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T R E A T I S E  
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G A R D E N I N G.

C H A P. I.

*The Method of raising wood on rocky, hilly, waste,  
and heath lands.*

**T**HE extensive tracts of rocky, waste, and heath lands in this kingdom, if converted into plantations of thriving trees, would prove a certain benefit to posterity, as well as a pleasing reflection to those who are at the expence of performing so great and good a work. To assist the generous planter in

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his patriotic design, is the intention of this first chapter. I shall suppose the tract of country, now in view, to consist of rocky, hilly, and heath land with little or no soil. Such unpromising ground may be covered with wood in the following manner.

THE labourers should be provided with light ax-hoes, broad at one end and narrow at the other. With the broad end pare off the grass or heath as thin as possible; then with the narrow end stir the ground to four or five inches, if you can; picking out such small stones as are loosened by the hack in stirring the ground, always avoiding large stones; but where these, or pieces of rock intervene, at three feet distance from the rock make as many places round as you can, for no ground should be lost; and although the trees are near on one side, they will have sufficient air to grow to maturity.

THIS work should be done in summer,  
that

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that the places loofened may have the advantage of the first rains in autumn to moisten them ; for there is no planting in such grounds until they are moistened after stirring, as all rain runs off before the surface is broke.

THERE is nothing more to be done until the planting-season, which should be as early as the weather will permit ; for if done late, a dry spring would be of bad consequence.

WHEN you begin to plant, take up no more trees at a time than can be planted in one day, taking care not to expose the roots to the sun or wind.

THE best method is to sow and plant the trees alternately. So when you plant, the places for seed should be left until the season for sowing in spring.

THE trees fit for planting in such places are, at the summit of hills, Scotch firs and  
A 2 larches.

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larches. This is the proper situation for larch, it being an inhabitant of high and cold places. A great reason for its growing crooked, is its being planted in low situations and good land, where it grows too fast, and is not able to support its large head.

THE west, north, and north-east aspects should be planted with Scotch fir and larch; and towards the bottom of the hill, in the same aspects, beech will thrive. If there are six inches of soil, sown or planted oaks will grow very well; and though the soil be poor, clumps of sycamore for ornament will grow beyond expectation; as they will receive the moisture from the higher grounds. This may be seen in natural woods.

THE other aspects should be planted with beech, hornbeam, sycamore, and all the bottom with oaks: if three or four mountain ashes are planted in different places, it will add to the beauty of the  
the

## ON WASTE LANDS. 5

the plantation ; but the wood is of little value.

THE common wood, or rough-leaved Elm, will grow in a very poor soil to great perfection, and may be planted next to the Beech. These must be planted very thick. There are many firs and pines brought from America that thrive in poor land. Of these there have been no large plantations made; what have been planted are for ornament, and the wood of them does not seem to differ much from the Scotch, which we are sure comes to a great size in a very poor soil, and at a distance they have much the same appearance. The beauty of such plantations is only to be seen from distant views. The seeds of the same sort of trees should be sown in every other place left vacant in planting. At the top, where the Scotch firs and larches are planted, there should be no places left, as these trees are of a very quick growth, and the seeds of the fir kinds are subject to be

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devoured by birds. The young plants also, for the first year, are very subject to be thrown out of the ground by frost, And, what is more material, they would be smothered by those planted, if they should meet with no mischance.

In sowing, you may put some acorns amongst the planted beech, as they are near of a growth. They will grow from seed where they will not thrive when planted, and, penetrating into the cavities with their young fibrous roots, will find sufficient nourishment where there is little appearance of a tree's growing. In natural woods we often see fine oaks in such situations, and there is no doubt such trees were from seeds accidentally dropt.

It should be observed, that all trees thrive better in clumps than when mixed. If mixed, they should be with trees of an equal growth, which is seldom considered. It has been a common practice to mix Scotch firs with oak and beech (the  
Scotch

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Scotch fir is of a very quick growth for ten years, the oak and beech of a very slow growth for near that time) to keep them warm and to encourage their growth. The practice is very wrong, and quite contrary to the present system of thick planting. If the firs are planted at six feet distance, with an oak between, they will smother the oaks in a few years; and if taken away sooner, they do not answer the end they were planted for. If the oaks are planted alone at three feet distance, they will thrive much better, for they suffer more from the cold when the firs are taken away, than any advantage they can receive from their warmth while they remain. When the firs are taken away your oaks stand at six feet distance, which is too much, as the intention of planting thick is frustrated, which is to prevent pruning and to keep the trees warm, both which are of the greatest consequence to plantations on poor land.

WHERE there is so much rock, and in-

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deed no appearance of earth, there is no possibility of stirring the earth with a hack ; yet we must not despair of raising trees and shrubs, which is evident to be seen in natural woods where trees and shrubs are seemingly growing out of the stone. No art can pretend to plant in such places ; but nature shews us what she can do, and by following her dictates we may accomplish what has been thought impossible.

IN all rocks there are openings and cavities, and by the moisture falling from the higher parts of the rock into the bottom of the openings, there is sufficient nourishment to vegetate seeds ; and when they are once in a growing state, the young roots will find cavities and openings to push into, and also nourishment sufficient to make a tree, bush, or shrub. It cannot be so certain to get trees and shrubs to grow in rocks as in earth ; but it may be depended on that many will grow, and to a great size. The only method is to drop seeds into the cavities.



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THE best season for dropping seeds into rocks is as soon as they are full ripe and dry ; but there are so many mice and other vermin about such places in winter, not overstocked with provision, that they destroy every thing within their reach. To remedy this as much as possible, the seeds may be so prepared as to be sown or dropped in March with good success.

THE preparation of the seeds for dropping amongst rocks, and sowing plantations on all kinds of poor land, will be treated of under that head.

IN order to drop the seeds amongst rocks, let a man take a few of the following seeds, and drop three or four of a kind into each cavity, observing to drop the larger seeds into the deepest cavities, such as acorns, beech-mast, hornbeam, evergreen oaks, yews, mountain ash, hollies, haws ; and, into the lesser openings, broom, juniper, furze, birch, and wood elm.

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THESE places should be gone over the following spring, as there are many accidents to prevent the growing of the seeds. There will be no occasion to have any regard to drop the same sorts of seeds into the holes as they were dropped the spring before ; for if both grow, it will be of no bad consequence, as we often see two trees of different kinds growing in natural woods on bare rocks.

It may seem ridiculous to drop seeds into rocks ; but it is evident, that many fine trees are growing in such places, and it must have been occasioned from seed accidentally dropping. This is no more than following nature, and she has taught us what is to be done to cover such places as have been left naked and disagreeable.

It may be objected, that there are many trees in natural woods, on rocks, that produce seed, and yet there are many bare places on the same rocks. But it may be remarked, that many of the seed  
falling