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THOUGHTS
ON
A SURE METHOD
OF ANNUALLY REDUCING
THE NATIONAL DEBT
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN.

By *MATTHIAS KOOPS, Esq.*

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ON
A SURE METHOD
OF
ANNUALLY REDUCING
THE NATIONAL DEBT

OF

GREAT-BRITAIN,

WITHOUT IMPOSING ADDITIONAL BURDENS UPON
THE PEOPLE;

AND WHICH AT THE SAME TIME WILL TEND TO
DIMINISH THE NUMBER OF POOR PERSONS,

AND

GRADUALLY ANNIHILATE THE
POOR-RATES

By MATTHIAS KOOPS Esq.

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1796.

THOUGHTS, &c.

AT a time when the exigencies of the State, occasioned by the calamities of the present war, demand the aid and assistance of every member of the community, who wishes to exert himself for the preservation of our excellent constitution, the author of these few pages trusts no other apology is necessary, for this address to the Public, and his offering a few observations on the necessity under which Government labours, to prevent, if possible, the further increase of the National Debt, which is already accumulated

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cumulated to an enormous amount, and has alarmed many rational citizens of this realm, who are fearful that it must, in the end, involve the nation in ruin; or, if the contingencies of a war, into which we have been forced, and unavoidably obliged to continue, as well for the preservation of our property, as to prevent the total overthrow of all civil law, order, and social connexions, should require a greater accumulation of the national debt, the author flatters himself that his proposal of a scheme, to reduce considerably the said debt annually, without any taxes, or new burdens laid on the people, which may, as it is hereafter explained, in a period of years, pay off the same entirely; if government should think proper to adopt it, it will tranquillize the inhabitants of this kingdom in general, and principally every man of property, merchants, and manufacturers, as the plan will clearly prove, that no calamities, however alarming they may appear to be, are without remedy.

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The author begs leave to observe, that he has had the honour to lay his plan before some able financiers of this country, who fully concur with him in opinion.

Many respectable and eminent authors, have lately communicated their ideas on this subject to the public; the author declines to enter into a discussion of their opinions, but cannot avoid giving a due tribute of applause to a late publication, entitled "The Prevention of Poverty by Beneficial Clubs." The philanthropic author of this work offers a plan for the support of the poor upon the principle of beneficial clubs, observing that the members of those associations contribute very trifling sums to their funds, by weekly, monthly, or other periodical payments, and receive comfortable allowances, when, by sickness or misfortunes they become objects of relief. The philanthropic endeavours of this author most certainly merit the greatest praise, but it is to be feared, that his plan

cannot

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cannot be adopted by government,; for a British Government can never agree to bring forward a scheme, in which any part of the property of individuals, and of all the inhabitants of the country is involved, unless it can be proved to be grounded on the surest foundation; an object which cannot be effected by the before-mentioned plan, for the refunding of that money which has been contributed by the members of the proposed beneficial clubs depends entirely on circumstances which no man on earth is able to foresee or to calculate, as they have for their disbursement a comfortable income to receive in return, when afflicted with sickness or debilitated by old age. But the author of this finds himself greatly indebted to the author of the before-mentioned work, as it has tended to enlarge his ideas with respect to the scheme which he intends to lay before the public.

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The perfect œconomy which philosophical observations discover to pervade nature; the Providence which wisely preserves every atom of the creation, excites melancholy reflections on a thoughtful mind, that comparatively views the ill caution of men, whether occupied in the transaction of paternal concerns, or such as are restricted to the narrow limits of his own person, either in affluence, in mediocrity, or humble life. For to know a man's frugality, or dissipation, the question arises concerning his income, be it what it may, how does he apply it? Affirmation would be bold here to declare, that so little provision is made by the greatest number, for the least reversion of fortune, as most feelingly calls for the wisdom of a conjoined body and fund, to supply individual deficiency; which would involve a nation in poverty, and the individual in consequent wretchedness.

B

A series

A series of ideas would propose that such means may be opened to correct the extravagance of human will, as in the end might reform the manners of the world, on the broad basis to support general convenience.

The love of independence which for many years has led the lower orders of people to associate in clubs, of which the major part is composed of the humblest classes of men, who contribute largely in proportion to their weekly earnings, towards a fund for their succour in distress, indicates the necessity of such an institution as would forward those good purposes; and that might preclude the hurtful and dangerous practice of convening in public-houses on that occasion; for the intention of good is frustrated by the expensive consequence of evil—by present inebriety, and too often, by the future insolvency of the publican, who is commonly treasurer to the society.

Such

Such an institution would become a powerful incentive to diligence and care in the days of youth and vigour; being the direct means of improving every mite into a comfortable support; it would protect those industrious, good members of society, and reserve a proportion of their earnings, to alleviate future necessities*. Their pittance, be it what it may, will be secured to them, from the cruel breaches of trust, fraud and embezzlement—abuses which Mr. George Rose brought a bill into Parliament to correct.

B 2

The

* The parsimony of a poor man is, at present, useless: he cannot save enough to maintain him in sickness, much less in old age; and as there is no public fund established, where he can, with safety, deposit and improve his little hoard, he is tempted to spend and dissipate his savings, nay, to negligence and carelessness, by depending on provision from a parish stock that must maintain him, where he is to partake of the harvest, although he has never sown.

The foundation of a *General Tontine, Insurance and Universal Annuity*, established on such an extensive scale, as to suit every class of the community, and so permanent as to be honoured by age, and to provide for the widow and fatherless*, will alleviate as much of human misery, as human calculation can foresee.

By such an establishment, or institution, it is conceived that such provision would be made for individuals, of every class or denomination in life, as would prevent their feeling the hardship of poverty and distress in the decline of life, and at the same time protect

* The author of the said establishment has maturely considered the principles of every tontine in Europe, corrected every error in calculation, and completed, by experience, the most exact tables of mortality; he has likewise added many new ideas for making his plan universal.

protect the community at large against the heavy charges with which it is burdened by the improvidence and dissipation, or incidental misfortunes of individuals.

The immense sums paid annually for the support of the poor in this kingdom, are sufficiently known and felt, it is one of the heaviest loads under which the community suffers; but it is particularly grievous to the middle class of the people, who, by reason of other burdens, and the actual high prices of every necessary of life, is scarcely able to support their own families. Some plan or establishment for alleviating, and, as far as possible, preventing the increase of this national calamity, demands the immediate attention of government.

It is but natural to suppose, that the utility and necessity of adopting some plan or institution similar to the above-mentioned, may have occurred to several individuals of this

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this as well as of other kingdoms and countries. The constantly increasing number of tontines, (*a*) and associations for the insurance

(*a*) There have been numerous institutions of this kind lately, and several years since established in England, which, notwithstanding their philanthropic designs, are very disadvantageous to a great number of their members; for, those of an advanced age are included in the same class with young members. This is certainly an act of injustice in the first instance, as the younger member, who has a chance to survive the more aged, has more advantageous expectations:—Further, if the aged member survives in those tontines the stipulated times, he enjoys no greater advantage than the younger, notwithstanding he was obliged to submit to a greater risk; but the greatest disadvantage which accrues to all members in general, is that to which all those private institutions, only established for

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insurance of lives, (*b*) and for the benefit of widows, &c. (*c*) however inadequate to the general

for a term of years, must submit, is their engagement to lay out in the public funds, for the security of the members, all the money paid into their treasury; which proves, in fact, exceedingly hurtful to the members of those tontines; where the managers have bought in three per cent. consols at the rate of ninety, eighty, or seventy per cent. and are now, at the time of the expiration of such an establishment, obliged to sell for less than sixty per cent. whereby the hopes and expectations of advantage for the surviving members are frustrated, and they will probably receive in return, no more than their disbursed money, and enjoy no accumulation, either by interest or survivorship.

This would not be the case in perpetual establishments of tontines, according to the author's

general purpose, and benefit to which such institutions might and ought to be extended under

author's scheme, under the security of government; for its tables are calculated on a sure foundation; the aged are allowed a larger benefit than the younger, according to his actual age when he becomes a member; but the material point which gives his scheme a preference beyond every other, is, that all members who prove unfortunate, will obtain immediate relief, equivalent to the amount of their subscriptions, and not be liable to a forfeiture of their premiums, saved by industry, already paid, because they are, by unavoidable misfortunes, incapable to fulfil their engagements, and obliged to discontinue the payment of the subscription.

(b) The author observes with respect to the insurance of lives, that the three principal institutions established in this metropolis,

under a national adoption and security, fully prove, not only the genius and spirit of adventure

polis, differ considerably in the premiums the subscribers must engage to pay, from ten to twenty per cent. and upwards; but as a discussion of their reasons for such an inequality is not his object in these few pages, he contents himself with making that observation to raise the attention of the public in general, but principally of the members interested.

(c) The institutions for the benefit of widows till now established in this country, are in general on so confined a scale, and limited by so many restrictions, that a very inadequate proportion of the numbers which such an institution ought to embrace, are qualified or admittable. Many are excluded, if passed a certain age; a distance of age between the husband and his wife; time of marriage, or if not members of the church

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venture and speculation, which particularly characterises the people of this country, but

church of England, &c. which should not be the case in an institution so interesting to the public; it should be open to all parties, of every age, whatever length of time they have been married, or religion they profess; in short, any one in a good state of health should be admitted a member.

The several establishments differ likewise greatly in the premiums, according to the benefits they offer, and some of them shew principally their liberality in inadequate premiums, to such an annuity as they offer, and it is certain, that only the first subscribers will reap any benefit, as it is impossible these institutions can exist many years.

In

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but also by the very existence of so many such inferior establishments, and their increasing emoluments, what mighty advantages would accrue to the nation at large from the establishment of the before-mentioned institution, suited to embrace every purpose and every order of mankind, from the peer to the peasant.

It is equally natural to suppose that the many objections to which such a general or national institution would be liable, and above all, the great labour and difficulty of carrying such a plan into execution, on any fixed principles of certainty, national safety, and upon fair and equitable terms with the community, have hitherto deterred persons of the most extensive talents and benevolent dispositions from the attempt.

C 2

Indeed

In fact, the narrowness and injustice of these establishments afford a further undeniable argument for the necessity of a general establishment.

Indeed, it might be a question well worthy the consideration of the legislature, whether it would not be consistent with justice and sound policy, to frame a law whereby to compel individuals of every class and denomination of life, after they shall arrive at a certain age (suppose twenty-one years) to pay into a public fund or treasury, to be established for that sole purpose, either weekly, monthly, or otherwise, as shall appear most expedient, a certain portion of their income, or property, by whatever means acquired; and the whole of such payment to be vested in national trustees, with power and directions to place out the amount of such sums, at the expiration of every six months, in the purchase of government or other securities, and so to remain as an accumulating fund for the benefit of the nation, as well as for the benefit of each individual, until they arrive at a certain age, or until it shall appear to the satisfaction of the trustees, or a committee of them, that any of the said subscribers

subscribers were by misfortune, illness, accidents, or other unavoidable causes, rendered unable to continue the payment of their subscriptions, and were in want of assistance, when they should become entitled to such a sum of money as would have been acquired by the accumulating principal and interest, and by survivorship.

One of the strongest objections that could be offered to such a national institution, more especially in a free country, would be the necessity of compelling individuals to pay, or rather to deposit some portion of their income or property, into a national treasury, however ultimately beneficial to themselves. A man whose labour and utmost industry cannot afford him more than twenty, thirty, or forty pounds annually, which at present is truly a scanty allowance for the maintenance of himself, and perhaps a wife and children, might be greatly dissatisfied at being compelled to make a deduction of even sixpence per

per week, or one pound six shillings per annum of his narrow income; though at the expiration of some future period he might want it, and was certain of having the whole of such contribution, considerably accumulated, repaid him: this small deposit would, after a number of years, amount to a sum of consequence* to persons of that class of life, and would, in a great degree, protect them from poverty and want in the more advanced stages

* The author observes, that in the before-mentioned scheme, a person who becomes a subscriber in one of the several different classes of the institution at the age of twenty-one years, for sixpence per week, or six shillings and sixpence per quarter, and should not demand his disbursements with the accumulation on it returned, until he is sixty-one years old, will then be entitled to receive one hundred and seventy-two pounds five shillings and sixpence, or an equivalent annuity in lieu of that sum.

stages of life; or might remain for the use of the widow and children after the husband's decease; and what is still of greater consequence, all such accumulating funds would remain as a guarantee, or security to the whole community, that such contributors should not become burdensome to the whole, or any part of it.

In this point of view, though some individuals might, at first, from its novelty, appear dissatisfied with a law to compel regular payment of such contributions, yet it may be reasonably presumed, that on reflection and conviction of the benefits secured by it to every individual, as well as to the whole community, all orders, and all classes of mankind will cheerfully unite in promoting, supporting, and establishing an institution, founded on such universal principles of policy, wisdom, and benevolence.

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An establishment of such kind would contribute more to the support and comfort of the poor of this country, than the whole code of poor laws, and they would give an observable complacency of character to the members: such of them as have contributed long, without being under the necessity of drawing any allowance, will console themselves with the certainty of independent support.

The experience of two centuries has shewn, that the compulsory system of managing the poor is ineffectual; it has failed to make them useful members of society, and to bring them to habits of industry and frugality, though armed with the power of confinement and punishment.

Might not these great and desirable ends then be obtained by the proposed means of giving the poor an interest in the general weal, making them contributors to the public stock,
and

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and measuring the relief of their necessities by their contributions? They will by it become more and more cemented and united to their country and government; they will never be backward to support our glorious constitution, for they will find in a short period of time, not only that government treats them with paternal concern, but their own interest must determine them, in future, to do their utmost, in supporting those funds where they have made their deposit, and to which they have to look up for undeniable relief.

It is moreover reasonable to hope, that the intercourse which such a system would create between the different classes of mankind; would improve the morals of the poor, and correct the most profligate and abandoned; and, by removing far from the dwellings of the wretched, the possibility of want; will prevent the commission of crimes,

D

which

which want alone is, too often, the original and unfortunate cause of.

The foregoing observations prove sufficiently what may be reasonably expected from the establishment of such an extensive institution, with respect to the poor, and that it must of course greatly contribute to the gradual abolition of the poor rates—an object which would most effectually be accomplished, if the wisdom of the legislature should think it fit, that by compulsory subscriptions, a certain share of the payments, or contributions of those, who are blessed with a comfortable income and riches, should be appropriated for the benefit and relief of the indigent, who may soon become objects of relief, and before their own deposits are sufficiently increased to render them the necessaries of life; such a share employed for support in sickness, would fully answer so desirable an end.

It

It remains now to illustrate how such a public institution may operate, greatly to reduce annually the national debt, and extinguish it in a space of years.

The author before he enters into the discussion of this object, begs leave to observe, that this plan is established on a sure basis; all the calculations of his various classes and numerous tables are founded on three per cent, simple interest*; the nation has therefore to reap the benefits which arise by compound interest, and from the higher interests, which accumulate by placing the capitals
D 2 received

* The author observes, that notwithstanding the tables in his plan for the subscriptions which the members have to pay, are calculated at the rate of three per cent. simple interest, the subscribers will find in general their benefit by joining it, and more advantage to themselves than in any other institution as yet established.

received in the treasury, in the public funds, or other securities; for which reason he divides his observations into two classes.

First. If the said institution should be established in the three kingdoms for voluntary subscribers, with leave for foreigners residing in other countries to be admitted members.

Secondly. If the establishment should be made compulsory.

With respect to the first class, if the institution should be established for voluntary subscriptions, it is certain that no exact statement or calculation can be formed in what degree it may operate for the diminishing of the national debt, till experience has proved to what sum the annual payment may amount; but if we consider the several institutions in this country, established for the insuring lives, &c. for the benefit of widows, tontines, and

and the numerous clubs for different purposes, and the spirit of the nation to partake in schemes where they expect to be benefited, we may take it for granted, that in the first year of the establishment, from the money received in the treasury, there will remain a surplus of one million; the second year, two millions; the third year, three millions; the fourth year, four millions; the fifth and every following year, five millions; suppose it to be for a period of fifty years.

The money received with simple interest at the rate of 3 per cent. will, after this institution has been fifty-one years established, amount to - - - £418550000 0 which sum the members have a right to receive in return, and will be sufficient to satisfy all subscribers in regard to their several claims, if then demanded. Whereas the beforementioned sums laid out after the first year's receipt, and all the

(30)

following years every six months
 at the rate of four an a half per
 cent. (is in three per cent. confols
 ab. sixty-six and three quarters
 per cent.) would produce by the
 accumulation of compound in-
 terest - - - - - 874319311 4

Thus the enormous sum of £455769311 4
 would be cleared, and remain a net
 gain for government. This again
 will be proportionable for any
 shorter period—as on the before
 stated scale, after an existence of
 forty-one years, the members de-
 mand would be - - - - - £305300000 0

And the produce in the manner
 as before explained - - - - - 520368935 4
 Remains gain for government £215068935 4

The member's demand would
 be after thirty-one years - £206050000 0
 And the produce - - - - - 293552071 13
 Gain for government - £ 87502071 13

After

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After twenty-one years, the
 member's demand would be £120800000 0
 And the produce - 148203721 17
 Gain for government £ 27403721 17

After eleven years, the mem-
 ber's demand would be - £50550000 0
 And the produce - 55042963 10
 Gain for government - £ 4492963 10

which stated gain increafes con-
 siderably in a further number of
 years, and may be easily ascer-
 tained by this statement; but the
 success in such a degree as it has
 here been stated, depends on the
 opinion of the public, and the
 encouragement it will give to
 such an establishment.

The success appears to be most obvious,
 as the hopes of a long life and the alluring
 charms of gain, are the favourite views of
 all mankind, and they find here, different
 and sufficient ways to gratify those desires.

By

By promoting this institution, they have two chances before them, either of death at an early time of life, or of comfort in old age. Death ends all wants; and if they attain old age, they are certain to enjoy ease, by having provided for themselves in such a manner, that they have no wants and misery to fear, when age and infirmities prevent the continuation of industry for their support. Parents blessed with children without riches, will find opportunities to provide for them at a small expence; for if they die, they have no poverty to dread; and if they survive their parents and benefactors, a provision is procured for them. A husband who engages for his wife, enjoys that comfort during his life; that he is enabled to leave this world with the satisfaction of being certain that his widow shall be protected from the want of the necessaries of life. The different classes procure to artists, labourers, servants, and the lower order of the people several opportunities, to provide for themselves and families;

milies; and those who are blessed with riches, will become members, on the speculation and prospect of augmenting the revenue. These motives undoubtedly will engage people of all classes to join in the subscriptions, and to embrace an opportunity so beneficial, on terms so easy and moderate, without running any risk. Reflections on this foundation at large, must be uncommonly satisfactory to the benevolent mind, in promoting good to others, as well as the means of causing national wealth, by assisting individuals in the act of œconomy.

The author observes further, that the establishment of such a general institution, will become an opening of great convenience to noblemen, men of landed property, and people of the first fortunes, who will find means to provide in various ways an annual income,

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OR

or a capital, (a) for their younger children, or others whom they wish to protect without incumbering their landed property, and the heir of their estates, which has been too often the case (b). These new openings for opulent

(a) A person for example, who under forty-five years of age, subscribes for a child one year old, the half yearly payment of £104, being £4 weekly, in one of the classes of this institution, will secure for such child £6483 2s. 6d. to be paid when twenty-one years of age; the payments drop on the subscriber's death, and notwithstanding this, the insured money is to be paid at the mentioned period, if the child should attain that age.

(b) An heir of large estates has, by those incumberances, often been prevented from marrying a woman, the choice of his heart, because her fortune was but small; and his father, who was necessitated to provide for junior children, did persuade him to marry

opulent men merit consideration; they find here an opportunity by depositing annually, a small portion of their income, to secure for all their children, when come to a certain age, such sums of money as they should think proper to insure. This object alone may occasion considerable sums of money to be yearly paid, into the treasury of this institution, and give at the same time, full satisfaction to every subscriber.

On these considerations, the stated sums of the annual receipts may prove to be too small, and that a great part of more than ten millions of people, may be induced to make deposits for their future emoluments, but principally, if Foreigners, residing in

E 2

other

marry a person, by whose fortune he should be enabled to clear his estates from these burdens. Many unhappy marriages, and even divorces have been occasioned by such a measure.

other kingdoms and countries, should be admitted members.

Great Britain is the only country which enjoys an unlimited and general credit throughout Europe and other parts of the globe; and such a general and well-secured establishment is much wished for on the continent; it will engage a great number of Foreigners to become members and subscribers, (especially if their deposits will remain safe even in the time of war) and to place a part of their money in the treasury of this institution; which naturally, it is to be supposed, will attach them to this country, as well as induce them to contribute for the future in this way towards the support of the State; and may probably occasion the receipt of more considerable annual sums, as has been before stated.

The author concludes these remarks, by observing, that a great many batchelors have been

been prevented from entering into wedlock, by an honourable fear, in case of their decease, of leaving their widows and children unprovided; this fear they will find by such a general establishment greatly removed, in the most convenient way; a circumstance which must naturally lead to augment the population, and in course give new vigour to the state. The promotion of marriage and population has ever been regarded as most advantageous to a free country. Another consideration merits the attention of the legislature: if it is taken for granted, that by such an establishment the number of distressed and poor may be diminished in a space of years; it will prove further beneficial to the country at large, as they will be afterwards more able to contribute to the exigencies of the state.

There remains now the discussion, in what manner a compulsory scheme may operate for the reduction of the national debt.

Suppose

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Suppose that under the sanction of the legislature each person in Great-Britain, being the head of the family, or of age, was compelled to contribute according to their situation,* for their own benefit, or for the benefit of their families, in one or other of the different classes, in which they may be deemed proper to be ranked; we will conclude, that the following number of persons are able to contribute.

In England	-	-	2,400,000
In Scotland	-	-	600,000

Total three millions, which may be divided for contributions into the fourteen following classes, and would produce by weekly payments, an annual receipt, as follows:—

Persons

* Some notice ought to be taken, if the contributor has a numerous family to maintain.

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Persons whose income is 2000l. and upwards, from 1l. 10s. to 10l. per week

1000 in number, average 4l. per week		208000
Do. 1500l. & upwds	2000 at 1l. per week	104000
Do. 1200l.	7000 at 15s.	273000
Do. 1000l.	15000 at 12s. 6d.	487500
Do. 800l.	25000 at 10s.	650000
Do. 600l.	40000 at 7s. 6d.	780000
Do. 400l.	60000 at 5s.	780000
Do. 300l.	80000 at 4s.	832000
Do. 200l.	150000 at 3s.	1170000
Do. the lower class	300000 at 2s. 6d.	1950000
Do.	420000 at 2s.	2184000
Do.	500000 at 1s. 6d.	1950000
Do.	1000000 at 1s.	2600000
Do.	400000 at 6d.	520000
		<hr/>
3000000 contribrs		£ 144885000

The total produce annually received would be upwards of fourteen millions; and if that sum should be employed to purchase stock, in order to reduce the national debt, the author has subjoined a statement how it may operate, provided the purchase of three
per

per cent confols be calculated in the average at 75 per cent. which is equal to four per cent. interest.

The subscribers claims in the first thirty years in capital with three per cent. simple interest are - 602700000 0

And the capital amounts in that time, half yearly employed, at the rate of four per cent. compound interest, to - 798360775 18

Remains a surplus for the reduction of the national debt - 195660775 18

Claims in the first forty years with three per cent. simple interest 882600000

Produce with four per cent. compound interest - 1356403704 13

Surplus - 473803704 13

Claims in the first fifty years with three per cent. simple interest 1214500000

Produce with four per cent. compound interest - 2185626141 10

Surplus - £. 971126141 10

An

An apparently just objection may here be made: How calculate fourteen millions annually received in the treasury, when the foundation of the establishment is for the benefit and support of the people, and to refund all sums of money received, with three per cent. simple interest and the advantage of survivorship, &c. The answer is, The payments to be made to the contributors are gradual and by installments, and voluntary members, who subscribe for one or more classes of such an institution, will not only make good the deficiency*, but procure much larger sums, principally if his Majesty's subjects in Ireland, and other inhabitants in foreign countries would be admitted as voluntary subscribers.

F If

* The author presumes that his ideas are sufficiently explained to be understood, as a further development would interfere too much with his general plan.

If the annual receipt by compulsory and voluntary subscriptions should amount to twenty millions, and the received capital placed every six months in the before-stated manner; the surplus to be employed for the diminution of the national debt, would accumulate in the space of 25 years, to

	.	.	.	174794015l.	7s.
30 years	.	.	.	288515395l.	3s.
35 years	.	.	.	451779112l.	13s
40 years	.	.	.	678719579l.	14s

These statements afford the most convincing proof that the author's proposed scheme, will gradually diminish the national debt, and if not in such a great degree as has been here stated in the calculations, they ascertain sufficiently of what consequence such an establishment may be to the nation. He flatters himself with the hopes, that the major part of the public, on having perused his thoughts here unfolded, will unite in the desire, *That, the plan may be speedily adopted.*

FINIS.

POSTSCRIPT.

IT may perhaps appear singular to the public, that the author of these Thoughts has mentioned his scheme for an *Universal Tontine, and General Annuity*, without communicating the contents, and only refers to some part of it; for which reason, he thinks it a duty incumbent on him, to acquaint the public, that he intends not immediately to publish either his plan or his calculations, which is a very extensive work, and the production of many years application and labour, formed into fifty different classes, and divided into two heads, under which one part is open for military and sea-faring people, and those of weak constitutions and debilitated habits, who are excluded in other establishments; but he offers to give every information demanded from him by letter, to any creditable person who shall think proper to apply to him.—All letters left for him at J. BARFIELD'S Printing-Office, No. 91, Wardour-Street, Soho, (post paid) will be duly attended to.

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