

THE
 NATURAL HISTORY
 OF
 SELBORNE.



— where the Hermit hangs his straw-dad cell.

Τρηχει, ἀλλ' ἀγαθὴ κερτροφός. ἐτί ἐγωγε
 Ἦς γαίης δυνάμει γλυκερωτέρου ἀλλοῦ ἰδεῖσθαι.

Homeri Odyss.

Tota denique nostra illa aspera, & montuosa, & fidelis, & simplex, & faulrix suorum regio,
 Cicero Orat. pro Cn. Plancio.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE Author of the following Letters takes the liberty, with all proper deference, of laying before the public his idea of *parochial history*, which, he thinks, ought to consist of natural productions and occurrences as well as antiquities. He is also of opinion that if stationary men would pay some attention to the districts on which they reside, and would publish their thoughts respecting the objects that surround them, from such materials might be drawn the most complete county-histories, which are still wanting in several parts of this kingdom, and in particular in the county of *Southampton*.

And here he seizes the first opportunity, though a late one, of returning his most grateful acknowledgments to the reverend the President and the reverend and worthy the Fellows of *Magdalen College* in the university of *Oxford*, for their liberal behaviour in permitting their archives to be searched by a member of their own society, so far as the

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evidences

evidences therein contained might respect the parish and priory of *Selborne*. To that gentleman also, and his assistant, whose labours and attention could only be equalled by the very kind manner in which they were bestowed, many and great obligations are also due.

Of the authenticity of the documents above-mentioned there can be no doubt, since they consist of the identical deeds and records that were removed to the College from the Priory at the time of its dissolution; and, being carefully copied on the spot, may be depended on as genuine; and, never having been made public before, may gratify the curiosity of the antiquary, as well as establish the credit of the history.

If the writer should at all appear to have induced any of his readers to pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation, too frequently overlooked as common occurrences; or if he should by any means, through his researches, have lent an helping hand towards the enlargement of the boundaries of historical and topographical knowledge; or if he should have thrown some small light upon ancient customs and manners, and especially on those that were monastic; his purpose will be fully answered. But if he should not have been successful in any of these his intentions,

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tions, yet there remains this consolation behind—that these his pursuits, by keeping the body and mind employed, have, under Providence, contributed to much health and cheerfulness of spirits, even to old age: and, what still adds to his happiness, have led him to the knowledge of a circle of gentlemen whose intelligent communications, as they have afforded him much pleasing information, so, could he flatter himself with a continuation of them, would they ever be deemed a matter of singular satisfaction and improvement.

Selborne,
January 1st, 1783.

GIL. WHITE.

T H E
N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y
O F
S E L B O R N E.

L E T T E R I.

TO THOMAS PENNANT, ESQUIRE.

THE parish of SELBORNE lies in the extreme eastern corner of the county of *Hampshire*, bordering on the county of *Sussex*, and not far from the county of *Surrey*; is about fifty miles south-west of *London*, in latitude 51, and near midway between the towns of *Alton* and *Petersfield*. Being very large and extensive it abuts on twelve parishes, two of which are in *Sussex*, viz. *Trotton* and *Rogate*. If you begin from the south and proceed westward the adjacent parishes are *Emsbot*, *Newton Valence*, *Faringdon*, *Harteley Mauduit*, *Great Ward le ham*, *Kingsley*, *Hedleigh*, *Bramsbot*, *Trotton*, *Rogate*, *Lyffe*, and *Greatham*. The soils of this district are almost as various and diversified as the views and aspects. The high part to the south-west consists of a vast hill of chalk, rising three
B hundred

hundred feet above the village; and is divided into a sheep down, the high wood, and a long hanging wood called *The Hanger*. The covert of this eminence is altogether beech, the most lovely of all forest trees, whether we consider its smooth rind or bark, its glossy foliage, or graceful pendulous boughs. The down, or sheep-walk, is a pleasing park-like spot, of about one mile by half that space, jutting out on the verge of the hill-country, where it begins to break down into the plains, and commanding a very engaging view, being an assemblage of hill, dale, wood-lands, heath, and water. The prospect is bounded to the south-east and east by the vast range of mountains called *The Sussex Downs*, by *Guild-down* near *Guildford*, and by the *Downs* round *Dorking*, and *Ryegate* in *Surrey*, to the north-east, which altogether, with the country beyond *Alton* and *Farnham*, form a noble and extensive outline.

At the foot of this hill, one stage or step from the uplands, lies the village, which consists of one single straggling street, three quarters of a mile in length, in a sheltered vale, and running parallel with *The Hanger*. The houses are divided from the hill by a vein of stiff clay (good wheat-land), yet stand on a rock of white stone, little in appearance removed from chalk; but seems so far from being calcareous, that it endures extreme heat. Yet that the freestone still preserves somewhat that is analogous to chalk, is plain from the beeches which descend as low as those rocks extend, and no farther, and thrive as well on them, where the ground is steep, as on the chalks.

The cart-way of the village divides, in a remarkable manner, two very incongruous soils. To the south-west is a rank clay, that requires the labour of years to render it mellow; while the gardens to the north-east, and small enclosures behind, consist of a

warm

warm, forward, crumbling mould, called *black malm*, which seems highly fatuated with vegetable and animal manure; and these may perhaps have been the original site of the town; while the woods and coverts might extend down to the opposite bank.

At each end of the village, which runs from south-east to north-west, arises a small rivulet: that at the north-west end frequently fails; but the other is a fine perennial spring, little influenced by drought or wet seasons, called *Well-head*^a. This breaks out of some high grounds joining to *Nore Hill*, a noble chalk promontory, remarkable for sending forth two streams into two different seas. The one to the south becomes a branch of the *Arun*, running to *Arundel*, and so falling into the *British* channel: the other to the north. The *Selborne* stream makes one branch of the *Wey*; and, meeting the *Black-down* stream at *Hedleigh*, and the *Alton* and *Farnham* stream at *Tilford-bridge*, swells into a considerable river, navigable at *Godalming*; from whence it passes to *Guildford*, and so into the *Thames* at *Weybridge*; and thus at the *Nore* into the *German* ocean.

Our wells, at an average, run to about sixty-three feet, and when sunk to that depth seldom fail; but produce a fine limpid water, soft to the taste, and much commended by those who drink the pure element, but which does not lather well with soap.

To the north-west, north and east of the village, is a range of fair enclosures, consisting of what is called a *white malm*, a sort of

^a This spring produced, *September 14, 1781*, after a severe hot summer, and a preceding dry spring and winter, nine gallons of water in a minute, which is five hundred and forty in an hour, and twelve thousand nine hundred and sixty, or two hundred and sixteen hogheads, in twenty-four hours, or one natural day. At this time many of the wells failed, and all the ponds in the vales were dry.

rotten or rubble stone, which, when turned up to the frost and rain, moulders to pieces, and becomes manure to itself^b.

Still on to the north-east, and a step lower, is a kind of white land, neither chalk nor clay, neither fit for pasture nor for the plough, yet kindly for hops, which root deep into the freestone, and have their poles and wood for charcoal growing just at hand. This white soil produces the brightest hops.

As the parish still inclines down towards *Wolmer-forest*, at the juncture of the clays and sand the soil becomes a wet, sandy loam, remarkable for timber, and infamous for roads. The oaks of *Temple* and *Blackmoor* stand high in the estimation of purveyors, and have furnished much naval timber; while the trees on the freestone grow large, but are what workmen call *shakey*, and so brittle as often to fall to pieces in sawing. Beyond the sandy loam the soil becomes an hungry lean sand, till it mingles with the forest; and will produce little without the assistance of lime and turnips.

L E T T E R I I.

TO THE SAME.

I N the court of *Norton* farm house, a manor farm to the north-west of the village, on the white malms, stood within these twenty years a *broad-leaved elm*, or *wych hazel*, *ulmus folio latissimo scabro* of *Ray*, which, though it had lost a considerable leading

^b This soil produces good wheat and clover.

We abound with poor; many of whom are sober and industrious, and live comfortably in good stone or brick cottages, which are glazed, and have chambers above stairs: mud buildings we have none. Besides the employment from husbandry, the men work in hop gardens, of which we have many; and fell and bark timber. In the spring and summer the women weed the corn; and enjoy a second harvest in September by hop picking. Formerly, in the dead months they availed themselves greatly by spinning wool, for making of *barragous*, a genteel corded stuff, much in vogue at that time for summer wear; and chiefly manufactured at *Alton*, a neighbouring town, by some of the people called Quakers: but from circumstances this trade is at an endⁱ. The inhabitants enjoy a good share of health and longevity; and the parish swarms with children.

L E T T E R VI.

TO THE SAME.

SHOULD I omit to describe with some exactness the *forest* of *Wolmer*, of which three fifths perhaps lie in this parish, my account of *Selborne* would be very imperfect, as it is a district abounding with many curious productions, both animal and vegetable; and has often afforded me much entertainment both as a sportsman and as a naturalist.

ⁱ Since the passage above was written, I am happy in being able to say that the spinning employment is a little revived, to the no small comfort of the industrious housewife.

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The royal forest of *Wolmer* is a tract of land of about seven miles in length, by two and a half in breadth, running nearly from North to South, and is abutted on, to begin to the South, and so to proceed eastward, by the parishes of *Greatbam*, *Lyffe*, *Rogate*, and *Trotton*, in the county of *Suffex*; by *Bramshôt*, *Hedleigh*, and *Kingfley*. This royalty consists entirely of land covered with heath and fern; but is somewhat diversified with hills and dales, without having one standing tree in the whole extent. In the bottoms, where the waters stagnate, are many bogs, which formerly abounded with subterraneous trees; though *Dr. Plot* says positively^k, that “there never were any fallen trees hidden in the mosses of the “southern counties.” But he was mistaken: for I myself have seen cottages on the verge of this wild district, whose timbers consisted of a black hard wood, looking like oak, which the owners assured me they procured from the bogs by probing the soil with spits, or some such instruments: but the peat is so much cut out, and the moors have been so well examined, that none has been found of late^l. Besides the oak, I have also been shewn pieces of fossil-wood of a paler colour, and softer nature, which the inhabitants called fir:

^k See his Hist. of *Staffordshire*.

^l Old people have assured me, that on a winter's morning they have discovered these trees, in the bogs, by the hoar frost, which lay longer over the space where they were concealed, than on the surrounding morafs. Nor does this seem to be a fanciful notion, but consistent with true philosophy. *Dr. Hales* saith, “That the warmth of the earth, at “some depth under ground, has an influence in promoting a thaw, as well as the change “of the weather from a freezing to a thawing state, is manifest, from this observation, “viz. Nov. 29, 1731, a little snow having fallen in the night, it was, by eleven the next “morning, mostly melted away on the surface of the earth, except in several places in “*Bushy park*, where there were drains dug and covered with earth, on which the snow “continued to lie, whether those drains were full of water or dry; as also where *elm-pipes* “lay under ground: a plain proof this, that those drains intercepted the warmth of the “earth

fir: but, upon a nice examination, and trial by fire, I could discover nothing resinous in them; and therefore rather suppose that they were parts of a willow or alder, or some such aquatic tree.

This lonely domain is a very agreeable haunt for many sorts of wild fowls, which not only frequent it in the winter, but breed there in the summer; such as lapwings, snipes, wild-ducks, and, as I have discovered within these few years, teals. Partridges in vast plenty are bred in good seasons on the verge of this forest, into which they love to make excursions: and in particular, in the dry summer of 1740 and 1741, and some years after, they swarmed to such a degree that parties of unreasonable sportsmen killed twenty and sometimes thirty brace in a day.

But there was a nobler species of game in this forest, now extinct, which I have heard old people say abounded much before shooting flying became so common, and that was the *heath-cock*, *black game*, or *grouse*. When I was a little boy I recollect one coming now and then to my father's table. The last pack remembered was killed about thirty-five years ago; and within these ten years one solitary *grey hen* was sprung by some beagles in beating for a hare. The sportsmen cried out, "A hen pheasant;" but a gentleman present, who had often seen grouse in the north of England, assured me that it was a greyhen.

Nor does the loss of our black game prove the only gap in the *Fauna Selborniensis*; for another beautiful link in the chain of beings

"earth from ascending from greater depths below them: for the snow lay where the drain had more than four feet depth of earth over it. It continued also to lie on thatch, tiles, and the tops of walls." See *Hales's Hæmæstetics*: p. 360. Quere, Might not such observations be reduced to domestic use, by promoting the discovery of old obliterated drains and wells about houses; and in Roman stations and camps lead to the finding of pavements, baths and graves, and other hidden relics of curious antiquity?

is wanting, I mean the *red deer*, which toward the beginning of this century amounted to about five hundred head, and made a stately appearance. There is an old keeper, now alive, named *Adams*, whose great grandfather (mentioned in a perambulation taken in 1635) grandfather, father and self, enjoyed the head keepership of *Wolmer forest* in succession for more than an hundred years. This person assures me, that his father has often told him, that *Queen Anne*, as she was journeying on the *Portsmouth* road, did not think the forest of *Wolmer* beneath her royal regard. For she came out of the great road at *Lippock*, which is just by, and, reposing herself on a bank smoothed for that purpose, lying about half a mile to the east of *Wolmer-pond*, and still called *Queen's-bank*, saw with great complacency and satisfaction the whole herd of red deer brought by the keepers along the vale before her, consisting then of about five hundred head. A sight this worthy the attention of the greatest sovereign! But he farther adds that, by means of the *Waltham blacks*, or, to use his own expression, as soon as they began *blacking*, they were reduced to about fifty head, and so continued decreasing till the time of the late *Duke of Cumberland*. It is now more than thirty years ago that his highness sent down an huntsman, and six yeomen-prickers, in scarlet jackets laced with gold, attended by the stag-hounds; ordering them to take every deer in this forest alive, and to convey them in carts to *Windsor*. In the course of the summer they caught every stag, some of which shewed extraordinary diversion: but, in the following winter, when the hinds were also carried off, such fine chases were exhibited as served the country people for matter of talk and wonder for years afterwards. I saw myself one of the yeomen-prickers single out a stag from the herd, and must confess that it was the most curious feat of activity I ever beheld, superior to any thing in Mr. *Astley's*

riding-school. The exertions made by the horse and deer much exceeded all my expectations ; though the former greatly excelled the latter in speed. When the devoted deer was separated from his companions, they gave him, by their watches, law, as they called it, for twenty minutes ; when, founding their horns, the stop-dogs were permitted to pursue, and a most gallant scene ensued.

LETTER VII.

TO THE SAME.

THOUGH large herds of deer do much harm to the neighbourhood, yet the injury to the morals of the people is of more moment than the loss of their crops. The temptation is irresistible ; for most men are sportsmen by constitution : and there is such an inherent spirit for hunting in human nature, as scarce any inhibitions can restrain. Hence, towards the beginning of this century all this country was wild about deer-stealing. Unless he was a *hunter*, as they affected to call themselves, no young person was allowed to be possessed of manhood or gallantry. The *Waltham blacks* at length committed such enormities, that government was forced to interfere with that severe and sanguinary act called the *black act*^m, which now comprehends more felonies than any law that ever was framed before. And, therefore, a late bishop of *Winchester*,

^m Statute 9 Geo. I. c. 22.

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when urged to re-stock *Walham-chafe*ⁿ, refused, from a motive worthy of a prelate, replying that “it had done mischief enough already.”

Our old race of deer-stealers are hardly extinct yet: it was but a little while ago that, over their ale, they used to recount the exploits of their youth; such as watching the pregnant hind to her lair, and, when the calf was dropped, paring its feet with a penknife to the quick to prevent its escape, till it was large and fat enough to be killed; the shooting at one of their neighbours with a bullet in a turnip-field by moonshine, mistaking him for a deer; and the losing a dog in the following extraordinary manner:—Some fellows, suspecting that a calf new-fallen was deposited in a certain spot of thick fern, went, with a lurcher, to surprize it; when the parent-hind rushed out of the brake, and, taking a vast spring with all her feet close together, pitched upon the neck of the dog, and broke it short in two.

Another temptation to idleness and sporting was a number of rabbits, which possessed all the hillocks and dry places: but these being inconvenient to the huntsmen, on account of their burrows, when they came to take away the deer, they permitted the country people to destroy them all.

Such forests and wastes, when their allurments to irregularities are removed, are of considerable service to neighbourhoods that verge upon them, by furnishing them with peat and turf for their firing; with fuel for the burning their lime; and with ashes for their graffes; and by maintaining their geese and their stock of young cattle at little or no expence.

The manor-farm of the parish of *Greatbam* has an admitted

ⁿ This chafe remains un-stocked to this day; the bishop was *Dr. Hoadly*.

claim, I see, (by an old record taken from the *Tower of London*) of turning all live stock on the forest, at proper seasons, *bidentibus exceptis*°. The reason, I presume, why sheep^p are excluded, is, because, being such close grazers, they would pick out all the finest grasses, and hinder the deer from thriving.

Though (by statute 4 and 5 *W. and Mary*) c. 23. “to burn on “any waste, between *Candlemas* and *Midsummer*, any grig, ling, “heath and furze, goss or fern, is punishable with whipping “and confinement in the house of correction;” yet, in this forest, about *March* or *April*, according to the dryness of the season, such vast heath-fires are lighted up, that they often get to a masterless head, and, catching the hedges, have sometimes been communicated to the underwoods, woods, and coppices, where great damage has ensued. The plea for these burnings is, that, when the old coat of heath, &c. is consumed, young will sprout up, and afford much tender browse for cattle; but, where there is large old furze, the fire, following the roots, consumes the very ground; so that for hundreds of acres nothing is to be seen but smother and desolation, the whole circuit round looking like the cinders of a volcano; and, the soil being quite exhausted, no traces of vegetation are to be found for years. These conflagrations, as they take place usually with a north-east or east wind, much annoy this village with their smoke, and often alarm the country; and, once in particular, I remember that a gentleman, who lives beyond *Andover*, coming to my house, when he got on the downs between that town and *Winchester*, at twenty-five miles

• For this privilege the owner of that estate used to pay to the king annually seven bushels of oats.

^p In *The Holt*, where a full stock of fallow-deer has been kept up till lately, no sheep are admitted to this day.

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distance, was surpris'd much with smoke and a hot smell of fire; and concluded that *Alresford* was in flames; but, when he came to that town, he then had apprehensions for the next village, and so on to the end of his journey.

On two of the most conspicuous eminences of this forest stand two *arbours* or *bowers*, made of the boughs of oaks; the one called *Waldon-lodge*, the other *Brimstone-lodge*: these the keepers renew annually on the feast of St. *Barnabas*, taking the old materials for a perquisite. The farm called *Blackmoor*, in this parish, is obliged to find the posts and brush-wood for the former; while the farms at *Greatbam*, in rotation, furnish for the latter; and are all enjoined to cut and deliver the materials at the spot. This custom I mention, because I look upon it to be of very remote antiquity.

LETTER VIII.

TO THE SAME.

ON the verge of the forest, as it is now circumscribed, are three considerable lakes, two in *Oakbanger*, of which I have nothing particular to say; and one called *Bin's*, or *Bean's pond*, which is worthy the attention of a naturalist or a sportsman. For, being crowded at the upper end with willows, and with the *carex cespitosa*¹, it affords such a safe and pleasing shelter to wild ducks,

¹ I mean that sort which, rising into tall hassocks, is called by the foresters *torrets*; a corruption, I suppose of turrets.

Note, In the beginning of the summer 1787 the royal forests of *Wolmer* and *Holt* were measured by persons sent down by government.

teals,

teals, snipes, &c. that they breed there. In the winter this covert is also frequented by foxes, and sometimes by pheasants; and the bogs produce many curious plants. [For which consult letter XLII. to Mr. *Barrington*.]

By a *perambulation* of *Wolmer forest* and *The Holt*, made in 1635, and in the eleventh year of *Charles* the First (which now lies before me), it appears that the limits of the former are much circumscribed. For, to say nothing of the farther side, with which I am not so well acquainted, the bounds on this side, in old times, came into *Binswood*; and extended to the ditch of *Ward le ham-park*, in which stands the curious mount called *King John's Hill*, and *Lodge Hill*; and to the verge of *Hartley Mauduit*, called *Mauduit-hatch*; comprehending also *Short-beath*, *Oakhanger*, and *Oakwoods*; a large district, now private property, though once belonging to the royal domain.

It is remarkable that the term *purlieu* is never once mentioned in this long roll of parchment. It contains, besides the *perambulation*, a rough estimate of the value of the timbers, which were considerable, growing at that time in the district of *The Holt*; and enumerates the officers, superior and inferior, of those joint forests, for the time being, and their ostensible fees and perquisites. In those days, as at present, there were hardly any trees in *Wolmer forest*.

Within the present limits of the forest are three considerable lakes, *Hogmer*, *Cranmer*, and *Wolmer*; all of which are stocked with carp, tench, eels, and perch: but the fish do not thrive well, because the water is hungry, and the bottoms are a naked sand.

A circumstance respecting these ponds, though by no means peculiar to them, I cannot pass over in silence; and that is, that instinct by which in summer all the kine, whether oxen, cows, calves

calves, or heifers, retire constantly to the water during the hotter hours; where, being more exempt from flies, and inhaling the coolness of that element, some belly deep, and some only to mid-leg, they ruminate and solace themselves from about ten in the morning till four in the afternoon, and then return to their feeding. During this great proportion of the day they drop much dung, in which insects nestle; and so supply food for the fish, which would be poorly subsisted but from this contingency. Thus Nature, who is a great economist, converts the recreation of one animal to the support of another! *Thomson*, who was a nice observer of natural occurrences, did not let this pleasing circumstance escape him. He says, in his *Summer*,

“ A various group the herds and flocks compose :
 “ ————— on the grassy bank
 “ Some ruminating lie ; while others stand
 “ Half in the flood, and, often bending, sip
 “ The circling surface.”

Wolmer-pond, so called, I suppose, for eminence sake, is a vast lake for this part of the world, containing, in its whole circumference, 2646 yards, or very near a mile and an half. The length of the north-west and opposite side is about 704 yards, and the breadth of the south-west end about 456 yards. This measurement, which I caused to be made with good exactness, gives an area of about sixty-six acres, exclusive of a large irregular arm at the north-east corner, which we did not take into the reckoning.

On the face of this expanse of waters, and perfectly secure from fowlers, lie all day long, in the winter season, vast flocks of ducks, teals, and wigeons, of various denominations; where they preen and solace, and rest themselves, till towards sun-set, when they issue forth in little parties (for in their natural state they are all
 birds

birds of the night) to feed in the brooks and meadows; returning again with the dawn of the morning. Had this lake an arm or two more, and were it planted round with thick covert (for now it is perfectly naked), it might make a valuable decoy.

Yet neither it's extent, nor the clearness of it's water, nor the resort of various and curious fowls, nor it's picturesque groups of cattle, can render this *meer* so remarkable as the great quantity of coins that were found in it's bed about forty years ago. But, as such discoveries more properly belong to the *antiquities* of this place, I shall suppress all particulars for the present, till I enter professedly on my series of letters respecting the more remote history of this village and district.

L E T T E R IX.

TO THE SAME.

BY way of supplement, I shall trouble you once more on this subject, to inform you that *Wolmer*, with her sister forest *Ayles Holt*, alias *Alice Holt*^a, as it is called in old records, is held by grant from the crown for a term of years.

The grantees that the author remembers are Brigadier-General *Emanuel Scroope Howe*, and his lady, *Ruperta*, who was a natural daughter of Prince *Rupert* by *Margaret Hughs*; a Mr. *Mordaunt*, of

^a "In Rot. Inquisit. de statu forest. in Scaccar. 36. Ed. 3. it is called *Aisbolt*."

In the same, "Tit. *Woolmer* and *Aisbolt* Hantisc. Dominus Rex habet unam capellam in *haia* sua de Kingesle." " *Haia*, *sepes*, *sepimentum*, *parcus*: a Gall. *haie* and " *haye*." Spelman's Glossary.

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the *Peterborough* family, who married a dowager Lady *Pembroke*; *Henry Bilson Legge* and lady; and now Lord *Stawel*, their son.

The lady of General *Howe* lived to an advanced age, long surviving her husband; and, at her death, left behind her many curious pieces of mechanism of her father's constructing, who was a distinguished mechanic and artist †, as well as warrior; and, among the rest, a very complicated clock, lately in possession of Mr. *Elmer*, the celebrated game-painter at *Farnham*, in the county of *Surrey*.

Though these two forests are only parted by a narrow range of enclosures, yet no two soils can be more different: for *The Holt* consists of a strong loam, of a miry nature, carrying a good turf, and abounding with oaks that grow to be large timber; while *Wolmer* is nothing but a hungry, sandy, barren waste.

The former, being all in the parish of *Binsted*, is about two miles in extent from north to south, and near as much from east to west; and contains within it many woodlands and lawns, and the *great lodge* where the grantees reside; and a smaller lodge called *Goose-green*; and is abutted on by the parishes of *Kingstey*, *Frinsbam*, *Farnham*, and *Bentley*; all of which have right of common.

One thing is remarkable; that, though *The Holt* has been of old well stocked with fallow-deer, unrestrained by any pales or fences more than a common hedge, yet they were never seen within the limits of *Wolmer*; nor were the red deer of *Wolmer* ever known to haunt the thickets or glades of *The Holt*.

At present the deer of *The Holt* are much thinned and reduced by the night-hunters, who perpetually harass them in spite of the

† This prince was the inventor of *mezzotinto*.

efforts of numerous keepers, and the severe penalties that have been put in force against them as often as they have been detected, and rendered liable to the lash of the law. Neither fines nor imprisonments can deter them : so impossible is it to extinguish the spirit of sporting, which seems to be inherent in human nature.

General *Howe* turned out some *German* wild boars and fows in his forests, to the great terror of the neighbourhood ; and, at one time, a wild bull or buffalo : but the country rose upon them and destroyed them.

A very large fall of timber, consisting of about one thousand oaks, has been cut this spring (*viz.* 1784) in *The Holt forest* ; one fifth of which, it is said, belongs to the grantee, Lord *Stawel*. He lays claim also to the lop and top : but the poor of the parishes of *Binsted* and *Frinsbam*, *Bentley* and *Kingsley*, assert that it belongs to them ; and, assembling in a riotous manner, have actually taken it all away. One man, who keeps a team, has carried home, for his share, forty stacks of wood. Forty-five of these people his Lordship has served with actions. These trees, which were very sound, and in high perfection, were *winter-cut*, *viz.* in *February* and *March*, before the bark would run. In old times *The Holt* was estimated to be eighteen miles, computed measure, from water-carriage, *viz.* from the town of *Chertsey*, on the *Thames* ; but now it is not half that distance, since the *Wey* is made navigable up to the town of *Godalming* in the county of *Surrey*.