

**SOME OF THE FIVE HUNDRED POINTS OF
GOOD HUSBANDRY, AS WELL FOR THE
CHAMPION OR
OPEN COUNTRY AS ALSO FOR THE
WOODLAND OR SEVERAL, MIXED IN
EVERY MONTH WITH HUSWIFERY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649707676

Some of the Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry, as Well for the Champion or Open Country as Also for the Woodland or Several, Mixed in Every Month with Huswifery by Thomas Tusser

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS TUSSER

**SOME OF THE FIVE HUNDRED POINTS OF
GOOD HUSBANDRY, AS WELL FOR THE
CHAMPION OR
OPEN COUNTRY AS ALSO FOR THE
WOODLAND OR SEVERAL, MIXED IN
EVERY MONTH WITH HUSWIFERY**

S O M E

OF THE

Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry,

AS WELL FOR THE CHAMPION OR OPEN COUNTRY

AS ALSO FOR THE WOODLAND OR SEVERAL
MIXED IN EVERY MONTH WITH HUSBANDRY,

OVER AND BESIDES

The Book of Husbandry,

WITH MANY LESSONS

BOTH PROFITABLE AND NOT UNPLEASANT

TO THE READER.

ONCE SET FORTH

BY

THOMAS TUSSER, GENTLEMAN.

NOW NEWLY CORRECTED AND EDITED,

AND HEARTILY COMMENDED,

TO ALL TRUE LOVERS OF COUNTRY LIFE,

AND HONEST THRIFT,

By H. M. W.

Henry M. W. Parker

OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER;

AND 577, STRAND, LONDON.

M DCCC XLVII.



PREFACE.

TUSSER'S Poem upon Husbandry, which Southey has declared to be "in all respects one of the most curious books in our language, and formerly one of the most popular," has not of late years received the attention it deserves, either from "Husbandmen," or from readers of English Poetry. One great reason for this neglect appears to be that copies of the older editions had become very scarce, while the later editions were so full of mistakes, that many passages were quite unintelligible, and so the Poem went out of favour as being too difficult for men in general to understand. The edition published by Dr. Mavor in 1812, and that published in Southey's British Poets, in 1831, (which followed Dr. Mavor's Text,) were both of them too large and too expensive for general readers, nor was the text so perfect as it might have been.

The following selection has been made with the desire of placing Tusser's works within the reach of those, who by education and employment are likely to read them with the greatest interest. With this view the size of the book has been reduced by about

PREFACE.

one third part, (yet in such a way as to preserve its original form,) by leaving out those parts which either through change of circumstances, difficulties of language, or other causes, seemed to be least suited for general reading. Of course the Antiquary will have been acquainted with, and will always prefer the entire work; but the present selection may serve to give a pleasing homely picture of English country habits and ways of life, nearly 300 years ago.

Some perhaps of the precepts here given for the management of the farm, are not quite in accordance with the advanced state of modern science: but there need not be any fear of their misleading men now; while many advantages may ensue from tracing the changes of system which have taken place from that day to this. Of Tusser's general principles every true-hearted Englishman will approve, and we will hope that the old, honest, straightforward and religious spirit which shines forth in this book, may still remain the characteristic feature of the British "Husbandman."

H. M. W.

Dec. 11, 1847.

H. J. White

1847

THE
LIFE OF THOMAS TUSSER.

THOMAS TUSSER, the fourth son of William Tussar or Tusser, gentleman, was born according to the oldest authorities in the year 1523, at Rivenhall, near Witham, in Essex. He was sent at an early age to be a chorister in the Collegiate Chapel at Wallingford: afterwards he spent some time in the choir of St. Paul's, and from thence went to Eton. He did not obtain a Fellowship at King's College, Cambridge, and therefore entered at Trinity Hall. Here a long illness broke off his studies, and upon his recovery he entered the service of Lord William Paget, with whom he remained at court ten years. When he left court, he married and turned farmer, and settled at Catwade in the parish of Brantham, Suffolk, where he first "devised" his "Points of Good Husbandry;" and published them in February in the year 1557, or, as we now count, 1558*. He left his farm on account of the ill health of his wife, and after her death married again and settled in

* At that time the civil year was reckoned to begin on March 25, instead of January 1, as is the custom now.

THE LIFE OF THOMAS TUSSEK.

Norfolk. He did not succeed as a farmer: perhaps though the education he had received at Eton and Cambridge had fitted him so well to observe and to describe in verse, *The Points of Husbandry*, yet his life at court afterwards had not fostered those powers and habits of steady attention to matters of everyday life, without which a farmer cannot thrive.

After living at West Dereham as a farmer, then at Norwich, probably as a singing man in the Cathedral, then at Fairstead in Essex as a farmer again, he went to London. Being driven from London by the plague, which raged there in 1574 and 1575, he found refuge in Cambridge for a time, but again returned to London, where he died, and was buried in St. Mildred's church in the Poultry. This church was destroyed in the Fire of London, but Stow (who lived before that time) mentions among other monuments in it, one of "Thomas Tusser, 1580. With this epitaph:"

"HERE THOMAS TUSSEK, CLAD IN EARTH, BOTH LIE,
THAT SOMETIME MADE THE POINTS OF HUSBANDRY,
BY HIM THEN LEARN THOU MAY'ST, HERE LEARN WE MUST,
WHEN ALL IS DONE, WE SLEEP, AND TURN TO DUST:
AND YET, THROUGH CHRIST, TO HEAVEN WE HOPE TO GO,
WHO READE HIS BOOKS, SHALL FIND HIS FAITH WAS SO."

GLOSSARY

OF

OBSOLETE, PROVINCIAL, AND UNCOMMON WORDS OCCUR-
RING IN THIS SELECTION FROM TUSSER.

A.

- Acquite*, v. 3. To repay, make return for expense, &c.
Addle, v. 83. To grow, to thrive. F.
An, Ere an, 25, 37, 102. Ere that, before that.
Arrayed, 80. Arranged, disposed.
Atrop, 47. The one of the three Fates, who was supposed to cut off the thread of man's life.
Au, 96. August.
Avisé vous, 95. *Avisé-vous*, Fr. Pay attention; take care.
Aumbry, n. II. 9. A cupboard.
Aouch, v. 9. To affirm, to avow, to own.
Awk, n. 114. ("Awke or left hand." Holland's Plutarch.)
(*Awke*, Sinister. P. P.) Odd, out of order, T. J. Inverted or confused, of ringing balls. F.

B.

- Bays*, n. II. 14. Barkings; scoldings?
Balk, n. A ridge of land left unploughed. F.
Ban, v. 27. To curse.
Bandog, n. 10. II. 27. A band-dog. A dog always kept tied up. N.

GLOSSARY.

- Bark*, n. 39, 55. A shelter for cattle, &c. F. A sheltered place.
- Bacin*, n. 106. A light loose sago. F.
- Beath*, v. 43. To warm in fire so as to harden. T. J.
- Beck*, *Bez*, n. 67. Beak, Beaks.
- Been*, n. 85. (Old plural form, as oxen, chicken, &c.) Bees. W.
- Beetle*, n. 39. A heavy mallet. N. Used for driving stakes, wedges, &c.
- Belive*, 60. *Bilive*. Immediately; presently. N.
- Bide*, v. To abide, to wait for.
- Big*, n. II. 25. The breast, the nipple. (In German, *Biez*: and *biczen*, to suck.) Comp. Flemish, *Big*, A sucking pig.
- Bienge*, v. II. 3. (To start, or fly off: to finish. N.) To check, to stop.
- Blenck*. To hinder, to obstruct. T. J. "Blenching or quenching the fire." P. P.
- Blend*, v. II. 2. (To mix: to confound, N.) To dazzle, to annoy?
- Blythe*, n. 105. Cheering liquor.
- Boddie*, n. 84. (Buddle. F.) Corn marigold. *Chrysanthemum segetum*.
- Both*, *Se*. *Tone of them both*: one of the two. (So, *either of both*. One of the two, F.)
- Bowdalen*, 33. Eaten by weavils. F.
- Brake*, n. 27, 102. A large kind of fern. *Pteris aquilina*. F.
- Brank*, n. 32. Buckwheat. F.
- Brave*, II. 26. Finely dressed. N. Fine.
- Bravery*, n. II. 44. Finery. N.
- Buck*, n. 33, 94. Buckwheat. N.
- Bur*, n. The burdock. *Arcium Lappa*.
- Bushets*, n. 68. A little wood. A field covered with scattered bushes?

C.

- Cadow*, n. 106. A Jackdaw. F.
- Camp*, v. 45. To play the game so called; which was like football, but any means to get the ball, and to carry it to the goal need to be reckoned allowable.