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SOME
REGULATIONS

With regard to the

BEGGING POOR;

AND

A S C H E M E

For providing Employment for LA-
BOURERS of all kinds;

In a Letter to the Author of the *Scots Magazine* :

HUMBLY PRESENTED,

In obedience to the Request of the UN-

KNOWN WRITER,

price 2 1/2 pence

To the Right Honourable and Honourable,

The Lords of Council and Session,

The Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer,

The Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town-council of *Edinburgh*, and other Boroughs,

The Sheriffs of Shires, and the Justices of the Peace,

The Trustees for encouraging Manufactures,

The Society for improving in the Knowledge of Agriculture,

And all other well disposed Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, &c.

B Y

Their Devoted Servants,

The Author and Publishers

OF THE
SCOTS MAGAZINE.

TO THE
AUTHOR
OF THE
SCOTS MAGAZINE.

S I R,

LAST severe Winter reduced many People to great Straits ; and indeed the Charities on that Occasion were liberal beyond Example. But alas ! the Distress still continues, and is even greatly increased, as Provisions are now much scarcer, and the Number of the Indigent greater ; Therefore great Care should be taken to procure them all the Relief possible. To this end I send the following Proposal, to be published or destroyed as you think it deserves, or to be amended by such judicious Gentlemen as favour the Publick and you with their Advice and Assistance in such Cases.

For Method's sake, allow me to reduce all the Indigent to three Classes ; 1. Those
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who can work none. 2. Those who can work some, but not so much as that by their Labour they can earn all the Necessaries of Life.

3. Those who could by their Labour earn the Necessaries of Life, if they were employed. The first are best intitled to be admitted into publick Hospitals, and kept there during their Incapacity; and the second, into Work-houses. And it may be hoped, if the same Spirit continues that has of late so conspicuously displayed itself, we will, in some Time, by good Management, have publick Receptacles for most, if not all of such Persons; which indeed were much to be wish'd. But the present Necessity calls for a present Remedy, and that to Persons of all the three Classes: All of whom may be equally indigent; for if those who can work, are not employed, their Straits may be as great as the Straits of those who cannot work. I shall therefore first consider them all in the same Light, and then propose something peculiar with relation to Persons of the third Class.

What in the first Place then I propose is,

1. That in each City or Parish there be a sufficient Number of small Boxes, with the Name of the City or Parish, and the Number, on each Box; and that in each there be a Slit, into which any Money being put, cannot be taken out till the Box be opened: And that

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that there be a like Number of Badges, with the same Inscription.

2. That some judicious Persons be appointed to have the Inspection each of a certain Number of Poor; and that the Boxes and Badges be delivered to them, in order to be given to the Poor. These Inspectors, if you please, you may call *Deacons*.

3. That every Person who pretends to need Relief from his Fellow-creatures, be directed to apply to some of those *Deacons*.

4. That the *Deacons* give a Box, and affix the corresponding Badge to the Breast or Shoulder of every Person requiring it; and that, besides the Inscription above mentioned, he add, both upon the Box and Badge, the Number of Persons the Bearer of the Box begs for; since often one may beg for several Relations who are not able to come abroad on account of Sickness or Infirmity, as Husbands or Wives, Parents or Children, &c. And that when he gives out a Box and Badge, he enter the Name of the Person, the Number of the Box, and the Number he begs for, in a Book.

5. That none be allowed to beg but such as have a Box and Badge; and that it be humbly recommended to all charitable Persons, to put what Money they give to Beggars into the Box.

6. That

6. That each Deacon appoint all the Poor under his Inspection to attend, with their Boxes, at certain Times, in some publick Place. That he there open each Box, take out the Money, mark in his Book the Sum each contains, and the Sum total of the whole, and then deliver to each Beggar what may supply his own Necessities, and the Necessities of those he begs for, till the Time the Boxes be opened again, and no more.

7. That a Physician and Surgeon do likewise attend, in order to examine into the Reality of their pretended Distempers, and to apply proper Remedies.

8. That the Place of convening the Beggars be such as that all Persons may have Access to be present, and see the Money distributed; and that they be invited to inform of the good or bad Behaviour of any Beggar, that they may be encouraged or reprehended as they deserve. All Beggars may be known by taking the Number of their Box or Badge. Here I cannot but take notice of the indecent Liberties taken by Beggars at Burials, especially at the House immediately after the Corpse is carried out.

9. That whatever Money remains after supplying the Necessities of the Poor, be kept by the Deacon, or applied for the Support and Relief of industrious, poor, but modest

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Labourers, who chuse rather to live in the greatest Poverty upon what they can earn by their Labour, than be Burdens upon the Publick; or to other pious Uses.

10. That at certain Periods all the Deacons in every City or Parish meet, examine one another's Books, appoint what Money they have on hand to be properly applied, and make such Regulations as they shall judge necessary.

11. And because it is proposed to give a Box to every one who requires it, and that some may pretend they beg only because no body will employ them, That therefore every Beggar be obliged to work, for some short limited Time, to any Person who pleases to employ him, for his bare Subsistence; but if he be kept beyond the Time limited, that his Employer allow him something for Cloaths.

12. That in great Cities, a Clerk be appointed to keep the Books, to ease the Deacons; and that the Deacons appoint different Times for convening their respective Poor, so that one Clerk may attend them all.

13. That in some Country Parishes, where there is not much Money current, and of consequence the Boxes would be useless, That the Beggars be furnished only with Badges; and that they be convened at certain Periods, to answer to any Charge that may be brought against them.

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If Beggars were put under these or the like Regulations, none of them could make a lucrative Trade of Begging, or live in Luxury or Debauchery upon what their feigned Tears and affected Cries and Gestures often extort from compassionate and charitable Persons. Nay, 2. importunate Beggars might be made useful to Society, by collecting for the Relief of poor industrious Labourers. 3. The State of all Beggars might be known, so as none could impose upon the Publick by feigned Distempers, pretending to have more Children or Relations to provide for than they really have, or other Falshoods. 4. All sturdy Beggars might be detected, and forced to work. 5. All Persons might have an Opportunity of seeing how their Charities were applied, of offering their Advice to the Deacons, and of asking, when the Funds would permit, some Relief for poor Labourers.—But I must hasten to what I have to say with relation to Persons of the third Class.

Here I cannot but observe, that as Labour is the chief Support of Society, those People of Substance who employ their Thoughts in contriving, and their Means in executing Projects whereby a Number of Hands get Employment, are certainly the best Friends of Society. And it were much to be wish'd that People, especially in these hard Times, would

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would lay themselves out this way, and look upon this as the most useful Charity; since the Publick are not only relieved of the Burden of all the Poor that are employed, but these even contribute their Mite chearfully for the Support of such as cannot work. And as Money laid out this way might in Time produce good Returns, the Generous would thus be enabled to make their Charities more extensive.

But it sometimes happens, that People are difficulted how to find out the Persons proper for executing what they project; as, on the other hand, People who want Employment, are no less at a loss who to apply to. Therefore, what I propose on this Head, Sir, is, That you allot a certain Space of each *Magazine*, in which any Person may insert what kind of Work he wants to have done, and those who want Employment, the kind of Work they are qualified for, or their Age, Education, or other Circumstances that a Person designing to employ them would be desirous to know; and that in either case Notice be given where to enquire, though, if the Persons please, their own Names may be concealed. And as you profess to be a Servant of the Publick, you ought to do it with as little Charge as possible, especially to the Poor. Thus your *Magazine* would become a kind

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of

of publick Market-place, where Employers and Labourers might as it were meet together monthly. And who, with Coffers or Barns full, could see so many poor Labourers standing idle and starving in the Market-place, without being sensibly touched, and opening his Purse or Granaries for their Relief; especially when in many Cases it might be done without Loss, nay even with Advantage to himself? Nay no Man, who knew how he could give Employment to one single Person, could discharge that Duty he owes the Publick till he made publick Intimation of it; nor could those who want Business discharge that Duty they owe to the Publick and themselves, till they seriously considered, and made publick Intimation what they were best qualified for.

Several Advantages might ensue from this Scheme: As, 1. Some People who do not know what to apply themselves to, might find something proposed which they would be qualified for executing. 2. Persons might be induced to enquire into, and propose some Things that would tend to the Conveniency and Use of Mankind, which would otherwise never be brought to Light. 3. Persons of superior Knowledge in Agriculture, or in any Trade or Manufacture, who could employ a Number of Hands profitably, would have

have a fair Opportunity of making their Schemes known, and of requiring Assistance for putting them in execution. 4. Some well disposed Persons or Societies might be induced, as the most easy as well as useful way of giving Charity, to offer to lay out Sums for employing a Number of Hands, in any useful Labour, that would procure Bread to the Labourers, and would probably in the Event yield Returns near equal to the Money laid out. — But I leave the Alteration, Improvement or further Prosecution of what I have proposed, to abler Hands; having sufficiently discharged my Duty, in communicating what appeared best to me upon so important a Subject.

I shall only add, that I think the Poor should be considered as the Children of the Publick; and as neither their Education, Company, nor Manner of living, afford them such Opportunities of improving their Minds, and acquiring right Notions of Things, as others have, that therefore Allowance should be made for their Weaknesses, and that, if possible, they should be allured rather than forced to comply with what is intended even for their own Good, especially when any new Regulation with regard to themselves is made; for the Narrowness of their Minds makes them very jealous. And for this Lenity

nity the present Calamity is a strong Argument; for we can scarce think, that any thing less than the severe Stings of Want could force them to expose themselves to the Inclemency of the most rigorous Weather, and that even at the latest Hours, or draw doleful Groans and unaffected Tears from their tender Infants, as yet untaught the Arts of Disimulation: Of which we see numberless Instances.

In order to carry any Project to execution, it is necessary it be communicated to proper Persons. As the Lords of Session generously concur with the Magistrates of *Edinburgh*, in taking proper Precautions to prevent the bad Effects of the present Dearth, it might perhaps be proper to send Copies of this Letter to their Lordships, also to the Barons of Exchequer, the Magistrates of *Edinburgh* and other Boroughs, Justices of Peace, Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, the Trustees for encouraging Manufactures, the Society for improving Agriculture, &c. But of this you will be best Judge. So I shall only beg Pardon for having encroached so much upon your Patience, and subscribe myself,

A Lover of Mankind,

Edin. Dec. 29.
1740.

INDUSTRY.

WE cheerfully comply with the Request of this worthy Correspondent. Copies of his Letter shall be conveyed to the Lords of Session, Barons of Exchequer, Magistrates of *Edinburgh*, &c. Copies shall be transmitted to the several Postmasters, to be given to the Magistrates of other Boroughs, Justices of Peace, &c. Copies shall be put into the Booksellers Shops in Town and Country; and besides it shall be inserted in our first *Magazine*; which will publish it, we hope, to the Author's Satisfaction. Whatever Resolution any City, Parish or Society, shall take with regard to this Proposal, shall, if we be favoured with a Copy of it, be likewise inserted in our *Magazine*; which however we intreat may be writ as concisely as possible, the great Variety we give in small Bounds obliging us to be very frugal in point of Room.

In the second Part of this Proposal, our Correspondent has, as we may say, pitched upon our *Magazine* for the Scene of Action. What he desires on this head shall likewise be readily agreed to. But as his Directions are general, we beg leave to propose a Method which we think the best for putting the Scheme in execution, subject always to the Correction of the judicious Projector, or of any other.

That

That our Readers may have no cause to complain of Encroachments made on their Property, the Cover of the *Magazine* shall be the Place. Employers and Labourers shall be ranged under two general Titles, *viz.* *Employment for Labourers*, and, *Labourers wanting Employment*. When Persons formerly inserted continue unprovided, Reference shall be made to the *Magazine* and Paragraph where they are to be found, which shall be numbered for the more easy Discovery. During the Continuance of the present Calamity, the Poor shall be served *gratis*, and the Charge to others shall be very moderate. As we meet with Encouragement in the several Corners of the Kingdom, the utmost Impartiality shall be shown to all, and Preference given according to the Order in which Persons apply. For the more Exactness, 'tis intreated the Notes be given in to the Printing-house; and, when Letters are sent, that the Person directed to be enquired for, be properly designed; also the Person who signs the Letter, that, if called upon, we may be able to give our Author.

We should be wanting in our Duty, if we did not here make our grateful Acknowledgments to this Gentleman, for favouring us with his Thoughts upon a Subject of such universal Concern. We likewise lay hold of this

this Opportunity, humbly to invite and intreat others to follow the Example set them by him and some other Gentlemen, in presenting the Publick with whatever they think of Service to Mankind, or Discoveries in Arts or Sciences; and we promise to insert their Essays with all convenient Speed, provided they meet with Approbation from those judicious or learned Gentlemen by whose Advice we chuse to be directed, our Undertaking being design'd, as well for *Use*, as for *Entertainment* to the Publick.

Letters may be addressed to W. Sands, A. Brymer, A. Murray, or J. Cochran, at their Printing-house in Burnet's Close, Edinburgh; the Postage to be paid by the Persons who send them.— The Magazine is always published about the 12th of the Month.

Edin. Jan. 1.
1741.

