

Forest Perspectives

Given that this whole issue of Irish Forestry is a celebration of 100 years of Irish forestry, marking the opening of Avondale as a forestry school in 1904, it is illuminating to see why it was such a strong symbol of a new-found determination to begin in earnest the reforestation of Ireland after centuries of over-exploitation of the forest resource. Previous to the establishment of Avondale efforts had been made to reverse the declining area of tree cover, but they met with limited success

One of the principal actors in early running of Avondale, Arthur C. Forbes (appointed there as lecturer in 1906), traces the tree establishment story in his paper *Tree planting in Ireland during four centuries*, (reproduced here in full with the kind permission of the Royal Irish Academy), from the 17th to the 20th century. He clearly brings out the principal reason for tree planting was to 'make good the losses of many centuries of waste and exploitation'. Also traced is the scheme administered by the Dublin Society in the 1700s, the most effective effort at large scale tree planting before the beginning of the 20th century.

Forbes had the article published in 1932, when he had reached 67 years of age, and had the benefit of almost three decades of working in forestry in Ireland. In reading the article one senses that in his day there was more time for reflection on past events, and for learning from past experiences and policies. Certainly he would have searched extensively for examples of the growth of individual species when planning the species performance plots he established at Avondale. All of the exotics he came across in his searches were obviously planted; no doubt this aroused his interest in wider aspects of tree planting.

The article continues up to and beyond the setting up of Avondale, up to the early 1930s when afforestation and forestry practice was at last beginning to take on a determined and permanent character. He has many things to say which are surprisingly modern in content, the importance of private forestry, the usefulness of wood for fuel and the conifer v broadleaf debate was obviously well underway in the 1930s, given his discourse on that never-ending debate.

During the latter half of the eighteenth century entry into publication was not as easy as is today; many manuscripts that would have provided valuable insights into forestry thinking and practice have been lost. Fortunately Samuel Hayes was able to publish, in 1794 - one hundred and ten years before his own home was opened as a forestry school - his *Practical Treatise on Planting and the Management of Woods and Coppices*. He died only one year later, but his book went through several reprints, and a facsimile edition was published in 2003 by New Island, sponsored by The Irish Tree Society. This enduring interest in Hayes's work is an indication not only of its historic interest, but the freshness of much of the advice in the treatise, based, as he points out, on practical experience in establishing and managing forests over several decades.

A quarter of a century earlier, in 1769, and as a relatively young man, Hayes undertook a journey through England and recorded his experiences in a journal which Nicola Jennings has come into possession of, and has transcribed into the paper that is published here for the first time, some 235 years later. Like the treatise, many of the

issues it deals with are still with us, not least the observation that “Deer have been so prejudicial to trees since the Rage of Planting has prevailed many People have Dispair’d.”

Throughout the piece there is a keen interest in the landscape and how this can be ‘improved’ by species selection and forest management. Students of Avondale will be intrigued by his description of woodland walks on the estate, predating the present forest paths by more than two centuries. Admittedly Hayes’s paths would be far less trodden than those of today, confined as they were to the landed gentry of the time.

The journal shows his deep interest in, and strong opinions on practical issues such as coppice management, fencing and underplanting. Together with his interest in the landscape, the concept of multifunctional forestry had an early advocate and practitioner in Samuel Hayes.

Editor

Journal of Samuel Hayes

Foreword

The Journal of Samuel Hayes was given to me by my grand uncle, Captain Archibald Mateer. His mother Olivia, after the death of her first husband, married John Howard Parnell, elder brother of Charles Stewart Parnell. Consequently, on her death, Captain Mateer inherited a number of items which had originated in Avondale, home of Samuel Hayes and subsequently of the Parnell family. Among them was the Journal.

The Journal consists of part of a tour through England. Hayes described it as “not kept regularly”. It opens on Sunday June 11th 1769. Hayes was en route to Richmond, his intention being to view the King’s Garden and Kew. On Monday June 19th he left London travelling west towards Bristol. He first visited West Wycombe House, at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, the estate of Lord le Despencer, which he described in detail. From there he travelled through Oxford and Witney to Cirencester, where he spent a few days viewing Lord Bathurst’s extensive Improvements, including the Great Park. He then visited the estate of the Duke of Beaufort and Badminton.

Finally he arrived at Bristol where from the Banks of the River Avon he viewed the mouth of the Severn and the King Road. He visited Mr Farr’s Belvidere, near the Hott Wells, and the copper works at Keynsham. Travelling by ferry from Aust to Beachley on Friday the 7th July he went on to Chepstow, his destination being Mr. Morris’ Improvements at Piercefield.

Throughout the journey he compared everything, using praise or criticism, with his home at Hayesville, which from 1770 he called Avondale. There he planted with dedication. Though most of his original trees have long since fallen, their descendants still remain.

Nicola Jennings

Nicola Jennings is a qualified librarian who has had a number of short stories published. She has contributed to Sunday Miscellany (RTÉ) on John Parnell, father of Charles Stewart Parnell, as well as on Avondale.

Journal of Samuel Hayes June - July 1769

Continuation of a Journal of our Tour through England not kept Regularly only as matter of any Entertainment or Particular curiosity occurs.

Sunday Morning June 11th 1769. We continued our Route towards Richmond having in vain attempted to see Esher which the servant said he dare not shew without ticketts from Miss Pelham. We were not very eager as nothing has been done there this long time and the House (a fine old Gothic one) is to be seen in the approach to Esher from Weybridge.

I should mention that we walkd from the White Lyon Inn at Esher to Mr. Pelham's thro' Mrs Greening's nursery the finest and most extensive nursery, Grape House or Rather Town Melonry etc. etc. I ever beheld or is to be beheld in England. The Grapes were in full ripe clusters. He had sent many Bunches to London. The Melons in Plenty full ripe - the finest kind of cantaloupes. Yet all these in Brick framed Beds of an immense lenth but with Partitions in some I observed. I believe the beds were (...) 6 feet long between the Partitions and about (...) or 9 wide. I had so often heard of the Difficulty of Raising Melons without (lining) with Dung to keep up the Heat etc that I could not help being very Desirous to gett as much of his art as in Decency I could. In short our Blockheads lose the best of the season for Ripening Melons. They cannot be persuaded to sow the seeds early enough. May is often the Hottest weather and freest from rain of any month in the year and it is not till September they can be persuaded to have our melons in a way to Receive the Benefitt of warm weather. He told me he had nothing but Dung I said how could he keep up the Heating. He showed me very obligingly his manner. It is to make the Bed at the near side of the frame about five wide. Here he first Plants the Melons and when their Vines extend he putts in Dung on the farr side in a warm day and so keeps up the Heat as He pleases till at lenth the whole Breadth of the frame is filled with Dung and the Melon Vines are extended over the whole Bed. Thus by his management he is freed from the trouble of Perishable (frames) and yett raises the Earliest Best MELONS of any man in England. His Oaks of all the foreign kinds one shilling each. His accassias very Reasonable, the Rose accassia for a shilling and the Expense of Bringing the trees to London is but 1/6 a parcel and putting them aboard the ship for Dublin.

Before I come to mention Richmond I must observe that the New Grotto making by Mr Hamilton with all sort of naturally Rustic wrought Stones – I know not how to Express myself Better will be very Pretty. It is under the arch of a Bridge where by Disposing of the odd fantastic stones in great open Arches and Broken caverns etc the whole has a mighty fantastique and Romantic appearance. I might have a Beautifull arch at Hayesville in the same way from the Rock under which the walk might pass and water conveyed over it to fall a great Hight. It would be very Beautifull if well Executed. Memorandum. In this case the Arch should rather appear way worn thro' a Rock than the smallest Remains of architecture which would be a Horrid Solecism in such a wild spott but if Executed here and there with Judgement would make the natural Romantic Rock still more surprising in their own way – but I fear Mr. Hamilton as all great geniuses

except when they have no further scope to Extend their fancy on are apt to run too farr with what they have. I fear I say he is falling into this Error and will over dress this fine Desmesne and run from ornamented nature to concetti. As he is now making a Grotto or a Recess under the Arch which is to have water works in it. Surely they will be most Ridiculous in such an Improvement and I fancy few would shut themselves up there to see a little miniature of a Pretty natural (scene), when they have so lovely a one Existing before them on stepping out of the Grotto.

We drove to Richmond to the King's Garden but were told they would not be open that day. They are now very seldom to be seen, we were greatly disconcerted and concluded woud also miss Kew but were agreeably Disappointed in our fears as we found they were to be seen. The collection of all species of trees is beyond anything in England. I had no notion of it as I was not so fond of trees when there before. The oranges were brought out of the Orangery and either Interspersed with the clumps of flowering shrubbs near the House or edging the Lawn Immediately near the Dwelling House. They are the tallest grafted oranges citrons etc., that I ever mett out of Italy. The Bay Leaved Portugal Laurel is a fine Plant. Now for what Kew is worthy of observations for Exclusive of the fine collection of Plants is the elegant laying out of a Dedd flat which tho' it can never Appear to the advantage of Pieces of ground (Varigat) with Hill and Dale by nature nor ever give its Viewer that Pleasure Resulting from such "Sweet Interchange" yett from that very Reason Displays the Skill of the Designer who out of so unpromising a piece of ground has found so fine a Place.

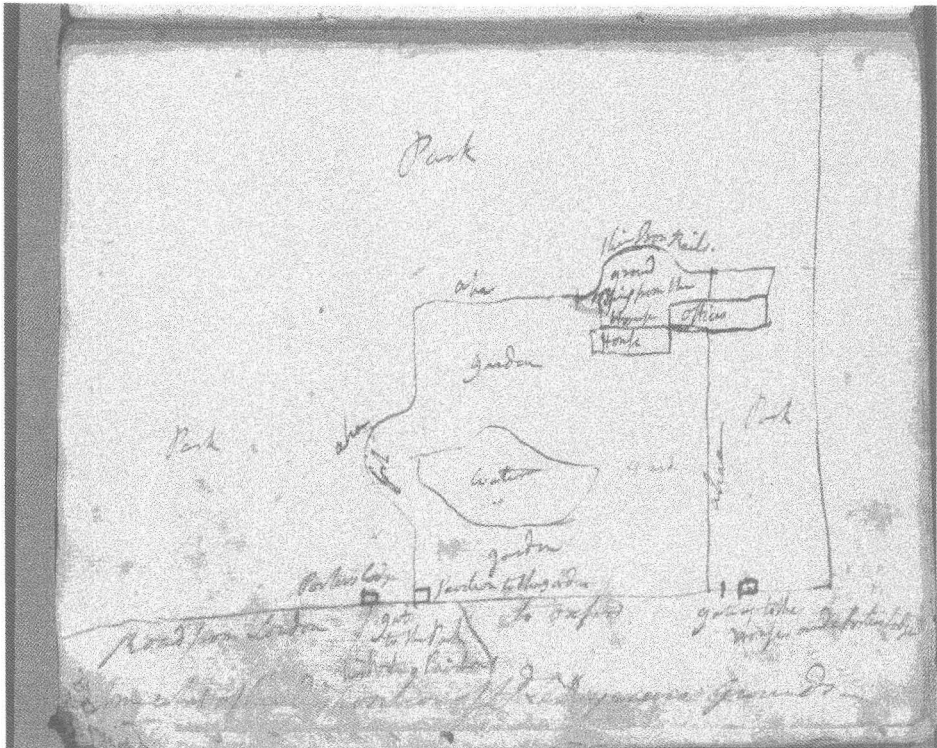
The Idea of the Disposition is this. The whole is divided and Intirely surround by sunk fences with a Rail in the Bottom of a sloping Ha Ha – there are three Lawns – the one next the House divided from the second by a piece of water. The next Divided from the third by a little Ridge of Land about a hundred yards Broad formd beside a still Higher Mount by the Earth taken from the Ha Ha I mentioned. This Ridge as I call it and the ground taken off the three Lawns by the sunk fence all Round is kept Intirely as the Pleasure Ground and may be in all I believe 30 acres. The whole is 150. The surrounding thirty acres comprehend every thing one can conceive in a Pleasure Ground. Little smooth Lawns scattered with the most curious Exotics, GreenHouse and its Lawn, flower garden, aviary and Basin of goldfish, Pheantry and above all a garden for the cultivation of every curious exotic too Valuable and tender for ornamenting the Improvements. Here are great water troughs to contain water Plants and artificial mountains of coarse stone on which are planted all mountain Plants. A collection worthy of the greatest Bottanical Society in the Universe. Here I saw this Large leaved Kalmia Blow the most Beautifull Plant I Ever beheld and I am told hardy as any of the American Plants. The Rhododendron is a very fine Plant the flower like a (...) Pink Peony. There is the Laurel leaved (Lisser?) and Purple Magnolia and the Umbrella Tree. In the open air amongst the Plants in the shrubbery are several Hemlock Spruce which when young look very Pretty. The Catalpa grow twenty feet High here and to my great satisfaction I found my favourite (I may call it) passage in an Improvement often Repeated viz. small Lawn scattered with Rare Large Growing Trees at the same time so surrounded that (...) were free from cold and storms. By this means you see the Perfect shape of these Exotic trees and manner of growing which is not to be found when they are thick Planted with

other Shrubs. These Little Lawns and the aviary gardens etc are all connected and surrounded by the thickest and best Planted shrubbery imagineable with a gravill path about 8 (...) Broad thro' it.

I took Particular notice of a Piece of about two acres laid out very Pleasingly so as to appear five times as Large as it really is. I attempt it on the other Page. I must observe that the Best Shrubberies are never dug amongst when once the trees gett about four feet High so as to kill grass and keep the ground amongst them fresh and moist. Trees in single Plantations viz. scattered on grass Lawns have always about a foot Dug around the stem which makes them thrive much better than letting the grass matt all about the Roots. The scattered trees at the Princesses tho' on that Part of the Lawn which was fenced from the cattle and (bound) in with the close shrubbery (...) all surrounded with three or six uprights and crosspoles at top or top and bottom so carefull are they for fear the sheep might gett at them tho' but for a moment.

Monday 19th of June. Left London for Bristol but determined to take Oxford in my way. I rode a grey mare I Bought from Monk Keeper of the Livery Stable near Hidepark Corner. I observed the culture of Peas and Beans as Mr Young mentions in his six weeks tour all nicely Earthed up with the Plow to their stems which supports them at the same time stirring the Earth does the crop a deal of good. This chiefly round Acton. I was delighted with fine clean crops of wheat round this town and Hayes. The Attentively fallowing for Beans or Turnips which Kill the weeds gives them a crop of Wheat that wants but Little weeding. On the whole there seems to be nothing in farming which we want more to introduce into Ireland than the Practice of those I may say friendly crops, Beans Turnips and Clover, which Properly managed Restore the ground to the Vigours other crops Exhaust it of. I think little of the Beauty of this part of England till you pass High Wickomb. It then becomes one of the most Desirable (scones) I ever beheld, Lovely Rich Vales finely swelling till they meet Beechwoods crowning every little Hill and in other places Extended along as great screens to the chalky Ridges which would otherwise disfigure the fertile Bottoms. Situate amidst these wooded Hills lies Lord Le Despencers Of West Wickomb. We went there from our Inne at High Wickomb Tuesday Morning as this is a place I was not at in my last tour and Highly merits a travellers attention. I shall be more minute in Describing it, than I have been with I hope others mentiond by me in the little account I took of what I saw when last in England.

In approaching Ld. Le Despencers from London you pass by the gate of this Park which lies between two Pavilions Built uniformly but for Different Purposes, one being a Lodge for the Gate Keeper at the Park, the other a Pavilion in his garden which is separated from the Park by a sunk fence. You Pass by a terrace in the garden formed only by the Banking up of the Earth with a stout wall to the Road here you catch Views of the Buildings etc in the Improvements which gives the traveller an Idea that there is something great within. I do not Recollect that the Terras I mention to the Road is one of the walks you are carried thro' the Garden but only that the walker if he Pleases may take a view of it. Which here and there is more agreeable to the traveller than the custom too much Prevailing of shutting a Place up from Public View in all places with an Immense wall, screen of trees etc which I think too selfish. But a traveller has still more



Lord Despencer's improvement at Cirencester.

to amuse him from the munificence of Ld. Le Despencer than the Peeps of the garden I mentioned. He has on the top of a very steep hill over the town an object very striking tho' I think not as Elegant as might have been built for the same Purpose. It is a Mausoleum seemingly a sixsided Building with arches and Pilasters richly ornamented. At the Back is the church with a tolerably Pretty Steple but the Hill on which they stand is in itself a fine object, Smoothly Dressed, very steep and sprinkled over with Scots Fir and Yew which seem to have been transplanted about twenty years and were then great trees. These are scattered as by the Hand of Nature and numerous flocks amongst them unhurt it seems by the Yew and the Dress of Ground form a nice contrast to the other Hills in View closely covered with wood. I must here observe that I always thought a fine smooth Hill most Beautifully ornamented when its sides were just scattered with single trees and its top alone close covered with woods. If a Building is added just before you come to the summitt if the trees and top are not great or on the summit in that case it becomes one of the grandest objects that Imagination can paint. Just at the foot of this Hill lies the Porters Lodge which lets you into a field thro' which you ascend to the House which lies on the top of it but more to the Left in the Gardens which are Parted from this field as from the Park by an Aha.

This field seems a continuation of the Park Round the House and Gardens. There are great alterations making in this approach which is now to be brought to the End of the House which is new Fronting - There are an abundance of Offices Built a stableyard for its neatness struck me in a Perfect square surrounded by Low Buildings of Brick with flint Rustics frieze etc. which are better than any wrought stone. This contains nothing but stabling and four coach houses. There is no Lofts over the stables. The yard seems 20 yards square not more certainly and I observed as a singularity there was no continued Rack before the Horses only a great nich before Each Horse and a Rack just to front that nich I suppose three feet or three feet and half of Rack to Each Horse. The Rack did not reach quite as high as the nich so the Hay was throw (sic) in over it. This in a narrow stable if the walls were thick woud be a very good way - The scene Immediately before the garden front of the House is one of the most Beautiful home (scones) (not an Extended Prospect) I ever saw. The Hill with the mausoleum backs the scene to this - to the front a Piece of water, Backed with high trees and curiously concealed as to size and winding amidst wood and wooded islands with a Small Vessel completely Riggged but too great and too much of a Sea Vessel to give Pleasure on a moments Reflection tho certainly very Pretty on the first glance of the Eyes. To the Right Plantations are opening to the Deer Park covered with Deer and Sheep and backed by Hills crowned with Beechwood, which are the natural Product of this country opening here and there into dales fringed on the sides as far as the eye can reach give the whole a warmth of Picturesque Beauty that I scarcely know to be Excelled anywhere in the compass it takes in. The other front of the House is confined more as the House is on the side of a Hill one front of consequence can see no farther than the ground sloping to it Pleases to lett it as with us as Hayesville, and here I cannot help observing that I never beheld a Place so like ours as this front of Ld. Le Despencers with Respect to situation. He has his Deerpark coming just where our Lawn comes cross the windows. This is fenced by a stone faced aha from the House about three feet Deep and on it the most slender Iron Rails with Iron Wire between them to keep out the Horses. The rails are about three quarters of an Inch Broad and not above a third of an Inch thick. I mention this as an Excellent way of making Iron Rails where the prospect is to (be) taken in - as these flat Rails sett Edgeways to you interrupt not the sight the Least when painted Blue Especially. Between this little fence from the Deer Park and the House is a space about twice the size of our Lunette Deep'd artificially as that is to cause a little fall from the House but not with the sudden steep Rise as ours was injudiciously done but gently Sloping up to the Deerpark and spotted with flowering Shrubs. The front to this Rising ground is to the south and quite Italian, two Loggias one over the other. The offices are all on one side and contrived as I Laid them out for a new House at Hayesville viz. just touching one Corner so as to be (...) with the House and at the same time leave four fronts in the garden. I must remember that one End forms a sort of Garden Building when Viewed from the garden. Four fine columns and a pediment I forget what order. The walk from his House carries you on a sort of terrace Round the Pleasure Ground Banked up by a wall which keeps in the deer. This aha'd Park is a very Beautifull circumstance and makes the Gardens appear at once with the grandeur of a Park and the sweetness and neatness of a Shrubbery. I took notice of a Building in the Park like a little

Shepherds House which I thought had wheels under it. On Enquiry the man who Attended us told me it was called a Rambler and presented to Lord Le Despencer by the Late Duke of Cumberland to drive where you please to a pleasant spot and unfold out of its wagon to screw up and roof with sailcloth. It held twenty Persons and two servants – and makes a Pretty Object wherever placed. The Aha Round the gardens is carried Round in one part like a fort and Planted with small ship cannon which when fired amidst the surrounding hills I mentioned make an Echoing thunder (...) to Natural.

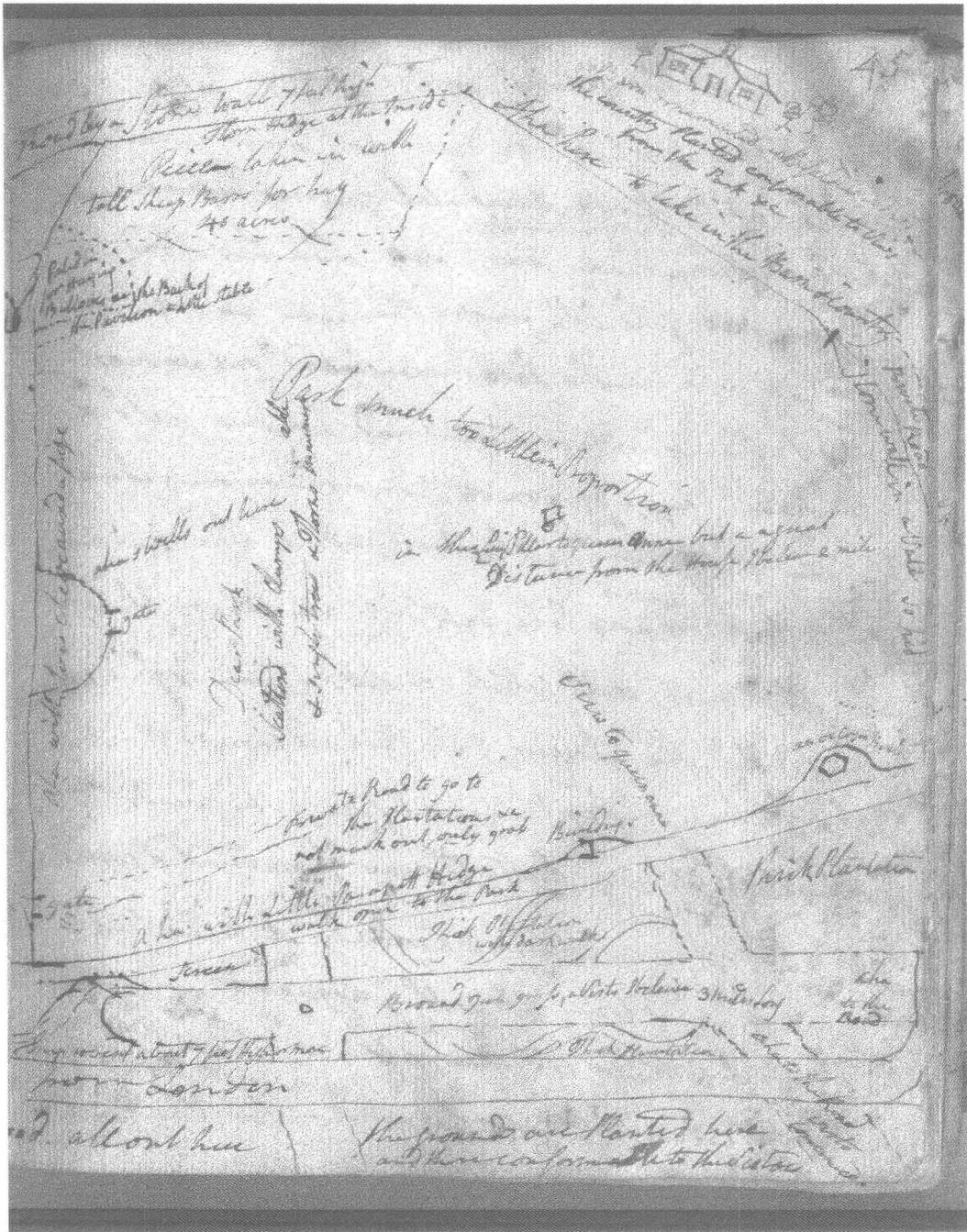
We dined at Letsworth, an ugly country and Bad Dinner and got into Oxford half past five in Tuesday evening.

Oxford just as I left it. The people as usual wanting me to stay for their fine Doings this week viz. an Oratorio which as they seldom have anything above a common concert appears to them great as a crowned heads Masquerade or what you will. They are surely the most confined poor beings the townspeople that I ever mett with in my life. We were politely Entertained at a Breakfast and at tea by FitzGibbons and Henry (McWards) And Jack Foster supped with us on Wednesday night.

On **Thursday morning** I sett out for Cirencester, horrid road to Whitney and the tolls – at Each gate as tho' they mended the whole with Pearl dust. Nothing Remarkable in the country Except that Every spot is Enclosed with Stonewalls here. Stone as plenty as it is scarce elsewhere and this vein of Stone Land reaches above forty miles. It is a short whitish Stone Resembling that in Bally(..)duff quarry Particularly in the gravel (...) as it is calld by The Mannings Gate and the soil in general Exactly Resembles the county of Wicklow this quarry of a Rottenish stone being everywhere within ten or twelve inches of the surface. The surface (...) - the walls are mostly Dry. Indeed I may say all dry and generally coped with dry stones sett Edgeways. They are built Battering from two feet to twenty inches and about 4–6 inches high. Plenty of fine Beans in them. Great common tillage fields most of these sett with the Hand Dibble and Garden Line. I am sure I saw some Hundreds of acres together sett in this manner. They use four Horses in a line to their Plows which are large which Plows but all very neatly the land chiefly flat or in great Broad Worcestershire Ridges as Broad as Each man's Piece within common fields – (they) never (...) up a whitethorn and sow (...) pretty much which on this stony ground grows to perfection. The Blossoming of the grapes like a fine Bed of flowers-Broad Lands or quite flatt and only a little furrow where the Division of two mens share required it or swelling up in the Worcestershire manner seems to be the general Tillage of all those Parts of England I have seen where there are great tracts of corn land together and (that) chiefly what is called (...). Narrow lands with High close county of Killdare Ridges I have chiefly seen in Hertfordshire and just above London in fields (entirely) Private Property. These last look neatest the Broad swelling lands most noble Luxuriant and bespeaking a fine corn country.

We arrived in Cirencester about half past three and here Please God I purpose to Remain till I am Perfect master of Lord Bathurst's Extensive Improvement.

I waited only to eat my Dinner and Immediately after it went to see what they call the Home Park. I found it contrived the Best I Ever mett with to unite the Beauty of gardening with the advantage and ornament of a Deer Park. The garden takes in the Deer more perfectly than most Improvements take in their sheep and other Domestic cattle –



this was a work I was particularly desirous of understanding as I thought sometime or other I might make it useful to myself or Friends. Deer have been so prejudicial to trees since the Rage of Planting has prevailed many People have Dispair'd, Imagining a young Plantation and Deer Incompatible, so they would be or a young plantation and any of his cattle if we fenced out trees no better than we usually see gentlemens plantations fenced in Ireland. We in the county of Wicklow who keep the mountain sheep can never Expect a good Plantation if we do not fence full as securely as against English Deer. Their sheep here are so amenable that a Boy can manage hundreds. As I was so desirous of knowing how Lord Bathurst's Deer were kept in full view and seeming without any fence to the garden it may be well imagined I received great pleasure at finding the fence was simply a little wall four feet High facing an Aha of that Depth. The ground next the Park finely sloped off. On the top of this little Aha was a well kept quick Hedge about three feet high clip'd neatly and very thick as I had seen at Mr. Symes's of Ballybeg. The Earth thrown out of the Aha was thrown back so as to Raise the Bank Higher and by that means formed a walk more Elevated Drier and nearer the top of the Hedge consequently less apparent fence here and there where opens were necessary to unite the Pleasure Ground with the Park the Hedge was omitted and the Aha sunk another foot and had near the top of the wall a little cheveaux a frize against the Deer which made the Aha greater than a Plain six foot wall. A Walk thus Bounded by a Parapett Hedge to the Park and by tall Trees shrubs etc on the other Hand to hide the Inequality of the ground continues nearly the lenth of the Park to the Right hand side of the House. Behind the screen are Dark walks meandering thro' them so that even in this one side of the Home Park from the House you may go a mile and a half open to the South and the Park or wind for that lenth thro' thick covered walks only here and there coming out into Views of the Park (..) this at the side. What connects the Park to the Lawn immediately before the House is a sunk stone faced Aha with small cheveaux du frize and no Hedge. What forms the third side of this Park viz. opposite to what I have just mentioned is a Plain stonewall screened by Plantations etc not seen at all but overlook'd to the adjacent country. The fourth square I haven't yett gone so cannot say how it is Disposed of. The whole with outside the Plantation is Enclosed with the finest dry stone wall I ever saw – the stones thin very Broad and even like tiles. It is I believe 8 feet High not coped with Lime but a Broad flag on the top. The great Plantations called the Great Park are all surrounded with a stone wall. In the Lawn adjoining the House I observed a Remarkable whim of my Lords in planting his scattering trees he putts down thorn quick and thick as my thumb with every forest tree. This soon makes a guard Round the trees to Prevent the Rubbing of cattle when the stocks Round the trees decay I saw the same has been Practised in the Park with good success and small clumps made in which thorns have been thickly Planted as shelter and Defence to the other trees. The thorns I suppose taken out of the woods they look pretty while the trees are young in flower Round their stems and make a young tree a Better Object than its naked stem affords whilst so small as it must be when first Planted. I observed also a very Pretty mixture of Meadow and Pasture for when the trees were thickest. Bounding in many clumps several little Lawns I may call them in the great one behind the house which is (open in) of Different Vistoes.

One great one immediately fronting the House to the (...) of green and lesser side ones not formed of straight lined sides but Rather as accidental openings between

Patches of Plantation the ground amidst these trees I say where they stood thickest was (fild) with sheep - the Lawns amongst them showd so as a winding Path crossing in and out amongst shrubs and Plantations sometimes had a mowd field and sometimes sheep grazing on its side or one on one side and the other on the other. A shepherd indeed always attending with a Dog and Long Pole on which was a sharp chiggle like Instrument with which he cutts a weed or (fern) wherever he meets it. The keepers of the Park all carried the same. This Effectively keeps the ground free from weeds. There are many very Pretty Views terminated with seats which on approaching are only a Deception not near as Expensive as they appear.

Without the walls the grounds are clump'd or the single Planted as objects etc., for the Park and Gardens so that he has made his whole Estate a perfect garden subservient still (...) closer Improvements within the Wall.

I object to My Lord Bathurst's Planting in one Respect if so great a Planter may be censured by such a one as me. What I mean is in those Plantations which he means not to cutt his Planting though thick with trees which are not properly underwood which Produces numberless straws I may call them Equalling in hight the greater trees without thickness adequate to a Shrub three feet High. I hate any of these great tree species being made use of for underwood or used as thickening up clumps etc without a View of their ever coming to any good for this use there are Laurel Hostas Holly etc a hundred things which are Properly underwood. The country in general and especially the Park is very flatt which Destroys in a great measure the Effect of Improvements a quarter of what Lord Bathurst has done on an unfriendly spot would make a finer Place. Part of the quarries found here will burn to Lime but (...) is so dear that the Lime does not come under the price per Bushell without Drawing - I could not find much of Lord Bathurst's wall Built in the manner Mr. Whithead Described with a layer or mortar work in the middle all along. What is in general is a plain dry wall about 7 feet High Battered up. An Excellent flat but very thin stone which indeed you find quite from Detford across by Oxford Banbury Cirencester to Badminton. This serves them for most Excellent walls in common cutts easily like Bathstone for faces of Houses and the very thin ones they use as slates but very bad Rotten and heavy they are.

Friday Morning. We sett out in a Post Chaise for the Great Park as it is called which is only separated from the Home Park by the High Road and a (...) It contains natural wood, coppices, Plantations, sheep walk, corn etc etc., in the greatest perfection is a better and more Varied spot by nature for Improvement than the Home Park and I have drawn a little sketch of it. I shall say nothing of it further but that it is altogether a most noble profession. I believe full twenty miles of Riding on fine dressd grass walks thro' woods lawns etc in this (or great outwood) I shall mention hereafter. My Lord cutts about 45 acres a year which brings him in near £900. He has raised the value of his wood cent per cent within this thirty years. The Ridings thro' the thick Parts of the Starr of wood are winding and very beautifull. He leaves the adjacent shrubs and trees to these Ridings when he fells the coppice on their side by which you may ride as well sheltered as tho (...) side had not been cutt the number of (overstands) appearing over (...) side of the walks as a great wood. He fells the trees himself that there should be no Danger of the trees he wishes to stand being cutt and then sells the wood when fallen and makes the people who buy it pay for his cutting. On Returning from the centre of the great Starr in

the (...) we went to Alfred's Hall as he calls a Building in one of the (quarters) from an old tradition that Alfred signed a treaty with Cambratus or some such name. In this wood lies a Ruin with Gothic towers very well done mixed with Shrubbs to hide the Bare walls where they are not broken Battlemented etc. and a spot Inclosed of about six acres cleared of underwood firmly mow'd and great old Beech trees and some Oak spotting it. There is in the ruin contrived a little House for a wood ranger and a fine Room for Dining in. I must observe that the oak in general does not thrive here, which surprises me as the Beech grows to great perfection. The soil seems not very shallow but the (...) is. The quarry which is with about Eighteen inches and if the surface is a flat one and the Roots can not go down as they can with us on our slaty kind of quarries which lying Edgeways (they) Roots penetrate to a great Depth but I must observe here that both Beech and Ash thrive well. Returning home I gott out of the chaise and mounted my mare which I brought with me for the Purpose and rode off into the thick of the wood in order to see his manner of cutting etc., I got into a Vale on the Right side the Park between the two sides of Rising grounds covered with woods some newly cutt but long strips at the Vale side Remaining uncutt others left this 17 years to be cutt soon all of them full of good Reserves but the Beech which grows here naturally much the best. These Vales closing at last to about thirty yards wide and are just spotted with Oak or Beech single trees which I think with the Rising woods at each side form a most Delightfull scene for a contemplative Ride the ground for the space aforesaid a (.....) cutting trees being fairly Dressed. I would Recommend to every one who has either flats or Vales or glins amidst rising grounds in their woods but especially in their coppice woods to keep the ground amidst these Vales or Flatts as neat as possible the Rising ground then pickt coverd with Brussh and overstands will appear like Immense high woods and the fine Dress'd Plains will be sett off by those thick Boundaries. I can conceive how great an Improvement this single act woud be by that pleasure I felt in this Ride. In my Return I struck out of the Vale and gott myself Higher up nearer the wall which I must observe in general is covered with the natural coppice wood and where not is planted against most sedulously here I think into a delightfull winding Ride, the trees closely arching over me. Closely mixed with Hazel which made it very Dark and solemn. Of a (...) I found myself at the gate of a great open which proved a meadow of I believe twenty acres. A Broad close mowed Road thro' the middle of which opened into a field of Barley. The same Broad Road thro' it (...) into a field of Wheat and so on, clover etc. Many acres in Each Part till at last I found myself in the great Lawn by the farm House and so struck into a track which lead me to the Porter's Lodge. This opening from close Dark walks into this lovly kind of farm The Inclosures appearing like stripes of natural wood had a very Delightfull Effect not a little Hightened by the contrast of Light and Shade. In the Evening I again walked over the Home Park and Explored every Inch of it, but had not gone quite Round the outward Boundary to the left of the House. I Reckon it nothing if I cannot see all the Boundaries of an Improvement as this generally shows me how the Improver has managed his grounds better than the inside which is meant more for show – (Accordingly)

Saturday Morn. Finding it inclined to Rain I took that opportunity of Postponing our journey to Badminton and mounting my horse attacqued (sic) the Great Park once

more fully Determined the ten or twelve miles Round that I would see it all if Possible before I left it. I took the way to the place I had turned back from the day before but wandering a little out of it I came to an Inclosure with strong stake Hedge which by the way is made to great Perfection. Here wattled close at top as a Baskett and in the same wove figure as the tops of garden Basketts usually over a gate lett into it and I found it a young Plantation with some Evergreen Edging or rather topping a swell of ground from the Vale which was kept for sheeps walk with a Road Laid out thro' this plantation for a carriage to lead into the woods beyond it at the Distance of about the eighth of a mile or more. I have learned a most Excellent lesson for Planting of their soils especially where you plan a Driving thro' it or even a narrow walk. You Pare off the soil from the Road or walk and from every ten or twenty feet of the side leaving ten or twenty feet as you like untouched on which you throw what you Pared off the Rest, this triples the Depth of soil for the young trees who by the time their Roots spread to the Pared Place will be strong enough to (...) thro' the Poor ground in search of better that Poor however will be mended by the atmosphere, Dropping of Leaves etc., on the prepared (...) spotts you Plant a thick clump in order to be sure of two or three's growing. The rest are Either cutt away or transplanted after some time. The Intermediate spaces of ten feet are only what ought to be in the closed walks if twenty are open thro' which you may agreeably view what's beyond the Plantation Deer sheep cattle corn etc etc, etc., My Ride led me thro' vales with scattered trees in them as I mentioned and by several young Plantations which this fine old man with 85 years of his age is going on with Brisk as ever. All Inclosed with woven stake hedge, as there are no cattle in this whole Park but sheep of a quiet kind as all the English are a low one (...). All the Plantations some few things Excepted are of the skirting kind to great Lawns to fringe them with Drives thro' them and done in the manner just now mentioned. When I came to the other side the Park I got into other Vales such as before described and so by some Lawns clumped with young firs surrounded with Low Dry Stone Walls I came again to the great Lawn and thence to the Porter's Lodge well satisfied with five hours Riding without Ever once quitting a fine Turf. I am sure a man might Ride two days in these woods and never thread twice on the same ground, and gett full riding enough Each Day. The Different Vistos openings ridings etc are so numerous but tho the ten Vistos from the great starr open to Pretty Points of View (...) etc., yet still I cannot say nature had been Beneficent in the country. No River. No Distant Hills. Little or nothing above the Plain and Insipid. In the Evening I went again to the Home Park. I should have said that going out in the morning I Rode Round the back of it that I wanted so much to see the day before. Here I found the coarse kitchen ground and on the other side of the Road a piece of Hop Ground etc all tending to show that for Extensiveness Lord Bathurst had no bounds. The Aha which takes in a Barn and field or two before it into the Park and makes the Deer appear as just grazing at the House Door as the Back is ornamented, is well executed and a noble Design. This evening Saturday was the third I had been in the Home Park.

Sunday Morning. I sett out for Badminton but drove thro' the Great Park up to the round seat in the Starr and down a side Visto and out of the Great Park Gate next Tetbury and then Entered an outwood of My Lords with Ridings of three mile lenth cutt thro' them. Here I will leave a Blank to enter some things as they occur to me that I thought

when Viewing Trees, Parks etc., but now Escape my memory. Two things I must not forget in this country. The Badness of the Roads which indeed begin at Tetford in Oxfordshire and continue to (P...) near Badminton. They make a traveller pay an Immense Toll and afterwards nearly Break his neck tho there is some fine fields of (...) sown Broadcast which makes a lovely figure and is I believe the finest Pasturage Possible. I might add a third variety viz. wheat now about half the Hight of a field of Barley which the Post Boy assures me was to stand the next July twelvemonth the strangest time to sow wheat that ever man thought of and seems unnatural that any crop should pass by the natural time of coming in as this does. The Boy said that the ground was so poor it woud never come in early enough if not so managed. Here close adjoining was very fine fields of (..)

Sunday Evening. I walked up to the Duke of Beauforts great gate from our Inne thro' a Plantation that our Landlord lett me into at the Back of his House by a Private gate from whence we continued Inclosed in the Plantation up to the great gate. I believe about a mile and half or Better the fault to this fine Plantation was want of openings to Views which however I must say the country is too flatt here to Enjoy in any perfection however a fine sheep walk which is Enclosed by this Plantation might be taken in more than once which at Present is all the View you have thro' the stems of a Scotts fir grove. The rest of the Plantations consists of Birch Oak Larch Scotts Fir Spruce Fir Ionic Fir Weymouth pine Horsechesnutts well intermixed which has a very Pretty Effect and clumped up with Laurels and Laburnam, Syringa etc., which are Beautifull and Highly Proper as underwood, this delighted me as it was free from the faults in Planting I have mentioned at Lord Bathursts that of Planting forest trees as underwood to others which I once more Repeat shoud never be done if they are not to be Removed as out of a nursery or are the species that may be freely cutt for coppice wood and grow well from the stool but never such as will not spring up when cutt. This is only destroying trees meant for a Better Purpose and hurt the Eye of a Planter when he sees them thus Expiring in thin poles overtopd by those which have gott the mastery - but here we must observe that Lord Bathurst began his plantation near the House when the Variety of Evergreen trees and Hardy Exotics were not in general use by any means. Nay I questioned at that time whether a competent number of Laurels as underwood coud have been procured as they were then only cultivated for a Variety in a Little Evergreen garden or a Hedge at a Parsonage and I had just then (...) this last use as being Improper for (sheering?). The wood Lord Bathurst has used in his Home Plantation to thicken with is Beech which pruning up Leaves the Bottom naked and crowds all into the Head which is not wanted. Of those trees used for thickening what one wants is to leave the top free for the Heads of our master trees and just thicken the Bottom to Please the Eye.

But to return to the Duke of Beauforts – the outside wall next the Road is only in large lines nearly straight and the Inside wall (for the Plantation is in most places fenced with a stone wall at the Inside) follows nearly the outside in Large sweeps or Pretty straight lines yet the Drive thro the Plantation is so contrived as to shew you no more at once than about 1 or 200 yards. The sweep going Easy and as if thro' a natural wood this is formed by sometimes Bringing the Road nearer the High Road but never so as to leave it naked to the wall and at other times swelling the Plantation next the High Road and

approaching the Drive to the inside. This Road is about 30 feet Broad sloping up a little to the middle but grassy with water tables at 20 feet wide and cutt down to the Bare Earth what is taken off thrown at Each side to the Plantations and the grounds sloped up at Each side for about 5 feet from the water tables to the first row of Plantation which is judiciously enough composed of Laurels Syringa Laburnam Arbor Vita and such tall growing flowering shrubs that are Hardy and approach the tree species. The trees behind are Diversified as I said before, but with this Excellent contrivance that one species of tree predominates for suppose one Hundred yards, then another and then all (nicely mixed) this gives a Variety within itself and has a Bold Effect This Variety being certainly more striking and more felt when succeeding as after the Pale colours of the Larch and Spruce Firr we meet the Scotts Firr and Sycamore or Scotts Firr alone, this certainly has a better effect than thro the whole way mixing them alternately as generally done. This I can't say struck me till this night at Badminton. I owe this Hint to Badminton as I do the Excellent method of Planting in clumps by a drive or walk side and artificially Doubling the soil to my Lord Bathursts new Plantation. This at Badminton is really a very fine surrounding of his great Domain as near as I could measure it is about thirty yards or from that to forty Broad for near a mile between two Dry Walls which are of the same Excellent flat Stone that Lord Bathurst has six feet High to the High Road and four feet Built in an ahha two feet Deep at the Inside to the Domain. This way of sinking a stone wall in a small ah ha is surely an Excellent way and may be done as cheap as Building it on the sod you are surer of your foundation by it the walk is less Exposed to Storms and the Plow (...) of the edge where you sink the trench so that you may make one gradual slope for ten or fifteen feet to the walk which will soon in that part Recover the soil taken off by the cattle lying in shelter and the soil you take off making a little Terrass behind the walk or thrown where your Plantation is behind it greatly assists them.

The other Parts of this Plantation is fenced to the Domain with a little clipd Hedge and small trench before it as here nothing but myriads of sheep attended to by two Shepherds graze. They are Easily fenced out. The sheep had a Ring of Bells on some stout weathers which by their Different tones made a very Pretty Rural concert. I was twice Interrupted in my walk by Roads which crossed the Plantations fenced with Poles the lenth of the Plantations Breadth with gates opposite to Each other to continue the Drive. This lead me into Examining the ground enclosed by this noble tract of Plantation and from what I could observe it Extended round more ground by a great deal than the Duke's absolute Desmesne. I thought it a good hint and have no notion of a gentleman's confining his Plantations and Especially his walls or Drives to the absolute land occupied by him he may Extend in Process of time by artfull management his Improvement over half his Estate and Enjoy His drive thro' a Plantation of thirty yards Broad from one spot to another of his Improvements as perfectly thro the ground in the tennant's hands especially where he keeps the Plantation close at the sides (as for contrast sake his Improvement may require) as tho the ground were immediately in his own occupation. I am sure a third of the Duke of Beaufort's Drive is so. The Lodge at the Great Gate is Universally admired for neatness of Execution. I cannot say I think the Plan faultless – the Room over the gate is vastly Prettily finished and furnished – as any

Room at the House. From it you have an Extensive View of Butt an Insidid Country and on the other side down a magnificent lawn and thro' the Park to the House which I believe a mile and half off appearing at the End of an avenue the with the House and wings formd not of Rows of trees but great clumps. This is rather old fashioned but is most allowable of any kind of avenue and Perhaps at so great a Distance from the Lodge the house could no otherwise by this sort of Visto have been connected with the Lodge and its adjacent Improvements so as to strike the Passenger at the Lodge with one great Domain. I am pretty sure no modern spotted Lawn of so Vast an Extend could have united the View, that the Lodge and House woud not have appeard two Improvements. I am willing to Encourage this Idea as so great a work as this Vast Long Broad Avenue with its Platoons or clumps all Enclosed in dry stone walls to keep off the Red Deer whilst the trees are young should find favour in our sight and to say the truth straight Vistoes of so great a width and Extent 'spight of modern taste give pleasure to the beholder from any one point, tho indeed not much to the Journeyer thro' them, his (...) says wearily travelling over what his Eye has long measured before. The great Park Wall which crosses this avenue is fortunately Built in a glen so that the gate not wall appear not the least from any Part of the House or Lodge to interrupt the avenue which I am sure is more than a mile and half.

In the morning of **Monday the ? of June** we sett out to View the House and Domain with a keeper to attend us who went before the chaise which I find can drive to all parts worth attention. The gardens in themselves not being very Remarkable as yett tho I saw several men at work making some new Improvements. We struck across the Great Plantation out of the High Road thro' one of the Paled in communications with the Inner Grounds I mentioned above and lead us to a farm House which was one of the Duke's Tennants and woodrangers at some time his House built to terminate a view with a very fantastic gothic front. We drove thro' several wood Ridings with fine oak over stands of a good growth the Insides here and there coppice at last we came to a perfect flat apparently a Valley with several old trees scattered in it Pretty (...) without order and the chaise seeming to make its way among them only where it could but the ground was smooth and the grass mowd in this Part. There were some of the finest Headed Beech Trees I ever saw. Fine old thorns and other Bushes perfectly wild and very Beautifull beyond the power of art for a century to make so truly Romantic. At the Head of a little Lawn more level and open run than what we had come thro' for some time stands a Rustic temple or wood House. The Pillars to the front of Rampiked Oak which absolutely swell out just as Rustics are made to do and in stonework the cornices of the same with lumps of course Bask'd knobbs putt on for Dentiles or Modilions rather and thatch'd at top neat Pavement at bottom and the Back done with roots of trees, moss etc., the top thatchd on the whole a most Perfect wood house. The Best I had ever seen for Execution and the (...) Retired and still made it as fitt a spot for such a Building as I ever saw. Certainly had it been a country as admitted of Variety Enough to have the Back of this Building open and Present You with a more cheerfull and Different (scone) it would have had a fine Effect but as I observed all here about is very flattish. We thence entered the Deer park full of Stags and great Herds of Hinds. I was surprised to see such great Hinds of Red Deer Inclosed in a park the walls of which was not above seven feet high

or seven feet six at most. They did no great mischief to the trees which were not fenced from them the clumps Excepted which form the great avenue the walls Round which were not five feet High but they never attempted to go over them as the keeper told me. They are a fine creature and a few woud ornament a Park Vastly – the Herds of fallow Deer were very great. The House contains sevral valuable Paintings the cartoon of Raphael is absolutely his first Drawing of the Bottom Part of his celebrated Picture of the transfiguration and not the woman taken in adultery as generally said to be. I believe it was only meant as a Draft for himself to paint by not att all for tapestry work as the other cartoons were. It is very much Damaged but a noble Spirited Performance in Black and White as I ever saw – after the House we went to the other side the Park, where an old grove or rather I should have said in a grove of Old Oaks stands another Root House of a singular form but not open on any side but a great Door which was kept lockd. The Thatch of this which has often been repaired comes over the walls so farr as to make an Excellent fantastic covering and may be calld a Burlesque of Inigo Jones’ favourite Projecting cornice. It has realy a fine gloomy Effect which the Building requires. The Back of the Building forms a grotesque alcove seat looking thro’ old oaks. I must observe that neither of the seats seem to have any absolute Point in View but rather to be themselves an ornament to the Place they stand in. It is surprising how the little Irregular Bitts of wood are joind together to form the walls (...) is moss put in between evry Bitt. The Inside is made quite gothic and the whole very well Executed with an Inscription over the gothic alcove at the Back looking into the great woods that Pleased me much. It was in Italian I believe from *Pastor Fido*. Memorandum. I must look. It began

*“O care, Selve, Beate
e voi soligni e taciturne Orore
Veri di Riposo e pace alberghi.”*

There was an Inscription in the woodhouse in the valley in English but I forget it. ‘Twas in praise of Retirement – I delighted in the Italian one and am Determined to use it and an English to the same Purpose in a seat Please God at Avondale and also that stanza from Tasso –

“In Licto Aspetto” etc with Milton’s Imitation in his Description of Eden. If there are not English to the same Effect your seat is only fitt for Scholars not for the Pleasing Retirement of Ladies Haymakers, etc. which I would wish to make him.

Memorandum. Whilst I think of it I must say that the spot in Bally (...)duff or Glenwood as I shall call it for the future which looks to the River from a swelling field near the great quarry will be a delightful spot for a Turkish Tent as my Bottom under the wood for a wood House the Dog and Gun seat for a Chinese Building as fittest amongst the absolute rocks where the Chinese are apt to Place their odd temples. Near the wood House below I may have a Ruin of an Abbey and on the great Rock at top a Ruin of a Gothic Castle at the top of the great Visto an Hexagonal gothic Temple open all thro’ out to be approached from the walk which leads from the House by Lord R. Bounds thro’ a Dark Plantation which will come quite up to one side and have a twist in it just at the very Building that you shall not see it from Entring this walk till absolutely in it. This will have an Excellent Effect. The Building will appear transparent and airy from the

House and little Lawn where the garden now stands at the same turn that by this collateral approach the Visto to the river will be approached with surprise (which always Hightens the Effect) whither company only will Round the garden meadow from the House to it or go all the walks and End there as I'll make a walk from the very Edge of the wood by the (...) Brook in coming up from the wood strike into this walk leading to the temple which shall be quite dark from the moment you Enter it till you gett into the temple where you will see either to the River or to the House as I would have this Building white and neat. I would have that Ruin on the Rock Perfectly as (...) as I can Build it and overgrown with Ivy – that two Buildings may not appear too near Each other that att the Rock need have no Room in it only on the ground in the first little sort of chamber may be a gothic form all Round only where you Enter by the Door and a little Parapett (supposed) of the Ruind wall to the front next the River – the sides Unseen, most Perfect to the side... where (...) Prospect.

We came into the great avenue in Returning from the last woodhouse went thro' the Park Gate in the Hollow before mentioned and Drove up to the great Lodge gate saw it and then Entered the Plantation thro' which I walked the Evening before. This lead us without the least Disagreeable spot Intervening just to our Inne where we Refreshd ourselves a little gott fresh horses and sett off for the Hott Wells Bristol where we arrived that **Monday** about five in the afternoon having just spent Eight Days from leaving London and made the whole journey a Party of Pleasure or so many airings Rather than fatigue of Travelling.

Wednesday. Rode to the Downs above the “Hott Wells” the Banks of the Avon Beautifull the Sides and Rocks Bold as at Rathdrum or the Meetings of the Water. The River an odious colour. Observe they make their Hay here as we do but keep it much in very little cocks. They were making (field) cocks here today as we do (Irish). In most Parts of England they make none. I saw men cutting short furze and Fern for Brass foundery. I know not for what use these but observed their manner of cutting woud be of great use in our country where small furze and fern are apt to over run Parks and Pastures. They had a stout scythe Handle rather thicker than usual at the End a very short scythe Blade not above two feet long, thick and strong with a Band or Tye from it to the Handle at about five inches from the Heel this Held it stoutly the (...) of the stalks etc., and a man in a Day woud cutt as much furze Briars and fern as in any other way in a week. It woud be Excellent for cutting of the young shoots of Irish Furze for feeding Horses with this and the chiggle tool woud Effectively keep the Lawns of a Park from Weeds.

The Mixture of Houses churches ships trees glens Rocks woods and coppices with steep Banks and opens to the Harbour or Severn's Mouth as seen from Round the South West of this town is one of the finest and most Variegated Beauteous scenes I have mett with. I think it equalls Marseilles Environs in most things and excells in the continued and Bold Inequalities of the ground. A charming Place to Ride on the downs are miles on the Turf Either to canter or saunter as the Rider Pleases free from Interruption with fine and Varying Views Every turn you make. I mentioned just now a Turkish Tent as a Pretty Building on the High Field of Bally(...)duff I think a Turkish Tent or a four Pillard Portion of an Octagon woud be very properly Placed on Part of Mr. William's grounds

catch the cattle, sheep, Haymakers or spotting trees in Different Views and also the wood and Belvidere tower peeping out of the very top of it in Different Points. This is what ornaments the approach to the wood from the House on Entering the wood walks they are close overarched and Exhibit for some length of way nothing but a shady path agreeable to ones wish in a Hott summers Day. They are covered first with the coarse Earth and Stones gott from the side of the Bank in making them and with sand or finer gravell to smooth their surface. Here and there you meet a fine old Oak Rather Larger but somewhat scattered thro' the wood as (they) occur at Hayesville – after Passing sometime thro' these Dark walks you Enter a still narrower Path on the Right hand which mounting up a little Brings you at once into what appears the top of a gothic tower Battlemented from the ground just breast High and over those you look to the fine view of King Road, the wooded glin and stupendous Rocks underneath you. You gain by this Building up of the Highest Rocks Even and into a Kind of tower a greater degree of perpendicularity over the glin then you otherwise could have and the Battlement makes it agreeable to the persons looking down from the Idea of safety added to it. It was just common stonewall about a foot or foot and half thick topped with cutt flag - and cutt flag in the niches of the Battlementing such as I could have to great perfection at Corballis. Pressing on you meet another of those Platforms I will call them but not Breastwork only great stones laid carelessly to the front and here are the greatest cliffs under you I Ever saw for perpendicularity brought into an Improvement.. They gave me the Idea of the spire like Rocks in the glin of the Downes opposite to Mr Latouches – now whether Mr. Farr who I understand plans these Improvements for himself has left this amazing Bold stroke of nature without a Parapett Wall to strike the spectator with Horror which I have always found has a great Effect and Infinitely Proper to make the Pleasing appear still more agreeable after this specimen of the Horrid I cannot take upon me to Determine but as it just joins to a little Lawn about an acre to be Dressd Extremely smooth and surrounded with the trees which forms the walks as this spott is on the top of the Hill. In the midst of it stands his Belvidere which is not near finished and in clearing this spott what few trees of any size was on it were left to spott it. I greatly delight in this spot with its surrounding trees and a flatness in itself (is) like a little Lawn in a Vale and Round it as you walk from opens in the trees you may command some of the most pleasing Views in this most pleasing spot of England by having this Little Lawn round the new Building it will shew it to vastly more advantage than if closer surrounded with trees, tho' from the adjacent country on every side this gothic tower appears perfectly

“Bosom'd high in tufted trees.” (*John Milton's L'Allegro*).

From this Lawn you Descend as before you ascended pass by a cavern in a Rock and archd over with Huge stones. Indeed I was not so convinced of their masonry as to like to sitt in this grotto as the stones appeared to insecure to give one satisfaction tho' I suppose they are strongly putt together. I advised a greater weight to be thrown on the Haunches of the arches as in my conscience I thought the great weight on the crown was bulging the whole lot in - from hence you Entered another of those Battlemented platforms which must appear perfect towers from the other side and Extreme pretty objects. The steep glinn was here the Principle object and a Valley it Ended in opening to a Beautifull wooded country and Views of the sea but these less here than in the other

over the wood as it would command the finest view that is of our lands and at the same time be the most ornamental object to these lands.

Friday June 30th. I rode in the Evening to see a Mr. Farr's Place near the Hott Wells about 3 miles off. I had seen his Belvidere from the Downes as they call a spacious Common over the Banks of the Avon where the company of the Hott Wells generally ride for the air Evry morning. The Prospects from it on Evry side are most Beautifull and the turf a champagne galloping ground most Excellently suited for wholesome air and Exercise. Mr. Farr's Belvidere is taken from the Duke of Cumberland's at Shrub Hill but Executed in a Hard Blue Stone with white Bathstone for Battlements Embrasures and other Ornaments. The three Towers surrounding the main building are Round as is the (centre). I think the Best Room is 25 feet. The moment I Passd Mr. Farr's House (which is a little mean makeshift only till he has sketched his Improvements) I was struck with the similitude of the glin under me to Hayesville. They beat me in fine Views from the terminations of his wood walks but I beat them in the Picturesque and remarkably (Varigand) foliage of my Rocks and in a fine mountain River where they have only a little Dingle but as the walks are cutt out with much taste thro' a natural wood as they are Perpetually on the Rise or fall and as they convey you to a great Hight from whence you View a fine wooded glin. They have all the Beauties of Romantic nature desirable considering Especially that they open on one side to such a sweetly checker'd (scone) of Land and Sea or what is more Beautifull the great mouth of the Severn called King Road as I scarcely Ever Remember Except at Artramont. This Junction of wood walks and sea Prospect is a glorious circumstance in an Improvement and what my neighbour Mr. Symes has great Reason to be proud of at Ballyarthur where they might be both in greatest Perfection engaged by a little labour for a few days – I Profess conscious as I am of not seeing the sea from any part of my land. I should have been in a perfect fitt of despair at the Beauty of Farr's walks but that (D...) self love and natale solum (the land of one's birth) stepd in and shewd me my great Rock Hanging down with tresses of Honeysuckle and my River clear and asure as an Italian sky foaming over the Rocks which his own Prowess appears to have carried there from his native glinns amidst the mountains of Glendalough. This Idea step'd into my (...) and I painted their Rocks as coarse and their water as muddy and by that means kept myself in tolerable contentment not thank God (had I thought otherwise) that I envy any their good, I only wish I have the same if I like it without hurting them. This I think the strictest moralist cannot blame me for but to Return to these walks, most of them are on the slant of the Hill on one side or the other for the ground of the Improvement consists of a Round wooded Hill perhaps about 12 acres surrounded on two sides with meadow and on the third with a glin the opposite sides swelling Pasture smooth and covered with sheep the fourth side a still deeper glin the sides covered with wood and Rocks as at Rockstown or (B...) The opposite the same very steep and Beautifull. There is an odd cavern or two in the Rocks of the opposite side which have a very pretty Effect. The Introducing these several Views is well managed. The meadow which joins without a glin this side of the Hill on two sides is separated from the Path of flowering Shrubs that lead to the Natural wood walks by Post and Rail this being a simple Plain object Requires something Particular to Enliven it. You have therefore the whole space open to you that as you walk you may

Views. The Path Descending Brought me to a Root House Executed Better ten to one than any of the kind I have seen in England. There are two Pillars of Rampiked oak and three arches formed mighty artificially. The roof too arches up and is Ribbed with Knots and coarse Bark'd pieces of Timber in an Extraordinary neat manner. The niches (answering) the three arches and two at the sides are mighty Pretty and the matts for seats in them Remarkably long and in their way well adapted. Near this is a gate formed in a gothic Pattern high and narrow with the same sort of (narly) knotty mossy (...) so as to look quite Incrusted with antiquity indeed the most of these odd knotty (...) are nailed on over a common Oak Rail all round this part is artificial shrubbery but (...) on too remains to give a wild appearance sufficient for the introduction of this wood house. The floor was Horse teeth ground down and sett in (terras) in mosaic with a Black tile intervening in figures. They look like Brockatello D'Espagna Marble. It struck me that the Rock in Jones's Coppice which looks towards (Bally...duff) where I am fond of sitting (not that by Gaffneys House tho it too might be so done) might be vastly improved by a Gothic Battlement in the manner of these seats here mentioned. I would have a Gothic Skreen or some thing in that way at the Back of the Platform so that in approaching it it should shut out the View till you open a little gothic Door as if into a Building which the screen might appear and then the View would Burst on you to great advantage. The Battlements taking off the Dread otherwise caused by Perpendicularity.

Monday July 3rd. I rode with Mr. (Pusey?) of Cork, a great merchant of that city, his brother and Mr. (Bury?) of the county of Limerick to View the great copper works of Keynsham four miles and half from Bristol – they are Extremely worth seeing. You have here an evident proof of the great advantage of well contrived machines by water supplying many hands. There are above an hundred employed and yett Evry forceable thing is done by water. Nothing but the attendance of the men on these water machines Required and yet one hundred men Employed. What would be the consequence where no machines are wrought by water. There must have been a thousand men employed in the same place – here the Brass after being brought from the foundry where it is made from the copper smelted at this town from the oar (sic) chiefly Brought from Ireland by the addition of Lapis Caliminaris which abounds in some mines hereabouts is Brought thro' various stages from thin Barrs about 12 feet long and four inches broad to Barrs of five inches broad and eighteen feet long after passing thro' a pair of steel cylinders – then cutt into 16 stripes - then Each stripe passes thro' an Iron Eye drawn by a pair of working (pinchers) in a very (judicious) Manner cutting continually forward and Drawing to them about two feet at a time. Three of these Draw after one another till they reduce the 4 square wyre to a round thick as a straw then a great Brass cylinder turning Round, catches one End and winds it round it Drawing it thro' a still smaller Hole till at last it is Perfected in the 3rd cylinder wound Round it of the size of a corking Pin. Thus it is sent to the Pin Makers who use what they want for corks as it is and Hand Draw the Rest for middlings and minikins – in another House they beat out by Hammers (wrought) by a shaft with many notches so as to make quick Repetition of the strokes square Brass Plates into common flower pot shaped or (...) low Butter crock shaped pans for the Guinea (...) making four of them at once for annealing and tempering the whole they have a sort of Iron draw fitted to a frame from whence it slides into the mighty oven with

Ease by hooking two chains to and turning their windlass they Draw it out of the oven when they please a groove being made in the Bottom of this cast which runs on Ridges made to receive it on the moving frames and also in the oven. The frame turns about soon as the wagon of copper wire comes out of the oven so the men can more easily approach them hot as they appear from the oven and observe do they want Returning or are they perfectly finish'd by the heat.

July 12th. This seems to be the Hight now of Hay in this Part.

Harvest – as far as I see no great Difference between the time they cutt their Hay here and with us. Only the quality of their meadow in general is Better. I never saw such fine natural grass as about Bristol. Their manner of making their Hay seems much as ours when made with good hands neatly turning the Hay in little wisps with the fork not Dispersing them and scattering them all about which I am confident parches up the Hay too much – but the essential difference in making the Hay is – they seldom or never make a field cock if they do 'tis only on a Saturday night if what they think sufficiently made and fear may be spoild by rain at that time. The rest is constantly carried to the great Hay Rick which is generally made in a corner of some field where the cattle are to be kept in winter, and putt on it just as green as we make it into field cocks. Every Irish Person sees with amazement the fields which are mowed on Monday Perfectly cleared perhaps by Thursday no more sign of Hay than is in ours two months after cutting. With still greater surprise we see the Hay thus newly cutt making up into a great Rick without taking fire. I have in vain attempted to account for this from the Dryness of the climate etc., as in some places the Hay thus Putt up is made in Damp Soils much Damper than with us in the county of Wicklow. It must then be owing to what I am going to say, their manner of making it in these tramp cocks. At least I flatter myself there is something in what I have observed. It is this they are not made as with us in one or two Days but they are Increased still as there is a parcel of Hay fitt for putting on the Rick, perhaps this does not rise the Rick above three or four feet. It is laid level and Hurdles with straw wrought thro' them like thatch is thrown on the Rick to secure it against rain. Thus the Rick goes on as the Hay is making beside this they are not near so large as ours are (...) great cocks with flues always through them. Sometimes two or three flues.

Friday 7th of July. About seven in the morning. We sett out in company with Mrs (S) Foster Miss Margaret Foster Miss Vaughan Miss Forster two Miss Burtons Captain Webber Mr. Tomasi a Portuguese gentleman of fortune Doctor Lee of Virginia and Doctor Orpin of Ireland on a party to Mr. Morris's at Chepstow South Wales. We stay'd out till Sunday at two o'clock and had the Good Fortune of Passing those three days without the smallest accident Intervening to abate the Pleasure we received from a most Beautifull (scone) and fine weather. Tho' I must confess there appears Difficulties sufficient on the way to Chepstow to make one readily allow a cross accident or two. As the ferries are Incertain and Inconvenient often in their times of Passage. We got to Aust by nine and Breakfasted found the ferry Proper for passing in two Hours, went over in the small Boat without Horses, four good Rowers and a steersman - took the only two Carriages to be mett with at Beachley, a little town on the Welsh side the ferry – one a Coach, the other a Post Chaise. Put six Ladies in the Coach, a Gentleman and two Ladies in the Chaise, the other Gentleman gott up behind and as well as we could proceeded

with no great Inconvenience and much mirth to the Three Cranes Inne in Chepstow. Here we dined and in the Evening walk'd out but not to Mr. Morris' contenting ourselves with our situation so near him for that night and Determining on an Early attack on his Premises Early the Ensuing morning. But this I must say for our walk that had we made the Party merely to take it it would not have been time Ill Bestowed for so Lovely Romantic a country so diversified with woods and Rocks and ornamented at the same time with the Proud remains of Chepstow Castle built on a promontory of solid Rock advancing into the River which forms a fosse Round two sides as a Natural glinne forms the third and a great artificial one the fourth. This situation added to the Venerable Ivy grown towers makes the whole a (scone) highly Picturesque as a man of the most Romantic turn could wish.

We spent the Evening very agreeably a good summer (sic) some singing and gay conversation. Ended the night and sent me to Bed well Enough disposed to make up the next morning for those hours of Rest, it may be Imagined we Broke in on the Receding night, but I was Determined not thus to Desert the chief Purpose. I set out on that of making myself Intimately acquainted with Mr. Morris's Place which I concluded I should never perfectly compass in any walks we might take in full company. I therefore arose at four o'clock on Saturday morning and calling on Mr. Lee the American Gentleman, a man of Letters and great naturalist walked towards Mr. Morris's Improvements the nearest entrance into which lies about half a mile from the house. Here we arrived about half past five and as the Ladies were not to Breakfast till nine we stayd in those Parts which we concluded less likely to be shewn to the Ladies above three hours and Returned to Breakfast after having in this our first Essay seen as much or more than most who go from the Hott wells on this Part etc., in the whole. By this means we were able to give some hints for the Better conducting our company thro' the Improvements and found that but for that we should not have seen what I think to be nearly as Beautifull a part of Mr. Morris's walks as any they generally shew viz. that Diversified Walk thro' the Lawn from the House to the first wood walk and which I insist on – It is the Proper way of a company being conducted, as by it you see the whole without traversing a foot of ground a second time and also the Views succeed one another in a grand series terminating with that most comprehensive and Beautifull Prospect from the temple on the Highest Spott of this Desmesne but as this has been a Place often mentioned to me as a Pattern of Disposition etc for a Romantic Brow with wood walks properly conveying you to seats which take in the finest Prospects or (scones) in the most favourable lights. I will go thro' with some account of methodically - the more so as I Perceive no one has as yet published an account of it. Mr. Youngs, in the six week tour being Deficient in his account of the Lawn and some other Particulars owing to the manner he was supposed to Enter them as he went at once to a Point of View he should not have seen till near the middle of this walk and by this means lost the winding Path thro' the Lawn or Park grounds as they soon will be. In most other things Particularly the Views from the Different seats he is very accurate in so much so that I shall Referr to him in most places for his Descriptions of the Views and strive to Excell him only in giving a general Idea of the grounds which I believe he spent but little time in – taking the Liberty (as I only write this for myself and my intimate friends) of Explaining my

meaning by References to two Places which I think Resemble Mr. Morris's more than any in the world, Ballyarthur and Hayesville. The House is (scituate) in a Lawn. (which surrounds two sides) and lies with respect to the great Glin in which Wey (*Wye*) Runs just as Hayesville, or Ballyarthur over their glinns but with this Difference that the ground rises up to the top of this glinne from the House at the glinside. On the other side of the House there is a gentle fall which forms a fine Lawn diversified with clump of small patches of woodland and in one spott lying open to a View of Chepstow beyond it the mouth of the Severn or King Road and on the other side of it Gloucestershire Beautifully Expanded to the Eye, this fine View of land and water seen as it is, apparently supported by an Immense chain of Rocks, Proudly Issuing from a thick growth of wood and Representing in Different Views the towers and Battlemented walls of a fortified Town. It is this View I say which dignifies Piercefield and Elevates it above any Place I have ever yett beheld – here then is the Difference in point of situation between Piercefield and Hayesville or Ballyarthur that the last Places have their Beauties chiefly or Rather solely at their glynne side – Ballyarthur Indeed has two glynnes but still the Beauties as I say are all on the glynne side. Now Piercefield beside its glynne has a fine waving Piece of ground as a Lawn Beautifully Diversified and what would be sufficient in itself to give the name of a fine situation could the House Boast no further appendage. I must observe that this Lawn lies Intirely on one side the house as Jones's field to Hayesville but the House is now going to be altered so as to front it to this Lawn and as this front will be of cutt stone and Elegant and looks over to the Severn and the prospect. I have before said it will of consequence make a fine figure in itself from those several points of View. The garden and offices lie at Present awkwardly between the House and glinne that's immediatly at its Back but the offices are old and to be pulled down soon as the House is fronted and the ground on which they stand finely Dress'd so as to become part of a Piece of Pleasure ground to conduct you into the first wood walk just as the Part where our garden stands lies between the House and top of the wood. This Pleasure ground will only come as far as the side of the House divided from the Lawn, which will then be a Deer Park, by Iron Rails Ranging at their commencement with the new front of the House but sweeping towards the Park ground but, to go as I before said methodically thro' the Improvements I will take my Reader the Regular Path visiting those Parts I saw at five in the morning and afterwards in company with the Rest of our Party. Setting out then from the House you turn your back to the glin and front a fine champagne Vale spotted with single trees clumps, etc., This is all to be a Deerpark. The Walk thro' this is only a Path worn as by accident thro' the meadow but artfully conducting you to the most delightful Points of View where a seat under an old Oak or Elm invites you to sitt down and then feast your eye with some charming (scone) composed of this lawn and the wooded opposite Banks of the Wey (*Wye*) over which here and there you catch the Severn Prospect mentioned above. In another place the branches of trees thro' which you look as by accident Direct your Eye full on the town church steeple or Romantic old castle of Chepstow. These steeples castles and neat country towns are too scarce in Ireland to assist the generality of our Improvements and must ever give a superiority to the English ones. I was charmed with the contrast of this unaffected Path open to the Meadow and only made Dry and Firm with a little coarse

gravell or Poor Earth, these Paths thro' the meadows connected the walk in a more natural manner consequently more Pleasing than a still inclosed walk thro' a constant shrubbery would have done. Add that there is a greater contrast consequently a pleasing Variety between a walk thro' an open meadow leading you from one woodwalk to another than a shrubbery constantly attending which has too much the air of a low Wood in itself to contrast with a woodwalk, unless the wood be very old and closely overarched I know I have taken a very Round about way here to Express my meaning, but I was so pleased with this charming path thro' the Lawn that I think I can never be sufficiently strong in Expressing my sentiments of it. After passing as I before observed under the spreading Branches of single trees and thro' little clumps where you never faild meeting are open to some pleasing points of view the Path leads to a little gate which swinging on its Double Eyed Bottom Hinge shuts itself and opens Either way, as the company come in or go out. I mention this gate as being a very Proper one for the entrance into wood walk, shrubberies etc., Easily opened and always shutting themselves. They are constantly in use here. This gate brings you into a Close woodwalk chiefly of coppice Hazels which arch close (...) top and are from their Leaves and manner growing a very Pretty underwood for these sort of walks. The Path leads thro' a close wood till you find yourself in a little open with a windmill in the middle of it. This is only a mock windmill made in a spott where from its Hight you command a noble prospect of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire and at the same time becomes a very pleasing object to the House just appearing over the little wood thro' which you approach it. I thought it an Exceeding good figure for an out Building on an Eminence – giving the Beholder many Pleasing Ideas – industry content health plenty etc., Perhaps if I may use the Expression it is the most animated building of Equall ornament can be thought of where small Expense Especially (is) to be bestowed – a gentleman with me said however that Mr. Morris shoud have made it a Dutch windmill which is much lighter and Prettier than those (seen) thro' this country – from Windmill Hill you Descend thro' a little Lawn into the wood again and still Descending come to the Point (of) the glin nearer Chepstow town, here is a sort or alcove seat which takes in the town, the castle etc., on the Right and on the left much such a View as at our Visto seat at Hayesville with this Difference that the glin does not lie so Extended from you but rather cross the Eye. I think not so pretty as with me but whin the tide is in Exceedingly Beautifull (...) a fine Lake of smooth water Hemmed Round with wooded Banks. When the tides out I saw it the first time Early in the morning. I never saw so nauseous a River muddy Bank. I believe sixty feet at Each side a Paultry Brook. On the whole I must say that as the Severn appears in most Views at the same time that you see the Wye, it would be much more Beautifull to have had the Wey (Wye) a mountain Rocky River such as we have in the county of Wicklow, but what is very Extraordinary is that there runs no such River or Brook here. They are all on the most muddy Bottom tho' their Banks above High water mark are Rocky beyond ours beyond conception Rocky up to their very tops. The trees seem to grow from the naked Rocks - from this seat which is indeed Beautifull beyond conception from that Variety and Beauty of the many objects it takes in amongst which I must not forgett a piece of ground on Mr. Morris' side the River stretched smoothly by the water between it and the wood Exactly resembling what we call George Manning's Bottom to Hayesville River.

From this seat the walks continue thro' wood lying to the House as the first Part of Ballyarthur woods adjoining Newbridge and much at the same Distance, this is the clearest way I can give an Idea of the Extent. The walk we took before thro' the Lawn (...) towards the House as a walk across Ballana woud to Ballyarthur the wood is merely coppice with here and there an old Reserve some very fine and old - views of the glin and River are Judiciously Excluded by the thickness of the coppice till the most favourable spots give them to you in full glory. Mr. Young has so well described them that I shall say no more but that you see here little more than the glynne and Huge tower like Rocks above it with coppice wood scattered amongst them which I find is common wood of the forest of Dean constantly cutt and as constantly springing up so its always very young but on such Steep Banks has an Effect good as the oldest woud have. I must observe that thro' the whole wood till you come to the other End of the walks near the cold Bath I mett no stream or Rivulet a great Imperfection tending to destroy the fine cool Effect the woods shoud have. Nor is there a Drop appears Running down the opposite Banks to the River as does with us at (Ballese), Tramullin and Rockstown. This also deprives the woods of the number of Hollies and aquatic Plants our woods produce in such abundance. I must also observe that the Rocks on Mr. Morris side viz. in the woods we walk thro' are not nearly so Beautifully Romantic as in my wood which for the extent of it I am convinced is as singularly adorn'd with rocks of a (...) Beauty as any I have ever seen. The Rocks at Piercefield are more (scald) and unadorn'd with Ivy and Tresses of Woodbine by nature than mine nor are the trees so odly growing out of them, one Rock which we meet with at the farr end of the Improvements excepted which I think most sublimely grand and at the same time Beautifully ornamented with Ivy and great trees growing on its Brow. The Rock on the other side the River on the other hand are more striking than any we see from Hayesville and Ballyarthur. They answer absolutely the Place of a fine town and a Huge Gothic castle or fortress

“Bosom'd High in Tufted Trees.” (*John Milton's L'Allegro*).

Here and there the wood walks lead thro' Part of the wood very old and great. The Huge oaks overgrown with Ivy are, on this steep Brow, the most sublime objects conceivable. I shoud be amaz'd at the growth of trees amidst such Rocks but that Examples in our own country had familiarized me to them however the fairest Beech I ever saw the greatest Ash and as fine Oak almost as I ever beheld grow on this Inaccessible Rocky Brow, in most Places but by the (single) walk made at great Expense I may say absolutely Inaccessible.

When you Rise up thro' a zigzag walk leading from that Part of the wood I mentioned youd ascended into from the alcove seat you find yourself in a sort of open wood or Lawn thickly spotted with old trees and some young Reserved in the clearing away the underwood which they are now doing for a strip about one Hundred yards following a sort of Bosom thro the wood which with the close coppices on either side and the many spotting trees will have a Beautifull Effect as I before observed at Lord Bathursts – but the trees here at Mr. Morris's are of a much better growth. It will cost a great deal of money making this little Lawn amidst the woods as there are stubborn Rocks here and there which must be smoothed in this kind of work a sort of Plain neatness being (the) Desired look of the ground in this Part of Improvement. It has so fine an Effect after a

close wood walk with Rough sides and stubbs of coppice wood to Enter a Piece of wood smooth as a Bowling green with all the advantage of shade at the same time that it should never be omitted when it can possible be made. The trees here may be in some places surrounded with Honeysuckle Roses if not too much shade and their Bases surrounded with wood flowers Periwinkle etc., these niceties woud not be proper in the more natural wood part. This Spotted Lawn or Irregular grove leads you towards the House and as the View of this Lawn with the house in it is very Beautifull from a Point of View near the House than the naturall wood of the top of the glin a Plantation is continued here from the natural wood which for greater contrast is of Evergreen trees and flowering Shrubbs which thrive surprisingly. The walk leads meandering thro' them from the glin to several Beautifull Points of View of the Lawn, house, Chepstow, and adjoining county. This shrubbery is fenced from the Lawn by a sunk trench and slight Iron work on the top of it. Uprights of Iron and strong wire Barrs, four of them. It is very Lasting and a neat fence. You wind thro this shrubbery till it Ends in a great screen of Spruce Firr confining the Eye to the Glin Prospect which is only lett in here and there thro' a fence which takes off the Horrors of the great Hight you are on after continuing the walk a time thro' this Plantation of Firr you Emerge at once into a circular Platform of well kept grass with a Parapett wall on the glin side and a gentle Slope on the other. This Platform affords a Prospect superior in Variety to any spott I ever beheld in any Improvement in England – on one hand the glinne shews in its utmost Beauty at a stupendous Depth Below you on the other hand the Lawn gently falls from you terminating with the windings of the Wey (Wye) and its entrance into the Severn which you View like a Lea held up by the great Rocks composing the Banks of the Wey (*Wye*) over which it appears Ready to pour and fill up the Great Glynne of the Wey (*Wye*), higher than which it seems to stand at least fifty yards tho' reason tells us it must be on a Dead Level as the mouth of the Wey (Wye) opens into it. This Deception has an amazing fine Effect for tho the Severn seems so high above the Wey (*Wye*) as to strike with wonder it is sufficiently under the spectator to appear in a natural bed for water to lie in. It does not appear at all unnatural but increases the apparent Depth of the Glin. At the glinside to left of the Plattform as you stand looking towards the glynne the glin widens into a circular form Inclosing a Piece of ground I believe about an hundred acres gently swelling up from the water which surrounds it to the middle where a farm house is Built as this seems absolutely Inaccessible but from the spott where you see the Road leading to the farm house mentioned the Rest being surrounded by Immense Precipices covered with wood and the River at Bottom. It appears the most Delicious Retreat the most unaccountable little country of a total Different Species from what surrounds it and so Beautifully cultivated in itself as presents, I think, a View I never beheld elsewhere. There are between thirty and forty Inclosures on this farm, the Hedges neatly kept, the Hedgerows in some places fine, in other fields scattering trees. Everything seems growing on it that are to be mett elsewhere in Different Places. There were fields of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Meadow Pasture, two Orchards, farmyards, gardens, a Piece of Old Wood for House etc., use, two little coppices and all as I observed before secluded from the Rest of the World by undoubtedly a chain of the greatest Precipices I Ever saw. Mr. Morris ground winding Round about a third of it. It is such an Extraordinary thing to occur in a glinne that none

behold it without amazement joint to Pleasure. To give an Idea of the way it (lies) by a small spot compared to it, the Rocks and River Run Round it as (Ticlash) and Rockstown and the River surround what we call Slaney's Vale at Hayesville. Mr. Morris differing in the (scite) of the River which Runs between him and this Vale. I know not what Properly to call it for it swells up in the middle to what would be call'd a Gentle Hill if it stood in a Plain but the mountainous sides which surround it are so much higher as to give it from them the appearance of a Valley. It is remarkable well cultivated and has every convenience within itself as I before observed. When you have sufficiently admired if ought can be called sufficient admiration of this delightful (scone) on either Hand, you Enter a small gate opposite the gate which brought you out of the walk screen'd of the Park side with thriving spruce fir about 20 year old. The Path winds thro a natural coppice wood on the steep brow and comes pretty soon to an Immense Beech on the very Edge of the Precipice. This Huge spreading monarch of the wood is I believe 12 feet circumference which girth it carries up a great way for such a tree and then Branches out into one of the most perfect and ample heads I Ever saw on any old tree in my life. The ground is Dress'd behind him very smooth. Far as his Branches extend the wood and all Lumber has been cleared away and to the other side of him viz the glin there is a small platform made with Iron Rails or rather one hand Rail and supported at about 4 feet Distance painted green so as to take away terror but give the sublime prospect in all its grandeur. The seat is formed Round the Body of the tree about twenty yards or more from this tree still higher on the Bank behind him stands the trunk of an Oak nearly as large as I Ever saw but the Head has been disfigured by time, lopping etc. These two trees prove that some soils in the midst of apparently continued Rocks will produce Huge timber when other soils to the Eye much freer and Easier penetrated by the Roots will not produce an Oak of any Bulk. Witness the soil Round Cirencester – the View from the Beech is a still plainer prospect of the Valley farm etc., but nothing towards the Park side nor do you from Hence to a small light temple on the Very Extreme and Highest corner of the Demesne see any part of Mr. Morris ground but various Views of the Glinne and farm continuing the walk about the mid Hight or rather Higher of the glin side the River under you of the Right and Rocks wooded over you at the left, Resembling our WoodWalks at Hayesville but the coppice young as at Ballytrasna and the Rocks of a coarser kind and a great Dryness Prevailing which tho it keeps the Walks free from the (...) I am at with the Exuberant springs Renders the sides not so productive of herbs flowers, etc. which are a constant attendant on Irriguous Banks, you pass by a little Plattform seemingly hollowed from the steep Bank above you (...) a collection of greenhouse plants brought here for the summer season and as the wildness of the glin and Rocks is here shut out, it makes a Pretty contrast from mere nature to the artificial productions of a GreenHouse and perhaps makes both Places in their turn more acceptable. After Passing several seats in Beautiful (Scituations) you arrive at one of the finest Rocks I Ever saw seemingly a single one I believe thirty or forty feet High overgrown with Huge Ivy to the front is a Plattform with gothic Battlements and a few cannon Planted which have a fine Effect here like thunder Rolling thro the winding Glinnes. The walk seems at an end and you are tempted to (enter) the cavern open to you in this Immense Rock here. Here evrything appears Rude and only the work of Nature,

and being tempted still to trace this Cavern for it will suffer you to penetrate amidst its Rocky Chambers you find your way out at the other side and the walk unexpectedly continues. It was all Excavated by Art and is the finest work in a Romantic Improvement such as Mr. Morris's that I Ever mett with worth an Hundred Grecian temples and other (...) which all who are used to the Expensive artificial Improvements round London are continually crying out for at Mr. Morris's. This Rock in point of simple grandeur and a sort of Horrid sublime Roughness as it is the glory of Mr. Morris' woodwalks so I believe Equalls any in the walks at Hayesville but for Picturesque Beauty and fortunate assemblage of circumstances meeting in one rock it must I think yield to mine, as it Runs up perpendicular, mine overhangs. It is Rude whitish stone at its Base, mine is broke into an hundred odd Irregularities overrun with Stone Plants add that the Ivy Running up Mr. Morris' Rock as up a wall has not that Beautifull effect which the overhanging of mine gives viz. the Ivy and Woodbine falling in tresses from its top – in Mr. Morris's sevrall shrubby trees Run to great Hight on the top of the Rock where I believe it meets the Brow of the Hill, on mine a single Oak growing from the Rock remarkably straight and Evidently detached from the Bank crowning the whole in a manner I say from conviction not prejudice that I never yet saw – but then on the other hand this fine cavern or natural grotto as it appears in Mr. Morris's is fine beyond measure and shewd as Bold a spirit in undertaking and Executing as good taste in the Designer. After this Rock there is nothing Remarkable in the walks, which I must observe are all a sort of coarse gravell with some sand thrown over it – till you Descend to a sort of Valley in the wood where first you meet a little stream of water following which you come to a sequesterd Little Plain in the middle of which stands the cold Bath* an Excellent one but for a sky light just over the water a way that a Bath should never be lighted as that tends to heat the water but in answer to that I must observe that the water seems only lett in the House before you bath or less time as it is a good Stream which supplies the Bath lett into it from three or four little stone troughs through which it runs always filling up to the top before it gets out. In any (park) this to prevent the mudd, gravel etc., which runs in the Bottom of the Stream getting into the Bath. From the Bath you ascend a winding Road on the steep Brow made with great difficulty and vast Expense for a carriage Road from the House to (...) It is steeper and worse than from Ballyarthur to the River but winds more.

*Memorandum. Here I could have an Excellent (...) Bath just on the (...) the water might be so contrived as to run constantly by the side of the Bath and lett in as I pleased in to the Bath. The Stream in passing from the House might fall in a very Pretty Cascade if artfully managed with Laurel etc., to hide the coming out of the House or rather the side of the House might be so built of Rough half moulded stone as to Represent a Rock. The water then in coming out of the House might gett such a turn as to fall fronting our Land and not sideways to it which would have a very pretty Effect – or it might fall from the End and a seat could be contrived under a tree in the wood which woud command a pretty full view of in this case the End only (might be....).