

within doors; thus far *Agricola*. But time and experience have worn out the use of *Salt-Petre* and *Fossil-Salts*, which have given the priority to *Polverine*, the other being all too soft and gentle, whereas Glass requires Lixivial and fixed Salts, that have a caustical and strong taste, and that have but little Unctuousity, wherewith *Nitre* and *Fossil-Salt* abound, and therefore run most of them into *Sandever*, unto which *Nitre* comes somewhat near in taste and fatness. But *Agricola* and other Authors, seem to mistake *Pliny*, who puts *Nitre* for those *Alkalizate* Salts: For he says. *Lib. 31. Chap. 10.* never much *Nitre* was made of the Ashes of Oak:

Virgil also seems to use the word in the same sense, *Georgic. 1. Semina vidi, &c.*

as Mr. *Ogilby* has Translated it,

I have seen many would anoint their Grain

With Nitre first, then Lees of Oil would spread.

This kind of good Husbandry he expresseth before, when he says,

*Nor with rich Dung spare hungry Grounds to feed,
And unclean Ashes on poor Champains spread.*

These latter Verses prove clearly, that Salts enrich the Soil, and it is most certain, that Earth wherein there is no Salt, will be Barren. Wherefore the word *Nitre* in the former Verses must signify either Salt extracted from Ashes, or the Ashes themselves wherein the Salt is contain'd. And to the same purpose are those other two Verses in the same Book.

To burn dry Stubble on the Barren Fields,

In crackling flames oft handsome profits yields.

Now in burning the Stubble, nothing but Salt is produc'd, the nature whereof is to destroy Weeds, which having been a long time and strongly rooted in the Earth, take away the Nourishment from the Grain new sow'd, make the Ground Barren, and