

J. Lowndes, delin.

THE
COFFEE-PLANTER;

OR,

AN ESSAY

ON THE CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURING OF

THAT ARTICLE OF

WEST-INDIA PRODUCE.

BY

JOHN LOWNDES,

PLANTER,

Of the Parish of Saint Paul,

DOMINICA.

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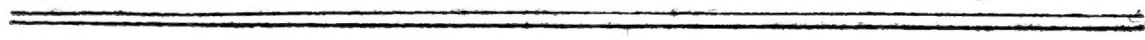
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TO

THE PLANTERS,

AND INHABITANTS IN GENERAL,

OF

THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA.



WHEN the Author set about committing to *Paper* the following pages, he had not the least idea of committing them to *Print*.

THEY were merely intended as a series of observations, and instructions, for the guidance of who-soever might happen to be his manager, at the time of his departure for Europe.

HE assumes to himself no great merit from the performance ; which is no more than methodizing what is already known :—yet should it prove

B only

only so far of use, as to inform, in some points, the *unexperienced in*, or to recal to the memory of the *experienced* Planter, any part of the practice of the species of Plantership it treats *of*, it will, he trusts, be admitted a sufficient apology for his obtruding it upon the notice of the public.

ANOTHER motive was, the pleasure he takes in offering this tribute of his attachment to, and token of his interest in, the welfare of a Colony, which has for such a length of time been the seat of his and his family's residence ;—of testifying his regret at parting with *some* valuable and esteemed friends ;—and of manifesting his respect for its inhabitants in general ; of whom he begs leave to subscribe

The most obedient Servant

and well-wisher,

THE AUTHOR.

Dominica, July 1, 1806.

THE
COFFEE-PLANTER;

OR,

An ESSAY, &c.

IT is singular that the importance of our West-India Productions has not excited more ardour in those capable of treating on the manner of the Culture and manufacturing of them.—Some treatises have appeared on the subject of Sugar Planting, but none of any great degree of merit; and some—vile abominable trash.*—A Mr. LABORIE, in his “St. Domingo Coffee-Planter,” has handled the Subject with considerable ability: But his Book is rather calculated for a Proprietor of an Estate, than the Manager, or Conductor of one. He occupies too many pages on the Subject of making or creating
an

* Peter Peterkin's Book, for instance.

an Estate, to be of much use to the latter ; and is too minute in the description of certain useful implements which stand in need of no description. I shall, on the contrary, not conduct my Reader to the forest clothed in its native umbrageous vesture, but set him down upon a settled plantation, and give him some plain and simple directions for conducting it.

IN the course of so doing I shall, of course, treat of that part, of extending the cultivation, and increasing the revenue ; which will bring me, of necessity, to lay down nearly the same Rules as Mr. LABORIE gives for making or forming a Plantation.

THE MANAGER. *

THE requisite qualities and talents of the person to whom should be entrusted the conducting or management of a Plantation are so numerous, that it is in fact rare, if not next to impossible, to find them all concentrated in one Man ; and this being the case, it can only be recommended to give a preference to the person who possesses the most of them.

IN the first place, he should be prudent, even-tempered, and sober ; for he is, in fact, when in the midst of his Sable Tribe, the miniature of a petty absolute Prince surrounded by his Subjects :—

His

* This is a term applied to the Chief Officer, or director of an Estate, which on my first arrival in the West-Indies sounded in my ears as rather out of the way ; though habit has since, in some degree, reconciled it. I should suppose some strolling Player, having turned Planter, was the first who conferred or assumed it. In Jamaica this Officer is termed the Overseer ; and him whom *we* term Overseer, is there called the Book-Keeper : the reason of which is, we suppose, because his business *is not to keep books*, but to pad about the Field and Works, and perform the menial offices thereof.

On reading thus much of this Note to an Intelligent Friend, he cast a light upon the matter, of which we must acknowledge our previous ignorance, viz. that the Officer of the subaltern white Superintendant in Jamaica had got so out of credit, that young men would not emigrate to take the situation, under the title it then bore, in consequence of which, the Proprietors resident in

Europe,

His dictate constitutes the Law, from which there is no appeal. He therefore ought to govern by the Rules of the most impartial justice; and, in the distribution of his rewards and punishments, to inflict the latter only on full conviction of the demerits of the subject, nor suffer himself to be guided in the former by caprice or partiality.

THUS much for his situation in a general point of view: we shall now descend more into particulars.—

HE should, above all things, possess humanity and moderation, with firmness to enforce discipline, and punish disobedience. He should possess as much of the knowledge of Physic as can be extracted from Buchan's Family Physician; that is, to know
by

Europe, or their Agents employed to procure them, thought fit to change the term to that of "Book-Keeper,"—(in which, we cannot but admit, was an unpardonable departure from candour) in order to do away the odium which the previous appellation had acquired. Let it not, however, be inferred that we hold the situation in a way disreputable.—A prudent sober Overseer is a highly reputable character; and is a step of the ladder which has raised many to the most respectable situations.

Could I effect a reform, I would call the Chief Director *the* SUPERINTENDANT; his subordinate Assistants *the* SUPERVISORS; and the DRIVER (a term I ever held in aversion) *the* OVERSEER: the names would then bear some analogy to the Office.

The DRIVER, though taken from among the blacks, is an Officer of importance and respectability. Two, three, or more may be necessary on large Estates.—In fact, the requisites for properly filling this station are almost as numerous as those of the Manager.
He

by the pulse, tongue, and other external tokens, if a subject who complains is really sick : It were well if his skill in Surgery went to phlebotomy and the setting of a limb : He should know a sufficiency of Farriery to make the proper applications for diseases of Horses, Mules, and horned-cattle :— He should be sufficient of a Mechanic to superintend the erection, at least, of rough buildings :— He should be so much of a Mathematician, as to be able to measure, and cast up the contents of a piece of Land ; to trace Roads, and level Canals for conducting Water :—He should possess a knowledge of Law and natural Justice, to decide correctly and impartially, in contests for property, and other disputes, among the Class of people committed to him ; and enough of the Sacerdotal character, to inculcate a love of order and morality, without permitting his doctrines to partake of the cant and hypocrisy of Methodism.

ALL these requisites, with a thorough knowledge of his business, it must be admitted, are very rare
to

He should preserve a steady impartial authority ; he should exact silence and order at the work :—he should keep himself clear from, and discover, and expose, all cabals :—he should be vigilant in the extreme over the conduct of the people in their Houses ; for as his resorts will be so much more immediately among them, than the whites, he cannot but be informed of all that passes :—he should be tenacious of the respect due to his situation ; and even at their feasts, diversions, and recreations, preserve a proper distance and reserve. This Officer is allowed to punish, for negligence or remissness, as far as half a dozen lashes ; but no further, without orders from the Chief Director of the Estate.

to be found united in one person.—And when we look round and see the many drunken, ignorant, illiterate, dissolute, unprincipled Characters, to whom the charge of Property is confided, (sometimes by the careless, or less conscientious, Attornies of absent Proprietors), it is no wonder the Estate goes to ruin and destruction.

IN my choice of a Manager, I would, contrary to the system of many people, prefer a married Man—and that for a variety of reasons:—the objection “that he will require more servants” is a very idle one. What a portion of attendance do we not see exacted by a coloured Mistress!—A prudent white Wife will voluntarily occupy herself among the sick Slaves:—Her affection to her husband will induce her to do it, to ease him of the burthen: Your Estate will be the domestic seat of order and decorum, instead of drunkenness, revelry and riot:—And the Manager will of course be more attached to his home, where domestic comfort awaits his arrival, than he who returns to the taunts of an extorting coloured Concubine, or any imperious female Slave selected from your gang; who, with the whole of her family and connexions, must be pampered and indulged, and thus spread jealousies, murmurs, and discontent, throughout all the other Negroes of the Plantation.

It is, however, but justice to admit, although I am no advocate for the open libertinism which is too charitably glanced over in this Clime, nor solicitous
of

of conciliating the goodwill of those Nymphs who kindly bestow their endearments on the youth of the other Sex, whose circumstances and situation incline them not to Matrimony,—that although I have known some coloured Damsels possessed of such a portion of the termagant, as to breed such strife that their Keeper could retain no situation whatever—yet have I known others possessed of sufficient moderation, and useful industry, to conduct themselves in a way, not only *not to injure*, but to be of service to, the property conducted by their paramours.

MR. LABORIE has been so very minute as to begin by the choice of soil and situation—by describing the mode of cutting the Trees, and clearing and preparing the ground for planting; and even to present engraved Plates of the implements employed for these purposes. But as most of my readers know what an axe, a grubbing-hoe, a pickaxe, and a saw are, I shall begin my directions from the process of lining the ground for planting; and in this I perfectly agree with Mr. Laborie, of keeping an account of the number of the Picquets, (as by that means you ascertain the quantity of land planted) and of driving them well into the ground with a wooden mallet.

PREVIOUS to this part of the process, we, however, pre-suppose the clearing of the land; and here arises a *quere*, on the manner in which it is to be effected, and of the convenience which may arise, in point of expedition, with the alledged pernicious effects of

BURNING the BRUSH,
LESSER BRANCHES,
AND RUBBISH, ON THE GROUND.



AS I sometimes refer to the practice of my neighbours, and sometimes confine myself to the mode suggested and adopted by myself, it may be proper here to consider the practice of BURNING, to clear the land of the bushes, rubbish, and the lesser branches of the Timber, which occupies its surface after the process of felling, and junking the Trees. Burning it on the surface has been the mode generally adopted and the mode which I have followed; I am, however, much inclined to the opinion, that it would be better if the contents of the surface could be permitted to rot between the rows. It is true, it would afford a lesser space for provisions; but provisions might be planted in ground apart. I shall therefore strengthen my opinion by the authority of the writer already referred to, who justly observes, that, after this general conflagration, “ a quantity of small wood
 “ sometimes remains unconsumed. This,” says he, “ must be gathered into heaps, and burned
 “ again.”

“ BUT, ” continues he, “ this must be avoided
 “ as

“ as much as possible, by proper precautions in
 “ the first burning ; because the ground is often
 “ burnt into brick by these great fires.”

“ NAY, in general,” continues he, “ though
 “ ashes are a kind of manure, on account of the
 “ alkaline salt they contain, it is to be wished that
 “ burning could be dispensed with, because it
 “ destroys more of the salts contained in the soil
 “ than the ashes supply ; and besides, the mould-
 “ ering of the raw wood affords a manure which
 “ is hereby annihilated. But if this is attempted,
 “ the quantity of wood, sometimes very great,
 “ should be arranged into straight and parallel
 “ rows, between which the Coffee-trees may be
 “ planted. Where these must be at small distances
 “ from each other, it would become extremely
 “ difficult. Besides, nothing could be planted in
 “ these thick covered intervals. On the other hand,
 “ this practice would be attended with the addi-
 “ tional advantage of furnishing, in process of time,
 “ a good manure, of sheltering the young Coffee
 “ from the wind, and dividing the streams of rain-
 “ water, which are equally hurtful. This I know
 “ has been practised with success in plantations
 “ where there was a great number of hands, and
 “ the trees were planted at large distances. But
 “ I would not venture to try it in the first settle-
 “ ment, where a few negroes are employed ; and
 “ where every spot must be converted into use, for
 “ a speedy and ample supply of ground provisions,
 “ and vegetables of all sorts.”—

So

So far the judicious LABORIE.—For my part, I must confess, I regret a thick layer of half rotten leaves, small branches, and other ingredients, congenial to vegetation, should fall a prey to the ravages of that devouring element, Fire.—Yet after all, the devoting them to this fate is, perhaps, unavoidable.

OF LINING, &c.

THE distance of the rows is a most essential object of consideration ; and in which the Planter must be guided chiefly by the quality of the Soil. Some Planters line at the distance of ten feet each way : others ten feet by nine.—My practice has been generally nine feet square, which I have found, upon experience, in good soil, neither too wide nor too near. Some Planters plant much nearer :* But experience has in many instances proved this a bad practice ; as, if your soil is good, the trees grow so luxuriant that they touch and crowd each other, and exclude air, which prevents their bearing.—I would therefore rather err on the other side, although I should be charged with a waste of Surface : Nor would I, in any land, except exhausted soil, where you may expect your trees will become stunted, (and such is scarce worth planting at all), plant nearer than eight feet.

THE

* Mr. Laborie talks of planting at the distance of three feet square ; and then gives a Latitude extending to ten by nine, and twelve by eleven—which, if just, the soil must vary much in St. Domingo.—*Vide* his Book, page 113.

THE manner of performing this part of the business is so very simple as to require little explanation. Indeed, if the Surface was of such a kind as to admit your laying out the Ground in squares, little direction on this head would be required ; but as Coffee Estates are generally situated in the up-lands, where the surface is very irregular, a mode of reducing such irregular surfaces to as regular figures as possible may not be improper in a treatise on this subject. And as the Author is at the present moment about planting some new pieces of Coffee of this description, he shall submit, for the consideration of others, his mode of doing it, leaving the adoption of his method to such only as may approve it.

THE piece of Land, of which he makes the example in the present instance, is of the kind of Surface which the Coffee-Planter will have most frequently to deal with, viz. a hill-side, circumscribed at top and bottom by two nearly parallel roads ; on one end by the boundary of his Neighbour, of which the obliquity prevents his making that end square, and, on the other end, by some rocks and cliffs, which oppose the same obstacle to regularity of figure.

COFFEE rows, like the rows of Cane-holes, in Lands having a slope, should be planted as nearly level as possible, both for the convenience of working, and preventing of washes ; with this difference, that the angular points of Cane-holes, not being

being so far asunder as the Coffee Picquets, should the surface require it, a sort of curved line may be resorted to. But this, in Coffee, would have a very slovenly, aukward effect ; therefore a principal line must be struck, as near on a level as possible ; and this line, being crossed by one at right angles, the whole of the piece must be staked off by lines parallel to these two primary lines of direction.

THE liner should therefore begin somewhere about the middle of the piece, as at the point A, and there, running his line right down across the piece, to B, in such wise in the direction of the slope of the hill, that it shall intersect a line at right-angles thereto, which shall be as nearly as possible on a level, as C D : from these he lines off his piece upwards to the upper road, and downwards to the lower one, throwing the irregularity in the number of his picquets on the outsides or extremities of his piece, and preserving the middle of it perfectly regular and square.

THE implements employed in lining are, a strong line or chain, marked with pieces of coloured cloth at the distance at which the Coffee-plants are to be planted from each other ; a rod or measure of the length of the distance of each row from its neighbouring one ; a sufficient parcel of good strong stakes or picquets, pointed at the lower end, and a mallet for driving them. The operation will require four people, viz. one to each end of the
chain

chain or line ; one to carry the bundle of picquets (which must be previously counted into hundreds, and accounted for) ; and the liner himself, who will receive the picquets, one by one, from the carrier, and drive them into the ground.

THE first object, in beginning to line a piece, is to establish your two primary lines at right angles to each other. This done, the person who holds the end of the chain or line at A, moves it to the second picquet at D, and the person holding the other end measures with his rod the distance from B towards E, and strains his line from D to E ; along which the liner, as in the line A B, plants his picquets ; and thus proceeds with each succeeding line or row, till the piece is completed.

IN the process of lining, another object of consideration will occur to the Planter, and that is the number and distribution of his Fences or Live-hedges : and, in this place, it may not be amiss to enter into the history, and first introduction of these Fences or Live-hedges. It is in the memory of most Planters of any standing when Coffee-patches were planted like our Cane-Fields, without any fences or divisions ; and, until some dreadful ravages by Hurricanes suggested to the Planter the idea of protecting his plantations from the wind, was the planting these fences ever thought adviseable or necessary.

SOME Planters having adopted the System, and
 essayed

Pois-doux. essayed various species of plants for the purpose, over all which the *Pois-doux* obtained (and justly) the preference, the rage of Plantership was all directed to fences of that plant ; and many Plantations became so covered with them, you could scarce discern any thing else. There is no doubt that, although *Pois-doux* is a plant favourable to Coffee, that, where Coffee is too much crowded with it, it will not bear : Yet this is not a reason for adopting a system, which some Planters are beginning to embrace, of cutting it all down. Having escaped for a series of years from a Hurricane, they begin to forget its ravages. But, independent of the protection afforded by this plant, at proper intervals, the Coffee-Planter must consider its utility in an horizontal direction on hill-sides ; its cheering effects upon the Coffee, in contributing its cuttings, to prevent the thirsty rays of the Sun from absorbing the moisture of the Soil, and keeping down weeds and grass. Its various good offices certainly require some acknowledgment : The *Pois-doux* stands in the predicament of a veteran Servant ; who, having faithfully discharged his duty, it would be ungenerous wholly to discard, because his Services may not be so frequently useful to us as formerly.

BUT to return to our subject of lining.—

It is, I believe, the custom of Coffee-Planters in general to plant their Coffee in every row picquetted, and afterwards to plant their *Pois-doux*, at such intervals

intervals as they may deem proper between each two rows of Coffee which shall occur in such interval. Now, supposing the fences to be allotted to every sixth row, and the Coffee-rows to be nine feet asunder, the *Pois-doux* plant will be only four and an half feet distant from each of the Coffee plants of the two rows between which it is situated ; and, when it comes to extend its branches, must so far encroach upon the Coffee as to prevent those rows bearing so plentifully as they otherwise would do. I would therefore recommend the planting the *Pois-doux* in the space occupied by every sixth row of Coffee ; thus affording to every row the equal means of extending its branches ; and the Coffee plants, as the *Pois-doux* advances to maturity, may be removed for supplies in the places where they may be wanted.

BEFORE I dismiss this section of the Subject, it may not be wholly foreign thereto to touch upon the distribution of Coffee-pieces on hill-sides.— Along hill-sides I would always lead good broad horizontal roads, at convenient and proper distances apart ; on the lower side of which should be planted *Pois-doux* fences ; which not only arrest the further progress of stones which may roll down, but retain the soil washed into them by the rains, which may be collected, and afford a grateful nutriment to the adjacent trees.

NEATNESS in Plantership is, as in every thing else, a very desirable object ; for though some may

D

say,

say, “What care I for symmetry and appearance!—
 “give me revenue;”—I must insist upon it that
 symmetry and regularity contribute to increase of
 revenue. And therefore, when a Planter is about
 so important a work as the laying out a piece of
 Coffee, which in good soil, and well attended to,
 will last for ages—I insist he commits an unpar-
 donable negligence, if his work exhibits a parcel of
 unnecessary crooks and obliquities; it being de-
 monstrable by mathematical principles, that regular
 figures will contain the greatest quantity, at least
 afford the most favourable distribution of it.

Planting. WE next come to the business of Planting, a
 process so simple as to require very little explana-
 tion. However, as even in the most simple opera-
 tions METHOD contributes to facility and dispatch,
 I shall describe the mode by which I have gene-
 rally been guided.

HAVING procured the quantity of plants requir-
 ed, (of which those raised in a nursery in the open
 ground should be preferred to those which promis-
 cuously spring up under the trees, being more hardy,
 and less liable to be checked in their growth by the
 heat of the Sun) two persons should be allotted to the
 operation:—one of whom should be provided with a
 strong hard-wood picquet, about five feet long and
 two inches diameter, pointed at the end; and, if
 shod with iron, it may perhaps be better; though
 hard wood pointed, and that point a little scorched
 in the fire, will fully answer the purpose. This the
 carrier

carrier will forcibly drive into the ground in four places, about twelve inches from each picquet, so as to form a square circumscribing it as equi-distant as the eye will permit: And, having pierced the ground to a sufficient depth, and opened the orifice sufficiently wide to receive the root of the plant with all its fibres, the carrier of the plant will put in four plants to each picquet, inserting them to the depth at which they were growing originally, and close the soil round them. The reason of introducing four plants is, that you may have your choice of the two best of them, of which you will make your election after they are a little advanced in growth. The other two may be thrown away; or, if good plants, will serve to supply those places where the plants may either fail or sustain injury.

It is highly probable that single trees would thrive better, and give more produce than in the above mode of rearing them in pairs: but as the Coffee plant is obnoxious to a variety of accidents, as injury by the rolling of stones, disease, and even a premature death, without any outward visible cause; was the planter to place his whole dependence on a single Tree to a picquet, the destruction of such tree would cause so great a breach in his piece as would require some years to fill up: Whereas one, of a pair, being destroyed, its partner spreads its branches in his place, and in a short time the deficiency becomes imperceptible.

SOME

SOME Planters, even in new soil, dig a small hole for the plant, the soil of which they plough up a little and return : a practice I cannot conceive necessary, as in good soil the earth is sufficiently free without loosening. The consequence of which is, your plant is exposed to be shaken by the least wind, which will inevitably tend to its destruction.

HERE we have presumed to differ with the ingenious Laborie, from whom we shall extract a short quotation :—“ Next, ” says that Author, “ holes are to be dug, of which every picquet must “ as much as possible be the centre ; these must “ be nine or twelve inches diameter, and fifteen or “ eighteen in depth. Perhaps so much is not ex- “ pressly necessary for the success of the plant ; “ but it is obvious that the tender roots will “ penetrate more easily into a soil well triturated “ and manured.

“ THE earth from the hole is placed beneath it, “ at the surface of the ground, and the picquet “ is left in the empty hole.

“ A FEW settlers plant in light crumbly ground “ by means of the *picquet* ; that is, instead of “ digging the ground, they content themselves “ with forcing a large pointed stick into the earth ; “ move it round, and then insert the plant into “ that small hole, together with some mould well “ triturated. These expeditious and lazy methods “ are only mentioned to warn the reader from “ adopting them.”

THE

THE reader here has his option of two very opposite doctrines. I should be very sorry to inculcate habits of *laziness* ; but must observe, that the Coffee-Planter will experience sufficient occasions to exercise his industry and activity, without expending it in useless labour. *

AND now it begins the Planter's toil.—To ^{Weeding.} rear every species of plant to a state of luxuriance, the weeds and grass must be carefully extirpated ; and in this point Coffee, particularly in its infancy, calls forth the strictest attention. Your weeding must therefore be early, and frequently repeated ; for, should your young plant so far feel neglect in this most essential point, as to change its colour from the luxuriant dark green to a pale yellow, it will sustain such an irreparable injury, as time and after-labour can scarcely ever surmount.

YET, whilst young, the intermediate spaces may ^{Admissible plants in vacant spaces of Coffee-pieces.} be occupied by other useful plants, without injury to the piece ; of which the least annoyant is the Tannier, the Edda, or Malanga †. Plantains may be thinly distributed at moderate distances ; but they must be thinned as the Coffee advances to maturity ; nor will rows of Pigeon-Peas, or Pois-Angole, particularly the dwarf kind, through the centers of some of the rows, be of prejudice ; but, on the contrary, a protection :—But Yams, and
running

* LABORIE directs the furnishing of these holes but with a single tree.

† Called by LABORIE *Tayaux*.

running Vines of every kind, ought to be strictly interdicted, as they wind about the Coffee, entangle in its branches, and do it considerable injury. The *Palma Christi*, or plant from which the Castor-oil is made, is also among the number of admissible plants; and indeed the occupying the spaces between the rows with any plant which does not too much exhaust the substance of the Soil, is of advantage, as preventing the effects of the intense heat of the Sun's rays from absorbing its juices, till such time as the Coffee plants themselves sufficiently extend their branches for that salutary purpose.

MAGNIOC, if you have a French Manager, he will be a strenuous advocate for introducing, it being among *your* Coffee, and as he terms *his* privileges. But even was this privilege not frequently abused (which is not often the case) it ought to be very thinly planted, and continued for a very short time; never exceeding one crop of Farine. In short, this description of people will be for introducing potatoes, peas, and corn; for which reason it will ever be my maxim, and the leading feature of my instructions to my Attornies, never to employ a French Manager.

NOR fear I here to be accused by the French Planters with illiberality, or national prejudice. The French Proprietors are themselves so well convinced of the justness of my assertion, that they scarcely ever confer the authority which we annex to the character and situation of a Manager, on their "*Monsieur l' Econome.*" Some of the most able and
well-

well-informed French Planters, my friends, have observed to me—“ Mon ami, il vous faut un bon
 “ Econome Français—mais—où le trouver je ne
 “ vous dirai pas ;—car ce sont des oiseaux bien
 “ rare.”*—Now as I happen to be precisely of the same opinion, and observe the exactitude with which they themselves follow the advice they give me, (the surest test of its sincerity) I should conceive myself justly accused of folly and want of observation, were I not to perceive that, as they reside constantly on the spot, and conduct the business themselves, the being who acts under them, as an overseer, is always prohibited the privilege of either thinking or acting. His eyes, to view the performance of the labour he is to superintend, and ears, to receive the orders of his *Bourgeois*, † are all the organs requisite for such a being. This is, however, a so much to be envied character, that (if perfect happiness is attainable upon earth) add but to his *privileges* of magnioc, pulse, corn and potatoes, a bundle of segars, a bottle of new rum in reserve, a hammock to loll in during the short periods of the suspension of labour, and a coloured mistress, and he is in possession of it.

As in few Coffee Estates is to be found a regular uniformity of quality in the soil, the careful Planter will direct his attention to those parts which require a greater portion of labour, and the assistance
 of

* “ My friend, you should have a good French Manager—but
 “ where you will find him I will not say ;—for it is a species of
 “ beings very scarce.” † Employer.

Manure. of manure. This he ought to be particularly attentive to, as well from the motive of exhibiting a handsome appearance of neat plantership, as that of forming his work into a compact compass. For if, by parsimony of a little extra labour, he leaves shabby patches in the midst of his more flourishing pieces, it not only prejudices a discerning observer with respect to the value of the property; but drives him to the necessity of seeking those resources towards his crop, by traversing through tracts of distant ground, which might be found nearer home. A poor patch of Coffee in the vicinity of the buildings is therefore an unpardonable negligence; as the sweepings and cleanings of the kitchen, stables, and pens, Coffee-husks, and chaff, will afford sufficient and ample means of renovating the powers of vegetation. For this purpose large holes ought to be dug, (the larger the better) and this compost mingled with the soil thence taken, and a little of the contiguous upper surface put therein; and in this regenerated mould the plant should be carefully deposited, and sedulously defended from annoyance by weeds. The manure, should its effects appear to be suspended, or exhausted, can be renewed at the different periods of weeding; and then the oldest land on the Estate, if the surface is of such moderate descent as to retain the soil and manure, may be invigorated so as to last for ages.

Proof the practicability of renovating the powers of vegetation.

As an instance in proof of this assertion, I have a piece of land, which, independent of its being very

very unfairly treated by the proprietor, my immediate predecessor, laboured under all the following disadvantages. In 1766, the year in which he purchased, he found it in abandoned Coffee, run up wild to the height of from 15 to 20 feet: He then cut it down near the ground, and, as the term is, *rattooned* it; that is, let it grow up in sprouts, or new shoots. In 1778 he was induced again to cut it down, stump up the roots, and plant the land in canes; in which he cultivated it several years.—A new fit of caprice induced him, many years after, to exercise his vengeance upon the Canes; which he extirpated, and lined and re-occupied the place of them with Coffee. At this period, viz. 1806, forty years from that to which I can trace any knowledge of this Coffee, (although it was probably planted some seven, eight, or ten years previous thereto) it exhibits an appearance of as much luxuriance and productiveness as any piece of Coffee I know in the Colony; and affords an irrefragable proof of the practicability of renovating the powers of vegetation, in a soil apparently exhausted.

IN the cultivation of a Sugar Estate, the making of Dung is of such importance, that the Cattle-pens are shifted to the pieces for which they are destined; which, by being frequently trashed and moulded, soon increase to a considerable quantity: but as, on Coffee Estates, this practice cannot be adopted, the careful Planter will avail himself of all the ingredients he can rake up about the buildings. He

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must

must be particularly careful that his manure is well rotted ; particularly the Coffee-husks, or outer skin of the berry, should it constitute any considerable portion of the composition. It may then be conveyed to the spot by Mules, and dropped in heaps at convenient distances, from which it must be gathered up in baskets, and laid round the root of the tree : besides which, each Negro should carry out a basket full as they go out to the field. Should the surface have acquired a hardness unfavourable to its reception, he should employ two or three able people with picquets, similar to those used for planting, with which the soil should be loosened about the roots of the trees :—A practice by which I have known many a hard steril piece of ground brought to fecundity.

THE manure, when placed to the tree, should be covered with some of the adjacent dry weeds, or *Pois-doux* branches, to prevent the sun from exhaling its juices. Nor should fowls be allowed to stray into the piece, which, by scratching for worms, will rake the manure away from the trees.

To a careful and emulous Planter, a variety of expedients will present themselves, to prevent the escape of the soil in heavy rains. Drains, judiciously dispersed, with little declivity, tending to hollow parts, where the soil can be retained, and large holes, by some Planters called *mould-traps*, may be made to arrest almost every particle ; by which precaution the soil is not lost, but only removed ; and
 may

may be collected and administered to the roots of such of the next adjacent trees as may most require it.

I SHALL, in the course of this work, submit to the Drainage. consideration of the reader the plan of a mode I had suggested for draining a piece of ground of my own, which, though on a slope, was a little springy, in a long continuance of rainy weather.

WHEN a Coffee-piece is reduced to a situation re- Pruning. quiring manure, Pruning becomes sometimes a necessary operation; though whenever this occurs, it is an indubitable sign of negligence; for if proper attention is paid to the tree at the different periods of weeding, it will only increase its circumference, by branches which will increase the quantity of its fruit. The suckers therefore (with what Mr. Laborie terms the gormandizing branch*) will be all that will require removal.

As the Coffee-Planter may, however, be obliged to resort to the operation of pruning, from the negligence of his predecessor in charge, and of that species of pruning performed by the saw, and may be rather called amputation, from an occasional failure of some of the old trees, we shall make that operation a section in this Essay. BESIDES

* A large branch which issues from the top of the tree, and spreads horizontally over the other branches. This branch is generally so loaded with berries, that some Planters are thereby induced not to remove it. But it is alledged (and justly) that its abundant productiveness exhausts the tree, and prevents its subsequent fecundity. For which reason it should be removed by the operation of the knife.

BESIDES the perpendicular shoots, called Suckers, which, particularly whilst the vegetation is strong, will be constantly sprouting from the top of the tree, there are frequently others, from the lower part, even to the surface. If these are not constantly taken off, they acquire a woody substance, greatly prejudicial to, and, at length, dispute the pre-eminence with, the original tree, which declines as these upstarts increase in vigour: The consequence will be, if the Planter's negligence has gone thus far, that he will be obliged to exercise the saw upon the parent plant, and substitute one of these his offspring in his place, which will afford him a poor indemnification for the regular annual production of a tree at maturity. Should a tree fail by age or accident, the saw must be applied a few inches from the ground, and two suckers allowed to ascend, that the Planter may, at a future period, take his choice of the most luxuriant; and this shoot, carefully attended to, will yield you fruit in eighteen months after the operation of amputation.

ANOTHER occasion for pruning may arise from negligence in the manner of taking off these suckers;—from not taking them off in time—letting them increase into too great numbers, and then *cutting* them off, instead of *stripping* them. These practices will increase the evil to that degree, that it will probably require a quarter of an hour to put to rights a single tree. In this operation, as well as in some others of pruning, the operator must have recourse to that kind of Saw, called

called by the French a *Passe-par-tout*—by English mechanics, a Compass-Saw ; which, by the narrowness of its blade, can be inserted among the thickly interwoven branches.

HAVING now committed our young plant to the Soil, with an earnest injunction to the person in charge to take a parental interest in its welfare, particularly by frequent and faithful weedings, we must begin to think of preparing for the busy avocations of Crop ; to which, as we consider this Treatise as a guide for conducting an Estate already formed, and having mature and productive, as well as young and declining Coffee, thereon, the anxious cares of the Manager must now be called forward. We will therefore here quit *our* concern for the young plant, which it is, however, to be hoped *he* will not relax in his attention to, even through the hurry and bustle incident to crop-time.

THERE is another object of considerable importance in the cultivation part of a Coffee-Estate, which we shall treat of when we come to that stage of our work, which is the ridding the mature trees from Suckers ; a term which we have used under the article of Pruning, and which perhaps, in order to have preserved a strict adherence to regularity of arrangement, should have preceded it. These are, as before observed, certain exuberant perpendicular shoots, issuing generally where the altitude of the trees has been arrested, and sometimes lower. As these are generally more prevalent after

Suckers.
ter

ter Crop, when its occupations has occasioned the field work to be, in some degree, suspended, and drawn off the necessary attention to them; we shall postpone treating of them, at least till the getting in of the Crop from the field, when we shall consider also what young Coffee has attained a sufficient height to require an arrest of its further perpendicular progress. These Suckers, as we before observed, are generally most abundant towards the end of the Crop, and therefore should be taken off at the time of gathering in the green and ripe berries, or last picking.

ALTHOUGH the ripening of the Coffee berries varies a little, there is generally pretty good picking by the latter end of August or beginning of September: and, therefore, previous to this period, the Negroes' clothing ought to be issued, as the necessity of keeping them out, and exposing them to the rains, which are frequent and heavy at that season, and the worse than rains, the drippings of the wet branches of the Coffee, is liable to occasion colds, indispositions, and diseases among them. A sufficient stock of buckets should be previously provided, and each Negro furnished with two, viz. one large enough to contain as much as a Negro can pick in the course of a forenoon, or afternoon, which is generally placed, for a time at least, in a stationary situation; and a small one, which they pick into, and empty into the large one, as often as it is filled.

A NEGRO is very improvident of what is furnished
by

by his master ; and therefore the baskets issued to them for *his* use are not very carefully husbanded. It carries all the articles which the Negro takes to market ; and his plants, &c. to his ground : And if it was to be replaced as often as they would wear it out, you might devote half the gang to the trade of basket-making. Therefore some Estates, after once issuing them, furnish no more ; but make the Negroes replace them themselves : Others furnish them occasionally with new ones, but few so frequently as annually : And the way these baskets are procured is by sending an elderly or easiest to be spared Negro into the woods for the withes, and employing another (or two) who may be disabled from work by a sore leg, or other complaint, which does not disable his hands, to work up these withes into baskets.

THE quantity of Coffee which each Negro can pick in a day varies. Simple as is the operation, some are more expert at it than others ; and it is a good picker who gathers a barrel, or four quarts, per day,

EACH of the larger baskets ought to contain two quarts, or half a barrel ; and the driver, seeing each Negro before him, conducts them each noon and evening from the field to the mill-house, where an inspection takes place by the manager or overseer ; and delinquents, who fail in exhibiting full baskets, are punished.

IN picking, as in weeding, each picker should take the middle, between two rows, and pick on both right and left ; which prevents the trouble of going round the tree—by their doing which the berries are liable to be shook off ; and the inconvenience of their so frequently shifting their baskets is obviated.

T H E C R O P .

PREVIOUS to this period the Conductor of the Estate pays due attention that his Mills are in good order ; and, before he proceeds to setting them a-going, which is generally done in the evening, and by candle or lamp-light, he makes experiments, with small quantities of the Cherry-Coffee, to see that his Mills are properly braced, and that they neither cut the Coffee nor pass out the grains with the husks.

FORTUNATE is the Planter who hath a stream of water sufficient to turn his Mills ; which will afford great ease and comfort to his Negroes. If he has not, he should be careful that his Mill-house is warm, and closed from the admission of the night-air ; for, as the toil is laborious, excessive perspiration is inevitable, and therefore an allowance of Rum should be afforded them, as well to excite them to labour with cheerfulness, as to fortify the stomach, on issuing hot from a close house, through the cold night air, on their way to their own houses.

ON the delivery of the Coffee at the Mill-house, it should be measured in a common sized Beef-barrel, every thirty-five* of which, when it has passed through the subsequent processes, ought to yield a thousand weight. That is, thirty-five barrels of Cherry Coffee will give you fourteen when dried in parchment, which quantity, when pounded, winnowed, sifted, and picked, will yield you 1000 pounds weight for market.

THE advantage of having good roads through your Coffee-pieces, here particularly occurs. In climbing up a steep hill, a Negro may fall, and overset his or her basket ; in their endeavours to gather it up (which will not be without the waste and loss of some of it) they may mix therewith gravel or small stones : the consequence of which is, they will get into your mill, and spoil your grater, which will cause a delay till you can make a new one ; and, should you not be provided with
spare

* OF the proportion between the Cherry and Parchment Coffee I am not certain that I am perfectly correct, having never exactly ascertained it ; I shall, however, do it during the present crop, as the experiment can be easily tried. For although I have consulted several experienced Planters, it is a point on which I have scarce met with two who agree. I have admitted the proportion between the Coffee in the two Stages at two fifths. Thus the fifth of 35 is 7, which doubled is 14 :—which is the safe side of measuring to count upon a thousand weight.

THIS, however, is variable : Coffee from old land is generally of smaller grains, packs clofer, and weighs more : of this kind 13 barrels will produce a thousand weight.

spare copper for the purpose, you may be put to the necessity of continuing the use of this damaged grater, and thereby of rendering unmerchantable the remainder of your crop.

THE Manager of an Estate, as I observed at the beginning of this Treatise, ought to be capable of laying out, tracing and making of roads, wherever wanted. The process of tracing a road is so simple, that I will engage to take a field-negro, who never saw the operation, and make him an expert road tracer in an hour.

THE instrument most proper for the business is by the French called a *Cabrit* *, (probably from keeping its legs where few other than that agile animal can do so) and is no more nor less than a common level, such as is used by carpenters and masons, having legs descending at right angles from each end, of such differences in the length, as you mean to give to your road either ascent or declivity. Some people, more from affectation than utility, have them of nice workmanship, with one leg running in a sliding groove, graduated in inches and parts, and having holes to put a small pin in to fix it at the length wanted. I have, however, generally put them together out of rough board, with a few nails, as their construction will not take above five minutes; in which case I first make the two legs of the same length, and saw off from one of them
as

* Goat, or young Goat.

as many inches or parts of an inch as I mean to give to the road a rise or fall, which, perhaps, on experiment in a small distance, I may find requisite to alter to more or less, as I perceive the road likely to come out at the point at which I wish it to terminate. An elevation of an inch in a foot makes a very easy rideable road :—above it, is too steep ; and less, lengthens the distance unnecessarily, except the point desired to arrive at can be attained with less slope, or you want to make a cart-road. Thus, if your level is six feet in length, the difference of the length of the legs should be six inches ; and its figure should be as represented in the plate. I have also subjoined the figure of a more elaborate one.

THE mode of using it is as simple as its construction. Two persons to carry and place it will be required, and a third to carry picquets. If to descend, the long end is carried foremost ; to ascend the short one. In either case, the hinder person places one foot of the level on the place the road is to commence from, under which he drives in a picquet horizontally ; the foremost operator then places the foremost leg on the ground, moving it either to the higher or lower part of the surface (the hinder one keeping his end fast) till the line to which the plummet is suspended hangs over the perpendicular line marked upon the upright board ; he then receives from the carrier a picquet, which he drives in horizontally under that end of the instrument. He then proceeds forward, and the
hindmost

hindmost man brings *his* leg forward, and places it on the last mentioned picquet, when the foremost man, on such part of the surface as the plumb-line directs as before, receives from the carrier, and drives in, in like manner, another picquet :— and this is repeated as far as the road is intended to be carried.

THE fact is, it is not in the *using* this level, that is required either skill or ability, but in so directing its proportion that it shall gain the point you want to attain with neither more nor less elevation or depression than what is required. An experienced Director may perhaps change the proportion, and begin again to more advantage, after having, by a skilful glance of his eye, discovered where the instrument is likely to bring him to.

HOWEVER sufficient a subject of regret to him who feels it, the want of a sufficient stream of water to turn his Mills, still more so must be that of a total privation of that element to wash his Coffee, that is, independent of what is dispensed from the bounty of the clouds. Such situations, in Dominica, are not very common, though several there are : and the Coffee sent to market by Planters thus disadvantageously situated is seldom of so good a quality as that of those to whom nature has been more prodigal, by affording a copious stream, which requires not to be œconomized ; and which will send the Coffee from the draining platform in the purity of cleanly whiteness, which contributes to its quality in the subsequent stages of its progress to market.

OF the utility or figure of the hand-barrows, or trays, having pierced Copper bottoms, to carry the wet Coffee from the cistern to the draining platform, I shall not enter into the description further, than that they have four handles, and are carried by two Negros, like a Sedan Chair. I shall content myself with observing that all Coffee-Planters should have them ; but as I shall not be at the trouble of making a drawing of their figure, I shall recommend to those who want them to take the model of their construction from those of their neighbours.

AT this period it will be well for our Planter to lay in a good store of patience, and to bring into action his whole stock of activity and diligence. If he is so fortunately situated as to have spacious and convenient platforms for the drying, and roomy and commodious buildings for the receipt of his Coffee, when dry, his work will go on with comfort and satisfaction. This in some situations of this Island is the case. When such opportunities offer for the manufacturing the crop, it is scarce a toil. Although in many places where there are good and roomy buildings, they are frequently so injudiciously contrived—so unconnected and dispersed, as greatly to retard and impede the progress of the manufacture.

INDEED it has seldom occurred that an entire new set of Coffee-works has been erected on a property of considerable importance at one time. They have commonly gradually sprung up as the Estate has
has

has advanced in extent of cultivation and increase of produce ; and the Proprietors have in general been content with making the absolutely necessary additions to the buildings he first constructed, or found thereon, or to erect additional new ones near them, without the least view to contrivance, convenience, or design ; so that it frequently happens that, instead of having all your work immediately under your eye in one commodious, convenient, judiciously constructed Building, you are obliged to wander from place to place, through a number of as ill-contrived as ill-constructed Hovels ; an inconvenience in many places not likely to be remedied—as it is not every Planter who is gifted with a head capable of contrivance, of suggesting improvement, or of a spirit of enterprize sufficient to adopt and execute such as may be hit upon by others ; the majority of them religiously adhering to the laudable determination of going on in the old jog-trot way, declaring it has hitherto answered all their purposes, and they will not depart from it.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDINGS.

ALTHOUGH the distribution of the Buildings will seldom come within the province of the Manager, who must be content with such as he finds, yet as this Treatise may be deemed worthy the perusal of some persons about erecting Buildings, and the proper distribution of them is an object of such importance, the Author has presumed to offer his sentiments thereon.

FOR convenience, your Draining-platform should be contiguous to your Mill-house; the back of your Mill-house, if the surface will permit, should be on the edge of a descent from the buildings, so that the Coffee-husks may be raked away to a sufficiently spacious artificially formed platform, somewhat below; made by digging the ground to a level sufficient to receive it. For though they have an offensive smell, and contribute to filth, if left about the buildings, they must not be lost, being, as we have already observed, of great use in making manure.

IMMEDIATELY

IMMEDIATELY contiguous to your draining platform should be your drying platform, or *Glacis*, of a lesser slope, and that slope the contrary way, and it should be spacious and extensive: contiguous as possible to this latter should be your Granary or *Beaucan*; so situated as to cast little or no shade on your platform at any hour of the day during the year, or at least in crop time. If this Building consists of two stories, which I would recommend, as it costs so little proportionate additional expence, (as one roof covers all) a part of the breadth, and the whole length, of the lower story, may be devoted to Coffee-drawers, and yet leave sufficient room for other Coffee; or, should it happen that the dwelling-house forms a side or part of a side of the area, and it is sufficiently elevated to admit thereof, one front of it may be advantageously devoted to these drawers, as is the case on the Estate of the Author. But in fact the figure and distribution of the Buildings must be regulated by circumstances of locality, and the shape of the Ground; as some situations require large excavations, performed with prodigious labour, and vast expenditure of time, to procure a sufficiency of flat surface on which to erect Buildings. That of which the figure is here represented, with some deviations, is more fortunately situated in that point of view than many. These deviations have been made in order to shew the advantages the present owner would have derived from it, had *he* been the beginner of the Buildings, at their first origin.

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SHOULD

SHOULD the situation be such as to afford a sufficient stream of water for the purpose, the Pounding Mill-House, and one Water-wheel, perform the whole process ; which may be extended to grating Cassada : but, should that not be the case, and a Horse-mill be requisite, it should be immediately contiguous, and to leeward of the Granary or *Beaucan*. As the Horse-walk is circular, so should be the Building which covers it—at least a polygon of a considerable number of sides, of which perhaps sixteen is as convenient a number as can be adopted ; and here, as the span is considerable, and a very trifling additional expence will convert it into a Building of such utility and importance, I cannot repress my censure of those whose mistaken parsimony induces them to deprive themselves of the advantages to be derived from two or three feet additional length of post, which affords a spacious airy apartment for the reception of Coffee, towards the latter part of the process of the manufacture. The upper floor of this Building I would prefer (if the ground will admit) to be on a level with the lower floor of the Granary, or *Beaucan*, and doors of communication, with a kind of bridge-passage between them. The Coffee fit for the pounding process should then be thence brought to the floor of the polygon building, and let down through a skuttle in the floor to the pounding trough, as fast as may be requisite ; and the fanning, or winnowing Mill being situated without, against one of the sides of the polygon most immediately to leeward, and covered with a shed-roof, continued from the eave of the main building, would so far complete the process.

THE

THE Sifters should be hung in the upper part of the Polygon, and the Picking-table round the central upright post ; and thus the presence of one person would suffice to superintend the whole of the operations.

DURING all this bustle, should the picking so far slacken as to give him time, the *attentive* Planter will avail himself thereof, and spare as large a portion as possible to weeding : for on keeping his Coffee-patches clear from weeds, and his *Pois-doux* fences regularly trimmed, and their cuttings duly spread over the surface, will depend all his chance of an abundant and increasing crop.

HIS solicitude will now be peculiarly and anxiously called forth to the Drying-platforms, or *Glacis*. His Coffee we will suppose carefully spread, and duly raked, so as the whole of it equally benefits by the Sun's beams:—When, lo ! the clouds gather—his whole force about the Buildings, servants, male and female, old and young, are collected, and his grain is housed with the utmost expedition.

THE clouds disperse, and no rain falls—he spreads it out again, and blames himself for trusting to false appearances.—Again the sky assumes a gloomy cast.—He looks, and doubts, and thinks the clouds will, as before, disperse. Mistaken his conclusion—down comes it—in a deluge too it comes—and ineffectual now is rendered his former pains of many days exposure. HE

HE now finds it more prudent to err on the safe side, and house his grain at every token that forebodes a shower.



THE STOVE.

THE Stove is in use on only one Estate in this Island; nor has the Author ever heard of its services being resorted to in the process of drying Coffee in any other. It is found to answer the purpose perfectly; and may be used when the Sun withholds his beams. But, as the worthy and pleasant Gentleman who introduced it observed to the Writer of this Treatise:—"he would not sullenly forego of his old friend Phœbus the friendly assistance"—nor would we by any means be supposed to commend our readers so to do. The Stove may be usefully brought in as a serviceable auxiliary.—The Stove, it may be therefore concluded, may be only advantageously used when the Sun withholds his beams.

THAT which he instances is on the Estate of Christopher Robert, Esq. and the construction of it was taken from the kind of Stove used in England for drying malt.

WE are somewhat surprized it is not more generally adopted, and can only account for it on the principle of the repugnance which the long established Planters, who are the best able to try experiments, have to deviate in the least article from old established custom. IN

IN the process of separating the unmarketable House picking grains, commonly called, from the French, the *bonification* process, his attention will be strenuously called for. Here, as well as in the field, (simple as is the process) some are more expert at it than others: He must be carefully vigilant at the picking table. And *here*, should he have engaged in the conjugal state, a wife can superintend the business as well as himself, and he may exert himself in urging matters forward elsewhere. Indeed, the surest way to equalize the work is to provide each picker with a bag: and as it is a work which may be allotted alike to the lame, the young, not fit for, and the aged, already past, more active labour—laziness or remissness in performing their portion, very justly comes among those faults which call forth correction.

THE Picking-Table should be of hard wood, and the surface well planed or smoothed over; as a polished surface much facilitates the work. A large heap of Coffee is placed on the middle of the Table, from whence each picker draws a lesser heap before them. They then draw it into small handfulls, thinly spread, towards the edge of the Table; and, after picking out what few broken or other objectionable grains may be among them, and raking them a little on one side, draw the remaining good Coffee into an apron or coarse cloth in their lap; and, if the Coffee is of a good quality, these rejected grains will be so few that the business will go on with wonderful rapidity. When the cloth or
apron

apron is nearly filled, the picker should empty it into his or her bag :—and a good picker ought in the course of the day to produce at least one hundred weight of marketable Coffee.

As the Triage, or rejected Coffee, is still valuable at an inferior price, it should, of course, be preserved : That part of it which consists of broken grains is as good as the rest ; and by being used for the consumption of the Estate, may prevent your encroaching on the Coffee destined for market. The *Flotage*, or Coffee which rises to the surface in washing, is likewise preserved by some thrifty Planters ; but I must confess (although I may perhaps be condemned for want of economy) I would not be at the trouble of preserving it.

THERE is another species of quality of Coffee, which however we must not omit taking due note of, by the Planters called the green and ripe, or last picking : of this we must enter a little more amply into the history.

TOWARDS the latter end of the Crop, when the ripe berries become so thin and scarce, that the Negroes cannot bring home a quantity worth the time and labour expended, as well as for another reason, the relieving the trees, already sufficiently exhausted, from the burthen of its fruit, by clearing them of all the remaining berries, in order to allow vegetation to take place preparatory to the ensuing
crop

crop. * Of these mixed berries, some Planters pick out the ripe ones, which undergo the same process as the general crop; the others they dry in the outer husk ; and if they have arrived at their full size, though they may not have attained their colour, they will become good Coffee.

ALTHOUGH the process of manufacturing it in this state is more troublesome, yet by putting it up for old Coffee (as Coffee improves by age) it may be cleaned in small parcels at a time, for the consumption of the people on the Estate ; and any remaining extra quantity to persons who wish for Coffee of a superior quality for their own drinking. Some Planters soak these berries, after they have become black, till the skin becomes sufficiently soft to pass through the Mill, and then proceed with it as with the other Coffee.

ALTHOUGH these observations were not intended for one so young in the business, as to need to be informed, that he must not begin the cleaning his Coffee from its parchment state, till he has an opportunity of delivering it as fast as he gets it ready, yet, having wrought them into somewhat more of
method

* DURING the process of picking in the green and ripe berries, attention should be paid to pluck off the suckers which may have sprung up subsequent to the last weeding. Doing it at this time, besides most essentially relieving the trees, will save much labour, which must otherwise be bestowed when they have attained more substance and strength.

method than the Author originally intended, it may not be amiss to introduce the caution: for, as the experienced Planter well knows, if it remains long on the Estate after cleaning, it will turn white, which (although not with any solid ground, colour being in the Colonial Market the grand criterion of quality) will cause its condemnation to sell at an inferior price.

BEFORE we come to the last and most important section of this Work—"The Government, Care and Treatment of the Negroes."—we shall once more call forth the attention of the Coffee-Planter to his young trees.—We hope they are, at this period, in good plight, clean of weeds, and answering his most sanguine expectations.

SOME patches, or parts of patches, have perhaps attained a sufficient perpendicular height to render proper the stopping their further progress, and to require the operation of *topping* or *stopping*—that is, taking off the top of the sprout at the height to which you mean to limit the altitude of your trees. This operation is at this stage easily done (and this is the stage most proper for its performance) by nipping it off with the thumb nail. It should be done about an inch or two above the two uppermost opposite branches, as by performing it too near them, the remaining stem may at that part be liable to split. *

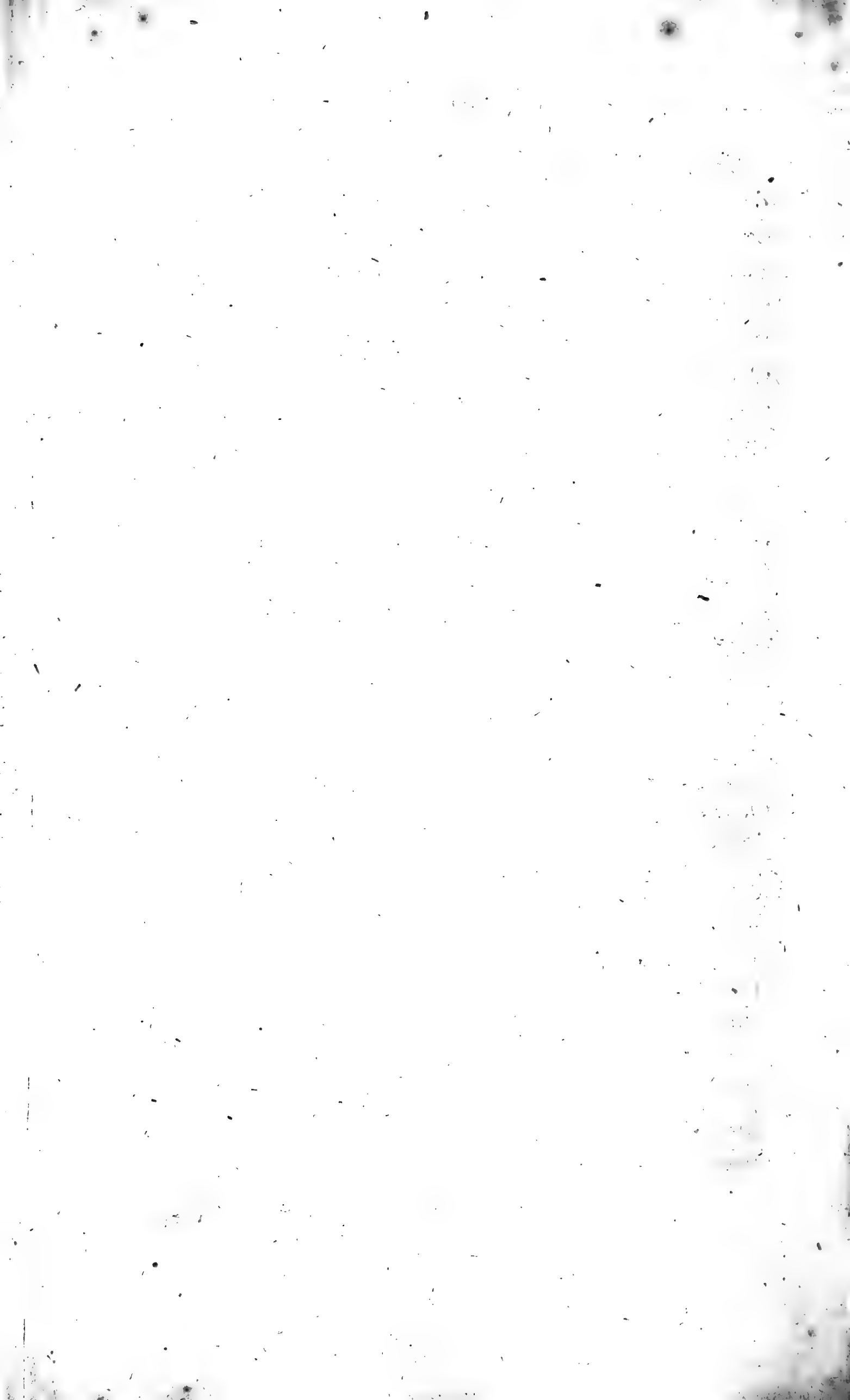
THE

† SOME Planters assert that the joints acquire elongation in the after growth of the tree. Laborie acknowledges himself in doubt

THE height they should attain, previous to undergoing this operation, varies according to circumstances. I have found three feet and an half (which gives a good luxuriant tree) a good rule to go by. But in exposed situations, subject to wind, it should be performed lower. The performance of this operation is the province of the Driver, who should be provided with a measure of the length requisite for the purpose.

WE shall now take our leave of the working part of the Plantation, as well in the manufactory as in the field, and call the attention of our Coffee-Planter to objects that still more imperiously call forth the utmost exertion of his care, anxiety, and attention.

doubt on the point. Although I never went to the nicety of measuring the same tree, at different periods, yet, from the size I have seen trees attain, *topped* or *stopped* at the height before mentioned, when arrived at full maturity, I am inclined to the opinion of the affirmative.



THE
GOVERNMENT, CARE,
AND
TREATMENT OF THE NEGROES.

I NOW come to the most important part of my subject, the treatment of that class of people from whose labour the revenue of the Planter is derived—the **LABOURERS**; a term far more appropriate than that of **SLAVES**, when applied to a set of people, who possess (the head of each family of them at least) their house, their home, their plantation, their poultry, their pigs—whose private property is as perfectly secured to them as is that of their master—who, in sickness, are attended by the same physician, and, during that period, partake of the luxuries of the master's cellar and table.

VAIN

VAIN would be rendered the most exact adherence to the rules and principles laid down in the foregoing pages, if a judicious mode of conduct towards the class of people whose labour must put them in execution was not observed. Moderation and humanity towards them are the first and most essential requisites, to which the *interest* of the Planter must incline him. Human nature of all colours and climes is nearly the same; and in all constituted societies, from Kingdoms and Colonies to a Plantation, the disposition of the subject, the inhabitant, and the servant, must be studied and considered, and prudent avail be made thereof. In our commerce with the world, however circumscribed the sphere we move in, we are obliged to enter in some degree into the study of mankind; and a person to whom is confided the charge and government of some hundred subordinate Beings, among whom some stand in the relationship of Husband and Wife, Child and Parent—and in which age and infancy, robustness and debility, are included, must devote himself to acquire some knowledge of the disposition, as well as in the mass, of each individual composing such a set of people.

THE Blacks are not quite that simple description of people which our philanthropists are pleased to represent them. A Negro, whether a Creole or African, of any standing in the Colonies, is more polished, and better able to work his way in the
the

world, than an European Rustic. He has more craft, and can more readily discover the foible or weakness of the person to whose authority he is confided †. He is generally conscious when he merits chastisement ; and either appeals to your clemency, or suffers punishment without a murmur. He is also (and justly) impatient at being punished for an imputed crime, without full conviction.—Therefore punishments upon mere suspicion ought never to be inflicted. Their domestic connexions should never be interfered with by the white people ; and should be discountenanced, and punished, where it occurs among themselves. In fact, every privilege and immunity to which they are entitled should be religiously and scrupulously afforded them. Their holidays and times of recreation should be strictly allowed them ; their cloathing and allowances as regularly issued to them as possible ; and their private property, as well real * as personal, most sacredly respected and secured to them.—And, as this conduct is so regularly and generally

† THE exercise of this talent is particularly observable on the appointment of a new Manager. They will devise every possible means of trying his disposition and temper : they will thwart, as far as possible, all his measures : they will sedulously pry into his conduct, both past and present : and if they can discover any vice, fault, or failing, they will not fail, in the most glaring manner, to haul it into view, and turn it to his prejudice.

* IN the Island of Dominica the Negroes have almost a Freehold property in the lands they cultivate for raising their ground provisions.

generally observed to them, that I can scarcely call to my recollection a property where these maxims are infringed, I would wish to know from the philanthropists in what consists the deplorable part of their situation ?

LABORIE ! Laborie ! thou liberal-minded, generous—yes—modest Frenchman !—let me here pay you that tribute which, however coarsely it may be expressed, comes direct from the heart. The precepts thou hast delivered on the same subject breathe the soft voice of benevolence, candour, and humanity.—Accept the sincere effusions of a kindred spirit; and may the close of life be blessed with that calm serenity which a mind like yours, fraught with *pure*, with *genuine* philanthropy and philosophy, can scarcely fail to secure to its possessor !—

I PERFECTLY agree with this generous Frenchman, that “ the articles of luxury which find their
“ way

provisions. They are allowed to take a reasonable quantity in the parts less likely to be wanted for the produce of the property, and to occupy it as long as they please; or should it be required to be added to that part on which is raised the staple commodity of the Estate, a reasonable time is allowed them to reap the fruits of their labour, and other lands are allotted them. A right of Inheritance is even admitted among them, as in case of the death of the possessor, his children, if they are disposed so to do, are permitted to retain and cultivate them.

“ way to the master’s table should be liberally
 “ afforded the slave (as he terms him) when
 “ sick :—soup, broth, and wine, are never too good
 “ for those who are seriously ill.”—But the
 “ Bullock’s head,” which he prescribes for the
 others *thrice a week*, is an article which (in the
 Windward Islands at least) is not very frequently
 procurable for the master’s own table ;—though
 poultry, and other fresh animal food, for such as
 require good nourishment, ought to be, and gene-
 rally is, substituted ; and should be, in reasonable
 abundance, afforded them.

I WILL avail myself of the work of this solid and
 reflecting Frenchman, to wind up the present
 Essay ; the observations being so just, that it is
 impossible to amend or improve them.

ON the subject of punishments he very judi-
 ciously says—“ Punishments must be *certain*, imme-
 “ diately inflicted, proportionable to the fault, and
 “ never excessive. Crimes of an atrocious nature
 “ come within the province of the Magistracy ;
 “ the laws having wisely placed those powers be-
 “ yond the cognizance of the Master ; and do not
 “ fail to punish the trespasses committed against
 “ their authority.

“ IN the management of private discipline, it is
 “ essential to be acquainted with the character of
 “ the

“ the offender, that such punishment may be pre-
 “ ferred as is most likely to deter him from offend-
 “ ing again. It is fortunate when from that
 “ knowledge, you may venture to dispense with
 “ that revolting ceremony, flogging. The hand of
 “ the person inflicting it, is also a matter worthy
 “ of observation ; twenty lashes from one may be
 “ more severe than double that number from ano-
 “ ther.

“ LASTLY, never threaten a Negro with punish-
 “ ment at a future period ; and never chastise in
 “ anger, where you run the risque of exceeding
 “ proper bounds. The coolness and temper with
 “ which punishment is directed increases the moral
 “ effect of the chastisement. A Negro, menaced,
 “ may abscond or run away ; so that punishment
 “ for two faults will be to be inflicted instead of
 “ one.

“ I AM confident that a code of regulations of
 “ the above tendency is not calculated to draw
 “ upon Planters the slanders with which they have
 “ been loaded by those pretended philanthropists,
 “ who have usurped the name of *Friends to Negroes*,
 “ which, in reality, more truly belongs to us.”

RESPECTING the sick, and of those complaining,
 but of whose sincerity a doubt may arise, his ob-
 servations are admirable—“ I come now,” says he,
 “ to the state of sickness, and here the Father steps
 “ into the Master’s place.

“ NEVER

“ NEVER turn back any.—A Negro presents him-
 “ self in the morning (especially on Mondays) *Ma-*
 “ *ster, I am sick!*—his eye is clear, his tongue clean,
 “ his skin cool, and his belly soft. It is ten to one
 “ but he *pretends* illness; yet, perhaps, he has occa-
 “ sion for a few days rest. Let him go to the
 “ hospital; take away the pipe; put him upon
 “ low diet, with plenty of water and clysters; and
 “ he will be glad to be dismissed, after two or three
 “ days.

“ LET the Drivers have a watchful eye in this
 “ respect. A good Negro is seen to slacken at his
 “ work, or to fail at his meals: let him be sent im-
 “ mediately to the hospital, and, of course, to the
 “ Master (or Manager’s) previous examination.
 “ Another has a small excoriation on his leg: let
 “ *him* be sent instantly; otherwise a large sore
 “ may be the consequence; and what might have
 “ been cured in three days may last perhaps for a
 “ month. The surest way in such cases is to put
 “ those laid up for sores in the stocks. Negroes
 “ fond of labour dislike the confinement of the hos-
 “ pital, and it must be such that must be princi-
 “ pally watched. On the contrary, there are
 “ others, who irritate an accidental sore, or actu-
 “ ally form one, in order to lay up. For those
 “ the hospital should be made as disagreeable as
 “ possible. When cured, and convicted, they
 “ ought to be punished.

“ It is not,” continues this Author, “ in our
 I “ power

“ power to attend our sick Negroes with the same
“ assiduity and watchfulness as we do our wives
“ and children ; but in the essential things, little
“ difference is made. The frames and distempers
“ are similar ; except that Negroes do not bear low
“ diet so well as Whites. ”

Who but must admire the elegance and humanity of the following Extract !

“ I now come,” says Laborie, “to old age.”

“ LIGHT employments (as has been seen) are
“ given to Negroes as they fall into the decline of
“ years.

“ BUT as they sink into decrepitude, retirement
“ and rest, with affectionate usage, to alleviate the
“ pains and hardships of bodily infirmities, are a
“ debt due to humanity, and an acknowledgment
“ for past services. A man of reflection and sen-
“ sibility cannot fail to be moved at the sight of
“ that privileged creature, who, after fulfilling in
“ an useful manner the functions of his station on
“ earth, through all the periods of life, stands upon
“ the brink of Eternity, about to be united to the
“ Author of his being !

“ TAKE care, then, not to afflict the good old
“ man, by dragging him from his old thatched and
“ plastered mansion, his family, and his habits,
“ under the mistaken idea of having him more
“ within

“ within the reach of your care and attention. It
“ is better to make his own house more comforta-
“ ble, to furnish him with warmer clothes, and
“ to supply his wants partly from your own table.
“ Do not forget a glass of wine, the best milk for
“ old age. Visit him often. If he suffers, com-
“ fort and relieve his distress. If he is sick, in-
“ crease the usual care. He will bless you ; and
“ the blessings of a good old man will be placed
“ to your account of credit before the Almighty.
“ The youth will thus be encouraged to serve you ;
“ a prospect of comfort being placed before their
“ eyes after the toils of life. If you ever descend
“ into your own heart, there you will find an inex-
“ pressible sentiment of approbation.”

AND now, Laborie, I will bid thee a long farewell, by quoting the three concluding paragraphs of thy Book, which breathe such a spirit of patriotism, benevolence, and humanity, as must impress the bosom of every reader of generous sentiments with veneration and respect for the man of whose heart they are the effusions.

“ A GOOD Citizen,” says Laborie, “ owes to his
“ country that portion of land which Providence
“ has assigned to him in the territory of the state.
“ Is that a trust and responsibility to be thrown
“ away into mercenary hands ?

“ To enjoy under a burning zone a cool healthy
“ climate ; to have all the comforts of life ; to see
“ all

“ all around buildings in good order ; a well set-
 “ tled manufacture and household ; plantations
 “ that answer your advances, and abundantly re-
 “ pay your toils ; happy servants ; cattle in good
 “ plight ; and to be able to say to yourself,
 “ in the calm and recollection of self-applauding
 “ conscience, *I* have created all this,—Nature,
 “ Heaven, and Earth, my Country, and my Fel-
 “ low-citizens, smile at my labour and success. If
 “ I am remote from the pleasures of a boisterous
 “ vain world, I am secure also from its intrigues
 “ and corruption ; my days glide along without
 “ trouble ; my nights are free from the dreams of
 “ ambition and the pangs of remorse ; nothing
 “ breaks my slumbers but the tender cares due to
 “ suffering humanity : the wishes of those around
 “ me are for the duration of my existence ; and,
 “ when that shall be peaceably terminated, my
 “ servants will sprinkle my grave with their tears ;
 “ my children or heirs will bless for ever the good
 “ man, to whose toils they find themselves indebt-
 “ ed for their comfort and bliss.

“ Ask any reasonable man, if happiness does
 “ not exist in such a situation, is there any un-
 “ der heaven where it can be found ?”—

To conclude.—As I asserted in my Prefatory
 Address, the present work was not originally
 intended for publication, but merely as a Guide to
 my own Manager. It has grown imperceptibly
 under

under my hands to its present bulk. To others in a similar situation with him it may be of equal utility.

It is well known, that although the work of a Sugar Estate and a Coffee Estate is so very different ; yet the system of the government of the class of people by whom it is performed is precisely the same and is reducible to that short maxim—the extracting the greatest possible labour by the easiest means, or making each individual perform his full duty, without exacting more than justice and humanity demand.—Now a Sugar Planter may be transferred to a Coffee Estate, and although he is perfectly acquainted with the knowledge of enforcing labour, discipline, and order, he may be wholly uninformed of the minutia of the culture and manufacture of the other article of produce.

To such a few plain directions and explanations may be of use ;—but to suppose they could in the least benefit such as are not previously acquainted with the culture of soil, and the mode of directing labour, would be as absurd as to undertake to teach, by written precepts, the carpenter's trade to a man who had never seen a saw or a hatchet ; to make a mason of a man who had never handled a trowel ; or to compose a treatise on the art of tooth-drawing * ; which reminds me of an anecdote of a
 very

* By the bye, Swift has obliged us with a *cure* for the tooth-ache,

very worthy, ingenious, but eccentric friend of the author,* who invited him to pass some days with him, declaring “we would live like kings; for he had found a treasure.”—On my arrival I found this treasure was Mrs. Glass’s book upon Cookery.—But—this was attended with a woeful subsequent discovery, viz. that my friend had forgot to provide himself with the materials on which to display his newly acquired knowledge !

ache,—a very effectual one ; viz. the exposing the roots of the offending party to the rays of the Sun for *half an hour*, or some less period of time : but of the manner of bringing it into that warm situation from the jaw-bone he has unfortunately left the world in total darkness.

* DOCTOR HOULTON HARRIES.

OMISSIONS.

AMONG the apologies which the Author of these pages *might*, and probable *ought* to make for omissions, his chief is that scarcely pardonable, one of haste ; the idea of it having only struck him about 14 days previous to his forwarding it to the press. He takes blame to himself for not having devoted more time to this work, but peculiar circumstances called for its sudden appearance ; and to be candid, he neither had no more time to spare, nor, if he had would he have devoted it to this work :—a rather arrogant assertion, but such as considering the reception which good intentions meet with in the world, he conceives to be justifiable.

AMONG the number of omissions is that of not having added to the requisite attainments of the Manager (and he thought he had prescribed him enough) a perfect knowledge of the qualities of timber, and of the seasons for cutting it down for buildings ;—points in which he would recommend him to inform himself of by a communication with the ideas of, and benefit from, the experience of others.

OF

OF the season of the rise and fall of the sap in trees, and benefitting thereby in felling them in the dark of the moon, we recommend him to be duly attentive:—but as to the means of enabling him advantageously to derive benefit from the stages of the moon, for planting corn, pulse, cabbage, and potatoes, we shall leave him to profit by his own experience.

THESE are the principal omissions which have occurred to us:—and now, craving the indulgence of our reader to these pages, which were most sincerely dictated with a view to his benefit, we beg leave to assure him, should it happen to come to the Author's knowledge, that he has in the smallest degree succeeded, he will feel himself highly gratified; and in these sentiments he bids his reader a most sincere, cordial, and hearty farewell.

THE AUTHOR.

DOMINICA, 1st JULY,
1806.

A P P E N D I X.

OF DRAINING, &c.

I HAVE in general observed, with very few exceptions, that Coffee affects a surface somewhat on a slope, in preference to a bottom or level; and *that*, even where there is not apparent extra-moisture in the soil. It certainly very ill accords with a surface any ways inclining to a swamp. Yet there are instances of veins of springy lands, where the surface one would suppose to be not so much of a flat as to retain a sufficient moisture to injure that plant.—It is, however, frequently the case; and proper precautions must, in such cases, be resorted to.

THE piece of land on which I essayed the mode here exemplified lies at the foot of a hill of a moderate slope, and has itself some descent. The mode I took was suggested partly by necessity, not having then the strength I possess at present:—but, was I to perform the same operation at present, I would notwithstanding follow the same method, for reasons which I shall here alledge.

HAVING determined on draining every *second* row of Coffee, I began by every fourth; meaning to take the intermediate ones as my time and strength would permit: through each of which I run a trench, precisely in the centre, of two feet broad, and one foot deep, in the direction of the general descent of the land; but, in order to prevent the escape of the soil, I made a square hole in every fourth row, crossing them at right angles, of four feet square, and from three to four feet deep:—I thus had a complete drain for every four rows of Coffee, and a deposit for the soil, which might be washed along them, in four receptacles to every sixteen trees. *

THE remedy being effectual, I desisted from the completion of my plan, which was, to have made similar drains to each second row; and to vary the situation of the pits so as to form the figure in the plate.—It is a mode I would recommend to every Planter, who has land which requires draining: but it must be observed, the outlet from one pit to the trench, which is to conduct it to the next lower pit, should be only just sufficient to let the water drain over, without overflowing the ground, otherwise the soil will be washed out almost as fast as it enters.

BY

* THESE, for distinction sake, I shall call the *superior drains*: those afterwards made at each second row, the *inferior drains*.

By this mode, as well as accomplishing the draining of the surface, a considerable quantity of the soil is saved, and collected :—and perhaps if horizontal drains were made to cross the others at the intervals where there are no pits, it would be an improvement.



DIAGONAL LINING.

ON the subject of lining, the ingenious *Laborie* just mentions, but does not recommend, the mode of planting in Quincunxes; that is, every four picquets form two equilateral triangles. (See the plate.) By this mode the same quantity of ground is occupied; but the rows approximate one way, and elongate the other. In preference to this method, I would line diagonally—(see the plate)—that is, the two first rows must form an angle of 45 degrees with the two primitive lines; and from these the other rows are laid off parallel. The only objection to be alledged is, the inconvenience of weeding the rows thus obliquely situated :—but this is obviated by taking the rows direct up, and allotting one person instead of two. If your Coffee is planted at nine feet each way, this mode will present to each weeder a breadth of five feet and an half, which is as much as they can conveniently carry up.

In order to enable the Coffee-Planter to ascertain the quantity of land by the number of picquets, may be proper to inform him that a square acre of land contains 43,560 square feet :—therefore if he plants at 9 feet, for every 537 picquets he may count an acre.

At 10 feet, 435 picquets will be an acre.

At 8———680.

At 7———888, &c.

FOR

$$10 \times 10 = 100 \text{ and } \frac{43560}{100} = 435.$$

100

$$9 \times 9 = 81 \text{ — } \frac{43560}{81} = 537.$$

81

$$8 \times 8 = 64 \text{ — } \frac{43560}{64} = 680.$$

64

$$7 \times 7 = 49 \text{ — } \frac{43560}{49} = 888, \text{ \&c.}$$

49

So 2722 Cane-holes of 4 feet square make an acre.

$$4 \times 4 = 16, \text{ and } \frac{43560}{16} = 2722, \text{ \&c.}$$

16

REFERENCES

REFERENCES TO THE PLATES.



PLATE I. represents the greater part of the plan.

PLATE II. Fig. 5, in perspective ; but the Mill-House, Draining Platform, &c. being thrown at such a distance as to become indistinct.

PLATE III. Fig. 1, represents a view of those two parts separately.

IN the plan, plate II. Fig. 5.

No. 1, represents The Cherry Mill-House.

2 ——— The Draining Platform.

3 ——— First Drying Platform.

4 ——— Granary or *Beaucan*.

5 ——— Second Drying Platform.

6 ——— Pounding Mill and cleaning Loft, with the Fanning-Mill to the westward.

7 ——— Dwelling House, under which are three Rows of Drawers, five Drawers to each row.

8 ——— A Stone Kitchen, to which a Stove or Kiln may be added, if required.

9 ——— Store Room.

10 ——— Manager's House.

11 ——— Cooper's and Carpenter's Shop.

THE other two buildings being for the manufacture of Sugar, a part of the property being planted in Canes, belong not properly to this work, and are only represented to shew how the Author availed himself of the small quantity of level surface which he had to deal with.

12-—————Stable.

13-—————Is a Stock-Yard.

a { Sheds to keep the Stock from the
b { weather.
c {

THE water comes from a Spring through the Coffee to a Bason outside the Garden Fence, which has an outlet to throw it off when too abundant ; from thence runs to a Bason in the centre of the Garden to a Bason at the Draining Platform, where it has another outlet, if not wanted ; from whence it is sent either into the Mill Cistern, under House No. 1, or round by the Kitchen and Sugar-work, where a drain carries it off.

PLATE II. Fig. 1. Lining is referred to under that article.

FIG. 3 and 4, a plain, and a more complex Cabrit or Level for tracing Roads, &c.

FIG. 6 and 7, are referred to in the Appendix.

PLATE III. represents a Plan, Elevation, end and sideways, and a perspective view of the Coffee-Mill.—That here represented is not the one commonly in use, though of the same figure—They
are

are in general made of a solid Roller.—This be considered as an improvement, as throwing the weight from the centre to the circumference, and thereby answering the purpose of a fly.

PLATE IV. Fig. 1, represents the plan of the Coffee Mill-house,—No. 1, Plate II. Fig. 5, in which only two Mills are here represented, although six might be placed if required. Fig. 2, represents a section of the Cistern, with a plastered pavement, over which beams are thrown, and planks laid for the people to stand on, inclining thereto each way, which conducts the Coffee at once into the Cistern, and saves the trouble of gathering it up in baskets, as is commonly practised to put there.

PLATE V. represents an improved Receiver, and Measuring Box for the Cherry Coffee.

No. 1. The Box empty in a state for receiving the Cherry Coffee, which is thrown in from the Ladder.

2—The Box discharging the Cherry Coffee, by being turned on the axle behind it.

3—Plan of the improved Receiver. *

THIS Receiver is nine feet long and seven broad, it is six feet high at the farther end, and four feet at the end next the Box, and has a descent to the spouts a and b, which feed two Mills below.

THE

* Substituted for that in Plate IV. Fig. 3.

THE Box contains two Barrels ; and the Manager, Overseer, or Driver, must make a score, on the side of the Receiver, of the number of times it is discharged into the Receiver.

NO. 1—PLATE II. Fig. 5, Draining Platform. No. 2, sloping inwards, and Drying Platform. No. 3, sloping outwards, in a sort of perspective, where it will be observed that advantage has been taken of the ground to sink the lower story where the Mills are placed, so as the floor of the upper story comes on a level with the platforms ; in the upper story should be the Receiver for the Cherry-Coffee, which descends through two small scuttles to the Mills.

PLATE VI.—No. 1, is an outside view of the Pounding Mill, Mill-House, and Granary—No. 2, is a section of the inside—and No. 3, is a design of a Sugar Mill and Mill-House Frame.—The motion of this Mill is accelerated by means of the Balance-wheel, and the cases are carried round nearly twice, for one round of the Cattle ; but it was chiefly for the framing of the roof that he was induced to make the drawing, which may be adopted by those who may stick to the common Mill, and is so constructed as to derive no disadvantage from the want of an upright support in the centre, which Sugar Mills cannot have, on account of the motion work being from thence.

CONTINUATION EXPLANATION
OF THE PLATES.

I HAVE thought proper to be somewhat minute in describing the different parts of the Polygon Building, which covers in the Pounding-Mill and Loft, as its complicated construction requires more correctness of workmanship than any of the other buildings.

As the space is very considerable, it must of course have a support in the centre.—And here the first idea is, the making the arm work in a collar round the upright post ; which I however rejected, and adopted the mode, Plate V, Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8.

SHOULD occasion occur (which may never happen) the centre post may be removed by driving out the key or wedge, and inclining the post a little on one side ; having previously secured the beam by temporary uprights.

THE Author has been obliged to make names for the different parts of the Iron-work ; which he has endeavoured to make as appropriate as he could.

PLATE V, Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8.

A—Represents the *Pivot*.

M

B. The

B—The *Strap*, which turns round the pivot at No. 1, and rests upon the projecting part of the pivot below.

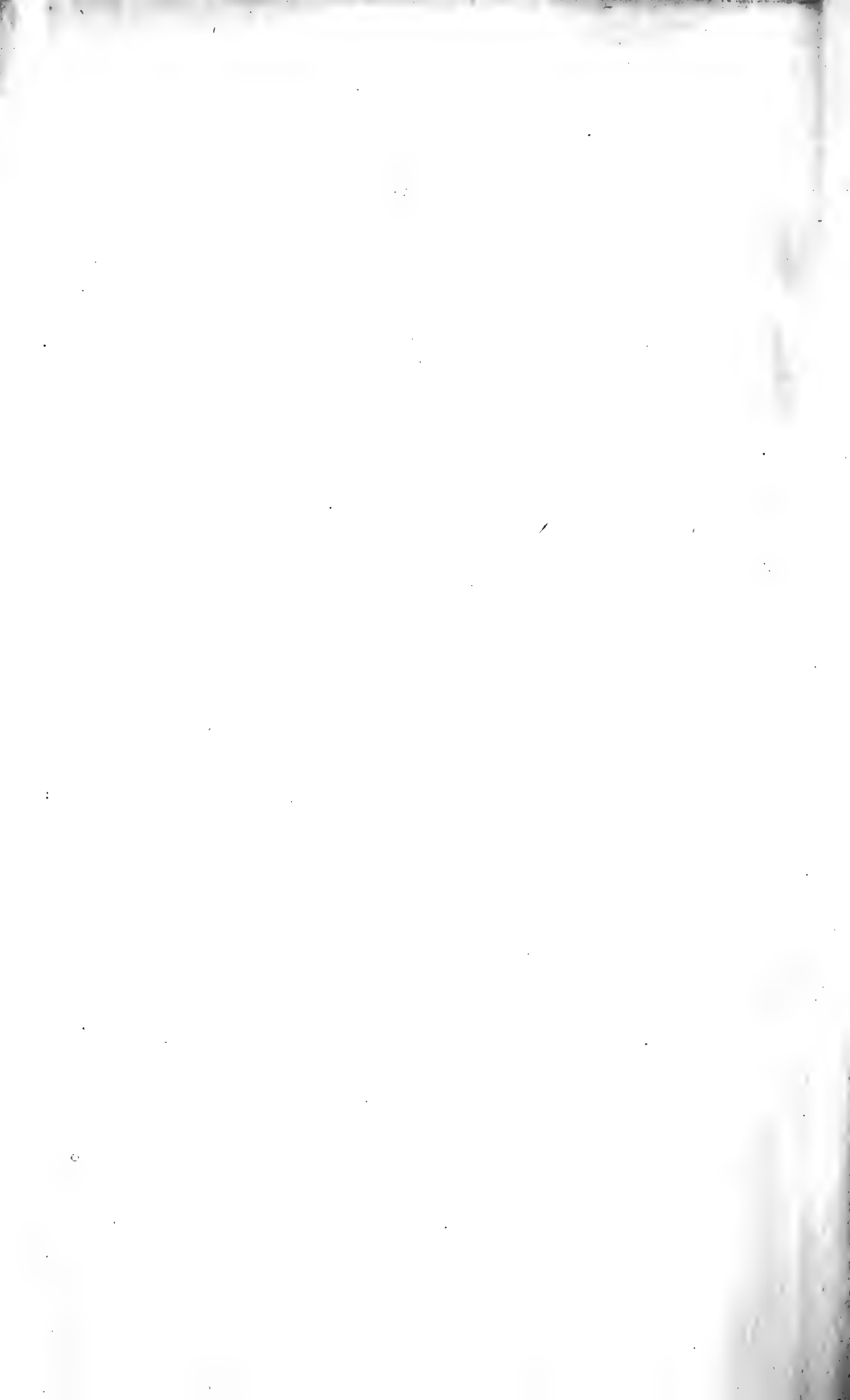
C—The *Bearer*, a solid circular piece of iron, which rests on the second projecting part of the pivot below No. 2, and prevents the weight of the upright from bearing on the neck of the strap.

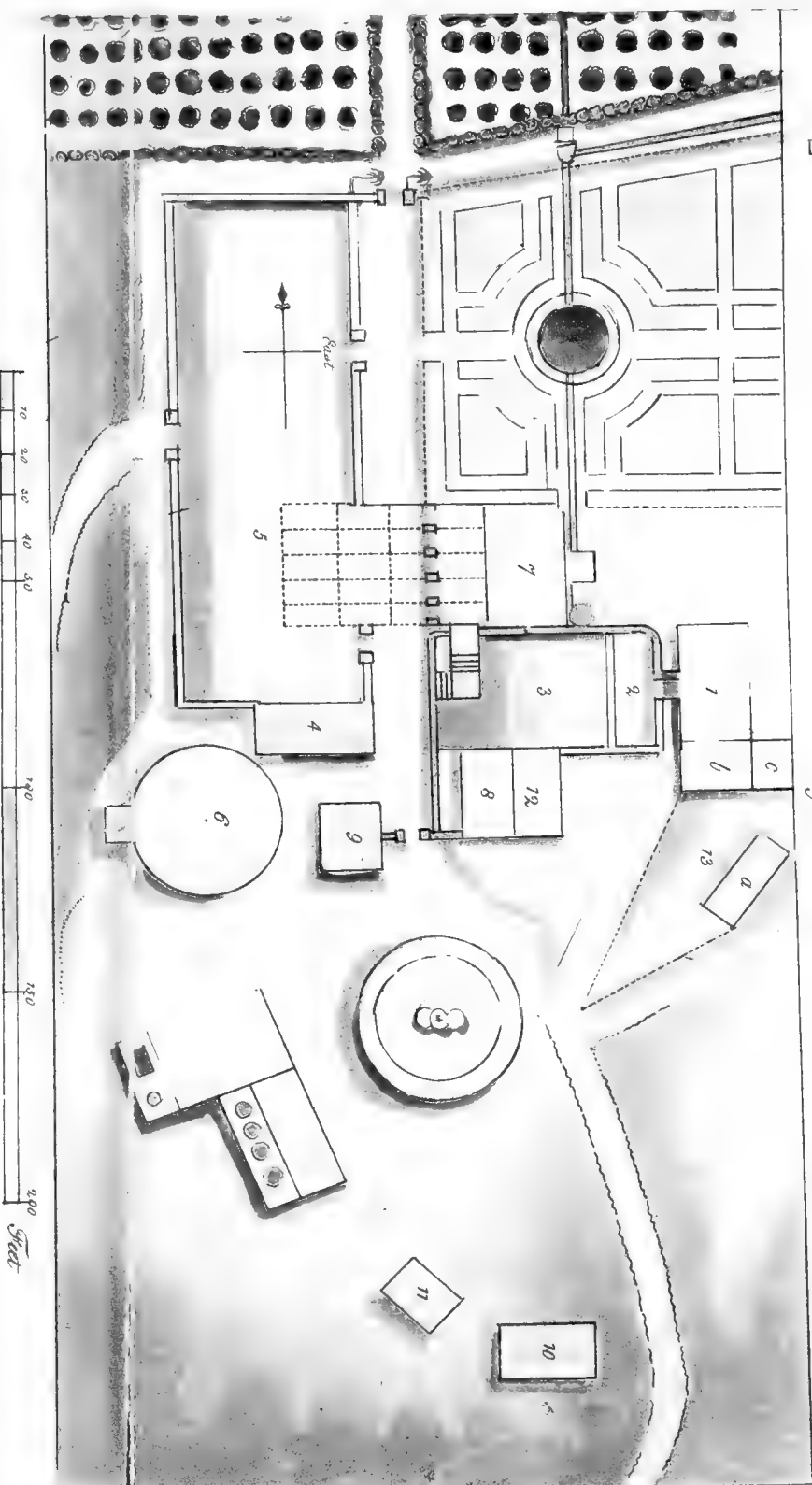
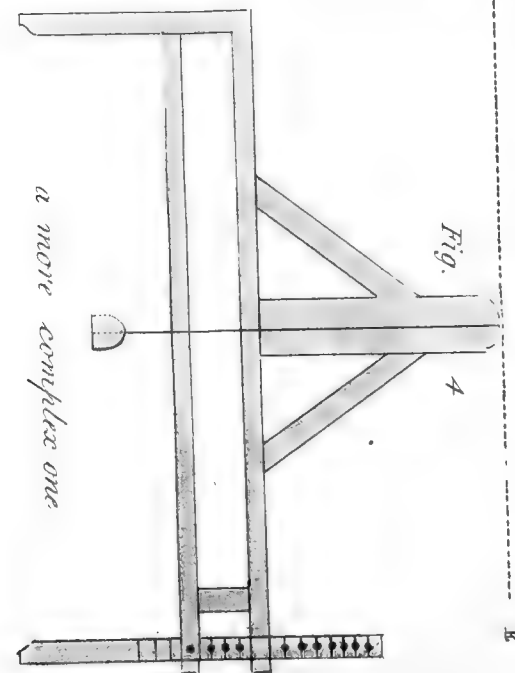
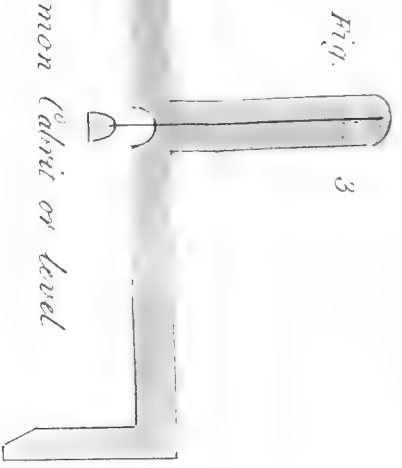
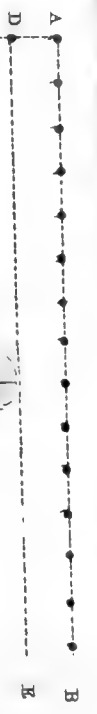
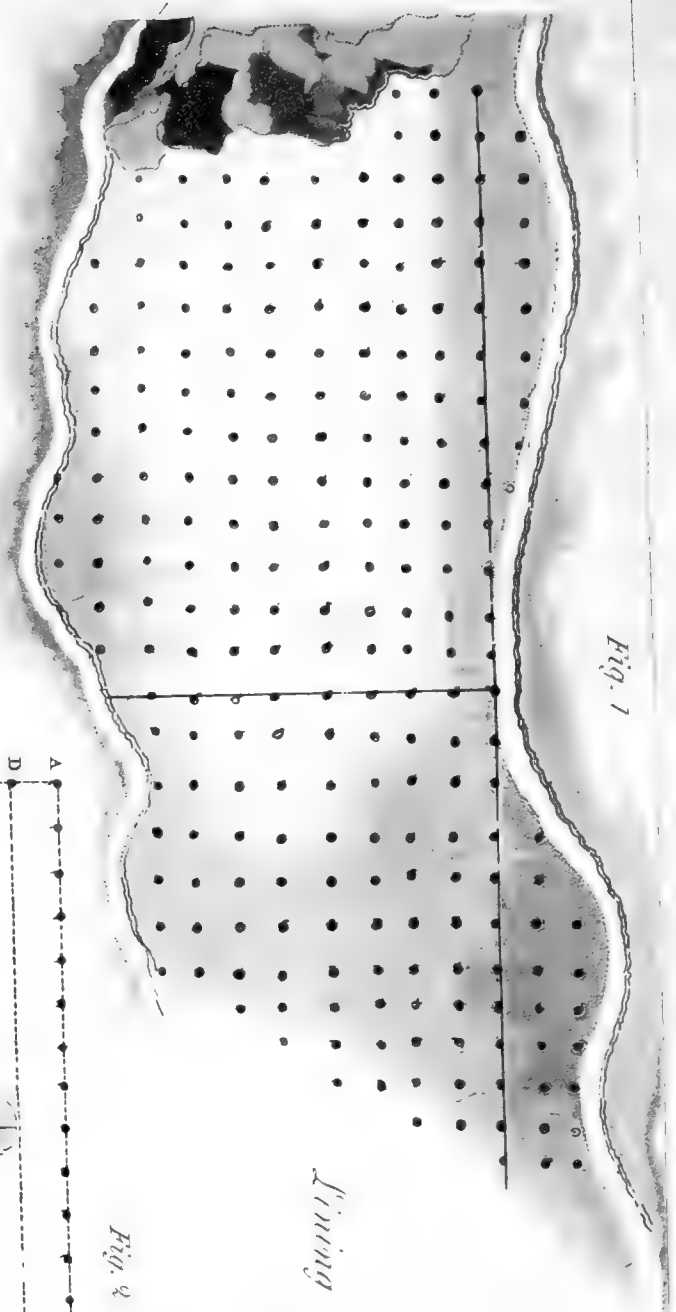
D—The *Resister*, which is nailed to the bottom of the upright ; through which the pivot passes, and rests upon the *bearer*, to prevent the wood wearing or decaying.

E—The upright central support, hooped at the bottom to prevent its splitting.

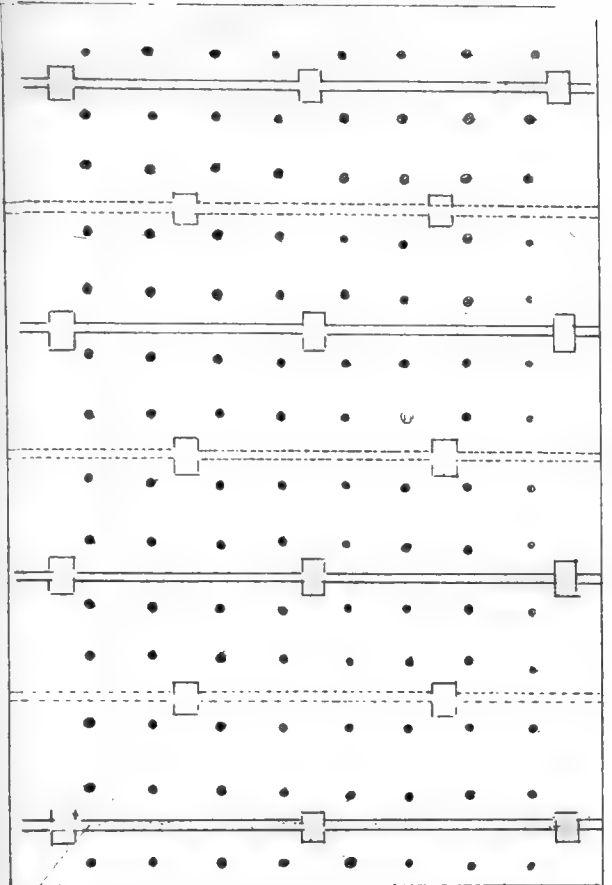
THIS is the mode which the Author has adopted and completed—and it promises strength, durability, and convenience.

FINIS.

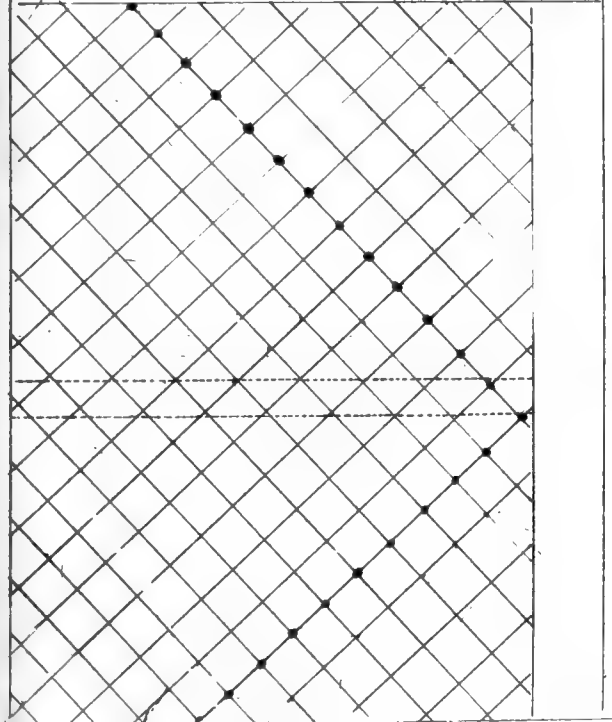




Straining Fig. 6

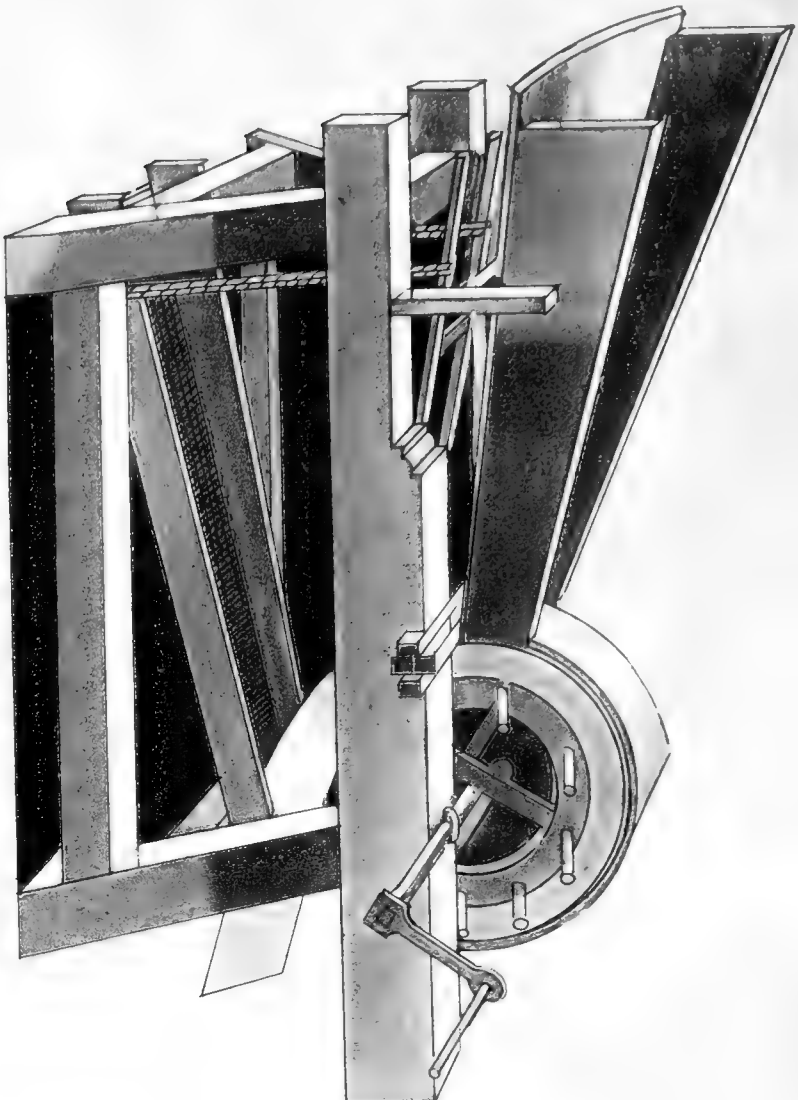


Diagonal Sowing Fig. 7

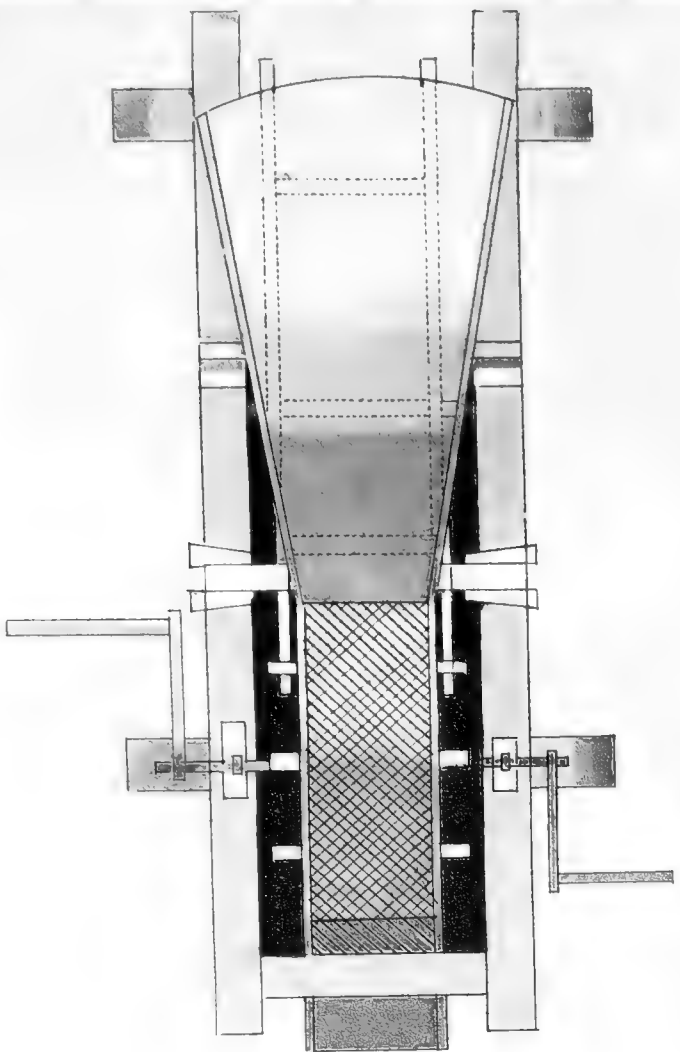
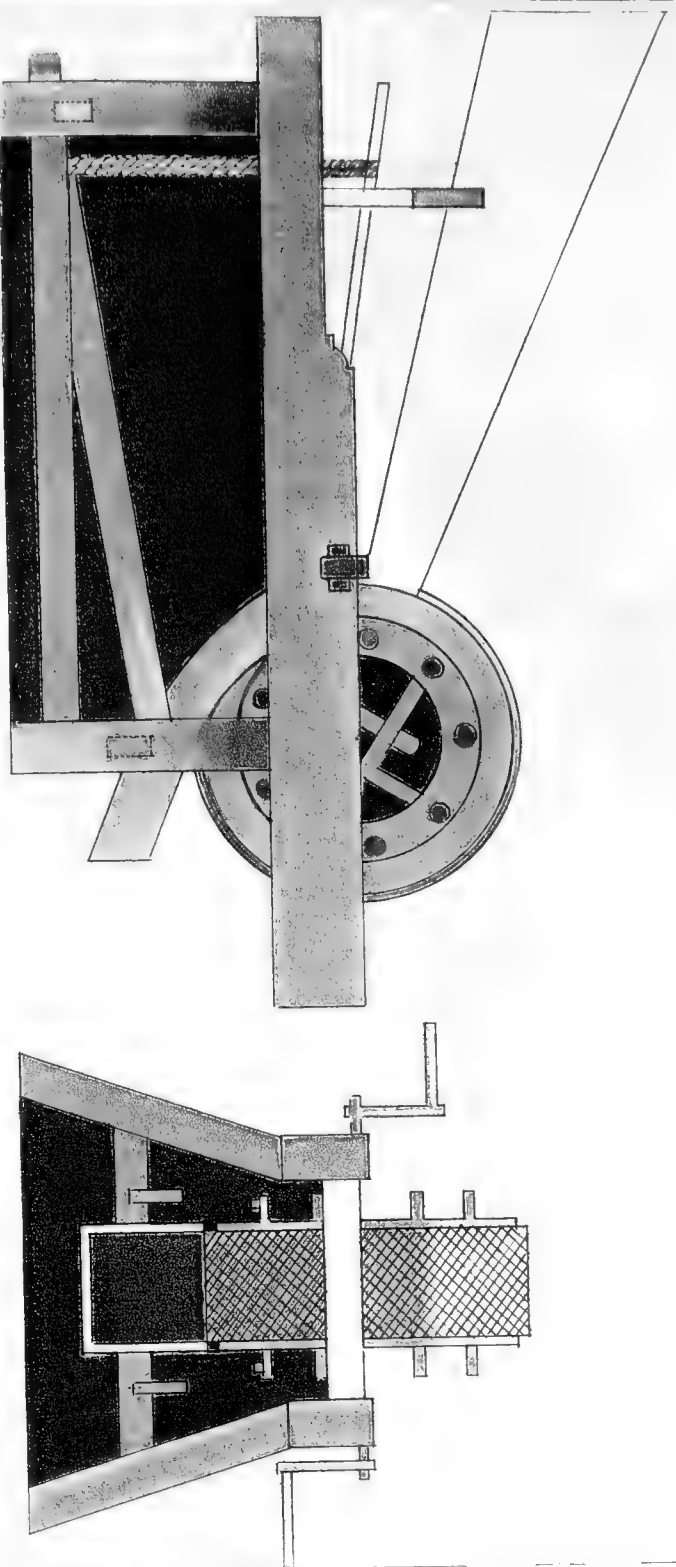


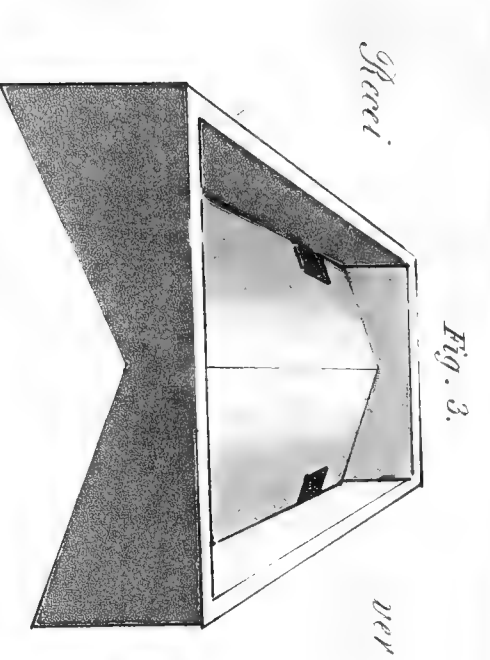
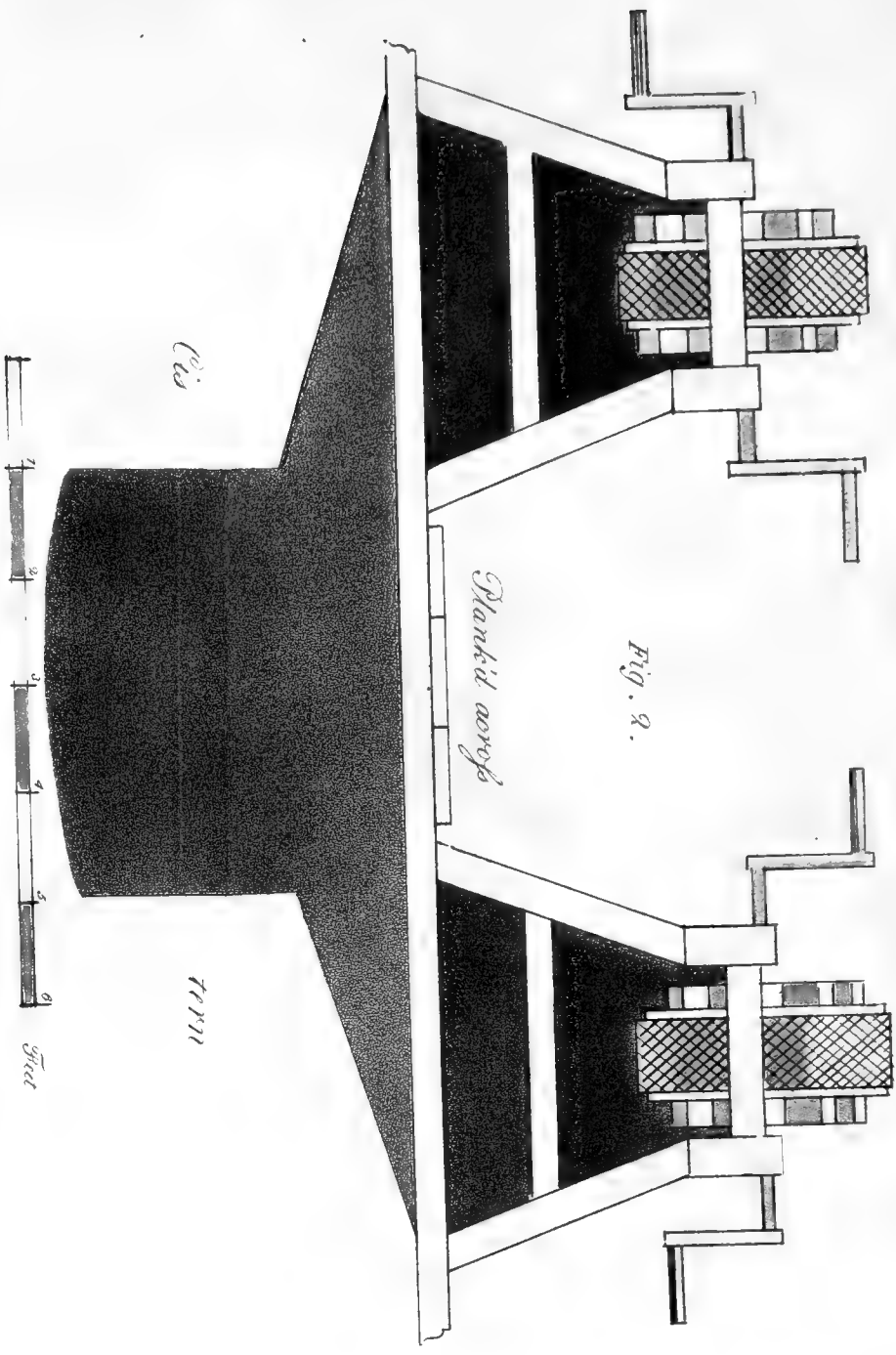
Lowered abuts

London: Printed as the Act directs, 1799, by C. Rowlinson, Harpur Court, St. Dunns Lane.



Coffee Mills.

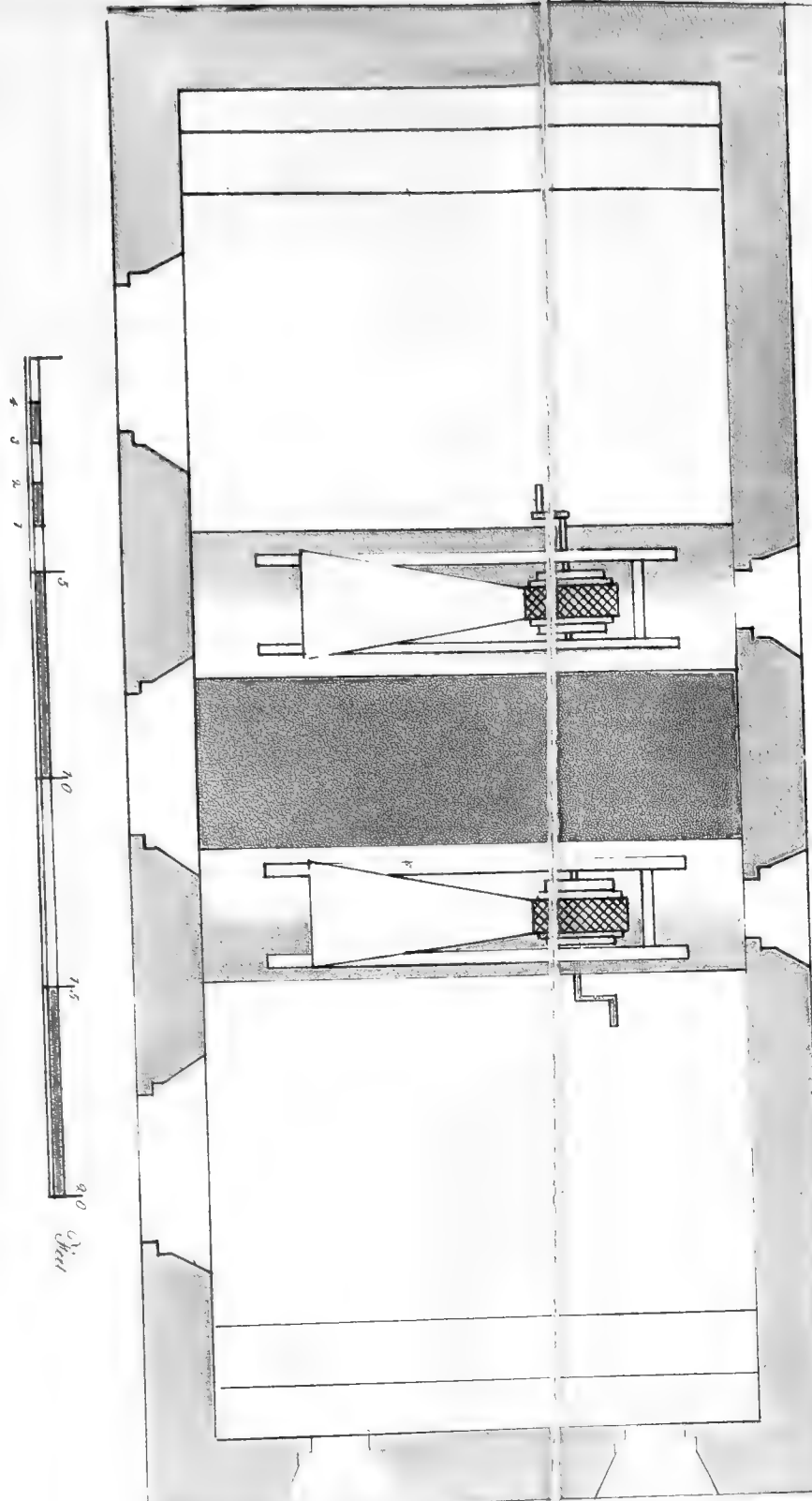




Mill

Fig. 1.

House



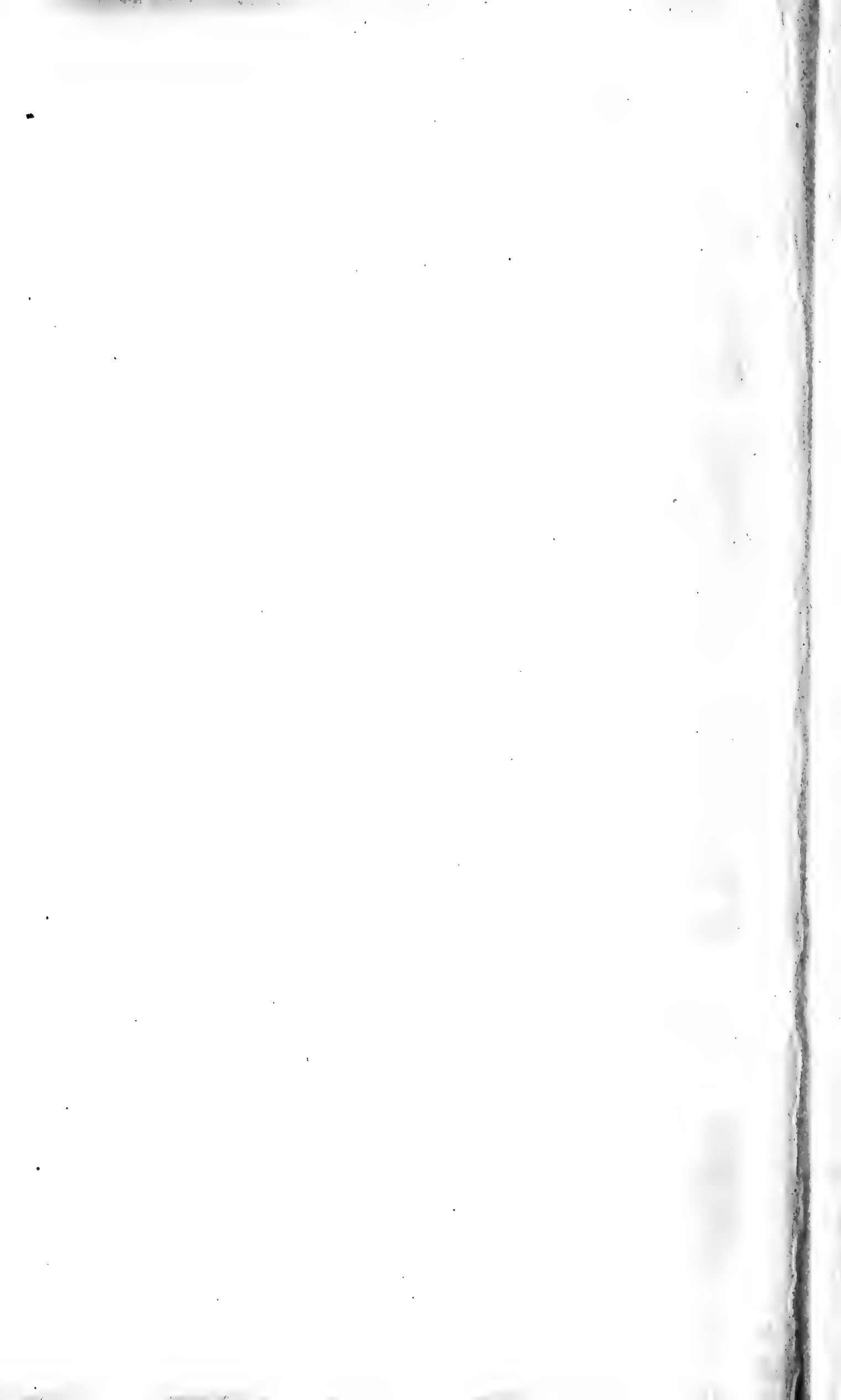


Fig. 2.

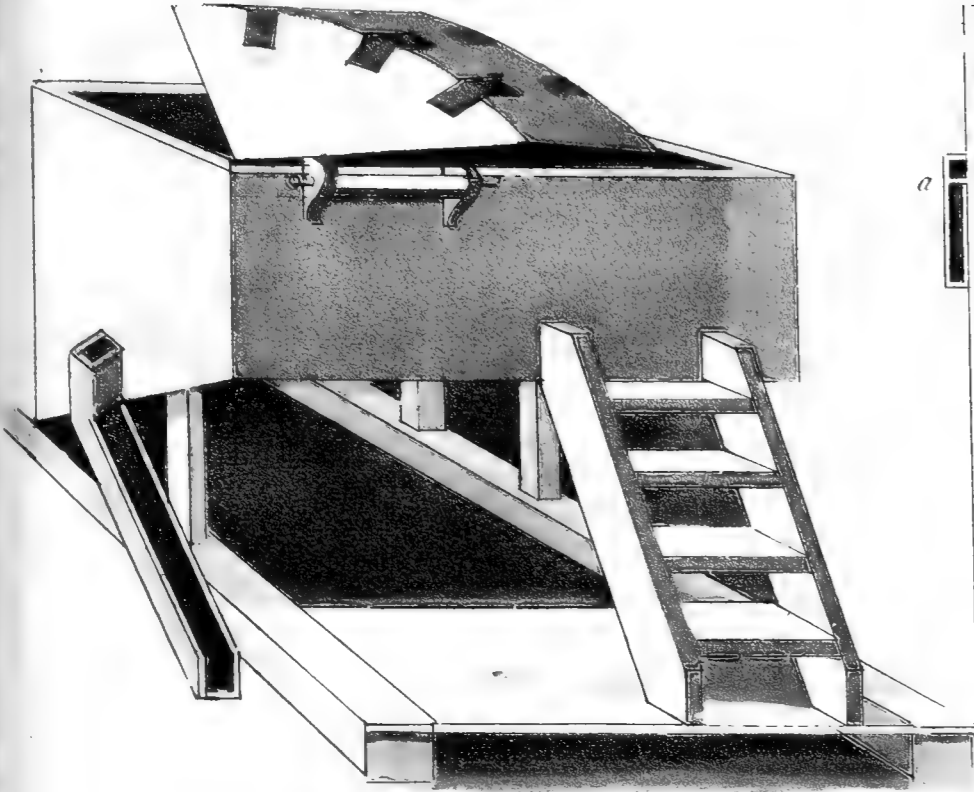
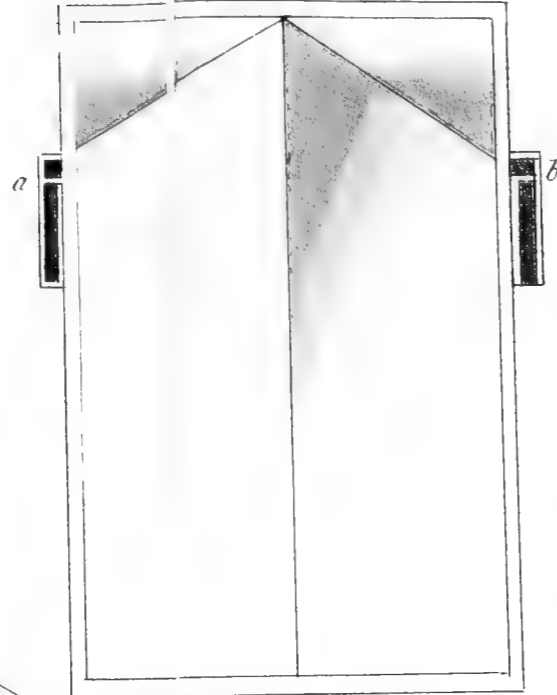


Fig. 3.



Improved Receiver
Fig. 9.

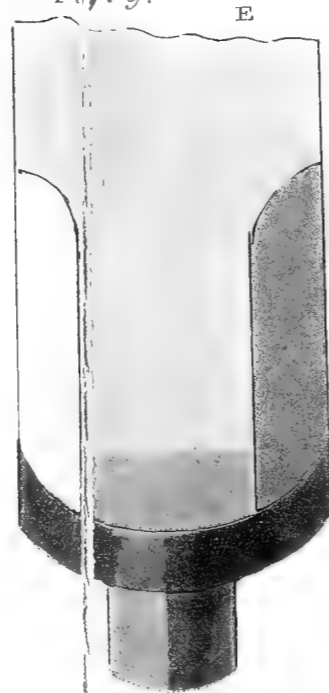


Fig. 1.

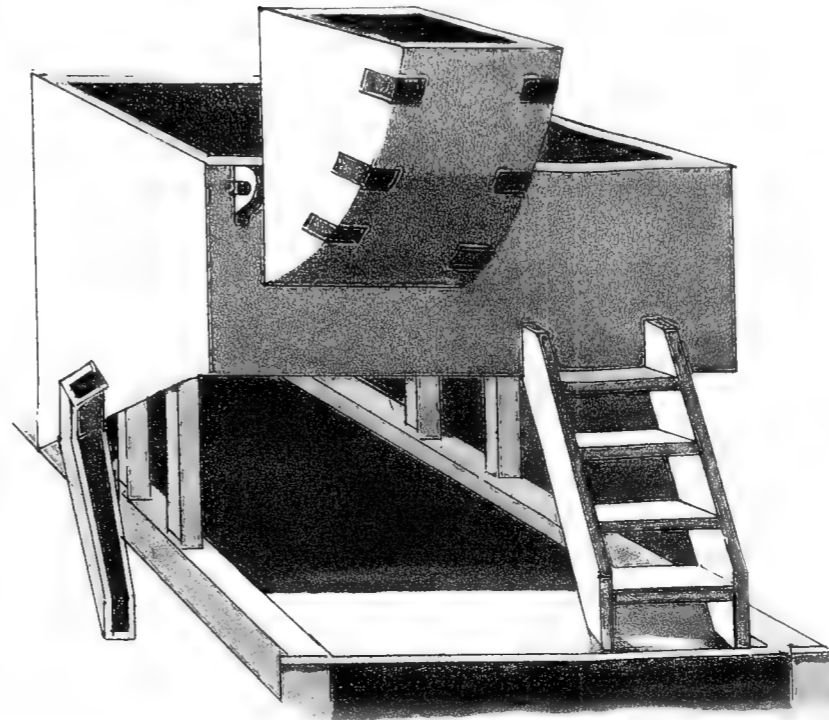


Fig. 4.

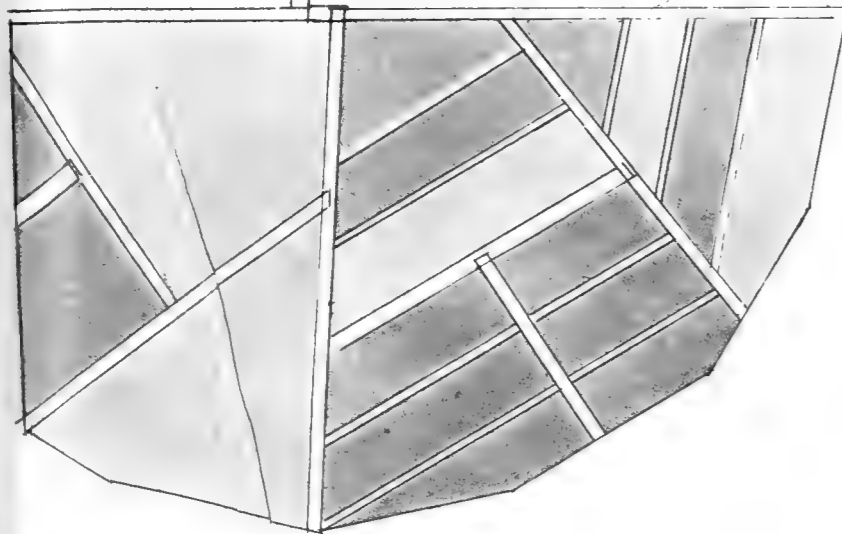
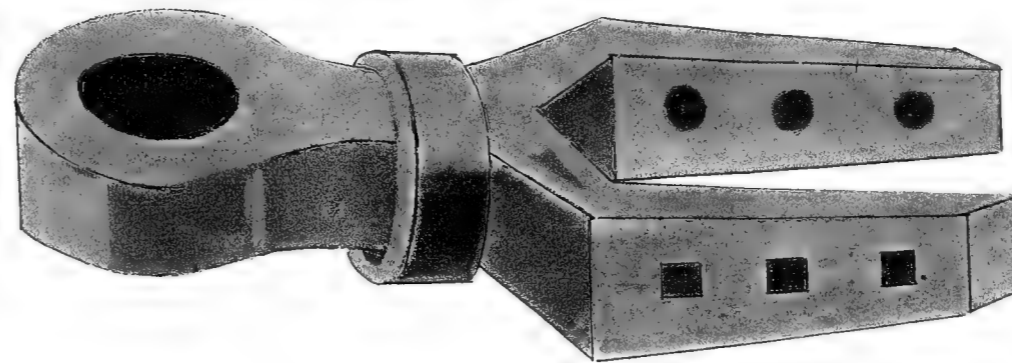


Fig. 6.
B



Screws with Nuts

Fig. 5.

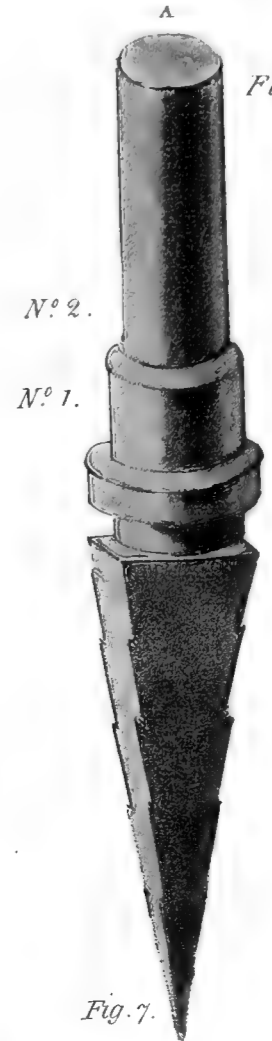


Fig. 7.

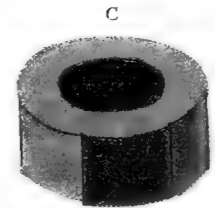
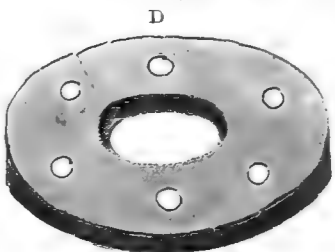
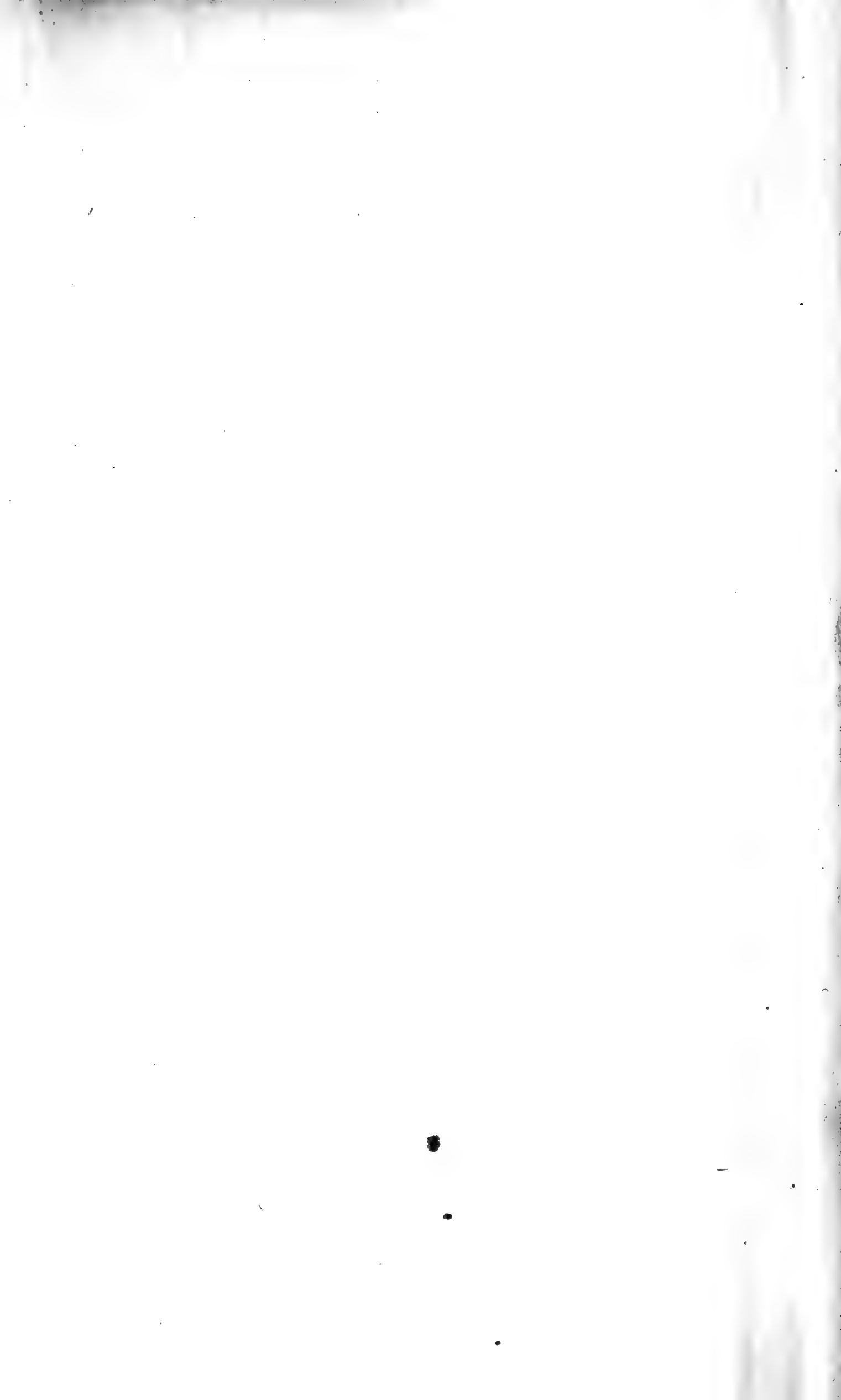
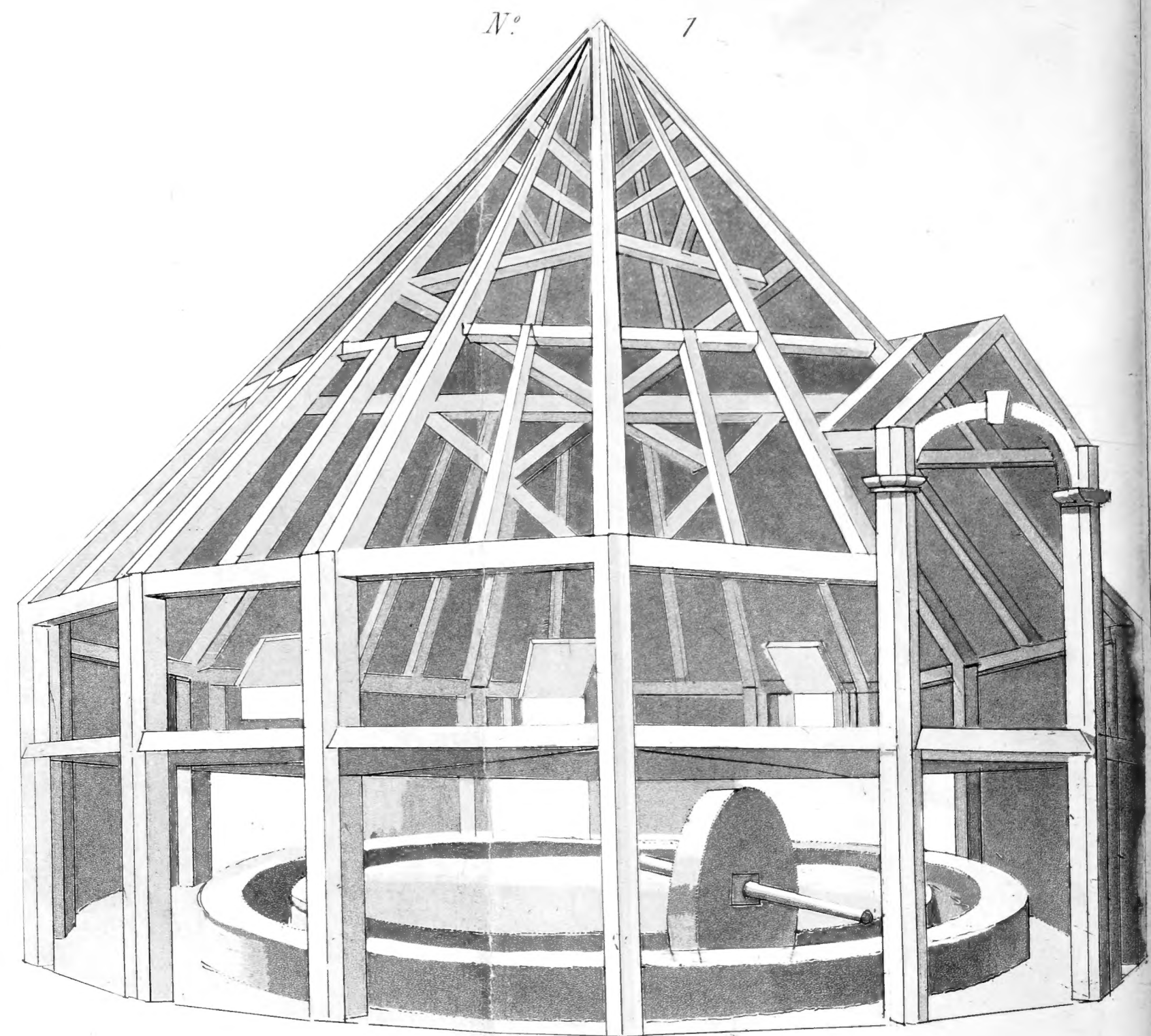
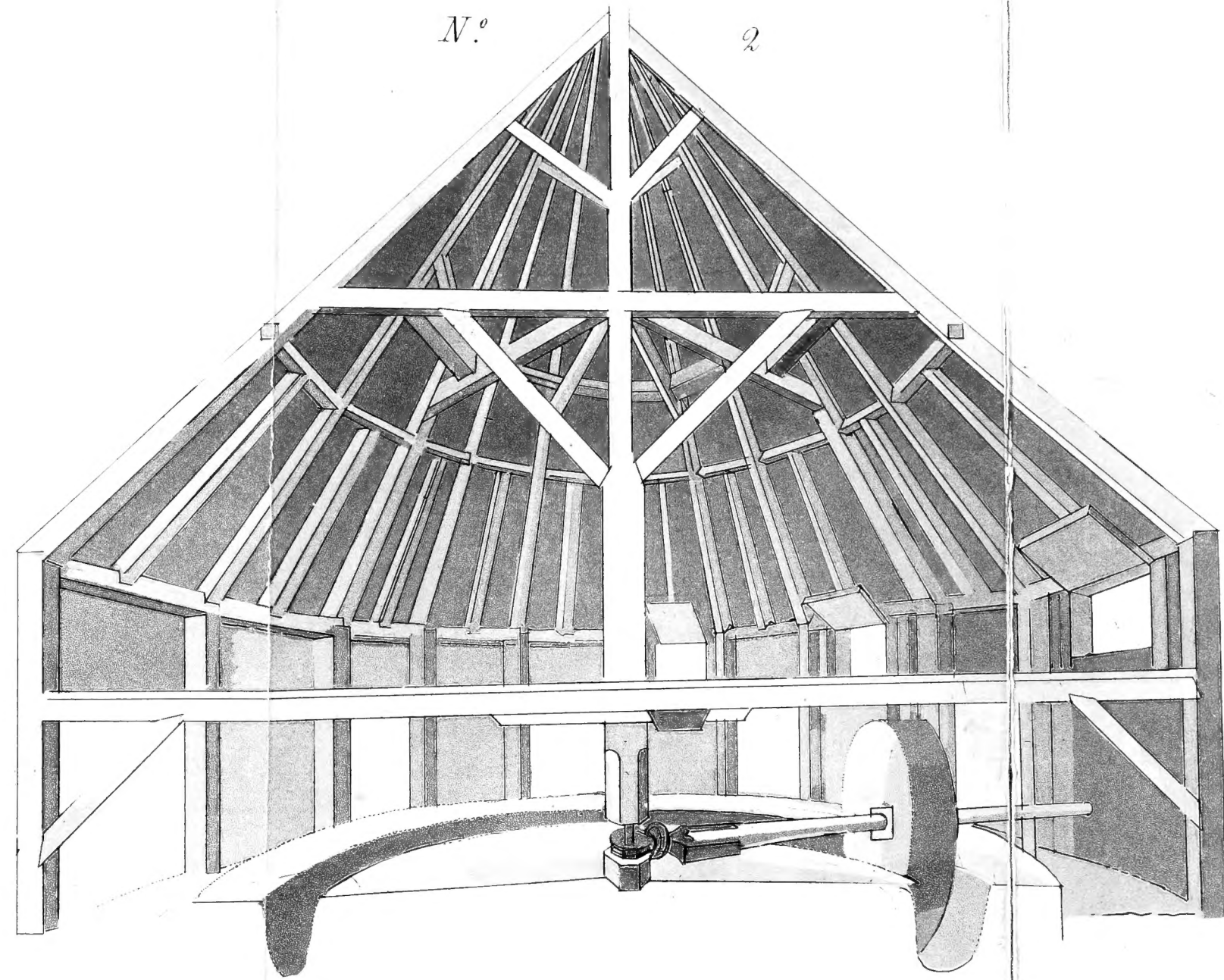
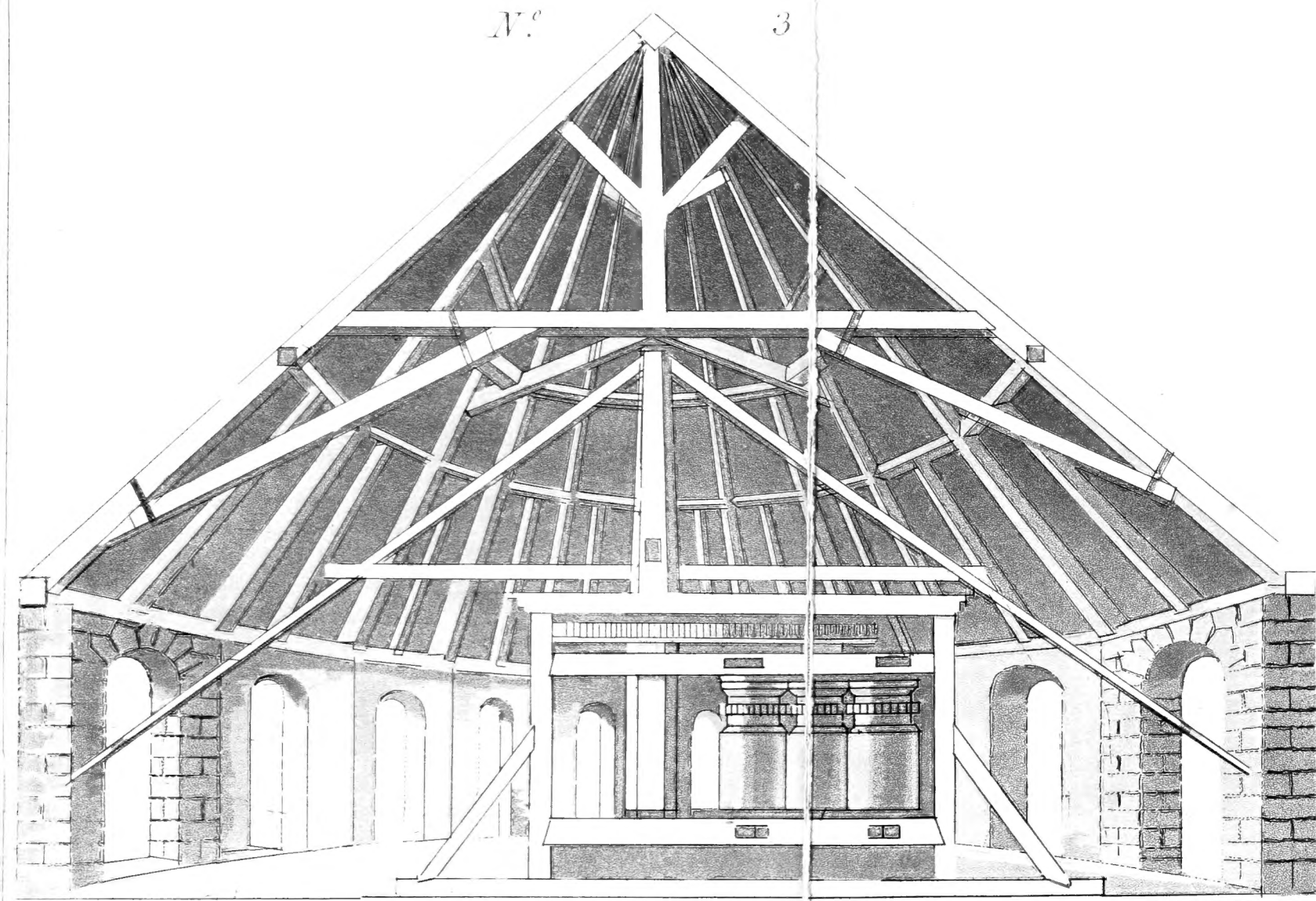
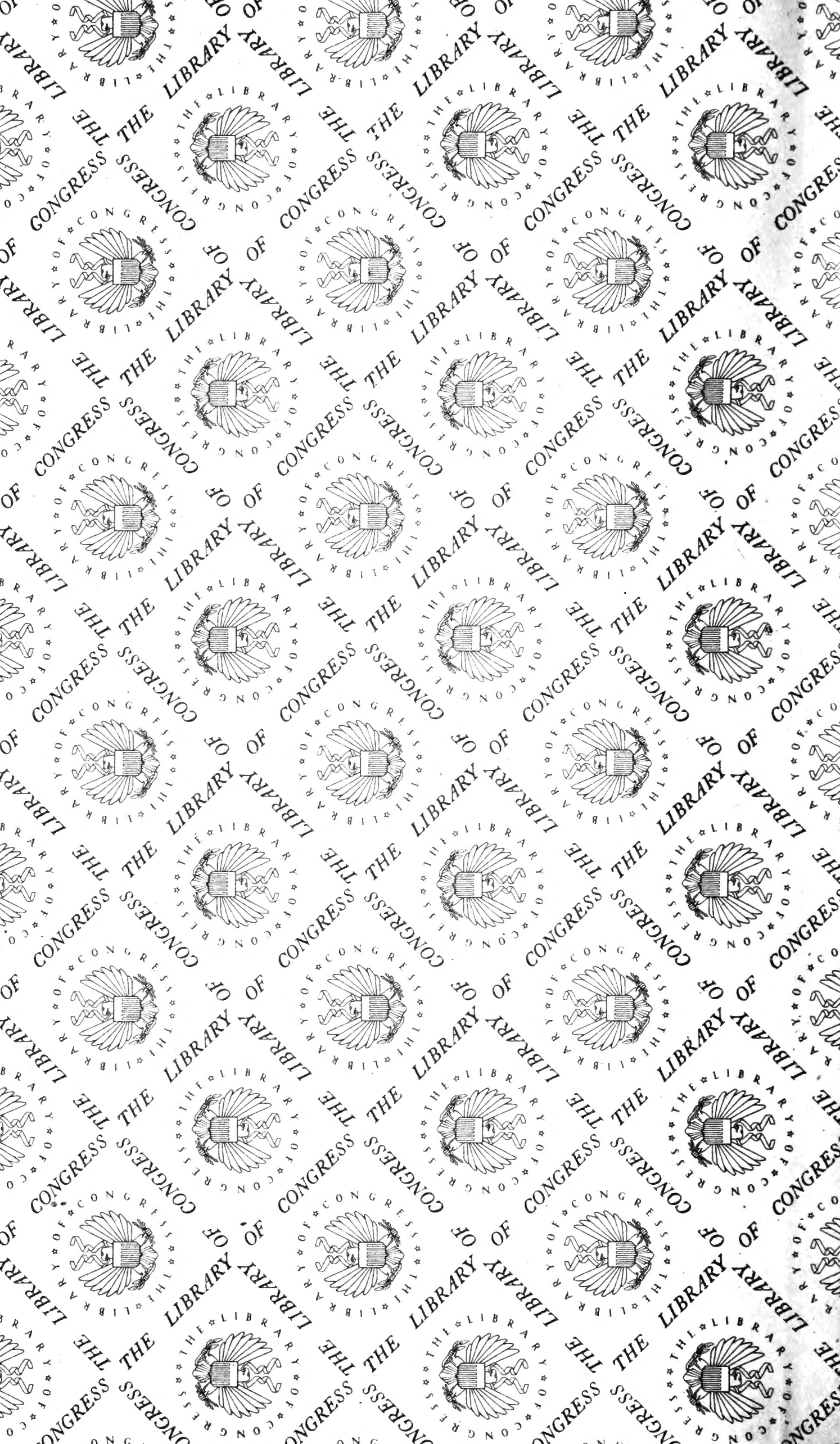


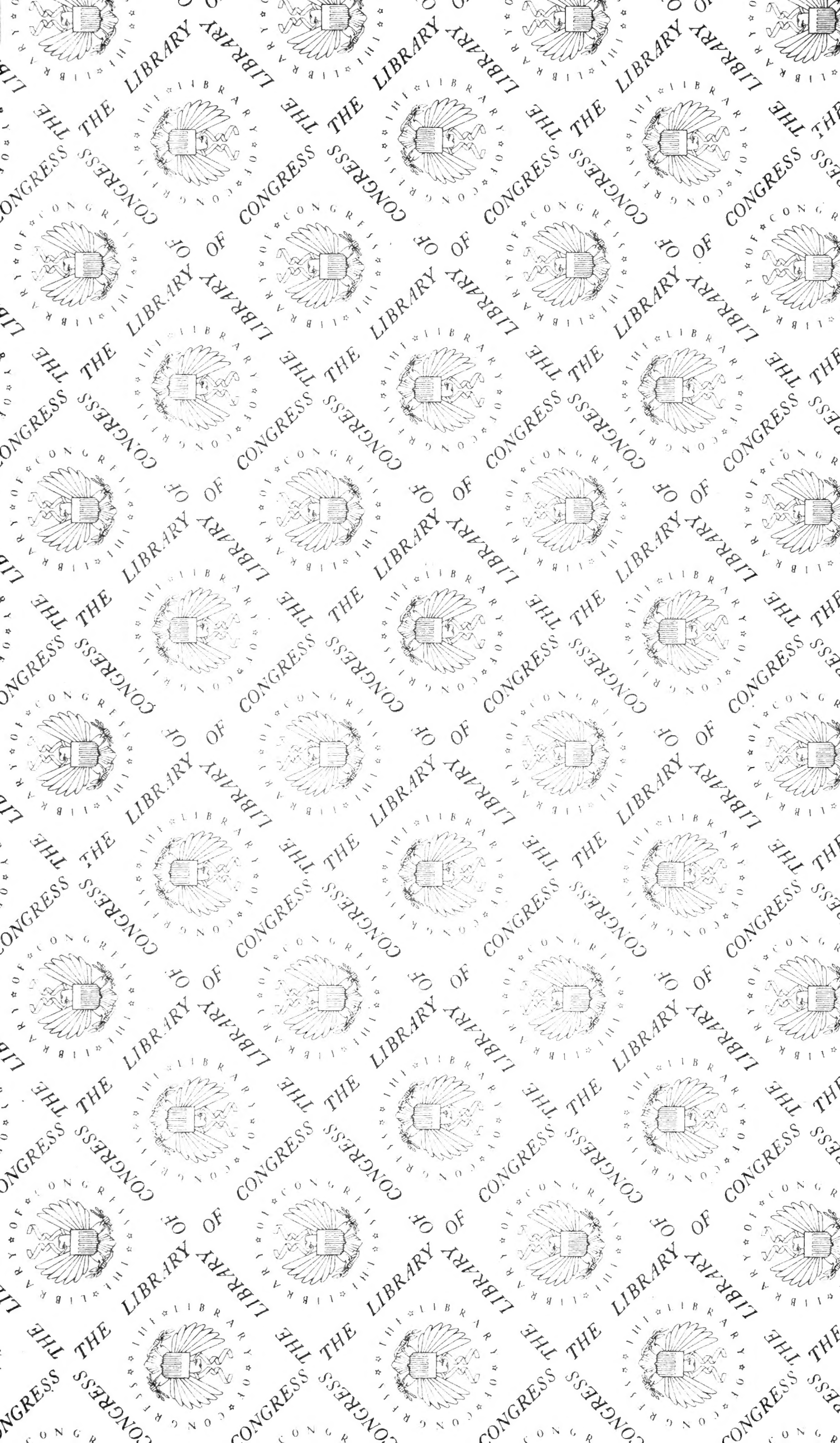
Fig. 8.



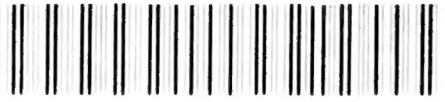








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