

**A TREATISE ON THE GROWTH AND
FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF TIMBER
TREES, AND ON OTHER RURAL
SUBJECTS WITH AN APPENDIX.
ADDRESSED TO THE LANDED
PROPRIETORS OF NORTH DERBYSHIRE**

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A Treatise on the Growth and Future Management of Timber Trees, and on Other Rural Subjects with an Appendix. Addressed to the Landed Proprietors of North Derbyshire by G. W. Newton

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G. W. NEWTON

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NORTH DERBYSHIRE.

BY
G. W. NEWTON,

J.P. AND B.L. OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF DERBY, CHESTER,
AND LANGSHIRE.

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LOVELL REEVE, 5, HENRIETTA STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.


1859.

191. a. 35.

PREFACE.

THE contents of this volume are the results of my own practice and experience of half a century. Having commenced a rural life at the age of one-and-twenty, I have lived to see, in my seventy-first year, trees planted by myself, and by others under my own inspection, felled and sold for the uses and purposes required by the collieries and the numerous manufacturing establishments of our own and the neighbouring counties. He is highly favoured who is spared to witness such results of his own amusement and occupation in his earlier days. To expect to see a greater maturity than this, is vain indeed, in man,—the days of whose age are threescore and ten.

Having been born with a strong passion for gardening and planting, and feeling the ruling passion still strong within me in old age, I have employed the time, when the weather has prevented my working out of doors, by recording my own practice and experience, and reducing my notions and observations into shape, in the hope that by condensing my matter into plain and intelligible detail, and within proper compass, it may receive the indulgence of my readers, and excite the nobility and landed proprietary of North Derbyshire to early planting, and the selection of those kinds of trees, the timber of which is best adapted for the uses and demands of our coal-fields and manufacturing districts, and are best suited to our own peculiar climate and its humid atmosphere. Mr. Evelyn complains of the neglect of this in his own time, and justly observes, "There is no part of husbandry



which men commonly more fail in, neglect, and have cause to repent of, than that they did not begin planting betimes."

To begin then methodically, and with a due regard to all parts of my subject, keeping in view our own High Peak climate, its various soils, and varied aspects of situation, and the comparative elevations of our division of the county generally. I commence by declaring myself as adverse to pruning of timber plants; and to render this unnecessary in future times, I strongly impress on every one who wishes to improve his estate in beauty, shelter, and in value, to act on "the old adage," "If you wish to have big trees, then plant a little one!" And having first placed a good fence to protect the land you intend to plant upon, give to each tree of your selection, liberty to receive the quantity of nourishment from the earth, and to enjoy

such a proportion of air, as its age and future progress of growth require.

I give here a list of those timber-trees which I have planted in early life, in this county and climate, and have seen felled and sold in my latter days.

Oak.

Ash.

Sycamore.

Larch.

Scotch Fir.

The following I have not planted myself, but found them growing on the lands on which my predecessors had planted them:

Spruce Fir.

Weymouth Pine.

Poplar.

Lombardy.

Willow (Huntingdon).

Beech.

Elm.

Mountain Ash.
Birch.
Lime.
Horse Chestnut.
Spanish Chestnut.
Hornbeam.
Walnut, and
Alder,

which latter, in many situations, seems indigenous, and freely renews and propagates and extends itself, as in the hamlets of Ollersett and Beard, Whitle and Thornsett, and from which the first-mentioned is supposed to derive its name, and many other townships in the widely-extended parish of Glossop. The first step to be taken is to make good and *safe* fences; by which epithet I mean, that not only should it be "rabbit tight," if a dry stone wall, but built upon a plan and specification which I shall fully explain hereafter, which

will ensure its standing firm for more than one generation.

Some years ago our horned sheep caused extensive and irreparable destruction on our young plantations by their teeth, and likewise by their wool. The poisonous effect of the latter sticking on a plant is extraordinary. The substitution by the hat manufacturers of Denton and other districts, of that trade, of gossamer bodies for their hat crowns, instead of those of felted wool, and the encouragement of grouse preserving since the late reforms in the game laws, have lessened the flocks of these destroyers of young timber, who will readily scale any of our three-quarter walls, unless they are prevented by an under coping-stone. But of fencing I shall make especial mention hereafter.
