

**A TREATISE ON THE VINE; EMBRACING
ITS HISTORY FROM THE EARLIEST AGES
TO THE PRESENT DAY. TOGETHER WITH A
COMPLETE DISSERTATION ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT, CULTURE, AND
MANAGEMENT OF VINEYARDS**

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A Treatise on the Vine; Embracing Its History from the Earliest Ages to the Present Day.
Together with a Complete Dissertation on the Establishment, Culture, and Management of
Vineyards by William Robert Prince & William Prince

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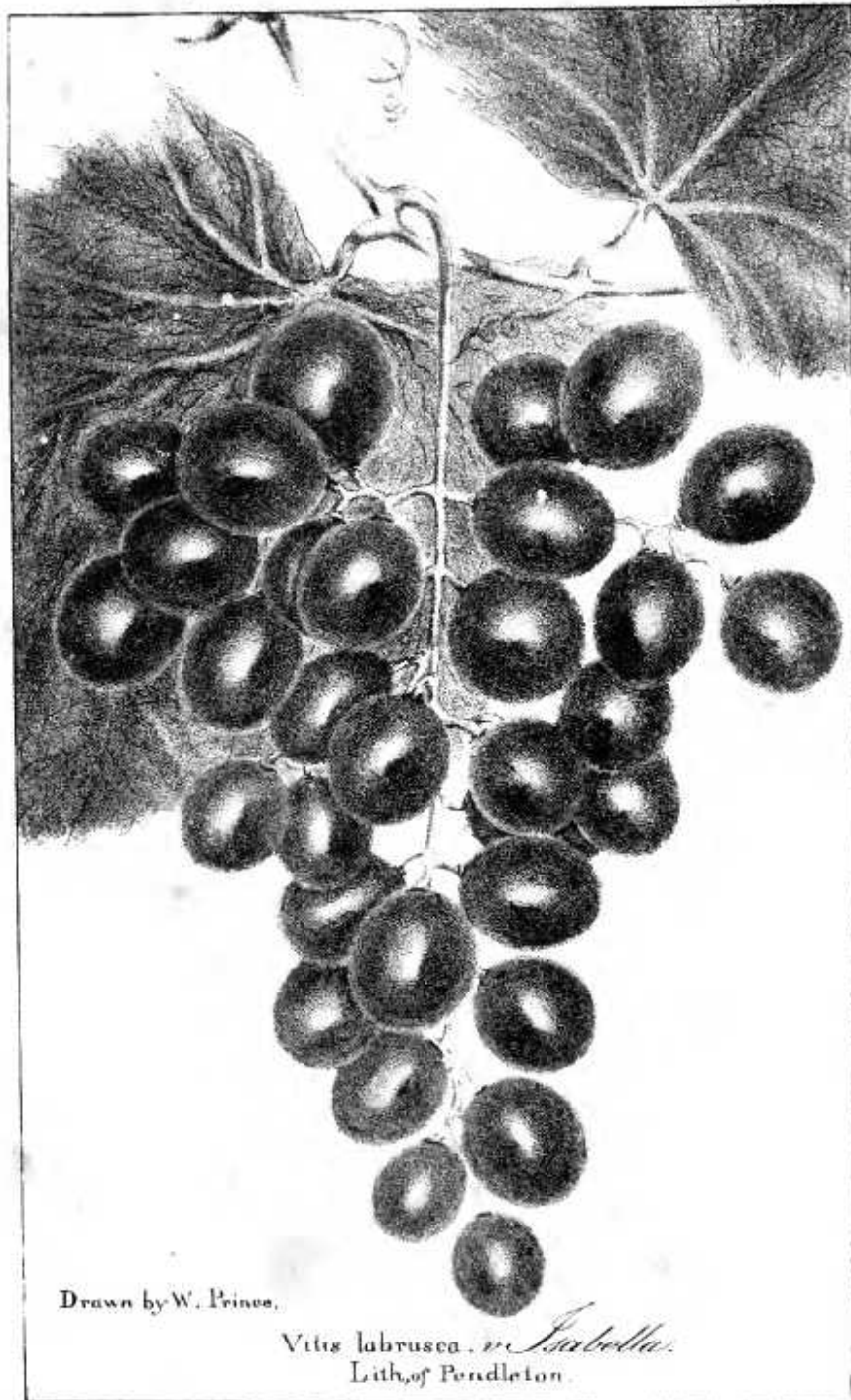
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WILLIAM ROBERT PRINCE & WILLIAM PRINCE

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MANAGEMENT OF VINEYARDS**



Drawn by W. Prince.

Vitis labrusca. v. Isabella.
Lith. of Pendleton.

Samuel Baird

A

TREATISE ON THE VINE;

EMBRACING ITS

HISTORY FROM THE EARLIEST AGES TO THE PRESENT DAY,

WITH

DESCRIPTIONS OF ABOVE TWO HUNDRED FOREIGN, AND
EIGHTY AMERICAN VARIETIES;

TOGETHER WITH A

COMPLETE DISSERTATION

ON THE

ESTABLISHMENT, CULTURE, AND MANAGEMENT OF VINEYARDS.

"The Vine too, here her curling tendrils shoots,
Hangs out her clusters glowing to the south,
And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky."

BY WILLIAM ROBERT PRINCE,

AIDED BY

WILLIAM PRINCE,

PROPRIETOR OF THE LINNEAN BOTANIC GARDEN,

Vice-President of the New-York Horticultural Society; Member of the Linnean Society
of Paris; of the Horticultural Societies of London and Paris; of the Imperial Society of
the Georgofili at Florence; Honorary Member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society,
etc. etc.

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SIMMONS, CHARLESTON, S. C.

1830.

Southern District of New-York, &c.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twentieth day of September, A. D. 1830, in the fifty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America, William Robert Prince, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author and proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"A *Promise on the Vine*; embracing its history from the earliest ages to the present day, with descriptions of above two hundred foreign, and eighty American varieties; together with a complete dissertation on the establishment, culture, and management of vineyards.

"The Vine too, here her curling tendrils shoots,
Hangs out her clusters glowing to the south,
And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky."

By William Robert Prince, aided by William Prince, proprietor of the Linnean Botanic Garden, Vice-President of the New-York Horticultural Society; Member of the Linnean Society of Paris; of the Horticultural Societies of London and Paris; of the Imperial Society of the Georgofili at Florence; Honorary Member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, &c. &c."

In conformity to the act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an act, entitled "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

FREDERICK J. BETTS,
Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

P65

To HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY:

SIR,

IT is with sentiments of gratification and pride, that I inscribe this work to one, who through life has been the undeviating patron of American industry; whose name is interwoven with the various objects connected with the development of our National resources; and whose unwearied efforts have been devoted to imparting that impulse to our domestic pursuits, which is best calculated to advance the high destinies of our Republic. The knowledge of these interesting facts carry the conviction with them of the peculiar appropriateness of the present Dedication. But, sir, the additional circumstance, that you, more than thirty years ago, united with many of our fellow citizens in forming an association for promoting the cultivation of the Vine in our country, renders this act still more apposite and forcible in its application.

With an ardent desire that your course may be crowned with the most auspicious results,

I am,

With the highest respect and esteem,
Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBERT PRINCE.

PREFACE.

THE formation of a code of rules for any particular species of culture, is an undertaking arduous in itself, and at the same time attended with great responsibility. The author in the present case is sensible of the peculiar delicacy of the task, and whilst he is desirous of devoting his unwearied exertions, together with any degree of ability he may possess, towards perfecting the object in view, he must at the same time crave from his fellow-citizens, the extension of their kind indulgence towards its imperfections, promising that any errors into which he may have been inadvertently led, will cheerfully be corrected when apprised of their existence. In the present case it is far from the pretensions of the author to claim or aspire to entire originality. A species of culture recorded from the time of Noah, and which has been extending in Europe, from the period of the birth of our Saviour to the present day, and wital one of the most interesting character, could not fail to have received the aid of the brightest talents of every age towards its advancement and development.

It is with the various species of culture long known to the world, as it is with political knowledge; our Government and National policy derive their perfection from a consideration of the experiments made by the nations which have preceded us. Our country in like manner borrows from every other nation the lessons of experience they present, and profits by the intelligence of her citizens, in seeking to enforce and improve upon what others have acquired.

Of similar character must be the introduction of the vine culture, and the establishment of the wine press. We must collect from the four corners of the earth all that combined intelligence and experience can offer, and then mark out the course most profitable for us to adopt,—adding thereto such improvements as our own knowledge would indicate. In accordance with this view of the subject, it is the anxious purpose of the author that this work should present the *concentrated intelligence* of every clime derived from all the experience of the past.

The vineyards of Europe are composed solely of the varieties of a single species of the vine, and that a foreign one transplanted to her soil. In our country numerous species and varieties are every where met with, springing up spontaneously in our woods and prairies, nature's own gifts unaided by culture or by toil. Hence we possess not only all the advantages that France and the other wine countries enjoy, from our having already introduced the choicest varieties which those climes can boast, but this advantage is enhanced by the numerous varieties which our own country presents to us. And in a comparison of our natural situation with Persia and other countries of the east, as regards the number of

species, we enjoy, by parity of reasoning, advantages tenfold those which were originally possessed by them, as they commenced the vine culture with a single species alone.

In Europe the culture of the vine has been profitably extended to the 51° of N. lat. and in some cases to the 52°. Allowing the present difference in climate or temperature to be 10° between similar latitudes of that continent and our own, it thence follows that vines of the foreign varieties may be advantageously cultivated to the 42° in our own country, and perhaps the intensity of our summer heat may extend the limit somewhat further to the north. But taking this as the extreme limit where profitable crops can be obtained for the purpose of making wine, still their culture can be extended much farther for the purpose of table fruit, and as an article of luxury. But an obvious course immediately presents itself for extending vineyards profitably as far north as they are in Europe. This is the use of our native varieties of the hardier description, some of which being found growing naturally as far north as Lower Canada, do not fail to succeed even in that country. Thus it appears that although there exists a present difference of about 10° between the temperature of our country and that of Europe, the hand of nature has implanted our soil with vegetable productions of a hardier character, capable of supporting the severities of climate in a degree fully proportionate to the variation referred to. And I may also here mention the peculiar property most of our native vines, and particularly the northern species, possess, of flowering at a much earlier period than foreign vines, which is of itself equivalent to an increase in the length of the season.

But even the difference of climates referred to, together with our occasional late spring frosts and variability of the atmosphere, will, it is anticipated, be greatly diminished, and gradually subside as a more general culture of the soil takes place; when the forests are removed so as to lay bare the earth to the regular influence of solar heat, and the collections of stagnant water become dried up, an advance towards which point has been already realized in some of the best cultivated parts of our country.

The ancient descriptions of the German territory, and of France to the north of the Cevennes, confirm our belief that the climates of those countries were formerly of a character similar to our own, and that they have varied from the circumstances attendant on general cultivation. Diodorus Siculus tells us that the large rivers of the Roman provinces, the Rhine and the Danube, were frequently frozen for their whole depth, and thereby rendered capable of supporting enormous burthens, in so much that the Barbarian hordes preferred that season for their invasions.

By the preceding remarks it will be perceived, that the culture of the vine may be made profitable even to the remotest northern and eastern sections of the union, and my own opinion is, that by the course recommended, it can be extended farther to the north than it has been in Europe.

The pursuit itself is one both ennobling and inspiring, and is calculated to elicit the best propensities of the human heart, and as will be shown, it is one which kings and potentates have not failed to honour with their personal attention. On the other hand, it is indispensably necessary for us to adopt it, if we expect ever to taste wines equal to the more luscious ones of France, as those

claiming that character are not susceptible of transportation by sea without being adulterated.

It will also be the purpose of the present work to show that the Vine culture is in no wise difficult, that any failures which have taken place were far more the result of erroneous management than of any incapacity of the soil, and that the numerous difficulties which have been thrilled in our ears for the thousandth time, exist only in the brains of those who have propagated them. In fact, any person of the least information, after being taught the management of a single vine, may without difficulty proceed in a similar course with a whole vineyard. It is in fact a species of culture where one head will serve to direct a great number, and in which after once instructed, no after difficulties need arise, and this consideration is one of particular moment, when we take into view its peculiar applicability to the situation of the labouring population in the southern states.

Another prominent advantage which this culture presents, is that it turns to account soils and situations unsuitable for other objects, for Young relates in his travels through France that he found every variety of soil, from a heavy clay to a light blowing sand, and all exposures whatever, and every situation from a perfect level to the steepest hills, to afford profitable crops of grapes; for where their quality is not suitable for the finer wines, they are made use of for distillation into brandies. Indeed, it is a fact so noted, that the very finest wines are produced on the declivities and the poorest soils, that a ditty oft sung by connoisseurs contains the following stanza :

"Toujours le bon vin croit sur les montagnes,
Dans les rochers, et sur les rochers;
Celui qui croit dans les rases campagnes,
Ne vaut rien, à cause des canx."

In France alone the vine culture gives employment to two millions of labourers, without enumerating many subordinate mechanical branches that are benefitted by it; and it is attended with immense national advantages, which it forms a part of the purpose of the present work to fully discuss and explain.

Agriculture is the great basis and the source of national prosperity, as generally conceded. This fountain of our wealth is however sometimes oppressed to such a degree as to make those engaged in it cry aloud for encouragement, and assert that their claims are frequently neglected or inefficiently supported. These circumstances appear plainly to present an appeal to our consideration, and to call upon our national government to pursue the course long since adopted by France; that of favouring and encouraging the introduction and culture of every foreign product which our climate is capable of maturing and perfecting, and calculated to develop our internal riches, by bringing into useful action those vast domestic resources which have too long lain dormant in the bosom of our soil; a proper attention to which would place us in an attitude of independence of foreign supply.

A great advantage resulting from such course is this; that where a particular branch of agriculture languishes or is depressed, by the produce becoming diminished in price from a superabundance of supply, a new channel for national industry will not only afford profit to those actually engaged in it, but by withdrawing a portion of the population from other objects of pursuit, tends to secure