



# National Improvements Upon Agriculture In Twenty-Seven Essays

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated.1785 Excerpt: ... probable that some of them may be as old as the universal deluge, when great quantities of wood which floated upon the waters, might rest upon the hollow ground after their retreat, remain there and rot. There is another probable conjecture, that after the deluge, the whole country might in time have been over-grown with wood, and these great forests decay through age, and fall down and rot. A third conjecture is, that when this island came to be inhabited, and as there were many invasions by the Romans and Danes, and continual wars amongst themselves betwixt the Picts and Scots, one of the armies might cut down considerable forests, and leave them to rot. John Evelyn, Esq on Forest Trees, with Dr Hunters notes, mentions two instances of this, one by the Romans, and the other by John duke of Lancaster. His account is here subjoined in his own words: He says in page 288, It has been the work and effects of vast armies of the Romans, when, finding they could not with all their force subdue the barbarous inhabitants, by reason of their continual issuing out of these intricate fortresses and impediments, they caused whole forests to be cut down by their legions and soldiers, whom they never suffered to remain idle during their winter-quarters, but were continually exercised in such public and useful works as required a multitude of hands by which discipline, they be came hardy, active, and less at leisure to mutiny, or corrupt one another. And in page 565, says, This John duke of Lan caster knew well enough when to revenge the depredations made upon the English Borders: It is said he set 24,000 axes to work at once, to destroy the woods in Scotland. These two instances, amongst others, may account for part of the mosses in Scotland, a...

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