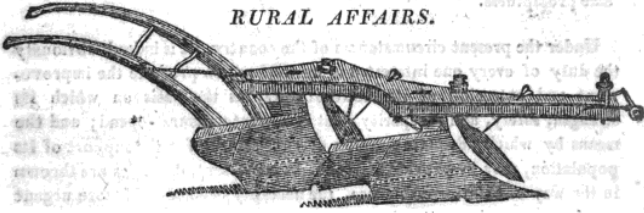


Richard Watson Dickson M.D.

On August 1st. 1807, will be Published,
Price 1s. 6d.
THE FIRST NUMBER OF
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION,
ENTITLED, THE
AGRICULTURAL MAGAZINE;
OR, THE
Farmer's Monthly Journal of Husbandry,
AND
RURAL AFFAIRS.



TO BE CONDUCTED
By **R. W. DICKSON, M. D.**
AUTHOR OF "PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE,"
AND
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY VAUGHAN GRIFFITHS,
FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND ORME,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

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PREFACE

Richard Watson Dickson is the grandfather of my great great grandfather Richard Watson Russell. Richard Watson Russell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and emigrated to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada about 1850 where he established the first manufacturing jewellery business in that city. His mother, Lucretia Margaret Dickson, was the daughter of Richard Watson Dickson.

I have known the name of Richard Watson Dickson since 1992 when I researched the ancestry of my great great grandfather, but apart from the dates of baptism and marriage and the baptisms of his children, I had no information about his life.

The curtains started to part in January 2011 when I came upon Kurt Müller's web pages on Richard Watson Dickson¹. Kurt's wife is a descendant of Richard's younger brother William Dickson. Suddenly I had a direct ancestor who was a medical doctor and the author of numerous authoritative works on agriculture and horticulture.

Then I made contact with Elizabeth Hampson who is descended from Richard's brother-in-law, John Morris and who lives on Isle of Anglesey in Wales. Beth has written a book on the Morris family, *The Morris Saga*². She tracked down references to the Dickson family from the English parish records and newspapers, and especially the account of the "Extraordinary Inquest" into the death of Richard from "The Times" which casts light on the final decade of his life.

This compilation is only possible because of the work of Kurt Müller and Elizabeth Hampson to whom I am most grateful.

Russ McGillivray

Caledon, Ontario, Canada

18 January 2011

¹ <http://www.mueller-humphreys.de/Humphreys/DicksonElizabeth/DicksonGeorge2/DicksonArthur1/DicksonGeorge1/DicksonWilliam2/DicksonRichard/DicksonRichardE.html>

²Information on ordering a copy of *The Morris Saga* is at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hampson/>

INTRODUCTION

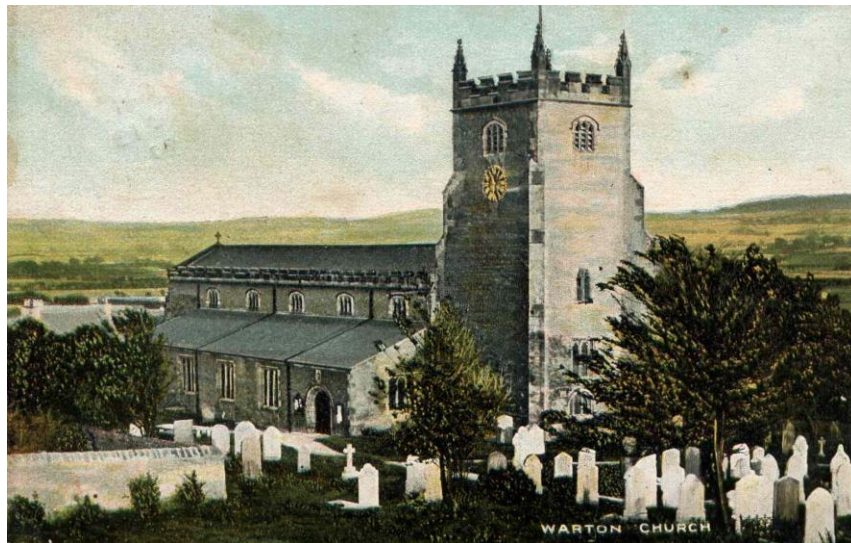
“The Lady’s Monthly Museum” of 1825 printed the following oddity, intended to bring a smile and a frisson to its readers:

An Inquest was lately held on the body of R. W. Dickson, M.D., of the Kent Road, who died in September last, but was kept, unburied, by a female relative, who lived with him, and who proposed keeping the body till the resurrection-day. The coroner, having ascertained that the deceased died a natural death, gave orders for his immediate interment.

Was the relative some kind of religious nut? Why was Dr. Dickson living with her and not his wife and children? Who was he?

RICHARD WATSON DICKSON

Richard Watson Dickson was born 9 November 1759 in the parish of Warton in Lancashire, England and was baptized on 11 December at St. Oswald’s church¹. The family was living at Dales. Richard was the eldest child of William Dickson and Mary Watson and was named for his maternal grandfather, Richard Watson. William and Mary were married nine months earlier on 5 Feb 1759 at the same church². In his marriage registration William was described as a yeoman of Melling Parish which is also in Lancashire. But there is no mention of him in the parish records, so his family may have settled in Melling sometime after William’s birth.



Mary Watson was born in Warton in 1738, as were her parents (Richard Watson and Margaret Clarkson). Her grandparents Watson (Will and Mary) were in Warton as early as 1692, but not apparently married there. Dales was also the place where Mary’s family lived from the time she was born.

Starting in 1767, the more specific location “Dale House” is used in the Dickson family parish records. There is today a listed property called “Dale House”. This structure was built in 1830 and may have replaced the original home of the same name.

Richard married Elizabeth Parkinson on 16 Apr 1785 in St. John’s church, Preston, Lancashire at the age of 25³. Both were described as “of this parish”. Elizabeth died young⁴ and they had no known children.

MEDICAL DOCTOR

Somehow, Richard was able to pursue higher education (as was his next brother William who became a barrister). Richard studied medicine, first in England and then at St. Andrew’s University, Aberdeen where he graduated as a medical doctor on 25 May 1787 at the relatively mature age of 28. The four examination questions he faced from Dr. William Chalmers have been preserved:

1. What are the principal peculiarities in the structure of the Foetus, and are there any impediments to seeing or hearing at birth? What are they?
2. In how far may acrimony be considered as existing in the system, and what are its effects?
3. In what proportion of our present diseases may debility be supposed to take place, and how may it be most effectually obviated?
4. What are the advantages resulting from the Brownian doctrines?

On 24 Jan 1789 Richard married again, this time to Lucretia Morris at Saint Benet, Gracechurch in London⁵. He was 29 and Lucretia was about 22. Lucretia was the daughter of “the late Joseph Morris, Esq. Gracechurch Street” and Jane Horne. In a newspaper notice of the marriage published in July, Richard was described as “R.W. Dickson M.D. of Birmingham”.

Joseph Morris operated a successful business as a haberdasher and whalebone merchant at 56 Gracechurch Street, a few doors from Saint Benet church. He was in business from at least 1755. Following his accidental death caused by a fall from a horse in 1785, the business was run by his wife Jane and then his son John Morris until he sold it about 1795⁶.

Richard and Lucretia had seven children from 1790 to 1799. Six were baptized at St. Sepulchre church in London⁷; the youngest, Caroline Ann was baptized at St Mary, Hendon.

Two sources show that in 1794 Richard was living at Charter House.^{8 9} Charterhouse was an almshouse (a home for gentlemen pensioners), hospital and boys’ school at Smithfield in London. The hospital was well regarded and it is possible that this reference means that Richard practiced medicine there.

The proximity of Charter House to St. Sepulchre (see map) suggests that Richard lived there from his marriage to about 1798. He then moved to Hendon, Middlesex, which is part of Greater London, 8 miles north-west of St. Paul’s. Doctors Richard Watson Dickson of Hendon and R.R. Watson Robinson of Preston recommended James Kendrick as a student to Aberdeen. Dr. Kendrick graduated on 12 March 1807.

AUTHOR

Somehow Richard became an authority on agriculture. According to his cousin Jane Dickson, he had pursued this interest for 35 years, i.e. since about 1789.

In 1802 Richard contributed the section on agriculture in “The New Cyclopaedia; or Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences”, by Abraham Rees. According to his cousin, he also contributed a number of articles to The English Encyclopedia: *A Collection of Treatises Illustrative of the Arts and Sciences* (10 vols), London: G. Kearsley of Fleet Street, 1802.

In 1804 Richard published his seminal work, “Practical agriculture, or a complete system of modern husbandry”, a two volume work that comprised 2000 pages. This work built on the work of Andrew Young (1741-1820) who was developing the science of agriculture, both through documenting and disseminating best practices, and conducting experiments and publishing the results. English agriculture was acknowledged as leading edge and works on English agriculture were eagerly sought and disseminated on the Continent and in America.

Dickson’s work was republished several times¹⁰ and was translated into German in 1807. It remained a standard reference on agriculture for decades. Dickson also wrote “A grammar of the first principles of agriculture: intended chiefly for the use of young persons as a branch of liberal education”. It was published by R. Phillips in 1810 and was 216 pages in length.

The author of the article on Agriculture for the “New American Cyclopaedia” of 1857, after reviewing the pioneering work of Arthur Young, said of Dickson’s work:

“But one of the first systematic works on the subject, which can be said to have really advanced the art of agriculture, was the “Practical Agriculture, or complete System of Improved Agriculture” by R.W. Dickson, which Thaer, who had it translated and published in Berlin, in 1807, calls the first truly scientific work of the English, not even excepting Young’s writings. Dickson’s chief merit, however, is his excellent collection of the many valuable experiments and statements of distinguished member of the board of agriculture, and other farmers. “

Richard had a desire to reach as many farmers as possible. He rewrote “Practical Agriculture” into a more accessible work which was published in 1811 by Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper as “The Farmer’s Companion, being a complete system of modern husbandry”. It was “extracted and abridged” from the original, and priced at half the cost (2 guineas or 42 shillings). A second edition was printed in 1813.

He also published a monthly agricultural magazine from August 1807 to December 1808. This was called the “Farmer’s Monthly Journal of Husbandry and Rural Affairs” and intended to discuss and put into the hands of farmers the results of experiments and advancements in agriculture.

Dickson was described as an Honourary Member of the Board of Agriculture¹¹ as early as 1807. For the Board he wrote “General View of the Agriculture of Lancashire: with Observations on the Means of its

Improvement". This was one of a series of County surveys commissioned by the Board. Dickson's report was revised and edited for publication in 1815. His publisher was Sherwood, Neely & Jones and the book was 653 pages in length.

Dickson's last book was "An improved system of cattle management" published in 1822. It drew on and updated his earlier work.

In addition to husbandry, Dickson had an interest in gardening, both vegetable and flowering. In 1807 he produced "A Complete Dictionary of Practical Gardening" under the pseudonym of Alexander McDonald, Gardener. This was also a two volume set of over 1000 pages. It included original drawings by Sydenham Edwards, a noted botanical artist, with the plates engraved by F. Sansom. It was published by G. Kearsley.

Dickson is also credited with the text of "The New Botanic Garden". This was published in 1812 by John Stockdale and reprised from the Dictionary the Sydenham Edwards drawings and the text of the 133 plants that appeared in the engravings, totaling 503 pages. A deluxe edition was published under the title "The New Flora Britannica" with much superior colouration and higher quality paper stock. Fine copies sell today for \$7,500.

DEBTOR

Although Richard was gaining a reputation as an expert, and arguably rendering service to his King and country by seeking to improve its agriculture, he was not making money. In August 1812 he was in the King's Bench debtors' prison¹², located in Southwark, south London. King's Bench had more amenities than other prisons, and was the preferred location for gentlemen insolvents. Most were allowed to live outside the walls of the prison as long as it was within three miles. This is possibly why Richard moved from Hendon to Kent Road in Southwark, near Camberwell, as recorded at the time of his death.

According to his cousin, compounding his financial troubles was the fact that he was not paid for some of his work for the Board of Agriculture, that manuscripts he had prepared were "purloined" from his house and that he suffered a sort of "paralytic affliction" that was attributed to the fatigue and exposure to cold and wet that he suffered in his travels surveying the state of agriculture.

The Morris side of the family had money. Lucretia's only brother John Morris won a lottery in 1790. After taking over his father's haberdasher business, John retired in 1795 to a country property at Feltham north of London. By 1810 he helped found a bank that one day became part of Barclay's Bank. One can only suppose that by this time Lucretia had a falling out with her husband and so left him to his own devices.

Their eldest daughter Jane Mary wrote a will on 11 Oct 1820¹³. In it she said that her estate was to get the portion to which she might be entitled under a marriage settlement between her father Richard Watson Dickson and his wife Lucretia. This suggests a formal separation agreement was in effect.

Richard shared a rented house with his cousin, Jane Dickson, in Camberwell¹⁴. A devoted champion of her cousin and “a most eccentric character”, she wrote an account of his accomplishments and decline that was read at the inquest following his death on 17 September 1824¹⁵:

The various useful labours of the late Dr. Dickson, in promoting the improvements of the country, and particularly its agriculture, and his great losses of property, with a long bad state of health brought on in effecting these important objects, strongly claim and greatly deserve the attention of the public, especially that part of it which is interested in the management of the soil and its produce; he was constantly engaged for more than 35 years in such pursuits and services, during which time he collected with much labour and expense the various materials of widely scattered facts and details on the subject, capable of being arranged and adjusted into a regular scientific practical system of farming, which has been published under the title of “Practical Agriculture” in two quarto volumes; he collected and composed with much toil and labour, the materials of the “Complete Farmer”; he collected and formed the different materials of the horticultural art into a small Dictionary of Gardening; he prepared and wrote a small Grammar elementary work on agriculture, for the use of the students and those unacquainted with the practice of the art; and was employed on a great number of periodical publications of various kinds; he collected and composed a variety of important articles for the English Encyclopaedia published by the late Mr. Kearsley; he contributed largely in the different branches of knowledge to the Encyclopedia of Dr. Rees, through the whole of that extensive work; he edited the Agricultural Magazine, published by Longman and Co. A great many other works he likewise prepared, viz. “A Review of the History of England”, which with the whole of the prepared matter for the “Cyclopaedia”, from the letter D, was purloined from his residence in the 1808, while he was collecting the material, and drawing up the corrected reports of a survey of the counties of Lancaster and Warwick for the Board of Agriculture; and for which services there yet remains due to him by the Government £300 – one on account of Lancashire, and two of Warwickshire; and in performance of those national services, and from the very great fatigue and exposure to cold and wet, a sort of paralytic affection was produced, which rendered him incapable of assisting himself in any way for more than nine years. However, about eight years prior to his decease, he was so far recovered, though feeble in body yet vigorous in mind, as to be able to prepare a vast body of useful matter which will now be brought forward for the good of the nation, “The Outline of a Proof Trial Establishment”. He is also the author of “An Improved System of Live Stock and Cattle Management”; also the author of “An Address to the Electors of the United Kingdom, preparing them for a new Parliament”; also of a work “On Political Economy, relating to the British Empire only”; also of a book “On the Consideration, Nature, State, Circumstances and Duties of Men, and the social condition of a well-regulated State and Country”; also of “An Improved English Grammar”, together with “The Life of R.W. Dickson, M.D., accompanied by a Statement of Facts”; and “An Appeal to the Nation”.

The inquest heard that, “Many people regard her as mad as a March hare”, but her defense of Richard is cogent and agrees with any facts that we know from other sources. The witness personally thought that she was “perfectly sane”. Her less than sane reason for leaving his body in an open coffin in a bedroom for four months was to shame the King and government into providing a memorial suitable to Richard’s accomplishments for the nation. She told the undertaker that “His Majesty had promised her a piece of ground for building a temple upon over the remains of her deceased relative”.

The several witnesses who saw the body just after Richard’s death concurred that he had died of natural causes. The inquest jury agreed, and the Coroner and Jury gave the necessary directions for the immediate interment of the deceased. The body of Richard Watson Dickson was buried by Coroner’s Warrant on 8 Jan 1825 at St. Giles, Camberwell, Surrey, England¹⁶.

In a letter to the editor of The Times, Jane disputed some of the more lurid details in the newspaper account of the inquest.¹⁷ Unfortunately, she was as destitute as Richard was. As soon as the coroner removed the body, her landlord seized her furniture for arrears of rent, and had her evicted. She lost all of her possessions.

Apart from the work on Live Stock, the ‘vast body’ of work that Richard wrote in the final years of his life was likely unpublished. There is no evidence that his manuscripts have survived.

Whatever his family thought of him, I take some solace in the fact that his daughter Lucretia Margaret Russell named her son born in 1827 Richard Watson Russell. She must have held some respect and affection for her father.

One can only wonder what his autobiography said.

END NOTES

¹ Baptisms: 11 Dec 1759 St Oswald, Warton Nr Lancaster, Lancashire, England

Richard Watson Dickson - Son of William Dickson & Mary

Born: 9 Nov 1759

Abode: Dales in Warton

Register: Baptisms 1745 - 1797, Page 21, Entry 18

² Marriage: 5 Feb 1759 St Oswald, Warton Nr Lancaster, Lancashire, England

William Dickson - yeoman of the parish of Melling

Mary Watson - spinster of this parish

Witness: Margret Watson; ? Muckett

Married by Licence by: T HEST, curate

Register: Marriages 1754 - 1796, P 5, No 36

³ Marriage: 16 Apr 1785 St John, Preston, Lancashire, England

Richard Watson Dickson - of this parish

Elizabeth Parkinson - of this parish

Witness: Margaret Crane; Wm. Dickson

Married by Licence by: H. Shuttleworth - Vicar

Register: Marriages 1778 - 1785, Page 157, Entry 467

⁴ In the Lancashire Online Parish Records there is no burial record for Elizabeth Dickson.

⁵ Saint Benet, Gracechurch, in the heart of London, was where Lucretia's parents, Joseph Morris and Jane Horne were married in 1764, and where Lucretia and her brother John were baptized. The church was rebuilt by Christopher Wren in 1681-87 after the Great Fire, and was demolished in 1867.

⁶ The Morris history is taken from "The Morris Saga 1764-1891", written by Elizabeth Hampson, v3 September 2010

⁷ St. Sepulchre-without- Newgate church. From Wikipedia:

St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, also known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Holborn), is an Anglican church in the City of London. It is located on Holborn Viaduct, almost opposite the Old Bailey. In medieval times it stood just outside ("without") the now-demolished old city wall, near the Newgate.

The church is today the largest parish church in the City. It was completely rebuilt in the 15th century but was gutted by the Great Fire of London in 1666, which left only the outer walls, the tower and the porch standing. Modified in the 18th century, the church underwent extensive restoration in 1878.

St Sepulchre is one of the "Cockney bells" of London, named in the nursery rhyme Oranges and Lemons as the "bells of Old Bailey". Traditionally, the great bell would be rung to mark the execution of a prisoner at the nearby gallows at Newgate.

⁸ "Richard Watson Dickson M.D., Charter House" in the list of subscribers to "LECTURE ON NATURAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY", VOL 1, BY GEORGE ADAMS, 1794

⁹ Richard Watson Dickson, 13 Charterhouse Street M.D. [Guildhall Library, Records of the Sun Fire Office] 30/Dec/1794. MS 1196/399/637031

¹⁰ Editions:

- 1805 R. Phillips
- 1805 Richard Phillips
- 1807 R. Phillips
- 1814 Sherwood, Neely and Jones

¹¹ The Board of Agriculture was a chartered society that was formed in 1793 by the government in response to the war with France and its threat to Britain's food supplies. Arthur Young was the secretary. The Board was dissolved in 1822.

¹² London Gazette, 11 Aug 1812, pg 1603, and 18 Aug 1812, pg 1704

¹³ Public Records Office PROB11/1802. The will was not probated until 6 Jul 1832.

¹⁴ Camberwell in Southwark is south-east of London, only 3 miles from St. Paul's. The Old Kent Road forms its northern border. It follows the Roman road that runs from London to Dover known as Watling Street.

¹⁵ THE TIMES, 10 JANUARY 1825, PG 3 COL F

¹⁶ Burials in the Parish of Camberwell, Surrey 1825 (St. Giles). The church is still active, but the building of Richard's time was completely destroyed by fire in 1841.

¹⁷ THE TIMES, 19 JANUARY 1825, PG 3 COL F

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RICHARD WATSON DICKSON

Title (short)	Edition	Volume	eBook ³
Practical Agriculture	1805	Vol 1	Not available
		Vol 2	http://books.google.ca/ebooks?id=TR9AAAAAcAAJ
	1807	Vol 1	Not available
		Vol 2	http://www.archive.org/details/practicalagriculture02dickrich
	1812		Not available
	Der practische Ackerbau	1807	Vol 1
Agriculture of Lancashire	1815		http://books.google.ca/ebooks?id=tQsAAAAAQAAJ
The Farmer's Companion	1810 1813		Not Available
Dictionary of Practical Gardening	1807	Vol 1	http://www.archive.org/details/completedictiona0107dick
		Vol 2	http://www.archive.org/details/completedictiona0207dick
Grammar of Agriculture	1810		Not available
New Botanic Garden	1812	Vol 1	http://www.archive.org/details/newbotanicgarden01edwarich
		Vol 2	http://www.archive.org/details/newbotanicgarden02edwarich
	1812	Combined	http://www.archive.org/details/newbotanicgarden00edwa
New Flora Britannica	1812	Vol 1	Not available
		Vol 2	http://books.google.ca/books?id=tdAYAAAAAYAAJ
Cattle Management	1822		Not available

³ Copies on Google Books have a watermark, those on Archive.org do not

MAPS

LONDON ENVIRONS (LEIGH, 1819)



GRACECHURCH (GREENWOOD, 1827)

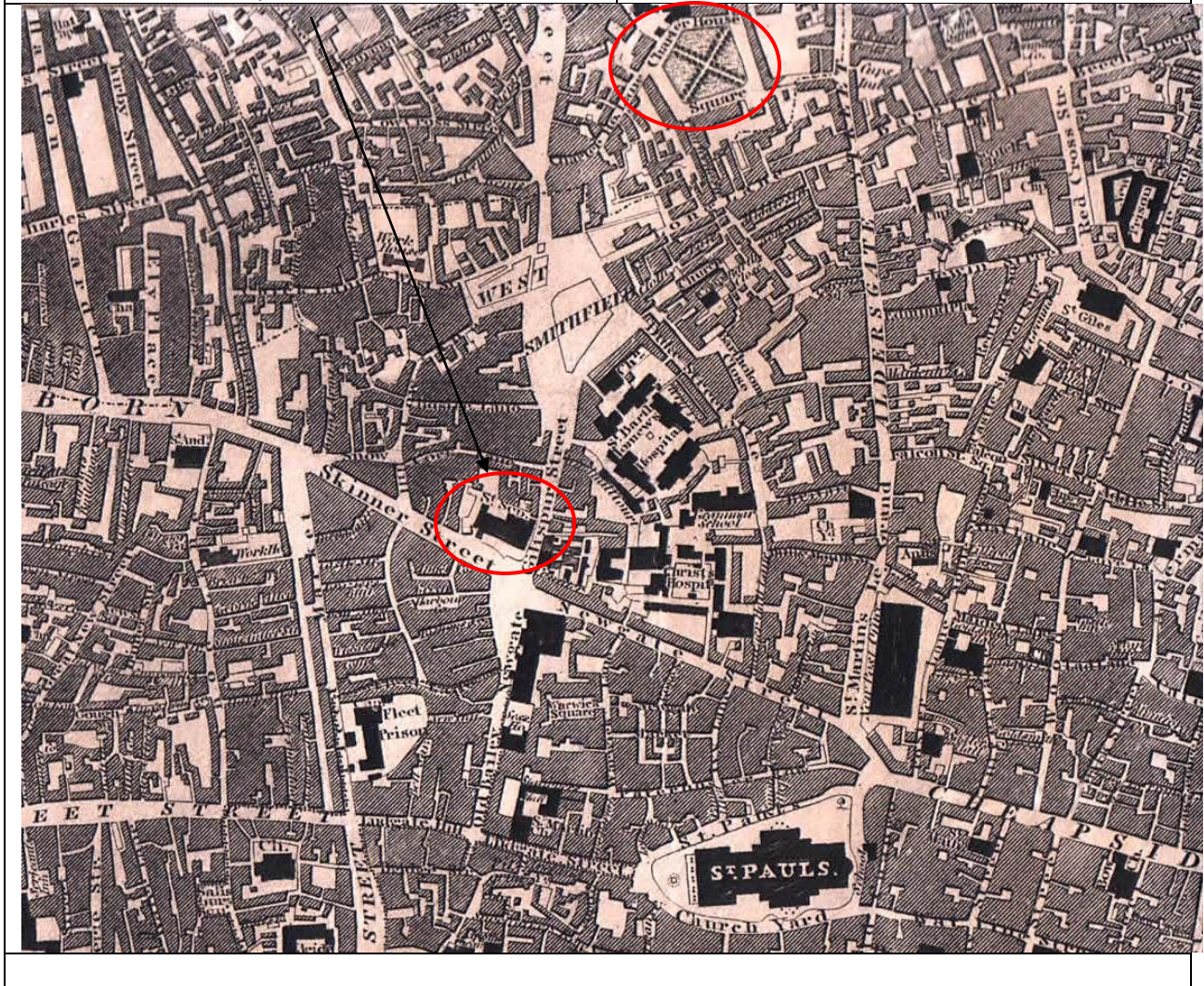


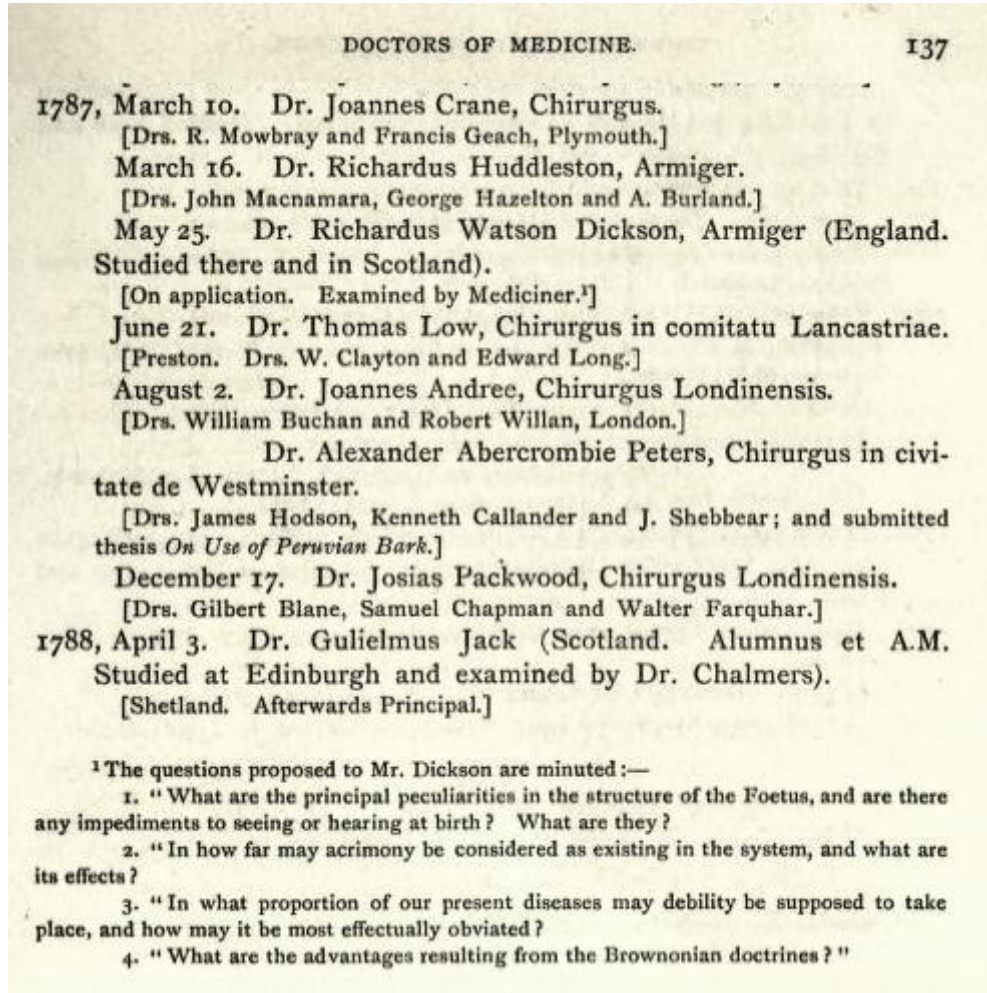
St. Benet's Church and 56 Gracechurch (home of Joseph Morris)

SMITHFIELD (GREENWOOD, 1827)

St. Sepulchre Church

Charter House





DOCTORS OF MEDICINE.		149
1807, January 31.	Thomas Webb Dyer, Bristol.	
	Drs. Moncrieff, Edward Long Fox, Robert Lovell and W. K. Crawford, Bristol.	
February 13.	John Alexander Mant, Southampton.	
	Drs. Pierce Halket and Robert Wightman, London.	
March 12.	James Kendrick, Warrington.	
	Drs. R. R. Watson Robinson, Preston, and R. W. Dickson, Hendon. George Mather, Liverpool.	
	Drs. John Rutter and Robert Lewin, Liverpool.	
April 21.	Thomas Walsingham.	
	Drs. Ralph Biegborough and W. Knighton, London.	
July 30.	William Crabb, Montrose.	
	Drs. David Paterson and William Gibson, Montrose.	
September 11.	William Loutit.	
	Drs. Robert Groat and Andrew Munro, Kirkwall.	
October 12.	Rev. John Thomson, Aberdeen.	
November 7.	T. J. Beverly, S. Petersburg.	
	Dr. Alexander Crichton, "premier medicin de SS. MM. II. à S. Petersburg".	
	"N.B.—The University, owing to the respectability of Dr. Crichton, dispense in this instance with two recommendations from respectable characters."	

NOTICE.

R. W. Dickson, M. D. of Birmingham,
to Miss Morris, only daughter of the late
Joseph Morris, esq. of Gracechurch-street.

Re: Subscribers

↳ D

Baron Dimfdale, *New Burlington Street.*
Baron N. Dimfdale, M. P. *Ditto.*
Lady Cottrel Dormer, *Housham, Oxford.*
Rev. Jacob Duché, *Philadelphia.*
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Mr. Dany, Royal Engineers.
Lieut. Colonel Dansey, *Taunton.*
Mr. Dupuy, *Manchester.*
Thomas Dickson, Esq. *Southampton.*
Mr. Philip Davis, Academy, *Manchester.*
Mr. G. Duckworth, *Ditto.*

Re: The New Cyclopedia; or Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, by Abraham Rees, Longman & Co, 1802. Contributor on Agriculture is R.W. Dickson, M.D.

It is rather a peculiar feature of this Dictionary, that the names of so many contributors to it are given to the world: but it is a communication which must be acceptable, because the public are thus enabled to judge of the probable ability with which the design will be executed; these Gentlemen being already known by their talents in the different provinces in which they here act, and their reputation standing pledged for the due performance of their present engagement, as well as for the principles advanced in it. A recent advertisement in the public papers thus states the names and departments of the principal of them:

- ' AGRICULTURE.—R. W. Dickson, M.D.
- ' ANATOMY (*Human*).—John Abernethy, F. R. S., Assistant Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, &c.
- ' ANATOMY (*Comparative*).—Mr. James Macartney, Lecturer upon Comparative Anatomy and Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, &c.

• ANNUITIES,

Pg 45 – part of a feature called “Agricultural Biography”

CCXCIII.—DICKSON, 1804.

R. W. Dickson, M.D., of Hindon, Middlesex, wrote “Practical agriculture, or a complete system of modern husbandry; with the methods of planting and the management of live stock, plates;” London, 1804, 2 vols., 4to., price 84s. “The farmer’s companion, being a complete system of modern husbandry;” London, 1811, 8vo., price 42s. A monthly agricultural journal was edited by the author from July, 1807, to December 1808, and was then discontinued. The work on live stock has always been much reputed for sound and correct information. Dr. Dickson died in London in 1824. Loudon’s list of authors gives another work, “An improved system of cattle management;” London, 1822, 2 vols., 4to. This work was drawn from the preceding one, that was quoted, and embodies the substance separately with additions.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO.



DICKSON'S
PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE;

A COMPLETE SYSTEM, comprehending all the Modern Improvements and Discoveries, and the Result of all the Attention and Inquiry which have been bestowed on this important Science during the last Fifty Years; the whole combining and explaining, fully and completely, the PRINCIPLES and PRACTICE of MODERN HUSBANDRY, in all its Branches and Relations. With an Appendix, of the Laws relating to Agriculture; particularly of the Relative Rights of Landlord and Tenant, Forms of Leases, Setting out Tithes, &c. &c. By R. W. DICKSON, M. D. Honorary Member of the Board of Agriculture, &c. &c.

This Work includes every branch of the important art to which it relates; particularly the best Methods of Planting Timber of every description, and the improved Management of Live Stock; the Theory of Soils and Manures; the best Methods of Inclosing, Embanking, Road-making, and Draining, with numerous Plates illustrative of the same; also of Fallowing, Irrigating, Paring and Burning; the improved Cultivation of Arable Lands, and of all kinds of Grain, Artificial Grasses, &c.; accompanied with Engraved Plans and Estimates of Farm Buildings, Agricultural Implements, &c. &c.

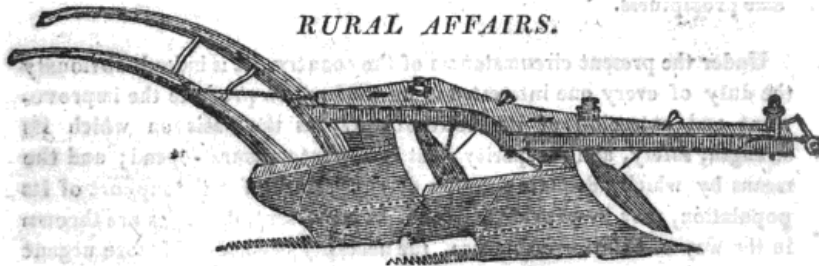
In two large Volumes, in 4to. illustrated with upwards of ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS, Thirty of which are coloured after Nature, representing the various Grasses, and the principal Breeds of Sheep and Cattle. Originally published at six guineas; but the stock having passed into the hands of the present Proprietors, they have reduced its price to Four Guineas, thus rendering it the cheapest as well as the most comprehensive work on the subject extant.

Also, by the same Author,

The FARMER'S COMPANION; extracted and abridged from the above Work. In two Volumes, royal 8vo. illustrated with *One Hundred Engravings*. Price Two Guineas, in boards.

The leading feature by which these works are distinguished is a minuteness of detail, which adapts them to the practical purposes of Agriculture; the whole scope of their contents having a constant and immediate connexion with the daily pursuits of the Farmer, the implements of husbandry he employs, the modes of agriculture he adopts, and the system of pasture and feeding he pursues. These multifarious topics are all treated with simplicity and clearness; so that the works present an ample, but distinct display of every subject connected with the practical objects of the Farm.

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HONORARY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY VAUGHAN GRIFFITHS,
FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND ORME,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

Intended as an improved Continuation of a Work under the same Title, Published
by V. GRIFFITHS, Paternoster-Row, of which 94 Numbers have appeared; and
may be had of any Bookseller.

THE great utility of a frequent periodical communication of such
discoveries, improvements, and practical results, as are continually taking
place in the progressive advances of an art so essentially important to
the interests of mankind, as that of the *Cultivation* of the *Soil*, and the
management of the innumerable processes and operations that are con-
nected with it, as well as of the various Implements and mechanical Con-
trivances that are daily presenting themselves; have been sufficiently
shewn, by the different publications of this nature which have been of-
fered to the public, since the time of Houghton, to the present period.

The experiments and observations of the Grazing Farmer also become of particular value and importance, when thus brought to the notice of the public; by suggesting improvements in the breeding, rearing, and general management, of almost every description of Live Stock; and by shewing the advantages of different sorts or breeds of domestic Animals, in different situations and circumstances, together with many other points of equal consequence to the farmer. And in all the other departments of *Rural Economy* it is of equal, if not greater importance, that new Facts and Experiments should be made known in a similar manner, and with the same promptness.

Under the present circumstances of the country, it is indeed obviously the duty of every one interested in its welfare, to promote the improvement and extension of its AGRICULTURE, as the basis on which its strength, safety, and prosperity must in a great measure depend; and the means by which adequate supplies of subsistence, for the support of its population, may be provided. When, as at present, obstacles are thrown in the way of exterior commerce, the necessity becomes still more urgent of bestowing serious attention on the means of *internal Improvement*.

The principal method of accomplishing this, so far as it can be individually attempted, is, probably, that of the dissemination of useful information, through the medium of a Periodical Work. In this way by proper management, care, and exertion, much may be effected. All the useful deductions of experimental inquiry, the conclusions of extensive experience, and the details of successful practices, may be brought to the view and examination of the Cultivator, and ultimately afford an ample stock of materials for enlarging the boundaries of the *Agricultural Art*.

From the large share of patronage and support, which the work conducted under the same name has hitherto met with, the numerous intelligent correspondents which it possesses, the various *new* sources of information that have been opened and provided, the assistance that has been promised from persons the most distinguished for their knowledge of the art, and the placing the publication under the *entire* Management and Direction of one perfectly conversant with the subject, the Proprietors confidently hope, that they may be enabled to promote the above objects to a degree that must prove highly beneficial to the public,

In respect to the work, it will consist of three Parts: the first comprehending original *Essays, Letters*, and other communications on every department of Husbandry; and also occasionally on gardening, where the nature of the cultivation of useful vegetables, plants, or trees, is

concerned; but it is not intended to interfere with the proper business of the Horticulturist. This part will of course occupy a pretty large extent of the publication; and in the direction of it, while it is wished to avoid all useless and personal controversy, the most strenuous endeavours will be exerted to excite attention, and court inquiry on every point of importance connected with the business of the Farmer.

In the second Part it is designed, without entrenching upon the proper province of the Reviewer; to furnish the reader with full and exact accounts of such works on *Rural Affairs*, as appear to contain really useful information; whereby he may be enabled to form a correct judgment of their nature and value.

The third Part will be dedicated to the Accounts of Agricultural Societies, the State of Fairs and Markets in every part of the kingdom, and the Prices of the different products of the Soil, as well as those of all sorts of Live Stock, &c. In this division of the work, also, all kinds of farming intelligence will be introduced. And it is hoped, from the arrangements that have been made, that these several objects may be more fully attained, than has generally been effected.

The Proprietors particularly and earnestly solicit Farmers, Practical and Experimental, to communicate to them, for the public Benefit, the Result of their own Plans of Improvement, and their Observations upon the Plans of others, which they may have witnessed and examined. They will feel thankful for Facts, though communicated by Persons who may not consider themselves competent to write for the public Eye.—All Letters are to be addressed to the Publishers of the Work.

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We have formerly noticed the number of magazines and reviews published in London, we now insert more in particular a list of the periodical works at present in circulation; reserving for a future occasion a complete list of all the newspapers published in Great Britain and Ireland.

AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural Magazine; or, the Farmer's Monthly Journal of Husbandry and Rural Affairs.—Conducted by R. W. Dickson, M. D. Author of Practical Agriculture. Monthly numbers, 1s. each. Longman.

Annals of Agriculture and other useful Arts, collected and published by Arthur Young, Esq. F. R. S. Quarterly. 8vo. plates. 2s. 6d. per Number. Phillips.

The Farmer's Magazine; a periodical Work, exclusively devoted to Agriculture and Rural Affairs.—Published quarterly. Numbers, 2s. 6d. each. Edinburgh, Constable and Co. London, Murray.

Re: Births, Marriages and Deaths between the 20th of October and 20th of November 1812

... ..
Vauxhall, Surrey.—At Edinburgh, Mr. G. Russell, of Nairn, N. B. to Miss L. Dickson, daughter of R. W. Dickson, M. D.—At Woking, T. Household of Hendon Castle. Esq. son of T. Dickson.

John Watkins, Frederic Schoberl, William Upcott

ranged according to the Linnaean System, 8vo. 1797.
DICKSON, R. W. M. D. of Hendon, Middlesex.
A Complete System of Agriculture, 2 v. 4to. 1804.—
The Farmer's Companion, being a Complete System of Modern Husbandry, 8vo. 1811.

Some interesting remains of the genius of the late Robert Bloomfield, in verse and prose, have appeared in two vols. edited by Mr. J. Weston. As the work is printed for the exclusive benefit of the author's family, and as it contains several pieces of merit and some pleasing contributions in eulogy of the departed poet, we hope and trust it will meet with extensive success. Unless Mr. Weston intended to produce something for stage effect, we are utterly at a loss to conceive what phrase or sentiment contained in our obituary for September, 1823, can have drawn upon us the abuse in which he has indulged; and if he had had the candour or honesty to reprint our article, we are persuaded that every reader of his volumes would ascribe to him a disordered imagination. We introduced an anecdote of Bloomfield, at once true and characteristic, in which the display of our want of judgment in not discovering the incipient merit of Mr. Bloomfield gratified no vanity of our own, and in no degree detracted from the merit of the poet. At any rate we were not alone in our cold and mistaken conception of the work. We know nothing of its being shown to Mr. Bent, but Bloomfield having submitted it to Mr. Charles Dilly, that gentleman referred him to the Monthly Magazine; and speaking from recollection of twenty-five or six years, it was transmitted with other poetry for the inspection of the late Dr. Aikin, who promptly returned it as unsuited to the Magazine. Bloomfield called again, and heard this decision, but pressed it again on the publisher's attention in so earnest a manner that, at a subsequent interview with Dr. Aikin, the MS. was re-discussed, and peremptorily rejected. Bloomfield called a third time, and on this occasion Dr. R. W. Dickson, author of the System of Agriculture, happened to be present, and before Bloomfield entered the room, the MS. was shown to Dr. D., whose opinion concurring with that of Dr. Aikin, Bloomfield was informed of the result in Dr. D.'s presence. There was an anxiety in his manner, and a novelty in the unlettered aspect of his MS. which led the publisher to treat him with attention and delicacy; and after a prolonged conversation, in which the uncertain rewards of poetry, and the difficulties of literary pursuits, without some pecuniary independence, had been enlarged upon, the MS. was handed to Bloomfield, with an observation, not sarcastically expressed, "I advise you, Sir, to return into the country, and stick to your last." This observation, however, proved sarcastic, inasmuch as Bloomfield was really a shoemaker; but in truth, the publisher and Dr. Dickson both agreed after he was gone, that he was a carpenter. Nothing but the extravagant language used by dupes of false feeling, would induce us now to state that on B.'s leaving the room, Dr. Dickson with great warmth, and even with tears in his eyes, exclaimed, "I never saw a kinder action in my life; if that poor *devil* takes your advice, you will be the means of saving him from destruction." Nearly the whole of what passed, was afterwards repeated as a good joke at the expense of the publisher, by Hood, Bloomfield's bookseller, who taunted his neighbour for having missed so good a thing as he deemed the *Farmer's Boy*, and which was offered for the value of half a dozen of each magazine, in which the poem might be continued. This was the commercial feeling of Hood, but as commercial calculations have seldom operated on the publisher of the Monthly Magazine, no feeling was ever entertained by him in regard to Bloomfield, besides that of gratification at his unexpected success.

EXTRAORDINARY INQUEST.

On Saturday evening an inquest was held at the sign of the Lord Nelson public-house, in the Kent-road, before C. JEMMETT, Esq., on the body of Richard Wilson Dickson, M.D., who died on the 17th of September last, ever since which time, a lady, the cousin of the deceased, who is a most eccentric character, has kept the body of her relative in the house, not permitting a creature to enter the apartment where the corpse was placed, and peremptorily refusing to admit the body to be interred; declaring, to those who made application to her for that purpose, that the remains of Dr. Dickson should lie unburied there, until the day of resurrection, rather than submit to have it deposited in any sanctuary but that which the King had promised to grant, exclusively, for the relics of the deceased. The parish officers of Camberwell, having been lately apprised of these facts, judged it expedient to institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the deceased's death, as many extraordinary reports had been circulated in the neighbourhood respecting the manner in which the deceased came by his death.

The jury, after having been sworn, proceeded, accompanied by the Coroner, to view the body of the deceased, which was at his late residence, a neat house on Camberwell-terrace, near the Green Man-turnstile, in the Kent-road. On entering the house, the effluvia arising from the corpse was intolerable. The body was placed in a leaden coffin in one of the rooms up stairs, the lid of which had not been fastened down, during a space of nearly four months which had elapsed since the doctor expired. In one of the hands was a pen, and a wine-bottle was placed at the deceased's feet, which contained the following paper. It was read aloud at the request of the jury:—"The various useful labours of the late Dr. Dickson, in promoting the improvements of the country, and particularly its agriculture, and his great losses of property, with a long bad state of health brought on in effecting these important objects, strongly claim and greatly deserve the attention of the public, especially that part of it which is interested in the management of the soil and its produce; he was constantly engaged for more than 35 years in such pursuits and services, during which time he collected with much labour and expense the various materials of widely scattered facts and details on the subject, capable of being arranged and adjusted into a regular scientific practical system of farming, which has been published under the title of "Practical Agriculture," in two quarto volumes; he collected and composed with much toil and labour, the materials of the "Complete Farmer;" he collected and formed the different materials of the horticultural art into a small Dictionary of Gardening; he prepared and wrote a small Grammar elementary work on agriculture, for the use of the students and those unacquainted with the practice of the art; and was employed on a great number of periodical publications of various kinds; he collected and composed a variety of important articles for the English Encyclopædia published by the late Mr. Kearsley; he contributed largely in the different branches of knowledge to the Encyclopædia of Dr. Rees, through the whole of that extensive work; he edited the *Agricultural Magazine*, published by Longman and Co. A great many other works he likewise prepared, viz. "A Review of the History of England," which with the whole of the prepared matter for the "Cyclopædia," from the letter D., was purchased from his residence in the year 1808, while he was collecting the materials, and drawing up the corrected reports of a survey of the counties of Lancaster and Warwick for the Board of Agriculture; and for which services there yet remains due to him by the Government 300l.—one on account of Lancashire, and two of Warwickshire; and in the performance of those national services, and

...and in the performance of those national services, and from the very great fatigue and exposure to cold and wet, a sort of paralytic affection was produced, which rendered him incapable of assisting himself in any way for more than nine years. However, about eight years prior to his decease, he was so far recovered, though feeble in body yet vigorous in mind, as to be able to prepare a vast body of useful matter which will now be brought forward for the good of the nation. "The Outline of a Proof Trial Establishment." He is also the author of "An improved System of Live Stock and Cattle Management;" also the author of "An Address to the Electors of the United Kingdom, preparing them for a new Parliament;" also of a work "On Political Economy, relating to the British Empire only;" also of a book "On the Consideration, Nature, State, Circumstances, and Duties of Men, and the social condition of a well-regulated State and Country;" also the author of a work "On Things, nor as they lately have been, but as they should be for the Benefit of the King and Country;" also of "An Improved English Grammar," together with "The Life of R. W. Dickson, M.D., accompanied by a Statement of Facts;" and "An Appeal to the Nation." After this statement was read, the following witnesses were called:—

Philip Facon, a coal and potato dealer in the Kent-road, deposed, that he knew the deceased for a considerable time. About two months before he died, the deceased came to his house for the purpose of ordering some vegetables, and he then appeared to be in a very low debilitated state. Two days subsequent to his death, namely, the 19th of September last year, witness saw the body of the deceased, and he had no doubt but that he died a natural death. Witness understood that a female cousin of the deceased resided in the house with him for the last seven or eight years. Witness added, that he did not observe any marks of violence upon the body.

By a Juror.—The witness does not think that Miss Dickson is deranged?—"Many people," added the witness, "suppose that she is as mad as a March hare; but I think she is perfectly sane."

Thomas Wicks, an undertaker, residing in the Kent-road, deposed, that he was also acquainted with the deceased for some years previous to his death. Three or four months preceding the doctor's death, he observed he was declining fast in health; and for the purpose of securing a "job," he proceeded to the house of the deceased, had an interview with Miss Dickson, to whom he stated his opinion, at the same time soliciting the favour of being employed, in the event of her cousin's death. When the doctor died, he accordingly proceeded to the house, when Miss Dickson gave him the "job," and he supplied a leaden coffin, in which he placed the deceased. After this, Miss Dickson told him that she intended that the ceremony of interment should take place in the month of December, and in the mean time she directed him to make another coffin, not in the usual shape, but in the imitation of a square chest, to be lined magnificently throughout with crimson velvet; and instead of putting brass handles to it, she wished that stout bullocks' horns might be substituted. She also upon that occasion informed him, that His Majesty had promised her a piece of ground for building a temple upon over the remains of her deceased relative. The witness added, that most fortunately for him he did not comply with the latter order, for when he sent in his bill for the leaden coffin, he never got one farthing of it from the day he supplied it until the present time. He saw the body of the deceased immediately after he expired, and is convinced he died a natural death.

The Jury observed, that they were satisfied that the deceased died a natural death, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned.

The Coroner and Jury gave the necessary directions for the immediate interment of the deceased.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Severe indisposition has hitherto prevented me noticing the report in your paper of Monday last, under the head of “Extraordinary Inquest.”

The impression conveyed to the public mind by the perusal of that report must seriously tend to injure me in the estimation of the good and humane part of society : I cannot suffer such gross misrepresentation to pass uncontradicted. I have therefore to request that you will impartially grant a place in your columns for the insertion of the following statement of facts :—

The late Dr. Richard W. Dickson, to whom I am nearly related, is well known in the literary world for his very able and scientific writings : by his last will he appointed me executrix and trustee, and having claims on the Government for his services in surveying the counties of Lancaster and Warwick to the amount of 300l., his last request was that I should keep his remains uninterred until I could defray the expenses of his funeral. Conformably to this his last request, it was my intention to wait the meeting of Parliament, and then to appeal to that Honourable Assembly for the purpose of substantiating the just claims of the deceased to the stated compensation for his services.

I have particularly to contradict that part of the report which states that I refused admittance to persons desirous of seeing the corpse ; and I can also, by the same testimony of several individuals, refute the statement in your report “that the effluvia arising from the corpse was intolerable.” In the first place, the corpse was deposited in a leaden coffin ; secondly, the coffin was carefully soldered down. I consider the whole proceedings on the inquest expressly designed to wound my feelings ; and the order given by the jury for the immediate interment of the deceased, in opposition to his dying request, is illegal and unjustifiable. I had no power to resist the oppression which I have suffered, and which when promulgated must appear an outrage to humanity, and a disgrace to the country.

On the day that the corpse of my deceased relative was forcibly taken from my residence, I was unmercifully driven from my house, and all my furniture was seized for arrears of rent ; nothing remains of what I once possessed. The man who levied the execution absolutely made me a prisoner in my own house ; he kept the key in his possession until the day that I was ejected ; refused my friends admittance to see me, and on different occasions refused to admit to me food for my sustenance. All this I can prove by reference to the individuals who sent to me, and those who came and were refused admittance.

In justice to Mr. Wicks, the undertaker, I have to contradict that part of the report which states that he applied to me some time prior to the decease of Dr. Dickson ; to be employed for the funeral. Mr. Wicks is not so destitute of humanity as to make so unfeeling an application. It is true that I employed Mr. Wicks, and it is also true that I am yet indebted to him for the leaden coffin which encloses the remains of my deceased friend.

In justice also to Mr. Town, of East-street, I have to state that he conscientiously negatived the suggestion of my being afflicted with “alienation of mind ;” he has witnessed the extreme oppression that I have endured, and knows that I have sustained my severe difficulties with fortitude : he has generously offered me an apartment in his house, and it is to his kindness and humanity that I am now indebted for an asylum. I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,

JANE DICKSON.

East-street, Kent-road, Jan. 15.

Pp 231, 232 re: article on Agriculture

salts. Arthur Young, to whom, perhaps, the world is more indebted for the spread of agricultural knowledge than to any other man, was born in 1741, and died in 1820. His journeys to obtain information on agricultural subjects, and his writings, had a powerful influence in creating a love for agricultural pursuits among the learned. He left numerous works, all of which are valuable as having contributed to agricultural progress. Arthur Young was one of the pioneers in improvement. His searching inquiries and experiments on different soils, to ascertain the real causes of fertility, in the course of which he applied a great variety of substances, with a view of determining their effects, laid the foundation, at least, for more exact researches into the principles of fertility afterward. These experiments were conducted with special ardor from 1783 to 1786. He first established the fact that common salt was a valuable manure, though it had been frequently recommended before his day. Previous to his time ammonia was thought to be injurious to vegetation, and natural philosophers had asserted that the food of plants was contained in acids. Young tried it in very many cases, and says: "the volatile alkali continues in this, as in every trial, to triumph." And again: "the volatile alkali has never failed being of great service," and "in every repetition we can make," he says again, "upon volatile alkali, its superiority to all other additions is more and more confirmed." He tried various experiments also to learn the effect of the sun's rays on the soil, and came to the conclusion "that covering the soil is beneficial to it." Hence we may infer the error of the ancient practice of summer fallowing, which left the ground wholly unoccupied with crops every second or third year, a practice which continued in England down to a comparatively recent period, and even now prevails in many parts of Europe. He also found that nitrogeous manures increased the power of plants to avail themselves of mineral manures, thus showing the advantage of a proper use of both classes, a conclusion whose truth has been still more recently established by Lawes and others. He also tried the effect of different gases on vegetation, and perceived the value of a knowledge of chemistry to practical agriculture. In 1786, he says: "To imagine that we are ever to see agriculture rest on a scientific basis, regulated by just, and accurately drawn principles, without the chemical qualities of soils and manures being well understood, is a childish and ignorant supposition." Such were some of the efforts of Arthur Young; they may be found embodied in the "Annals of Agriculture," and other useful treatises. But one of the first systematic works on the subject, which can be

said to have really advanced the art of agriculture, was the "Practical Agriculture, or complete System of Improved Agriculture," by R. W. Dickson, which Thaer, who had it translated and published in Berlin, in 1807, calls the first truly scientific work of the English, not even excepting Young's writings. Dickson's chief merit, however, is his excellent collection of the many valuable experiments and statements of distinguished members of the board of agriculture, and other farmers. In the period embracing the close of the last century, and the beginning of the present, we find many important additions to the literature of agriculture. Such are the works of Marshall, the ad-