

“ Nature is hideous and unflourishing ; it is
“ I alone who can render her agreeable and
“ vivacious. Let us drain the marshes, and
“ give animation to the waters, by converting
“ them into brooks and canals ; let us make
“ use of that active and devouring element,
“ whose power we have discovered ; let us
“ apply fire to this burthensome load of vege-
“ tables, and to those decaying forests which
“ are already half destroyed ; let us complete
“ the work by destroying with iron what can-
“ not be removed by fire ; and then instead
“ of coarse reeds and water-lilies, from which
“ the toad is said to extract his poison, we
“ shall soon behold the ranunculus, truffles,
“ and other mild and salutary herbs spring up ;
“ that land, which was formerly impassable,
“ will become a flourishing pasture for flocks
“ of cattle, where they will find plenty of
“ food, and where, by the excellence of their
“ sustenance, they will increase and multiply,
“ and thus reward us for our labours and the
“ protection we have given them. Let us go
“ still further, and subject the ox to the yoke ;
“ let his strength and weight of body be em-
“ ployed to plough the ground, which ac-
“ quires fresh vigour from culture. Thus
“ will the operations of Nature be assisted,
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