
P R E F A C E.

IN the former Volume of the Society's Transactions, the premiums offered for the Year ensuing, were intermixed with the papers published under the several Heads of *Agriculture, Chemistry, Polite Arts, Manufactures, Mechanicks, and Colonies and Trade*, but the necessity of waiting till the time of renewing the premiums was expired, which by the Rules of the Society is the second *Wednesday* in *April*, occasioned such delay, that the book could not be printed before the Society's adjournment during the Summer months took place; it has therefore been judged proper to change the mode of arrangement, and to print the several papers, intended to form the present volume, under their different Heads, adding the List of Premiums compleat at the end of the book; this will appear more methodical and commodious, and expedite the annual publication.

iv P R E F A C E.

Another circumstance occurs in this volume which requires some explanation.

In order to give the public the most clear information possible, of the distribution of the several rewards bestowed by the Society, a general statement of them from the first institution to the Year 1782, was inserted in the first volume, but as many persons may be desirous of knowing to what individuals the rewards have been adjudged, a list of those who have received them, is now introduced into each Class, beginning with the year 1775, and ending with the year 1783. To such as are not fully acquainted with the proceedings of the Society, it will not very plainly appear, why the year 1775 is made choice of for beginning the list in this volume.

It is necessary therefore to observe, that many of the papers communicated to the Society before that period, were given to the late Mr. DOSSIE, to be inserted in the
work

P R E F A C E v

work published by him, under the *Title of Memoirs of Agriculture and other Oeconomical Arts*, and as in the third volume of that work, a list of such persons as had been rewarded by the Society previous to that time, is inserted, the list given in this volume will serve as a continuation, and make a compleat Catalogue of the rewards hitherto bestowed to promote the views of the institution, with the names of those to whom they have been given, annexed.

The favourable reception which the first volume of the Transactions met with, has shewn the utility of such an annual publication, and it is believed the perusal of the following sheets, will afford equal matter of instruction and entertainment, and still further prove (if further proof is necessary) the great benefits which have accrued to the community from the rewards which the meritorious have received from the Society.

The future Volumes of this Work will

vi P R E F A C E.

furnish means of conveying to the world the Sentiments of ingenious Men, on subjects the most interesting to every commercial Country, viz. Improvements in ARTS, MANUFACTURES, and COMMERCE. The Correspondence therefore of all such is invited, that those thoughts which tend to promote the public Good, may be preserved, and the Authors of them recorded in a manner honourable to themselves, and beneficial to Mankind,

It is here unnecessary to enumerate particularly the several articles which will be found in the following sheets, yet it may not be amiss to point out some of them.

In AGRICULTURE, the reader will find great attention has been paid to the planting Trees for Timber, an object highly deserving every encouragement the Society can bestow upon it, and from the number and respectability of the Candidates who have offered in claim of those rewards,
there

P R E F A C E. vi;

there can be no doubt such premiums have stimulated many of the first Characters in the Kingdom to turn their thoughts towards this species of improvement.

Some observations will be found under the same head, respecting the use of the Larch Tree, and a comparative examination of the Drill and Broad-Cast Husbandry, a subject of much Debate among those gentlemen who have attentively considered this branch of Agriculture.

A paper is also added containing some further remarks on the culture and use of the Turnep-rooted Cabbage, which may serve as a supplement to those Letters inserted in the former Volume, and still further shew the advantages that will attend a more enlarged cultivation of that excellent Plant. These are some of the principal matters under this Class, but many other useful ones will be found on the perusal of the Work.

Under

viii P R E F A C E.

Under the heads of CHEMISTRY, MANUFACTURES, and MECHANICKS, are inserted some papers relative to each of those several Objects of the Society's Regard.

Among these the raising Silk Worms to Advantage in this Kingdom, will appear from some Letters now inserted, more practicable than has been generally imagined, especially as it is seen that there is a probability of obtaining food for those useful insects among our indigenious plants; a circumstance of great importance, when it is considered how precarious their existence must be in this Climate, if the Mulberry tree is, as generally thought, their only support.

The Letters inserted in the class of Mechanicks, on the Gun Harpoon, it is believed, will afford much satisfaction to every one who knows the great Consequence of the Greenland Fishery, both as a Nursery for hardy seamen, and for enabling us to supply

P R E F A C E. ix

supply ourselves in a great measure, with the immense quantity of Fish Oil, consumed in this Country.

In the class of POLITE ARTS, will be found a method of taking impressions in Colours, from Mezzotinto Plates, an art hitherto unpublished, but which, when well executed, produces a very beautiful effect.

Having thus, in a summary manner, given an account of some of the papers contained in the following pages, the whole is now submitted to the candid Reader, well assured that when the usefulness of the Society becomes universally known, it cannot fail of receiving the support of a generous Publick.

CONTENTS.