

Hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie : reprinted verbatim ... with all its inaccuracy of orthography, punctuation, etc., from the original edition of 1557; being a calendar of rural and domestic economy, for every month in the year; and exhibiting a picture of the agriculture, customs, and manners of England, in the middle of the sixteenth century. To which is added, The life of Thomas Tusser, written by himself, in verse; and a glossary.

Contributors

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TUSSER'S
HUNDRETH GOOD
POYNTE OF HUSBANDRIE;

REPRINTED VERBATIM,
WITH ALL ITS INACCURACY OF ORTHOGRAPHY, PUNCTUATION, ETC.,
FROM THE ORIGINAL EDITION OF 1557 ;

BEING A CALENDAR OF RURAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY, FOR EVERY MONTH IN THE YEAR ; AND EXHIBITING A PICTURE OF THE AGRICULTURE, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS OF ENGLAND, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
The Life of Thomas Tusser,

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF, IN VERSE ;

AND
A GLOSSARY.

ONLY 100 COPIES PRINTED.

LONDON:
LONGMAN AND CO., PATERNOSTER-ROW ;
AND P. H. YOUNGMAN, MALDON, ESSEX.

PRINTED BY CHARLES CLARK (AN AMATEUR) AT HIS PRIVATE
PRESS, GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX.

1834.

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366
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AND P. H. YOUNG, MANCHESTER, & LONDON, & BIRMINGHAM.

PRINTED BY CHARLES CLARK (AN AMATEUR) AT HIS PRIVATE
PRESS, GREAT TOTTAM, NORTON.

1834.

TO THE READER.

IN this age, in which the curiosity for old English literature has long been raised, and is every day growing more active, no book can, in my judgment, better deserve reprinting than that most highly-popular work—in the “olden time”—the “*Hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie*” of Thomas Tusser; more especially since, added to its great rarity, it possesses many intrinsic claims to notice. “Some books,” the late celebrated Mr. Haslewood observes, in the *British Bibliographer*, No. III., “become heir-looms from value; and TUSSEY’S WORK, for useful information in every department of agriculture, together with its quaint and amusing observations, passed the copies from father to son, till they crumbled away in the bare shifting of the pages, and the mouldering relict only lost its value by the casual mutilation of time.” Tusser’s Husbandry is a production which was once in the hands, or committed to the memories of almost all the country gentlemen, and others connected with agriculture, in the kingdom. The present edition is reprinted *verbatim*, with all its inaccuracy of orthography, punctuation, &c., from the original one of 1557, which is less tedious than the Poem in its last state, for future expansion never fails to weaken, and presents a curious and interesting picture of the Agriculture, Customs, Manners, &c. of England, in the middle of the sixteenth century. A copy, in black-letter, of the first edition of Tusser—probably unique, says Dr. Mavor—is preserved in the British Museum. It forms a small quarto. The existence of this edition was denied by Ritson, according to Beloe, till it was pointed out to his notice by Mr. Park. A very small, but accurate reprint of this singular literary rarity, as Mr. Mavor informs us, has been given to the public in the *British Bibliographer*, 8vo. and some copies (100 only) are taken off also on a quarto page. From one of the latter, printed in 1810, and now, as may be supposed, but very seldom to be met with, the present edition, of *one hundred copies only*, is printed.

The present edition of Tusser will, doubtless, be regarded as somewhat of a curiosity as to the typography, when it is asserted that it is the unassisted labour, at his leisure hours, of an *amateur* printer—of a private individual, engaged in the very same pursuit that forms the subject of this work, and who is located within four or five miles of the natal place of its author.

I have added, from Mr. Mavor’s edition of the *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*, published in 1812, the poetical Life of Tusser, which I doubt not, though the want of correct chronological data is much to be lamented, will be deemed interesting by those who value the more useful productions of his pen.

I must observe, that should my humble, but accurate reprint of Tusser attract but little notice, I shall ever feel a pleasure and a pride in having been the means of again giving the curious, and the public in general, an opportunity of justly appreciating the genius and worth of such a man as our old “right trusty” friend, Thomas Tusser.

CHARLES CLARK.

Great Totham Hall, Essex,
November, 1834.

TO THE READER.

IN this age, in which the curiosity for old English literature has long been raised, and in every day growing more active, no book can, in my judgment, better deserve reputation than that most highly-polar work—in the "olden time"—the "Hundred Years' War," of Thomas Tresselt; more especially since, added to its great rarity, it possesses many interesting claims to notice. "Some books," the late celebrated Mr. Haskins has observed, in the British Museum, No. 177, "become heir-looms from value; and Tresselt's work, for useful information in every department of agriculture, together with its quaint and amusing observations, passed the copies from father to son, till they crumbled away in the dust of the pages, and the wonderful story only lost its value by the casual mutilation of time." Tresselt's Hundred Years' War, which was once in the hands, or committed to the memory of almost all the country gentlemen, and others connected with agriculture, in the kingdom. The present edition is republished, with all its inaccuracy of orthography, punctuation, &c., from the original copy of 1507, which is less tedious than the Poem in its last state, for future expansion never fails to weaken, and presents a curious and interesting picture of the Agriculture, Customs, Manners, &c. of England, in the middle of the sixteenth century. A copy, in black-letter, of the first edition of Tresselt—probably unique, says Mr. Haskins—is preserved in the British Museum. It forms a small quarto. The existence of this edition was denied by Haskins, according to Beloe, till it was pointed out to his notice by Mr. Park. A very small, but accurate reprint of this singular literary rarity, as Mr. Haskins informs us, has been given to the public in the British Museum, No. 177, and some copies (100 only) are taken off also on a quarto page. From one of the latter, printed in 1840, and now, as may be supposed, but very seldom to be met with, the present edition of one hundred copies only, is printed.

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CHARLES CLARK.

Great Totton Hill, Essex,
November, 1844.

A hundreth good

pointes of husbandrie.



A hundreth good pointes, of good husbandry,
maintaineth good household, with huswifry.
House keping and husbandry, if it be good:
must loue one another, as cousinnes in blood.
The wife to, must husband as well as the man:
or farewel thy husbandry, doe what thou can.

[Set forth by

Thomas Tusser, Gentleman;

Servant to the Honorable Lord Paget of Beaudesert.]

¶ Imprinted at London in flete strete
within Temple barre, at the sygne of the
hand and starre, by Richard Tottel,
the third day of february. An. 1557.

Cum priuilegio ad impri-
mendum solum.

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To the right honorable and my speciall good lord
and maister, the Lord Paget, Lord priuie seale.

T
H
O
M
A
S

The trouth doth teache that tyme must serue,
(How euer man doth blase hys mynde)
(Of thynges most lyke to thryue or sterue :)
Much apt to iudge is often blynde.
And therefore, tyme it doth behoofe :
Shall make of trouth a perfit prooffe.

T
U
S
S
A
R

Take you, my lord, and mayster than,
(Vnlesse mischaunce, mischaunseth me :)
Such homely gyft of your own man,
Synce more in court, I may not be :
And let your praise wonne here tofore,
Remayne abrode for euermore.

M
A
D
E
M
E.

My seruyng you thus vnderstande,
And God his helpe and yours withall :
Dyd cause good lucke, to take myne hande
Erecting one, most lyke to fall :
My seruing you I know it was,
Enforced this to come to passe.

So synce I was at Cambridge tought,
Of court ten yeres I made a say ;
No musicke than was left vnsought,
A care I had to serue that way,
My ioy gan slake then made I chaunge,
Expulsed myrth, for musike straunge.

My musike synce hath been the plough,
Entangled with some care among :
The gayn not great the payn enough,
Hath made me syng another song.
And if I may my song auowe ;
No man I craue, to iudge but you.

¶ Your Seruant,

Thomas Tusser.*

* It may be worthy of remark, that though in the above acrostical lines, the author makes his name Tussar, he constantly signs it Tusser. On this occasion, an 'A' probably suited the composition best.

* If any be worthy of reward, that though in the above sentimental lines, the author makes his name *Thomas*, he constantly signs it *Tom*. On the occasion, as 'A' probably imitated the composition here.

Thomas Tomes.

7. Your Servant.

No man I care, to judge but you,
And if I may say any more;
That needs no saying another way.
The gaze and quest the gaze enough;
Entangled with some care among;
My music's gone both from the plough,

Expanded my, for music strange,
My eye shall then make I change;
A care I had to save that way,
No music's then was left enough;
Of court and stage I made a way;
So eyes I was at Cambridge taught,

Enforced this to come to pass,
My service you I know it was,
Everything must be as I tell;
I'd have good looks, to take my hands
And God his help and yours withall;
My service you thus understand,

Remains should be for evermore,
And let your praise come here to fore,
Since none in court, I may not be;
Such honest gift of your own man,
I think much more, to be than me;
Take you, my lord, and master then,

Shall make of truth a better proof,
And therefore, your it both be good;
Shall not to judge is often blind;
(Of things most like to turn or seem);
(How ever man shall please his eye)
The truth both words that you must seem.

and master, the Lord's, I and mine will;
To the right honorable and my special good lord

A hundreth
good poyntes of husbandrie.

¶ *Concordia parvæ res crescunt*
Discordia maximæ dilabuntur.

1. Where couples agree not is rancor and poysen,
where they two kepe house than is neuer no foyssen:
But contrary lightly where couples agree,
what chaunseth by wisdom looke after to see.
2. Good husbendes that loueth good housholdes to kepe,
be sometime full carefull when others do slepe:
To spend as they may, or to stop at the furst,
for running behinde hand or feare of the wurst.
3. Then count with thy purse when thy haruest is in,
thy cardes being tolde how to saue or to win:
But win or els saue or els passe not to farre,
for hoping to make, least thou happen to marre.
4. Make money thy drudge for to folow thy warke,
and Wisdom thy steward, good Order thy clarke:
Prouision thy cator and all shall goe well,
for foyssen is there where prouision doth dwell.
5. With some folke on sundayes their tables do reke,
and halfe the weke after their diners to seke:
At no tyme to much but haue alway ynough,
is housholdy fare, and the guyse of the plough.

8 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

6. For what shal it profet ynough to prouide,
and then haue it spoiled, or filched aside:
As twenty lode bussches cut downe at a clappe,
such hede may be taken shall stoppe but a gappe.
7. Good labouring threshers, are worthy to eate,
Good husbandly ploughmen deserueth their meate,
Good huswiuely huswiues that let for no rest,
should eate when they list and should drinke of the best.
8. Beware raskabilia, slouthfull to wurke,
proloiners and filchers that loue for to lurke:
And cherishe well willers that serueth thy nede,
take time to thy Tutor, God sende the good spede.

¶ August.

9. When haruest is done all thing placed and set,
for saultfishe and herring then laie for to get:
The byeng of them, comming first vnto rode,
shal pay for thy charges thou spendest abrode.
10. Thy saultfishe well chosen, not burnt at the stone,
or drye them thyselfe, (hauing skill is a lone:)
Brought salfe to thy house would be packed vp drie,
with pease strawe betweene, least it rot as it lie.
11. Or euer thou ride with thy seruauntes compound,
to carry thy muckhilles on thy barley ground:
One aker wel compast is worth akers three,
at haruest thy barne shall declare it to thee.
12. This good shalt thou learne, with thy riding about,
the prises of thinges, all the yere thoroughout:
And what time is best for to sell that thou haue,
and how for to bye to be likely to saue.
13. For bying and selling doth wonderfull well,
to him that hath wit how to by and to sell:
But chopping and chaungeing, may make such a breck,
that gone is thy winninges for sauing thy neck.
14. The riche man his bargaines are neuer vnsought,
the seller will fynde him he nede not take thought:
But herein consisteth a part of our text,
who byeth at first hand and who at the next.

15. He byeth at first hand that ventreth his golde,
he byeth at second that dare not be bolde :
He byeth at third hand that nedes borrow must,
who byeth of him than shall pay for his lust.
16. When euer thou bargain for better or wurse,
let alway one bargain remain in thy purse :
Good credit doth well, but good credit to kepe,
is pay and dispatche him or euer thou slepe.
17. Be mindeful abrode of thy Mighelmas spring,
for theron dependeth a marueilous thing :
Whẽ gentiles vse walking with hawkes on their handes,
Good husbandes with grasing doe purchase their landes.
18. And as thou come homeward bye xl. good crones,
and fatte me the bodies of those sely bones :
With those and thy swine, or and shrouetyde be past,
thy folke shal fare well, where as others shal fast.
19. Thy saffron plot pared in saint mary daies,
for pleasure and profit shal serue many waies :
With twenty foote square knowing how for to doo,
shal stede both thine own house and next neighbour too.

¶ September.

20. Threshe sede and goe fanne, for the plough may not lye,
September doth bid to be sowing of rye :
The redges well harrowde or euer thou strike,
is one poynt of husbandry rye land do like.
21. Geue winter corne leaue for to haue full his lust,
sowe wheate as thou mayst but sowe rye in the dust :
Be carefull for sede, for such sede as thou sowe,
as true as thou liuest, loke iustly to mowe.
22. The sede being sowne waterforow thy ground,
that rain when it cummeth may runne away round :
The diches kept skowred the hedge clad with thorne,
doth well to drayne water and saueth thy corne.
23. When furth with thy slinges, and thine arowes & bowes,
till ridges be grene kepe the corne from the crowes.
A good boye abrode, by the day starre appere,
shall skare good man crowe that he dare not come nere.

10 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

24. At Mihelmas mast would be loket vpon,
and lay to get some or the mast time be gon:
It saueth thy corne well, it fatteth thy swyne;
In frost it doth helpe them, where els they should pine.

I October.

25. The rye in the ground while September doth last:
October for wheate sowing, calleth as fast.
What euer it cost thee what euer thou geue,
haue done sowing wheate before halowmas eue.
26. The mone in the wane, gather fruit on the tree,
the riper the better for graffe and for thee.
But michers that loue not to bie nor to craue:
make some gather sooner, els fewe should they haue.
27. Or winter doe come while the weather is good:
for gutting thy grounde get the home with thy wood.
Set bauen alone, lay the bowghes from the blockes:
the drier the les maidens dablith their dockes.
28. For rooting thy grounde ring thy hogges thou hast nede:
the better thou ring them, the better they fede.
Most times with their elders the yong ones kepe best:
then yoke well the great knaues and fauour the rest.
29. But yoke not thy swine while thine akorne time last:
for diuers misfortunes that happen to fast.
Or if thou loue eared and vnmaimed hogges:
giue eie to thy neighbour and eare to his dogges.

I Nouembre.

30. Get vp with thy barley lande dry as thou can:
at March (as thou layest it) so loke for it than.
Get euer before hande drag neuer behinde:
least winter beclip thee and breake of thy minde.
31. At Hallowmas slaughter time, sone commeth in:
and than doth the husbände mans feasting begin.
From that time to Candlemas weekely kill some:
their offal for household the better shal come.

32. All soules that be thursty bid threshe out for mawlt ·
well handled and tended, or els thou dost rawlt.
Thencrease of one strike is a pek for thy store :
the maker is bad els or pilfreth the more.
33. For Easter at Martilmas hange vp a biefte :
for pease fed and stall fed, play pickpurse the thiefe.
With that and fat bakon, till grasse biefte come in :
thy folke shall loke cherely when others loke thin.
34. Set gardeine beanes after saint Edmonde the king :
the Moone in the wane theron hangeth a thing.
Thencrease of one gallonde well proued of some :
shall pleasure thy householde ere peskod time come.
35. Except thou take good hede when first they apere,
the crowes will be halfe grow they neuer so nere.
Thinges sowne, set or graft, in good memory haue :
from beast birde and weather to cherishe and saue.

¶ Decembre.

36. Abrode for the raine when thou canst do no good ;
then go let thy flayles, as the threshers were wood.
Beware they threshe clene though the lesser they yarne :
and if thou wilt thriue loke thy selfe to thy barne.
37. If barne rome will serue lay thy stouuer vp drye
and eche kinde of strawe by hitselfe let it lie.
Thy chaffe housed sweete kept from pullein and dust :
shall serue well thy horses when labour they must.
38. When pasture is gone and the fildes mier and weate :
then stable thy plough horse and there giue them meate.
The better thou vse them in place where they stande :
more strength shall they haue for to breake vp thy lande.
39. Giue cattell their fodder the plot drie and warme ;
and count them for mixing or other like harme.
Trust neuer to boyes, if thou trust well to spede :
be serued with those that may helpe at a nede.
40. Serue first out thy rie strawe then wheate & then pease,
then otestrawe then barley, then hay if you please.
But serue them with haye while thy straw stouuer last,
they loue no more strawe they had rather to fast.

12 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

41. Kepe neuer such seruantes as doth thee no good,
for making thy heare growing thorough thy hood.
For nestling of verlettes, of brothels and hoores :
make many a rich man, to shet vp his doores.

¶ **Christmas.**

42. Get iuye and hull, woman deck vp thyne house :
and take this same brawne, for to seeth and to souse.
Prouide vs good chere, for thou knowst the old guise :
olde customes, that good be, let no man dispise.
43. At Christmas be mery, and thanke god of all :
and feast thy pore neighbours, the great with the small.
yea al the yere long haue an eie to the poore :
and god shall sende luck, to kepe open thy doore.
44. Good fruite and good plenty, doth well in thy loft :
then lay for an orcharde, and cherishe it oft.
The profet is mickell, the pleasure is mutch ;
at pleasure with profet, few wise men will grutch.
45. For plantes and for stockes, lay afore hand to cast :
but set or remoue them, while twelue tide doe last.
Set one from another, full twenty fote square :
the better and greater, they yerely will bare.

¶ **January.**

46. When Christmas is done, kepe not Christmas time still :
be mindefull of rering and loth for to kill.
For then what thou rerist thou nede not to dout :
will double thy gaine ere the yere come about.
47. Be gredy to spende all and careles to saue :
and shortly be nedy, and redy to craue.
Be wilfull to kill, and vnskilfull to store :
and sone giue vp houskeping longe any more.
48. Thy calues then that come betwene new yere and lent :
saue gladly for store lest thou after repent.
For all thing at that time that colde feleth some :
shall better beare colde when the next winter come.

49. Weane no time thy calfe vnder xl daies olde :
and lay for to saue it as thou sauest golde.
yet calues that doe fal betwene change and the prime :
has seldome to rere them, but kill them in time.
50. For stores of thy swine be thou carefull betwix :
of one sow at one time rere seldome past six.
The fewe that she kepe much the better shal bee :
of all thing one good is worth steruelinges three.
51. Geld vnder the dame, within fortnight at least :
and saue both thy money and life of the beast.
But gelde with the gelder, as many one doe :
and of halfe a dosen, go geld away two.
52. Thy coltes for the sadle geld yong to be light :
for cart doe not so if thou iudget a right.
Nor geld not, but when they be lusty and fat :
for there is a point to be learned in that.
53. Geld marefoles but titts ere and nine dayes of age :
they die els of gelding, some gelders wil gage.
But marefoles, both likely of bulke and of bone :
kepe such to bring coltes, let their gelding alone.
54. For gaining a trifle sell neuer thy store :
for chaunsing on worse then thine owne were before.
More larger of body the better for brede :
more forward of growing the better they spede.
55. Thy sowes great with fare that come best for to rere :
loke dayly thou seest them and count them full dere.
For that time the losse of one fare of thy sowe :
is greater then losse of two calues of thy kowe.
56. A kow good of milk, big of bulke, hayle and sounde,
is yerely for profet as good as a pounce.
And yet by the yere haue I proued ere now :
as good to the purse, is a sow as a kow.
57. Kepe one and kepe both so thou maist if thou wilt :
then all shall be saued and nothing be spilt.
Kepe two bease and one sow and liue at thine ease :
and no time for nede, bye thy meate but thou please.

14 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

58. Who both by his calues, and his lambes will be knowne :
may well kill a neate and a shepe of his owne.
And he that will rere vp a pig in his house :
shall eate sweter bakon and cheaper fed sowse.
59. But eate vp thy veale, pig and lambe being froth :
and twise in a weeke go to bed without broth.
As that man that pas not, but sell away sell :
shall neuer kepe good house where euer he dwell.
60. Spende none but thyne owne howsoever thou spende :
nor haft not to god ward for that he doth sende.
Tythe trully for al thing let pas of the rest :
the iust man his dealinges god prospereth best.
61. In January husbandes that powcheth the grotes :
will breake vp their lay, or be sowing of otes.
Sow Janiuer otes, and lay them by thy wheate ;
in May bye thy hay for thy cattel to eate.

¶ **Februarij.**

62. In Feuerell rest not for taking thine ease :
get into the grounde with thy beanes and thy pease.
Sow peason betimes and betimes they will come :
the sooner the better they fill vp a rome.
63. In euery grene where the fence is not thine :
the thornes stub out cleane that the grasse may be fine.
Thy neighbours wil borow, els hack them belue :
so neither thy grasse nor the bushes shall thriue.
64. Thy seruant in walking thy pastures aboute :
for yokes, forkes and rakes, let him loke to finde oute.
And after at leyser let this be his hier :
to trimme them and make them at home by the fier.
65. When frostes will not suffer to ditch nor to hedge :
then get the an heate with thy betill and wedge.
A blocke at the harthe, cowched close for thy life :
shall helpe to saue fier bote and please well thy wife.
66. Then lop for thy fewel the powlinges well growen :
that hindreth the corne, or the grasse to be mowen.
In lopping and cropping saue Edder and stake
thyne hedges, where nede is to mende or to make.

67. No stick nor no stone leaue vnpicked vp clene :
for hurting thy sieth, or for harming thy grene.
For sauing of al thing get home with the rest.
the snow frozen hardest, thy cart may goe best.
68. Spare meddowes at shroftide spare marshes at paske :
for feare of a droughth neuer longer time aske.
Then hedge them and ditche them bestow thereon pence:
for meddow and corne craueth euer good fence.
69. And alway let this be a part of thy care :
for shift of good pasture, lay pasture to spare.
Then seauer thy groundes and so keping them still :
finde cattel at ease, and haue pasture at will.

¶ Marche.

70. In Marche sow thy barley thy londe not to colde :
the drier the better a hundreth times tolde.
That tilth harrowde finely, set sede time an ende :
and praise and pray God a good haruest to sende.
71. Sow wheate in a meane, sow thy Rie not to thin ;
let peason and beanes, here and there, take therein .
Sow barley and otes, good and thick doe not spare :
giue lande leaue her sede or her wede for to bare.
72. For barley and pease harrow after thou sowe :
for rye harrow first seldome after I trowe.
Let wheat haue a clodde, for to couer the hedde :
that after a frost it may out and goe spredde.

¶ A digression from husbandrie : to a poynt or two of huswifrie.

Now here I think nedeful a pawse for to make ;
to treat of some paines a good huswife must take.
For huswifes must husbande as wel as the man :
or farewell thy husbandrie do what thou can.

In Marche and in Aprill from morning to night :
in sowing and setting good huswiues delight.
To haue in their garden or some other plot :
to trim vp their house and to furnish their pot.

16 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

Haue millions at Mihelmas, parsneps in lent :
in June, buttred beanes, saueth fish to be spent.
With those and good pottage inough hauing than :
thou winnest the heart of thy laboring man.

¶ Aprill.

From Aprill begin til saint Andrew be past :
so long with good huswiues their dairies doe last.
Good milche bease and pasture, good husbandes prouide :
good huswiues know best all the rest how to guide.

But huswiues, that learne not to make their owne cheese :
with trusting of others, haue this for their feese.
Their milke slapt in corners their creame al to sost :
their milk pannes so flotte that their cheeses be lost.

Where some of a kowe maketh yerely a pounce :
these huswiues crye creake for their voice will not sounde.
The seruauntes suspecting their dame lye in waighte :
with one thing or other they trudge away straight.

Then neighbour (for gods sake) if any such bee ;
if you know a good seruant, waine her to mee.
Such maister, suche man, and such mistres suche mayde ;
such husbandes and huswiues, suche houses araide.

For flax and for hemp, for to haue of her owne :
the wife must in May take good hede it be sowne.
And trimme it and kepe it to serue at a nede :
the fемble to spin and the karle for her fede.

Good husbandes abroad seketh al well to haue :
good huswiues at home seketh al well to saue.
Thus hauing and sauing in place where they meete :
make profit with pleasure suche couples to greete.

¶ May.

73. Both Philip and Jacob, bid put of thy lammes :
that thinkest to haue any milke of their dammes.
But Lammas aduiseth thee, milke not to long :
for hardnes make pouerty, skabbed among.

74. To milke and to folde them, is much to require :
except thou haue pasture, to fill their desire.

A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie. 17

But nightes being shorte, and such hede thou mayst take:
not hurting their bodies much profit to make.

75. Milke six ewes, for one kowe, well chosen therefore:
and double thy dayrie, els trust me no more.
And yet may good huswiues, that knoweth the skill:
haue mixt or vnmixt, at their pleasure and will.
76. For gredy of gaine, ouerlay not thy grownde:
and then shall thy cattell, be lusty and sownde.
But pinch them of pasture, while sommer time last;
and plucke at their tailes, ere & winter be past.
77. Pinch weannels at no time, of water nor meate:
if euer thou hope to have them good neate.
In sommer at al times, in winter in frost:
if cattell lacke drinke, they be vtterly lost.
78. In May at the furdest, twy fallow thy lande:
much droughth may cause after, thy plough els to stande.
That tilth being done, thou hast passed the wurste:
then after, who plowgheth, plowgh thou with the furste.

I June.

79. In June get thy wedehoke, thy knife and thy gloue:
and wede out such weede, as the corne doth not loue.
Slack no time thy weding, for darth nor for cheape:
thy corne shall reward it, or euer thou reape.
80. The maywede doth burne, and the thistle doth freate:
the Tine pulleth downe, both the rie and the wheate.
The dock and the brake, noieth corne very much:
but bodle for barley, no weede there is such.
81. In June washe thy shepe, where the water doth runne:
and kepe them from dust, but not kepe them from sunne.
Then share them and spare not, at two daies anende.
the sooner the better their bodies amende.
82. Rewarde not the shepe, when thou takest his cote:
with two or three patches, as brode as a grote:
The flie than and wormes, will compel it to pine:
more paine to thy cattell, more trouble is thine.
83. But share not thy lammes, till mid July be worne:
the better their cotes will be growne to be shorne.

18 A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie.

The pie will discharge thee, for pulling the reste :
the lighter the shepe is, then fedeth it beste.

84. Saint Mihel byd bees, to be brent out of strife :
sajnt John bid take honey, with fauour of life.
For one sely cottage, set south good and warme :
take body and goodes, and twise yerely a swarme.
85. At Christmas take hede, if their hiues be to light :
take honey and water, together wel dight.
That mixed with strawes, in a dish in their hiues :
they drowne not, they fight not, thou sauest their lyues.
86. At midsommer downe with thy brimbles and brakes :
and after abrode, with thy forkes and thy rakes.
Set mowers a worke, while the meddowes be growne ;
the lenger they stande, so much worse to be mowne.
87. Prouide of thine owne, to haue all thing at hande :
els worke and the workman, shall oftentimes stande.
Loue seldome to borow, that thinkest to saue ;
who lendest the one, will loke two thinges to haue.
88. Good husbandes that laye, to saue all thing vpright :
for Tumbrels and cartes, haue a shed redy dight.
A store house for trinkets kept close as a iayle :
that nothing be wanting, the worthe of a nayle.
89. Thy cartes would be searched, withoute and within ;
well cloughted and greased, or hay time begin.
Thy hay being caried, though carters had sworne :
the cartes bottome borded, is sauing of corne.

¶ **Julii.**

90. Then muster thy folke, play the captaine thyselfe :
prouiding them weapon, and suche kinde of pelfe.
Get bottels and bagges, kepe the fiede in the heate :
the feare is not muche, but the daunger is great.
91. With tossing and raking, and setting on cox :
the grasse that was grene, is now hay for an ox.
That done, leaue the tieth, lode thy cart and awaye :
the battell is fought, thou hast gotten the daye.
92. Then doune with thy hedlondes, thy corne rounde aboute :
leaue neuer a dalop, vnmouned or had out.

A hundreth good poyntes of husbandrie. 19

Though grasse be but thinne, about barley and pease;
yet picked vp cleane, it shall do thee good ease.

93. Thryfallowe betime, for destroing of weede;
least thistle and dock, fall a bloming and seede.
Such season may hap, it shall stande the vpon;
to till it againe, or the somer be gone.
94. And better thou warte, so to doe for thy hast;
then (hardnes) for slough make thy lande to lie wast.
A redy good forehorse, is dainty to finde;
be hindred at first, and come alway behinde.
95. Thy houses and barnes would be loked vpon;
and all thing amended, or haruest come on.
Thinges thus set in ordre, at quiet and rest;
thy haruest goeth forwarde and prospereth best.
96. Sainct James willeth husbandes, get reapers at hande;
the corne being ripe doe but shead as it stande.
Be sauing and thankfull, for that god hath sent;
he sendeth it thee, for the selfe same entent.
97. Reape well, scatter not, gather cleane that is shorne;
binde fast, shock a pase, pay the tenth of thy corne.
Lode salfe, carry home, lose no time, being faier;
golfe iust, in the barne, it is out of dispaier.
98. This done, set the pore ouer all for to gleane;
and after thy cattel, to eate it vp cleane.
Then spare it for pasture, till rowen be past;
to lengthen thy dayrey, no better thou hast.
99. Then welcome thy haruest folke, seruauntes and all;
with mirth and good chere, let them furnish thine hall.
The haruest lorde nightly, must geue thee a song;
fill him then the blacke boll, or els he hath wrong.
100. Thy haruest thus ended, in myrth and in ioye;
please euery one gently, man woman and boye.
Thus doing, with alway, such helpe as they can;
thou winnest the name, of a right husband man.

Finis.

Nowe thinke vpon god, let thy tonge neuer cease;
from thanking of him, for his myghty encrease.
Accept my good wil, finde no fault tyll thou trye;
the better thou thryuest, the gladder am I.

*¶ A sonet or brief rehersall of the properties
of the twelue monethesafore rehersed.*

As Janeuer fryse pot, bidth corne kepe hym lowe :
And feuerell fill dyke, doth good with his snowe :
A bushel of Marche dust, worth raunsomes of gold.
And Aprill his stormes, be to good to be solde :
As May with his flowers, geue ladies their lust :
And June after blooming, set carnels so iust :
As July bid all thing, in order to ripe :
And August bid reapers, to take full their gripe.
September his fruit, biddeth gather as fast :
October bid hogges, to come eate vp his mast :
As dirtie Nouember, bid threshe at thine ease :
December bid Christmas, to spende what he please :
So wisdom bid kepe, and prouide while we may :
For age creepeth on as the time passeth away.

Finis.

Things thriftie, that teacheth the thriuing to thriue ;
teach timely to trauas, the thing that thou triue.
Transferring thy toyle, to the times truely taught :
that teacheth the temperaunce, to temper thy thought.

To temper thy trauaile, to tarrye the tide :
this teacheth the thriftines, twenty times tride.

Thinke truely to trauaile, that thinkest to thee :
the trade that thy teacher taught truely to the.

Take thankfully thinges, thanking tenderly those :
that teacheth thee thriftly, thy time to transpose.
The trouth taught two times, teach thou two times ten :
this trade thou that takest, take thrift to the then.

**¶ Imprinted at London in flete strete
within Temple barre, at the sygne of the
hand and starre, by Richard Tottel,
the third day of february. An. 1557.**

Cum priuilegio ad impri-
mendum solum.

The Life of Thomas Tusser,

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF, IN VERSE.*

1. Now, gentle friend, if thou be kind,
Disdain thou not, although the lot,
Will now with me no better be,
Than doth appear :
Nor let it grieve, that thus I live,
But rather guess, for quietness,
As others do, so do I too,
Content me here.
2. By leave and love of God above,
I mind to shew, in verses few,
How through the briers, my youthful years,
Have run their race ;
And further say, why thus I stay
And mind to live, as bee in hive,
Full bent to spend my life t'an end,
In this same place. †
3. It came to pass, that born I was,
Of lineage good, of gentle blood,
In Essex layer, in village faïr,
That Rivenhall hight : ‡
Which village lied, by Banktree side ;
There spend did I mine infancy,
There then my name, in honest fame,
Remain'd in sight.
4. I yet but young, no speech of tongue,
Nor tears withall, that often fall,
From mother's eyes, when child outcries,
To part her fro,
Could pity make, good father take,
But out I must, to song be thrust,
Say what I would, do what I could,
His mind was so.

* This poetical Life appears to have been first added to the edition of his Husbandry of 1573, and is the chief source from whence biographers have drawn their supplies.

† The author means London.

‡ Rivenhall, near Kelvedon and Witham, in Essex, about forty miles from London.

5. O painful time, for every crime !
 What touzed ears, like baited bears !
 What bobbed lips, what jerks, what nips !
 What hellish toys !
 What robes how bare, what college fare !
 What bread how stale, what penny ale !
 Then Wallingford, how wert thou abhor'd,
 Of seely boys !
6. Then for my voice, I must (no choice)
 Away of force, like posting horse,
 For sundry men had placards then,
 Such child to take :
 The better breast, the lesser rest,
 To serve the choir, now there, now here ;
 For time so spent, I may repent,
 And sorrow make.
7. But mark the chance, myself to 'vance,
 By friendship's lot to Paul's I got ;
 So found I grace, a certain space
 Still to remain :
 With Redford there, the like no where,
 For cunning such, and virtue much,
 By whom some part, of music art,
 So did I gain.
8. From Paul's I went, to Eton sent,
 To learn straightways, the Latin phrase,
 Where fifty-three stripes, given to me,
 At once I had,
 For fault but small, or none at all,
 It came to pass, thus beat I was :
 See Udall, see, the mercy of thee,
 To me, poor lad.
9. To London hence, to Cambridge thence,
 With thanks to thee, O Trinity,
 That to thy Hall, so passing all,
 I got at last.
 There joy I felt, there trim I dwelt,
 There heaven from hell, I shifted well,
 With learned men, a number then,
 The time I past.

10. Long sickness had, then was I glad,
To leave my book, to prove and look,
In court what gain, by taking pain,
Might well be found :
Lord Paget than, that nobleman,
Whose soul, I trust, is with the just,
That same was he, enriched me,
With many a pound.
11. While this betide, good parents died,
One after one, till both were gone,
Whose pedigree, who list may see,
In herald's book :
Whose souls in bliss, be long ere this ;
For hope we must, as God is just,
So here that crave, shall mercy have,
That mercy look.
12. By court I spied, and ten years tried,
That cards and dice, with Venus vice,
And peevish pride, from virtue wide,
With some so wraught,
That Tyburn play, made them away,
Or beggar's state, as ill to hate,
By such like evils, I saw such drivels,
To come to naught.
13. Yet it is not, to be forgot,
In court that some, to worship come,
And some in time, to honour climb,
And speed full well :
Some have such gift, that trim they shift,
Some profit make, by pains they take,
In peril much, though oft are such,
In court that dwell.
14. When court 'gan frown, and strife in town,
And lords and knights saw heavy sights,
Then took I wife, and led my life,
In Suffolk soil :*
There was I fain, myself to train,
To learn too long, the farmer's song,
For hope of pelf, like worldly elf,
To moil and toil.

* On his marriage Tusser settled at Catiwade in Suffolk, where he devised his book of husbandry.

15. As in this book, who list to look,
Of husbandry and huswifery,
There may he find, more of my mind,
Concerning this:
To cark and care, and ever bare,
With loss and pain, to little gain,
With shifts to save, to cram Sir Knave,
What life it is.
16. When wife could not, through sickness got,
More toil abide, so nigh sea-side,
Then thought I best, from toil to rest,
And Ipswich try;
A town of price, like Paradise,
For quiet then, and honest men,
There was I glad, much friendship had,
A time to lie.
17. There left good wife, this present life,
And there left I, house charges lie,
For glad was he, might send for me,
Good luck so stood:
In Suffolk there, where everywhere,
Even of the best, besides the rest,
That never did their friendship hide,
To do me good.
18. O Suffolk, thou, content thee now,
Thou hadst the praise, in those same days,
For squires and knights, that well delights,
Good house to keep:
For Norfolk wiles, so full of guiles,
Have caught my toe, by wiving so,
That out to thee, I see for me,
No way to creep.
19. For lo! for guile, what haps the while,
Through Venus toys, in hope of joys,
I chanced soon to find a Moon,
Of cheerful hue;
Which well and fine, me thought did shine,
And never change—(a thing most strange)
Yet kept in sight, her course aright,
And compass true.

20. Behold of truth, with wife in youth,
For joy at large, what daily charge,
Through children's hap, what opened gap,
 To more begun :
The child at nurse, to rob the purse,
The same to wed, to trouble head ;
For pleasure rare, such endless care,
 Hath husband won.

21. Then did I dwell, in Diram cell,*
A place for wood, that trimly stood,
With flesh and fish as heart could wish ;
 But when I spied,
That lord with lord, could not accord,
But now pound he, and now pound we ;
Then left I all, because such brawl,
 I list not bide.

22. O Southwell ! what, mean'st thou by that,
Thou worthy wight, thou famous knight,
So me to crave, and to thy grave,
 Go, by and by.
O Death ! thou foe, why didst thou so,
Ungently treat that jewel great,
Which op'd his door, to rich and poor,
 So bounteously.

23. There thus bestad, when leave I had,
By death of him, to sink or swim,
And ravens I saw, together draw,
 In such a sort ;
Then ways I sought, by wisdom taught,
To bear low sail, lest stock should quail,
Till ship might find, with prosperous wind,
 Some safer port.

24. At length by view, to shore I drew,
Discharging straight, both ship and freight,
At Norwich fine, for me and mine,
 A city trim ;
Where strangers well may seem to dwell,
That pitch and pay, or keep their day ;
But who that want, shall find it scant,
 So good for him.

* West Dereham Abbey, near Downham, Norfolk.

25. But Salisbury, how were kept my vow,
 If praise from thee were kept by me?
 Thou gentle dean, my only mean,
 There then to live :
 Though churls such some, to crave can come,
 And pray once got, regard thee not,
 Yet, live or die, so will not I,
 Example give.
26. When learned men could there nor then,
 Devise to 'swage, the stormy rage,
 Nor yet the fury of my dissury,
 That long I had ;
 From Norwich air, in great despair
 Away to fly, or else to die,
 To seek more health, to seek more wealth,
 Then was I glad.
27. From thence so sent, away I went,
 With sickness worn, as one forlorn,
 To house my head at Fairsted,*
 Where whiles I dwelt :
 The tithing life, the tithing strife,
 Through tithing ill of Jack and Gill,
 The daily pays, the miry ways,
 Too long I felt.
28. When charges grew, still new and new,
 And that I spied, if parson died,
 (All hope in vain) to hope for gain,
 I might go dance ;
 Once rid my hand, of parsonage land,
 Thence, by and by, away went I,
 To London straight, to hope and wait,
 For better chance.
29. Well, London ! well, thou bear'st the bell,
 Of praise about, England throughout,
 And dost indeed, to such as need,
 Much kindness shew.
 Who that with thee, can hardly agree,
 Nor can well praise, thy friendly ways,
 Shall friendship find, to please his mind,
 In places few.

* Fairsted, a parish about four miles from Witham, and near the natal place of our author.

30. As for such mates as virtue hates,
Or he or they, that go so gay,
That needs he must, take all of trust,
For him and his :
Though such by woe, through Lothbury go,
For being spied about Cheapside,
Lest mercers' books, for money looks,
Small matter it is.
31. When gains were gone, and years grew on,
And death did cry,* from London fly,
In Cambridge then, I found again,
A resting plot ;
In college best, of all the rest,
With thanks to thee, O Trinity !
Through thee and thine, for me and mine,
Some stay I got.
32. Since hap haps so, let toiling go,
Let serving pains, yield forth her gains,
Let courtly gifts, with wedding shifts,
Help now to live :
Let music win, let stock come in ;
Let wisdom carve, let reason serve,
For here I crave, such end to have,
As God shall give.
33. Thus friends by me, perceive may ye,
That gentry stands, not all by lands,
Nor all so feft, or plenty left,
By parent's gift ;
But now and then of gentlemen,
The younger son is driven to run,
And glad to seek, from creek to creek,
To come by thrift.
34. And more by this, to conster is,
In world is set, enough to get ;
But where and when, that scarcely can
The wisest tell.
By learning, some to riches come ;
By ship and plough, some get enough ;
And some so wive, that trim they thrive,
And speed full well.

* The plague, to which Tusser evidently alludes, according to Maitland, raged in London in 1574 and 75.

35. To this before, add one thing more,
 Youth hardness taught, with knowledge wrought,
 Most apt do prove, to shift and shove,
 Among the best.
 Where cocking dads, make saucy lads,
 In youth so rage, to beg in age,
 Or else to fetch, a Tyburn stretch,
 Among the rest.
36. Not rampish toy of girl and boy,
 Nor garment trim of her or him,
 In childhood spent, to fond intent,
 Good end doth frame.
 If mark we shall, the sum of all,
 The end it is that noted is,
 Which, if it bide, with virtue tried,
 Deserveth fame.
37. When all is done, learn this my son,
 Not friend nor skill, nor wit at will,
 Nor ship nor clod, but only God,
 Doth all in all :
 Man taketh pain, God giveth gain,
 Man doth his best, God doth the rest,
 Man well intends, God foizon sends,
 Else want he shall.
38. Some seek for wealth, I seek my health,
 Some seek to please, I seek mine ease,
 Some seek to save, I seek to have,
 To live upright,
 More than to ride with pomp and pride,
 Or for to jet,* in others debt :
 Such is my skill, and shall be still,
 For any wight.
39. Too fond were I, here thus to lie,
 Unless that wealth might further health,
 And profit some should thereby come,
 To help withall ;
 This causeth me, well pleas'd to be,
 Such drift to make, such life to take,
 Enforcing mind, remorse to find,
 As need, need shall.

* QUERY, Get?—C. C.

40. Friend, all things weigh'd, that here is said,
 And being got, that pays the shot,
 Methinks of right, have leave I might,
 (Death drawing near)
 To seek some ways, my God to praise,
 And mercy crave, in time to have,
 And for the rest, what he thinks best,
 'To suffer here.
-

When the danger of the plague which raged in London in 1574 had vanished, it is probable that Tusser's predilection for the Metropolis returned; and he died there, according to the best authorities, about 1580—certainly before 1585; not at a very advanced age, as has been asserted, without considering circumstances, but about sixty-five years old. His remains were interred in St. Mildred's Church in the Poultry; and the following Epitaph, according to Stow, recorded his memory. It is perfectly in character with the man and his writings; and, if conjecture may be allowed, was penned by himself.

Here Thomas Tusser, clad in earth, doth lie,
 That sometime made the pointes of Husbandrie:
 By him then learn thou maist; here learn we must,
 When all is done, we sleepe, and turn to dust:
 And yet through Christ, to heaven we hope to goe;
 Who reades his bookes, shall find his faith was so.

GLOSSARY

OF LOCAL, DOMESTIC, AND OBSOLETE WORDS, AND MODES
OF SPELLING, FOUND IN TUSSEY'S HUSBANDRY.

- Belive.* Anon, towards night.
Bestad. Happened, treated in a particular way from events.
Bote. Bit.
A Breck. A break, breach.
Brent. Burnt.
Cocking. Cockering, spoiling by indulgence.
Compas. Compost, manure.
To conster. To construe.
Creeks. Corners.
A Dallop. A patch among corn that has escaped the plough.
Dight. Decked, prepared.
Dissury. A strangury, a suppression of urine.
A Drivell. A waster, a waste.
Enough. Pronounced *Enow*.
Feft. Enfeoffed, put in possession.
Fimble. Female hemp, that which is chiefly used for domestic purposes, and therefore falls to the care of the women; as *Carl*, or male hemp, which produces the seed, does to the maker of cordage.
Foisen. Gains, wealth, prosperity.
A Gofe. A mow.
To grutch. To grudge.
Guise. Manner, fashion, custom.
Hight. Named, called.
Mast. The fruit of the oak, beech, chesnut, &c.
Michers. Thieves, pilferers.
Mickle. Much.
Pasque. Easter.
Peason. The Saxon plural of pea.
Seely. Silly, foolish, simple.
Sost. From the verb *to soss*, to render dirty, to puddle; hence *sess*-pool.
Souse. The ears, feet, &c. of pigs pickled.
Than. Frequently used by Tussey for rhyme's sake, instead of *then*.
Toused. Pulled, pinched.

