

*Report upon the preceding Paper, by the late Sir Alexander Dick,
of Prestonfield, Baronet.*

TO the President and Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland, SIR ALEXANDER DICK presents his respectful compliments: He regrets that his advanced age prevents him from attending their meetings; but he feels the strongest disposition to promote, as much as in his power, their admirable plans for the benefit of our country. He perused, with great satisfaction, the essay for the propagation of oak woods in the Highlands, and thinks it well deserves the serious attention of the Society and of the public; because it is of the greatest importance to Britain, as a maritime power, to have such a never-failing supply of all kinds of ship timber, as is pointed out in Mr Williams's essay. He is humbly of opinion, that it well deserves to be moved in the House of Commons, and that all the members from Scotland should be invited to assist in bringing it to maturity. One thousand acres of well chosen ground, near water carriage, might be inclosed and planted; and if, within a certain number of years, this plantation appeared to be in a promising condition, another thousand acres might be treated in the same manner; and so on, till all the lands proper for this purpose, and at a moderate distance from water carriage, were stocked with this most valuable production.

With respect to a fund for answering this patriotic purpose, it occurs to Sir Alexander, that, as the sum of five thousand pounds has been, for a great length of time, annually allowed by parliament for making and repairing roads and bridges in the Highlands; and as these are now nearly all finished, so that little else than repairs are annually needed, if three thousand pounds were appropriated for
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these repairs, and the remaining two thousand for inclosing and planting a Royal Forest, both purposes might be fully accomplished without incurring any new expence to government: And a select number from the Antiquarian Society, in which this plan originated; from the Board of Trustees for Encouragement of Manufactures and Fisheries; and from the Commissioners for the Management of the Annexed estates, might be empowered to carry the plan into execution, and to report its progress yearly to the King and Privy Council.