INTRODUCTION

TO

PLANTING

AND

ORNAMENTAL GARDENING.

GENERAL VIEW.

THE earth produces an almost infinite variety of Plants, possessing various properties, and different degrees of strength and stature. In the vegetable as in the animal world, the stronger subdue the weaker: the herbaceous tribes bow to the shrub, and this to the more robust forest-tree; and in an unpeopled country a state of woodiness prevails. The interior parts of America are at this day a forest: the Continent of Europe too has still its forest; and England once was famous for her's.

As inhabitants increase, woodiness gives way to husbandry and the arts; not merely as obstructions, but as affording useful materials. Population still increasing, the forest breaks into woods.
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Commerce and luxury advancing, the canoe becomes a ship, and the cottage a mansion; at length even the woods dwindle away, and plantations, or an import of foreign timber, become necessary to supply the want.

England has experienced, more or less, every stage of this decline. Its present state, in respect to timber, we conceive to be this: A few broken forests and many extensive woodlands still remaining; a great number of plantations of different growths, and a vast supply of foreign timber of various kinds. Indeed, we are of opinion, that had it not been for this foreign supply, scarcely a timber-tree, at this day, would have been left standing upon the island.

Our existence, as a nation, depends upon a full and certain supply of shipping; and this, we may venture to say, upon an internal supply of ship-timber. That there is no want of oak-timber at present in this island is, we believe, a fact; but that the article of ship-timber is growing scarce, as we shall explain more fully in its proper place, is, we believe, also a fact which cannot be controverted. This is an important matter, which demands the first attention of Government, and is not unworthy the notice of every landed individual.

Mankind, however, do not view the face of nature in the light of self-preservation only; the great Author
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Author of creation has wonderfully adapted our senses to the enjoyment of its delights; the eye is gratified by tints of verdure, and the ear by the music of the woods and the mellowness of echo—and both by the voice and majesty of a forest roused by the breath of Nature. Our plan therefore has two objects, utility and ornament; they are nearly allied, however, as labour and recreation, or as the use and the ornament of dress.

But before we give directions for raising a wood, or ornamenting the face of a country, we must first treat separately of each individual tree and shrub adapted to our purpose; and, preparatory to this, give a comprehensive view of the operations incident to

Propagating, Planting-out, and Training-up, and Transplanting.

Trees and Shrubs in general.

PROPAGATING TREES AND SHRUBS.

Trees and Shrubs are propagated

From Seeds, by Layering,
— Suckers, — Budding,
— Cuttings, — Grafting.

But before the young planter put his foot upon the spade, we beg leave to caution him in the strongest terms against a want of spirit. A flo.
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venly planter ranks among the most extravagant order of flovens: the labour, the plants, and the ground are thrown away; besides the consequent disgrace, not only to the individual himself, but to the profession in general. Anxious and interested as we are in the cause of planting, we would rather want pupils than have them pass through our hands unfinished: we therefore reject all such as have not industry, spirit, and perseverance, to go through with what they undertake; and we recommend to such as are possessed of these valuable qualifications, to begin upon a small scale, and to let their seminary, their nursery, and their plantations increase with their experience.

Whilst, however, we caution against entering immaturity upon the business of planting, we cannot refrain from mentioning the pleasures which result from it. How rational, and to a contemplative mind how delightful, to observe the operations of Nature; — to trace her in every stage, from the seed to the perfected plant; and, from beneath the leaf-sstalk of this, through the flower-bud, the flower, and the seed-vessel, to the seed again! Man must be employed; and how more agreeably than in conversing with Nature, and in seeing the works of his own hands, asliffed by her, rising into perfection.

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Nor do we mean to hold out pleasure alone as an inducement to planting;—its profits are great, when properly executed, and this idea adds solidity to the enjoyment. Pleasure alone may satiate; but profit and pleasure united seldom fail of producing a lasting gratification.

There is another incitement to planting, which alone has been generally held out as a sufficient inducement. We are sorry to confess, however, that we know too much of mankind, to believe that patriotism, unaided by personal interest, will ever produce a supply of ship-timber to this or any other nation. Far be it from us, however fashionable it may be, to speak irreverently of patriotism; we consider it as the noblest attribute of the human mind. Young men, to whom we more particularly address ourselves, are seldom without some share of it; and we flatter ourselves that this virtuous principle, assisted by the pleasure, the profit, and the popularity which attends planting,—ornamental plantations more particularly,—will induce the young men of the present age to study and practice it; not more for themselves than for future generations.

PROPAGATING FROM SEED.—There are four ways of raising from seed the trees and shrubs adapted to our purpose:
6 I N T R O D U C T I O N.

In Beds of natural Soil,
In Beds of Compost,
In Pots,—and some few
In Stoves, or under Glasses.

It will be expected, perhaps, before we begin to treat of the different methods of sowing, that we give some directions for gathering and preserving seeds. Little, however, can be said upon the subject under this general head; different species requiring a difference in management. We may, nevertheless, venture to say, that all seeds ought to be fully matured upon their native plants; and we may further add, that such as drop spontaneously from the seed-vessel, or are shed by a moderate wind, or other gentle agitation, are preferable to those which are torn from the tree immaturely. The seeds of scarce or valuable plants may be gathered thus: As soon as they begin to fall of themselves, spread a cloth under the plant, and agitate it moderately, until all that are ripe have fallen;—and repeat this whenever a second and a third spontaneous fall takes place.

The art of preserving seeds rests chiefly upon that of curing them immediately after gathering. If grass were put into the stack immediately after mowing, or corn threshed out at harvest and laid in heaps, it would presently heat and become entirely spoiled. So it is with the seeds of trees and shrubs: therefore
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therefore they ought, as soon as they are gathered, to be spread thin in an airy place, and be turned as often as a close attention sees necessary. When the superfluous moisture has evaporated, they may be collected into bulk; remembering, however, to run them every now and then down a screen, or shake them in a sieve, that their brightness and sweetness may be preserved. Some of the larger seeds, acorns especially, are difficult to cure, and require a very strict attention. It must also be remembered, that mice and other vermin are dangerous enemies to seeds. Those which are particularly valuable, may be hung up in bags to the ceiling of a dry room.

In procuring seeds from the shops, or from abroad, some caution is necessary. A reputable seedsmen, and a correspondent who is himself a judge of the quality of seeds, are the best general guards against imposition and disappointment.

There are several ways of trying the quality of seeds. The heavier kinds may be proved in water; such as swim are at least doubtful. The lighter sorts may be tried by biting them: if they break abruptly between the teeth, they are generally good; but if they be tough and leathery, they are mostly the contrary. If when crushed, or separated by a knife or scissors, they appear firm, white, and farinaceous, they may generally be esteemed good; but if on the contrary they be spongy and discoloured,
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loured, they are generally of a bad quality. But the most certain mode of trial, and that which in cases of suspicion ought never to be omitted, is to force a few of them in a garden-pot, placed in an artificial heat, or other warm situation. Put in some certain number, taken promiscuously from the parcel, and, from the proportional number that vegetate, a tolerably just idea may be formed of the quality of the whole. Without this precaution a season may be lost, and the use of the land, together with the labour, be thrown away.

All the natives, and many exotics, may be raised in beds of natural mould. The soil should be rich, and sufficiently deep to admit of being trenches or double dug two spit deep. If it will not bear one spit and a half, namely about fourteen inches, it is improper for seed-beds, and should either be wholly rejected, or (if the subfratum is not of too hungry and poisonous a nature) be trenched a spit and a half deep, and the crude mould meliorated by manure and repeated diggings. Autumn is the best time to bring up the subfratum, letting it lie in rough trenches all winter to take the frost. In the spring put on a quantity of dung, in proportion to the poverty of the soil; turning it in superficially, and mixing it well with the soil to be improved. Repeat this single digging, through the summer, as often as convenient, or as often as the weeds, which never
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never fail to rise in great abundance from a substratum exposed to the sun and air, require it. In autumn turn up the soil from the bottom, and mix the whole well together. The longer the soil and substratum lie in the state of inversion, the better tempered the fresh mould will become, and the mellower will be the old cultivated soil. In a manner similar to this, all soils which are not naturally rich ought to be treated. No department of planting calls more loudly for a spirited management than the seminary, which, if not rich and deep by nature, ought to be made so by art, at almost any expence.

In large undertakings a separate seminary may be necessary; but, in general, a portion of the kitchen garden is better adapted to the purpose. There are indeed two very great advantages in mixing the seminary with the kitchen-garden: the seed-beds are always under the eye, and are more likely to be defended from weeds and vermin there, than in a detached seminary visited only now and then; and, when the ground has borne a crop of seedling plants, it may be applied to the purpose of culinary herbs; whilst that which has been long under crops of these may be changed to seed-beds. In whatever situation they are placed, they must be carefully fenced against hares and rabbits, or the labour of a whole season may be cut off in a few nights: in this light also the kitchen-garden has a preference.
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It would be idle to give particular directions for laying out a seminary, or to say under this general head where this or that seed should be sown. Suffice it therefore to mention here, that seed-beds are generally made from four to four feet and a half wide, with intervals of one foot and a half to two feet. These dimensions render them convenient to be weeded, without the plants being trodden or kneeled upon.

The method of sowing is various: By dibbling, by drilling, and by broadcast, which last is the most prevailing method. Seeds sown in the promiscuous broadcast manner are covered either with the rake, or with the spade (or sieve). Covering with the spade (or sieve) is the common practice, and is thus performed: The surface being made light and fine by a recent digging and raking, and the beds formed (operations which every gardener and gardener's man are acquainted with), a thin coat of mould is raked off the beds into the intervals, in proportion to the depth the seeds require to be buried, and according to the nature of the soil, taken jointly. In a light sandy soil, the seeds require to be buried deeper than they do in a strong loam; and whilst an acorn may be covered from one to three inches, the seeds of Larch will not bear more than from a quarter to three-fourths of an inch. The new surface being rendered perfectly fine and level, the seeds are sown,