, I am persuaded that you will agree with me in thinking him a most promising young man, well entitled to the uncommon distinctions

he has already met with, for his years, and to the flattering prospects that await his future exertions.

I am happy to have this opportunity of congratulating you, my Dear Sir, on the glorious success, with which the exertions of Great Britain and Prussia have been crowned in Holland; and I am sure, nobody would partake more cordially than you, in that joyful event, and in the happy effects which result from it. I need not tell you, how fortunate I consider myself, in having been employed in this memorable transaction; and the expressions of approbation with which I have been honoured, make me rely with confidence on the speedy fulfilment of the assurances I have received.

I am impatient to see the second volume of your History of the Finances of Britain, whose actual flourishing state, must furnish you with such victorious proofs of the principles you so long ago advanced, respecting the favourable prospects of its resources and revenue. How peculiarly prosperous is our situation, in this as well as in every other respect, when compared with that of our rival; and, while our administration has gained the respect of all Europe, and rises daily in estimation, the French cabinet continue to expose their weakness, inconsistency, and misconduct.

I flatter myself, I shall have the satisfaction to hear from you by the return of my friend M. de Brockhausen; and I entreat you to believe me to be, with the greatest esteem and regard, my Dear Sir, ever most sincerely yours,

JOS. EWART.

7.—BARON A MEYENDORFF, A LIVONIAN.

They have discovered in Livonia, a new mode of flooding land, not only by covering it with water, but by filling the artificial lake *with fish*. The soil thus covered, is not only fertilised by the water, but still more so, from the animal matter which it receives by the death of the fish, or what is otherwise deposited in it.

I hope soon to have the pleasure of receiving from the Baron a full account of this process, and the advantages resulting from it, which may be of use in districts at a distance from manure, but with a command of water.

SIR,

I have the honour to send a few words about our Loch husbandry. I hope, in some months, to be able to send to you *a full account* about this subject.

This will be the beginning of uninterrupted relations between our society of rural economy in Livonia, and your celebrated Highland Society, to which we are so much indebted for many very interesting treatises and reports.

I take, with the greatest pleasure, this opportunity to assure you, of the feeling of admiration and respect with which I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obliged servant,

BARON A MEYENDORFF.

Edinburgh, 19th March 1829.

S.—M. BOTTIGER OF DRESDEN.

There is none of my correspondents, who entered with more zeal and enthusiasm, into the plans I had undertaken for promoting the general advantage of mankind, than M. Bottiger, one of the most distinguished literary characters in Germany.

In a letter he wrote me from Dresden, dated 27th August 1805, there is the following paragraph :

* C'est la premier fois, Monsieur, que j'ai l'honneur de vous témoigner mon respectueux attachement ; mais je suppose que

• Translation.

This is the first opportunity I have had of testifying to you my respectful attachment, but I suppose that Mr Macdonald has already informed you how much I am devoted to you. Patriot as you are in your own country, to an extent of which there are few examples, you belong, at the same time, to every country, and to every age ; and if all your plans for the improvement of the soil, and of those who cultivate it, were adopted, and executed with the same

Mr Macdonald vous aura dit déjà, combien je vous suis dévoué. Patriot comme il y en a peu, vous appartenez pourtant à tous les pays, et à tous les siècles ; et si tous vos projets, pour l'amélioration du sol, et de l'homme qui le cultive, avoient été suivis, et exécutés avec le même zèle, qu'on vous connoit, au lieu du siècle de fer, que menace nous moissonner tous avec le sabre d'un nouveau Brennus, le siècle d'or vous seroit rendu. Votre Statistique d'Ecosse, sera toujours époque dans l'histoire *des progrès* du genre humain. Tout le monde chez nous, est à présent impatient de voir paroître votre Code de Santé, que j'ai eu la satisfaction d'annoncer moi-même à mes compatriotes. Puissiez-vous vivre, Monsieur, pour voir les fruits de vos veilles, et de vos travaux, dans une nouvelle génération, renouvelé par vous-même.

M. Bottiger entered, with great zeal, into the plan I had proposed, for establishing experimental farms, and erecting villages on an advantageous system ; and, in the following energetic language, he explained his sentiments, regarding both the merits of the plan, and the character of its author :

Extract from the Jena Universal Literary Gazette for June 1801, (vol. ii. p. 11.) translated from the German.

The annexed plan of a country village, is inserted here, chiefly with a view to bring once more to my countrymen's recollection, one of the most active promoters of agriculture, and one of the noblest philanthropists in Europe, Sir John Sinclair, the Scotch Baronet, and to erect a durable monument for him in this Gazette. Our readers are already acquainted

zeal with which you are actuated, instead of that age of iron, which threatens to cut us down with the sabre of a new Brennus, the golden age would be restored by you. Your Statistical Account of Scotland will always form an epoch in the history of the progress of the human race. Every one here is now impatient for the appearance of your Code of Health, which I myself have had the satisfaction of announcing to my countrymen. May you, Sir, live, to see the fruits of your watchings and your toils, in a new generation, improved by your exertions.

with this statesman and economist, whose activity is equalled only by the propriety of its objects; and we have, in our journal of London and Paris, turned, what was intended as a caricature in London, into a tribute of honour, by our fair and impartial explanation. Having, for three years past, had the misfortune, in consequence of his honourable perseverance, to displease the mighty pilot of the British ship, (Mr Pitt), to the length of being deprived of the president's chair of a society, erected and supported by his own creative genius, namely, "*The Board of Agriculture*," some of our cowardly German writers have, like good weathercocks, turned their backs on him. Let them answer, however, the questions stated in our *Agricultural Magazine*, No. 5. p. 355. "To whom is Scotland indebted for the attempt to purify its language? Who has exhibited the English finances in the clearest manner, and on the surest basis? Who has erected for Europe a model of statistical information, and carried it the length of twenty volumes, in the face of all difficulties? Who has created a centre for Great Britain's best and dearest interests, her agricultural produce? Who has provided the means of improvement for a chief staple of England, its wool? Who has toiled most earnestly, for converting waste lands into fertile fields, and inclosing dreary commons? And who has essentially opposed the inveteracy of bad habits, and the indolence of traditionary customs, even among our farmers? To whom do we owe this, and much more? All this, we must avow, we owe to Sir John Sinclair, *and almost to him alone*.—This is the language of a man to whom truth is dearer than ministerial favour."

9.—ON THE UNIVERSITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIVES OF SCOTLAND IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CONTINENT*.

It is a circumstance highly creditable to Scotland, that a number of the most celebrated universities established on the

* It is singular that *Baliol College*, said to be the oldest establishment in Oxford, was founded by a Scotch Lady, the Countess of Galloway; and the Scots

Continent, and consequently the revival of learning in modern Europe, originated from the natives of that country.

It would require very extensive and minute inquiries, completely to ascertain so curious and interesting a fact. But the more the subject is inquired into, the more evident it would probably appear, and fortunately, it depends more on foreign than domestic authority, and consequently is the less to be questioned.

I understand, that some information may be found regarding these Scotch Universities, in Denina's (*l'Abate*), *Vicende della Letteratura*. In Muller's *Geschichte der Schweiz*, (*Miller of Vienna's History of Switzerland*), originally published at Hesse-Cassel, where the author was librarian, and finished at Vienna six years ago, will be found some additional information upon the subject. That history is much esteemed both in France and Germany. It is in 6 vols 8vo, and a translation of it into French was mentioned, and a critique inserted, in Millin's *Encyclopedique*, an. v. and in Roderer's and Coranzes's *Journal de Paris*, as well as their *Tableau Economique* of 1797. In the 2d volume of Miller's *History*, are remarkable passages, with notes subjoined, respecting the Swiss Universities, and more particularly that of Schaffhausen, on the banks of the Rhine. Miller quotes some books belonging to the Augustine and Jesuit Colleges there, as proofs, that the University of Schaffhausen, as well as most of those in Switzerland, Germany, and *Franche Comté*, together with the monasteries and other religious establishments, were founded by Scotchmen, or the *éleves* of Scotchmen. He mentions the traditions respecting Columba, and the celebrated seminary of Icolmkill.

In Schmid's *Geschichte der Deutchen*, (*Smith of Vienna's History of the Germans*), are some remarkable pieces of information, to the same effect, though not so particular or accurate as Miller's.

had certainly some concern in the establishment of the University of Paris. See *Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. xxi.

On this subject, one of my correspondents in Germany, sent me the following particulars :

Extract of a Letter from Germany.

Maurus Strachan, 1737, a native of Buchan, was an excellent Steward. Macarius Summerwell, 1739, Glottwallensis, (apparently a native of Glottwall). Augustine Duff of Fochaber, Abbot, 1753. Bernard Wilson of Edinburgh, 1782. Benedict Mackenzie, Fellow, from Sexford, Prior, 1785. Hamilton, surnamed the Meek, Abbot, 1786. Bernard Stuart, Glamiffensis, 1787. About twenty years ago, all the monasteries in Bavaria were secularized, also the Scotch Colleges.

The Scotch College at Eichstadt, (like Wurzburg, in the same part of Bavaria, which formerly was called Franconia), has been founded in the first half of the 12th century, by Bruno von Rugshofen, or Waldobrunn von Rauchshafen, Provost of the Cathedral (Domprobst), at Eichstadt, in the time of Bishop Gebhard II, who called Scotch monks from Ratisbon, giving to them the church built by Bruno von Rugshe. The first head of the college was Grandus. Bishop Otto made considerable donations to it, in the second half of the 12th century. The college at Ratisbon was founded in the year 1120, by Hartwig, bishop of Ratisbon. Besides these in Bavaria, there was a Scotch College at Wien, founded by Duke Heinrich von Ostrich; one at Lammspringe, in the bishoprick of Hildesheim; and a Hospitium, consisting of four Scotch Benedictines from Ratisbon, at Erfurt. But not being informed exactly about them, I shall give you an account of them as soon as I can do it with accuracy.

My correspondent has not yet favoured me with the information he promised, but I hope soon to have the pleasure of receiving it. In the interim, I thought it right to communicate to the public, the information I have already collected regarding so interesting a subject.

II.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

I.—THE MARQUIS DEL CAMPO,

Ambassador from Spain to the Court of Great Britain.

One of the liveliest and pleasantest men I ever met with, was the Marquis del Campo, and we contracted a great friendship for each other. He was of English extraction, his name being originally Field; but being born in Spain, and residing much there in his youth, he changed his name to *Del Campo*. I received several communications from him; but the following in particular, will sufficiently prove his friendly regard, and his readiness to promote the pursuits with which I was occupied.

No. 1 *.

Manchester-House, 22d May 1792.

DEAR SIR,

I have read, with great pleasure indeed, the prospectus you have been so kind as to send me; and after considering the subject of the utmost consequence for any country, but more particularly for this, where the woollen manufactures are perhaps the principal branch, I can't but admire the manner in which you treat it. Nay, and I must say the same, respecting the general inquiry about the political estate, population, industry, &c. of a kingdom.

I shall certainly make the properest use in my power, with the other books for Messrs Campomanes, and several gentlemen in Spain, and shall direct one to Count d'Aranda, recommending your wishes very earnestly.

I have the honour to subscribe myself, with the greatest esteem and affectionate attachment, Dear Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

MARQUIS DEL CAMPO.

* The Marquis does not write pure English; but, as his meaning is intelligible, it was thought unnecessary to correct the language of his letters.

No. 2.

DEAR SIR,

I must acknowledge the favour of your very obliging letter that I received a few days ago. If I don't mistake, from the first day we met, we felt a kind of sympathy for one another. It was so on my part; and as it flatters me, I like to think the same on your side. Let that be as it will, men who employ their thoughts, and their time, in the way you do, must be admired and beloved by every one that has an honest, good heart. I shall be proud, from all distances, to prove to you these sentiments, and very happy, if ever I am able, to contribute to the accomplishment of your patriotic views, which are so beneficial to all nations. Be well, and contented for many and many years, and believe me, most sincerely, your affectionate, humble servant,

CAMPO.

29th December 1795.

No. 3.

The Marquis del Campo returns many thanks to the President of the Board of Agriculture for his new kindness in sending to him the account of the experiments made upon different sorts of bread. He shall always remember, the sincere marks of attention and friendship he has been honoured with from the President.

Manchester House, 23d December 1795.

2.—THE CHEVALIER DE PINTO,

Prime Minister in Portugal.

This eminent public character, was ambassador from the Court of Portugal to that of St James's, when I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with him. He was extremely partial to the statistical and other useful inquiries, which I was engaged, and I was thence induced to think

when he returned to Portugal, and became the minister of that country, that he would, with pleasure, carry into effect the public plans I had proposed. This, I have no doubt, would have been the case, had not the invasion of the French prevented it.

Letter from the Chevalier de Pinto.

MONSIEUR *,

Je viens de recevoir l'honneur de votre lettre du mois de Mai, et je vous dois biens de remerciemens, Monsieur, pour le témoignage pretieux de votre souvenir à mon égard.

C'est avec la même reconnoissance que j'apprétie l'état politique de l'Ecosse, que vous venez de joindre à la susdite lettre, aussi bien que les différentes questions, Monsieur, que vous m'avez transmises concernant les brebis, et ses toisons, soit en Portugal soit au Brésil.

Je ne manquerais pas, Monsieur, de présenter le tout à notre Académie des Sciences, et d'employer le plus grand zèle pour pouvoir vous procurer une réponse satisfaisante.

Daignez agréer, Monsieur, les sentimens les plus sincères de ma reconnoissance, et du profond respect avec lesquels je suis, Monsieur le Chevalier, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

LE CHR. DE PINTO.

A Lisbonne, ce 3. Juillet 1792.

• Translation.

SIR,

I had the honour of receiving your letter, and return you my best thanks for so precious a mark of your remembrance of me.

It was with gratitude, also, that I received the Political State of Scotland, which accompanied the letter, as well as the questions which you have transmitted regarding the sheep, and their wool, both in Portugal and in Brazil.

I shall not fail to present these communications to our Academy of Sciences, and to employ every exertion in my power to procure you satisfactory answers.

Have the goodness to accept the sincere sentiments of gratitude, and the profound respect with which I have the honour to be, &c.

3. - THE COUNT DE PALMELLA.

From the accounts I had received of Brazil, I was fully convinced, that there was no country better adapted, in various respects, to the pursuits of agriculture. I was thence induced, to endeavour to introduce there that spirit of improvement which had been established in this country, and for that purpose, resolved to send some of our works on agriculture to the Brazilian Government. Upon communicating my intention to the Count de Palmella, the Portuguese Minister in London, I had the honour of receiving from him the following communication :

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

J'ai reçu le billet que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, et les plans qui l'accompagnaient, lesquels j'ai examiné avec l'intérêt qu'ils inspirent.

Si vous adressez l'ouvrage que vous vous proposez d'écrire, à son Excellence Monsieur le Comte de Barca, Conseiller et Ministre d'Etat de S. M. F. F., Chargé du Departement des Affaires Etrangères, à Rio de Janeiro, je me chargerai avec beaucoup de plaisir de le lui faire parvenir.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur le Chevalier, votre très humble et obéissant serviteur,

LE C^{te} DE PALMELLA.

South Audley Street, 21. Juin 1816.

4.—*Extract of a Letter from Portugal, regarding the State of that Country, with some Account of the Battle of Vimcira.*

A very intelligent friend of mine, having been ordered on service to Portugal, I requested of him to send me some in-

* Translation.

SIR,

I have received the note which you have done me the honour to address to me, and the plans which accompanied it.

If you will address the work which you propose to write, to Monsieur le Comte de Barca, &c. I shall take the charge of it with the greatest pleasure.

I have the honour to be, &c.

formation regarding the state of that country in general, and, in particular, any important information he could procure, regarding the battle of Vimeira. The letter he wrote me, in return, was of considerable length, and contained a number of particulars, not interesting at the present moment. Some parts of the letter also, are of too delicate a nature to be published at this time. But there are other parts of it, which seem to me entitled to the attention of the reader, and which are here subjoined.

“ In obedience to your desire, I proceed to inform you of whatever has come within my reach worth mentioning.

“ What particularly strikes a stranger, in passing along the coast of Portugal is, the incessant swell coming in from the western ocean. Had the French properly availed themselves of this circumstance, we must have sustained some loss in getting a footing in the country. At Meriera Bay, where Sir John Moore’s division disembarked, eight days were required to land fourteen thousand men, and, although every precaution was taken by the navy, to prevent accidents, several lives were lost. During the whole of the time the surf ran so high, that boats could approach the shore at full tide only.

“ On my way to join the army, I had an opportunity of examining at leisure, the place where the action of Vimeira was fought. I shall be particular in the detail of what occurred to me respecting it, and what I have heard, for, without an accurate plan, Sir A. Wellesley’s account cannot be understood. Junot’s plan of attack was excellent. He proposed breaking through the centre of the British, posted on a commanding eminence, and afterwards to envelope the left. Both of these divisions were separated from the right by a river, having only one bridge of communication. This, together with the ammunition of our reserve, was so situated, as to be completely in the hands of the troops stationed on the hill, where our centre was placed. So far well; but in the execution of his scheme, material faults were committed. He came into action after a fatiguing march,—he was too late in commencing the attack,

—his feints on the wings were neither seasonable, nor sufficiently vigorous, and he encumbered himself with too large a train of artillery, as the nature of the English position was such, that his artillery could be of little use in forcing the line. It could not follow him, had the day declared in his favour; and it could not, for any distance, cover his retreat; besides, a beaten body of men, in this kingdom, must always lose their artillery. In the action, the French did not display their boasted courage and conduct, for when their close column advanced to within one hundred yards of the British, they opened a fire, much to their disadvantage, and they remained, without attempting to advance, until they were threatened by our bayonets, when they took to their heels. This took place in the centre, where, of course, their greatest force was collected. The consequence was, that a general retreat was deemed necessary; and, notwithstanding the exertions of the French officers, and the good conduct of their reserve, it was not effected without loss and confusion.

“The enemy did not fall back on Lisbon, but took a direction to the right, nearly parallel to the British line; in consequence, at the conclusion of the affair, the French were farther, by four miles, from the capital, than Sir A. Wellesley, who was in possession of the only road to the important pass of *Torres Vedras*, through which it is necessary to go to Lisbon. Sir A. Wellesley therefore proposed, that the pass should be occupied by the second line, which had not been engaged; but unfortunately, that judicious plan was not adopted. Had it been followed, the French would have been obliged, from the want of provisions, to surrender at discretion.

“In the course of the above action, two points, often disputed, were incontestably determined, viz. 1. That the French are by no means equal to cope with the same number of British; and, 2. That they are only formidable to those who will not resolutely oppose them. The Portuguese troops behaved infamously on the occasion. When a poor wounded Frenchman was seen, he was immediately butchered by them; in-

deed, many of ours also were destroyed by them; and a single shell bursting, was seen to put an effectual stop to their whole cavalry in a charge. How different was the conduct of the Highlanders! Anecdotes of them are repeated with enthusiasm, and several are to get promotion, *at the request of the French wounded officers.*

“ However inferior the French may be to the English in combat, that they are superior in council is indisputable, else how could they obtain such terms as the capitulation allowed them,—terms which the greatest defeat could scarcely warrant; but when it is considered, that the population of the country was against the enemy, that he was inferior in numbers, and that his men were so disheartened with the business of the 17th ultimo, that it was absolutely necessary to practise a deceit upon them, before they could be prevailed upon to advance on the 21st,—when, I say, these particulars are taken into the account, the conduct of our chiefs is quite unpardonable. It is true, that Junot threatened to occupy the position to the westward of Lisbon, with his whole force, and, if driven from it, to endeavour to destroy the city. He might have been easily starved out, and, as his proposed position was not so tenable, he would only have had the alternative of being driven into the Tagus, or massacred by the inhabitants of Lisbon.

“ The French officers and soldiers often declared, that they were gratified in their sole wish, that of returning home with their property and baggage, a great part of which could not be conveyed over land; and that their object in fighting the battle of the 21st, was not to dispute the possession of this now miserable country, but that they thought it incumbent on them, for the honour of the *Great Nation*. The country through which I passed, on my march to this city, is, I may say, a chain of uninterrupted hills. The arable land is uniformly at the bottom, and the vineyards on the slopes. There are some valleys, but not a tenth part of the ground is cultivated, and what is, I observed, was very injudiciously laid out under maize, with a small proportion of wheat and barley. Not a

particle of grass did I see. Every step that I advanced, I had the greater reason to pity the miserable natives, the influence of whose perverted religion extends to civil life, and to rejoice at the happy situation of my countrymen. The roads over which I went, if not impassable, were the next thing to it. Often have I had recourse to the exertions of twelve men, with as many horses, to perform what four horses could with ease have done in England. Little attention is paid to horses and sheep in Portugal, but oxen and mules are much valued. The former do all the draught of this country, except the military part of it. I was astonished at the prodigious numbers of oxen daily to be met with, when scarce a cow was to be seen. I concluded, that some of the interior provinces were well adapted to grazing. Their goats are useful, but not handsome.

“ The French are supposed to have spent, and carried away with them, ten millions of pounds sterling. This, at first, would appear to be exaggerated; but, when it is considered, that all the plate of the churches was seized, that enormous contributions were levied by the French, and their expensive mode of living, it will be found within the mark.”

III.

ITALY.

I deeply regret that I never visited Italy. To have seen a country, celebrated for having produced a number of the most illustrious characters in history,—for having been the scene of so many interesting events;—and now possessing, not only the most magnificent edifices, but the finest specimens of art which have hitherto been produced, would indeed have been a high gratification. But the laborious pursuits with which I have been constantly occupied, and the cares necessarily resulting from a numerous family, rendered such an excursion impracticable. I have, however, the satisfaction

of laying before the reader, some letters received by me from some distinguished characters, connected, both with the continent of Italy, and the islands belonging to it.

I.—GENERAL PAOLI OF CORSICA.

From my connection with that well-known literary character, James Boswell, the friend and companion of Dr Johnson, I early formed an acquaintance with the celebrated Pascal de Paoli. Boswell had been the principal means of bringing him to this country, and of rendering him an object of great public attention. Though not possessed of shining abilities, yet General Paoli was distinguished by much good sense, and great uprightness of conduct. By accident, some Italians had been introduced to me, who were well acquainted with the family and character of Bonaparte. They had arrived in London about the time when he had begun his career of fame, by his successful invasion of Italy. The General also gave me some information regarding him when young. "I know him well, (he said); and be assured, that if Bonaparte begins to mount a ladder, he will never rest till he reaches the top."

Having got, at the same time, much information regarding the state of the Austrian army, and its celebrated general, the Archduke Charles, I resolved to draw up an account of both armies, and of their respective commanders, for my own information, and the perusal of a few particular friends, and, in that paper, I foretold, that the French would have the advantage in the approaching contest*. I sent two copies to my friend Paoli, who was much pleased with it, and who, in the subjoined letter, requested an additional copy:

MY DEAR SIR,

Many thanks for the two copies of the printed paper. Would be much obliged, if you would be so kind as to send

* I have thought it right, to print a copy of that paper, and a very curious anecdote of Napoleon, by way of Addenda.

me another for a friend. I am, my dear Sir, your faithful
servant,

PASCAL DE PAOLI.

Oxford Street, No. 100, 22d April 1797.

I recollect well seeing one of the ministers, who then governed the country, sitting on the treasury bench, reading this paper, of which, by some means, he had got a copy. He seemed to peruse it, as far as one could judge from his gestures, with less respect than it was proved it deserved, when, soon after, he found my predictions verified. Nothing could give him any conception, at that time, of the greatness to which Napoleon afterwards attained.

2.—THE PRINCE DE CASTELSICALA,

Ambassador from the King of Naples.

Sicily has long been celebrated for the production of wheat. I thought it right, therefore, to have a trial made, whether Sicilian wheat would suit our soil and climate. With this view, I was induced to apply to his Sicilian Majesty, through the medium of his Minister at the Court of St James's, for samples of the seed. It arrived accordingly; but it is in vain to expect much success in such an attempt, unless there was an experimental farm, where a fair trial could be made. Common farmers have an abhorrence of any thing new, and will not take the necessary pains to give foreign articles a chance of success. Had an experimental farm been occupied by the Board of Agriculture, important discoveries might have been effected.

Letter from the Prince de Castelsicala.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

J'ai reçu l'obligéante lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur

* Translation.

SIR,

Wimpole Street, 6. December 1803.

I received the obliging letter which you did me the honour to write me, dated the 2d of this month. The sentiments it contains regarding my master, &c.

de m'écrire, en date du 2. de ce mois. L'expression des sentimens qu'elle renferme envers sa Majesté le Roi, mon maître, sera sans doute agréable a sa Majesté, et, pour cette raison, je m'empresserai de la lui envoyer. Messrs Cookes et Jackson, brokers, de Water Lane, sont ceux à qui mes banquiers, Messrs Henry, Farquhar et Co., ont remis de ma part le connoissement des bleds, avec direction d'avoir le plus grand soin de vous les faire passer à Sackville Street, au Bureau de l'Agriculture. Je ne crois pas que le bâtiment soit arrivé ; mais si vous envoyez chez Messrs Cookes et Jackson, vous le saurez. Le Roi, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire, compte de vous envoyer d'autres echantillons de bleds. Aussitot que j'aurai l'avis que l'expédition en aura été faire, je vous en informerai.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec la considération la plus distinguée, Monsieur le Chevalier, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

CASTELSICALA.

Wimpole Street, 6. Avril 1809.

3.—COUNT ZENOBIO.

There are many now living, who will probably recollect Count Zenobio, though it is above thirty years since he visited this country. He was lively and good humoured, and was impressed with such high ideas of the British character, as rendered him extremely unpopular in his own country. He entered, with great zeal, into all the useful measures which

Majesty the King, will undoubtedly be agreeable to his Majesty, and, on this account, I will lose no time in sending it to him. Messrs Cookez and Jackson, brokers in Water Lane, are the persons to whom my bankers, Messrs Henry, Farquhar and Co., have remitted from me the sample of the wheats, with directions to have it carefully forwarded to you in Sackville Street, for the Board of Agriculture. I do not think that the vessel can have yet arrived ; but if you will send to Messrs Cookes and Jackson, you will learn. The King, as I have had the honour to tell you, counts on sending you other samples of wheat. As soon as I learn that the packet is ready to be dispatched, I will inform you.

I have the honour to be, with the most distinguished regard, &c.

then occupied my attention, as the improvement of sheep and wool, the extension of the British fisheries, &c. The Paduan breed he mentions, may be worth inquiry, as, in ancient times, they were reckoned the finest woolled sheep then known; and perhaps, it may be proper to try another hint he gives, that of sending the red herrings of Scotland to the Venetian and Italian markets, as Dutch herrings are no longer transmitted to those parts.

Taymouth, 31st July 1792.

SIR,

Having considered your plan for improving so important an article as that of wool, it has suggested to me the idea, of promoting the same spirit in Venice, favouring at the same time your ideas. As it is by a reciprocity of good offices, and a communication of produce between different countries, that the social intercourse is supported, and the stock of universal industry maintained and increased, I hope you'll have no objection to procure me the means of doing some benefit to my country, as, in return, I will do the same to yours.

It is only in the article of improving the growth of wool that for the present I ask of you a favour. In time, we may find other subjects of mutual advantage to the two countries. The favour I ask is, that you will send me one or two rams of the Shetland breed, which I shall immediately send to Venice, with a ship that is going soon with various other things of mine, and I in return shall send you some rams of the Padua breed, which is reckoned to give the finest kind of wool after that of Spain.

If you can oblige me in this article, I beg it may be done soon, as the rams ought to be in London before the end of August, because the ship will sail by that time, or in the beginning of September. As to the expense of these rams it may be either paid now, or in exchange for the rams that I shall send you from Venice. This will be entirely at your

pleasure. I am at Lord Breadalbane's, who is also a patron to all patriotic institutions.

We have talked about the British fisheries, in which you know I have a personal interest; and I begged him to give orders to send me some barrels of red herrings, caught and cured in Scotland, with the price it will cost, delivered at Venice, to try, if the price and the quality are equal, or better than those of Holland. The Venetian merchants would then be persuaded to import these herrings from the British fisheries.

I request you'll be so good as to favour me soon with an answer, directing your letter to London, and to excuse, at the same time, this trouble. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ZENOBIO.

4.—THE COUNT PIERRE C. REVEDIN.

Monsieur Dombasle, the translator of my Code of Agriculture into French, addressed a letter to me, recommending an Italian nobleman, the Count Revedin, to my particular attention, as one of the most zealous agriculturists on the Continent; and I found him entitled to that character. There was much pleasure in giving him the information which he was so anxious to obtain, and of which I was sure he would make the proper use.

I was much amused with his stating, in the subjoined letter, that one of his French correspondents had informed him, that I was of French origin; and it is certain that the family of St Clair, or Sinclair, came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, whence they emigrated to Scotland. This connexion, however remote, necessarily interests me in the improvement of France.

MONSIEUR *,

Les attentions dont vous m'avez comblé pendant mon séjour dans votre belle ville ont été si flatteuses pour moi que je ne saurois pas être satisfait de moi-même, si je ne vous en fisse même par lettre mes plus vifs remerciemens.

Je regrette beaucoup de devoir vous dire que je n'ai pas pu profiter de vos lettres de recommandations pour Kelso et pour Cheshire. J'ai été pris par un mal de gorge aussi terrible, accompagné de fièvre, lorsque j'étais à Berwick, que j'ai été obligé d'accélérer mon chemin vers la capitale pour y jouir un peu de repos. Je commence à craindre que votre climat ne me convienne pas, et que je serai forcé de quitter, beaucoup plutôt que je n'en avait d'abord l'intention, cet intéressant pays,

* Translation.

SIR,

London, November 18. 1829.

The many attentions you paid me during my sojourn in your beautiful city were so flattering, that I cannot be satisfied with myself until I return you by letter my liveliest acknowledgments.

I regret much being obliged to tell you that I have not been able to profit by your letters of recommendation for Kelso and Cheshire. I was seized with such a distressing sore throat, accompanied by fever, when I was at Berwick, that I was obliged to accelerate my journey to the capital, there to enjoy a little repose. I begin to fear that your climate does not agree with me, and that I shall be obliged to leave, sooner than I at first intended, this interesting country, of which I shall entertain a lasting recollection as long as I live. At present, however, my health continues better. I request, Sir, that you will believe that I shall always be very happy to prove by my actions how sensible I am of your goodness, and that I shall ever be, with the highest regard, yours, &c.

P. S.—I have this moment received a letter from Paris, in which you are mentioned in the most honourable manner, and are said to be of French origin, which surprises me not a little. It is remarked that, in your Code of Agriculture, and in other works, you manifest a lively desire to see the tax on salt abolished, either for the advantage of consumers, or because the practice of using it as manure for land, would thus become more general. I know that the tax upon this article has been abolished, but I am not aware that the second advantage you had in view has been obtained; for my own part, I never recollect having seen salt employed as manure in any part of the kingdom, but I have heard it spoken of.

Will you have the goodness to tell me what you think of oyster shells reduced to a powder, when employed as manure. In the letter from Paris, I am also asked whether I have seen the distilleries of potatoes in Great Britain; I have answered no; but you will have more exact information upon this subject.

I request the honour of an answer from you by post, and in offering you my services, I repeat the expression of my high esteem and respect.

qui me laissera de souvenirs durables pendant toute ma vie. A present, quoique très-faible, je me porte beaucoup mieux. Je desire que vous, Monsieur, soyez persuadé que je serai bien heureux, toutes les fois que je pourrai vous demontrer par le fait, que j'ai été très-sensible à vos bontés, et que je ne cesserai jamais d'être, avec la plus haute consideration, votre très-humble et obéissant serviteur,

PIERRE C. REVEDIN.

Londres, le 18. Novembre 1829.

Je viens de recevoir, dans cet instant, une lettre de Paris, dans laquelle on me parle de vous, de la manière la plus honorable, et on vous dit d'*origine François*, ce qui m'étonne un petit peu. On a remarqué que dans votre Code d'Agriculture, et dans d'autres ouvrages, vous manifestiez un vif desir de voir aboli l'impôt sur le sel, soit pour l'avantage des consommateurs, soit parceque on aurait pu étendre la pratique de s'en servir comme engrais sur les terres. Je sais que l'impôt sur cet article a été aboli, mais je ne sais pas si l'on a obtenu le second avantage que vous aviez en vue. Quant a moi, je ne me rappelle d'avoir jamais vu le sel employé comme engrais dans aucune partie du royaume, mais j'en ai entendu parler. Vous saurez sans doute ce qu'il en est.

Auriez-vous la bonté de me dire ce que vous pensez des *oyster-shells*, reduites en poudre, employées comme engrais. Dans la même lettre que j'ai citée ci-dessus l'on me demande si j'ai vu des distilleries de pommes de terre dans la Grande Bretagne; j'ai répondu que non; mais vous aurez des informations plus precises sur cet objet.

Je sollicite de vous l'honneur d'un réponse ici poste restante; et en vous offrant mes services, je vous renouvelle l'expression de ma haute estime et consideration.

5.—LE COMTE RANGHIASCI BRANCALEONI.

The daughter of an old and much valued friend, Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, was married to a nobleman descended from

one of the first families in Italy, the Count Brancaleoni. He of course brought with him a letter from Sir Benjamin to me, when he resolved on visiting Scotland. I had much pleasure in paying him every attention in my power, being anxious to render his excursion agreeable. On his return to England, I had the satisfaction of receiving from him the subjoined communication :

MY DEAR SIR,

I hoped to return to Edinburgh this winter, but have unfortunately been prevented, which has deprived me of the pleasure of seeing you, and thanking you for your courtesies towards me, and also your introductions for Glasgow, which I found most useful and agreeable. I am now going to take the liberty of making another request to you. As I have a large collection of autographs of celebrated persons of past times, I am very desirous of increasing it, if possible, with some of the handwritings of the distinguished individuals of this country. I should then be infinitely obliged to you if you will favour me with a line of your own, which should so much increase the value of my collection, coming from the hand of the illustrious support of British agriculture.

I fear I am too bold in likewise adding, that if you would spare to me any autographs of some of the numerous correspondents which a man of your high standing in the literary world must have, I shall be doubly grateful to you. The courtesy, and amiable manner in which I was received by yourself, and all your family, in your brilliant and extraordinary capital, have given me too much courage to request those favours, which I trust your kindness will excuse.

Allow me to present my compliments to all your family, who I have the honour of knowing ; and subscribe myself, with much esteem, your obedient, humble servant,

J. R. BRANCALEONI.

Whitton, February 3.

6.—THE MARQUIS GRIMALDI,

Formerly Ambassador from Sardinia to the Court of St James's.

I had reason to believe, that communications on the subject of rural economy would be acceptable to the Government of Sardinia, and was thence induced to send my plans to the Marquis Grimaldi, to be transmitted to that Court. The powers on the Continent, however, had not yet sufficiently recovered from the horrors of the contest in which they had been so long engaged, to pay much attention to domestic improvement, however useful it might have been, in enabling them more speedily to recover from the effects of that dreadful visitation.

Letter from the Marquis Grimaldi.

SIR,

J'ai reçu la lettre, dont il vous a plu de m'honorer, le 20. de ce mois, et je l'ai desuite remise au Comte d'Aglié, Ministre de Sardaigne, in Upper Seymour Street, qui se fera un devoir et un plaisir d'en écrire à sa Cour, et de vous en communiquer la réponse, Monsieur, puisque votre amour pour l'humanité vous rend assez philanthrope et cosmopolite, pour vous faire désirer de voir toutes les nations partager les fruits des résultats de vos recherches, pour l'augmentation de leur bien-être, ou la diminution de leur état de pénurie. J'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

GRIMALDI.

22. Juin 1817.

7.—THE BARON DE FRIDDANI.

This intelligent foreigner was devoted to the pursuits of agriculture, in which he had made considerable progress. Be-

fore he left Scotland, I had sent, for his perusal, the letter of M. Mathieu de Dombasle, who had translated “*The Code of Agriculture*” into French. On his departure, he sent me the following letter :

MONSIEUR LE BARONET *,

J’ai lu avec beaucoup d’intérêt la lettre de M. Mathieu de Dombasle, Président de la Société d’Agriculture de Nancy, que vous avez eu la bonté de me remettre, et que je me fais un devoir de vous envoyer ci-jointe. Je suis charmé qu’en France on connoisse bien vos travaux utiles, et qu’on vous consulte souvent. Je suis persuadé, que par ce moyen, les François pourront acquerir beaucoup de connoissances en agriculture et en économie politique, et qu’ils en profiteront. Heureuse la nation Écossaise, qui possède des hommes comme vous, et qui en éclairant leur concitoyens sont aussi de grande utilité aux autres nations. Je me félicite d’avoir eu le bonheur de vous connoître, et j’espère que vous m’honorerez souvent de vos ordres.

Ayez la complaisance de faire agréer mes respects à toute votre noble famille, et agréez-vous, Monsieur, l’assurance de la considération la plus profonde avec laquelle j’ai l’honneur d’être, Monsieur, votre très humble serviteur,

LE BARON DE FRIDDANI.

* Translation.

SIR,

I have read with much pleasure the letter of M. Mathieu de Dombasle, President of the Agricultural Society of Nancy, which you were so good as to send to me, and which I make a point of returning herewith. I am happy to learn, that, in France, your useful labours are well known, and that you are often consulted. I am convinced that, in this way, the French may acquire much knowledge in agriculture, and in political economy, and that they will profit by it. Happy is the Scottish nation, which possesses men like you, who, in enlightening their fellow-citizens, are also of the greatest use to other nations. I congratulate myself upon having had the pleasure of knowing you, and I hope that you will often honour me with your commands.

Have the goodness to present my respects to all your noble family, and receive the assurance of the profound consideration with which, &c.

8.—EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH OFFICER IN SICILY, AN. 1807.

Catania is the head-quarters of our brigade, and it affords the best society in the island. Its nobles are more sociable, and better educated, than those of Palermo or Messina. They have shewn themselves highly desirous to make our acquaintance, and study to promote our convenience and amusement. On the Queen's birth-day, a grand ball and supper was given them, which surprised, as much as it pleased them. It cost L.300. The people are greatly astonished at our expenses, and wonder to see the freedom that reigns between the subalterns and field officers. They cannot conceive the reason why we don't compliment each other with high-sounding epithets; and our plain responses of *yes* and *no*, almost alarm them.

The place where I now find myself, (St Augusta), is a miserable town, yet populous. Its nobility is the most ridiculous farce in the world. Our serjeants possess a larger income, and enjoy more comforts; yet the poor devils, assume all the consequence of superior beings, dwell in large houses without furniture, and parade in poverty, the most insulting and wretched. St Augusta possesses a most spacious and secure port, which, under a wise and liberal government, would make it flourish. The adjacent country is rich in every production of the earth. Its marshes produce salt, and cattle, (if protected), in abundance. But it is impossible to describe the abject wretchedness of these miserable people. They hardly meet with our commiseration, as they are wanting in every thing that raises man above the brute creation. It is not from ignorance; it is from a dastardly spirit, that they grovel in their abasement. This town, more than any other, is celebrated for the wicked, cruel, and cowardly disposition of its people. I could not have conceived that the proud animal man, could be sunk by any means, even by those of priesthood and despotism, into such reptiles.

From the continental intelligence, we expect to return home without having the opportunity of becoming warriors. The army here is pretty strong, and very healthy. The sum total, including foreign corps, and the Sicilian troops, is about 17,300 men. The latter are not much to be depended on. The sum of money expended is enormous. It will impoverish John Bull, without benefiting the Sicilians. The people fondly hoped, when they found we sent so large a force here, that we should seize the island, in the name of England, and banish the royal family to London. No people can be more disgusted with their Government,—no people so ready to revolt; yet of themselves they are deficient of every means, courage, strength, exertion, money, arms, ammunition, &c. A revolution must be effected for them. To Englishmen, all classes of people speak openly, and they all concur, in ridiculing their King. Their joke is, “King Ferdinand is only fit to rule Macaronies; *King George over men.*” All books that treat openly and manfully of religion and politics are prohibited; and such is the difficulty of getting them, that the person who would wish to procure them, has not the power, consequently it is rare to meet with knowledge.

V.

SWITZERLAND.

The Scots and the Swiss have always felt a strong predilection for each other. They are both inhabitants of mountainous countries, for which they respectively feel the greatest attachment; and they are both distinguished by great simplicity of manners, for fidelity to their engagements, for courage in war, and for their virtuous conduct in peace. I recollect having accidentally fallen in with a Swiss regiment at Gorcum in Holland, (on the 15th of March 1815), and I shall never forget the cordial and friendly manner with which

they received me, as a brother mountaineer, and the enthusiasm with which they beheld the Highland dress exhibited.

In consequence of my known attachment to Switzerland, I received from a correspondent at Berne, a most interesting account of its fall, which, I am sure, every friend to liberty and virtue, and every foe to oppression and tyranny, will peruse with the liveliest interest, and the deepest regret.

I.—EXTRACT OF A LETTER, ADDRESSED TO SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, ON THE CAUSES OF THE FALL OF SWITZERLAND.

Berne, 3d April 1798.

SIR,

Your letter gave me so much consolation, in the midst of our misfortunes, that I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of answering it by the first opportunity :

“ *Victrix causa Diis placuit, sed victa Catoni.* ”

How pleasing is it, in a situation like ours, to feel ourselves united to respectable persons, by ties, which no separation, occasioned by the intervention of seas or of armies, can break through. How pleasing is it, to have one nation, to whom we can heartily express our wishes, and for whom we can sincerely indulge the hope, that they may be preserved from those evils which we have suffered ourselves.

Yes, thou brave and respectable nation, you will be preserved from them. That which was wanting to our Government, (alas ! our Government that was), more firmness and promptness in its operations, which would not, however, have saved us, these qualities you have, and you will be saved. We relied too much on our good intentions towards an enemy, who could not have the least justifiable pretext for any evil designs against us, and upon a courage which, however real, was still diminished by the idea, that we should have no occasion for its exertions.

The ways of Providence were hid from us, and its wisdom

hath permitted us to be the victims of our credulity. Behold us disarmed, disorganised, and ruined; but I do not think all lost, since our honour has, in my opinion, been preserved. We have done every thing that could be expected from a Government, too paternal to act with all the energy which the circumstances required; too moderate, and too benevolent, to be prepared to resist an enemy who have long sought nothing but war, and whose whole attention and force have been dedicated to that object. Every thing that could be expected from a people, brave, but too humane to be warlike, faithful to its duty, but too honest to be a match for all the perfidious plots which were prepared for it, (*plots, more dangerous to its safety, than the power of armies*), in short, all those preparatory steps which were made use of, before war was declared against us, or rather before we were attacked, (for war was declared only by the attack which was made upon us), prove the opinion that was entertained of our valour, and that they have not been deceived.

Indeed, notwithstanding that we had a frontier of from 40 to 50 leagues to defend; notwithstanding that our allies abandoned us one after the other, and withdrew their contingents; that the French part of Switzerland was, from the beginning, separated from the German part; the other cantons from that of Berne; and though one district after another, even of Berne, separated from the capital; notwithstanding all this, the French lost a much greater number of men than we did; and though their troops were composed of disciplined veterans, whereas in our battalions were to be found women, children, and old men, (a clear proof that they made war against the whole nation, and not against a set of tyrants), they would have been cut in pieces between Fribourg and this place, (Berne), where the army of Italy met with a resistance, which, aided by the nature of the country, would hardly have been overcome, if the army of the Rhine, coming from Soleure, had not been enabled, by their flying artillery, *of which we had no idea*, to force their way to this town, and to oblige us to capitulate, after having sacrificed the greater part of their

brigands, who had been sent back from the army of England, and whom they were determined to get rid of here at all events.

Fribourg and Soleure, which were taken three days before us, have not been the better treated; and I question much, whether Basle and Zurich will meet with a better fate, for having meanly deserted the common cause.

It was melancholy to think, that the victory over the Swiss was obtained by a Scotch invention, "The Flying Artillery," which a British Minister had unfortunately treated with contempt, and which the ingenious inventor was thence induced to offer to the government of France*.

To the above account the following affecting epitaph for a monument on the fate of Switzerland, translated from the original German, was annexed:

Here lies buried,
In the 490th year of her age,
HELVETIA,
Born in the year 1308,
Died
The 5th of March 1798;
Beloved
In her Youth by all.
She became,
At last,
An Object of Scorn to her Admirers,
And the Sport of her own Children,
Till,
After experiencing the Weakness of Old Age,
She found repose
In the Shades of Death.

Behold
This Wretched Memorial of the Departed,
A Shattered Shield,
A Broken Helmet,
And these Cruel Chains,
Speak forcibly to Feeling Hearts.

Traveller,
Offer to the Deceased
That soft Emotion of the Soul,
The Tear of Sympathy.

* The plan of flying artillery was invented by Professor Anderson of Glasgow. He brought it to London, and made an offer of it to the British Board of Ord-

2.—M. ADOLPHE PICTET OF GENEVA.

Of the friends to literature in Switzerland, M. Adolphe Pictet was among the most eminent. He was peculiarly distinguished by his attachment to the Gaelic language, and Celtic antiquities. A letter which I received from him upon those subjects I have much pleasure in communicating to the reader.

MONSIEUR *,

J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser, ci-joint, un exemplaire d'un petit ouvrage que je viens de publier sur le *Culte des Ca-*

nance. The Master of the Board, told the ingenious inventor, that he would have nothing to do with it, and that he might carry his invention to France, or any other country that might choose to adopt it. By the French Government it was warmly taken up; and on many occasions, as well as in Switzerland, they derived from it the greatest advantage. We were glad, at last, to borrow a British invention, from the French.

* Translation.

SIR,

Geneva, July 5. 1824.

I have the honour of sending you, along with this, a copy of a little work which I am about to publish, on the "Worship of Cabires by the Ancient Irish," begging you, at the same time, to have the goodness to present it from me to the Highland Society. Nothing that belongs to antiquities, and to the history and origin of the Gaelic people, should be indifferent to a Society, which gave us Ossian in his native tongue, and which is also engaged with so much zeal in the publication of a Gaelic Dictionary. The Highland Society will, by this undertaking, confer a great service on the science of philology, for a complete Gaelic dictionary is still a desideratum in literature. I hope, Sir, that the Essay which I have the honour to offer to the Society, will not be thought unworthy of their interest and attention. I also trust that it will tend to awaken the interest of *scavans* on the Continent, and make them turn their eyes to the venerable remains of ancient civilization, and to those interesting documents, which are perhaps the only sources, from which any views can be obtained, as to the primitive state of Europe. I hope that the Highland Society will continue their important and useful labours, and that they will publish all the curious Gaelic manuscripts in their possession.

May I request you, Sir, to add my name to the subscription opened for the Gaelic dictionary published by the Society. I believe it will not be long of appearing.

I always think of my sojourn in Edinburgh with pleasure, and the agreeable time I had the honour to spend in your house. Be so kind, Sir, as remember

bires chez les anciens Irlandais, en vous priant d'avoir la bonté de vouloir bien en faire hommage de ma part à la Société des Highlands. Rien de ce qui touche aux antiquités, à l'histoire, et à l'origine des peuples Gaéliques, ne doit être indifférent à un Société qui nous a donné Ossian dans sa langue native, et qui s'occupe maintenant avec tant de zèle de publier un Dictionnaire Gaélique. La Société des Highlands rendra par cette publication un grand service à la science de la philologie, car un dictionnaire Gaélique complet manquoit encore à la littérature. J'espère, Monsieur, que l'Essai, dont j'ai l'honneur de faire hommage à la Société, ne sera pas jugé indigne de son intérêt et de son attention. J'espère aussi, qu'il tendra à réveiller l'intérêt des savans du Continent, et leur fera tourner les yeux vers ces débris vénérables d'une antique civilisation, et vers ces documens si intéressans qui sont peut-être maintenant la source unique où des nouvelles lumières peuvent être puisées sur l'état primitif de l'Europe. J'espère que la Société des Highlands continuera ses intéressans et utiles travaux, et qu'elle publiera quelques uns des curieux manuscrits Gaéliques qu'elle possède.

Oserai-je vous prier, Monsieur, de joindre mon nom à la souscription ouverte pour le Dictionnaire Gaélique que publie la Société. Je pense qu'il ne tardera pas longtemps à paroître.

Je me souviens toujours avec plaisir de mon séjour à Edimbourg, et des momens agréables que j'ai eu l'honneur de passer dans votre maison. Veuillez, Monsieur, me rapeller au souvenir de Madame Sinclair; et agréer l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle je suis, Monsieur, votre très dévoué serviteur,

ADOLPHE PICTET.

Genève, le 5. Juillet 1824.

me to Lady Sinclair; and accept the assurance of the high regard with which I remain, &c.

3.—MAJOR DE LERBER.

During my residence at Ham Common near London, I became acquainted with Major de Lerber, a very respectable Swiss gentleman, who had married an English lady, and was much attached to this country. I had sent a letter to him by Mr Attersoll, an intelligent merchant in London, who wished to be introduced to the celebrated Swiss agriculturist, Mr Fellenberg. The short account he gives of the establishment at Hofwyl is extremely important, and does great credit to the munificence of the Emperor Alexander, under whose patronage, (with the view of having a number of Russians instructed in the art of agriculture), it was carried on.

The experiments regarding the Swiss and English gunpowder, alluded to in this letter, are extremely interesting, as it refutes the idea, that the saltpetre of mountainous districts is superior to that of the plains.

DEAR SIR *,

J'ai reçu l'obligeante lettre que vous m'avez fait remettre par Monsieur Attersoll, qui me mande ma nomination comme

* Translation.

DEAR SIR,

Berne, August 3. 1819.

I received the obliging letter which you sent me by Mr Attersoll, mentioning my nomination as a corresponding member of the honourable Society of Agriculture in London. I request you to accept of my best thanks for this favour, and to be pleased to present my acknowledgments to the Society for the honour they have done me; assuring them, at the same time, that I shall be most happy if my scanty knowledge can be of any service to them.

I took Mr Attersoll to Hofwyl, where we examined in detail whatever appeared most interesting to tell you of; and I advised him to stay here some days longer, to gain more information. M. Fellenberg was from home, but the Count of Vieilleville shewed us every thing with the greatest politeness.

You will see, by the report of Mr Attersoll, that Hofwyl is rather a university than a school of agriculture. There are about twenty professors and a hundred students. The building of a very fine edifice, which looks like a palace, and costs probably more than L. 15,000, leads me to suppose that the Emperor

membre correspondant de l'honorable Société d'Agriculture de Londres, pour quelle réception je vous prie de recevoir mes remerciemens particuliers, et de vouloir bien en témoigner ma reconnaissance à la Société pour cet honneur, en lui assurant que je me fais une véritable plaisir, si par mon peu de connoissances je puis lui être agréable en quelque service.

J'ai mené Monsieur Attersoll à Hofwyl, où nous avons examiné en détail ce qui l'interessoit le plus, pour vous en faire rapport, et je lui ai conseillé d'y demeurer quelques jours pour s'en instruire encore mieux. Monsieur Fellenberg était absent, et le Comte de Vieilleville nous a tout montré avec la plus grande complaisance.

Vous verrez, par le rapport de Monsieur Attersoll, que Hofwyl est maintenant plutôt une université qu'une école d'agriculture. Il y a environ 20 professeurs et une centaine d'élèves. La construction d'un fort beau bâtiment, qui a l'air d'un palais, et qui coute probablement plus que quinze mille Louis, font presumer que l'Empereur Alexandre protège spécialement cet établissement, qui ne pourroit pas du profit du terrain s'élever avec cette magnificence.

Le Major Lerber remercie Sir John pour les expériences de la poudre qu'il a fait faire à Londres : il résulte de là que le

Alexander is the special patron of this establishment, which could not be constructed with such magnificence from the mere profits of the land.

Major Lerber thanks Sir John, for the experiments on gunpowder he has instituted in London. It is now evident, that the saltpetre found in the mountains, is not stronger than that of the plains, although I have often heard this asserted. The same experiments have been made here with English gunpowder, and it was found to be stronger by one-fifth than that of Berne. This is mainly attributable to the excellent manufacture of the London powder.

I directed Mr Attersoll's attention to the pot-herb, cultivated in great quantities, in all the gardens of the peasants in this country. He remarked, that the English people have a repugnance to herbs. The period of the introduction of kitchen gardens into England was, I believe, in the year 1509, whilst there are documents to prove, that they were previously cultivated in Switzerland in the time of the Crusaders. Perhaps this fact may assist us, in accounting for the difference of national taste, for and against vegetables.

M. and Madame de Lerber beg to offer their respects to Lady Sinclair and the family of Sir John, whom Major Lerber begs to believe, with distinguished regard, &c.

salpêtre des montagnes n'est pas plus fort que dans les pays des plaines, malgré que je l'ai entendu assurer souvent. On a fait ici les mêmes expériences avec la poudre Anglaise, et on a trouvé qu'elle étoit plus forte d'un 1-5, que celle de Berne ; ce qu'on doit principalement attribuer à la bonne fabrication de Londres.

J'ai fait remarquer la plante de la blette à Monsieur Attersoll, cultivé en grande quantité dans tous les jardins des paysans dans ce pays-ci. Il remarque que le peuple en Angleterre avoit de la répugnance pour la légume. La date de l'introduction des jardins potagers en Angleterre est, je crois, de 1509, tandis que d'après des documens il est prouvé qu'ils étoient déjà cultivés en Suisse du temps des croisades, ce qui aide peut-être à prouver une distinction de goût national pour et contre les légumes.

Monsieur et Madame de Lerber présentent leurs complimens à Milady et la famille de Sir John, que le Major Lerber prie de croire avec une considération distinguée son très obéissant serviteur,

F. DE LERBER.

Berne, 2. Aout 1819.

4.—THE COLONEL DE LA CHAUX.

During my residence in Flanders in April 1815, I had the good fortune of meeting with a most intelligent Swiss agriculturist, the Colonel de la Chaux, who mentioned to me some important agricultural practices which were in use in Switzerland, and which I thought might be of service in this country. I requested him, therefore, to favour me with an account of them in writing, which he had the goodness to do in the following interesting communication. There can be no doubt, that by applying manure in a liquid form, it must act much more promptly than if it was spread in a crude state, on the surface, and exposed to the action of the atmosphere. But if liquid manure were mixed with fine earth, it might be equally useful, and less liable to be lost.

MONSIEUR *,

Je regrette infiniment que votre prochain départ me prive de l'avantage de vous voir, et de celui bien précieux d'entendre le résultat de votre expérience. D'après votre desir, j'ai l'honneur de vous tracer, sur cette feuille, les procédés pour semer le trèfle, celui pour les engrais liquides, et les assolements.

La grain de trèfle doit être exactement pure, et impregnée

* Translation.

SIR,

April 18. 1815.

I regret deeply that your speedy departure deprives me of the advantage of seeing you, and having the benefit of hearing the result of your experience. According to your desire, I have the honour of here laying before you, the rules for sowing clover,—that for liquid manure,—and for the proper rotation of crops.

The grain of clover ought to be quite pure, and impregnated with oil, so that each grain may be covered with a little gypsum or plaster. The oil prevents insects from attacking the grain, and the plaster hastens the developement of the seed, by which means a very considerable crop of clover is obtained even in the first year. In the following year, the clover is mowed twice; the third vegetation yields five or six inches, with a slight manuring, which is necessary, if the next crop is wheat.

Experience in Switzerland goes to prove, that liquid manure produces a third more than manure spread over the ground, in the ordinary way. It is necessary, to lay the manure in fermented water, and so spread it on the land, which imbibes it, and thus causes a prompt vegetation, by descending immediately to the roots of the plants, and by not being exposed to evaporation; for manure spread on the surface of the earth, is diminished one-third by the action of the air upon it, before it fructifies the soil. The residue of the manure is very good for enriching the ground for potatoes.

It is demonstrated, that the vegetable soils which are good for grain of one kind, are not equally good for all sorts of produce. It is this which proves the usefulness of a rotation of crops. The following is that which succeeds best in a middling soil:

The first year, wheat; the second, carrots; the third, peas or vetches; the fourth, barley; and the fifth, potatoes. In the last year, the watering for the wheat is begun; but a very strong manure must be laid on the soil. In the spring following, clover is sowed, as prescribed. In the supposition of the above-mentioned rotation, it is understood, that there is no fallow-ground; since it is shown, that by the rotation, the salt proper to the production of wheat, is of infinitely more benefit than fallow, which is unnecessary, as such repose is not required by the ground, under a proper system of crops.

This, Sir, is a very short account of what you wished to be informed upon. Your own knowledge renders it unnecessary that I should enlarge. I shall be very happy, if these few lines can be of any use to your nation, for which I entertain a distinguished regard. I have the honour to be, &c.

d'huile, afin que chaque grain soit entouré d'un peu de gips ou plâtre. L'huile empêche les insectes d'attaquer le grain, et le plâtre excite le développement du germe, d'où il résulte que déjà la première année on obtient une coupe de trèfle assez considérable ; l'année suivante le trèfle est fauché deux fois, la troisième végétation croît encore de 5 à 6 pouces, ce qui, avec un léger engrais, cause celui nécessaire à la récolte de froment.

L'expérience en Suisse a prouvé, que les engrais liquides produisent un tiers plus que ceux répandus sur la terre en fumier ordinaire. Il faut donc délayer le fumier fermenté dans l'eau, et le répandre sur le terrain, dans lequel il s'imbibe et cause une végétation prompte, en descendant ensuite aux racines des plantes, en n'étant pas exposé à l'évaporation, comme le fumier répandu sur la surface du terrain, diminué de plus un tiers, par l'action de l'air, avant qu'il fructifie le sol*.

Il est démontré, que les sels végétatifs, qui font fructifier les grains d'une espèce, ne sont pas les mêmes pour toutes les productions ; c'est ce qui prouve la convenance des assolements. Le suivant est celui qui réussit le mieux dans une terre moyenne :

1^{re} année, froment ; 2^e, carottes ; 3^{me}, poisettes ou vesses ;
4^e, orge ; 5^e, pommes de terre.

Cette dernière année est celle où on recommence l'assolement par le froment ; mais il faut fournir au sol un fort engrais. Au printemps suivant on sème le trèfle comme il est prescrit. En supposant l'assolement ci-dessus, il est entendu qu'il n'existe point de jachère, puisqu'il est démontré que par les assolements les sels propres à la production du froment se reforment infiniment mieux que par la jachère, envisagée mal à propos comme un temps de repos nécessaire à la terre.

Voilà, Monsieur, bien succinctement, quelques détails sur ce que vous m'avez demandé. Vos lumières n'ont pas besoin de plus de développement. Je serai très satisfait si les lignes ci-

* Le résidu de fumier est propre à servir d'engrais pour les pommes de terre.

dessus peuvent être utiles à votre nation, pour laquelle j'ai une considération distinguée.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

DE LE CHAUX,
Lieut-Col. Anc. Prefet, et Membre de
la Société Economique de Lausanne
en Suisse.

Bruxelles, 18. Avril 1815.

N. B.—Moyennant un profond labour en été, et un en automne, on peut cultiver avec succès le carottes dans les terres fortes.

5.—MONSIEUR DE LA HARPE.

The tutor of the Emperor Alexander, M. de la Harpe, was one of the most respectable characters I have met with. He was peculiarly anxious to promote my agricultural inquiries on the Continent, and for that purpose wished, that I should become acquainted with M. de Loys, who was considered to be the most intelligent agriculturist in the Pays de Vaud. His letter on that subject I subjoin.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER *,

M. de Loys, retenu chez lui par une indisposition, regrette infiniment de ne pouvoir se rendre momentanément à votre

* Translation.

SIR,

Sunday, January 1816.

M. de Loys, being detained at home by indisposition, regrets much his inability of immediately availing himself of your obliging invitation ; but he reserves this honour for the first time you may be at leisure. You may consider him as the most worthy representative of our Society of Agriculture of *C. de Vaud*, and who is able to speak to you most effectively, upon this first and most useful of all arts. As it is so difficult to meet one in Paris, M. de Loys will proceed directly to your house, as soon as he can leave his own, and will use this note as an introduction.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of the high regard with which I have the honour to be, &c.

obligeante invitation ; mais il se réserve cet honneur pour le premier moment que vous voudrez bien lui consacrer. Vous pourrez le considérer comme la représentant le plus digne de notre Société d'Agriculture du C. de Vaud, et comme celui qui pourra vous parler le plus pertinemment de ce premier et plus utile de tous les arts. Comme il est si difficile de se rencontrer dans Paris, Mr. de Loys se présentera directement chez vous dès qu'il pourra sortir, au nom de la chaussée, et introduit par celle-ci. Recevez, Monsieur le Chevalier, les assurances de la haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

F. C. DE LA HARPE.

M. De la Harpe afterwards sent the following note :

F. C. de la Harpe a l'honneur de présenter ses complimens à Monsieur le Chevalier Sinclair, et de lui envoyer les *Notices* qu'il avoit promises, charmé de la bonne occasion que s'offre à lui d'en faire hommage à un homme qui a tant de titres à l'estime des gens de bien, et des amis des vrais lumières*.

Rue de Condé, N. 5, 25. Janvier 1816.

6.—M. DE LIEBISTOR,

President of the Agricultural Society of Berne.

The Agricultural Society of Berne, was considered to be one of the most respectable in Europe. I was thence extremely anxious to receive its assistance, in carrying on the great improvements which I had in contemplation. I flattered myself that its aid might be obtained through the means of its distinguished President, Monsieur de Liebistor. It appears from the subjoined letter, that I was not disappointed in those expectations :

* Translation.

F. C. de la Harpe has the honour of presenting his compliments to the Chevalier Sinclair, and to send him the notices which he promised, delighted with so favourable an opportunity, to offer his homage to a man, who has so many claims to the esteem of all persons who are attached to virtue, and friends to useful knowledge.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT *,

Aussitôt que la Société Economique de notre ville à rouvert ses séances, je n'ai pas manqué de lui présenter la lettre obli-

* Translation.

MR PRESIDENT,

Berne, Feb. 5. 1796.

As soon as the Agricultural Society of our city recommenced its sittings, I did not delay presenting the obliging letter with which you honoured me for that purpose, as well as the project you have formed of a mutual agreement to reward the authors of useful discoveries, in the execution of which you have done us the honour to associate our Society. It is with the liveliest interest that they acknowledge this mark of regard on your part, and observe at the same time the progress of the establishment over which you preside, already so advantageously known by means of the public papers, which tell us every thing connected with English Literature. *The idea of a Board of Agriculture, such as that formed according to your suggestion, honours in reality as much the author who conceived and proposed it, as the King and the Ministry who have favoured and adopted it.* It cannot be doubted that this establishment, directed by a man of your acquirements and activity, and sustained by the riches supplied by a great nation, and the generosity of Parliament, will soon lead to the happiest results, both in regard to rural economy and national prosperity. These results will not be enjoyed by Great Britain alone, but by every country that learns to profit by its success, and imitates its example. But the project of mutual alliance between the powers of Europe and the United States of America in favour of the authors of useful discoveries, characterizes a nation long familiarized to vast conceptions, and is of evident practical utility. Its execution would require the unanimous approval of all the friends of the arts and sciences, and might perhaps induce, among the various nations of Europe, a state of welfare and prosperity, of which it is impossible to calculate the progress and extent.

Our Agricultural Society will therefore feel it both a duty and a pleasure to assist, (as far as their small means and influence extend,) in the realization of so useful a project. But in order to do so more efficaciously, they would require to be made acquainted with some further details on the nature of the service you expect from them, and the means necessary to its execution. Ought they to give the aid or contribution they might engage to furnish, every year, or only on the occasion of an important discovery, such, for example, as that of M. Elkington? By what channel, or to what persons ought the sums subscribed to be transmitted? Lastly, How and in what manner would the discoveries themselves be made public? How would they obtain information about those who were interested in the matter in question? Will you be pleased, Mr President, to enlighten us upon these different points, and any others you may deem necessary?

The Society will lose no time in meeting your views with all the ardour which the beauty of the design inspires, and with all the means which its position and influence can command. Composed as it is, on the one hand, of members who are in the Government, and on the other, of men the most distin-

geante, dont vous m'avez honoré pour elle, ainsi que le projet d'accord mutuel, que vous avez formé pour récompenser les auteurs de découvertes utiles, et à l'exécution duquel vous voulez bien nous faire l'honneur d'associer la société économique. C'est avec le plus vif intérêt qu'elle reconnoit cette marque de considération de votre part, et qu'elle observe en même tems les progrès d'un établissement déjà si avantageusement connu par les papiers publics qui nous transmettent la littérature Anglais. *L'idée d'un Bureau d'Agriculture, tel qu'il à été formé sur votre proposition, honore en effet autant l'auteur qui l'a conçu et présenté, que le ministère et le monarque qui l'ont adopté et favorisé.* Il n'est pas douteux que cet établissement, dirigé par un homme de vos connoissances et de votre activité, et soutenu par les moyens qui fournit la richesse d'une grande nation, et la générosité du Parlement, amènera bientôt les résultats les plus heureux, pour le perfectionnement de l'économie rustique et de la prospérité nationale, dont les effets rejailliront non seulement sur la Grande Bretagne, mais sur tous les pays qui sauront profiter de ses succès, ou imiter son exemple. Mais le projet d'un accord mutuel entre les puissances de l'Europe et les Etats Unis de l'Amérique en faveur des auteurs de découvertes utiles caractérise une nation familiarisée depuis longtems avec les conceptions vastes et d'une utilité pratique évidente; son exécution rempliroit un besoin que tous les amis des sciences et des arts ont dû sentir depuis longtems, et prépareroit peut-être aux différens peuples de l'Europe un état de bienêtre et de prospérité, dont il est impossible de calculer l'étendue et le progrès.

La Société Economique se fera donc un devoir et un plaisir de concourir à la réalisation d'un projet aussi utile, autant que

guished in this country for the cultivation of letters, the Society might perhaps be very properly constituted in this country the Board of Agriculture and Internal Amelioration, which you wish to see every where established. We shall be happy to be thus entitled to enter into correspondence with a man whom we so highly esteem, and whose useful exertions have merited not only the thanks of his country, but that of the sciences themselves, and of all the friends of peace and general prosperity. I have the honour to remain, &c.

les foibles moyens et son influence le lui permettront. Mais pour y parvenir avec plus d'efficacité, elle a besoin de savoir encore quelques details de plus, sur la nature du service que vous demandez d'elle, et sur les moyens nécessaires à son execution. Les secours ou la contribution que l'on s'engageroit à fournir, doit-elle être donnée toutes les années, ou seulement à l'occasion d'une découverte importante, comme par exemple celle de Mons. Elkington? Par quel canal, et à quelles personnes, faudroit-il transmettre les sommes souscrites? Enfin, par quels moyens, et de quelle manière les découvertes elles-mêmes seroient-elles publiées, ou parviendroient-elles à la connoissance de ceux qui se feroient interessés à l'accord en question? Veuillez, Monsieur le President, nous instruire encore sur ces divers points, et sur d'autres que vous jugerez nécessaires.

La société s'empressera ensuite de concourir à vos vûes avec tout le zèle que lui inspire la beauté du projet, et avec tous les moyens que sa position et son influence met en son pouvoir. Composée d'une part de membres, qui sont encore du gouvernement, et de l'autre des hommes de ce pays les plus distingués dans la culture des lettres, elle seroit peut-être assez propre de former le Bureau d'Agriculture et d'amélioration interne que vous desirez voir établi dans tous les pays. Elle se feliciteroit d'avoir ce titre pour entrer en correspondance avec un homme, qui lui inspire la plus haute consideration, et qui, par ses utiles efforts, aura mérité, non seulement la reconnoissance de son pays, mais celle des sciences elles-méme, et de tous les amis de la paix et de la prosperité générale.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec la plus parfaite consideration, Monsieur le President, votre très-humble et très-obéissant serviteur,

KIRCHBERGUER DE LIEBISTOR,
President de la Société Economique.

Berne, ce 5. Fevrier 1796.

7.—M. WYTTEBACH OF BERNE.

Being extremely anxious to ascertain the fate of the Agricultural Society of Berne, with which I had been so intimately connected, I wrote to Mr Canning, the British minister in Switzerland, to inquire into its fate. He was so obliging as to apply, for information on the subject, to a respectable clergyman, (M. Wyttenbach,) who had been one of the most active members of the society. The answer which he transmitted to me gives a melancholy account of the fate of that valuable institution. The description he draws of *the philosophic agriculturist* is highly amusing: "Shut up in his cabinet, surrounded by books, and collections of natural history, and quietly eating the food which others had produced for him."

Berne, ce 10. Août 1817.

* La lettre de votre Excellence, datée du 16. Juillet, ne m'est parvenue que hier; et j'ai l'honneur d'y répondre par le premier courrier.

• Translation.

Berne, August 10. 1817.

Your Excellency's letter, dated the 16th of July, only reached me yesterday, and I have the honour of replying to it by the first post.

Our Agricultural Society, lately so flourishing, is fast going to decay. Its most active members are dead; our unfortunate revolutions have given it its death blow. But to save it from entire ruin, I am at present engaged in uniting it with our Society of Natural History, which I had the happiness of reviving some years ago; and it is to the latter institution that I shall make known the communication I have had the honour to receive from your Excellency.

Sir John Sinclair has been for some years in correspondence with our Agricultural Society, which possesses many of his works; and I remember very distinctly his interesting correspondence, which once formed very frequently the subject of conversation at our meetings.

As our active agriculturists, formerly members of our Society, are dispersed, and not much occupied with literature, (unless it be political), it cannot be expected that they will enter properly into the grand views of Sinclair. They who at present compose our Society of Natural History are any thing rather than agriculturists,—having neither land to cultivate, nor the felicity of living in the country. We are shut up in our cabinets, surrounded by our

Notre Société Economique, ci-devant si florissante, est au bord du tombeau. Ses membres les plus actifs sont morts ; nos malheureuses revolutions lui ont donné le coup de mort. Mais pour la sauver d'une ruine entière, je m'occupe actuellement à la réunir avec notre Société d'Histoire Naturelle, que j'ai eu le bonheur de ressusciter il y a quelques années ; et c'est à cette dernière que je communiquerai ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir de votre Excellence.

Le Chevalier Sinclair a été depuis bien des années en liaison avec notre Société Economique, qui possède plusieurs ouvrages de lui ; et je me souviens très-bien de sa correspondance intéressante, qui bien souvent a fait autrefois l'objet des conversations dans nos assemblées.

Nos agriculteurs actuels, ci-devant membres de notre Société, étant dispersés, et ne se mêlant plus beaucoup de littérature, si elle n'est pas politique, il n'est pas apparent qu'ils s'intéresseront dignement pour les grandes vues de Sinclair. Ceux qui composent actuellement notre Société d'amis de la Nature ne sont rien moins qu'agriculteurs, n'ayant ni terres à cultiver, ni le bonheur de vivre à la campagne. Nous sommes encaissés dans nos cabinets, entourés de nos livres et de nos collections d'histoire naturelle, et mangeons tranquillement le pain que les autres cultivent pour nous.

Je saisis cette occasion pour dire à votre Excellence, que si je ne me suis jamais présenté à sa porte, ce n'a été que par discrétion bien fondée, et que néanmoins je serai toujours charmé de saisir toutes les occasions pour pouvoir prouver à votre Excellence, que j'ai l'honneur d'être, de cœur et d'ame, son très humble et sincèrement dévoué serviteur,

J. S. WYTTENBACH,

Pasteur de l'Eglise du St. Esprit.

books, and our collections of natural history, and we quietly eat the food which others produce for us.

I embrace this opportunity of informing your Excellency, that if I have never waited upon you, I have been restrained only by well-grounded diffidence ; but that, nevertheless, I shall always be delighted to seize every occasion to prove to your Excellency, that I have the honour to be, with my heart and soul, &c.

8.—M. FELLEBERG OF HOFWYL, IN SWITZERLAND.

I find, in my correspondence, several other interesting communications from the natives of Switzerland, chiefly, however, containing agricultural information, which would not be interesting to readers in general.

In a letter from Mr Crud, in Geneva, he strongly recommends the *Betterave champetre*, a species of the red beet. Information regarding it, and the sugar beet, will be found in a valuable work, “Crud’s *Economie de l’Agriculture*,” p. 285.

In the same work, p. 330, he discusses that important question, whether it is more profitable to use manures in a solid or in a liquid state.

He likewise strongly recommends making spirits *from cherries*, as practised in Switzerland. Cleared of its essential oil it is much wholesomer, and more stomachic than any other spirituous liquor, and makes a very refreshing drink, if mixed with a little sugar and water, and greatly contributes to the restoration of strength after fatigue.

On M. Fellenberg’s Institution he speaks in the highest terms, both as a school for husbandry, where students may be taught the knowledge of every branch of rural economy, and as an establishment to form young men, destined for the upper ranks of life, and likely to render them studious, moral, and intelligent.

I shall now proceed to give a communication, written by M. Fellenberg, in which he complains much of the little attention paid to him by the Board of Agriculture; but for which the founder of that Board was not to blame, as he had resigned the office of president, before M. Fellenberg’s letter was written.

Hofwyl, 12. Nov. 1819.

SIR,

Mr Canning, the late Ambassador in Switzerland, having, in 1816, expressed a desire to communicate the Hofwyl im-

plements to the Board of Agriculture, I seized with pleasure that occasion, to give proof of my high esteem for the English agriculturists, by submitting my inventions to their rigorous examination. I hoped by that way to provoke comparative essays, which might promote the advancement of the science. I hoped the Board, incited by its well-known spirit of benevolence, might engage with the Swiss farmers, in an exchange of useful inventions; and offered to Mr Canning the bureau of Hofwyl to receive the communications of the Board, and to spread them over Switzerland. After the arrival of my implements in London, the Board did me the honour to promise me the comparative trials I so earnestly requested; but, as far as I know, they have not been made. The transmission of English instruments, presumed to be adapted to the Swiss husbandry, was announced by my Lord Macclesfield, President of the Board; but hitherto I have expected them in vain. Now I am forced to acknowledge, that, however desirous to contribute to the progress of agriculture, I am not, if that proposed end cannot be attained, in a situation to offer up, for the vain pleasure of furnishing unemployed instruments to the collection of the Board, a sum of a thousand Swiss livres, the value of the instruments transmitted by me.

Having thus vented my grievances, I come back to the hope, that what was not done till now may be executed by the assistance and authority of an unprejudiced promoter of the art of agriculture. I therefore address myself to you, Sir, and beg leave to explain the reasons why I believe my sowing-machine particularly applicable to England, where the drill system, or to speak more generally, every means of sparing seed-corn and gaining more abundant crops, is considered as a "*very great national object.*"

The idea of its usefulness in many districts of your country, was what principally moved me to transmit the instruments above mentioned; and I am confirmed in that idea, after perusing the *communications* made to you by the principal

English farmers. In some districts of Norfolk, for instance, the drill-husbandry seems to be on the decline. The reason the farmers allege, is, that the drill affords equal straw, but less grain than broad-cast sowing. The equality of straw, (void spaces being necessarily left between the rows), proceeds,

1. From the quantity of grains put in every row, which quantity is too great in proportion to the ground occupied.
2. From the tillering, which produces an untimely vegetation, and may be the main cause why the ears are smaller, the immoderate growth of the straw absorbing the substances, which, in other circumstances, might be employed to nourish the ear.

The Norfolk farmers do not drill the summer white crops, because, in their system, the land being immediately laid down with clover or grass seeds, they have no occasion for hoeing the barley. Now, as I am of your opinion, “that it is injurious to the plants to be matted together in rows, and placed in a state of conflict with each other, and that white crops have no occasion for the admission of air at the bottom of the stalk, but that the crops should completely cover and occupy the whole ground,” I confidently advance that my machine will do quite well for that system of culture, neither tillering from the rows, nor plants in conflict with each other, nor smaller ears (comparative experiments have sufficiently proved it) taking place, and the clover or grass-seeds, sown together with the corn, being so uniformly placed in the earth, that no broad-cast sowing can equal it. As to the advantages:

1. The Hofwyl implement seeds the land certainly better than the drill.
2. Half to two-thirds of the ordinary seed-corn can be saved, without lessening the produce.
3. The proximity of the rows supplies the crops with every advantage attributed to the broad-cast sowing, without any of the inconveniencies adhering to this, no seed being scattered on the top of the ground, but all deposited at an equal depth.
4. The machine can be employed in whatever well prepared soil, not only on undulating surfaces, but on the steepest land. We use no pendulum even in that case, no preserving the perpendi-

cular being necessary. 5. You may sow at whatever distance, at whatever reasonable depth, whatever seed, in whatever quantity you please. 6. Besides the economy of sowing corn and clover at the same time, no harrowing the land after sowing takes place; and the preparation before does not exceed what is necessary for the drill, or usual in every good husbandry. 7. Two intelligent boys and two alternating horses sow ten acres a-day, (one acre is nearly equal to the ancient Paris *arpent*). 8. My instrument, the various services done by it duly considered, can be made at a cheaper rate than any drill-machine hitherto known.

Fully convinced that I am correct in this, I am not averse to a comparison with any other sowing-machine. I only take the liberty to recommend to your benevolent care, that the experiment may be fairly tried by unprejudiced hands; *a good will* in the servants employed making, as you know, Sir, half the business of every instrument in the world.

Permit me, Sir, not to neglect this opportunity of directing your attention to the construction of my extirpators, and to the obliquity of their shareholders. The vertical English ones give too much hold to the resistance; the using of the instrument takes off the edge of the points of the shares, which, once blunted, lose the proportionable extent; from that moment the effect of the instrument is altered, and new shares are required; mine, on the contrary, remain in the same proportion, and conserve the faculty of entering suitably in the earth, till three-fourths of their height is worn off; and the showels are only to be turned, to do the same service as new ones. But I will not repeat here what may be found in the description sent with my implements, to which I take the liberty to refer you.

Finally, I find myself obliged to observe, that agriculture has always been considered by me as a principal means for promoting the education of the people; that in all my endeavours to ameliorate the agriculture of my country, I always had education in view; and for that purpose established a

school for poor boys, which, existing now this ten years, proves what can be made of the poor, when conducted well. One of my most ardent desires is to make my ideas and experiments on that subject known in England, which stands so much in need of popular education. But our little knowledge of the English language, as you may judge by this letter, makes it necessary that an Englishman, understanding German, should come over to translate what has been published, and to appropriate to the English public what I could suggest to him in conversation. If you should know a man capable of that business, you will oblige me very much, Sir, by contributing to make him agree to the proposal. I do not doubt but he would make even a good financial speculation. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

ED. DE FELLEBERG.

It is much to be lamented, that no exertion on my part, could prevail on the Board of Agriculture to pay any attention to this important communication, and it was impossible for a private individual to undertake the task.

VI.

ADDITIONAL LETTERS FROM FRENCH CORRESPONDENTS.

I.—MONSIEUR NECKER.

Soon after the publication of the first volume of the *History of the British Revenue*, I forwarded a copy of it to the celebrated Necker, being a subject to which he had paid particular attention. He was then immersed in public business, in his official situation as Minister of Finance; but he sent me the following polite acknowledgment of his having received the work, intimating, that he would take the earliest opportu-

nity of perusing it, when his necessary attention to the duties of his office would enable him to do so.

Paris, le 13. Mai 1790.

* J'ai l'honneur de vous remercier, Monsieur, de l'ouvrage instructif et intéressant que vous avez eu la bonté de m'adresser ; je serai très empressé à le lire, et à l'étudier, lorsque les affaires publiques me laisseront plus de loisir.

Je suis, avec un très parfait attachement, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

NECKER.

2.—M. LAINE,

Minister of the Interior.

When I visited Paris in 1816, I found Monsieur Lainé one of the most distinguished members of the Chamber of Deputies, and indeed President of that branch of the Legislature. Having applied to him to be present at a sitting of the Chamber, I was disappointed, in consequence of no meeting being held during the remainder of my stay in Paris, (see No. 1.) I had afterwards the pleasure of receiving, when he became Minister of the Interior, (see No. 2,) a very gratifying acknowledgment from him, of my having transmitted to him my Code of Agriculture. He had the goodness to send that work to the Royal Society of Agriculture in Paris, expressing his wishes that it should be translated into the French language. This was afterwards accomplished by that eminent agriculturist M. Matt. de Dombasle.

• Translation.

SIR,

Paris, May 13. 1790.

I have the honour to thank you for the instructive and interesting work which you have had the goodness to send to me. I shall be very anxious to read and study it, as soon as public affairs shall leave me more leisure. I am, &c.

In vol. i. p. 153, there is an account of my intercourse with the Necker Family. The above letter has only just cast up.

No. 1.

MONSIEUR *,

Je regrette infiniment qu'il n'y ait pas de séance demain à la Chambre, puisque vous desiriez d'y assister, et que votre départ est si prochain. Si j'avois eu l'honneur de vous connaître plutôt, je me serais fait un vrai plaisir de vous procurer une semblable occasion; mais j'espère de pouvoir être assez heureux pour m'en dédommager, s'il entre dans vos projets de revenir en France.

Je ne puis dans ce moment répondre au second objet de votre lettre, relativement aux banques particulières. Il faudrait pour cela entrer dans de trop longs détails.

Agréez, Monsieur, la nouvelle assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

LAINÉ.

Paris, 29. Janvier 1816.

No. 2.

Paris, le 8. Novembre 1817.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER †,

S. Exc. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre m'a fait passer l'ouvrage sur l'agriculture, et le mémoire que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser.

• Translation.

SIR,

I regret very much, that there will be no sitting to-morrow at the Chamber, since you wished to have been present, and your departure is so near. If I had had the honour of knowing you sooner, I should have considered it a real pleasure to procure for you such an opportunity; but I hope to be so fortunate as to indemnify myself for this, if it enters into your plans to return to France.

I cannot at present reply to the second object of your letter, relative to private banks. It would be necessary for that purpose to enter into too much detail.

Receive, Sir, the renewed assurance of my very distinguished consideration.

† Translation.

SIR,

His Excellency the English Ambassador has sent me the work upon agriculture, and the memorial which you have been so good as to address to me.

I am about to send both, according to your desire, to the Royal Society

Je vais, selon votre desir, envoyer l'un et l'autre à la Société Royale d'Agriculture, en l'engageant à en faire faire la traduction. Je ne doute pas que cet ouvrage n'attire l'attention particulière de la Société, et ne lui fournisse d'utiles renseignements sur des améliorations qui pourraient être adopter en France.

Veillez recevoir mes remerciemens, Monsieur le Chevalier, de l'envoi de ces ouvrages que votre expérience et vos vastes connaissances en agronomie recommandent à toutes les personnes qui s'occupent de l'économie rurale.

J'ai l'honneur de vous assurer, Monsieur le Chevalier, de ma considération distinguée.

Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat de l'Intérieur.

3.—THE PRINCE DE POLIGNAC.

By his first marriage I became remotely connected with the Prince de Polignac, and we occasionally corresponded together. He seemed to me a high bred nobleman, but better calculated to be "*an ornament to a court,*" than "*the leader of a cabinet.*"

On the late occurrences in Paris, I shall only observe, that the great object of a nation ought to be, to have "*a firm and steady government,*" not liable to perpetual uncertainty and fluctuations, where every individual has his person and his property perfectly secured, under the protection of established laws, and impartial courts of justice, and with juries, as a check to oppression; and where there is neither the

of Agriculture, and will get it to engage in undertaking the translation of them. I have no doubt that this work will attract the particular attention of the Society, and furnish useful information upon improvements which might be adopted in France.

Pray accept my thanks, Sir, for these works, which your experience and your vast knowledge in agriculture recommend to all persons who occupy themselves with rural economy.

I have the honour to assure you, Sir, of my distinguished consideration, &c.

settled calm of military despotism, nor the perpetual turbulence of popular anarchy.

Among the communications received from Prince Polignac, the following is selected, as it does not relate to any political question, but was written merely for the purpose of introducing his friend the Marquis de Ginestous, and recommending him to the hospitality of Scotland.

Portland Place, July 21. 1824.

DEAR SIR,

The Marquis de Ginestous, desirous of being recommended to some distinguished Scotch gentleman, as he goes to Scotland for the sake of examining the improved state of the agriculture in that country, I thought I could not do better than give him a letter for you, whose knowledge in that branch of public industry has always proved useful to your nation. I feel happy, in the same time, to renew to you, Dear Sir, the assurances of my highest regard.

PRINCE POLIGNAC.

VII.

WEST AND EAST INDIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

I have long been fully convinced, that our Colonies both in the West and East Indies might derive great advantage from improvements in their agriculture; and that the West Indies, in particular, would thus be better enabled to surmount the difficulties to which they are exposed, from the strong measures which are now in contemplation, for the final and immediate extinction of slavery. By accident, I had formed an acquaintance with a most intelligent Danish gentleman, General Oxholm, who had been Governor of St Croix, a Danish colony in the West Indies, and who had paid particular attention to its improvement. From him I received

a very interesting communication on that subject, which I think it right to preserve in this collection :

General Oxholm acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of Sir John Sinclair's kind note of the 5th, and the printed very interesting instructions for the improvements of agriculture in the East and West Indies. He would be very happy if he could add remarks to them that might be useful. Before he left the West Indies, where he resided off and on eighteen years, until the year 1798, when he returned to Europe, he had opportunity to procure himself a thorough knowledge of the interior state of the colonies, both as considerable proprietor and as acting member of the government, and did make many trials for improvements in the treatment of negroes, as well as of the cultivation of the land. When the King of Denmark, the first of all sovereigns, resolved to put a stop to the negro trade, he published an ordinance in 1792, that, after the expiration of ten years, the trade to the coast of Guinea should totally cease. But in order to enable the planters to do without an annual supply of negroes, by proper attention to the propagation of natives, he advanced a loan of one and a half million of dollars, to such planters as might want assistance to purchase during the first ten years annually, such quantity as they supposed necessary to store their estates so well, that the cultivation might not be impeded before a sufficient number of labourers were procured; and granted premiums and rewards to those that distinguished themselves in the co-operation toward this benevolent object; the loans to be repayed in ten equal annual instalments. As this loan, and the whole organization of this system, was entrusted to commissioners, and especially to General Oxholm, as acting Director, he neglected nothing that duty and inclination could dictate for the execution of his Majesty's orders, and had the satisfaction to see, in the course of six years, a success beyond his expectations. The importation should by law have lasted till 31st December 1802; but the English

capture of the islands in 1801 put hindrance in the trade of Denmark with its colonies, and as there was then but one year of it left, it dropt almost entirely in the year 1801. Those who imitated this humane regulation, whereof England, after a long attempt to carry it through the Parliament, were the first, and until lately the only one, have never done that justice they owed to the King of Denmark, but continue to claim the honour of being the first who abolished the slave trade, although this was done several years after it had been dropt by Denmark. Notwithstanding the great attention the government and the inhabitants of the Danish Islands paid to this subject, it has only succeeded in part; first, because two years of importation were lost, and ten from circumstances and obstacles that are local. Negroes are the children of the sun. Its heat, and consequently dryness, suits their constitution best. Damp air from wet and low grounds destroys them. Warm clothing shelters them from cold in the fall of the year; but many are improvident. They sell their clothes they get for spirituous liquors, of which they are very fond, and prefer to go very little clothed, barely as our ancestors in Paradise, hiding their blush after they fell. The greater number of children die of locked-jaw in the first fortnight, for want of proper care of the parents. On the General's estates was therefore a premium given to the mother that reared her child, and presented it to him when six weeks old; and many other extra provisions and liberties were given to the nursing women; yet all his trials have failed in some estates, when they succeeded on others. He has two estates in the most fertile part of St Croix, where the substrata is marl, some part clay. The annual decrease, allowing for the increase, remains almost constantly between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 *per cent.* He has another in the mountain, on which the annual increase is between 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* So that the increase in the smaller number of 134 negroes in the higher estate, makes up for the decrease in the larger number of 250 negroes in the lower estate. A material advantage is derived from the small rivulets in the mountain

where the little negroes are constantly washing and bathing, where on such estates that have nothing but wells, often very deep, from 20 to 30 fathoms, the difficulty to get at it makes the mothers neglect themselves and their children, in that propriety and cleanness which contributes so much to health in all climates, but principally in hot ones. The remark of Sir John Sinclair, that electricity will be a remedy in the case of locked jaw shall certainly be tried on his arrival in the West Indies, and the result be communicated to Sir John.

In respect to the mangel wurtzel, he does not believe that its production can be equal to the yam, neither in quality nor richness as food. The islands produce a potatoe quite different from the European; it is much larger;—sweeter;—grows quick;—and yields abundantly. The banana is a blessing to the islands; but all these suffer by drought as well as the canes, which makes the everlasting cry—rain—rain—so universal among all West Indians. General Oxholm will take some mangel wurtzel seed out with him for a trial, if for nothing else than for curiosity, to see if, or how they will grow. He has tried the European potatoe. It degenerates in second planting, and is not even in the first growth as good as those that come from Europe or from America. The badgerie and chena are entirely unknown to him. The erundee grows wild and spontaneously, and its virtues are very well known to the white and coloured people.

The plough has been introduced on few estates since I came to Europe again. I have, since my arrival here, sent out two to make a trial with. It is, however, a very difficult matter to make the negroes try the help of machines. I have given them wheelbarrows, in order to prevent their carrying dung or manure in baskets on their head; and they have wilfully broke them, as this was more laborious to them. I have applied forcing pumps in deep wells to supply the women with water. They have preferred carrying a bucketfull on their head, when nobody observed them. Perseverance may per-

haps at last succeed, when the greater number set an example; but that requires a new generation.

The smallness of most of the islands admits not of large groves or plantations of cocoa-nut trees to make ropes or oil of them; and the labouring hands are so few, and so costly, that manufactories never could pay their establishment. Porto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica and Trinidad, are the only ones, with St Domingo, where such fabrics perhaps might succeed.

General Oxholm has thus stated the remarks that the shortness of his time, being ready to embark in a few days, have occurred to his mind. He will take Sir John Sinclair's communication with him; and, on his return, will take the liberty to wait on Sir John, to communicate his observations on the spot. He flatters himself this will take place in five or six months; and feels, meanwhile, proud and happy that accident procured him the acquaintance of a man well known to every member of the Agricultural Society in Denmark, of which the General is a member, and so distinguished a character in his own country.

Blanc's Hotel, 7th January 1815.

2.—GENERAL MARTIN OF LUCKNOW, IN THE EAST INDIES.

I have ever considered calculous complaints to be among the greatest evils to which the human frame is subject; and, at an early period, began to make a collection of the various remedies which had been recommended for those disorders. Having accidentally heard that an officer in the service of the East India Company had tried, with success, a new mode of eradicating the stone, I applied to Mr Hastings for information upon the subject, from whom I received the following communication:

Daylesford House, 20th January 1797.

SIR,

I should hesitate to communicate to you the particulars

which have come to my knowledge respecting the subject of your inquiry, had you not already taken the sure means of obtaining the most authentic information upon the subject, having once mentioned them to a very able surgeon, who, by his silence, and the expression of his countenance, evidently betrayed his disbelief of it. What I recollect of the fact I will relate to you.

When I was at Lucknow, in the year 1784, I heard that Colonel, now General Martin, had performed a very desperate and novel, though successful operation, upon himself, for the removal of a stone in his bladder. I had the curiosity to question him concerning it, and received from him the following account :

He had been long subject to this complaint. One of its usual effects obliged him constantly to make use of a catheter, in the application of which he one day thought he felt it rub against the stone. He continued to repeat the movement which occasioned this sensation, till he had ascertained the cause, which was confirmed, on the extraction of the instrument, by the appearance of a gritty substance which filled the holes of the tube. On this hint he scored about one-tenth of an inch at the end of a wire, tempered for the purpose, into a file. Then bending it into the form of a catheter, he introduced it into the bladder, and inclining his body to a position which brought the stone by its weight towards the passage, he moved the wire till he could feel it grate against the stone, and continued the attrition as long as his strength and endurance of pain permitted. For some time the operation, repeated daily during a length of time, which I dare not trust to my memory to relate, brought away but a small portion of the stone in a dusty form ; but afterwards larger particles, and some of a considerable substance. He shewed a diary which he had kept of the daily operation of one month, and a small phial, containing particles of sandy and flaky substances, which he said he had preserved, of the produce of that period. If my memory is correct, the whole duration of the

process was seven months, which had expired a little before the time in which I saw him; and he then thought himself entirely free from all remains of his former complaint. I understand that he has long since performed very active service, as a cavalry officer, in Lord Cornwallis's two campaigns. He shewed me several of his files, one of which I brought away with me. It is still in my possession in town; but straightened, by the officiousness of one of Mr Mayhew's journeymen, who chanced to get it into his hands, and supposed it bent by mistake or accident. If you think it an object of curiosity, I will send it to you when I return to town.

If you should ever fall into company with Mr Middleton, Mr Johnson, or Sir E. Impey, I shall beg the favour of you to ask either of them, what they know of this case, for it was one of great notoriety. I confess, that I wish the credit of it should not stand on my sole authority.

With respect to the principal to whom this tale relates, he is of all men that I know the most likely to have made such an experiment upon his own person. He possesses some knowledge, but perhaps not deep, in every art; and applies all the knowledge he has to practice, joining to great activity of mind, a large portion of fortitude and perseverance.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, and equal respect, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

WARREN HASTINGS.

Being extremely desirous, however, to obtain complete information regarding so interesting a subject, I thought it right to apply to the General himself, and transmitted to him the following letter:

MY DEAR SIR,

I had the pleasure of receiving your obliging and interesting letter of the 9th of July 1798, under the cover of Messrs Raikes of London. It reached me on the 9th of February 1799, and contains much important information on a very

curious subject, but not so full as I could have wished ; and I am sorry to inform you that Sir Joseph Banks never received any accounts of the cure you performed, so that it is more essential than ever, that you should draw up from your memory, or from any memorandums you may have preserved, a complete account of the whole business, which does so much credit to your courage, your ingenuity and perseverance.

In the interim, I have thought it my duty to communicate your letter to the medical people here, as it furnishes the only authentic account of so extraordinary a circumstance, and it will appear in some of their publications. It was also proper to explain your curious mode of destroying a wen, which may be useful in other cases.

I am sorry to find, by your letter, that you continue troubled with gravelish complaints. Riding is certainly an excellent preventive. But if you cannot otherwise be cured of that tendency, you ought to come to England, for the artificial waters we make here are so much improved, as to be considered by many almost infallible, particularly those by a Mr Schweppe, a native of Switzerland.

I am glad to receive so valuable a testimony in favour of Mr Hastings, with whom I had not the pleasure of being acquainted, but uniformly voted against his impeachment. After the business was over, he called on me to return his thanks for the friendship I had shewn him, and we have since visited and corresponded together. He lives almost entirely in the country. I met him about a week ago in good health and spirits, but he would only stay a day or two in London.

You may have heard before this time, that some alterations have taken place in the Board of Agriculture, and that another President has been chosen. It was merely a party business, because I differed in politics with the Minister. I continue, however, as zealous in the cause as ever, and if you, or any of your friends, have any important information to communicate, it will give me pleasure at all times to receive it. I

have the honour to be, with esteem, your faithful and obedient servant.

JOHN SINCLAIR.

15. Parliament Street, February 1799.

General Martin's letter has not been found; indeed, was probably given to some of my medical friends, who took a great interest in the inquiry I had undertaken. But my reply is subjoined.

SIR,

The inclosed printed paper will explain the circumstances, which have induced me to take the liberty of troubling you with this application. You will probably have heard of the institution of a Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement in this country; the object of which is not only the improvement of the soil, but also of every useful art that can tend to promote the real comfort and happiness of the people. Amongst these, any useful discoveries, for the preservation of health, or the cure of diseases, are included.

Of all the disorders to which the human frame is subject, there is none of a more distressing or excruciating nature than the stone, which I understand you fortunately have found the means of curing by a new, and in this country, almost incredible process. As it is of essential consequence, that every discovery of that nature should be generally known, I have to request, that you would have the goodness to favour me with an account of the case, with an exact drawing or model of the instrument, with which you effected the cure, and how far, in your opinion, the same remedy is practicable in other cases.

To prevent the risk of miscarriage, more especially in time of war, I shall take the liberty of troubling you with two or three copies of this letter, by different conveyances; and I have to request, that you would take the trouble of sending two or three copies of the answer.

Your early attention to this application, will much oblige,
Sir, your very faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

Edinburgh, 20th December 1796.

The following is the last letter which I received from this respectable correspondent, in which he alludes to the "Questions" I had transmitted to him, from the celebrated Dr Monro, and Dr Anderson.

General Martin was a native of Switzerland, which renders his language not so pure as might be expected from a general officer in the British service.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have with much pleasure received your kind favour of the 12th November 1799. You will improve your new town, Thurso; but, my friend, you must expend great deal to bring inhabitants to so far in Scotland, and God knows if you get proper returns for all these immense expenses.

I received the questions put on me by the celebrated Doctors Monro and Anderson, to whom I now answer; and I send in separate letters to each a file, such as I had made, and introduced in the bladder, as described in my letter, without any tube or any thing else, as I don't think it would admit to go in a tube; however, I never tried. I had a man that made the file somewhat better than those; however those never injure the canal of the urethra. You see, in my letter, that I passed the file between the flesh and the stone, and when past the stone, I pressed the file on the stone, and drew the file, proving on the stone, by which means I filed the stones, as you may try on your nail, and you will find that the file cut much. As, not to drive the stone in the bladder, I inclined my body against the wall, and I was so expert, that I could file the stone for half an hour, without driving the stone in. I had often some spasm, which keep the file fixed as in an handvice, but never occasioned any inflammation, though sometime bleeding; and when I could not get at the stone,

and being inclined to file it, I injected warm water, or mallow water, till I made water; and when the bladder became empty, the stone always came at the mouth or neck of the urethra, which gave room to file it. This is the whole process I followed for about eight to nine months, having a silver cup in which I made water, and collected all the pieces I could, of which I have the pleasure to send you some of the larger pieces, that you may make your observations on them. I also send you some of the sand filed, of which I could not collect the whole, as I filed as well in the night as in the day. I collected ten days' filing of the sand, being in weight, (the diamond carat), 3 carat and 10 grains; and I collected of the pieces, 6 carat $12\frac{1}{6}$. I think you may reckon filing for six good month, at the rate of four to five times a-day, and you will find that that stone has been pretty large ones. I am in hope this will be satisfactory explanations, besides my former letter. At this moment am not well, having been attacked with the liver, and now free; but the urinary passage is still very painful to me, not being to make water but with a pipe, which luckily I introduce very easily: and if I recover my strength, I intend to make use of the caustic and bougie, and I wishes you would advise me if I could put red precipitate on the bougie, so as to broaden the passages, and the stuff I could make the bougie of; and if any of the unguent made by M. Daran is made in England, to have sent to me several pound weight, as sending bougie, they arrive dry and crack. Messrs Cockerell, Paxton and Company will pay for it, and send it to me. Excuse me this trouble, and believe me, my dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

C. MARTIN.

Lucknow, 5th September 1800.

It was extremely gratifying to procure from the East Indies, information respecting a practice of such importance. It soon reached the Continent, and the lively genius of the French, led them to think of improving upon it, by introducing an instrument into the bladder, which, instead of filing, *crunch-*

ed the stone. This plan has certainly answered in several cases, but how far it can be employed, to any great extent, remains to be proved.

3.—*On a Plan by which the British Settlements in the East and West Indies might be most essentially benefited.*

When carrying on some improvements in manufacturing potatoes into flour, I found it necessary to employ machines for grating them. Having circulated some engravings of those machines, it struck Mr Wilson, an intelligent planter at Trinidad, that they might be of great importance in the West Indies, where they have a root, called the Cassava or Cassada, which could not be safely used, unless it was grated; by which process, and at a moderate expense of hand labour, a poisonous liquor was got rid of, with which the root was naturally impregnated. He was so much impressed with this idea, that he sent a machine to Trinidad, that the experiment might be tried.

When meditating upon this subject, it accidentally occurred to me, that a plant which thrives in every part of the West Indies, might likewise be cultivated with advantage in the East, and to such an extent, as might prevent those famines, by which our Indian empire is so frequently afflicted. There are various species of this plant; but the two most valuable are called the Sweet and the Bitter. The first sort is already known in the East Indies; but the bitter cassava is a plant of much superior importance, 1. From the immense produce of the root *per acre*; 2. From its remaining in the ground for more than two years in perfect security, without being liable to injury by rain or hurricanes; and, 3. From the safety with which it can be preserved for several years, after it has been converted into meal, from its not being liable to the attacks of insects.

The introduction of the bitter cassava, therefore, is one of the greatest boons that could be presented by Europeans to the natives of India, as it would prove an effectual means of preventing future scarcities in that country.

Impressed with these ideas, I thought it right to transmit my thoughts upon the subject to the Directors of the India Company ; and I have no doubt of their taking up the plan, with that zeal which becomes the rulers of so vast an empire, when a measure of such immense importance is brought under their review.

CONCLUSION OF THIS WORK.

From the perusal of these volumes it will be seen, that the individual, who now presents them to the public, has been engaged, during upwards of half a century, in laborious exertions to promote the welfare of his fellow creatures, not only in his own country, but in every part of the world to which his influence could be extended.

Whether his labours have been followed by success, proportioned, either to the length of time they have occupied, or to the zeal with which they have been carried on, must be decided, not by his own sanguine wishes, nor by the partial estimate of correspondents or friends, but by the candid judgment of the public. At the same time, as an encouragement to others in pursuing the same path of public utility, the Author begs to direct the attention of his younger readers, to the kind and favourable regard, with which, as appears from the preceding volumes, persons the most distinguished for learning, ability and virtue, both at home and abroad, have considered every effort to be useful to his fellow men.

The Author still proposes to employ the remainder of his days, in the same pursuits in which his previous life has been engaged, and, (if his health will enable him), to complete his works on Agriculture,—Longevity,—Political Economy,—and Religion.

The nature of this design is explained in the concluding paper of the Appendix, to which he begs to solicit the reader's favourable consideration.

ADDENDA.

I have often wished, that the British Ministers would make a point of ascertaining the real character and talents, not only of those who were likely to be opposed to them, either in military, or in political concerns, but of those who were to assist them. As an example of the nature of the information I wished them to acquire, I was induced to draw up the following account of the Archduke Charles, and of that rising meteor, Napoleon Bonaparte, immediately previous to the contest that was to take place between these two great Generals. If so much information could be collected by a private individual, what might not have been done by a British Minister, with all the resources of government at his command?

It is singular, that this paper should contain the first printed account of Napoleon's great talents, and predictions of his future successful career.

I have annexed to the paper, a singular anecdote of Napoleon, the authenticity of which may be relied on.

COPY OF A PAPER PRINTED IN LONDON, IN APRIL 1797, ENTITLED, "THOUGHTS RESPECTING THE ENSUING CAMPAIGN ON THE BORDERS OF ITALY, AND ITS PROBABLE ISSUE."

Introduction.—Before the commencement of the present campaign on the borders of Italy, some pains had been taken, by the President of the Board of Agriculture, to ascertain its probable issue, with a view of enabling him to form an opinion, how far that campaign was likely to produce consequences, so favourable to the cause of Austria, and of England,

as to compensate for the waste of blood and treasure it must necessarily occasion. The information he collected, was originally drawn up for his own consideration merely; but it was afterwards printed, to gratify the curiosity of some of his friends who were desirous of perusing it, and, in particular, were anxious to know the history and character, of so distinguished an officer, as the conqueror of Italy.

The fate of Italy, will probably be determined, in the course of the ensuing campaign. The result may depend on a variety of unforeseen and incidental circumstances. The merest accident, as the stumbling of a horse,—a shower of rain,—or the fortuitous swelling of a river, may decide it. At the same time, it may be guessed at, with some degree of probability, from a consideration of the state of the two armies, and from an examination of the characters of the two Generals by whom they are commanded.

I. *The Austrian Army.*—It is impossible to ascertain, with any degree of precision, the amount of the Austrian army destined for the borders of Italy. It is well known, that exaggerated accounts have always been circulated of the strength of the Imperial forces, at the commencement of each campaign, and hence they have seldom at first succeeded, equal to the hopes entertained of them. They have afterwards, it is true, been reinforced; but had these reinforcements joined them at the beginning, more success might have been expected. It is said, in some accounts, that the Archduke Charles will have under his command, from 100,000 to 120,000 men, but if he has 70,000, it is probably as much as the Emperor can devote to the service of Italy. That army will consist of three different descriptions of men, namely, first, of 20,000 men brought from the Rhine, whose valour requires no eulogium; secondly, Of about 25,000, the wreck of the army of Alvinzi, whose spirit may be revived by their new commander, but who,

otherwise, from the nature of things, after having been so frequently defeated, cannot be much depended on; and, thirdly, Of 25,000 fresh troops, who have not had an opportunity of seeing service, but who will probably fight with as much zeal and steadiness as can be expected from raw soldiers. It is to be considered, however, that the Austrian army have these disadvantages to contend with, that they fight in a barren country; that their provisions must be brought from a distance of about 200 miles; that their pay, in some measure, depends on the votes of the British Parliament; and that they do not feel any cordial interest in the cause they fight for.

2. *The French Army.*—The army of France in Italy, with the late reinforcements, (exclusive of the garrisons), will also probably amount to about 70,000 men; one-third of which, (27,000 men), are French, including a numerous cavalry, (from 8 to 10,000 men), equal to any in Europe; the other two-thirds, (about 40,000 men), are Italians. The French consist of men already accustomed to conquest, or who have been regularly trained to arms. The Italians are not forced into the service, as some have confidently asserted, but are young men, who have voluntarily placed themselves under the command of their gallant countryman, are enthusiasts for the ancient glory of Italy, and determined sooner to die, than to re-admit their former masters, from whom they entertain no hopes of mercy. There is also great emulation between the two nations, which of them will fight best, of which their able commander will naturally avail himself. His troops have every advantage that an army can desire. Behind them a fertile country, whence they can have abundance of provisions: the contributions of Italy furnish them with pay, ammunition, and every necessary article for carrying on the war: and to a man they burn with impatience, not only to preserve their former character and glory, but to acquire fresh laurels.

3. *The Austrian General.*—The Archduke Charles, from

his infancy, was considered as the hope of the Imperial family. Whilst his brother, the present Emperor, was supposed to have the elevated mind, and the unconquered spirit of the House of Austria, it was foretold, from his earliest years, that the Archduke was possessed of the military talents of the family of Lorraine. It is the less necessary to dwell long upon this part of the subject, as his character, and in particular the conduct he pursued during the siege of Kehl, is so ably described in a letter from one of the most distinguished statesmen on the Continent, (Mallet du Pan), that I cannot deny myself the pleasure of giving a translation of it in this place, in justice to the merits of so gallant an officer.

“ The Archduke Charles has excited an enthusiasm in his army beyond expression, and even the French give him daily proofs of their admiration and respect. Every day, during the siege of Kehl, be the weather what it would, he set out from Offenburgh, (where his head-quarters were), at five in the morning, went to the trenches, visited the camp, gave audience in a hut, wrapt up in his *pelisse*; returned to Offenburgh at five in the evening, and continued occupied in business till nine. His application and activity are beyond bounds. He is the soul of every thing, and has given an impulse of zeal to the whole mass. Severe, but just; popular to excess, and yet rigorous with respect to duty; he makes no exceptions but to merit, for which he searches with such assiduity, that he has already promoted above 100 officers, forgotten for these ten years, without regard to titles, ribbands of knighthood, or great names. He is full of talents, penetration, and good sense. His intrepidity is too well known to require any particular notice.”

The character of the celebrated Buonaparte I shall next endeavour to delineate, and at more length, as it is not so generally known.

4. *The French General*.—Napoleon Buonaparte was born in Corsica, but his family is of Tuscan extraction, originally

from St Miniato, about 25 miles from Florence. His father was one of the three nobles who represented the states of Corsica, anno 1770, when deputies were first sent to wait on the king of France, after the conquest of that island, on which occasion he acquitted himself with great ability. His son was born in 1767, and consequently, at this time, (April 1797), is about thirty years of age, short in stature, and rather thin or meagre, but with quick and penetrating eyes. He was educated at an Ecole Militaire in France, where he laid an admirable foundation for the acquisition of military knowledge; and ever since he has made the art of war his particular study. He has a peculiar mode of arranging his troops, apparently in confusion, so that the enemy cannot discover what his intentions are, how to attack him, or how to evade his attack; and hence, with inferior forces, he makes his opponents believe that they have superior numbers to fight with. He is abstemious in living, fond of, and active in business, which he carries on with the greatest regularity. He has four distinct secretaries for the following different departments, namely, the military branch of the army; its pay and expenditure, or internal economy; his political correspondence with the Directory, and with foreign states; and the police, or management of the conquered countries. He is ardent beyond every thing for military glory, and full of the most anxious zeal, to rival the heroes commemorated by Plutarch, whose works he is perpetually perusing.

The following circumstances are strongly in his favour, in regard to the success of this campaign.

In the first place, the country where the war is now carrying on is mountainous, which gives a great advantage to the active troops of France, over the slow and heavy battalions of Germany. Even the Croats, the Highlanders of the Continent, who would otherwise have been admirably calculated for such a warfare, are now formed into regular corps, and have lost their characteristic activity and spirit. But that is not all. Greatly as this General has distinguished himself in the

plains of Lombardy, a mountainous country affords peculiar advantage to a native of Corsica. Indeed, Bonaparte, from his birth, has not only been accustomed to such scenes, but was actually tracing the military history of his native country, and ascertaining by what means the Corsicans were enabled, from the advantages of a mountainous situation, to make a stand, with inferior forces, against the best troops in Europe, when he was unexpectedly called to the siege of Toulon. There he so much distinguished himself, that the Directory were induced to trust him with the command of the army of Italy, as the only chance of retrieving their affairs in that quarter, at that time in the most desperate state, and which perhaps no other man could have accomplished.

2. No general ever possessed greater resources of mind, in unexpected and critical cases. The intrepidity he shewed, (for I am told that singular anecdote is authentic), when, with only 1200 or 1500 men, he was on the eve of being attacked by 4000 Austrians, can hardly be paralleled in history. He asked the officer who summoned him to surrender, “how he dared to bring such a message to the General of the French army?” and the Austrians, awed by the superiority of his genius, actually threw down their arms. Against a general possessed of the greatest activity, and such resources of mind, no enemy is safe even for a moment, and there is hardly any state to which he can possibly be reduced, from which his talents may not extricate him.

3. Instead of being detested, he is admired and beloved by the Italians, who, though they hate the French, yet consider him in the light of a countryman, by whom the ancient military glory of Italy will be revived. At first, considerable sums were certainly exacted from Lombardy, &c. but now, the contributions required from the countries in his possession, do not exceed those, which the inhabitants paid to their former sovereigns, in time of war; and so prevalent is the spirit of democracy, that it is with great difficulty the French can prevent all Italy from becoming republicans. The Jacobins were certainly

anxious to spread their doctrines every where, but the present government of France have adopted a different policy. It is well known that the Directory would rather have given up Milan to the Emperor, under its old form of government, than have established a republic there; and actually refused to erect a republic at Rome, when it was lately completely in their power, and anxiously wished for by a majority of the people.

4. Though the French are jealous of the glory acquired by this Italian hero, and though, if he were to return to France, he might perhaps be treated with that ingratitude which is too often the characteristic of republican government, yet his enemies do justice to his merit; he contrives to make his very rivals to second his views, and to assist him with all the zeal imaginable. Indeed, the Directory of France find it essential to their own interest, to give him every possible support, as there is none whom they could send to succeed him, with an equal prospect of success.

Lastly, he has excited an enthusiasm in his army, beyond all example. His troops place the most unlimited confidence in him, and think, under his command, they cannot be vanquished. In addition to that confidence, they have such a respect, and even terror for him, (for, with great affability, no man preserves stricter discipline), that they dread his reproaches more than the swords of the enemy; and, should every thing else fail, such is the attachment they entertain for his person, that he has only to put himself at their head, at any critical moment of imminent danger and dismay, as he did at Lodi, and, if he does not perish in the combat, his troops, impelled by enthusiasm in the cause they fight for, confidence in the general who commands them, dread of his reproaches if defeated, and attachment to a leader whom they adore, can hardly fail to conquer.

The Result.—From a consideration of these circumstances, any thing decisively favourable to the cause of Austria in Italy, cannot be expected. Indeed, if the French were un-

successful, which there is no reason to look for, they have only to retire to the fortresses of Mantua, Verona, and others in their possession, whence, in the course of at least this campaign, it will be impossible to dislodge them. The only chance of ultimate success which the Archduke Charles has, is that of retiring towards Vienna; in which case, should Buonaparte incautiously follow him, he may be surrounded, and his army may be destroyed. But if he is satisfied with the possession of Italy, and the countries in its neighbourhood, no force the Emperor can possibly send against him, under any general, however distinguished for ability, can be successful.

London, 3d April 1797.—*N. B.* The account of Buonaparte's victories did not reach London, or at least was not publicly known, till the Friday following, the 7th of April.

ANECDOTE OF BUONAPARTE, AND THE ABBE SIEYES.

The reader will be enabled to form some idea, both of the resources of Buonaparte's mind, and the promptitude with which he acts, from the following anecdote.

It is well-known, that the Abbé Sieyes was one of the ablest men that France ever produced, and remarkable for his deep and successful intrigues. When the formation of a consulate was determined upon, it became a doubtful question, whether he or Buonaparte should be appointed *First Consul*. Sieyes's plan was, to be nominated to that situation, and to employ Buonaparte, as *Second Consul*, to carry his orders into execution. The superior cunning, ability, and promptitude of the Corsican, *in one instant*, baffled all the schemes which he had been so long meditating, and which he thought were on the eve of being happily accomplished.

The place where they assembled to elect the Consuls, was the Gallery of the Luxembourg, a very large hall, where the electors formed themselves into parties, with their leaders,

and though within sight, yet each of them at such a distance from the other, as not to be overheard. Sieyes lost no time in addressing his party, and descanted on the advantages of having a person, well acquainted with political questions, and civil affairs, at the head of the new government; and the danger of having a soldier intrusted with supreme power, who might, in the end, establish military despotism, in a country, which had conquered its liberties; (the event has proved, that this observation was perfectly well founded); and without pointing himself out to be the man, he plainly indicated the line he wished them to pursue. As soon as he had made this declaration, one of Buonaparte's emissaries, who had mixed himself with the Abbé's friends, quitted the place where they had assembled, joined the other party, and informed them of what had passed. Buonaparte instantly said, "I see what must be done,—and all I entreat of you is, as soon as you see me take Sieyes by the hand, that you will cry, *Bravo, Buonaparte*, as loud as you can, and will prevail on as many as possible to join in the exclamation." He immediately went to the place where Sieyes and his party were assembled, and going up to the Abbé, with a great appearance of cordiality, he said, "Let us not, my friend, have any difference of opinion who shall be the First Consul; for my part, I vote for the Abbé Sieyes,—whom do you vote for?" The Abbé, astonished at such an unexpected address, was led, from complaisance, and an affectation of gratitude and friendship, to say, "I vote for the General Buonaparte." On which Buonaparte gave his hand to Sieyes, as if to thank him for his vote. This being the signal agreed upon, for crying, *Bravo, Buonaparte*, it resounded from all quarters; Buonaparte's partisans having dispersed themselves throughout the hall, and mixed with those of the other candidates. Even some of the friends of Abbé Sieyes, who saw what had passed, could not help joining in the cry, without thinking of the consequences. Buonaparte was instantly declared *First Consul*. The Abbé was offered to be made Second Consul, but was so much chagrin-

ed at his disappointment, that he declared his resolution to take no farther concern in public affairs.

It is impossible to conceive, that any man could have been placed in so many critical dilemmas as Buonaparte has been, and to have got through them so successfully, without being possessed of the ability and decision which this anecdote evinces. It was communicated to me by a friend, who had it from one of the very actors in the scene, and its authenticity may be depended upon.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR PITT.

SINCE the first volume was printed, some additional communications from Mr Pitt have cast up, which I think it right to preserve, as a proof of the strong friendship which had, at one time, subsisted between us.

In 1793, I had formed a plan for restoring the commercial credit of the country, which had fallen into a most deplorable state. The origin and progress of that great measure are explained in the History of the Revenue*.

I had first suggested to Mr Secretary Dundas, the idea of appointing a Committee of the House of Commons to take the subject into consideration, to whom I proposed communicating my plan; but that idea was given up, in consequence of the following communication:

DEAR SIR,

I received your letter, respecting the state of public credit in this country. Government has been paying great attention to the subject. I am very doubtful of the propriety of any measure being brought forward; but I am sure, unless something specific was previously arranged, the appointment of any Committee, to take up the subject loosely, and without any plan before them, might produce mischief, with very little prospect of good. If you have any specific ideas to state, I shall be very glad to receive them. I remain faithfully yours,

HENRY DUNDAS.

In consequence of this letter, I sent a specific plan, recommending the issue of Exchequer bills, which, when afterwards adopted, was attended with such astonishing success.

* See the 3d edition, vol. ii. p. 287.

The execution of the plan, however, was likely to be most inconveniently delayed from the forms of office, by which the Exchequer bills, on the credit of which the whole operation depended, could not be issued for several days. It occurred to me, however, that the certificate of the commissioners, *authorising the bearer to receive Exchequer bills to a certain amount*, was as good security as the bills themselves; and that money might be advanced on such certificates with equal safety. I had communicated by letter this idea to Mr Pitt, and requested both his opinion of it, and, if he approved of the plan, his assistance in carrying it into effect; but in consequence of his being out of town, I had received no answer to the communication. I therefore resolved to carry through the measure myself, and actually raised, on the credit of those certificates, L.70,000 from several bankers in London, who had a respect for the person by whom the plan had been proposed, and were satisfied of its utility and importance. When Mr Pitt came to town, on the Monday morning following, he immediately sent to me the following note:

Mr Pitt presents his compliments to Sir John Sinclair. Having been out of town, it is only within this half hour that he has received his note of yesterday evening, or he would have returned an earlier answer. As Sir John Sinclair may probably be at the House, Mr Pitt will be glad of an opportunity of talking with him there on the subject.

Downing Street, Monday, half-past three.

We met in the House accordingly, when Mr Pitt took me behind the Speaker's chair, and said, "That the plan I had proposed was a very desirable one, but that, in the present state of the credit of the country, it did not seem to him practicable;" upon which I informed him, that so far from being impracticable, I had carried the plan into effect that very morning. He was quite astonished at my success, and he was thence induced to give his support to the establishment of "A Board of Agriculture," which I soon afterwards brought forward. Had he likewise adopted my plan, to compel bankers to give security for the notes they issued, what miseries would it not have prevented?

The issue of Exchequer bills, for supporting the commercial credit of the country, is certainly one of the greatest operations recorded in history. No instance, it was justly remarked, is to be met with, where such essential benefit has been rendered to the commerce and manufactures of a country, in a manner so sudden, so easy in execu-

tion, and, (what is perhaps the least important consideration, compared with the magnitude of the object), at no expense to the public*.

In carrying on the great contest with Mr Fox, which terminated so favourably to Mr Pitt, he greatly relied on the suggestions which, from time to time, I transmitted to him, of which the following letter is a satisfactory evidence :

DEAR SIR,

I have, in consequence of your suggestion, sent a copy of the last paper communicated through Mr Powys, which, I think, conveys all the information necessary on the subject. If any thing arises material, I shall trust to your goodness to apprise me of it. Yours sincerely,

W. PITT.

Berkeley Square, Wednesday.

Having sent a letter to Mr Pitt, with a tract on the finances of the country, in which I had paid some compliments to his political conduct, I received, in return, the following communication :

Downing Street, Dec. 15. 1782.

SIR,

I have great pleasure in returning you many thanks for your letter of the 12th December, and the pamphlet which accompanied it. I have not yet had an opportunity of perusing the whole ; but I am very glad that there is nothing now to prevent my offering you my sincere acknowledgments for the paragraph you were so good to point out, and for the obliging expressions of your regard. I am, Sir, your faithful and obedient servant,

W. PITT.

In 1784, I had applied to Mr Pitt for the grant of a Baronetage, to which I had a claim, as the heir and representative of Sir George Sinclair of Clyth ; and being then a widower, with two daughters, I requested that the title should be descendable to them. In answer to these requests, I received from him the following friendly communication :

* Indeed, L.4000 of profit was gained by the operation, which I suggested should be appropriated to the establishment of a Board of Agriculture.

Putney Heath, Nov. 2. 1784.

MY DEAR SIR,

The rambling life I have led in my holidays, with some occasional mixture of business, made me defer writing to you from day to day. At last, as is too often the case, I have grown almost too much ashamed of my omission to correct it; but as I find you are still fixed at a distance, I cannot any longer defer thanking you for your letters. I shall, with great pleasure, contribute every assistance in my power, if circumstances will admit, of the limitation you wish of the title of Baronet; and I shall be happy to converse with you upon it when we meet, which I hope will be before long. I wish much to know your present speculations on our finances. Our prospects of it improve. Most of the particulars you mention in one of your letters may, I hope, be easily ascertained. While we are thinking of improving the moments of peace, the state of the Continent is growing every day more uncertain. I am, Dear Sir, your most faithful and obedient servant,

W. PITT.

In 1786, I resolved to take an extensive tour throughout the northern countries of Europe, with a view of collecting information that might be of real use to my own country. I communicated the plan to Mr Pitt, and requested to know if there were any objects to which he wished me to pay particular attention. In return he sent me the following letter:

Hollywood Hill, May 29. 1786.

DEAR SIR,

I regret much that I lose the pleasure of seeing you before your departure. I heartily wish you a great deal of entertainment, and a great deal of information, which I believe is more your object, *and in which I am happy to consider myself as so much interested.* You may always depend on my services, on any occasion when I am at liberty, and when they can be of any use to you. The revenue papers shall be got for you if possible. I shall be happy to hear from you whenever you are at leisure. Believe me, with great truth and regard, Dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

W. PITT.

I regret to add, that after my return from this extensive tour, Mr Pitt did not show the least disposition to derive any advantage from the information I had collected; and that Lord Thurlow was almost

the only member of the administration who took any material interest in it. Indeed, Mr Pitt was, at that time, entirely devoted to domestic concerns; nor did he pay any particular attention to foreign politics, until compelled by the French Revolution.

Having proved by the tract, entitled, "*Thoughts on the Naval Strength of the British Empire*," my zeal for the honour and credit of the navy, I was thence led to entertain an anxious wish to have the manning of the navy placed on a more advantageous footing than was at that time the case. I was induced to draw up a plan for that purpose, and sent it to Mr Pitt, accompanied by the following letter:

SIR,

The inclosed paper, though short, will sufficiently explain my ideas respecting the manning of the navy. As it has ever been a favourite subject of mine, I still feel a desire to bring it before Parliament. At the same time, if effectual measures are to be taken by Government, or if it is judged prejudicial to the public service to bring it forward, I shall certainly relinquish any private wish of my own, for the general benefit of the country. I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

Whitehall, 13th February 1793.

To which I received the following answer:

Mr Pitt presents his compliments to Sir John Sinclair. Being persuaded that he can have no view but the public service in the proposal which he thinks of making respecting manning the navy, Mr Pitt cannot help begging to represent to him, that the agitation of that question at this time may produce consequences very contrary to those which he intends; and he therefore hopes that Sir John Sinclair will at least defer stating any thing publicly, till Mr Pitt has had some farther communication with him on the subject.

Downing Street,
Monday, Feb. 11. 1793.

It was impossible to bring forward a motion, which the Minister of the Crown had so earnestly requested should not be made, and accordingly the plan was not persevered in.

No. II.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EARL OF MOIRA,
AFTERWARDS MARQUIS OF HASTINGS.

The following communication from Lord Hastings, proves his Lordship's great attention to foreign political questions, even when he was not a minister of state :

Donington, July 27. 1808.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN,

You were right in saying that the occurrence in Spain went beyond what the most sanguine hope with which we could have flattered ourselves; and your Latin quotation would have been equally apposite with the remark, had one not to fear that no adequate advantage will be drawn from the circumstance. The opportunity was a glorious one. Our ministers, however, seem to have been incapable of opening their eyes to an angle sufficient to embrace the magnitude of the object. Without reference to the radical distresses of our situation,—without conviction that nothing is gained unless you alter the relative proportion of strength now existing between France and this country,—we seem to aim at nothing more than to embarrass Bonaparte for the instant. Suppose him foiled in his designs on Spain, he only misses an acquisition of which he had in fact no need. Suppose Spain emancipated from fear of thralldom, our benefit is as nothing if she sits down upon a compromise with Bonaparte. We had only one rational game to play. It was to seize the enthusiasm of Spain, left open to our influence by the entire disorganization of the country, and to direct it, not simply to the clearance of Spain from French armies, but to proclaimed vengeance for the insidious attack made upon that kingdom. On no other terms can you expect to invite forward again the Emperors of Russia and Austria; and without their co-operation the war must finish, whensoever it shall finish, by leaving France with a preponderance under which we shall be smothered. One cannot say that this great effort may not be made, but the course of our measures is not at all calculated to bring it about. You see the jealousy of Spain strongly indicated towards us even at the moment when they are soliciting succours, and we have taken no step of a nature to extinguish that well-grounded doubt of our good faith, though the entire confidence of Spain in us is now our only chance of escape from the most formidable distresses. It

is the galling weight of the public imposts, not what Bonaparte can do against us by force, that constitutes the danger of our situation. And with what sort of forecast is it that we are to look forward to years of protracted contest, with every year a new invasion of the comforts of the people? Inadvertent to this, we are reviving all the track of ordinary diplomacy in Spain,—we are fashioning armies for the capture of sea-ports or the defence of passes,—and we are boastingly anticipating a triumph in the independence of Spain, which the inhabitants would atchieve without our aid. Let all this run to our wish, and we are only just where we were. It is an odd thing to say, but the defeat of the Spanish armies is the only chance which I now see for the conversion of this opportunity, (after its first advantages were missed), to the support of any British interest. In the freedom of gallant men we must all rejoice; but our own country demands our attention, and we might honourably ingraft our own cause upon the deliverance of Spain. Believe me, my Dear Sir John, your very obedient humble servant,

MOIRA.

No. III.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WILLIAM WINDHAM.

The subjoined letter from Mr Windham proves the cordiality of his friendship for the person to whom it was addressed. An invariable rule he had adopted, not to deny himself, is one which few public men have adopted.

DEAR SIR,

I have been wishing to make up for my omission of writing, by finding an opportunity of calling upon you. But I am informed that you have quitted your house at Whitehall, and cannot immediately learn where you have removed to.

You will find me here almost any morning, when you will do me the favour to call, and always happy to see you. I am seldom out, and make it almost an invariable rule not to deny myself. I am,
Dear Sir, yours very truly,

W. WINDHAM.

Park Street, Westminster, Dec. 20. 1799.

No. IV.

THE COUNT DE VILLELE'S SPEECH ON THE LIBERAL SYSTEM OF TRADE.

The whole free trade system, as every one is aware, rests upon a hypothesis, that it will effect a reciprocity of liberality in our neighbours. The boldest theorist has never contended, that we are to throw open our ports to the produce and manufactures of other countries, but with the expectation that sooner or later these countries must receive our produce or manufactures as freely in return. Upon what ground such an expectation can rest, will appear by the following extract from the late speech of the French Minister of Finance, delivered in the Chamber of Deputies :—

“ Two systems are actually at issue, the system of Restriction, and that of Liberality. Which of the two suits France ? A country like France has much to furnish to foreign countries, but it has also many things to receive from them ; and this is the point which must determine the system. Where ought a country to place itself when it has thirty millions of consumers, and so rich a soil ? The first care of this country is to preserve to itself the supply of what it can offer to so extensive a consumption. Should we, in the name of agriculture, invoke the system of liberality ? Could our agriculturists resist the importation into France of the corn of Odessa and other countries ? Could the proprietors of our pasturages support a competition with other countries, who can raise cattle so much cheaper than ourselves ? Could our wool trade be protected with this system ? The importation of foreign cloths would completely ruin it in less than a year. The silk trade, which is the staple of France, would not even be secure. The importation of Indian silks would give a fatal blow to our manufactures at Lyons. Of all the branches of our agriculture, wines alone would not be injured by the plans proposed. The best answer to the adversaries of the system pursued by us, is in the solution of this question : Is France become poorer or richer ? It is impossible that the balance of trade can be against her, if she is becoming richer. The administration is incessantly occupied with inquiring, amidst all the means, that which will be the most proper to furnish positive data to the Chambers. We are engaged at this moment in fresh valuations, because some of them have been demonstrated to be erroneous. Our irons ought necessarily to be protected by a temporary surcharge on account of the operations of our neighbours. The impulse given to this sort of industry, the capi-

tals directed to it, will soon enable France to manufacture for herself as cheap as her neighbours. The system which it is wished to substitute, would have no other result than discouraging those who enter on this career, and deceiving those who have establishments in this branch. As to wines, England, it is said, would consume our wines, of which the qualities are known, as she consumes those of Portugal. But do you wish to know on what conditions she would consume them? You know what the conditions are which she has imposed on Portugal. On the same conditions you would sell your wines."

Next to our own country, France is now the most commercial, and has always been the most intelligent nation of Europe. The opinion of the French, upon a question of international, and particularly upon a question of commercial policy, may be taken as a favourable, if not a fair standard of the prevailing opinion in Europe. Now, the above extract tells us, that, upon principles of general and permanent operation, the French people are opposed to a system of free trade. Whether these principles are right or wrong is not the question; they are the principles upon which they *will act*; and it were mere madness to expect, in the teeth of such a declaration, that the attempt to force a free trade can end in any thing but calamity.

No. V.

EXTRACT OF A WORK, ENTITLED, LONDRES ET LES ANGLAIS. Par J. L. FERRI DE ST CONSTANT. Printed at Paris anno 12, vol. iii. chap. xxx. p. 225.

Société d'Agriculture.

Le dernier établissement fait à Londres pour encourager et accélérer les progrès des arts, et celui qui a pour objet le premier des

• Translation.

Extract from a work, entitled, "London and the English." By J. L. Ferri de St Constant. Printed at Paris in the year 1812, vol. iii. chap. 30. p. 225.

SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE.

The most recent establishment erected in London for encouraging and accelerating the progress of the arts, and that which has for its object the chief of all the arts, the Society of Agriculture, was established in 1793, according to the plan proposed by Sir John Sinclair, who was the first President. He ought to be regarded as the founder, because it was owing to his zeal, perseverance, and clear views on the subject, that every obstacle was overcome, and the approbation of

arts, *la Société d'Agriculture*, fut établi en 1793, d'après le plan de M. de Saint Clair, qui en a été le premier Président. Il doit en être regardé comme le fondateur ; car c'est à son zèle, à sa persévérance, et à ses lumières, qu'on dut l'applanissement de tous les obstacles, et la protection du Gouvernement. Le Parlement approuva l'établissement de la société, et lui accorda L. 3000 pour ses dépenses. L'objet du fondateur de cette société était, conformément aux vues de Bacon, de faire de l'agriculture une science, et d'en rendre les principes populaires. C'est vers ce grand but qu'il a dirigé tous les travaux de la société, et il est généralement reconnu qu'elle a eu la plus heureuse influence. Elle s'est occupé de tous les objets intéressans de l'économie rurale, et spécialement de ceux sur lesquels la pratique nationale était defectueuse. C'est à elle qu'on doit surtout le perfectionnement des races de moutons qui produisent de belles laines ;

Government obtained. The Parliament also approved of the establishment of the Society, and voted it a grant of L.3000 to defray its expenses. The object of the founder of this Society was, in accordance with the views of Bacon, to make agriculture a science, and to render its principles popular. It was to this end that he directed all the efforts of the Society, and it is generally acknowledged to have had the happiest influence. The Society paid attention to all matters connected with rural economy, and especially those in which the national practice was defective. It is to it that we owe, in particular, the perfection of that race of sheep which produces the finest wool ; and the custom recently introduced, of cultivating the ground with two instead of four horses, a custom of which kings themselves have set the example, in their estates at Windsor and Fitzhead, &c. The offer of premiums is the mode of encouragement which the Society has adopted. It has been blamed for having published a number of expensive works, which can only be of use to rich farmers, and for having neglected to distribute practical treatises over every corner of the world. But it would seem the Society prefers leaving to private persons the care of making the treatises generally read, reserving to itself to bestow approbation upon those who appear to merit the preference. It is thus the Society has acted in regard to the *New Farmer's Calendar*, which is now-a-days the manual of every labourer.

Sir John Sinclair being the founder of the Society, one would have thought that he would have always retained the Presidency ; but to the great surprise of all the nation, a successor has been appointed, in the most illiberal manner. This is to be attributed to a spirit of paltry revenge on the part of the former Ministry, who expected to find in him a servile instrument of their views, and who could not pardon his political moderation and independence of opinion. Sir John Sinclair is one of the most enlightened political economists which England has produced. His *History of the Public Revenue of Great Britain* contains a crowd of facts unknown or forgotten, and a great number of useful and profitable views. The *Statistical Picture of Scotland* will henceforth serve as a model to those who may write upon statistics. The rules there given at once lessen the labour and ensure precision.

l'usage, nouvellement introduit, de labourer les terres avec des bœufs au lieu de chevaux, pratiques dont le roi lui-même a donné l'exemple dans ses fermes de Windsor et de Fitzhead, &c. Les primes sont le mode d'encouragement que la société a adopté. On lui a reproché d'avoir publié nombre d'ouvrages coûteux, qui ne peuvent qu'être à l'usage de fermiers riches, et d'avoir négligé de repandre de traités pratiques à la porte de tout le monde; mais il paraît que la société préfère de laisser aux particuliers le soin de faire des traités généraux, en se réservant de donner son approbation à ceux qui lui paraissent mériter la préférence. C'est ce qu'elle a fait à l'égard du Nouveau Calendrier du Fermier, qui est aujourd'hui le manuel des laboureurs.

M. de Saint Clair étant le fondateur de la société, on croyait qu'il conserverait toujours la présidence; mais, à la grande surprise de toute la nation, on lui a donné tout à coup un successeur, de la manière la plus illibérale. Ce fut l'effet d'une basse vengeance des anciens ministres, qui avait cru trouver en lui un instrument servile de leurs vues, et qui ne peuvent lui pardonner sa modération politique et sa manière de penser indépendante. M. de Saint Clair est un des hommes les plus éclairés en économie politique qu'ait produit l'Angleterre. Son Histoire du Revenu Public de la Grande Bretagne contient une foule de faits, inconnus, ou oubliés, et un grand nombre de vues utiles, dont a profité; et les tableaux statistiques de l'*Ecosse* serviront désormais de modèle à ceux qui écriront sur la statistique. Les règles qu'il a données, en même temps qu'elles facilitent ce travail, en assurent l'exactitude.

No. VI.

STATISTICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, le 7th Messidor an 10.

L. J. P. Ballois, Redacteur des Annales de Statistique, à Monsieur John Sinclair, Chevalier Baronet, et Membre du Parlement de la Grande Bretagne.

MONSIEUR *,

Vous connaissez l'importance des recherches statistiques, et vos travaux dans cette science utile ont déjà beaucoup contribué aux ses pro-

* Translation.

SIR,

Paris, 7th Messidor an. 10.

You are aware of the importance of statistical researches, and your labours

grès. Je puis donc espérer que vous voudrez bien agréer l'hommage que j'ai l'honneur de vous faire des trois premières cahiers d'un ouvrage périodique que je publie à ce sujet sous les auspices de Gouvernement Français. Cet ouvrage est destiné spécialement à présenter le tableau réel de ma patrie, sous tous les rapports qu'embrasse la *Statistique*. A ce titre, Monsieur, je ne crois point indigne de quelque intérêt ; et le plus ardent de mes vœux seroit que vous en prissiez vous-même une opinion favorable.

J'ai inséré dans le dernier nombre votre *Essai sur la Longévité*, dont vous avez adressé des exemplaires au Ministre de l'Intérieur. Cet écrit, qui seul suffiroit à l'éloge de votre cœur et de votre esprit, provoque des réponses justes et précises de la part des personnes qui s'occupent de la matière que vous traitez. Permettez-vous, Monsieur, que ses réponses soient publiées par la voie de mon journal ? Trouverez-vous bon qu'il s'ouvre entre vous et moi une correspondance suivie à ce sujet ? Il me semble que de telles communications peuvent conduire à des résultats éminemment utiles à l'humanité ; et l'accord de la

in the cause of this useful science have already greatly contributed to its progress. I am therefore disposed to believe that you will receive with pleasure the three first sheets of a periodical work which I now do myself the honour of sending to you, and which I publish upon this subject under the auspices of the French Government. This work is especially intended to represent the real condition of this country, in every thing connected with *statistics*. In this respect, Sir, I do not think it undeserving of some attention ; and my most ardent desire is, that you should form a favourable opinion of it.

I have inserted in the last number your Essay on Longevity, of which you sent copies to the Minister of the Interior. This production, which alone would justify the highest opinion both of your head and heart, has called forth candid and distinct answers from the persons acquainted with the matter of which you treat. Will you permit me, Sir, to publish these answers through the medium of my Journal ? Will it be agreeable to you, that you and I should open a correspondence upon this subject ? It appears to me that such communications would conduct to results eminently useful to mankind ; and the union of philanthropy and patriotism ought always to form the honourable distinction of generous and liberal minds.

I take this opportunity of inclosing a letter written by the Minister, in answer to yours of the 24th of May. I also add some copies of your work, drawn up separately by order of the Minister, and circulated through every department of the republic. I am sincerely rejoiced at having it thus in my power to prove to you the esteem and veneration with which you have inspired my countrymen ; and for myself in particular, I beg you will believe how deeply I am impressed with these sentiments.

L. J. S. BALLOIS.

philantropie et du patriotisme doit faire toujours l'honorable distinction des ames genereuses et liberales.

Je vous remets ci-joint, Monsieur, une lettre que vous écrit le Ministre, en réponse à la vôtre du 24 *Mai*. J'ajoute à cet envoi quelques exemplaires de votre ouvrage tiré séparément par ordre du Ministre, et répandu dans tous les departmens de la république. Je me felicite bien sincerement de l'heureuse occasion que j'ai rencontrée de vous offrir quelque preuve de l'estime et de la veneration que vous inspirez à mes compatriotes, et à moi en particulier, Monsieur, je vous supplie d'en être persuadé.

L. J. P. BALLOIS.

No. VII.

Sir John Sinclair's Letter to Mr Ballois, dated 31st January 1803.

To Monsieur L. J. P. Ballois, Redacteur des Annales de Statistique, Membre de l'Academie de Legislation, Quai de Horloge de Palais, No. 42, à Paris.

SIR,

During the course of last summer and autumn, my time was entirely dedicated to the carrying on a variety of agricultural improvements on my estates, which are situated in the most northern county or district in Scotland, within sight even of the Orkney Islands: But having now returned to this metropolis, with the view of again directing my attention to public business, and to literary pursuits, I take the earliest opportunity in my power, of acknowledging the receipt of your obliging letters of the 7th Messidor, and 7th Fructidor, and also the other communications with which you have favoured me.

After the very flattering reception which my works have met with in France, it is impossible for me not to embrace the first opportunity that lies in my power of visiting that country, and of thanking in person, not only such distinguished literary characters, as have honoured me with their good wishes, but also that respectable statesman who, with an unexampled spirit of liberality, has, in his official situation, as a Minister of the Interior, had the goodness to place my political inquiries under his immediate protection. Indeed, a visit to France is indispensably necessary for my pursuits; for if Germany may be called *the literary stomach or digestive organ*, France and England may be justly accounted *the two scientific breasts*, of Europe.

In these two countries, almost the whole knowledge of the world is centered. Hence it is impossible to be thoroughly master of any subject, without being well acquainted with all the information which each can furnish, comparing the results together, and discussing each topic with the many intelligent men they respectively produce.

The particular subjects of inquiry, which I shall have in view in the excursion I hope it will be in my power to take to your great metropolis, are four, namely, *Agriculture*, *Finance*, *Statistics*, and *Longevity*.

1. *Agriculture*.—I consider agriculture, to so great a degree, the true basis of political society, that it is a duty incumbent on every government to place it on the most respectable footing, and to ascertain the true means of rendering it as perfect as possible. Without food, even a single individual cannot long exist. How is it possible then, for great communities, which are composed of multitudes of individuals, to prosper, unless that *sine qua non*, or essential requisite, can be procured in quantities sufficient to supply every necessary demand? How fortunate were it, if the great rivalship between France and England, in future, were to be, which of them should best cultivate the soil, and feed a numerous and happy body of people, with abundance of wholesome articles.

2. *Finance*.—Both the *power* and the *happiness* of every nation must, in a great measure, depend on the system of finance it has established. Its *power* must arise, from the quantum of treasure brought into its exchequer, either for carrying on war, or promoting the improvements of peace; and its *happiness* must depend on the public treasury, not being replenished or enriched by oppressive and vexatious taxes, which have occasioned more revolutions than almost any other circumstance that can be mentioned. With the view of laying the foundation for understanding that important subject, I wrote the History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire, tracing our financial system from the remotest antiquity to the present era; a translation of which, I understand, is printing in the French language, accompanied with eulogiums, which I am afraid the work itself will not be found to merit. I wish now, however, in addition to that history, to give a general view of all the sources of public revenue, and have already collected a great mass of materials for that important undertaking. I subjoin a table of the contents; and I already anticipate the advantage I shall derive, from discussing the topics therein mentioned, with the many intelligent men whom France possesses, in that, as well as in every other department of science.

3. *Statistics*.—What shall I say regarding this favourite topic, which embraces every object of real utility to man as a social being,

and the basis of which is, the same minute inquiries regarding *politics*, that has already been found so useful with respect to *experimental philosophy*. I hope, in the course of next year, to complete my General Analysis of the Statistical Survey of Scotland; but I cannot think of engaging in that work, without being previously enlightened, with the various new views, in which this subject will be considered by the friends of statistical philosophy in France. How much must not that valuable science be improved, by the interesting work of which you are the founder? In the numbers already printed, I have found a variety of most useful suggestions. I trust, therefore, that so important an undertaking will be carried on with the same zeal and talents, by which it has hitherto been distinguished.

4. *Longevity*.—When I consider the advantage which mankind may possibly derive, from the general inquiry, I have been the fortunate means of instituting, regarding longevity and the preservation of health; I trust that it will not be reckoned presumptuous in me, to exclaim with a celebrated orator of antiquity, (Cicero de Senec. cap. 23), “*Neque me vixisse pœnitet; quoniam ita vixi, ut non frustra me natum existimem.*” In fact, what is existence without the possession of health? Is it not therefore a most essential inquiry, to ascertain the means of preserving it; and is not longevity desirable, when it is accompanied with good health, with the view of enabling us to do more good, and to be more useful to our fellow-creatures? I am happy to find, that my inquiries regarding that subject, are likely to be universally acceptable. It is the more fortunate, as I hope thus to be enabled, to point out the manner, in which any inquiry may be brought to a state of perfection, which otherwise must be unattainable.

My system for that purpose I shall briefly endeavour to explain.

1. I think it necessary to collect, *from all countries*, the knowledge and information which already exists in each, and to have the whole printed, circulated and discussed.

2. When that knowledge is once collected, it seems to me equally essential, to have it regularly digested, condensed, and systematized, by the ablest men in the different countries, who have applied their attention to any particular subject; and,

3. After such systems are drawn up, it will easily be seen, what particulars still remain deficient. When once these are pointed out, the energy of man is such, more especially in these enlightened times, that with very moderate public encouragement, every deficiency will be speedily cleared up, and every doubtful particular ascertained.

Were the Governments of Europe to unite in carrying some such plan into effect, all the useful arts, as agriculture, medicine, mecha-

nics, mineralogy, chemistry, &c. might be speedily brought to a degree of perfection, which cannot otherwise be looked for.

Such are my views in wishing to visit the metropolis of the French empire. Not to enjoy the pleasures of a luxurious capital, but to taste the sweets of literary conversation and scientific intercourse:—To regale, not the senses, but the mind:—To bend, not at the shrine of voluptuousness, but of learning. The various avocations in which I am engaged, will not permit me to spend much time at Paris, however agreeable it may prove; but I trust that my residence there, will be among the most useful, and most important periods of my life. I have the honour to be, &c.

No. VIII.

RÉPONSE DE M. BALLOIS, A M. SINCLAIR, PARIS, LE 20. VENTOSE,
AN. 11 DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE, (11. Mar. 1803.)

Monsieur le Chevalier *,

Je reçois aujourd'hui seulement la lettre que vous en avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 31. Janvier. Moins je devais m'attendre à la

* Translation.

SIR,

Paris, 11th March 1803.

I received only to-day the letter which you did me the honour to write me on the 31st of January. The less I had any right to anticipate the friendship you express for me, the more I was gratified by it. Nevertheless it is my duty to seek to deserve it, and I beg you will believe, that all my efforts will be directed towards the strengthening of our growing intimacy.

I am sincerely glad to hear of your approaching visit to France, and I agree with you in thinking, that it will greatly contribute to the perfecting of the four principal sources of public prosperity, viz. Agriculture, Finance, Statistics, and Longevity.

How worthy of you, Sir, is the aim of your intended journey. You offer to all civilized nations a great and a sublime example; too rare, it is true, but so that very account more admirable, and more deserving of universal praise.

At a time when a general peace renews all the ancient intercourse between the members of the great European family, the aid of *statistics* ought to be called in to correct our ideas of political and commercial relations, of finance, and the respective powers of different nations; in one word, of their manners, laws and customs. The period of calm, useless to the warrior, the philosopher-statesman employs in the pursuit of science, and the farther extension of its territory of positive knowledge.

Come then, Sir, as quickly as possible, into the bosom of a nation, too

confiance que vous voulez bien me témoigner, et plus j'y suis sensible, il est maintenant de mon devoir de la justifier ; et je vous prie

lightened, too just in its appreciation of talent and virtue, not to render to qualities so distinguished as yours, that tribute of respect to which you have so many claims.

Your great reputation has reached France before you ; and if I mistake not, many occasions of satisfaction await you in consequence. Not those of luxury, or vanity : Your personal character, the nature of your tastes, and of your labours, raise you infinitely above that weakness, the puerile appendage of ordinary minds. But, Sir, to enjoy in its fullest extent, the esteem and regard of one of the most powerful Governments in the world ; to receive proofs of affection from a people, who, left to their natural inclination, know and respect the sacred laws of hospitality, as well as the performance of its duties ; to taste the advantages of an habitual intercourse with the sages and philanthropists whom Europe most cherishes and reveres ; this prospect, so fair, so captivating, so well adapted to flatter a great mind, ought, I should think, finally to fix your resolution.

I am about to have the letter printed, in which you desire that I should make public your intention. I am sure that our principal journalists will be glad to give it a place in their pages ; and, for my own part, I shall do all in my power to have your wishes in this respect amply fulfilled.

As soon as the letter and the intelligence are printed, I shall immediately send some copies to you, Sir, under cover to General Andreossy.

In the meantime I have the honour to transmit to you, by this opportunity, a copy of the 10th number of the *Annals*, in which I have taken the earliest opportunity to announce your intended journey. (See the 1st sec. of p. 322.)

I add to this communication a letter which I have been desired to write to you, in my capacity of Secretary to the Statistical Society of Paris. This Society, Sir, begs your acceptance of the title of its *Associated Correspondent*, which it has sincere pleasure in conferring upon you, as more deserving of the name than any other man in England.

I shall have much pleasure in receiving from you a special answer upon this subject ; and the respectable Society to which I belong will feel infinitely honoured by your acceptance.

Lastly, Sir, you will receive in the same packet, a small treatise which a lady here has lately published. She has imagined, with good reason, that her work would acquire some interest by being presented to the public as a sequel to your *Questions on Longevity*. I leave you to form your own opinion of her little work.

You ask me, Sir, what part of Paris is the most healthy, and best adapted for frequent communication with literary people. Undoubtedly the Fauxbourg St Germain possesses this double advantage before every other part of this great city. I have consulted many persons, and especially physicians ; and find that all the world agrees with me on this point.

I have only farther to request of you, Sir, to consider me as entirely at your disposal, whether before or after your arrival in Paris. I most cordially offer you every service in my power. You have only to tell me your wishes. I

de croire, que tous mes efforts tendront à fortifier, de plus en plus, la liaison qui commence à s'établir entre nous.

La nouvelle que vous m'annoncez, de votre prochaine arrivée en France, me comble d'une joie sincère ; et comme vous, je pense, qu'elle contribuera puissamment, au perfectionnement de ces quatre sources principales de toute prospérité publique, *l'Agriculture*, les *Finances*, la *Statistique*, et la *Longévité*.

Combien le but du voyage, que vous allez entreprendre, est digne de vous, Monsieur ! Vous offrez aux nations civilisées, un grand et sublime exemple,—trop rare, il est vrai, mais par cela même plus admirable, et plus propre à vous mériter la reconnaissance universelle.

A l'époque où la paix générale rétablit toutes les communications entre les membres de la grande famille Européenne, la *Statistique* doit servir à rectifier nos idées, sur les rapports politiques et commerciaux, sur les finances, et les forces respectives des divers peuples ; en un mot, sur leurs mœurs, leurs lois, et leurs habitudes. Les momens de calme, perdus pour le guerrier, le philosophe cosmopolite les conquiert au profit de la science ; et s'en sert pour aggrandir le domain des connaissances positive.

Venez donc, Monsieur le Chevalier, hâtez-vous d'arriver au sein d'un nation trop éclairée, trop juste appréciatrice des talens et des vertus, pour ne rendre pas, aux éminentes qualités qui vous distinguent, le tribut d'hommage que leur est dû à tant de titres.

Une grande renommée vous précède en France ; et si je ne me trompe, les plus douces jouissances vous y sont réservées. Non pas celles du luxe et de la vanité ; votre caractère personnel, le genre de vos goûts, et de vos travaux, vos mettent à l'abri de cette faiblesse ; puerile appanage des hommes ordinaires. Mais, Monsieur, jouir, dans toute leur étendue, de l'estime et de la considération, d'un des plus puissans gouvernemens du monde ; recueillir des témoignages de l'affection d'un peuple, qui, rendu à son penchant naturel, connaît et respecte les droits sacrés de l'hospitalité, comme il sait en exercer les devoirs ; goûter les avantages d'un commerce habituel avec des

shall only be too happy if you will condescend to enable me to prove to you how much I desire to be useful to you, and how truly I am devoted to your service. I have the honour to be, Sir, with every sentiment of esteem and profound respect, your very humble and obedient servant,

LOUIS BALLOIS.

P. S.—Address your letters to me simply, Quai de l'Horloge du Palais, No. 42. When you send me a larger packet, you may continue to direct to me, under cover to the Minister of the Interior.

savans, des philanthropes, que l'Europe chérit et révère : Cette perspective, si belle, si riante, si bienfaite pour flatter un grand cœur, doit encore, ce me semble, fixer entièrement votre résolution.

Je vais faire connaître, par l'impression, la lettre à laquelle vous desirez que je donne de la publicité. Je suis persuadé, que nos principaux journalistes l'empresseront de la reproduire dans leurs feuilles ; et, de mon côté, je ne négligerai rien, pour que vos intentions à cet égard soient bien fidèlement remplies.

Dès que la lettre et le tableau seront imprimés, je m'empresserai, Monsieur, de vous en adresser quelques copies sous couvert du General *Andreossy*.

En attendant, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire remettre par cette voie, un exemplaire du 10. No. des *Annales*, dans lequel je me hâte d'annoncer votre voyage (v. le *P. S.* de la page 322.)

J'ajoute à cet envoi, une lettre que j'ai été chargé de vous écrire, en ma qualité de Secrétaire de la *Société de Statistique de Paris*. Cette campagne vous prie, Monsieur, d'agréer le titre d'*Associe-Correspondant*, qu'elle s'est fait un vrai plaisir de vous deferer, comme à l'homme de l'Angleterre qui le meritoit le mieux.

J'aurai beaucoup de plaisir à recevoir de vous une réponse speciale à ce sujet ; et la société respectable, à laquelle j'appartiens, se trouvera infiniment honorée de votre acceptation.

En fin, Monsieur, vous recevrez dans le même paquet, une petite brochure qu'une dame vient de publier ici. Elle a cru, avec raison, pouvoir inspirer quelqu' intérêt en faveur de son ouvrage, en le présentant au public comme suite à vos *questions sur la Longévité*. Il vous appartient donc de juger cet opuscule.

Vous me demandez, Monsieur, quel est le quartier de *Paris* et le plus sain, et le plus favorable à la communication fréquente avec les gens de lettres ? Nul doute que le *Fauxbourg St Germain* ne vous presente ce double avantage, preferablement à toutes les autres parties de cette grande cité. J'ai consulté plusieurs personnes, et notamment des médecins : j'ai trouvé toute le monde d'accord avec moi sur ce point.

Il me reste à vous prier, Monsieur, de disposer de moi avec une entière liberté, soit avant soit après votre arrivée à *Paris*. Je vous offre de bien bon cœur, tous les services qu'il est en mon pouvoir de vous rendre. Vous n'avez qu'à parler. Je serai trop heureux, si vous daignez me fournir l'occasion de vous prouver, dans toutes les circonstances, combien je desire vous être agréable, et combien je vous suis dévoué.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

No. IX.

M. DE CORDIER, TRANSLATOR OF THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
INTO FRENCH.

April 1825.

MONSIEUR *,

Je trouve à la traduction de votre excellent ouvrage un attrait toujours croissant, du à l'importance des matières et aux talens de l'auteur, qui jouit d'une réputation Européenne, si justement acquise. Veuillez m'envoyer la suite, afin que l'impression en France suive de près celle en Ecosse. J'ose vous assurer que votre livre aura un grand succès dans ce pays, où l'on s'occupe de plus en plus des différens sujets que vous traitez avec tant d'habilité.

Je lis avec le plus vif intérêt les transactions de la Société d'Ecosse que vous avez daigné m'envoyer, et qui renferment des traités complets sur les matières les plus importantes.

Je m'estimerai heureux si je puis cette année revoir votre belle Ecosse, dont les annales se lient à celles de la France, et à l'histoire de toutes les découvertes, et visiter l'un des savans qui honorent le plus son pays et l'humanité, et qui je suis le plus empressé de connoître.

Veillez agréer l'hommage de la haute considération et des sentimens de reconnaissance et de dévouement avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

J. CORDIER.

* Translation.

SIR,

I find, in translating your excellent work, a constantly increasing attraction, both from the importance of its contents, and from the talents of its author, whose justly acquired reputation is spread all over Europe.

Pray send me the continuation, so that the French copy may be published soon after the Scotch one.

I may venture to assure you, that your book will have a great run in a country like this, where the subjects which you treat with so much ability are more and more attended to.

I read with the greatest interest the transactions of the Society in Scotland you were so good as to send me, and which contain the most complete information upon the most important subjects.

It would give me great pleasure to pay a visit to your delightful country, the annals of which are connected with those of France, and with the history of all discoveries, and to visit one of the literary characters who does most honour to his country, and to humanity, and with whom I feel the greatest desire to be acquainted. I remain, with the greatest respect and gratitude, Sir, your obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) J. CORDIER.

No. X.

THE CHEVALIER MASCLETT, CONSUL-GENERAL FROM FRANCE AT
EDINBURGH, REGARDING A NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOT-
LAND, &c. &c.

DEAR SIR,

Nil actum reputans, si quid superesset agendum,
is an admirable verse of Lucan, quite characteristic both of Cæsar and Bonaparte. How is it possible, that Sir Walter Scott should not have added that verse to the motto on the title page of his life of Bonaparte?

The *nil actum reputans* may be applied to you; and your maxim, “never to give up any thing you had once undertaken, while there is any chance of success,” explains how you have successfully achieved so many arduous undertakings. I wish you were ten years younger, and would make a new Statistical Survey of Scotland. Who could ever attempt it but you?

*Additional Extracts from the Chevalier Masclett's Correspondence
on the new Improvements of Edinburgh.*

I have read with great pleasure the letter you wrote, as Convener of the subscribers to the guarantee fund, which has been published in all the Edinburgh papers; and I do heartily congratulate you on the ultimate success of the bill for promoting the improvements of that city. You had a great share in that success, and in overcoming the difficulties, which, for a time, threatened to obstruct the very first progress of that great measure. Your northern metropolis, already so admired by all strangers, and by none so much as by my countrymen, will truly become “Queen of the Cities.” I do most feelingly regret, that I am not likely to see it in all its beauty, as I am to leave Scotland, most probably for ever, in the latter end of next August.

On the Character of the Scotch Nation.

I intend to go and take my station at the entrance of St Andrew's Street, next Wednesday, to see the fine display of your gorgeous and truly patriotic procession. I deeply regret that I cannot join in it, and still more, that I am forbidden to be one of the convivial meeting. I could not possibly have closed better my fourth year of residence in this fine town, and interesting country. If I had been present, I am

sure I could never have resisted the temptation, with the Lord Provost's leave, of proposing as a toast, "Success to the Improvements of Edinburgh," as it would have afforded me an opportunity of expressing the great regard I entertain "for this land of sound sense and active industry, of true morality, and genuine patriotism, and furnishing the best models I can ever propose to the imitation of my countrymen*."

No. XI.

M. PANCHAUD.

He was born in London, where he resided for some time, as a banker. When he settled in Paris, being considered one of the ablest men in questions of finance, he was employed to give his opinion in writing, upon all matters connected with the Treasury department. He was much liked, being uncommonly lively in conversation, and well informed. He was also very hospitable, particularly to the English; but unfortunately he had too great a turn for stock-jobbing, by which he was twice ruined. Mirabeau had the highest opinion of him, and in consequence of his recommendation, he was uncommonly attentive to me. His notes were drawn up in the most friendly terms. "Health and happiness to Mr Sinclair." "Best wishes from Mr Panchaud and his family," &c.

One morning he called upon me, and seeing no symptom of surprise or curiosity in my countenance, he said "Have you not heard the great news?" Upon asking him what it was? he replied, "The news is, that Monsieur de Calonne has this morning issued an edict for assembling *The Notables of France*." Upon my inquiring "who they were?" he replied, "We can have a Legislature, or Parliament, in France as well as yours in England. There is only this difference

* The French seem to take a peculiar pleasure in praising Scotland and its inhabitants. An eminent author of that country, (Charles Dupin), energetically describes, as a picture calculated to excite the admiration of all men, the spectacle he saw in Scotland, of a people naturally possessed but of few territorial resources, and living in a bleak and unpropitious climate, employing their activity, their constancy, and their genius, in triumphing over a sterile soil, directing their attention to the riches of the mind, as well as to more common acquirements, and making agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, instruction, morality and liberty, flourish together. *Elemens d'Economie Politique*, 1 vol. 8vo, an. 1817, p. 368.

between the two, that in England they are elected by the people, whereas in France they are nominated by the King and his Ministers." I remarked, "that the difference seemed to me very important; and that though the Crown did nominate the members, it might prove a very troublesome body. That in England, with all the experience we had had of such assemblies, it was found very troublesome to manage them, and the same difficulty might occur in France." He would not listen, however, with patience to such reasoning, but exclaimed, *Assurez-vous, mon ami, que M. de Calonne, de ce moment, est maitre de royaume.* At first every thing went on prosperously. The minister had soon afterwards a levee, which was attended by about 500 carriages, and he really seemed to be master of the kingdom. But, in a course of a few weeks, he was obliged to fly from France, by the proceedings of that very body, whom he had himself created, and by whose means he hoped to have had his power permanently established.

It was assembling "*The Notables*" that laid the foundation of the French Revolution, and all the extraordinary events which have resulted from it. Calonne's object was, to raise money, to pay those debts which the expenses of the war, to establish the independence of America, had occasioned. Dearly has the House of Bourbon paid for that impolitic interference.

No. XII.

ORIGIN OF THE ARMED NEUTRALITY.

The history of the armed neutrality proves, by what artifices sovereigns are deceived by their ministers, and how difficult it is for them, however able, to avoid falling into the snares to which their situation exposes them. The Empress Catherine, there is every reason to believe, was more inclined to favour the interests of Great Britain than those of France, and yet was prevailed upon, contrary to her own wishes, to act a different part. The history of this famous league is briefly as follows:

During the American war, the French found that, from our fortunate situation, we could intercept the naval stores coming to them from the Baltic, under their own flag. A plan of obtaining those stores in neutral bottoms, was therefore sketched out, in Mr Necker's house, *anno* 1777. It was afterwards sent to a French house at Am-

sterdam, to be considered there ; thence, to Hamburgh, and afterwards to Stockholm, where it was highly approved of. The King of Sweden, *anno* 1778, in vain endeavoured to get the Empress to approve of the system.

But what this sovereign would not directly give her assent to, her ministers were determined indirectly to extort from her : and the plan they pursued for that purpose was a very subtile one.

They contrived that a ship, loaded with naval stores, under Russian colours, should be captured by the Spaniards ; and care was taken, that the crew should be very ill used, so as to attract more the attention of the Empress, and to engage her more warily in the cause.

The Empress, by the representations, or rather misrepresentations of her ministers, was nettled to the quick, and declared, that she would lay down some rules to the Spaniards in those matters. “ Your majesty had better form a general system, to be observed in future by every nation,” said the artful Bachunin ; and finding the opportunity favourable, produced a plan, almost similar to the one she had formerly rejected. She rashly gave her assent to it. Potemkin told her his mind so freely upon the occasion, that she actually shed tears ; but the matter had gone too far to be retracted.

Our minister at Petersburgh, (Sir James Harris,) could hardly credit it. He knew the partiality which the Empress entertained for England. He had every reason to believe, that her prime minister, Prince Potemkin, was firmly in the English interest ; and in order to secure him, he had given 100,000 rubles (about L.20,000) to his favourite niece, the Countess Branitzki. In vain the English factory, who had got some information of the plot, endeavoured to warn him of it. He could not be convinced of the possibility of such a treaty, until it had been actually signed. It was greatly promoted by the treachery of a favourite of Prince Potemkin’s, a Madame Guibal, who managed to get copies taken of all the correspondence and notes, that passed between the Prince and Sir James Harris, and communicated them to the French ambassador, who carried them to Count Panin, and worked on him to go directly to the Empress, and obtain her signature to the treaty. Panin was influenced to act thus, chiefly out of pique for being passed over by Sir James, who trusted entirely to Prince Potemkin’s influence, of which he thought himself sure.

Count Panin, the then vice-chancellor, or minister for foreign affairs, was not consulted about it ; and it was entirely carried on by the means of *Besbarodko* and *Bachunin*. Madame *Davia*, an Italian, *Besbarodko*’s mistress, was certainly bribed to give the measure all the aid she could ; and *Bachunin*, it is confidently asserted, re-

ceived a sum from France, for the essential services he did in it. It is shocking to think by what means important events are brought about, in a court so devoted to debauchery and corruption.

Nor were there wanting reasons plausible enough for proposing or adopting the armed neutrality.

The glory of being at the head of such a confederacy, and of giving law to the principal maritime, as she had formerly done, at the peace of Teschen, to the Emperor and to Prussia, the two great military powers of Europe, was no small inducement.

Next, foolish expectations of a great trade in Russian bottoms, and an increase of ships, seamen, &c. But they were miserably mistaken. It tempted many Russians to fit out ships, which, owing to the unskilfulness of the sailors, were in general lost; and though before the treaty was signed, the Russian ships were hired at the rate of guilders per ton, owing to the respect that was paid to the Russian flag, yet the freight soon fell, when, after the establishment of the armed neutrality, the Danes, Swedes, Prussians, &c. came to be put upon the same footing.

There is one circumstance which makes the Russian court very fond of negotiations; and that is, the fees paid to the ministers on such occasions, in general amounting to L.10,000 for each treaty. Count Osterman, since he became vice-chancellor, has gained L.25,000 by those perquisites.

No. XIII.

PRINCE POTESKIN.

There is no individual in modern times, whose history and character it would be more interesting to have a full account of, than that of Prince Potemkin, who was elevated, from rather an inferior station, to a greater degree of power, than almost any subject, in modern times was ever possessed of, and who, after enjoying for many years, the highest possible prosperity, at last miserably perished in a ditch, finding it impossible to escape the fatal disorder with which he was afflicted, and which no mortal power could avert.

The following are the particulars which I learnt in Russia, respecting this most extraordinary character.

He was descended from a private gentleman's family in the neighbourhood of Smolensko. Was a serjeant of the guards, (which however is far from being a low station), about the time of the late

revolution, and was very instrumental in placing the Empress upon the throne. He is a remarkably tall man, about six feet two, and not unpleasing in his appearance, though he has a defect in one of his eyes. He gives one some idea of the famous Mithridates, or of the Maximins and Diocletians of the Roman empire, who partly owed their rise to the bulk and manliness of their appearance. His power in Russia, at one time resembled that of a Grand Vizier in Turkey, not being confined to one particular department, but extending over all. But of late, he has found it necessary to agree to a partition. Besbarodko and his party have the entire direction of foreign affairs, and the government of old Russia. He has stipulated for himself an unlimited power of drawing on the treasury, the command of all the new acquisitions, together with the interior direction of the palace, the nomination of the Empress's personal favourites, &c. He is the only man that the Empress stands in awe of, and she both likes and fears him. He has taken every means of security he can devise, ingratiating himself with the guards, placing his relations and friends in high employments, and obtaining an independent command in the Crimea, and the neighbouring provinces, with the fleet in the Black Sea, and an army of 90,000 men.

He is certainly one of the ablest men in Russia, though better calculated for the intrigues of a court, than for conducting a war. He has a great fund of general information, and is very desirous of adding to it. He *can* apply closely, when it is necessary; but loves to enjoy an indolent life of dissipation as much as any man.

He is very affable to the foreign ministers, and to all strangers of distinction who come to Petersburg. But to the Russians he behaves with inconceivable *hauteur*, and treats them, with a few exceptions, little better than dogs. The family he principally associates with, is that of the Grand Ecuyer, Alexander Nariskin, father of the Countess Sulluhub, one of the greatest beauties about court.

It was always supposed that he was attached to the English interest, and was convinced that an alliance between England and Russia would prove of essential advantage to both countries. Sir James Harris and he were on very intimate terms. But he seems to prefer Count Segur the French, to Mr Fitzherbert, the English minister, and thence it is conjectured, is beginning to change his political sentiments in favour of the French*. At Berlin, they suppose him inclined to Prussia; but erroneously, the Emperor having gained him, by creating him a Prince of the empire, and, it is said, by gratifications of other kinds.

* Segur's Memoirs explain the arts by which that was effected.

His great object is the plans against Turkey. As he proposes to command the army himself, (which he thinks must be victorious), there is no saying what so daring and ambitious a character may have in view. To be a Knight of the order of St George, the principal one in Russia, which, by the rules of the order, can only be conferred upon those who command an army, or a fleet, victorious in some great engagement, is certainly one object. Perhaps he imagines, if he were successful as commander-in-chief, that he might gain over the troops he conquered with, and erect a new empire on the destruction of the Turkish.

It is imagined, that he once intended to be Duke of Courland; and the present Duke is so much afraid of him, that he never trusts himself in Russia, and is as seldom as possible in his own dominions. He would hardly at present condescend to be Hospodar of Moldavia, though a plan he formerly had in view. It is said, that he has some hopes of the crown of Poland, in contradiction to the laws, by which all foreigners are excluded. He has undoubtedly amassed much wealth, for some purpose or another; and is said to have placed some part of it in the English funds. The Empress has bestowed great estates on him in the late acquisitions in Poland, where he would probably retire, in the event of a change of sovereigns, if he has not previously secured some independent establishment.

He sometimes neglects the Empress, and they have many little quarrels and disputes together. But, on the whole, he is so very able and necessary a servant, his power is so well fixed, and it is of such essential service, in so despotic a government, to have a minister, whose character and spirit impresses all ranks of people with terror and awe, that, during the present reign he must ever be a man of the first consequence in Russia.

He is covered with stars and ribbons, not only Russian but foreign. It is said he is particularly ambitious to be named a *Knight of the Garter*, which he considers the most honourable in Europe, and would sacrifice much to obtain it.

Of the English ministers and statesmen, he is most attached to *Fox*, who, hearing that Mr Pole Carew had a picture of one Potemkin, who, above a century ago, had been ambassador from Russia to England, he purchased it for 100 guineas, and sent it to the Prince, with a handsome complimentary letter. It is hung up in a very conspicuous place in his palace; and many of his friends, to indulge his vanity, and as a proof of their attachment to the house of Potemkin, have taken copies of it.

On the whole, with great abilities, he is a worthless and dangerous character, and will stand at nothing to procure any object he may

have in view. He has no fixed principle but interest, capricious in his temper, and miserable from the ease with which all his wishes are gratified. His enemies whisper a thousand stories to his disadvantage; that he poisoned Landskoi,—gave a fatal potion to Prince Orloff, which occasioned his going mad, &c. &c.

He has three nephews: Michael Potemkin, who is commissary-general; Paul Potemkin, commander-in-chief at Mount Caucasus; and General Samoylow, who commands at Cherson.

His nieces are, the Countess Branitzki, married to the grand general of Poland; Princess Galitzin, married in Russia; the Countess Shaveronski; and Mademoiselle Englehart, who is to be married to his nephew, Paul Potemkin. Count Shaveronski is the Russian minister at Naples. The Countess lives with her uncle, and is reckoned the handsomest woman in Petersburg.

No. XIV.

ADDITION TO THE DANISH CORRESPONDENCE.

1.—*Letter from C. Anker, Esq. to Sir John Sinclair, introducing two Danish Noblemen who wished to study Agriculture in England and in Scotland.*

Copenhagen, 8th April 1806.

DEAR SIR,

At the request of their excellencies Count Schimmelman and Count Reventlow, our Ministers of State, I furnish some letters of recommendation for two young gentlemen, a nephew of the first mentioned, and a son of the latter, both setting out for England and Scotland, with the intention of making about a twelvemonth's stay in these beautiful countries.

To whom could I venture, with more propriety, to introduce them, than to your good self? Convinced as I am, that you will receive them with kindness, and offer them your best advice. I beg leave to say, that they stand in need of both, particularly as this is their first excursion, and they are still young and inexperienced. Agriculture, and the improvements which you have made of late in that very first of studies, is their chief, if not their only object. They wish to board for some time with a farmer of note, and to share, as much as may be practicable, both his actual labour and his superintending cares. There is nothing with which they are not anxious to be acquainted, in practice as well as theory. Their parents are decidedly above preju-

dice; and they consider it to be among the highest privileges of nobility, to be entitled to take an active part, in benefiting their native country, by improving the culture, and increasing the produce of its soil*.

Your guidance, Dear Sir, will be highly acceptable, whether they are to look for Yorkshire or Scotland in the view of choosing their intended temporary abode.

I will take it as a particular favour, if you would render their stay useful to them by your judicious advice.

The names of these two Counts are Conrad Reventlow and Detlef Reventlow.

How much do I not regret, that I have it not in my power to introduce them in person, that I might better express my sentiments of friendship and obligation towards yourself, for all your attentions to me, when I was in London.

My only recourse is, that of assuring you, that I ever remain, with distinguished consideration and esteem, my Dear Sir, your faithful humble servant and sincere friend,

C. ANKER.

I believe they wish very much to be introduced to Mr Arthur Young. Would you render them this service, you will oblige me.

2.—*Letter from Count Detlef Reventlow, regarding his stay in Scotland.*

Edinburgh, 10th September 1807.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

Give me leave in my cousin's, and my own name, to send you our sincerest thanks for all the kindness and friendship you have been so good to show us, during our stay in your dear country. It will be with the greatest satisfaction we will remember the happy days we spent among your countrymen, and to which you contributed so great a share. The cocoas † you favoured us with, shall certainly be kept as a dear remembrance of our acquaintances made in your country, and particularly, of the happy days we spent in your dear company, in your family circle in Charlotte Square. I hope future events will give the opportunity to shew our readiness to be useful to you, or any part of your family, or your friends; and having some of your friends, who should like to visit our countries, you may rely upon us, that they will find the same reception in our circles, yourselves have so great a claim to. We would have given us to-day the pleasure to have paid you our respects, and to have said our thanks

* What an excellent idea, J. S.

† This alludes to a couple of cocoa nuts presented to the Counts Reventlow, to be used as drinking cups, when they arrived in Denmark, and preserved in their families as a memorial of their visit to Scotland.

for all enjoyed goodness, but were sorry not to have the satisfaction to find you at home. Give us leave to return three of the letters you favoured us with, we found not the opportunity to deliver; and believe us all, with the most respectful sentiments, always sincerely yours. With my particular remembrance to Lady Sinclair and family, truly yours,

DETLEF REVENTLOW.

No. XV.

PLAN FOR PUBLISHING "DIGESTS," OR "CODES," OF FOUR OF THE MOST INTERESTING BRANCHES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, 1. AGRICULTURE,—2. HEALTH,—3. POLITICAL ECONOMY,—AND, 4. RELIGION.

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

Maxim in Literature.—Knowledge, previous to its being brought into a condensed state, may be compared to a small portion of gold, dispersed throughout a great quantity of ore. In that rude condition, the strongest man cannot sustain its weight, nor convey it to a distance. But when the pure metal is separated from the dross, even a child may carry it without difficulty.

Explanation of the Nature and Advantages of "The Codean System of Literature," or the Plan by which extensive inquiries are made the Basis of Condensed Information.

In the present state of literature, the acquisition of useful knowledge is attended with considerable difficulty. Persons who feel an anxiety to be *well informed*, are under the necessity of having recourse to an immense number of volumes, which many have neither ability to purchase, nor time to peruse,—obstacles which, in the course of a long life, they are never able to surmount. Hence, they must either give up the attempt, or rest contented with a superficial knowledge of subjects, which, had they possessed the means, they would have endeavoured thoroughly to investigate.

In order to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, Encyclopædias have been invented, and they certainly possess several advantages. As a mode of concentrating human knowledge, and of giving useful information regarding all the departments of learning, they are useful, even in the most extensive libraries. In smaller collections, they occupy the most prominent station; while to persons who settle in remote parts of the country, and still more, to those who emigrate to

distant colonies, they are the only possible substitute for a number of other books*.

Encyclopædias, at the same time, are liable to several objections. 1. Their bulk is great, and the expense of purchasing them exceeds, in many cases, the means of those who are anxious for improvement;—2. They always contain a number of articles, respecting which many readers can feel no interest;—and, 3. There is no mode, by which an account of new discoveries can be introduced into them, but by the troublesome and expensive one of supplements. Besides, in Encyclopædias, every department of knowledge is classed under a variety of heads; and as the whole is arranged in alphabetical order, a number of volumes must be consulted, before the information wished for regarding any one branch, can be obtained. Moreover they seldom contain references to other works, either acknowledging the assistance they have furnished, or pointing out where farther particulars may be obtained. This is a most material defect.

Let us now compare the Encyclopædic with “*The Codean System of Knowledge*,” by which the most important branches of knowledge are discussed in separate codes or volumes. When any subject is selected, such as *agriculture* for example, a regular system of discussion, comprehending every point that requires to be treated of, is first laid down. All the most valuable works in this department are next consulted, and referred to, that the reader may be enabled to examine them, if he should be so inclined. As each subdivision is drawn up, it is printed, and the proof sheets are transmitted to those who are most conversant in the inquiry, whether at home or abroad, for the benefit of their remarks and corrections, in regard either to matter or arrangement;—a useful practice, highly approved of by Dr Johnson, who happily describes it, “as clarifying one’s own notions, by filtering them through other minds †.” After undergoing this careful revision, the work is published, condensed into as small a space as possible, sold at a moderate price ‡, and accompanied by two useful appendages, a copious Index §, and a Table of Authorities.

* It is remarked, with too much severity, in a French work on statistics, “Que l’esprit d’Encyclopedisme, est nuisible aux progres des sciences; il en étend la surface, aux depens de la profondeur.”—(*Statistique de la France, Discours Preliminaire*, vol. i. p. 28). But in many cases, no general knowledge can be obtained, at a distance from cities, without their aid. Of late, also, the plan of Encyclopædias has been greatly enlarged and improved.

† The celebrated Rochefoucault was so accurate in the composition of his little book of *Maxims*, that he used to send each maxim as he finished it, to his friends, for their opinion upon it. Segrais asserts, that some of his maxims were altered thirty times.

‡ The price of each volume, it is proposed, shall not exceed a sovereign.

§ In the prospectus of the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, I

Nor is this all. To complete the plan it is proposed, that the work in this manner prepared, shall be translated into several foreign languages;—rewards given to those who shall furnish the best remarks upon it;—and when thus brought to the highest state of perfection, that it shall be republished in this country, and if required, retranslated for the benefit of other nations. Of these important means of improvement, Encyclopædias are not susceptible.

It is evident, by this plan, a more perfect system can be obtained, in the means of communicating different branches of knowledge, than by any other that has hitherto been suggested. Indeed, by the aid of translations, the labour of the ablest men in Europe might be combined, in perfecting the same work. Every individual would thus be enabled, to obtain ample information respecting the particular subject to which his attention was directed; and when any branch has experienced great improvements, the work in which it is explained might be reprinted, without interfering with the other volumes included in the general system.

The term “Code,” has been objected to, on account of the official authority, which, to some persons, it appears to imply. But the meaning here intended to be attached to the word, is merely that of *Digest* or *Compendium*. Of such digests, Sir John Sinclair has already published two,—a *Code of Health*, and a *Code of Agriculture*; and he has printed and circulated specimens, which have been well received. Of the two Codes which still remain unfinished, those of *Political Economy* and of *Religion*. He now begs leave to submit to the consideration of the reader, the opinions of several respectable persons, regarding the manner in which this great undertaking has been executed, in so far as he has yet gone.

1. *Code of Agriculture.*

The reception which this work has met with is in the highest degree gratifying. It has already been translated into several of the principal languages in Europe, and reprinted in America.

In France, it was translated by Monsieur Mathieu Dombasle of Nancy in Lorraine, who is accounted the most distinguished agriculturist in France. In transmitting, as its secretary, a diploma from the Agricultural Society of Nancy to Sir John Sinclair, he mentioned, for the first time, the task he had undertaken, in the following terms: “I have been occupied for some time in translating your excellent *Code of Agriculture*. If any thing can contribute to raise agriculture in France to the rank of a science, which we could not till now pretend

see that it is proposed to append a copious index to the last volume, which is a great improvement in the plan of the work.

to do, it will certainly be the publication of this work in France, being the most systematic, the most concise, and, in my opinion, the most perfect, which has hitherto been written in any language.

In a letter from Baltimore in America, dated April 16. 1820, there is the following paragraph :

“ I beg you would permit me to express, in this manner, the obligation which, as an individual American, I feel, for the great benefits which have already resulted, and will continue to result to American husbandry, by the diffusion of your agricultural writings. ‘ Sinclair’s Code of Agriculture,’ republished here in 1818, is in very high estimation, and is reckoned the most valuable English work on that subject, and better adapted to all countries than any other.” And in another communication from a respectable American gentleman, it is stated: “ The Code of Agriculture has been published in America. It is in the hands of every intelligent agriculturist here, and has excited the greatest attention to that useful science, *never felt by us before* *.”

An eminent agriculturist in Ireland, (Edw. Burroughs, Esq.) in a letter, dated 13th May 1820, states his opinion of the work in the following terms: “ Upon the whole, I consider the ‘ Code of Agriculture ’ as the most valuable work I have ever read upon that subject; not only from the important information it contains, but from that information being given, under a judicious arrangement, and in a style suited to the most moderate understanding.”

Great exertions have been made to improve the work, by the most distinguished friends to agriculture, both in England and in Scotland.

* In a paper printed at Baltimore, in America, called “ The American Farmer,” an account is given of the most distinguished agricultural characters in Great Britain. The following remarks relate to the Author of the Code of Agriculture :

“ The North British Baronet, Sir John Sinclair, has made us rejoice in America, that we are masters of the language in which he delivered to the world his inestimable and immense collections of agricultural literature. Had his been a foreign tongue, we should not have expected to have seen a translation of them; and the vast body of simple and precious truths—truths in fact, and truths in reason—with which his extensive works are filled, would have remained, to the many in America, unknown secrets. He has taught us, by the happiest examples and the most effectual means, how to examine and how to make a perfect exposition of the agriculture of a country, from the scale of a kingdom and a province down to a county, a hundred, a tything, or a township. He has drawn, by innumerable traits, so perfect a landed picture of Great Britain, that no traveller of any nation, however familiar with the English tongue, can ever hope to obtain such a knowledge of the kingdom by his own senses. He has a title also to our gratitude, from the generous views he has frequently taken of the colossal stature and natural capacities of our landed interest.”

Mr Coke of Holkham, in particular, circulated copies of it among the most intelligent farmers in Norfolk, who were the most likely to furnish valuable information on the subject, by which the work might be rendered as complete, as our present state of knowledge extends. As a farther proof of the consideration in which it is held, several of the most eminent agricultural associations in England and Scotland, have presented the Author with public testimonies of the high value at which it is estimated by them.

2. *Code of Health.*

In the introduction to the Code of Health, (section 2,) the circumstances are explained, which led to that undertaking. About the year 1797, the author had fallen into a weak and enervated state, and had found himself unequal to the task of managing his private concerns,—of prosecuting useful inquiries,—or of applying his mind to political pursuits, with his former zeal and energy. He was thence induced to direct his attention to the subjects of health and longevity. Having succeeded in re-establishing his own health, he next ventured to give hints to those who were either in a sickly state, or much advanced in life, as to the means by which they might secure the same advantages; and the success which attended his efforts, led him at last to think of a greater and bolder attempt, that of instructing his fellow creatures in general, how they could best preserve their health, and attain a comfortable old age.

Some have objected to a Code of Health being written by one who was not bred to medicine; but the work was prepared, not with a view of giving directions for the cure of disease, but to prevent the body from becoming subject to it, and also to point out the means of strengthening the constitution, after any positive malady had, by the skill of an intelligent physician, been removed. Many of the faculty do not consider dietetics as a branch of their business, except in a very general way, and they rarely think of descending to those minute particulars, which are explained in the Code of Health. At the same time, it is well known, that many of the ablest works on health have been written by medical men, whose aid, the author of the Code of Health has, with much pleasure, acknowledged.

The advantages which have been derived from this work, are of the most flattering description, and the subjoined extract of a letter from a clergyman in Wiltshire, dated December 20. 1817, is given, as a striking testimony in its favour.

“ From indolence and improper diet, I had become inconveniently corpulent and drowsy, and very nervous. In November 1815, I was induced to purchase a copy of your Code of Health, and happily had

resolution enough to practise what I found in it applicable to my case. From a rigid adherence to the excellent rules you have laid down, I am now as well and as cheerful as I wish to be, and have since married, which I think I should not otherwise have done, *if I had been alive*. I have likewise been of service to other persons, from the knowledge I have thus acquired.

“ It will give you satisfaction to be informed of another instance of benefit from your work. A clergyman in this neighbourhood, has derived so much advantage from the Code of Health, that he makes a point of reading it through once a year. From being in rather a nervous state of health, he has now become perfectly well, cheerful, and active.

“ Your work, though well known among the higher classes, I can hardly suppose to have been heard of by the poor, in whose ears a name, which numbers in the higher ranks, I hope, hear with joy and gratitude, has never yet sounded. I should imagine, that a cheap edition of that work, for the use of the poor, would not only be of immense benefit to them, but would extend the sale of the present work, by making it more known among farmers and country residents.”

The following letter from the Rev. Thomas Brown, minister of Dalkeith, near Edinburgh, dated March 12. 1827, was likewise extremely acceptable :

“ SIR, Few things gratify an author more, than to know that his works have been useful. I therefore beg your acceptance of copies of some small publications herewith sent, as a testimony of my obligation to you, and an expression of my gratitude for the advantages I have derived from the perusal of your “ Code of Health,” especially on the articles of exercise and friction. I am, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

THOMAS BROWN.”

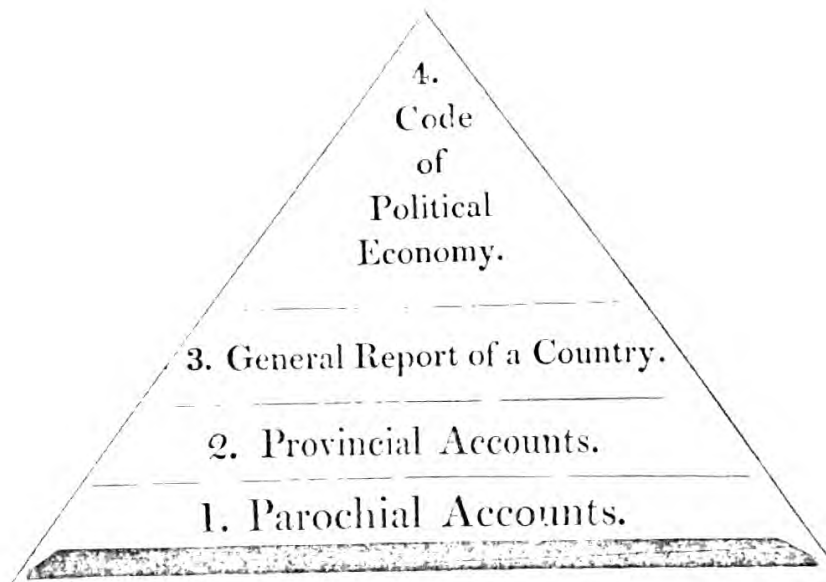
This work, indeed, has been found a storehouse, from which several subsequent writers on dietetics have extracted a considerable portion of their valuable matter, and been relieved from much laborious inquiry and research. It is a high gratification to be thus, even indirectly, the means of doing so much good, as the circulation of so many works on health, founded on information in a great measure derived from the Code of Health, must be the means of effecting*.

* It has been remarked, that several of these authors have not felt themselves under the necessity of making any acknowledgment of their obligation to the Author of the Code.

3. *Code of Political Economy.*

The introduction, and first chapter of this work, have been printed and circulated. They explain the plan of drawing up a New System of Political Economy, founded on statistical researches. It is proposed to begin with ascertaining the circumstances of every parish, or smaller district,—thence to proceed to county or provincial reports, —and then to a general report of the whole kingdom. In this way, the whole frame of human society will be anatomized, and the doctrines of political economy will be founded on what may be called *Political Anatomy*.

The following outline explains the nature of the proposed plan, by which extensive inquiries are made the basis of condensed information :



The opinion of the celebrated Say, on this subject, I am happy in laying before the reader, as some advantage may be expected from a work, which such an author honours with his eulogiums.

There is nothing perhaps that would be more important, with a view to the preservation of health, than to ascertain the most effectual means of strengthening the throat and breast, and, in particular, preventing that inflammation of the uvula, and the parts adjacent, which is so extremely troublesome to those who are subject to that complaint. The perpetual phlegm which this produces is injurious to the lungs and the stomach, and the coughing it occasions is hurtful to the eyes, and sometimes produces ruptures. Some application without, or gargles within might be suggested, that would be of use, and which would be much more advisable than lozenges, or other medicine to be taken into the stomach, to the prejudice of that important organ. This subject is particularly commended to the attention of authors on health.

Extracts of a Letter from Mons. J. B. Say, dated Paris, 25th January 1821, respecting Sir John Sinclair's proposed Code of Political Economy, founded on his statistical researches.

“ I have received the letter with which you honoured me, dated the first of this month, (January 1821), by which you inform me of your plan to publish a great work, entitled, “ A Code of Political Economy,” founded upon “ The Statistical Account of Scotland.” I am well acquainted with your labours respecting Scotland; the success of which, renders it truly desirable that you should execute the work you have announced.

“ Your letter to me has not explained, whether it is your intention to restrict yourself to the statistics of the British Isles alone, or whether it extends to Europe, and that of all other countries. I suppose that you will first confine your attention to the statistics of the British empire alone, and that you will afterwards extend it as far as you can possibly go. The former alone would be a precious monument, and well calculated to elucidate the principles of political economy, though you did not specially discuss them.

“ If I can be useful in the execution of your designs, you may command my best assistance. Unfortunately, I cannot promise that any aid which it is in my power to furnish, will be as effectual, as the offer is sincere. It is hardly to be credited that Bonaparte, with all his power, could never obtain from his “ *Préfets*” and “ *Sous Préfets*,” those reports, which he frequently demanded from them, with regard to the statistics of France *. There is here, in the department of the Minister of the Interior, ‘ A Board of Statistics,’ which scarcely furnishes any thing useful to the researches of the learned. It is very difficult, therefore, beyond the boundaries of Great Britain, to procure any thing, either complete, or worthy of credit.

“ That, however, is of little consequence, since you have undertaken a task, worthy of yourself,—of your illustrious name,—and of your matured talents; namely, to trace the path, which it is proper to follow in researches of that description; and your success is likely to be more certain, as the organization of political societies has become more improved.”

The following extract of a communication from the Rev. Robert Burns, Minister of Paisley, (Author of the Historical Dissertations on the Poor of Scotland, &c.) in reference to the original Sketch of

* Had it not been for the authority of so distinguished an author as M. Say, it would scarcely be believed, that a private individual should have completed in Scotland, what the Emperor Napoleon, with all his power, could not carry through in France.

the Introduction, and Chapter I. of "The Code of Political Economy," contains some useful observations :

"It is by *collections of facts*, statistical and historical, that our acquaintance with the actual state of man is enlarged and corrected; and the chief office which *philosophy* has to perform, is, to analyse these facts;—to arrange them into their respective classes;—and to deduce from them, the plain and obvious inferences which reason and experience warrant.

"There is perhaps no subject on which men have more freely indulged the wildness of speculation, than on the science of political economy; and there is perhaps no department of science, in which it is more completely out of place. The propensity to speculate, indeed, has led to the formation of those Utopian schemes, for the improvement and happiness of man, by which the public mind has been deluded, and the progress of the cautious inquirer most effectually checked.

"Perhaps no individual can be named, who has laboured more patiently, and more successfully, in the field of statistical analysis and inquiry, and whose works have done more to counteract the rage of speculation in politics and economics, than the author of the *Code of Political Economy*. This work, which is at present in progress, may be considered as the grand result of all the author's former labours, whether under the name of *Parochial, Provincial, or General Surveys*. He has most logically followed Lord Bacon's rules of induction, by commencing with the simple elements; ascending from them to combinations and classes, formed out of these simpler elements; and then exhibiting, in combined and regular order, the genera' conclusions to which the process of inductive analysis has led. The process is beautiful, and the success will, we doubt not, be gratifying.

"I have examined, with much pleasure, the specimen of the proposed Code; and I am decidedly of opinion, that it will form a most valuable accession to our stores of statistical information and of political philosophy. I admire the simplicity and perspicuity of its details; the regularity and "*lucidus ordo*" of its arrangements; and the practical and *business-like* form which the whole system appears to assume. I have no fear that the author will fail to complete the outline he has drawn, and to fill it up, so far as the materials go; but I regret to think, that on some of the most important particulars, the information at present before the public is scanty and incorrect. I refer to such topics as those of *age, classes, numbers of families, employments, births, deaths, &c.* This applies indeed, more to England and Ireland than to Scotland, whose '*Statistical Account*' is as yet unrivalled."

When the statistical circumstances of a country have been once

carefully collected, (the only sure basis on which a system of political economy can be founded), it will not then be difficult, to analyse the internal structure of the political community by which it is inhabited. For this purpose it is proposed to divide the society into three great branches; 1. The productive; 2. The useful, or indirectly productive; and, 3. The burdensome or unproductive; each including a number of subordinate classes, amounting to twenty-seven in all.

1. The productive are those, who add, by their labour, to the wealth and capital of the country. They furnish, in the words of Dr Smith, "vendible commodities, which last after the labour bestowed upon their fabrication is past;" and it is by the labour of these classes, that wealth is procured, and capital accumulated. Dr Smith, however, omitted several classes, which are justly entitled, when the subject is minutely investigated, to the appellation of productive.

2. The chief source of the errors which have hitherto prevailed in political discussions, arises from this, that a sufficient distinction has not been made between *national capital*, and *national income*, and the classes of society dependent upon each. This important distinction, as the best foundation of political economy, will be fully explained in the proposed work. The useful classes exchange their services for a part of the *national capital*, or what might be rendered so, and thus derive *an income* on which they subsist. Their income is not primitive, but derivative. It is not a creation, *but a transfer*. The services, however, which they perform, are of the highest importance; for, without them, the social contract would not long be preserved, nor that harmony and order maintained, so essential to the existence and happiness of civil society. These classes may likewise be called "*indirectly productive*," as by their consumption of food, and their purchasing clothing, furniture, and various other goods, though they do not produce these articles themselves, they promote their *reproduction* by others.

3. Those classes, which have no property of their own, and can perform no services for which they are entitled to a remuneration from any of the other classes, are properly called *unproductive*; and are a heavy burden on the rest of the community. The attention of Government, therefore, ought in particular to be directed to the means of enabling as many of them as possible, to earn their subsistence independent of the public aid. For that purpose, it is necessary to ascertain their numbers, in what manner they are maintained, and how they might be rendered useful.

In order to give a clearer view of his ideas on this subject, the Author has drawn up the following classification of the inhabitants of Scotland, with a calculation of the number of individuals belonging to each class:

CLASSIFICATION OF THE INHABITANTS OF SCOTLAND.

TABLE I.—*The Eleven Productive Classes.*

CLASSES.	FAMILIES.	PERSONS.
1. The Agricultural Class,	130,699	784,194
2. The Fishermen,	27,015	120,561
3. The Clothing Workmen for the Home Market,	72,671	218,013
4. The Building Class, including Makers of Household Furniture,	27,750	111,000
5. Workers in Mines and Quarries,.....	13,160	50,300
6. Manufacturers in various branches,	73,250	201,425
7. The Commercial Class.	14,500	51,000
8. Fisheries not intended for Food,	2,000	8,000
9. The Monied Interest Class,	500	2,000
10. The Class for the Fine Arts,	400	1,800
11. The Literary Class,	5,000	20,000
Total,.....	366,945	1,568,293

TABLE II.—*The Eleven Useful, or indirectly Productive Classes.*

CLASSES.	FAMILIES.	PERSONS.
12. The Political Class,	70	304
13. The Revenue Class,	600	2,400
14. Class for the Public Defence, or the Navy and Army,	100	1,500
15. The Legal Class,	3,500	16,000
16. The Clerical Class,	2,000	10,000
17. The Medical Class,	1,300	6,400
18. Teachers of Youth,.....	3,500	10,500
19. Inland Traders,	31,400	188,400
20. Innkeepers,	25,085	97,300
21. Menial Servants, Male and Female,	4,500	97,985
22. Persons who furnish innocent Amusements,	500	2,500
Total,.....	72,555	433,329

TABLE III.—*The Five Unproductive Classes.*

CLASSES.	FAMILIES.	PERSONS.
23. The Insane,		4,500
24. Debtors confined,	100	420
25. The Infirm Poor,	10,100	45,762
26. Adults receiving occasional Assistance *,	2,900	10,000
27. Vagrants and Criminals †,	360	1,152
Total,	13,460	61,834

* No adults in Scotland live entirely upon the public funds; they only receive occasional assistance.

† The greatest number of persons at any one time in the jails and bridges of Scotland, anno 1818, was 1572, of whom 420 were debtors, and 1152 com-

TABLE IV.—*Result of the Whole.*

CLASSES.	FAMILIES.	PERSONS.
1. The Eleven Productive Classes,	366,945	1,568,293
2. The Eleven Useful, or indirectly productive Classes,	72,555	433,399
3. The Five Unproductive,	1,346	61,854
Total,.....	452,960	2,063,546

As this is the first attempt to classify the individuals of a great political community, it cannot be expected, notwithstanding every exertion to procure the most accurate information, that it should be perfectly correct. But surely no object could be more desirable for the statesman, and indeed for the public at large, than to ascertain the manner in which the members of a great political community are distributed; without a knowledge of which, in all our legislative proceedings, we are, to a certain extent, groping in the dark. It is only by examining, with attention and accuracy, the internal circumstances of a country, that the science of government can be brought to any thing like perfection;—that statesmen can improve a country, and ameliorate the condition of its inhabitants;—or that a government can discover, not only the evils under which a country suffers, and how they can be removed; but also the advantages in which it is deficient, and how they may be most easily procured.

It is evident, that a classification of the inhabitants of a country, founded on the principles of this new principle of political economy, will most essentially contribute to the attainment of these great objects; and that its completion is a most important public undertaking, which cannot be too speedily or zealously carried on.

One of the most important points to discuss in the proposed Code of Political Economy, is to ascertain, *Whether a previously increased circulation is not necessary to secure an increase of price in agricultural, and other productions?*

On this subject it may be laid down as an incontrovertible political maxim, that the price of goods must depend, 1. On the supply; 2. On the demand; and 3. On the total quantity of signs, or tokens of value, in the possession of the person by whom they are to be pur-

mitted for crimes. It is to be observed, in regard to crimes, that they multiply with an increased population, not in an arithmetical, but in a geometrical proportion; that is to say, if a million of people produce 200 crimes, two millions will produce, not 400, but perhaps 1200 crimes, and probably of a more atrocious nature; and as population increases, the geometrical proportion will be increased.

chased, or for the payment of which he can furnish adequate security.

The great object of internal traffic is, the purchase of food, by the inhabitants of towns, from the farmers, and graziers, in the country. But that purchase depends upon the number, not of those who want, but of those who have something to offer in return for what they want;—not of those who would consume, but of those who can buy; that is, upon the number of those who have the fruits of some other kind of industry to render, in exchange for the productions of the soil which they require*.

To enable the inhabitants of towns, or the dealers who act for them, to give increased prices for the productions of agriculture, a greater quantity of currency must either be in their actual possession, or accessible to them when necessary. Before there can be a general rise in the price of commodities, there must be a greater quantity of circulating medium, to represent them. Before that which was of the value of two pounds, the quantity remaining the same, can be advanced to three pounds, that sum must *previously* be in existence, or accessible, to represent what was before represented by two pounds †.

If the quantity of goods be considerably diminished, an increased price may take place, without an increased circulation. For instance, if a market is usually supplied with a thousand bullocks, which commonly sell at five pounds each, and the demand is not increased, the price will continue the same. But if the supply of bullocks amounts only to eight hundred, while the circulating medium remains five thousand pounds, the price will probably increase to L.6, 5s. each. If the number of bullocks, on the other hand, are increased to twelve hundred, the average price will then fall to L.4 : 3 : 4 each. But if, instead of five thousand pounds brought to market, the sum is seven thousand pounds, the price will then increase to L.7 each. Thus, the price entirely depends upon the supply, and the demand at the market, and on the amount of the circulating medium, with which the purchase is to be made. It is evident, therefore, that without a previous additional circulating medium, the price cannot be increased, unless there is a diminished supply of the article to be purchased.

It is a mistaken idea, therefore, to suppose, that an increased price of goods can take place, without a previous increased circulation. In this, as in many other instances, the cause has been mistaken for the effect. The great depression, or fall in agricultural, and all other pro-

* Paley's Moral and Political Philosophy, vol. ii. p. 367.

† James's Inquiry, p. 58.

perty, originated in, or was occasioned by, previously diminishing the quantity of currency in circulation, by the unjust, and impolitic measure, of increasing the value of the pound sterling. This withdrew from the public a large proportion of the nominal pounds sterling, or circulating medium before in existence ; depreciating property in the same proportion, or making two pounds represent that which three did before ; or one hundred pounds, what was before represented by one hundred and fifty.

Unless these doctrines, as to the rise and fall of prices, are admitted, it will be in vain to attempt remedying the distresses which we now experience.

4. *Digest, or Code of Religion.*

I have also ventured to sketch out a plan and introduction for the proposed Code of Religion. The undertaking is intended chiefly as a compendium of the evidences for natural and revealed religion, and of the more important doctrines and moral principles which revelation has established. The execution of such a work will require much time and exertion ; but the encouragement I have met with from distinguished characters, who have had an opportunity of examining the plan, I trust will be considered an ample justification for engaging in such a work.

From a respectable Prelate, to whom, among others, I submitted the plan of the proposed Code of Religion, I had the satisfaction of receiving a letter, of which the following is a copy :

“ I am much obliged by your communication of the inclosed, and return it with many thanks. Though in the midst of a Visitation, I immediately read it, and beg to express my entire approbation of the plan. A clear and popular demonstration of the evidences of natural and revealed religion, with a deduction of the Will of God from both, in a cheap form, *is a grand desideratum* ; and proceeding from you, would go a great way in stopping that overflowing of ungodliness, of which there is no one but must be afraid. I am sorry that I have not time to say more, except to express my sincere hope, that you may complete the work you have in hand, and that it may accomplish all the good you wish for.”

Another eminent Prelate acknowledged the receipt of the commencement of the Code of Religion, in the following terms :

“ I had the honour of receiving your letter, and the communications accompanying it. My advanced age and infirmities wholly prevent me from attending to any matters unconnected with my professional engagements, which are rather more than I am now equal to. But you

must allow me to congratulate you, upon having applied to such studies, as interest all for their eternal welfare, after having dedicated so much time to the improvement of their temporal interests."

The celebrated Hannah More, as appears by the subjoined extract of a letter from her friend Mrs Frowd, dated Barley-Wood, June 20. 1820, has expressed her approbation of the work, in the following energetic terms :

" I lament exceedingly to inform you, that in consequence of a long, suffering, and almost hopeless illness, Mrs Hannah More has been for very many weeks indebted to my feeble pen, (a friend staying with her), to answer her letters. Since the time she was favoured with a former letter from you, Sir, (I think before Christmas), she has been a close prisoner in her chamber, and for upwards of three months past, has been confined to her bed or sofa, alarmingly ill ; and I am sorry to say, she still continues in a very weak, suffering, and unrecovered state.

" Mrs More commissions me with her best acknowledgments for your last letter. She desires me to say, that she greatly approves of the plan of your work, and fully appreciates the labour and research which must have been used, to bring, into the compass designed, so large and interesting a mass of religious and moral information and improvement. The method and arrangement of it also, she thinks highly useful ; *and the deductions arising from considerations of the human mind and body*, being novel, are likely to prove very striking, as they are certainly intelligible to all moderately informed persons.

" She desires me to say, it is her sincere opinion, that the work will, as a whole, be extremely interesting and beneficial ; but with respect to the assistance you are so obliging as to hope from her, it would be impossible she could render any, under the present sad circumstances of her declining health, she not being even competent to common correspondence, or reading, except in a very limited degree, on account of a complaint she has been a long time troubled with in her eyes ; independent of which, Mrs Hannah More says, she could not presume any aid of hers would be acceptable, towards the accomplishment of so learned and scientific a work."

In regard to the advantage of such a work, with the view of promoting the introduction of Christianity in other countries, it has been remarked, " That it would be desirable *to arm missionaries*, with the means of explaining the grounds on which the superiority of the Christian Religion can be proved ; for, where miracles are out of the question, there is no other mode of bringing conviction to the mind, *but by a chain of reasoning*. With this weapon, the missionaries would be

armed, if the Code of Religion *were properly completed*. It could not be rendered so perfect as might be wished, *without a combination of information and talents*, but surely that will not be wanting for so important an undertaking."

It has been well observed by an author who has recently published a valuable work on religion, that unbelievers are often most unreasonably averse to listen to any arguments which may be urged by a clergyman to establish the truth of Christianity, which is an additional argument for a layman taking up the pen, on that most interesting of all subjects *.

The general advantages of the Codean System are strongly exemplified in the subjoined extract of a communication from Mr Attwood of Birmingham: "In the more early ages of society, before knowledge was less multitudinous in its various channels, it might be easy for a man of tolerable application to make himself acquainted with it, upon any given subject. But now, works upon every branch of knowledge are so exceedingly numerous, and so great a proportion of almost every work becomes antiquated by the progress of things, that it is really an Herculean task to search, read, study, and discriminate them all. The '*rari nantes in gurgite vasto*,'—the few scattered truths which have resisted so many storms in the ocean of time, and which even seem to derive strength from the assaults which have shattered the fabrics of error,—all these valuable relics of the days gone by, ought certainly to be collected and preserved, as the inestimable guides of life. To extract, condense †, and exhibit these truths, which the progress of things, and of the human mind, elicits, is the grand object of 'The Codean System of Knowledge'."

Another author, (Mr Mill, in the preface to his History of India), has ably remarked, "That as no fact is more certain, so none is of more importance, in the science of human nature, than this, that the powers of observation, in every individual, are exceedingly limited; and that it is only by combining the observations of a number of individuals, (or, in other words, forming Codes regarding each important branch of science), that a competent knowledge of any extensive subject can ever be acquired."

* Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion derived from the Fulfillment of Prophecy. By the Rev. Alexander Keith, minister of St Cyrus.

† "*Condensation*" is the result of much thought and judgment, preserving the truly important facts and observations, and rejecting what is no longer useful.

An author who proposes a new plan of a literary nature, has many difficulties to struggle with in his own country. He has often to encounter personal dislike, party prejudices, and even national resentment. It is only in foreign countries, that he can expect an impartial consideration of his schemes. In this respect the author of the Codean System has every reason to be highly gratified, having received a greater number of marks of respect from the public institutions of foreign countries, than has probably fallen to the lot of any other individual*.

I have thus submitted to the reader's consideration, the laborious plan I have undertaken, which nothing would have induced me to attempt at so advanced a period of life (seventy-six), but an irresistible impulse to promote the public good. I may not be able to complete the plan now, in the manner that would perhaps have been practicable some years ago; but I trust it will be in my power to lay a foundation, on which others may erect a superstructure which will last for ages, and which will yet be considered as an important era in the history of literature.

There is nothing that could have induced me to have thought of so laborious an undertaking, at so advanced a period of life, but my having adopted the following division of time, by which I hope to be enabled to live for five or six years longer, without any material diminution of personal strength or of mental power.

Proposed Division of Time.

1. Business and study,	7
2. Meals,	3
3. Dressing, exercise, &c.	5
4. Sleep,	9
<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
Total 24 hours †.	
<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

It is incredible how much mental labour may be gone through, in the course of twelve months, by a constant and regular application of seven hours *per* day, to study and business, if the labour is divided, and too much is not undertaken at a time. By adopting, also, a regular system in regard to meals, exercise, and sleep, a good state of

* See the list in the Introduction to vol. i. p. 24.

† On Sundays, the above plan must be varied, for the purpose of attending "Public worship" in the morning; and in the evenings of that day, from 10 to 11 is employed in "Family worship."

health, and excellent spirits, may at the same time be secured. In short, the "*mens sana, in corpore sano,*" may be enjoyed in the greatest perfection*.

* When young, I was accustomed to study from 10 to 12 hours *per* day, and to devote only 6 hours to sleep. But it is necessary, as age advances, to diminish the hours of study, and to increase the hours of sleep; and at 76 I am convinced, that the hours of repose should be increased to about 9, and of mental labour decreased to about 7 hours *per* day.

FINIS.

"Autographs"

Of several distinguished Characters whose communications are contained in this volume, with the page of the work where their letters are mentioned. —

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Ambassador from America
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12.

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13.

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Philadelphia Agricultural Society.)

14.

Weatherstonhaugh.
(Wm Featherstonhaugh Esq. of Featherstone park, New York.)

15.

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16.

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to France.)

~~*Edw. Edwards*~~ (Dr. Edwards of Pennsylvania)

~~*Richard Peters*~~ (Richard Peters Esq. President of the
Philadelphia Agricultural Society.)

Weatherstonhaugh.
(Wm. Featherstonhaugh Esq. of Featherstone park, New York.)

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Le Duc Decazes (The Duc Decazes - Prime Minister
of France)

Le Comte de Chaptal (The Count De Chaptal -
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36. *A. W. C. de Nagell* (*A. W. C. de Nagell, - one of the Ministers of the King of the Netherlands*)
37. *A. C. De Heiden* (*A. C. De Heiden, - Minister of the King of the Netherlands -*)
38. *L. W. P. Vander Borch* (*L. W. P. Vander Borch, - a Lieut. General, & an eminent Agriculturist*)

4. Danish Correspondents.

39. *A. V. Bernstorff* (*A. V. Bernstorff, - Prime Minister in Denmark*)
40. *Count Bernstorff* (*Count Bernstorff, - Son to the former.*)
41. *F. C. E. Nielsen* (*F. C. E. Nielson, - Master of His Danish Majesty's Stud.*)
42. *G. Thorkelin* (*G. Thorkelin, - an Icelandic Author.*)
43. *P. A. Reventlow* (*P. A. Reventlow, - Son to a Danish Minister of State.*)

5. Swedish & Norwegian Correspondents.

44. *L. W. Edlevantz* (*Le Baron d'Edelvantz, - President of the Commercial Department*)
45. *Andre Sparrman* (*Andre Sparrman, - an eminent literary Character at Stockholm.*)
46. *C. G. Hjarnsward* (*C. G. Hjarnsward, - a distinguished Agriculturist in Sweden.*)

C. Anker (C. Anker, a great Proprietor in Norway)

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John Collett
a Norwegian Farmer.

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260.

Le Comte de Muroff (Le Comte de Muroff, Minister of State.)

261.

Orloff (Orloff, The Count; Orloff, The Author.)

Comte Alexis Orlov

Cesmenskoï (Comte Alexis Orlov (Cesmensky, The famous Admiral)

S. C. Woronzow (The Count Woronzow, Ambassador in Eng.)

273.

President + Metropolitan de Siestienkowicz (President + Metropolitan de Siestienkowicz, President of the Imp. Soc. of Agricid.)

274.

Gabriel Prince de Sagarin (Gabriel Prince de Sagarin)

275.

Adm. Grieg (Adm. Grieg, the famous Naval Officer)

Baron de Strandsman (Baron de Strandsman, Counsellor of State in Russia)

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90. *de Sa Harpe* (The Colonel de la Harpe) - - - - -
91. *J. C. Delattre* (M. de Harpe, Preceptor to the Emperor Alexander) - - - - -
92. *Krisoberger de Liebistorf* (M. de Liebistorf, President of the Berne Society) - - - - -
93. *J. S. Wyttenbach* (M. Wyttenbach of Berne) - - - - -
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96. *Lainé* (M. Lainé, Minister of State) - - - - -

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<u>General Oxholm</u>	{ General Oxholm. A Dane. Governor of St. Croix. }	430.
<u>Mr Martin</u>	{ C. Martin. General in the East Indies. }	440.

Appendix.

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 (Ernest Duc de Saxe Cobourg. Brother of Prince Leopold.)

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 (Prince Bariatskiy. A Russian Nobleman.)

Le Comte Nicolas de Romanoff
 (Le Comte. Nicolas de Romanoff. A Russian Minister of State.)

Joseph de Kosodawlew
 (Joseph de Kosodawlew. Minister of the Interior in Russia.)

C. A. Zamoyshy
 (Count A. Zamoyshy. a Polish Nobleman.)

Le Mar. G. de Bouamont
 (Le Mar. G. de Bouamont. The Conqueror of Algiers.)

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92. *Kirchberger de Liebistorf* (M. de Liebstorf - President of the Bernese Society)
93. *J. S. Wyttenbach* (M. Wyttenbach of Berne)
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- No.
7. ~~J. Doyle~~ (J. Doyle - The Celebrated Irish Bishop.)
8. Thomas Chalmers (Thomas Chalmers
The celebrated Scotch Preacher.)
9. Grant (The Right Honorable Sir Tom Grant.)
10. W. Wilberforce (W. Wilberforce -
M.P. for Berkshire.)
11. Walter Scott (Walter Scott - The celebrated Author.)
12. Arthur Wellesley (Arthur Wellesley -
The Duke of Wellington.)
13. Wellington (The Victor at Waterloo &c &c.)

Certified by
 John Sinclair
 In the 77th year of his age
 20th January - 1831.



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Certified by

John Sinclair

In the 77th year of his age

24th January - 1831.

