

In this department, again, though not to the same extent as in the case of some of the metals, is seen the effect of human labour in advancing the value of the original material. Compare, for instance, the mercantile value of a piece of fine lace with the original value of the material of which it is made.

There are many plants, which, though they neither produce fruit of any value nor are capable of being applied to any of the common purposes of the arts, are yet of the highest value as a natural defence to cultivated lands against the incursions of cattle; and sometimes even against the attacks of disciplined troops.

The quickset of our common hedges is an instance of the former application; and of its utility in this country no one can doubt, unless he happen to live exclusively in those districts, as in certain parts of the Cotswold and similar ranges of hills, where stone supplies a more ready material for a fence. Of the extent of its application, it would not be easy to make a correct estimate: but, when we consider how many public roads, and how many private enclosures are bounded by a fence of quickset, it becomes probable that the linear extent of hedges of this kind is, in England alone, equal to many times the circumference of the whole earth. In describing one of the most important fortresses in the Deccan, captain Seely, in his account of