

What induced me to make experiments on this head, was, observing that all kinds of vegetables were continually varying in their growth, quality, production and time of maturity. This led me to believe that the great Author of nature, has so constructed that wonderful machine, if I may be allowed the expression, as to incline every kind of soil and climate to naturalize all kinds of vegetables, and that it will produce at any rate, the better to suit them, if the agriculturalists will do their part in selecting the most proper seed. In support of which I will take the liberty of subjoining a few facts and experiments, out of an inconceivable number which have all combined to prove the above to my satisfaction.

In, or about the year 1746, my father procured the seeds of the long warty squash, which have been kept on the farm ever since, without changing, and are now far preferable to what they were at first. Our early peas were procured from London the spring before Braddock's defeat, and have been planted successively every season since on the place. They have not been changed, and are now preferable to what they were when first obtained. The seed of our asparagus was procured from New-York, in the year 1752, since which time I have not planted a seed but what grew on my beds, and by selecting the seed, from the largest stalks, I have improved it greatly.

A complaint is very general, that potatoes of every kind degenerate at which I am not surprised, when the most proper means to produce that effect is constantly practised; to wit, using or selling the best, and planting the refuse; by which means almost the whole of those planted are the produce of plants the most degenerated. The consideration of which induced me to try an opposite method. Having often observed that some plants or vines produced potatoes larger, better shaped, and in greater abundance than others, without any apparent reason except the operations of nature, it induced me to save a quantity from such only for planting the ensuing season, and I was highly gratified in finding their production exceed that of others of the same kind, planted at the same time, and with every equal advantage, beyond my expectation, in size, shape, and quantity: this induced me to continue the practice, and I am satisfied that I have been fully compensated for all the additional trouble.

A circumstance happened respecting potatoes, which may be worth relating; a woman whom I met in market requested me to bring half a bushel of sweet potatoes for seed the next market day, which I promised to do, but going through the market on that day, previous to her son's coming for the potatoes, I observed the woman selling such as I had brought for her: when the boy came, I asked him the reason they wanted potatoes for seed, while they were selling their own; his answer was that his father said, if they did not get seed from me once in three or four years, their potatoes would be good for nothing. Query, if he had used the same means in selecting his potatoes for planting as I did, whether he would have profited by changing with one who used the other method?

In discoursing with a friend who lived at a great distance from me, on the above subject, he introduced two instances in favour of changing seed; one was asparagus, the other radish seed, he had from me; the production of both he said was preferable to any thing of the kind ever seen in that neighbourhood, which was near 100 miles distant, to which he ascribed the benefit; but in two or three years the radishes degenerated so as to be no better than what he had before. I asked his method of saving seed; he said he had no other radishes in his garden, and when they had pulled what was fit for use, let the others go to seed. I then told him my method, viz.—As soon as radishes are fit for use, I dig up ten or twelve of those which please me best, as to colour, shape, &c. and plant them at least 100 yards from where any others bloom at the time they do: this, I informed him, was the best method I knew of, to improve any kind of vegetables, varying the process agreeable to their nature; and as he had, in my opinion, taken the most proper method to degenerate his, I asked if he thought I should be benefited by exchanging with him? His answer was, he believed I was the best gardener.

In, or about the year 1772, a friend sent me a few grains of a small kind of Indian corn, the grains of which were not larger than goose shot, which he informed me, by a note in which they were enclosed, were originally from Guinea, and produced from eight to ten ears on a stalk. Those grains I planted, and found the production to answer the description, but the ears small, and few of them ripe before frost. I saved some of the largest and earliest, and planted it between rows of larger and earlier kinds of corn, which produced a mixture to advantage; then I saved seed from stalks that produced the greatest number of the largest ears, and first ripe, which I planted the ensuing season and was not a little gratified to find its production preferable both in quantity and quality to that of any corn I had ever planted. This kind of corn I have continued planting ever since, selecting that designed for seed in the manner I would wish others to try, viz.—When the first ears are ripe enough for seed, gather a sufficient quantity for early corn, or replanting; and at the time you would wish your corn to be ripe generally, gather a sufficient quantity for planting the next year, having particular care to take it from stalks that are large at bottom, of a regular taper, not over tall, the ears set low, and containing the greatest number of good sizeable ears of the best quality; let it dry speedily; and from the corn gathered as last described, plant your main crop, and if any hills should be missing, replant from that first gathered, which will cause the crop to ripen more regularly than is common, which is a great benefit. The above mentioned I have practised many years, & am satisfied it has increased the quantity, and improved the quality of my crops beyond what any person would imagine, who has not tried the experiments. The distance of planting corn, and number of grains in a hill, are matters many differ in; perhaps different soils may require a difference in both these respects; but in every kind of soil I have tried, I find planting the rows six feet asunder each way, as near at right angles as may be, and leaving not more than four stalks in a hill, produces the best crop. The common method of saving seed corn, by taking the ears from the heap, or crib, is attended with two disadvantages; one is, the taking the largest ears, which have generally grown but one on a stalk; this lessens the production. The other is, taking ears that have ripened at different times, which causes the production to do the same.

A striking instance of plants being naturalized

happened by Colonel Matlock sending some water-melon seed from Georgia, which he informed me by a letter were of superior quality; knowing seed from vegetables which had grown in more southern climates required a longer summer than what grew here, I gave them the most favourable situation, and used glasses to bring them forward, yet very few ripened to perfection; but finding them to be as excellent in quality as described, I saved seed from those first ripe; and by continuing that practice four or five years, they became as early water-melons as I ever had.

Many admit the above errors from foreign flax seed producing the best flax in Ireland; but when it is considered that it is the bark of the stalk only, that is used in Ireland, which is in the best perfection before the seed is ripe, and that part not used from any other plant except hemp, the argument falls to the ground when applied to other vegetables.

For many years past, I have renewed the whole seed of my winter grain, from a single plant which I have observed to be more productive, and of better quality than the rest, which I am satisfied, has been of great use. And I am fully of opinion, that all kinds of garden vegetables may be improved by the foregoing methods; particular care being taken that different kinds of the same species of vegetables are not in bloom at the same time near together, as by that happening, they mix, degenerate, and each kind is injured.

I am sensible the foregoing will meet with great opposition and contradiction, but as an experiment is safe and easy, I hope it will induce persons of more leisure, ability, and observation than myself, to make trial, as a mean of improving the agriculture of our country, which is the sincere wish of thy friend,
JOSEPH COOPER.



Efficacy of Gestation in Typhus: extracted from a Dissertation by Dr. Wake.

The object of this dissertation, besides a general review of the remedies of Typhus, is to state the author's experience of the beneficial effects of gestation in that disease; a practice which at first arose out of necessity, but which has since been successfully imitated, though only to a very limited extent, in other instances. To the novelty of the treatment, Dr. Wake does not lay any claim. Celsus, he observes, describes it to have been the practice of Asclepiades. Of modern medical authors, Dr. Jackson is the only one who recommends gestation in fevers from actual experience; but his recommendation does not appear to have met with the attention to which it was entitled. Dr. Wake's observations of its utility were made some years before the publication of Dr. Jackson's work, and at a time when he was wholly unacquainted with its having been mentioned by any author.

In the spring of 1794, the British army began its retreat from Holland, and it became necessary, in consequence, to remove all the sick who were confined in the hospitals. In that of St. Guislain, among other patients, were several labouring under Typhus fever. These were conveyed, in open carriages, to Dendermonde, a journey which was not completed in less than four days. During this time, several, who were dangerously ill, experienced a great remission of their symptoms, and all became convalescent. One man, in particular, who had so severe a disease, that it had been determined to leave him behind, and who was removed only in consequence of his own earnest entreaties, in a few days after arriving at Dendermonde, was entirely out of danger.

During this journey the temperature of the air was mild, and the sky serene; but, in the next spring, the same advantages were experienced in a very opposite state of the atmosphere. More than a hundred patients, labouring under fever, were removed, in open carriages, from Embden to Bremen, a journey of four days, and with the same happy event as before, though the weather was extremely cold, accompanied with frequent falls of snow. It was observed, that delirium in particular was abated by the locomotion.

From Dr. Wake's observations of the effects of the removal of these patients, he lays down the following rules respecting the use of gestation. 1. It is most beneficial in the last stage of fevers. 2. It should be performed in an open carriage, in order that air may be freely admitted, and that the patient may be amused by a succession of new objects. 3. It should be continued for eight or ten hours daily, till the patient begins to recover.

The following cases were communicated to Dr. Wake, by Mr. Jones.

October 10, 1803. Joseph Bassett had been ill seven days. An emetic had been given on his admission into the hospital; afterwards a cathartic, and antimonial powder.—His body had been sponged with vinegar and water; camphor was exhibited; and bark and tincture of opium. Porter was allowed, and afterwards wine. On this day his pulse was very quick and feeble; continual nausea; inclination to stupor; the countenance had an idiot-like stare. In this state of extreme and alarming debility, he was carried in a spring-waggon seven miles into the country. On his return, he took some broth, and after it some wine, without nausea being produced. There was less stupor; his countenance looked better. 11th, He had a very good night. His pulse was not so quick; no nausea; his countenance looked better; no appearance of stupor. The day before, he could not sit up in his bed without support; and it was necessary to carry him to the spring-waggon. This day he walked down stairs, and to the waggon, holding the arm of a comrade.

William Finch, a pauper at Ipswich, aged fifty-five, in the month of January, 1806, had been ill six days of typhus gravior; the medical attendant had said that his recovery was impossible, and discontinued his visits. The patient's wife applied to me, in consequence of which I visited him, and found him labouring under the following symptoms: Very feeble pulse; low delirium; subsultus tendinum; petechiæ; tongue dry, and dark-coloured. I asked his wife, if she could procure a cart and horse, to have him taken into the country five or six miles daily. The poor woman could hardly be prevailed upon to think me in earnest; but, upon my assuring her that carrying her husband out was the only chance left for his recovery, she promised to obtain a cart the next morning early. However, I told her, if she could not obtain a horse to draw a cart, she should have my bat-horse; so anxious was I that the remedy should be tried in this apparently hopeless case. Gestation was tried the next morning, with evident advantage; in the evening of that day there was less subsultus tendinum; and the pulse was less feeble. On the evening of the second day of using gestation, the subsultus tendinum was entirely removed; the delirium was very considerably abated; and the pulse was stronger. On the evening of the third day, all the alarming symptoms had ceased; and, in five days more, gestation was no longer necessary, the patient being convalescent. It is worthy of remark, that no medicine was administered to this patient except tincture of opium, and once half an ounce of tincture of rhubarb.

Unity of Gestation in Scarlatina

A Young gentleman, at school here took the disease during an epidemic; it was among the worst cases of that fatal malady, and in the hottest weather in August. There were little hopes of his recovery; and he entreated to be taken home, a distance of eighteen miles.—His parents came, and seconded his wishes, provided I would accompany him. Their coach was large; a bed was put in, and he laid on it. I followed in my carriage. The procession was slow. Twelve miles passed in half as many hours. We stopped to rest and dine. He was then revived greatly, and sat up a little at table, to please his parents.—At length the journey ended, with his greater amendment. He slept comparatively well that night; was convalescent next day, and was well recovered in a week more. [Ibid.]

It should, by way of caution, be well observed, that though exercise is useful in fevers of a certain character, it is extremely hurtful in Pleuritis and other fevers of an inflammatory nature.

MISCELLANY.

THE RESURRECTION.

A beautiful and descriptive Extract, from the Scotch Preacher.

Twice had the sun gone down upon the earth, and all as yet was quiet at the sepulchre; death held his sceptre over the sun of God; still and silent the hours passed on; the guards stood by their post, the rays of the midnight moon gleamed on their helmets, and on their spears; the enemies of Christ exulted in their success; the hearts of his friends were sunk in despondency and in sorrow; the spirits of glory waited in anxious suspense to behold the event, and wondered at the depth of the ways of God. At length the morning-star arising in the east announced the approach of light; the third day began to dawn upon the world, when on a sudden the earth trembled from its centre, and the powers of heaven were shaken; an angel of God descended, the guard shrunk back from the terror of his presence and fell prostrate on the ground; his countenance was like lightning, and his raiment was as white as snow: he rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, and sat upon it. But who is this that cometh forth from the tomb, with died garments from the bed of death? He that is glorious in his appearance, walking in the greatness of his strength! It is thy Prince, O Zion! Christian, it is your Lord. He hath trodden the wine-press alone; he hath stained his raiment with blood; but now as the first-born from the womb of nature, he meets the morning of his resurrection. He arises a conqueror from the grave; he returns with blessings from the world of spirits; he brings salvation to the sons of men. Never did the returning sun usher in a day so glorious! it was the jubilee of the universe. The morning stars sung together, and all the sons of God shouted aloud for joy; the Father of Mercies looked down from his throne in the heavens; with complacency he beheld his world restored; he saw his work that it was good. Then did the desert rejoice; the face of nature was gladdened before him, when the blessings of the Eternal descended as the dew of heaven for the refreshing of the nations.

JULIET—A FRAGMENT.

*** She was sitting at the head of his grave—and the grass was beginning to look green upon the turf round the stone, where her tears usually fell—She had not observed me, and I stood still—"Thou hast left me, Fidelio," said she, bending her face down to the turf—"Thou hast left me: but it was to attend a dearer call—I will not weep," wiping her eyes with her handkerchief—"I will not weep—for it was the call of one who loved thee better.—Thou hast flown into his bosom—and what hast thou left behind thee for thy poor Juliet, but this cold sod?" She was silent some moments. The full moon was just beginning to climb over the tops of the trees as I came up; and as she stooped to kiss the turf, I saw the tears trickling through the moon

beams in hazy drops from her eyes. "Thou hast left me," said Juliet, raising her face from the grave—"but we shall meet again—I shall see thy face again, and hear thee speak—and then we shall part no more." She rose cheerfully to return. The tear was still trembling in her eye. Never did that moment did I behold so sweet a charm. One might have read the sentence in her face. "Thou hast left me," said the tear, "but we shall meet again, and then shall part no more," said the smile—"Blessed religion," thought I, "how happy are thy children!"

JUNIUS.

Belsham, the historian, who is a virulent man, has preferred the truth to party, in the following character of the rancorous Junius. "Amid the innumerable multitude of political publications, in which the conduct of the Grafton administration was arranged in the bitterest terms of severity, the national attention was particularly attracted by a series of letters appearing under the signature of Junius, and written in a style so masterly as to be generally deemed, in point of composition, equal to any literary productions in the English language. They consisted, however, of little else than splendid declamation and poignant invective, and discovered a cool and deliberate malignity of disposition, which, now, the passions and follies of the day have vanished, must excite disgust, at least, proportionate to our admiration. This writer did not hesitate, in numerous instances, to insinuate charges the most heinous and criminal, against persons the most distinguished in life, without pretending to support them, by even the shadow of proof, tho' repeatedly and loudly called upon. Of the Duke of Bedford, he says, speaking of the treaty of peace, 'it is not possible that so many public sacrifices should have been made without some private compensation.' The princess dowager of Wales, he compares 'to the abandoned royal inamorata of the detested Mortimer.' Sir Wm. Draper, he accuses of having 'sold the companions of his success'—the Duke of Grafton with betraying Lord Rockingham, and sacrificing Lord Chatham; and, in a tone of still more impudent and contemptible abuse, with having, as ranger of one of the royal forests, 'refused the king's timber to the royal navy.' When a man brings forward anonymous accusations of this nature, and basely shrinks from the subsequent investigation, what must the world think of his truth or his courage."

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Wilkie vs. Underwood.

Mr. Erskine stated that this action was brought to recover the price of a pig. The plaintiff found the defendant carrying off this pig, when he took him before a magistrate. The defendant said it was his, and that he had lost it some months before. The magistrate told them he could not decide it, and that the plaintiff must bring his action. The learned counsel said he could shew the genealogy of this pig, with as much particularity as if this were an ejection. His client had reared this pig; her name was Young Sall. She was produced from Old Sall. He stated a case that had been tried at the Assises, before Mr. Justice Heath, where a man brought an action for a horse which he had lost. It had been out of his possession for a certain length of time, but his lordship held that any number of witnesses called to prove it was his horse, could never be equal to the evidence on the other side, which was, that he had bred him, and that he had been constantly in his possession. He recollected another case, where a friend of his had lost a horse, and thought he had found him in the possession of another person. That person told him, however, that he had reared him, and that he had never been out of his possession. His friend, however, was still convinced it was his horse; for, he said, the man who stole his horse might afterwards put him into the defendant's stable, and take the defendant's horse. He brought an action and lost it. He also recollected a lady, a friend of his, who had a favourite lap-dog, which she lost, after the time of mourning was over, the lady thought, one day she was walking through the street, that she had found Phœbe. The business was brought into court. The plaintiff proved this bitch had been constantly in his possession, and Phœbe, without a subpoena, went to the other side of the table and paid her respects to her old mistress. So this pig, followed her master to the watch-house, to see justice done to the defendant, who was carrying her away. The single question was, as to the identity of this animal. A number of witnesses swore the pig in question was reared by the plaintiff, and was constantly in his possession, till the time the defendant took it away. Another set of witnesses swore, with equal certainty, that this was the pig of the defendant. There was no idea any of the witnesses were perjured, but that they really believed what they swore.

Verdict for the plaintiff. The defendant undertook to return the pig.

In a district near Bengal, we are told that it is a custom for a debtor to pledge his wife to his creditors till the debt is discharged.—In all countries it appears that some bankrupts contrive to be gainers.

EPIGRAM.

You've stol'n my ravish'd soul away,
Maria pity my despair;
Return it to its place, I pray,
Or take my body in your care.