

**A concise account of the rise, progress, and present state of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, instituted at London, anno MDCCLIV / Compiled from the original papers ... and from other authentic records. By a member of the said Society [i.e. T. Mortimer].**

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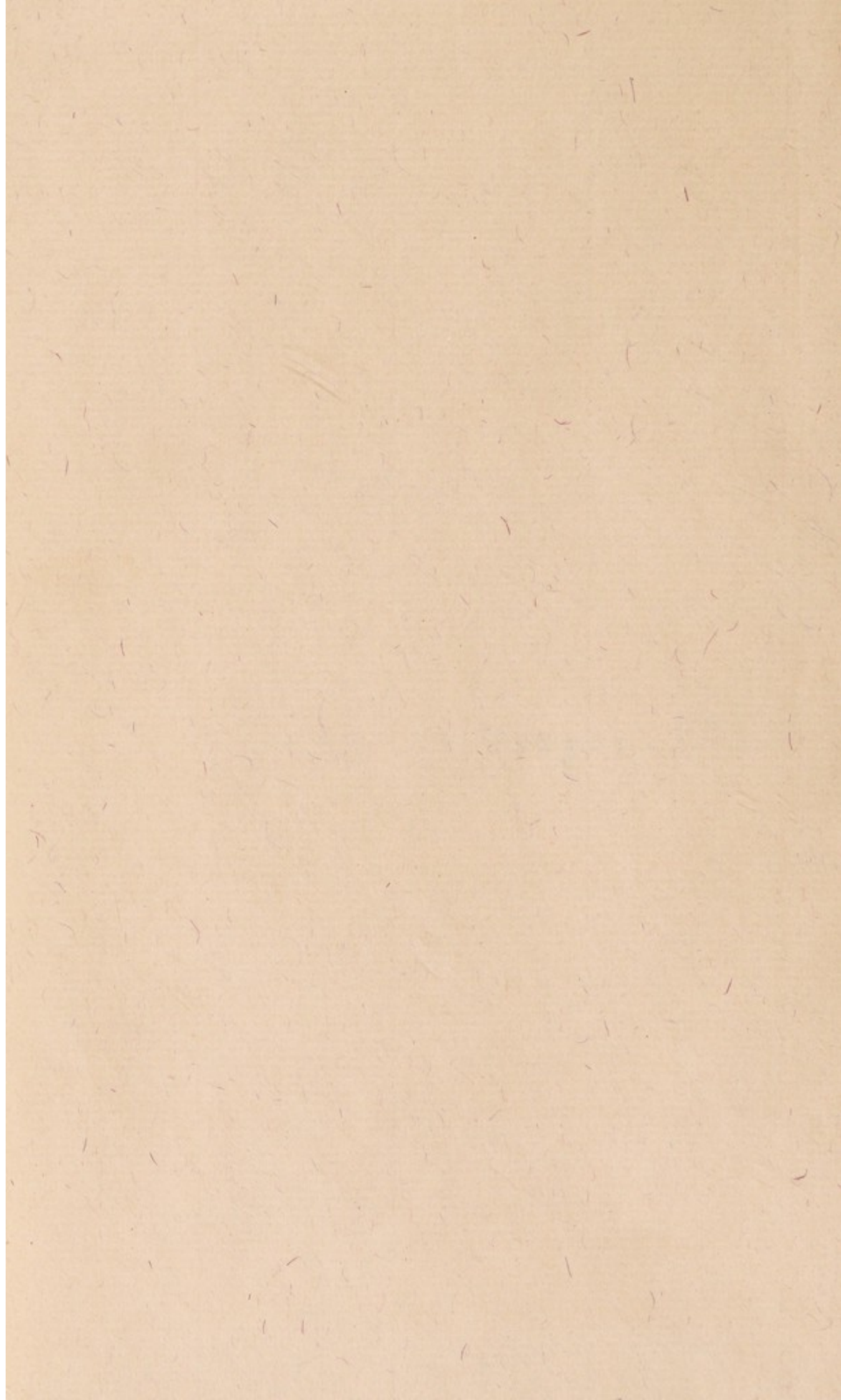
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London: S. Hooper. 1763



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A  
**CONCISE ACCOUNT**  
 OF THE  
 Rise, Progress, and Present State  
 OF THE  
**SOCIETY**  
 For the Encouragement of  
**ARTS, MANUFACTURES,**  
 AND  
**COMMERCE,**

Instituted at London, Anno. MDCCCLIV.

Compiled from the Original Papers of the first Promoters of the plan; and from other authentic records.

By a MEMBER of the said SOCIETY.



CONCISE ACCOUNT

of the  
Rite, Progress and Present State

of the Rite, Progress and Present State

SOCIETY

ARTS, MANUFACTURES

AND  
COMMERCIAL

IN THE CITY

Compiled from the Original Papers of the Society  
and of the Manuscripts deposited in the

Library of the Society





## INTRODUCTION.

**T**H E chief design of this little piece is, to rescue from oblivion the laudable zeal of those noble and worthy personages, who first carried into execution the plan for establishing a Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, by recording a series of facts which reflect the highest honor on those illustrious patrons, whose generous benevolence, indefatigable application, and constant attendance gave that sanction to the undertaking, which alone could produce the de-



fired effect of establishing it on a firm and durable basis : and by which it has since been enabled to make so rapid a progress, as in a short time to equal any Society in Europe, both with respect to the extensive utility of its designs, and the number of its members.

SEVERAL particulars relative to the origin of this Society having been lost to the public for many years, it may not be improper to mention, least the authenticity of the following narrative should be disputed, that the substance of it was drawn up by the late James Theobald, Esq; one of the first Vice Presidents of the Society, from a verbal relation given him by Mr. Shipley; and that the same gentleman afterwards presented a  
copy

copy of that relation to the Antiquarian Society: the original manuscript, in the hand writing of Mr. Theobald; the editor has perused on the present occasion, and finding that it contained some anecdotes concerning the private affairs of Mr. Shipley which were foreign to his purpose, he has suppressed them, and has inserted in the following pages some interesting circumstances which are not to be found in Mr. Theobald's manuscript, but have lately been communicated to him by Mr. Shipley, and some other gentlemen, and are as well attested as any of the facts contained in the manuscript deposited in the Antiquarian Society.

It may perhaps be suggested that this performance is premature, because

cause the Society have ordered an historical register to be compiled by their learned and ingenious Secretary Dr. Templeman, under the direction of a select committee appointed for that purpose. In answer to this, I have only to observe that, the Society having given all due encouragement to a great variety of Arts, and Manufactures, and to several branches of Commerce, by means of which, new discoveries and considerable improvements have been made in each class; the ample relation of the happy effects of the Society's premiums, together with the necessary descriptions of the several Models, Machines, &c. which have been deemed worthy their attention, will form a voluminous, and consequently an expensive work, which cannot be purchased nor

read

read by the public in general; and that the publication of it is an event rather to be wished than speedily expected, if it be considered that almost the whole of the Secretary's time is employed in discharging the common duties of his Office, besides as there are so many subjects to be treated of in the proposed register, little room can be expected for recording the simple, but entertaining incidents, which gave birth to the first idea of forming such a Society, and which it is necessary the public should be acquainted with, especially as it is but too commonly remarked, that when great associations are arrived at the meridian of success and perfection, the minuteness of their origin is forgot, and men are thereby deterred from

from engaging in similar laudable undertakings.

IF therefore to gratify the impatience, and satisfy the curiosity of the public who have long been desirous of perusing some account of the rise and progress of the Society, be a fault, the editor of this performance stands condemned, but hopes it will be remembered, that he only considers it in the light of an introduction to the Historical Register of the Society; and that he has been studiously attentive to do honor to the first founders, and to the present members of this laudable association, and has strictly pursued the dictates of impartiality, candour and truth, throughout the whole narrative.

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As he shall be found to have adhered to, or deviated from these grand criterions of narrative merit, he desires to stand approved or condemned, and hereon relies for the patronage and protection of the unprejudiced and benevolent.

To silence the severer critic, he pleads his privilege as a Member, and presumes to assert, that he has a right, from those principles of freedom and independency which are the grand support of the Society, to offer to the public with all due deference and becoming modesty, such an account of the respectable body to which he belongs, as shall incite every great

and good man to aspire to the honour of adding one to the number of it's worthy Members, grand criterion of narrative he desires to stand approved or condemned, and person relies for the patronage and protection of the unprejudiced and benevolent.



To the... pleads his... and... a right... freedom and independency which are the grand support of the Society, to offer to the public with all due deference and becoming modesty, such an account of the... body to which he belongs, as shall incite every great and

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A  
CONCISE ACCOUNT

OF THE  
Rise, Progress, and Present State  
Of the SOCIETY, for the Encouragement of ARTS, MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE.



R. WILLIAM SHIPLEY,  
to whom this laudable Society  
owe their origin, when he first  
conceived the design of proposing  
such an institution to the  
public, resided at Northampton, where, in  
the course of his acquaintance with several  
learned and ingenious gentlemen, he frequently  
took an opportunity of mentioning



the good effects rewards had been productive of, on many public and private occasions; and in support of the truth of his remark, several instances were quoted in conversation, both from ancient and modern history: but what more particularly engaged Mr. Shipley's attention to this subject was, a familiar instance which then fell within his own observation.

At Northampton there are annually two very considerable fairs for horses, at each of which, several thousands are exposed to sale, and the dealers in horses resort to these fairs to purchase them, not only from different parts of this kingdom but also from foreign countries: Mr. Shipley having observed for some time what large sums of money were annually returned by this branch of trade, was induced to enquire into the cause of the success of these fairs, and was informed that the premiums of the king's plates, and of the plates given by private subscriptions for races, in the different counties of the kingdom, had

had encouraged a great number of jockies and other dealers to breed race horses, and for that purpose to import Arabian stallions, by which means in process of time the breed had been so considerably improved, that vast numbers of valuable horses not only proper for races, but also useful in the field of battle, and for many other purposes, had been bred in many counties, and had been sold at much higher prices than were formerly given for the best horses at these fairs; and he was also informed that the value of the exports of horses to foreign parts at this time was computed to amount at least to thirty thousand pounds per annum.

FROM this remarkable instance of the good effects of the premiums given at horse races, so little known or attended to by the generality, who only look upon these races as seminaries of every species of vice, Mr. Shipley made this sensible reflection: if such is the advantage arising to my country from these

these partial premiums, which in appearance seemed only calculated to promote a favourite diversion, how glorious, how extensively useful it must prove, to establish public premiums for the general encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce! Thus inspired by the noblest and best of passions, the love of his country, he shortly after drew up proposals for instituting a Society for the purposes above mentioned; this done he found himself at a loss to whom to apply for assistance to enable him to carry his design into execution; however, he ventured to solicit those gentlemen to whom he had first communicated his thoughts on the subject; but he met with so little encouragement from them, owing to the great difficulties which they apprehended must necessarily attend the carrying so extensive a scheme into execution, that he was totally dissuaded from attempting it, and for the present laid aside all thoughts of making any further applications on that head, but as he thought  
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the proposals might one day prove of some utility, he carefully preserved them; and happily, some time after, a favourable circumstance once more expanded the wings of expectation, and opened a door to a more successful attempt to accomplish this important design.

IN the year 1751, having observed the oppressive methods made use of by the engrossers of wood and coals in the town of Northampton, whose usual custom was, to lay in great stores of these commodities in summer, and to sell them retail to the poor at very exorbitant prices, during the rigour of the winter, he formed a scheme for preventing this cruel practice in future, by proposing to some of the substantial inhabitants to raise a fund by voluntary subscription in order to buy in a stock of fuel on the best terms, and to retail it to the poor at prime cost, subject only to the incidental charges of warehouse room and a moderate profit to a man to take care of the stock;

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the persons applied to, not readily agreeing to this proposal, Mr. Shipley who had this act of charity, greatly at heart, resolved to employ what money he could spare in this benevolent plan; and accordingly laid out twenty guineas in purchasing wood and coals; which he determined to sell to the poor at first cost: when those to whom he first imparted his resolution, saw that he had actually set the example himself, and had made a beginning, they then concurred with the plan, and subscribed about one hundred and twenty guineas to be employed in this undertaking, and appointed him their treasurer, for two years successively: by means of this subscription, sea coal for which the poor were obliged, in the winter, to pay twenty pence per bushel, was delivered out at thirteen pence; pit coal was reduced from two shillings and sixpence, to one shilling and five pence; and wood from fourteen, to nine pence, per hundred weight.

THE success of this scheme greatly encouraged Mr. Shipley once more to turn his thoughts to the revival of his favourite plan for encouraging Arts, &c. justly concluding, that if so much good had been done by his little subscription for lowering the price of fuel in a single town, great and noble advantages might in all human probability be expected to arise from a scheme of so extensive a nature as to comprehend the whole kingdom, and judging by the present case, that if even a small beginning was once made; it might be attended with the same success. He therefore consulted the right honourable lord Hallifax, and some ingenious and public spirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who gave him several useful hints on the occasion, and now it was, that he first thought of carrying his plan to London, as the only place where it was likely speedily to take effect, as there alone, he could hope to find a sufficient number of persons of high rank and

distinction ever ready to patronize and promote any laudable design for the welfare and interest of Society: the only persons that he was acquainted with at this time in London, who were capable of forwarding his design, were, Mr. Henry Baker, Mr. Messiter, and Mr. Crispe, he had also a recommendation to the reverend Dr. Stephen Hales of Teddington, since deceased. On his arrival he waited on the doctor, and communicated to him the intent of his journey: this public spirited and most ingenious gentleman readily concurred with him in the undertaking, and informed him, that the lord viscount Folkestone, and lord Romney had expressed to him an ardent desire of seeing some such plan carried into execution, and had promised if any such should take place, that they would become subscribers thereto, he also promised Mr. Shipley, if he would print his proposals, that he would disperse copies of them among many of our public spirited nobility and gentry: having so far succeeded in his first  
 appli-

application, he then waited on Mr. Henry Baker, who generously assisted him by giving him various recommendations to proper persons who might forward his design: he also revised his proposals and plan, which were soon after sent to the press.

THE following is printed from one of the copies of that impression.

## P R O P O S A L S

For raising by subscription a fund to be distributed in PREMIUMS for the promoting of improvements in the LIBERAL ARTS and SCIENCES, MANUFACTURES, &c.

AS riches are acknowledged to be the strength, Arts and Sciences may justly be esteemed the ornaments of nations. Few kingdoms have ever been for-



midable without the one, or illustrious without the other; or very considerable without both.---Does it not then behove every nation to cultivate and promote amongst the members of her own community, what are so apparently and eminently conducive to her interest and glory? Encouragement is much the same to Arts and Sciences as culture is to Vegetables: they always advance and flourish in proportion to the rewards they acquire, and the honours they obtain.---The Augustan age amongst the Romans, and some preceeding ages amongst the Greeks, were remarkable for the delicacy of their taste and the nobleness of their productions; they have recommended and endeared themselves to all posterity by many valuable monuments of genius and industry. None, I presume, will imagine, that the men of those times were endued with natural abilities superior to the rest of mankind in former ages, or in this our present time, but their abilities originally equal, rose to this superiority, by falling into a  
more

more fertile soil, and being exerted under more favourable influences. Had the same advantages been enjoyed, even in the most supine and barbarous periods, there is no doubt but genius would have shined, and industry toiled, and very probably with equal success.

PROFIT and honour are two sharp spurs, which quicken invention, and animate application ; it is therefore proposed, that a scheme be set on foot for giving both these encouragements to the liberal sciences, to the polite arts, and to every useful manufactory. That with this view a fund be raised by subscription for the distribution of some suitable premium or honorary gratification for any and every work of distinguished ingenuity. That whoever shall make the most considerable progress in any branch of beneficial knowledge, or exhibit the most compleat performance in any species of mechanic skill, whoever shall contrive, improve, execute, or cause to be executed

ecuted any scheme or project calculated for the honor, the embellishment, the interest, the comfort, (or in time of danger, for the defence of this nation) may receive a reward suitable to the merit of his services. Such an undertaking, it is thought, may easily be established, and as easily supported, by a body of generous and public spirited persons, and it is hoped may prove an effectual means to embolden enterprize, to enlarge Science, to refine Art, to improve our Manufactures, and extend our Commerce; in a word, to render Great Britain the school of instruction, as it is already the centre of traffic to the greatest part of the known world.

Northampton, June 8, 1753.

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## S C H E M E

For putting the PROPOSALS in  
Execution.

**W**HEN there is a sufficient number of Subscribers to put the scheme in execution, it is proposed that they form themselves into a body, by the name of a Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Sciences, and Manufactures in Great Britain, or by such other title as the subscribers shall agree upon.

Ladies as well as gentlemen are invited into this subscription, as there is no reason to imagine they will be behindhand in a generous and sincere regard for the good of their country.

It is also proposed that the subscribers shall chuse from amongst themselves a president,

fidant, one or two vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary.

ALL the articles relating to the scheme may be settled by balloting, and each subscriber shall be intitled to as many votes as are in proportion to his subscription.

The premiums may be honorary and pecuniary, and adjudged in the following manner. Some time before the day fixed for that purpose, the specimens may be sent by the candidates without any name, to the secretary, who may give receipts for them, and mark each particular receipt and specimen with the same number.

AT the time agreed upon for adjudging the premiums, a committee being chosen, and some of the ablest judges of each particular Art, Science, or Manufacture, called in to their assistance, the performances of the several candidates may be examined, and their superior merits determined; then the persons who produce the receipts, whose numbers correspond with those of the best specimens, may afterwards claim  
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the prizes. If a profound secrecy is previously enjoined to the competitors, in all cases that will admit of it, under the penalty of being for ever excluded the benefit of the premiums, it is thought there can be no room for prejudice or partiality.

In particular cases, as for very curious and valuable inventions or improvements, &c. gold-medals may be given (which may serve both for premiums and also for honorary gratifications) of such value, and with such devices as shall be thought proper by the subscribers; but for common inventions or improvements, pecuniary premiums are judged sufficient.

There may be given with the medals, certificates signed by the president, vice-president, treasurer, and some of the principal subscribers, signifying what honours the acquirers have been intitled to, and what rewards they have obtained; there-

fore if a medal be got by a person, whose circumstances may oblige him to part with it, yet still a certificate will perpetuate the honour he has received.

Certificates may likewise be given with the pecuniary premiums, which will be of equal use.

If considerable premiums were given to the inventors, and still greater to the improvers, if thought worthy, and the greatest of all to those who shall most amply execute or cause to be executed, the said inventions or improvements, it may be presumed this would be attended with beneficial consequences.

Should the subscriptions not be sufficient at first for so many premiums as might be wish'd; a beginning may be made with giving rewards for the following articles, or some others that may be judged of the most importance to the nation, viz.

For

For improvements in the present plans of education, in naval affairs, in husbandry, and particularly for the introducing of such Manufactures as may employ great numbers of the poor, which seems the only way of lessening the swarms of thieves and beggars throughout the kingdom, and relieving parishes from the burden they labour under, in maintaining their numerous poor, as well as rendering multitudes of the unemployed lower class of people useful to the community and happy in themselves.

Premiums may also be given for the revival and advancement of those Arts and Sciences which are at a low ebb amongst us; as Poetry, Painting, Tapestry, Architecture, &c. As above all other people the English are endued with talents peculiar for improvements in Arts and Manufactures, so by their most extensive commerce, they will of course reap greater  
ad-



advantages from such improvements, when made, than any other nation whatever.

London, December 7, 1753.

HAVING left several copies of these Proposals with the reverend doctor Hales and Mr. Baker, Mr. Shipley returned to Northampton, and as he now entertained great hopes of the success of his scheme, he resolved to quit that place and reside in London, that he might have the better opportunity of attending to the progress of his laudable endeavours for the service of his country.

On his return to London he waited on lord Romney to whom his proposals had been communicated by doctor Hales, his lordship greatly encouraged him to proceed in his undertaking, and to endeavour to make interest to establish it. Mr. Shipley decently declined it, observing that doctor Hales had informed him, that his lordship  
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in conjunction with lord Folkestone, had some such scheme of their own in view, and that he was afraid the setting his on foot might interfere with their lordships intentions. Lord Romney on this desired Mr. Shipley to proceed on his own, and thereupon signed a paper, of which the following is an exact copy.

“ W E whose names are annexed, hav-  
 “ ing perused Mr. Shipley’s scheme for  
 “ promoting improvements in Arts and Sci-  
 “ ences, Manufactures, &c. in this na-  
 “ tion, do much approve of the design,  
 “ and think that the putting some such  
 “ plan in execution, will produce effects  
 “ very beneficial to this nation. We there-  
 “ fore hereby encourage him to apply to  
 “ the nobility and gentry for the promises  
 “ of their subscription and interest, to pro-  
 “ mote and establish some such plan, and  
 “ as soon as a number of gentlemen and  
 “ ladies sufficient to make a beginning,  
 “ have signified their intention of subscrib-  
 “ ing

“ ing to such an undertaking, notice will  
 “ be given of a meeting (the time and  
 “ place being first agreed on by a majority  
 “ of the intended subscribers) to consult on  
 “ proper measures for putting in execution  
 “ a plan of this kind, and for laying down  
 “ such rules for the regulation and advance-  
 “ ment of it, as shall be judged most con-  
 “ ducive to render it useful and extensive to  
 “ this nation, and satisfactory to all the  
 “ subscribers.

ROMNEY.

His lordship also gave him recommenda-  
 tions to several of the nobility and gentry,  
 and in particular to lord Folkestone who  
 was not then in town, but when he waited  
 on him a few days after, his lordship re-  
 ceived him very kindly, and signified his  
 approbation of his scheme, by signing the  
 foregoing paper, and by allowing him to  
 make use of his name to several of the  
 nobility; and at the same time gave him  
 instructions how to proceed.

Thus

Thus encouraged, Mr. Shipley considered that unless he made the best use of his time, as the Parliament was to rise early on account of the ensuing general election, his scheme might fail this year, and afterward<sup>s</sup> be regarded as a stale proposal, and therefore he incessantly applied for subscriptions, and after about three months solicitations got access to thirty-five of the nobility, and to a great number of other persons of rank, after which he waited on his two noble patrons to inform them that of thirty five nobles, and a great number of the gentry to whom he had been admitted, only fifteen had promised their subscription, and none had signed the above-mentioned paper except the bishop of Worcester.

These noblemen then enquired of Mr. Shipley, if he had interest sufficient to procure a few gentlemen of his acquaintance to contribute in order to make a beginning. Mr. Shipley replied that he believed he had, if their lordships would be so good as to honor

honor them with a meeting, they thereupon appointed the following Wednesday being the twenty-second of March 1754, to meet at Rawthmell's coffee house in Henrietta street Covent Garden, at which time and place, Mr. Shipley brought the following gentlemen to consult with their lordships, on the measures proper to be taken in order to put the plan in execution, viz. The Rev. Dr. STEPHEN HALES, F R S. JOHN GOODCHILD, Esq; Mr. HENRY BAKER, F R S. Mr. NICHOLAS CRISPE, Mr. CHARLES LAWRENCE, Mr. GUSTAVUS BRANDER, F R S. Mr. JAMES SHORT, F R S. and Mr. MESSITER.

At this first meeting it was proposed to consider whether a reward should not be offered for finding Cobalt, and for planting Madder in this kingdom, and as Arsenic, Smalt and Zaffre are prepared from Cobalt, Mr. Shipley was desired to search the Custom-house books, to see what quantities of each of those commodities were annually  
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imported, and at the same time it being the opinion of all the gentlemen present that the art of drawing is absolutely necessary in many Arts, Trades and Manufactures, and that the encouragement of it might prove of great utility to the public, it was resolved, to give premiums to encourage boys and girls in the art of drawing, and after conversing some time on these subjects, the further consideration of them was postponed till the following Wednesday, when they agreed to meet there again.

Accordingly March 29, the gentlemen met at the same place, when Mr. Shipley brought an account from the Custom house books, shewing that in the year 1753, 207510 pounds weight of Smalt had been imported, and also 16649 hundred, one quarter and fourteen pounds weight of Madder, upon which it was resolved to give public premiums for finding Cobalt and for planting Madder, and then the gentlemen having resumed the subject of drawings by boys and girls, it was resolved to offer pre-

miums for them also ; and agreeable to these several resolutions the following advertisement was drawn up and put into the Daily Advertiser.

T O T H E  
P U B L I C.

**S**OME of the nobility, clergy, gentlemen and Merchants, having at heart the good of this country, have lately met together in order to form themselves into a Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Great Britain, by bestowing rewards from time to time for such productions, inventions and improvements as shall tend to the employing of the poor, to the increase of trade, and the riches and honor of this kingdom by promoting industry and emulation ; and though at present this plan is not complete, it has nevertheless been resolved to make a beginning in the manner following, viz.

Cobalt

Cobalt having been already discovered in some parts of this kingdom, for producing specimens not less than 20 pounds weight, for the best quantity to be produced on or before the 15th of January next, with satisfactory certificates of the place where found and reasonable assurances that it may be obtained in quantities, thirty pounds: to be determined that day fortnight. For raising and curing the best Madder for dying, in this kingdom, not less than 20 pounds weight, of which samples to be shewn with satisfactory certificates on or before the 15th of January, 1756, thirty pounds: to be determined that day fortnight.

For the best drawing by boys and girls under the age of fourteen years on proof of their abilities, on or before the 15th of January next, fifteen pounds; to be determined that day fortnight.

Likewise the best drawing by boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, with the like proof of their abilities,



on or before the same day, fifteen pounds :  
to be determined that day fortnight.

Any information or advice that may forward this design for the public good, will be received thankfully, and will be duly considered if communicated by letter directed to Mr. Shipley at Mr. Meffiter's, surgeon, in great Pultney street near Golden square.

As the subscribers to this Society were at this time too few in number to raise the sum proposed to be given by the above advertisement, the lords Folkestone and Romney generously promised to make good whatever deficiencies there might happen on that account, and accordingly their lordships made good a considerable deficiency in the first year's subscriptions, which benevolent conduct of their lordships gave stability to the proceedings of this little Society, and was deservedly reputed the basis of its establishment.

It was now thought necessary to nominate a proper person to act as secretary and treasurer, and to take care of the business of the Society, Mr. Shipley was appointed to this Office for one year, and performed it gratis, to the entire satisfaction of all the subscribers.

The gentlemen met again at the same place on the 10th of April following, when it was proposed to divide the premiums for the ensuing year, into three or four different classes, and to extend them to the raising of raw silk in the colonies and at home, and then the meeting was adjourned to the circulating library in Crane court Fleet street, where leave had been obtained till a more convenient place could be found, and

On the 24th of April, this laudable association met accordingly for the first time at the said circulating library. At this meeting it was ordered that all letters to the Society, received by the Secretary, be numbered in order to have them more easily referred

to, and that the Secretary, on receiving any letters that required immediate answers, should collect a committee of the Society to consult with.

Also Mr. Shipley having produced two abstracts from the Amsterdam Gazette commending the intentions of the Society it was thought proper to have them translated and entered in the minutes. After which the gentlemen adjourned to the twenty-second of May, and continued their meetings at this place monthly; during the summer months nothing very material was transacted; but on the 27th of November the members then present observing, that their meetings had now been held during the space of eight months, and with a very small increase of the number of subscribers, some of the gentlemen gave it as their opinion that the forming themselves into a regular body, and publishing their plan, would be the best means of inducing others to join them, which being immediately approved of, Mr. Henry Baker was

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unanimously requested to draw up a plan for the regulation of the Society, who with great politeness and generosity undertook this difficult task; and so assiduous was he in the execution of it, that on the 18th of December following, he presented his plan which was ordered to be considered the second Wednesday in February 1755, and thanks were returned him on this occasion. At this meeting Mr. Theobald proposed that their next meeting should be at Peele's Coffee house in Fleet-street, which was agreed to, and

On the tenth of January they met agreeable to this resolution in the dining room at the said coffee house when a letter, was read from Charles Whitworth, Esq; in which were some proposals for rendering the plan of this Society very extensive; and a scheme for a register-book was approved of and a book was accordingly ordered, the form of a certificate to be given with the premiums was likewise drawn up by Mr. Henry Baker and approved, and a motion was made  
by

by Mr. Shipley that a premium be given next year for the best performance in steel dies, and then they adjourned to the 15th, when with the assistance of Sir Henry Cheere, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Strange and Mr. Bonneau, who had been desired to attend for that purpose, they for the first time adjudged the premiums offered for drawings as follows, viz. To James Scowles for the best drawing five pounds; to Miss Keith for the second best four pounds; to Elias Durnford for the third, three pounds: to Richard Dubourg for the fourth, two pounds; and to John Revel for the fifth, one pound, being the Premium advertised for the class between the ages of fourteen and seventeen.

To Richard Cosway for the best drawing, five pounds: to John Smart for the second best, four pounds; to John Gresse for the third, three pounds; to Miss Barbara Marsden for the fourth, two pounds; and to John Ashwood Porter for the fifth,

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one pound ; being the premium offered for the class under the age of fourteen.

Public notice of this decision was ordered to be inserted in the Daily Advertiser of the 17th current, and on the 29th following, the money was distributed among the several claimants abovementioned, before the subscribers then present. At the next meeting on the fifth of February, the Society having formed themselves into a body by the title of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, proceeded by ballot to the election of their several officers for the ensuing year, when the following noblemen and gentlemen were chosen, viz.

P R E S I D E N T.

The Right Honourable Jacob Lord Viscount Folkestone.

V I C E - P R E S I D E N T S.

The Right Honourable lord Romney.

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hales.

Charles Whitworth, Esq. and

James Theobald, Esq.

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John

John Goodchild, Esq; treasurer, and Mr. William Shipley secretary, who was likewise elected a perpetual member, and excused all payments in consideration of his having framed the original proposals and plan for forming this Society, and of the great trouble and fatigue he had undergone in soliciting the encouragement of the nobility and gentry for many months: the same honor was likewise conferred on Mr. Henry Baker, for drawing up a practical plan for carrying Mr. Shipley's design into execution.

On the 19th of February, the Society met for the last time at Peele's coffee house, for finding that the room was too small to contain their present members, they had desired Mr. Shipley to enquire for a more commodious room, who in consequence of their request now informed them, that he had seen a house in Craig's court at Charing cross, in which by laying two rooms on the first floor into one, he could form a very convenient apartment for the meetings of  
the

the Society, which he would furnish with chairs and other necessaries for the meetings at the yearly expence of twenty pounds including fire and candles; this offer appeared so reasonable, that the Society readily accepted it, and appointed their next meeting to be held there accordingly.

It was likewise resolved at this meeting that one thousand copies of Mr. Baker's plan should be forthwith printed and dispersed.

The good effects of the Society's being formed into a regular body, and of the publication of Mr. Baker's plan, soon became visible by the rapid increase of the number of its members which almost instantly ensued, for from the time of their first meeting at Rathmell's coffee house, in March 1754, to the first time of electing their officers in February 1755, being the space of eleven months, they were only increased to seventeen members, whereas in the short space of two months, after the publication of the plan, the Society increased to



eighty-one members ; and another favourable circumstance also greatly contributed to their success, which was the constant and unwearied attendance of those worthy noblemen already mentioned, who at this time never once failed to honor the Society by their presence at their weekly meetings.

On the first of March, the Society met at their office in Craig's court, and from this time all their proceedings were regularly entered in books appointed for that purpose, and their meetings began to be held weekly.

Soon after the Society's premiums were extended to different articles in Manufactures and Commerce at home, and in our colonies abroad ; and they have since been so considerably enlarged that the annual catalogue of their premiums and the conditions on which they are offered, makes a considerable pamphlet.

At a meeting on the 30th of April, Mr. Beardmore one of the members, produced to the Society the new general magazine  
for

for the month of April, in which was inserted an abstract of the Society's plan, and thereupon he was desired to thank the proprietors of this magazine,----probably because the Society cheerfully embraced, and were willing to countenance every opportunity of making their benevolent intentions universally known, and because though permission had not been obtained for this publication, yet the proprietors had in some measure forwarded their designs, which was agreeable to the request of their advertisement, and as this advertisement is still continued to 1763, it is a presumptive proof that this candid account of their institution will be regarded in the same light.

During this summer the Society continued much in the same state, the grand objects that principally engaged their attention were, the assaying several minerals in order to find the true Cobalt for which their premium was offered; and the establishing premiums to encourage the making of buff leather for the use of the army, and  
for

for cultivating the growth of white mulberry trees in Carolina; for an account of the good effects of these and other premiums that may be hereafter mentioned, we refer the reader to a distinct detail of the public benefits arising from the Society's premiums, classed under proper heads and annexed to this narrative.

By the tenth of December, the Society consisting of one hundred and fifty members, it was observed that Mr. Shipley's whole time was engrossed in performing the business of Secretary, Register and Collector, which he had hitherto performed for the Society gratis, therefore a motion was made to allow him a salary, and the question being put it passed unanimously in the affirmative.

At length the apartments in Craig's court proved too small to contain their members, great numbers being now elected at every weekly meeting, wherefore on the 25th of February, 1756, the Society hired the first floor in the house situate at the corner  
of

of Castle Court opposite the New Exchange buildings in the Strand, which first floor was properly fitted up for their meetings; and here the Society met for the first time on the second of June 1756, and ordered assaying furnaces to be erected for trying such ores and minerals as should be brought to the Society for examination, but principally on account of finding the true Cobalt.

From this time the business of the Society multiplied so considerably, that to give a regular detail of the proceedings at each meeting, would require a large volume; I shall therefore only select such important transactions as have been peculiarly beneficial to the public, and shall then close this little narrative with a short account of the present state of the Society, remarking the number of its members, the extent and utility of its premiums, under their several classes, and the equity and moderation of the rules and orders by which this great body is happily conducted in such a manner

manner as to give universal satisfaction, and to merit distinguished approbation.

In the year 1756, Mr. Henry Baker, whose active zeal for the welfare of this Society we have often had occasion to mention, proposed to the Society, to give gold and silver medals as honorary premiums, with a view of exciting emulation among the nobility, and other persons of condition, with whom pecuniary premiums could have no weight, agreeable to this proposal, a design for the medals was presented to the Society by Mr. James Stuart, from which a die was ordered to be made, and some medals being struck, the first six gold medals were given by the Society, to the persons, and in the order following.

To JACOB LORD VISCOUNT FOLKES-  
TONE with this inscription within the  
laurel wreath, FOR EMINENT SERVICES.

To LORD ROMNEY, with the same in-  
scription; the eminent services, so pro-  
perly recorded in these inscriptions, re-  
quire

quire no repetition, as the reader is by this time fully acquainted with the amiable characters of these two noblemen.

TO HENRY DUKE OF BEAUFORT with this inscription, FOR SOWING ACORNS.

TO LADY LOUISA AUGUSTA GREVILLE, ---FOR DRAWING.

TO JAMES STUART PAINTER AND ARCHITECT ---- FOR DESIGNING THIS MEDAL.

TO WILLIAM SHIPLEY---WHOSE PUBLIC SPIRIT GAVE RISE TO THIS SOCIETY. An engraving from this gentleman's medal has been made, and an impresson placed in the title page of this work, as its proper frontispiece, and also that the public might have an exact copy of the Society's honorary medals.

February the 27th 1760, a letter was read to the Society, from Mr. Francis Hayman History Painter, at that time chairman of the committee of Artists, requesting that the Society would permit the Ar-

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tists

tists to make an exhibition of polite Arts in the Society's great room, which had been built for them at a house nearly opposite Beauford buildings, where they still continue, this letter being referred to the committee of polite Arts, they came to a resolution to permit an exhibition, and accordingly in May following the Artists of Great Britain, exhibited their works for the first time, under the sanction of the Society, and from the amazing concourse of people who daily resorted to this exhibition, it plainly appeared how agreeable it would be to the public in general, if such exhibitions were annually permitted, and experience has shewn that the public curiosity has not suffered the least diminution, during the space of four years for the present exhibition is as popular as the first; and very important are the advantages arising to the Society, to the artists, and to the whole nation, from these annual exhibitions.

With respect to the Society I believe it cannot be denied, that many private persons  
capable

capable of promoting their plan, not only by their subscriptions, but by their advice and experience, have become members, from viewing the various works of art exhibited under the patronage of so laudable an association, many of which they found were the happy product of the Society's extensive liberality, to which I may add, that numbers who were not well apprized of the successful progress of their patriotic endeavours, by this means received undoubted information, and from thence were induced to contribute to the support and extension of this noble structure of public virtue---As to the rising generation of Artists they no longer remain immersed in obscurity, but have the happiest opportunity of exhibiting their favourite talents to the best advantage, and are early introduced to the acquaintance of the patrons of the polite arts, to whom their names and residence is by this means made known; and their reputation is not founded on the partial voice of private friendship, but on the merit

of



of public approbation ; and from the profit arising from the sale of the annual catalogues of their works thus exhibited, the exhibitors been enabled to distribute relief not only to the indigent of their own body, but also to aliens, and are at present formed into a regular institution by the name of A SOCIETY OF ARTISTS ASSOCIATED FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESSED AND DECAYED OF THEIR OWN BODY, THEIR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN, thankfully acknowledging the spirit of encouragement which the public have expressed during their late exhibitions, and providently determining for the future, to form a fund from the produce of the sale of their catalogues for those humane purposes ALONE, so clearly set forth in their title. Lastly, the nation in general derives a relative advantage from these exhibitions, for by them, a branch of education of the utmost importance to many of our Manufactures is greatly encouraged, emulation being a strong incitement to our youth to learn the elegant art of drawing,  
and

and drawing is so essential to the improvement of many Arts and Manufactures, and before the institution of this Society, and of these exhibitions was so little cultivated, and confined to so few hands, that the Manufacturers were obliged to give such extravagant prices for new patterns, as greatly enhanced the value of their commodities, and diminished the demand for them in foreign markets, if not at home.

I am now to pass from this pleasing tho' short review of our exhibitions, to an event of the utmost consequence to the community---the establishment of the plan for supplying the markets of London and Westminster, with fish from distant sea-ports and rivers, by land carriage.

This extensive undertaking was first proposed to the Society in the month of November 1761, by John Blake, Esq; who attended the committee to whom it had been referred to consider of a premium for the catching of turbot by British subjects. Mr. Blake informed the gentlemen of the  
com-

committee, that machines might be contrived capable of carrying one thousand weight of fish, and at the same time so light, that they might easily be drawn by a pair of horses; and convey the above weight of fish without any injury, from the weather or jolting, to London, from the sea-coasts of the kingdom; he likewise set forth the advantages that would accrue to the nation from the improvement of our fisheries, and particularly that of adding considerably to our marine, by encouraging fishermen to settle on our sea-coasts, which by this means would become nurseries for good sea-men; for the children being early accustomed to the watry element, would be the more easily induced when grown up to enter into the service of the state. In a word, his whole plan seemed so evidently calculated for the public good, that at the next meeting of the Society, it was resolved to advance Mr. Blake the sum of two thousand pounds to enable him to carry his useful designs into execution, and the said sum

was

was paid to him, without any limitations or particular conditions, and premiums were offered for the best models of machines proper for the undertaking, but it was not till the month of May 1762, that the scheme took effect, when proper carriages being made from the model to which the premium had been adjudged, and all other necessaries being duly prepared, these carriages began to travel, and it must not be forgot that through the indefatigable attention of the manager to every thing that might tend to promote the success of this undertaking, an act of parliament was obtained, by which the tolls to be paid by these carriages, were moderated, the fishermen protected; and the liberty of buying and selling of fish laid open to every person, whether brought up to the trade or not: in a very short time, the public with pleasure beheld a greater variety of fish than had ever been known at London, and several sorts of fish particularly soles, were brought

to

to market much larger than usual, and in better condition.

The necessary expences attending the carrying this beneficial design into execution were so considerable, such as providing a proper number of machines, a place of general reception, stalls for sale, &c. that Mr. Blake soon found the sum granted by the Society was inadequate to the extensiveness of the plan, but determined to give all possible satisfaction to this respectable body, he laid before them an account of his expences, and of the progress he had made, which the Society so highly approved, that they not only returned him thanks for his great care and attention to the trust reposed in him, but likewise on the nineteenth of May, 1762, agreed, to lend him the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds on his giving proper security, the better to enable him to complete his design, which he has since carried on with great success and amazing intrepidity, surmounting every difficulty that the united efforts of a set of monop-

monopolizers of fish in this town, could possibly invent to obstruct him in the execution of this great undertaking; and in March last, he once more laid his accounts, unasked, before the Society, at an extraordinary meeting, when his whole proceedings appeared so consistent with his first proposals, and his disinterested zeal and unwearied application in this public service so undeniably evident, that thanks were again returned him, and the gold medal of the Society unanimously voted him, which being confirmed at the next meeting, it was referred to the committee of polite Arts to consider of a proper inscription, when the following was agreed to, To JOHN BLAKE, Esq. and within the laurel wreath, FISH MONOPOLY RESTRAINED. Thus by the benevolent support of this Society, and the public spirit and industry of one of its members, the supplying our markets with fish by land carriage, and the reducing its price, have been happily accomplished; and exclusive of this scheme, the Society annually

set apart five hundred pounds to be distributed in premiums for the encouragement of the turbot fishery by British subjects, so that from these two fertile sources, we may hope to derive two capital national advantages, the employing of a great number of seamen in time of peace, and the forming a considerable nursery of these useful subjects, who may be called forth, by proper encouragement, to the service of their country, in time of public danger.

Having now given an account of the most important proposals that the Society have carried into execution since the year 1756, independent of their printed list of premiums, I shall briefly state the signal advantages the public have derived from the premiums and bounties given by this Society in pursuance of their plan, as far as they have come to my knowledge, distinguishing the improvements actually made in each class: proposed to be encouraged, and first

IN THE ANCIENT AND USEFUL ARTS  
OF AGRICULTURE AND HUS-  
BANDRY.

THE Society have constantly offered honorary premiums of gold and silver medals, for planting of Acorns, Chesnuts, Elms, Firs, and Weymouth Pines, in different quantities, and for fencing and preserving the same effectually, in order to raise timber, so essential for the service of the navy, and wood for domestic uses in building, &c.

The great utility of the cultivation of these trees is so obvious, and indeed has been so well conceived by our nobility and gentry, that it will be sufficient to remark that the premiums have been claimed from time to time, by persons of the highest distinction, the first of which has been already noticed.

The cultivation of madder which is a root of great use in dying, has been encouraged



by the Society's premiums from the first year of their institution; it was formerly planted in England in great quantities, but of late years had been wholly discontinued, the Dutch having constantly supplied us with this valuable article, and it is computed that the imports of Madder from Holland have amounted for some time past to 200,000 pounds *per annum*; but under the sanction of the Society the growth of this plant is revived, and very large quantities are now cultivated by sundry persons in different parts of this kingdom, one person in particular has planted 29 acres, and the premiums offered by the Society are regularly claimed, so that in a very short time we shall have no occasion to send to Holland for a vegetable, which will thrive as well in our own country.

The other articles in husbandry which have been encouraged by the Society are, the raising apiaries for which both honorary and pecuniary premiums are offered, the quantity required for the first premium being

being eighty pounds, is no less than four hundred stocks in hives or boxes, and before the Society threw out these premiums no person ever thought of possessing such a stock of bees---Several sorts of fodder, particularly Lucerne, have been cultivated with great success, and lastly, Hemp, the growth and preparation of which in this kingdom for the making of sail-cloth and cordage, is of very considerable importance, has been greatly encouraged, and the premiums claimed in several counties.

### POLITE ARTS.

THE Society set out with giving premiums for drawings by boys and girls; these have since been extended to various ages, and to different kinds of drawing too numerous to specify in this place, and honorary premiums of gold and silver medals have been established, and claimed, for drawings by young ladies, the daughters of peers and peeresses.

Through

Through the encouragement given by the Society to this Art, drawing is become a branch of education ; and as a great many of our Manufactures which depends on correctness and elegance of design, are annually exported to foreign countries, the improvement of these, which will be the result of encouraging our youth to learn this Art, must in time prove a national advantage.

In the year 1757, premiums were offered for modelling, which are still continued, and this Art has been greatly improved amongst us : several excellent specimens in clay, and in wax, having been presented to the Society, in consequence of their premiums, the great benefits arising from the improvement of this Art, to the statuaries, sculptors, &c. is too well known to require a detail.

Etching and engraving, and casting in bronze, all of which have their various well known uses, have been considerably improved under the sanction of this Society, and premiums for these articles are still offered.

In

In 1758, premiums were published for the encouragement of the medalic art, and the subjects proposed and executed have been, some of the most glorious events of the late war: as these medals are struck from steel dies, an extensive benefit is derived from improvements in this branch, which is not known in general; a variety of articles in hard ware, as Etwees, Seals, &c. of which vast quantities are exported are likewise struck from steel dies, and therefore all improvements of them must prove beneficial to these Manufactures by increasing the variety of designs or patterns.

History and landscape painting have likewise been encouraged and also statues and basso relievo's in marble, by which many young artists and some masters have been induced to produce such performances in each branch, as have done honor to the Society under whose sanction they have been produced.

Engraving on gems has been encouraged with success; and several other articles of

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inferior note, but which are all useful in their kind.

## CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY AND DYING.

PREMIUMS have been offered for fundry preparations and improvements in these very useful arts; and are still continued, those which have been particularly improved or established, and for which premiums have been paid are, Verdigris used by the Dyers, the making of which from British materials has been so far established to the satisfaction of the Society, that the premium is discontinued. White enamel in imitation of the Venetian, has been produced, and a manufactory established in England, in consequence of the premiums thrown out for this article.

Premiums have likewise been claimed for improvements in dying cloth and silk in grain, and for dying cotton scarlet, or crimson in grain, and to answer the purposes

poses of the Turkey or India red. Specimens of improvements of Varnish to answer the ends of Martin's at Paris, have been brought in for the premium offered for this article, and are now under examination; and also a composition to prevent steel from taking rust; the making Salt Petre of Pig and bar Iron, Sal Ammoniac, a substitute for Borax, &c. are subjects for which premiums are offered under this head, and it is not to be doubted but that considerable improvements will be made in every branch of these commerical arts.

### M E C H A N I C S.

THE first articles in this class which the Society encouraged by premiums were improvements in wind and water Mills, models of which have been produced to the Society, and are kept in their repository.

Premiums were likewise offered for improvements in spinning wheels, and this

year a complete spinning wheel has been produced with which one person may spin six threads at a time, and it will prove very serviceable to several of our Manufactures by saving a number of hands; but an article of much greater consequence lately brought to perfection is, the erecting of a saw Mill for sawing of planks, the model of which has lately been purchased by the Society for one hundred pounds, and is now lodged in their repository, this machine is worked by water and carries sixteen saws, from this model various Mills may be constructed for the same purpose.

Bounties have also been granted for several useful inventions and improvements in Mechanics, which have from time to time been laid before the Society, particularly improvements in reels for winding silk, a new invention of a machine for planing cast Iron, esteemed very curious and useful; and several other things of less consequence: to this cursory review of the Society's success

cess in the pursuit of the first part of their plan, the encouragement of Arts, I have only to add, that they have a repository consisting of a variety of models, machines, &c. some of which have been presented to the Society, others have been deposited in consequence of their premiums and bounties; and several have been purchased of the inventors or improvers for the benefit of the public; and as this repository is continually increasing either by donations from gentlemen, or in consequence of premiums and bounties, they may in time form a collection equally useful and extensive.

The second branch proposed to be encouraged by this Society is,

## MANUFACTURES.

SEVERAL valuable Manufactures have been improved and some actually established through the patronage of this Society. In the year 1755, premiums were offered for making buff leather for the use



the army, in consequence of which bullocks hides were dressed in oil, and were found to be as good as the hides of buffaloes imported from abroad: lord Romney introduced the use of this leather among the Kentish militia, and it has since been approved by several regiments.

In 1756, the Society offered a premium for making carpets in England in imitation of those made in Turkey and Persia, which have been brought to very great perfection by Mr. Moore in Chiswel street Moorfields, who produced to the Society a carpet in many respects equal and in some superior to those imported from Persia and Turkey.

A manufactory of crucibles made of English materials, has been established by Mr. Leiberick in Westminster, in consequence of a premium published by the Society for that purpose.

Marbled paper which has hitherto been imported from Holland, chiefly for the use of booksellers and stationers, has been brought to such perfection this present year,

year, as in every respect to equal the Dutch, and the first premium offered for this article has been claimed by and granted to the Manufacturer who resides at Exeter.

Paper for rolling press printing has likewise been considerably improved by means of the encouragement given by this Society, the French excel in this article, and their impressions from copper plates are more perfect than ours, but we have lately manufactured a quantity of this paper nearly equal in quality to the French.

Quilting in the loom in imitation of Marseilles or India quilting, has been established in this country and brought to great perfection, under the patronage of the Society, and the premium has been claimed and adjudged.

The making of flowers of point lace, after the manner of Brussels lace, having been encouraged, great improvements have been made therein, and the premiums have been claimed and granted.

Pri-

Premiums have been published for making chip hats which have thereby been considerably improved, and the premiums have been granted accordingly.

Also great encouragement has been given to the Manufacturers of druggets, specimens of which were produced so excellent in their kind, that the premium is discontinued.

These are the principal Manufactures that have flourished under the sanction of the Society, and have rendered this part of their plan of equal utility with the encouragement of Arts.

The encouraging of improvements in Arts and Manufactures, has so direct a tendency to the support of Commerce, that little remains to be said on this head, which completes the plan of our laudable Society, however, several articles in

## C O M M E R C E.

HAVE been greatly improved by means of their premiums, especially in our colonies.

The planting of white mulberry trees, whose leaves are the proper food for silk worms, has been promoted by premiums, and great quantities of Cocoons, *being little balls or bags on which the inclosed silk worms have spun the silk*, have been produced to the Society's correspondents in the colonies who have paid the premiums that have been claimed for this article.

The importation of raw silk from the colonies has likewise been promoted by premiums which are still continued.

A premium is also offered for producing wines in our American colonies, and some samples have been sent over of both red and white, which were greatly approved of in the Society, but as the time for granting this premium does not expire till 1765, we  
may

may expect further improvements, and that such wines will be produced as shall deserve the reward of one hundred pounds.

The cultivation of hemp, of the olive and cinnamon trees, of aloes, safflower, &c, in the colonies, is encouraged by suitable premiums, and various other articles to be imported from thence; amongst which the importation of pearl-ash has been effected this present year, though not in such large quantities as to merit the premium, but the proprietor has been honored with the Society's gold medal, in consideration of what he has already done towards promoting their intentions with respect to this commodity.

And so large a field is opened in the colonies, for carrying on the laudable designs of this Society, that it is impossible to set bounds to the advantages that may one day arise, from affording this encouragement to our fellow subjects in America, especially if it be considered that our possessions in north  
America

America are so extensive that they include almost all the different climates of the world, and there is the greatest reason to imagine that most of the spice trees, plants and other valuable articles which at present are peculiar to the east, may be cultivated in the west.

Having now given an account of the principal public advantages arising from the premiums and bounties granted by the Society for the encouragement of ARTS, MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE,

I have only to add, that this respectable body at present consists of between two and three thousand members, and that their proceedings are carried on with the utmost candor, propriety and decorum by means of a well digested set of rules and orders, which are printed for the use of the Members, the substance of which, I shall endeavour to comprize in as few words as possible.

THE OFFICERS of this Society are, the president, the vice-presidents, of whom  
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there are ten, the Secretary, assistant secretary, register and collector, these are chosen annually by ballot. The election of a new member is likewise by ballot, he may be proposed by a member, at any meeting of the Society, and be balloted for at the next meeting, when if two thirds of the members then present ballot in his favour, he is deemed a perpetual member on payment of twenty guineas, or a subscribing member on payment of any sum not less than two guineas, so long as such payment is annually continued.

Their meetings are held in their great room opposite Beaufort buildings in the Strand, and they meet every Wednesday at six in the evening precisely, from the second Wednesday in November to the last Wednesday in May, and in the intermediate time on the first and third Wednesday in every month, these are called ordinary meetings, besides which, there are eight general meetings every year; and some occasional extraordinary meetings.

When

When the Society is fitting, the president or presiding member conducts the business of the evening agreeable to the book of rules and orders which lies on the table before him : the business begins with reading the minutes of the preceeding meeting, which being once read, are on a second reading to be discussed if necessary, article by article, before any other subject is considered, all the minutes which are not objected to on the second reading stand confirmed : after this the reports from committees are read, and agreed to or disapproved ; unless a motion is made and seconded to postpone the reports, in order, to introduce any new proposition, which cannot be received after ten o'clock, if such motion so seconded is carried by a majority of hands held up in support of it, then the new proposition is immediately considered, being first delivered at the chair in writing, and in this, and all other cases, the greatest freedom of debate is allowed, and carried on with the utmost decency and candor,



every member being patiently and attentively heard without interruption, unless he departs from any order of the Society, or speaks more than once, to the same question, which is not permitted, unless a gentleman has been misunderstood, and desires to explain himself: when any member speaks, he stands up and addresses himself to the gentleman in the chair and the rest remain silent, no limitation of time is prescribed to the speaker, but few exceed ten minutes, except on very extraordinary occasions, and most gentlemen for the satisfaction of so large an auditory, speak as audibly as possible.

There are nine standing committees and two chairmen to each committee, besides which there are occasional committees for miscellaneous subjects: to these committees are referred, the several subjects properly falling under their consideration, as letters, to the committee of correspondence, Polite Arts, to the committee of Polite Arts, &c. and every member

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ber is of every committee, though particular gentlemen are nominated to each committee.

These are the principal regulations that have not been already noticed in the course of this narrative, which I cannot more aptly conclude than with a sincere and fervent prayer “ that this most free and independent Society, instituted FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, may long continue to do honor to its patrons, and that its present most excellent plan with all possible improvements may be handed down to posterity, and by them be sacredly revered, and firmly upheld with the rest of those inestimable privileges, which have rendered us superior to all the nations of the earth.”

F I N I S.

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F I N I S

