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0247

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Prior to the commencement of the War the Victualling Office had to provide Provisions for only 20,000 Seamen, the number on the Peace establishment, it has now to provide for 110,000 Seamen which is ~~now~~ 90,000 more than in peaceable times — out of this 90,000 perhaps not more than 60,000 are victualled from provisions purchased in London the other 30,000 ~~being~~ provisioned where they are stationed in the East & West Indies, for instance; but as the allowance is perhaps more than equal to double the quantity which a laborer has for his maintenance; the 60,000 Men victualled by Provisions actually purchased in London may be said to consume the provisions of 20,000 laboring inhabitants of that Metropolis.

Observe the Marines from 25 to 30 thousand Men & the Soldiers sent on expeditions who take out with them great quantities of Provisions purchased by the Vict<sup>g</sup> Office are totally omitted in these calculations.

The Vict<sup>g</sup> Office therefore becomes in consequence of the War a new customer in the Market — buying Provisions for 120,000 Men — and as perhaps ~~not~~ more than one sixth of the 60,000 ~~Men~~ Sailors, victualled from London, are taken from London, it operates equal to an increase of population of 100,000 Men — But the effect is much more felt, than it would be in case of such increase of population; for the provisions are all purchased by one New Customer, whereas if the population was suddenly to be increased by 100,000 people they would be distributed about the Capital & supplied by the Bakers in all their respective districts, it would therefore operate insensibly on perhaps 10,000 dealers.

If the population of London is estimated at 1,200,000 Men, Women & Children — the Seamen victualled from its markets add an increase equal to one sixth (100,000) — a vast increase —

1175 This I think is a complete proof that the War  
is the cause of the high prices of Provisions -

J. M.

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If to this estimate, the Number of Marines &  
of Soldiers sent upon expeditions were to be added, &  
an allowance made for Waste, ~~Waste~~ Bread, Flour &c  
lost by the V<sup>o</sup> off. as damaged & decayed - ~~but~~  
It would correspond with the small amount  
accompanying this.

0249

