

CHAP. v.

Of fences, digging the ground for beanes & pastneps; the particular vse of y^e. roote.

The fences vsed in this Island are farre differing from those in other parts, being made of solid earth raised a good height, with a ditch of each side in y^e. manner of a bank or rampier, soe high that in some parts of y^e. Island a man with a staff in his hand three foot long can not reach to y^e. top. These are made with a Jersey spade, not hollowe of one side & conuexe of y^e. other, as in England, but flatt & euen throughout; wherewith labourors soe nimbly & artificially handle & place y^e. earth, y^e. it incorporats into a firme mud-wall, soe smooth that being newe made it appears to the eye as glazed all ouer. When they have raised it within a foot of its due height they take white thorne of two or three yeares old, which they haue of their owne or buy it at easy rates, & lay it flat in a rowe upon y^e. top of y^e. fence crossewaye & that of both sides alike, each thorne distant not about foure or five inches from the other, & then couer the roote with newe earth from the bottom of y^e. ditch, a foot high, leauing of y^e. yong thorne but very litle without; which they carefully clipp euen with y^e. side of y^e. fence. This worke is to be don in y^e. beginning of y^e. spring while it is yet planting time, & it failes not to growe in few years into a thicke hedge sufficient to keep out any thing from breaking into y^e. ground within it. To produce that infinite store of thornes w^{ch}. is requisite for this vse, & w^{ch}. is made vse of yearly, they take about October or November of y^e. hawes or red berryes growing plentifully upō

thornes one or more bushells, & lay them drye three or foure foot deepe into the ground in a trodden place, first a lay of hawes of some two inches thicke, & then a lay of earth & soe continuing lay after lay, till all y^e hawes be in. Then couering all with earth at least two foot ouer them, they tred it soe as y^e raine may not penetrate through it, & soe leave them from Novemb^r (which is y^e moneth for this worke) till y^e beginning of y^e spring not of y^e next, but y^e other after, viz: about sixteene moneths; & then they haue a care about y^e end of Feb^r. or beginning of March to obserue when the thorne begins to shoote. And y^e is y^e nick of time to take it up; for then it begins to stirre & not before. It being taken vp, they sowe it very thick into squares or beds fittly prepared, & couer it with straw for y^e birds: and those are their nurseryes for thorne. The spades aboue spoken of are edg't & sharp with steele, smooth & kept as bright as a knife, & light to the hand; wherewith they with ease not onely lift vp great spadefulls aboue their heads, & dawbe the fence & make it as smooth as if it had ben don wth morter by y^e hand of a Mason, but likewise soe firme & strong as to last at least forty or fifty years, without any great decay. With these spades they likewise digg their grounds for all kinds of rootes, yea for pease & beanes & many times for wheate alsoe: & are soe nimble at it, that one labourer in a winter day will digg of well condition'd ground about foures* perches, rods or poles, every Perch reckoned at foure & twenty foot. In their waye of tillage they constantly obserue this order. After that their ground hath rested foure, fve or six yeares, they manure it with ashes, dung or Vraic, & most often with two of these, & soe breake it before Christmas, & plough & sowe it in March & Aprill either with three moneths wheate or some sort of barley; the second yeare they againe manure it, & sowe it with barley & three moneth wheate mixt together, or barley & rye, or single rye, as it seemes best to them, then y^e third yeare they leaue y^e plough & betake themselves to y^e spade, if y^e ground be any thing deepe, & therein plant beanes by rowes fve or six beanes deep, which are planted

or sett by women, who make holes with a picquet or pointed pecco of wood with the right hand & plant y^e beanes with the left, taking them by handfulls out of their apornes & letting them fall into the picquet holes one by one, soe nimbly that one woman will plant thirty perches or rods in a day. The beanes being sett they oucr sowe them with pastnep-seed, putting one sixtonnier for Ten Perches (the sixtonnier is y^e twelu'th part of a Winchester bushell, & a perche 24 foot). Many times they sett pease among y^e beanes: for then as the beanes growe & become strong they become supporters to y^e pease, by which meanes a fewe pease will beare a double proportion: & when both pease & beanes haue ben cutt downe & remoued, y^e pastneps, which remain behind, being watered by y^e showres which fall in August & September growe to their perfection, which consisteth not in being soe bigg, as are to be seene in kitchin gardens, but at least as pleasant & savoury. These they digg vp & boyle, not whole but cutt into small bitts; then mixing therewith good store of butter & Varince they make of them good wholesome food for all y^e moneths of Octō & Novemb, & seldome or neuer after Christmas. For then they become of sweeting tast, not very acceptable to y^e palate; & they wonder when they heare that in England they are not eaten but in Lent. But it is not the least benefitt they haue by those parstneps, that therewith they fatten their hoggs, either by tying them vpon y^e field where they growe or by digging vp y^e pastneps & seruing them therewith, for it is found by certaine experience, that there is noe kind of roote or food whatsoever that fattens hoggs sooner, & with lesse charge. And though y^e leafe of y^e roote being eaten by kine giucs an vnpleasant tast to y^e butter, & appears alsoe in y^e tast of muttō fed therewith; neuerthelesse the roote itselfe doth noting* abate of y^e sweetnesse & goodnesse of porc or bacon.

Hauing cleered their ground very cleane of the remainder of pastneps, & then made it euen with a harrowe, they sowe it for y^e next yeare with wheate, then plough it vp, & soe they

are sure of a plentiful crop. The fifth yeare they sowe it with oates before Christmas, & sometimes with winter Rye; then lett y^e ground rest at least as many yeares, in which time it will bring forth very sweete grasse; & if y^e yeares be any thing moist, it will yeeld them excellent hay & in great plenty. In those arable grounds they pasture their kine, which afford them very delicate butter, much esteemed for tast & colour: but for chesse they make very little; & y^t which is made is subiect to growe drye & hard, if care be not taken to prevent it.