

**ON THE RECLAMATION
AND PROTECTION OF
AGRICULTURAL LAND**

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On the reclamation and protection of agricultural land by David Stevenson

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BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following paper on the Reclamation and Protection of Land was communicated to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, and published in the last volume of the Society's Transactions, and is republished in its present form with the sanction of the Directors.

The Publishers conceive that the subjects briefly treated in the following pages are of sufficient general interest to agriculturists to warrant separate publication, while the chapters on the reclamation of land from the sea afford information in some respects new, and likely to prove useful on a branch of agricultural engineering which ere long may engage general attention.

To show the interest now taken in works of reclamation, it may be stated that in France the Paris Society for the Encouragement of National Industry has invited competitive papers to be given in during the year 1874, "On Reclamation of Land and Embankments;" and in America the same subject has been brought before the Government Department intrusted with the coast survey of the United States. In England also many

writers have of late, through the newspaper press, been urging the Government to take advantage of their right to the foreshores of the country by affording every possible facility to public companies and landed proprietors to embark in reclamations.* Some of those English writers seem to maintain that by wholesale national reclamation the agricultural resources of the country may be made to keep pace with its growing population, so as to check our increasing dependence on foreign countries for supplies of agricultural produce.

The following short treatise, however, demonstrates that all schemes of reclamation are not *necessarily* good agricultural speculations; and that it is only where the estimated value of the land to be gained from the sea is deduced from well-ascertained physical facts, and the works by which it is to be reclaimed and protected are based on sound engineering principles, that the result may safely be relied on as successful.

* See "Times," "Daily Telegraph," "Edinburgh Courant," &c., for January 1874.

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