

# **THE FARMER**

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The Farmer by George Nicholls

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**GEORGE NICHOLLS**

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COMPILED BY

GEORGE NICHOLLS, ESQ.



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## P R E F A C E.

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Two large editions of a work similar to the present, under the title of 'The Farmer's Guide,' have been printed and circulated in Ireland, with the view of imparting useful information to the small Irish farmer, and stimulating him to the adoption of improved methods of cultivating his land; and the Editor feels great comfort in the belief, that his little compilation has in these respects been productive of good.

Several persons, of whose judgment the Editor entertains a high opinion, having urged him to publish another edition of the work, with such alterations and additions as were necessary for adapting it to the state of Agriculture generally, he set about the task with the same view that first led him to enter upon the undertaking in Ireland; and the result is here presented to the public.

It is hoped that this compilation may prove useful to our small farmers, by placing before

ments, and the habits and condition of the agricultural labourer,—an object of the deepest interest and highest importance, whether regarded in a local or a national point of view; and it is hoped that those observations, however briefly and imperfectly made, may serve to awaken useful reflections, and lead to a closer consideration of the duties, relatively and individually, of the several classes engaged in the great business of agriculture in this country.

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# THE FARMER.

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## INTRODUCTION

**AGRICULTURE** may be defined, as the art of raising the greatest amount of produce from the land, at the least cost, and for the longest period, without exhausting the soil. This is the great object of the farmer, and all his operations should be governed by the plain every-day principle involved in this definition of his art. To attain this object, and to carry on his operations with success, forethought and industry are necessary, and a mind capable of perceiving, and ready to adopt, all available improvements.

The occupier of a neglected ill-managed farm, will not unfrequently complain of his poverty, or the poverty of the soil; and if another farm of similar soil, but successfully managed, is pointed out to him, the answer is, "Oh! but it has advantages which my farm has not."—And what in reality are these "advantages?"—Industry, good management, and economy,—it is the steady persevering exercise of these qualities, which has made the swamps of Holland more productive than the rich plains of Italy; and it is only by the exercise of these qualities, that success and prosperity can be secured to the British Agriculturist.

In different parts of the country, different modes of cultivation prevail, arising from custom, or local peculiarities; but as a general rule, it may be safely affirmed, that the mode of cultivating the land which yields, and which will continue to yield, the greatest quantity of produce at the lowest cost, is undoubtedly the best. If the land were intended to feed farmers only, a suffi-