

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U N E 11, 1807.

Miscellany.

SAVAGE—THE POET.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER.

FROM THE BOSTON CHRONICLE.

To the Editors of American Newspapers.

THE culture of fruit trees being an important object in every part of the United States, and in many of the old towns the scarcity of timber and fuel pointing to the necessity of rearing forest trees, I have observed with regret in every part of the country a great error in regard to the raising of trees of every kind—that is, in permitting the grass to grow near the body of young trees. Even the hardest forest trees will not thrive well, unless the earth round them, at least two or three feet, is kept loose and free from grass or weeds. For want of attention to this important circumstance, innumerable trees decay and die; and the growth of those which do not die is so slow, that the labour of the planter is nearly lost—as in that state it will require four times the number of years to rear them to maturity, that would be required if properly cultivated.

In planting trees, it is essential to their quick growth, that the holes be much larger than the extent of the roots—and that some rich earth be put into the holes. And let it be remembered, that the growth of trees may be increased by proper manure and culture, as much as other plants. Any person may ascertain this fact, by due attention to some trees, and neglect of others.

As the loss to the farmers is immense, in consequence of the error above mentioned, it is hoped that every printer may give these hints to his readers.

A NATIVE CITIZEN.

N. B. It is computed that forest trees, to the value of two millions of dollars, might be annually raised in the old towns of the United States, without lessening the growth of any other productions, and without great expence, as the ground might be kept in proper order by the plough, where the trees are planted in rows. Many of the pastures would be benefited by being surrounded with forests; and their shade is refreshing to cattle, sheep and horses, and to all animals.

Whoever notices the decrease of timber and fuel in the old towns, and the increase of inhabitants, will view this as a very important concern; and lament that it is so generally neglected. The naked lands of Europe, once covered with trees, where millions of people now can scarcely obtain fuel to cook their victuals, afford a lesson for the people of this country. But our own experience may teach us with still more effect; within twelve years wood has risen in price in many towns more than two hundred per cent. Surely our domestic, as well as political concerns, require us to keep our eyes fixed on futurity.

ANCIENT IRISH STATUTES.

THE following curious enactments appear in some of the ancient Irish statutes:

A. D. 1474—No wool to be pulled off of living sheep.

In the same year, to check the progress of luxury, it is enacted that no gilt bridles or harness shall be used, except by knights and prelates.

A. D. 1450—The person who kills a thief is entitled to a penny from every plough, and a farthing from every cottage, within the Barony.

Every labourer's son to follow his father's occupation.

A. D. 1478—A former act which obliged knights or a county, and burghesses for cities, to be able to send 40s. yearly, is repealed, from the difficulty of finding persons so qualified.

A. D. 1495—Every man, who possesses goods and title in value of ten pounds, to have a bow and sheaf of arrows.

A. D. 1537—No wool to be exported, under penalty of forfeiture of ship and cargo, except by Edward Albecke, of Manchester, merchant, who may export forty pounds yearly.

A. D. 1556—No person to make aqua-vitæ without licence, under penalty of 4l. except men able to send ten pounds yearly, and burghesses of boroughs for their own use.

Same year, no Scots to be brought to Ireland on pain of death, except by the lord lieutenant's licence.

A. D. 1569—To make all the exportable commodities of Ireland cheap and plentiful, and encourage others from England, it was enacted that no wool, woollen yarn, flax or linen yarn, hides, sheep, calf, fat or deer skins, beef, wax, tallow, or butter, shall be carried out of the realm, under payment of duties equivalent to a prohibition. This was soon repealed.

A. D. 1635—Ploughing by horses tails, burning corn in the straw, and pulling wool off living sheep prohibited.

[The life of *Savage*, the Poet, as narrated by Dr. Johnson, was attended with the most singular and unparalleled distress.—Born without a legitimate claim to the protection of a father, abandoned and persecuted by a cruel and unnatural mother, he was by his birth a child of sorrow, and an heir to affliction. His misfortunes, however, were much increased by the thoughtless levity of his temper, and the wild imprudence of his conduct.—His maxim through life, was "to take no thought for the morrow." Dependent upon the precarious resources of literary traffic and fortuitous patronage, he was often reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty and want.—One of his plays, and many of his poems, were written upon scraps of paper which he picked up in the streets while he was wandering through the city of London, without the means of purchasing a dinner, or securing a lodging. On these occasions he frequently passed the night in the street under the shelter of hulks and sheds, or among the ashes of a glass-house.—But the most extraordinary misfortune of his life is connected with some circumstances in the life and character of the Countess of Macclesfield, his mother, which betray a degree of depravity almost beyond the reach of human conception. In consequence of an unfortunate affair at a tavern, in which *Savage* was engaged, a person by the name of Sinclair was killed. *Savage* was indicted, and by the perjury of witnesses, as it afterwards appeared, was convicted of murder. While he was languishing in the dungeon of Newgate, and was soliciting mercy from the crown, this monster in human shape, for the purpose of exasperating the queen, and preventing his pardon, actually fabricated a story of his having made an attempt upon her life. This infernal deception was, for a time, successful, but he at length by the influence of some powerful friends at court, obtained a pardon, and was set at liberty. Amidst these dreadful calamities, the native energy of his mind was in no degree repressed. In some of his poems, he has most pathetically described his misfortunes in language which strikingly displays the tenderness of his feelings and the sublimity of his genius.]

ON THE MISFORTUNES OF SAVAGE.

WHERE, gracious nature, was thy sovereign sway,
When infant SAVAGE first beheld the day;
When, from her arms, his cruel mother flung
The babe, whose birth the raptur'd muses sung?
Thine eyes, what poppy lull'd? Thy heart what steel
Lock'd up its pity, and forbid it feel?

UNHAPPY boy! no tender parent prest
His infant bosom to her eager breast!
For him, no smile, from sweet affection beam'd;
For him, no tear, from kind compassion stream'd;
For him, no kiss, in fervent transports, play'd;
For him, no arm maternal stretch'd its aid;
E'en in his youth, when flush'd with every grace,
And beauty wanton'd in his glowing face;
When his bright eye effus'd a vivid ray,
The light of genius bursting into day;
Doom'd, then, alas, a mother's hate to fear!
Doom'd, then, alas, a mother's curse to hear!
In elder life, when, rich in every power,
His cultur'd FANCY bloom'd a ripen'd flower;
His bold INVENTION revel'd in the sky,
And scan'd the sun-bright glories, glaring nigh;
His heav'n-ward GENIUS spread its tow'ring wing,
And tuneful Angels strain'd his Lyric string;
E'en then, indeed, was *Savage* doom'd to bear
The countless woes that fill a beggar's care!

OFT, in the night, fatigued, himself he'd lay
Where piercing winds had mark'd the bleak way,
Or, in some loathsome, shelter'd corner, steal,
Where oaths and curses howl'd a dreadful peal!
There count the clock that beat the hours away,
'Till lingering light announc'd approaching day!
When, with old chains, his yielding limbs were bound,
And death array'd his ghastly terrors round;
When his cold blood run liv'ring in the vein,
And wild disorder held his dizzy brain;
When every feeling heart for SAVAGE bled,
And every tongue, his thousand virtues plead;
When from the throne, sweet Mercy flew to save
The sentenc'd SAVAGE from a timeless grave;
His mother, then, with hellish fury fraught,
Mock'd the deep wounds her cruel crimes had wrought;
The mountain tigers, and the desert bear
Swell'd her fierce breast, and rul'd the malice there!

To such oppressive ills was SAVAGE born;
At him did Fortune point her deadly scorn;
Within his heart, though manly virtue reign'd,
To kindness rear'd it, and to feeling train'd;
Grief, like a Vulture famish'd, stole her way,
And gorg'd, unceasing, on her heavenly prey!

THE manner in which the late commotions, in the air and earth, are mentioned in the Enquirer of the 15th instant, has induced a subscriber to make the following communication and remarks.

The hail-storm which happened on Wednesday evening the 29th ult. was of short duration in the county of Cumberland, but was very extensive and more severe in other parts; on the Roanoke it was very violent, and the hail stones of enormous size each with a large nucleus. Preceding this tempest, were 5 or 6 days unusually warm for the season. Thursday was remarkably windy, attended with hard squalls from the north; the night was cloudy and tempestuous. The earthquake was felt about day break on Friday morning the 1st instant. The shock was severe in this and the neighbouring counties, particularly about Will's mountains; the noise was sharp, loud and undulatory, continuing a quarter of a minute, with concussions so violent as to endanger the breaking of glass and china. There was no repetition of the shock, which appeared to pass slowly from the south-west to the opposite side of the compass. The same evening it rained: Saturday also was a rainy day; the Sunday and Monday following were cool and uncommonly blustering; the cool weather continued several days without frosts; however, to do any material damage.

It may not be deemed by the curious unworthy of remark, that this singular and awful phenomenon was preceded by all the premonitory signs so accurately described by the learned and indefatigable Mr. Webster, in his admirable work on pestilence.

Among other signs which foretold this alarming event, may probably be reckoned the unparalleled drought which commenced in Virginia the latter part of July, 1805, and continued with unheard-of severity till the month of November, 1806, excepting when it was interrupted by a tornado and tremendous floods of rain, the water of which ran off, or was all evaporated in a day or two, leaving the ground so dry and hard as almost to suspend vegetation, and cut off nearly the whole crop of corn in some districts of this state.

The sudden appearance of a worm early last summer in the wheat and cornfields on the Roanoke, James river and elsewhere, in such multitudes as to threaten the total destruction of the growing crops, and in consequence famine, may also be taken into consideration to strengthen the hypothesis.

Lastly, the pestilential fever, which became epidemic about the same time in the middle and upper country, may undoubtedly be enumerated amongst the other alarming premonitions. This fever has continued until lately, and been attended with a mortality so great, especially among the young and robust, as to fill the neighbourhoods with terror and dismay.—By this disease more young people were hurried to an early grave, in the course of the year 1806, than died in the same extent of country during the ten preceding years. These are some of the direful precursors of this rare phenomenon, and time alone can tell, if greater evils are doomed to march in its frightful train.

The quantity of vapour, in the form of rain and snow, in the course of the winter past in this state, has exceeded all example, within the memory of man; this has indeed been the case throughout the United States, if public accounts are to be credited, besides tremendous storms on the American and European coasts, and general commotions of the atmosphere, have been noticed throughout this period, in most parts of the world. Perhaps these great elementary conflicts and disturbances may portend the approach of a comet, probably one of those mighty masses of matter, which plays through immeasurable space, may be now paying a visit to our solar system. Be it as it may, such appears to be the connexion between these grand phenomena of nature and want and pestilence, as justly to excite the attention of the philosopher and the sympathy of the philanthropist.—[May, 1807.]

MEDICAL NOTICES.

THE London Medical Society proposes to confer the Fothergillian gold medal upon the authors of the best essays on the following subjects:

Questions for the year 1807.—The best account of the epidemic fevers which have prevailed at several times in North-America, Spain and Gibraltar, since the year 1793, and whether they are the same or different diseases?

For the year 1808.—What are the best methods of preventing and of curing epidemic dysentery?

For the year 1809.—What are the criteria by which epidemic disorders that are not infectious may be distinguished from those that are?

For the year 1810.—What are the qualities in the atmosphere most to be desired under the various circumstances of pulmonary consumptions?