

only; but this barren hard earth of which I now write, must onely be broken by this violent and extreme labour, or else there will neither be mould, earth, or any converture for the Seed, but only foul, great, and disorderly clots and lumps, through which the grain can never pass, and that which lyeth uncovered will be made a-prey to fowl, and other vermine, which will hourly destroy it.

After you have sown and herrowed the ground, you shall then see if there remain any clots or hard lumps of earth unbroken, Of Clotting the Earth. which the teeth of the harrow are not able to tear in pieces (as it is very likely you shall perceive many) for these hard barren earths which are plowed up in their green swarths, are nothing neer so easily broken and brought to mould, as are the mellow soft earths which have been formerly plowed many times before, because the hard and intricate roots of the Grass, Moss, and other quick substances growing upon the same doth bind and hold the mould so close and fast together, besides the natural strength and hardness of the earth, that without much industry and painful labour, it is impossible to bring it to that fineness of mould which Art and good Husbandry requireth; therefore as soon as you behold those clots and lumps to lye undissevered, and unbroken, you shall forthwith take good strong clotting beetles, or mauls made of hard, and very sound wood, according to the proportion of this figure.



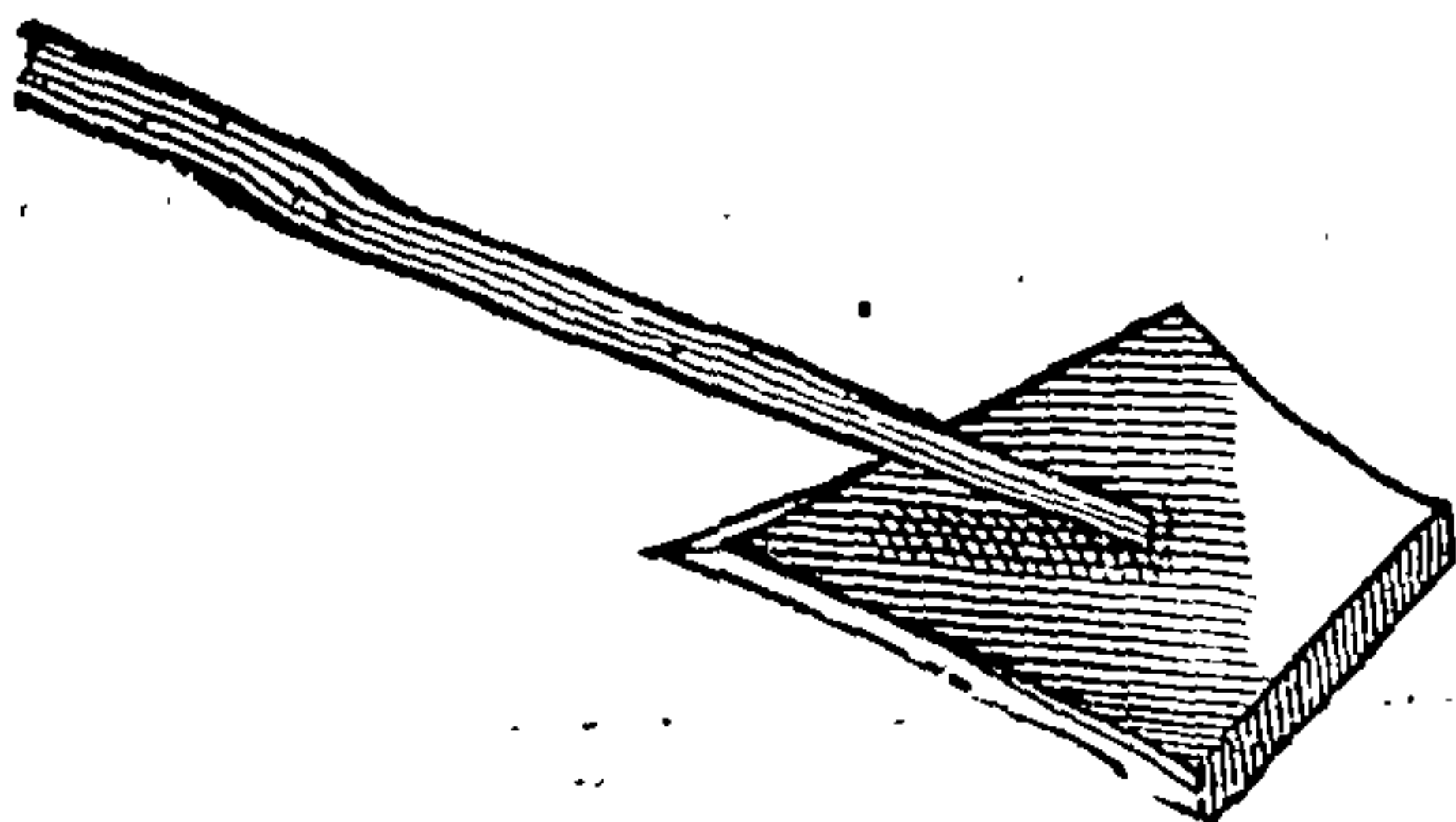
And with these mauls or clotting beetles, you shall break all the hard clots and lumps of earth in pieces, even to so small dust as possibly you can, because you are to presuppose that these clots thus hard, tough, and unwilling to be with any means digested  
into

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into mould, are either not at all, or else very insufficiently mixed with the Sand, Lime, and other Manures : and therefore you must rather break them that thereby they may mixt, and give easie passage to the Grain, and not like heavy poysses and dead lumps lye and press down the Seed so that it cannot sprout.

Another manner of Clotting.

But if it so fall out, partly by the hardness of the ill earth, partly through the season and dryness of the year, that these clots and lumps of earth will either not be broken at all, or at least so insufficiently that the mould will not be any thing near so fine as you would have it; you shall then, having done your best endeavour, let your ground rest till there have fallen a good round shower or two of rain; which may wet the clots through and through; & then the next fair blast you shall take your clotting beetles, but not those which you took before in the dry season, but some much lighter, broader and flatter, being made of thick Ash-boards more than a foot square, and above two inches in thickness, according to this figure.



And with these flat Maules and Beetles, you shall break all the unbroken clots and lumps of earth which shall trouble or annoy your ground, making your Lands as plain and smooth as is possible, so that the grain may have easie passage forth; which labour as soon as you have finished, you shall then refer the increase and prosperity thereof unto the mercies of God, who no doubt will give his blessing according to thy labour and thankfulness.

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