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[From the Aurora.]

AGRICULTURE.

An account of a viſit to the principal Vine-Yards of Pennſylvania, by a member of the Vineyard company in Kentucky.

Every thing relating to agriculture is ſo intereſting to America, that I ſhall be excuſed publiſhing a ſhort account of the ſtate and progreſs of the Vineyards in Pennſylvania.

Having ſome buſineſs to tranſact in Philadelphia, I thought it a favourable opportunity to ſee with my own eyes, the comparative ſtate of vine dreſſing between Pennſylvania and Kentucky.

At Pottſgrove, Montgomery county, I remarked the vines were too much loaded, open with wood and fruit, in proportion to the ſtrength of the plant, which muſt ſuffer by it, if *Dr. Seraphin* does not order them to be cut very low, and beſtow a quantity of manure, equal to the wood and fruit which the vines have to ſupport.

At Norriſtown I ſaw ſome plants of the Liſbon, Champaigne, Burgundy, and Conſtantia wine, which gen. Swaine had planted in the Spring. If they had been planted in the fall, he would have been more certain of ſucceſs; nevertheleſs, with a little care, there is no doubt but they will ſucceed.

At Spring Mill I found Mr. Legaux's Vineyard, which had been cut laſt autumn. One part of it was capable of being ploughed betwixt the rows, with a light plough and one horſe. In the other part which is too ſteep for the plough, he uſes particular inſtruments of his own invention, extremely proper for the purpoſe; becauſe the ground may be opened 13 inches in depth, without incommoding the roots; and may be turned with as much eaſe, as a common plough.

The young ſhoots were in a proſperous condition; the leaves were opened and the grapes began to make their appearance. On ſome I might reckon 10, 15 or 20, others 30 or 40, and even as many as 70 bunches of grapes on one plant.

It is impoſſible, even in Europe, any thing more flouriſhing of the kind, for the ſeaſon, could be ſeen. The whole vineyard, which contains about 6 acres, promiſes a rich harveſt of fruit, and an immenſe quantity of plants; if the wood comes to maturity, which has been always the caſe in this country, on account of the temperature of our autumns and the extreme heat of Summer.

Near this, which is the mother vineyard of the United States, there is a rock, which, by the induſtry of Legaux, has been converted into an excellent kitchen and flower garden, and where he has a nurſery of more than 15 different kinds of plants of the vine, at the ſervice of the public, ſuch as Burgundy, Champaign, Bourdeaux, Conſtantia, Liſbon, Maderia, Muſcadel, white black and red Malaga, and ſome plants of all the different kinds of native American, to which the vine dreſſer of Spring Mill pays the ſame attention as European plants, with a view of aſcertaining whether a proper culture would not ameliorate them, which would be a great advantage to the country, ſince they are already inured to the climate.

About 300 paces from thence is the new vineyard and nurſery, which the Pennſylvania company incorporated by act of aſſembly, hath recently eſtabliſhed. The land appears well choſen and in good order, ſo that there can be no doubt but the plants will ſucceed, eſpecially as the gentle declivity is ſuch, that no water can be loſt, or the vineyard receive any injury from heavy rains—added to this, if there ſhould ever happen a dry ſeaſon there is an inexhauſtible ſpring of water, expoſed to the ſun, with which the whole ground may be watered at pleaſure.

Both the choice of the ground and the manner in which it has been planted, prove, either a good theory, or experimental practice in the kind of agriculture in the preſident and directors of that company,—But if the plants which may amount to 7 or 8000 had been planted in the fall inſtead of the ſpring, I ſuppoſe they would have looked much better. However, as it is, the plants are in general in a thriving ſtate.

At four miles from Philadelphia, on the Ridge-road, is the vineyard of Mr. Montmollin, containing about 1000 plants, principally of the ſame kinds with ours in Kentucky. This vineyard is in excellent order, planted in right lines, well cut and dreſſed, ploughed with the ſame kind of inſtrument, which is uſed in Switzerland, which goes deep and preſerves the roots of the vine. It is well adapted for ſtrong land, which it turns up without being trodden, and conſequently is leſs expoſed to the influence of the ſun and atmoſphere.—The plants in the vineyard are ſtrong and vigorous, the branches are diſpoſed in the beſt manner poſſible for ripening the fruit, which now begin to make their appearance.

The land is well choſen, and the beſt poſſible expoſitions for a vineyard.—There is alſo a nurſery for about 1300 plants, planted at about a foot diſtance from each other, which appeared to me a proper interval for a nurſery.

On the left of the vineyard is a kitchen garden, an orchard, and a nurſery for young fruit trees; among which are a prodigious number of young grafts which ſucceed very well.

But what pleaſed me as much as any thing, and which ought to occupy the attention of every agriculturaliſt, was the excellent ſtate of the farm yard.—There was as much manure collected from a plantation of 40 or 50 acres as we generally find on one of 4 or 500 in this country.

This ſuperiority in rural economy muſt be owing to the care the proprietor takes of his cattle.

I was aſtoniſhed, however, after finding every thing in ſuch excellent condition, that the eſpalliers ſhould be ſo ill cut, and the branches diſpoſed with ſo little judgement. It certainly could not be the ſame gardner who engrafted the trees and laid out the garden, that pruned the eſpalliers.

To prune trees and dreſs them in the manner of eſpalliers is an operation of art, which never intended that the action of vegetation ſhould be ſtopped, or that the tree ſhould be ſubject to inciſions, which diſturb the order and mechaniſm of their organiſation, or derange the circulation of the ſap, which then takes a courſe different from that intended by nature. Nevertheleſs, when this operation is well managed, a man of taſte may make his trees take any form which pleaſes his fancy, and diſpoſe of them in ſuch a manner that while they carry abundance of fruit, they may be an ornament to the garden for a number of years This ſhews the value of a good gardner.

Theſe, however, I am ſorry to ſay it, were managed ſo ill, that they never can laſt long, nor carry much fruit, at the ſame time that they preſent a diſagreeable coup d'œuil.

I underſtood that about a mile from Mr. Montmolin's there was another vineyard, not yet taken notice of in the public papers. I therefore went to pay it a viſit, and was charmed to ſee a plantation in ſuch good order, an excellent garden furniſhed with every kind of vegetables, and above all, a vine yard, which by its appearance promiſed well.

The agreeable and the uſeful were here found united with neatneſs, in ſuch a way as to do great credit to the proprietor, Mr *Peter Kuhn*, of Philadelphia. I was told by the gardener that the plants were of the Liſbon, Malaga and Madeira wines; but they were far from being well pruned, that is to ſay there were too much wood and fruit; and if Mr. Kuhn does not order them to be cut, in two or three weeks, the plants muſt ſuffer conſiderably, and the confuſion will be ſo great, that the branches can never be placed in order. In every other reſpect the vines are ſtrong, planted on good land, well aired, on a gentle declivity facing the ſouth, three miles from the city. The fruit carried to the market of Philadelphia, muſt neceſſarily reimburſe, with intereſt, the expence of this charming eſtabliſhment.

It is yet to be known, whether the juice of the Madeira plants will yield a wine equal to that imported; the conſumption of which is ſo great, and which to the great detriment of America, carries away an immenſe capital which might be retained in the country, if more particular attention was given to this branch of agriculture.

Dr. James Meaſe, (the firſt American who eſtabliſhed a vineyard in Pennſylvania) has choſen an excellent ſituation, near the centre of the ground plan of Philadelphia, on the line of Cherry Alley. He has about 3000 plants of different kinds of grapes, in a ſouthern expoſure, which commands the ſun from morning till night. The land appeared to me a little too ſtrong, but Dr. Meaſe, a zealous friend to agriculture and to every thing that belongs to it, knows how to adminiſter that kind of manure proper to give to his wine a generous ſpirit, ſuch as a light and ſandy ſoil commonly yields. All his plants were ſet from cuttings laſt autumn, and proſper very well, and ſome had even grapes: but the doctor will certainly not think of enjoying them this year, knowing, as he does, that it is better for cuttings, firſt to be ſupplied with good roots, and ſome wood, before they bear fruit. A diſtance of four feet is exactly obſerved betwixt each plant; but two plants have been put in each hole leſt one ſhould miſs; and in caſe of both growing, one may be tranſplanted next year, to enlarge the vineyard. I approve very much of this method of planting the vine, and the more ſo, when they are only cuttings without roots.

During the ſummer and part of the autumn it will be very agreeable to the citizens of Philadelphia to have near them a ſpecific againſt the ſickneſs which has ſo often defied the Eſculapean art.

The moſt celebrated doctors of Europe, Buchan, Tiſſot, Mead, Tronchain, Linuteau, Cullen, Debois de Rochefort, &c. agree that the grape is the beſt diſſolvent of the bile, cures the moſt obſtinate dyſenteries, is very good in all obſtructions of the abdominal viſcera, the moſt obſtinate jaundice, and above all in the black ſickneſs, the hypochondria, and in diſeaſes of the ſkin; for the grapes are an excellent aperient and purifier of the blood: but they muſt not be given in ſmall doſes. In theſe caſes they ſhould be made almoſt the only nouriſhment, eating 10, 12, or 15 pounds a day. All thoſe who have uſed them, in this manner, have found great advantage from them.

And among others I have heard it related upon good authority, that an officer of the former king of France's houſehold, who had been long affected with an hypochondriacal affection, with an intermitting fever and obſtructions in the abdominal viſcera. His colour, which was a black yellow, looked horrible. Grapes were recommended to him, by one of the moſt celebrated phyſicians in France, he purchaſed ſeveral acres of vineyard in the neighbourhood of Paris; and, when the grapes were in ſeaſon, he ate upwards of 20lb a day, which perfectly reſtored him to health. Several ſimilar cures have been effected by this delicious fruit when every other remedy had failed, and who knows but it might be efficacious in the yellow fever, which afflicts the ſeaports of the United States. I confeſs that formerly it was not ſo much in our power to make the experiment as it is at preſent, when upwards of twenty vineyards have been eſtabliſhed, and many more projected for the next fall. After the great ſucceſs which we have had in this ſpecies of agriculture, as well here as in Pennſylvania, we need not doubt that our climate is as favorable for the vine as that of Europe, where it was an exotic a few centuries ago, while it is natural in our hemiſphere, though to our ſhame, and contrary to our true intereſt, we have hitherto neglected it.

I have alſo ſeen ſeveral trelliſes in the gardens of Philadelphia, but they all appeared too much loaded with fruit and wood at top, and little or nothing below, or on the ſides. At the next pruning the defect ought to be remedied, otherwiſe the vines will ſoon periſh, and muſt be replaced with others which would ſhare the ſame fate if not better managed.—When we wiſh to enjoy *too soon* and *too much*, we ſhould not expect to enjoy *long*.

I called alſo on Mr. ——, I forgot this name, a Frenchman of a noble family, who has about two acres in vineyard, half a mile from Philadelphia, by the way of ſouth Second ſtreet. This vineyard is of another kind from thoſe mentioned above. The vines are planted in ſuch a manner as to form a counter Eſpallier, one ſide of which face the ſouth, and the other the north—as, by this method, the fruit can never be ripe at the ſame time it is not ſo well adapted for thoſe who ſhould be deſirous of making wine; but near Philadelphia where the grapes may be ſold for table, it anſwers very well, as by that means, the market may be ſupplied for ſeveral weeks ſucceſſively.

This method of counter eſpalliers has many difficulties, it requiring a greater expence than the common mode of culture, becauſe all the labour muſt be done by hand; in a country where manual labour is ſo dear, I therefore prefer the method followed by Meſſrs. Montmollin, Legaux and Meaſe, which is the ſame that we practice in Kentucky. Nevertheleſs the vines looked well, but bleeding too much, having been cut too late in the ſpring, which will bring an abortion of the fruit, and injure the wood, which ought to be the cultivator's hope for the next year. The land is good, light and ſubſtantial; having been 50 or 60 years cultivated as a garden by the Germans, whoſe induſtry in the amelioration of land, and in every thing which relates to agriculture is well known. It however is not in ſo airy a ſituation as a vineyard ought to be; and muſt, on that account, be more ſubject to mildew, and to make the leaves fall before the fruit is ripe; it muſt alſo be more ſubject to inſects than land enjoying a freer circulation of air. The vines alſo appear to me to have been cut too ſhort, eſpecially in land ſo moiſt and rich in vegetation; for, to cut plants too ſhort, and diſcharge the ſap, which is in full force, on a good, deep, moiſt ſoil, prevents the production of fruit and exhauſts the vine in producing ſuckers—ſuch a method of cutting appears to me moſt ſuitable to weaker vines, planted on land better aired and leſs ſubſtantial.

(To be continued)

Biography.

LORD KENYON.

No profeſſion has afforded better opportunity for the exerciſe of great talent, and none has rewarded it with higher honors, or higher emolument, than that of the law. It is a profeſſion alſo, which has this peculiar advantage, that it offers encouragement to that ſort of ſkill which is within the reach of moderate abilities, but which is only acquired by long habits of diligent reſearch and patient aſſiduity.

The ſubject of the following memoir was gradually elevated to one of the higheſt offices of his profeſſion. No man ever ſet out upon his career, with fewer advantages derived from nature, or fortune, or connexion. He was born at Gredington, in Flintſhire, in which country his father reſided on his eſtate, and filled the office of juſtice of the peace. Mr. Kenyon was educated at Ruthin, in Denbighſhire, and at a very early age, was removed, by the choice of his parents, in order to be placed in the office of Mr. Tomlinſon, an eminent attorney at Nantwich, in Cheſhire, as an articled clerk.

At the expiration of his articles, Mr. Tomlinſon died, and as it was intended Mr. Kenyon ſhould have carried on the practice in conjunction with that gentleman, an important change took place in the deſtination of his life. Determined to enter on the wider ſpace of exertion, which the profeſſion of a counſel allotted to him, he entered at Lincoln's Inn, in Trinity term, 1754, and was called to the bar in Hilary term, 1761.

During the firſt years of his profeſſion, Mr. Kenyon's advancement was ſlow. It was probably retarded by thoſe cauſes, which muſt always operate againſt profeſſional men, who are not puſhed into notice by the exertions and recommendations of ſtrong and powerful connexions. And it would be no derogation from the talents of Mr. Kenyon, if it were remarked, that he was not fitted, by the peculiar powers of his mind, and the appropriate character of his genius, to make an impreſſion at firſt in any reſpect adequate to the ſolidity and depth of his judgment. The department of the ſcience on which he was moſt intenſely occupied, was that of conveyancing; a line of the profeſſion which peculiarly demands habits of preciſe and patient induſtry, rather than ſplendid exertions of talent.

But the merit of Mr. Kenyon, as a ſound lawyer, and an induſtrious practitioner, were by no means overlooked. He roſe into practice gradually, but his footing was ſure and ſtrong. The greater part of his buſineſs was what is called chamber buſineſs; that of giving opinions on caſes ſubmitted to his judgment, and of drawing conveyances, and bills in equity. In this branch of the profeſſion, he arrived at very conſiderable eminence, and no legal opinion carried with it more weight and authority than that of Mr. Kenyon.

About this time, he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Thurlow, afterwards Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, a circumſtance to which ſome have attributed his riſe at the Chancery bar; but it is ſurely more probable that he enſured his ſucceſs by his own talents and application. In the court of Chancery, his practice was very extenſive and lucrative; and he had already acquired a very large fortune by his buſineſs in that court, when, in the year 1782 he was appointed Attorney-General, and Chief Juſtice of Cheſter. In his promotion to the Attorney-Generalſhip, Mr. Kenyon is a ſingular inſtance of the acquiſition of that honor, without ſerving the intermediate office of Solicitor-General.

About this period he was brought into Parliament, and in the memorable debates on Mr. Fox's coalition took a very zealous and animated part againſt that unfortunate meaſure. As a political character, he was expoſed to ſatyrical merriment in the facetious criticiſms of the Rolliad, prefixed to which there is a very admirable likeneſs of Sir Lloyd Kenyon, maſter of the rolls. To this latter office he was appointed in the year 1784, a place of conſiderable rank and honour in the profeſſion, but by no means equal in emolument to the lucrative income he derived from his profeſſional exertions.

In this ſituation he remained till 1788, when the venerable earl of Mansfield reſigned his ſeat on the bench, to the great regret of the bar and the country, after having preſided ſo many years in the court of King's Bench, with a dignity and firmneſs ſo highly honorable to his judicial character. It is ſaid that this great man maintained a ſtruggle with his increaſing infirmities, and kept his ſituation, notwithſtanding the weakneſs of his health, for the purpoſe of procuring his vacant ſeat for a judge to whom he was perſonally attached by long habits of friendſhip. Sir Lloyd Kenyon, however, received this great diſtinction, on the reſignation of lord Mansfield, and was at the ſame time honoured with a peerage.

After his promotion to the Chief Juſticeſhip of England, his lordſhip exhibited a more conſpicuous part on the theatre of public life. A function of ſuch extenſive influence, and occupying ſo vaſt a ſpace in the eyes of mankind, neceſſarily expoſes the character and the conduct of thoſe who exerciſe them, to much ſcrutiny and animadverſion. He who is placed at the head of the firſt criminal and civil judicature of the country, in which the moſt momentous controverſies of law are decided, and the moſt ſolemn queſtions of property adjuſted, muſt be clothed with more than human perfection, to eſcape cenſure and imputation. But concerning the integrity of Lord Kenyon, no diſpute ever entered into the mind of any one, who has been at all converſant with the buſineſs of our courts of juſtice. There is, however, an exceſs of zeal in morals as well as in religion, which may occaſionally betray the beſt and the wiſeſt men into intemperance and vehemence of expreſſion. Perhaps the noble judge was two frequently carried away by his generous enthuſiaſm. But much ought to be indulged to feeling when it is on the ſide of virtue; and that is a cold and auſtere philoſophy which would reſtrain the ſenſibilities of an honeſt mind, when they are employed in the ſervice of good morals and religion.

In exhibiting an impartial character of Lord Kenyon, it is impoſſible not to advert to the quickneſs and irritability of his temper which have been frequently objected to him. Theſe unqueſtionably are not judicial qualities. Succeeding to a man ſo remarkable for the mildneſs and urbanity of his manners, it is not extraordinary that too much animadverſion ſhould have been exerciſed on the temper of the noble judge. The want of courteouſneſs is more peculiarly noticed in a ſituation of ſuch high rank and ſuch honourable eſtimation. Yet we believe it to have been in a great meaſure a habit ariſing from a conſtitutional irritability, which has been frequently found to baffle all the vigilance and all the efforts made to ſubdue it. But it cannot be diſſembled, that there is nothing more directly derogatory to the dignity of the judicial character, than the exibition of a fretful and choleric diſpoſitions.

If the name of Lord Kenyon deſcends to poſterity, it will deſcend with the praiſes of all good men, for his firm and perſevering exertions, to keep the channels of law clear and unpolluted by low and ſordid practiſes. Over the attornies of his court he exerciſed a vigilant and ſalutary authority, of which the utility has been already very extenſively experienced. No profeſſion contains within it more honorable and upright practiſers; none has afforded greater encouragement to low and deſperate adventurers. Theſe are evils inſeparable from the profeſſion; but it is the duty of thoſe intruſted with the adminiſtration of the laws, to preſerve them in purity and ſoundneſs, as far as human caution and vigilance can be extended. Theſe low pettyfoggers in law, the profeſſors of mean and deſpicable evaſions, have contributed to bring law itſelf into diſhonourable eſtimation among thoſe, who from theſe partial abuſes, are led into unjuſt inferences againſt the ſyſtem itſelf. But it ought to be remembered, that by the ordinary diſpenſations of Providence, great evils grow up with great benefits; and that the worſt and moſt peſtilential evils are engendered in the luxuriance of the greateſt of our bleſſings.

Nor can it be forgotten, in a review of the public character of Lord Kenyon, that he moſt effectually vindicated the cauſe of virtue and morality in thoſe trials of adultery, which at different times were brought before him. He expreſſed a virtuous indignation in terms at once expreſſive and appropriate. Neither rank, nor wealth, no ſtation were pro-