beaten almoſt to powder, and mixed with ſeasand, which incruſts and arms them wonderfully againſt all aſſaults of wind and weather. When timber is felled before the ſap is perfectly at reſt, it is very ſubject to worms ; but to prevent and cure this, Mr Evelyn recommends the following remedy as the moſt approved : Put common ſulphur into a cucurbit, with as much aquafortis as will cover it three fingers deep ; diſtill it to dryneſs, which is performed by two or three rectifications. Lay the ſulphur that remains at bottom, being of a blackiſh or sand red colour, on a marble, or put it in a glaſs, and it will diſſolve into an oil ; with this oil anoint the timber which is infected with worms. This, he ſays, will not only prevent worms, but preſerve all kinds of woods, and many other things, as ropes, nets, and maſts, from putrefaction, either in water, air, or ſnow.

An experiment to determine the comparative durability of different kinds of timber, when expoſed to the weather, was made by a nobleman in Norfolk ; of which an account is given by Sir Thomas Beevor. This nobleman, in the year 1774, ordered three poſts, forming two ſides of a qua­drangle, to be fixed in the earth on a rising ground in his park. Into theſe poſts were mortiſed planks, an inch and an half thick, cut out of trees from 30 to 45 years growth. Theſe, after ſtanding to years, were examined, and found in the following ſtate and condition :

The cedar was perfectly sound ; larch, the heart sound, but the ſap quite decayed ; ſpruce fir, sound ; ſilver fir, in decay ; Scotch fir, much decayed ; pinlaſter, quite rotten ; cheſnut, perfectly sound ; abele, sound ; beech, sound ; wal­nut, in decay ; ſycamore, much decayed ; birch, quite rot­ten. Sir Thomas Beevor juſtly remarks, that the trees ought to have been of the ſame age ; and Mr Arthur Young adds, they ought to have been cut out of the ſame plan­tation.

The immenſe quantity of timber confirmed of late years in ſhip-building and other purpoſes has diminiſhed in a very great degree the quantity produced in this country. On this account, many gentlemen who wiſh well to their country, alarmed with the fear of a ſcarcity, have ſtrongly recommended it to government to pay ſome attention to the cultivation and preſervation of timber.

We find, on the beſt authority, that of Mr Irving inſpector general of imports and exports, that the shipping of England in 1760 amounted to 6,107 in number, the ton­nage being 433,922 ; and the shipping in Scotland amount­ed to 976 in number, the tonnage being 52,818. In 1788 the whole shipping of Britain and Ireland and their colonies amounted to 13,800, being 1,359,752 tons burden, and em­ploying 107,925 men. The tonnage of the royal navy in the ſame year was 413,667. We are informed alſo, on what we conſider as the beſt authority ( the report of the commiſſioners of the land revenue), that the quantity of oak tim­ber, of English growth, delivered into the dockyards from 1760 to 1788 was no leſs than 768,676 loads, and that the quantity uſed in the merchants yards in the ſame time was 516,630 loads ; in all 1,285,306 loads. The foreign oak uſed in the ſame period was only 137,766 loads. So that, after deducting the quantity remaining in the dock­yards in 1760 and 1788, and the foreign oak, there will remain about 1,054,284 loads of English oak, confirmed in 28 years, which is at an average 37,653 loads *per an­num,*from 8,300 to 10,000 loads expended annually by the Eaſt India company within the same period @@(a).

The price of wood has riſen in proportion to the de­mand and to its diminution. At the conqueſt, woods were valued, not by the quantity of timber which they contain­ed, but the number of twine which the acorns could ſup­port. In 1608, oak in the foreſts was sold at 10s. *per* load, and fire-wood for 2s. *per* load. In 1663 or 1665, in navy contracts from L.2 to 2l. 15s. 6d. *per* load was given. In 1756 it roſe to 4l. 5s. *per* load, and 3s. in addition, becauſe no tops are received. Plank four inch fold in 1769 for L. 7 a load, three inch L.6 ; which prices were the ſame in 1792.

So great an expenditure of valuable timber within ſo ſhort a period, gives reaſon to fear that the foreſts of this country will ſoon be entirely diſmantled, unſeſs something is done to raiſe freſh ſupplies. The building of a 70 gun ship, it is ſaid, would take 40 acres of timber. This calculation is indeed ſo excessive, that it is ſcarcely credible. This, how­ever, is no exaggeration. According to the prevailing opi­nion of experienced ſurveyors, it will require a good soil and good management to produce 40 trees on an acre, which, in a hundred years, may, at an average, be computed at two loads each. Reckoning, therefore, two loads at 8l. 16s. one acre will be worth L.350, and conſequently 40 acres will only be worth L. 14,200. Now a 70 gun ship is generally ſuppoſed to cost L.70,000 ; and as ships do not laſt a great many years, the navy continually requires new flips, ſo that the foreſts muſt be ſtripped in a century or two, unleſs young trees are planted to ſupply their place.

Many plans have been propoſed for recruiting the foreſts. Premiums have been held forth to individuals ; and it has been propoſed that the crown-lands ſhould be ſet a part for the ſpecial purpoſe of raising timber. With respect to in­dividuals, as they muſt generally be diſpoſed to ſow or plant their lands with thoſe vegetables which will beſt reward their labours, it is not to be expected that they will ſet apart their fields for planting trees unleſs they have a great­er return from them than other crops. But bad muſt that land be which will not yield much more than L. 350 pro­duce in 100 years. But though it be evident that good land will produce crops much more lucrative to the proprietor than timber, yet ſtill there are lands or pieces of land which might be applied with very great advantage to the produc­tion of wood. Uneven ground, or the ſides oſ fields where corn cannot be cultivated, might very properly be ſet apart for this purpoſe ; barren lands, or ſuch as cannot be cultivated without great labour and expence, might alſo be planted. Hedge-rows and clumps of trees, and little woods flattered up and down, would shelter and defend the fields from deſtructive winds, would beautify the face of the country, render the climate warmer, improve barren lands, and furnish wood for the arts and manufactures.

But to cultivate foreſt timber has alſo been thought of ſuch national importance, that it has been deemed worthy of the attention of government. It has been propoſed to appropriate ſuch part of the crown-lands as are fit for the purpoſe solely for producing timber for the navy. This appears a very proper ſcheme in speculation ; but it has been objected, that for government to attempt the farming of foreſts would be really to eſtablihs groups of officers to pocket ſalaries for doing what, it is well known, will never

@@@(a) A writer in the Bath Tranſactions ſays, that the aggregate of oaks felled in England and Wales for 30 years paſt hath amounted to 320,000 loads a-year ; and affirms that he has documents in his possession founded on indiſputable facts. The difference between this account, and that which we have given in the text from the report of the commiſſioners, we leave to be reconciled by thoſe who have proper opportunities. We give the facts merely on the authority of others.