

**AGRICULTURAL TOUR IN  
THE UNITED STATES AND  
UPPER CANADA, WITH  
MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES**

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Agricultural tour in the United States and Upper Canada, with miscellaneous notices by R. Barclay Allardice

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**R. BARCLAY ALLARDICE**

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IN  
THE UNITED STATES  
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WITH  
MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

BY  
CAPTAIN BARCLAY  
OF URY.

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS, EDINBURGH,  
AND 22, PALL MALL, LONDON.  
MD.CCCXLII.

To  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD PANMURE,

&c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR LORD,

FROM the interest you constantly take in everything connected with agriculture, and the benefit which, in this part of Scotland, the practice of it has derived from your example and munificence, there is no one to whom a work having reference to that subject, may more appropriately be inscribed.

With this conviction, and with a lively remembrance of friendship early evinced, always unvaried, and of which I continue to receive very gratifying proofs, I have the greatest pleasure in respectfully dedicating to your Lordship, the following relation of my visit to the United States and Upper Canada.

Forty years have revolved since I undertook a pedestrian task—one of the first in which I was engaged—on a match with the late Captain Fletcher of Balinshoe, in Forfarshire, for the large stake of 5000 guineas a

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side. From my having been "young" enough to attempt it previously, for a small sum, without any preparation, and having consequently failed, the opinion of the knowing ones among the *Athletæ* of the day, was decidedly against me. On that occasion, you were not a disheartening doubter. I put myself in training under the celebrated *Jackey Smith* of Ouseton, near Easingwold in Yorkshire, recommended by you; and owing much to his skilful management, I easily performed the task of ninety miles in twenty successive hours.

I have now ventured on a task of quite another kind—an endeavour to describe, and to suggest improvements in the rural affairs of a distant land.

In this I may again have been attempting what by some may be thought hazardous; but again I am encouraged by your approbation of my purpose, and by that I shall be greatly consoled, even if other opinions prove unfavourable.

With the greatest regard, I have the honour to be,

MY DEAR LORD,

Yours very sincerely,

R. BARCLAY-ALLARDICE.

URY, 5th January 1842.

## P R E F A C E.

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FROM habitual pursuits, the writer, in his visit to the other side of the Atlantic, would most probably have found his attention peculiarly attracted by agricultural matters. But one of the principal objects of his visit, having been to assist a near relative to determine whether an intended purchase of land, for a permanent residence, should be made in the United States or in Upper Canada, he was still the more particularly induced to enquire into the situation of rural affairs in these countries.

He accordingly investigated them with considerable care, and noted those more prominent and important points which appeared sufficient to convey a general view of Transatlantic agriculture.



In the following pages will be found recorded, the facts he ascertained and the observations they elicited; and he will feel amply gratified if the result of his labours, in this respect, prove interesting to agriculturists at home, or, if these pages reach the hands of any of his Transatlantic friends, be deemed worthy of their consideration.

An acquaintance with the soils and seasons of a country, with its laws and customs, and the habits and even the prejudices of its people, more intimate and extensive than can be acquired by a stranger in a passing visit, may be thought necessary to authorise and give effect to the proposal of material changes in the practice of its agriculture.

But such an observation admits of great qualification:—For in the practical agriculture of a country, there may be defects which are obvious at first sight to the agriculturist of any other country, even where local circumstances are of the utmost dissimilarity. But when there is proposed, a comparison of the rural economy of two countries, in which the

same crops are cultivated, the same species of stock reared, where the soils bear a near resemblance, and the dissimilitude of climates is not so great as to preclude a notion of their distinct effects, it does not seem that the practice of the one may not properly enough be estimated by the practice of the other.

Such, in a great degree, are the circumstances which attend a comparison of the agriculture of the United States, with the agriculture of Britain, and therefore the writer did not apprehend that he was guilty of any anomaly, in an endeavour to measure the former by the standards of the latter.

If he had entertained any doubt on this point, it would have been removed by his having, since his observations were committed to writing, had an opportunity of perusing an ably conducted American periodical, *The New Genesee Farmer*, in which he finds the most intelligent agriculturists in the States, hold up British farming as a guide to their countrymen.

Of this a sufficient example is furnished by

the following passage in a powerful address by Mr Biddle, chairman of an agricultural meeting at Philadelphia. After enumerating the many advantages possessed by the farmers of Pennsylvania, he expresses himself in these words :—

“ Having thus spoken of the advantages which we enjoy, I proceed to the less agreeable but more profitable enquiry, why our farms are not so productive as they ought to be— and I make the comparison between Pennsylvania and England, because I think England, on the whole, the best farming country in Europe ; and our English friends must understand, that while we amuse ourselves occasionally with some of their peculiarities, \* *we pay them the highest compliment we can, by proposing them AS THE CONSTANT MODELS OF OUR FARMING.*”

\* Mr Biddle here, in some measure, *compliments with a banter*, but does it very good naturedly, and it is pleasing to understand from him, that the Americans find the means of giving the English, “ a Rowland for their Oliver.”