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[Whole No. 272.]

LETTERS, BY THE EARL OF DUNDONALD, ON MAKING BREAD FROM POTATOES. (Concluded.)

ENOUGH has been said in the two foregoing letters, to convince individuals of the benefit to arise to them, by applying the potatoe and its farina, to the uses there mentioned. I shall now proceed to give a statement of the produce and value of an acre of potatoe, manufactured as recommended: Likewise, a statement of the produce and value of an acre of wheat.—The data for the foregoing calculation, proceed upon the quantity I had, this season, on an acre of ground planted in drills, and cultivated by the plough. Nor will it appear, that the produce is greater than is generally had from an acre of ground, cultivated in the same manner; and, which is always less productive than ground cultivated for potatoe by the spade; either in the hill, or as it is practised in Ireland, in the *lazy-bed way*; where, from the frequent coverings and earthings up by the spade, an instrument fitter for that purpose than the plough, a much larger produce in potatoe may be had: and those potatoe drier, and more mealy, from the ground being better drained, and more free from moisture.

I must not be supposed, by the comparative statement which follows, to recommend it to farmers and others to give up, or to prefer, beyond the bounds of prudence, the cultivation of potatoe to wheat: Nor, indeed, can such a conclusion be warranted from my former letters; wherein it is stated, that a proportion of wheat-flour, or the meal of other grain, *must be mixed* with the potatoe-flour, to allow its forming a paste, or dough, and being made into bread.

According to good husbandry, especially when potatoe are dug up in proper time, wheat should follow the potatoe; and sown grass, such as clover and rye-grass, should follow the wheat:—and, by far the best method of preparing and recruiting the ground after two such severe crops, as those of potatoe and wheat, is by pasturing, and top-dressing with dung. Potatoe and wheat are very *exhausting crops*; yet, fortunately, they act on the ground in *different* manners. Wheat consolidates & *hardens* the surface of the ground; while the frequent stirrings and earthings given to potatoe, open, and allow the action of the air and the weather to mellow it, and rendering it friable; forming an excellent preparation for the subsequent crop of wheat, to which a dressing with lime will be particularly serviceable.—By laying the dung upon the grass, the bad effects of it in rendering potatoe *watery*, as well as *late* in their growth, will be avoided.

The ground, when broke up for potatoe, will, with the subsequent culture given to it, be in high order for wheat: For which the lime may be applied with peculiar advantage, as has already been observed.

After the statement promised has been given, proceeding upon the quantity of farina got from a given quantity of potatoe, the attention of the proprietors of the soil in Britain and Ireland, will, then, be called to the expediency, nay, justice, of their leasing out small portions of ground, to cottagers, tradesmen, and lower classes of the people, on leases of *three lives or sixty years*. These people do all, and pay for, almost, all; yet have no *permaneat interest* in the soil, and in the prosperity of the country which they inhabit.

STATEMENT.

A boll of potatoe consists of sixteen pecks; and is, in this part of the country, the Linlithgow barley measure, heaped. The peck, on an average, weighs 24lb. averdupoise. From a peck of good potatoe were got 6 lb. 2 1-2 oz. of flour, and 2 oz. of bran. Say, however, of flour 6 lb.; every boll of potatoe will, therefore, yield 96 lb. of flour. Forty bolls of potatoe will give 3840 lb. equal to 120 bushels of 32 lb. each. The flour is rated at one half-penny per lb. under the average price of wheat-flour, for some years past; viz. at one penny half-penny per lb. equal to four shillings per bushel; being, likewise, the average price of oat-meal in the most populous parts of Scotland for several years.

By 120 bushels potatoe flour, at 4s 24 : 0 : 0
By 10 Scots bolls, equal to 40 Winchester bolls of wheat, at 5s. 6d. 11 : 0 : 0

Balance in favor of potatoe flour, 13 : 0 : 0

Nothing is charged above for manufacturing or preparing the potatoe into flour, as it is supposed to be done by the cottager or manufacturer's wife, or some one of his family. The liquor got in the process if given to a milk cow, (and each cottager, &c. should undoubtedly be allowed or enabled on account of his children to keep one) will, from the additional quantity of milk, to be had thereby in the winter time, be sufficient to defray the charges, or to pay the person employed in preparing the flour. The dung made by the cottager's or tradesman's cow, will enable him to keep his little spot of ground always in good heart, especially if he applies the dung in the manner that has been recommended.

It is a fortunate circumstance to a country like Britain, where the breed of black cattle and horses are *so fast driving out the breed of men*, that a greater produce in potatoe may be had by the spade than by the plough. The author is afraid that the predilection to *four-footed beasts* will continue, until the cottager shall, by a *higher rent*, bribe the landlord to prefer him to the tillage farmer or monopolizer of ground; at least to the extent of as much, as will enable the cottager to keep a cow, and to produce food for his family. It is fortunate too, from the advantages attending the cultivation of potatoe, that the cottager can afford to bribe the landlord by an addition of 50 per cent. of rent; and still to live much more comfortably, and better than he does at present. The benefits arising from the culture of potatoe, will not be confined to the cottager and other growers of that root. All ranks of people will feel the benefit that must ensue, by keeping at a moderate rate, wheat-flour, which has been *so very high* for some years past. For as wheat-flour will bear a proportion in price to potatoe flour, the grower of potatoe, or the cottager will have, to a certain degree, the fixing of the price for the farmer's wheat, who must either content himself with less profits, or have a deduction of rent allowed him, by his landlord: which the landlord can afford to give, in as much as he receives *additional rent* from the cottagers for the ground occupied by them. So that even at that rate neither landlord nor tillage-farmer will be *loser*; and the great body of the people will be supplied with food at a moderately low and regular price.

I cannot but anticipate with peculiar pleasure, the increased population of Great-Britain and Ireland, in consequence of the lower classes of people being better fed, and enabled to do *all things at a cheaper rate*. This and the two former letters have been made as concise as could consistently be done with conveying to the public my ideas on the great and important subjects they contain. A plentiful supply of flour to be got from under the surface of the earth, protected from the seasons is a great and pleasing idea. By the more general cultivation of potatoe, and by adopting what has been recommended in these letters, the inhabitants of northern countries where grain seldom comes to full maturity, will have it in their power to provide themselves with food at a *season of the year* when potatoe in their raw and unprepared state *cannot be prevented from germinating*. A small supply of flour or meal imported, or oat-meal of their own produce reserved until the summer months, will enable them to be plentifully supplied with food at a time when they often experience the greatest want.

May God bless these and other attempts to alleviate the distress and wants of others, and in extending to the poor, comforts they are at present strangers to.

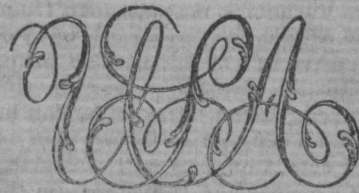
Culross Abbey, Feb. 1791.

FROM THE MAIL.

PATRIOTIC PRINTS.

AMONG the objects deemed worthy the attention of a polished people, painting has ever held a distinguished rank. The Greeks made this delightful art the handmaid of religion: the Romans did the same. The Moderns, whose taste still retains a tinge of Gothic and Chivalrous colouring, have made it the illustration of their own passions; and an exhibition of the pageantry of a court, of the imagery of superstition, or the achievements of a wicked ambition in martial scenery, has generally been the object of the modern painter. America has produced an artist formed by profession as a patriot soldier, and amply gifted by attainments to take a new road to fame—to a fame that is to associate the ideas of posterity with the progress of freedom in this land—with the scenes of a virtuous and gallant soldiery, displayed in patriotic trials of danger. The paintings of our Trumbull exhibit, amidst the perfections of his art, the solid glories of his country.—They are a series of historical events visibly portrayed, that lead the mind's eye from the first to the last stage of the American revolution. This series of patriotic paintings ought to be dear to Ame-

ricans: the men seen in the copy now, some of them, live.—If these inestimable works leave this country without recel, we never more can have others of equal merit. The original will soon be no more; and where could we find an artist, who, as a soldier, "lived through the scene, and was what we behold" in his works, a first rate painter. Prints may multiply copies sufficient to supply every man in America who has a relish for the fine arts, with these works. An enlightened public ought to wish for such a work if none existed: it ought to cherish it as it does exist.



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1791.

Sketch of the Debate on the Report of the Committee of Elections on the Election of J. F. Mercer, Member from Maryland.

THE law of the State of Maryland regulating elections being called for, was produced and read—by which it appeared that the Governor and Council of that State were authorized to fill up vacancies in the representation of that State in Congress.

Some objections having been offered against accepting the report,

Mr. Seney observed that the case appeared to him to be so plain, that he was surprised to find gentlemen objecting to an acceptance of the report of the committee. He then stated the whole process of the business in the resignation of Mr. Pinckney, and the election of Mr. Mercer—in which the law of the State had been strictly adhered to. He concluded by saying that two cases in point had already occurred in the State of Connecticut, and no difficulty respecting them had taken place in the house.

Mr. Giles said that he was a member of the select committee which had made the report—and from an accurate attention to all the circumstances of the case, he was led to think the report a very improper one. From recurring to the Constitution, he was of opinion that a resignation did not constitute a vacancy. The Constitution speaks only of vacancies in general, and does not contemplate one as resulting from a resignation. Adverting to the British House of Commons, he observed that in that body there could be no resignation. This is an established principle.

The people having once chosen their representatives, their power ceases, and consequently the body to which the resignation ought to be made no longer exists. From the experience of the British government in this respect, he argued against a deviation from this rule.

He shewed from the Constitution that the executives of the States who are empowered to fill vacancies, are not at all authorized to declare the existence of such vacancies—for if they are to judge in the case, the whole power is invested in them of determining the whole business of vacancies—an idea that materially and essentially affects the privileges of the members of the house.

He remarked that even by the law of Maryland, the requisite steps had not been pursued by the executive of that State. He concluded by saying that if the principles he had advanced were just, he hoped the report would not be accepted.

Mr. Smith (S.C.) said he had had his doubts on the report, but on more mature consideration he was convinced that on account of the inconvenience which would result from rejecting it, and from other considerations, it was proper to adopt it, but not without a full discussion.

He then stated some particulars to shew that the vacancy which had occurred on this occasion could not properly be called a resignation—Mr. Pinckney had never taken his seat, nor the requisite oath.

He said that there was no analogy between the parliament of Great-Britain and this house—the mode of issuing the writs originally, and of filling up vacancies, is essentially different.

No parts of the Constitution prohibits a member from resigning, and for convenience it ought to be concluded that he may resign. The pub-