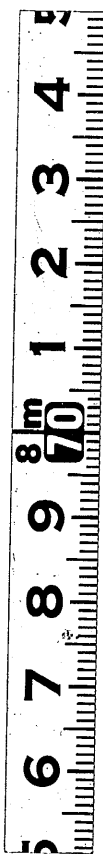


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THE
TRUE CAUSES
OF OUR PRESENT
DISTRESS FOR PROVISIONS;
WITH A
NATURAL, EASY, AND EFFECTUAL PLAN,
FOR THE FUTURE
PREVENTION OF SO GREAT A CALAMITY.
WITH
SOME HINTS RESPECTING THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF
AN ENCREASED POPULATION.

BY
WILLIAM BROOKE, F.S.A.

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1800.



TO

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

SIRE,

THE constant predilection and countenance YOUR MAJESTY has ever shewn to the most useful and honourable of all occupations, *Husbandry*, emboldens me to address a few thoughts which have arose from actual observation.

If, from the facts therein stated, any hints to the benefit of our native land should arise, my end will be answered: and YOUR MAJESTY, the tender Father of his people, will excuse the liberty I have taken.

Nor have I a doubt the pinch the kingdom now experiences, will bring to public view the abilities and knowledge on this subject of every friend to his country,
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which never could come forward at a better time than the present, when we have a patriot KING, and a wise, enlightened, and faithful Administration.

Joining in the prayers of all YOUR MAJESTY'S subjects for Your long life, with good health and happiness,

I have the honour to subscribe myself,
one of

Your MAJESTY'S

Most dutiful and

devoted Subjects,

WILLIAM BROOKE.

JAN. 8, 1800.

THOUGHTS

ON THE

HIGH PRICE OF PROVISIONS.

" Ill fares the land to fated ills a prey,
" Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.
" Princes or lords may flourish or may fade,
" A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
" But, a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
" When once destroy'd, can never be supplied."

GOLDSMITH'S DESERTED VILLAGE.

THE above prophetic and immortal lines ought to be written in letters of gold, and prefixed over the door of the House of Commons, constantly to remind that very important branch of the Constitution, how much it is their duty to attend to the interest of the lower orders of society: for, from want of paying due attention to those most useful classes of men, the small farmer and peasant, great part of the distressing evils we now experience has originated; and the reasons for that opinion are as follows:

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When the nation, about thirty years ago, began to turn its serious attention to agriculture, as a science of the first importance, a very wrong bias took place in the mind of the public; whether by the contrivance of artful individuals, or by accident, I shall not pretend to determine. The mistake was, that it would be more for the advantage of the nation, that the small farms and cottages should be thrown into large farms; and upon this illusive idea, that the large farmer, by the means of his superior capital, would work the land which he occupied, to greater advantage than the small farmer.

Unfortunately, experience, that never-failing touchstone to truth, hath convinced us how much we were in the wrong. As the present period is not the moment to indulge in speculative reasoning, it will be right to come to the essential points at once.

It may, therefore, be asserted as the general sense of the nation, that our distress, for want of greater plenty in the articles of wheat and other grain, butcher's meat, poultry, &c. arises from various causes, the principal of which are,

Monopoly of farms;

The immense number of horses kept in this kingdom;

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The neglect in breeding cows, horned cattle, hogs, asses, and goats;

The almost difuse of fish, and carelessness of our fisheries;

The present method of supporting the clergy;

Too extensive hop grounds;

Neglect of orcharding, &c.

In the first place, I shall lay it down as an axiom, that no man has the right to injure his own country in any manner or shape whatever; and that it is the natural and moral duty of us all, to increase the happiness and strength of it, by every fair and useful means in our power: for, I should conceive it wicked in the extreme for the landholders of England (for to England only shall I apply my reflexions) to say to their fellow-subjects, who now work and occupy the greatest part of that land, "We have no more occasion for you, and you must quit your farms at the expiration of your leases, as we intend to let the woods grow up, and indulge ourselves in hunting, shooting," &c. Would not the rest of the people revolt at such conduct, and boldly say, "No, gentlemen, it is true the land is your own, and that we will guarantee with our blood and our treasure: but, as from that soil, articles of the utmost need to the

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lives of us all originates, we do insist you have it employed for the sustenance of us and our families?" Would not this, I say, be the reasonable language of the mass of the nation?

It therefore follows, that the proprietors of land have an undeniable title to their estates; but at the same time they owe their country, they owe to themselves, and they owe to their families, the indispensable duty of having those estates cultivated in the best and most profitable manner. It appears, therefore, from the present unfortunate situation of the kingdom, in respect to provisions, that some fatal errors have crept into the management of the soil. And we ought all to turn our attention to the causes—Why a nation, that not more than forty or fifty years ago shipped and sold, even in Europe, immense quantities of wheat; had also, at that time, the utmost abundance of animal food, when the drain for the West Indies was much more than it has been of late years, and North America did not ship the tenth part of provisions it now does to the islands; but, on the contrary, the Southern colonies were supplied with large quantities from England. As a case in point, in the years 1750 and 1751, more than 1,200,000 quarters of wheat were shipped for Spain, Portugal,

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Portugal, Italy, and the south of France, and the exportation of that article in large quantities continued until the war broke out in 1755. But at the end of that war, in 1763, the Americans from Virginia, Maryland, and Canada, carried away the trade; and it is strange to relate, the price of wheat has never been very low in England since; on the contrary, in the years 1794, 1795, and 1796, and also the present year 1799, wheat was and now is so scarce, that in spite of great importations, as to be sold at the exorbitant price of 15s. and 16s. per bushel, Winchester measure; and, from the month of July 1796 to March 1797, 800,000 quarters of wheat were imported, which, with the high bounty given to import, caused a drain of 2,500,000 guineas; and it produced such a scarcity of cash, as to be one great cause of the Bank stopping payment in specie, the beginning of 1797. The reason why England should have experienced such a reverse in the state of its provisions, deserves the strictest enquiry and investigation.

It is almost the unanimous opinion of the nation, that the monopoly of farms is the first great leading cause of the immoderate advance in the price of all the articles of life; for, by throwing the bulk of the land into

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into comparatively few hands, opportunity is given to speculation, an evil, especially on objects of the first necessity, exceeds all calculation. By permitting farmers to hold large tracts, it is impossible the land can be so well attended to; and for want of abundance of manure on the tillage land, a very great quantity has been taken from under the plough and thrown into pasture; consequently, has been the means of a vast decrease in the growth of all kinds of grain. The reduction in the number of farms in England would scarce be credited, was not the fact unfortunately too well proved. Not one county in the kingdom has more than half the number it formerly had; most counties are reduced to one-third; and one county in particular, has not the fourth part of the number it had a few years ago.

Is it then to be wondered at, that our markets are almost deprived of small stock; that is to say, fowls, geese, turkeys, pigs, &c.? which loss has become an evil sensibly felt by every town in the kingdom: indeed the scarcity of fowls has been such in London, as to be sold at the monstrous prices of 14s. and 16s. a couple. But this mischief, vexatious as it is, is nothing, in a national point of view,

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to the loss and depreciation of those meritorious classes of men, the small farmer and peasant, occasioned by this monopoly. Let us bring before our eyes the actual state of the kingdom, in regard to its agricultural population; sixty or seventy thousand large farmers, and not the same number of small ones, occupy all this bountiful and beautiful country. When, therefore, the nation is in war, the supply of men from the natural resource, the country, is totally inadequate to its want; and the cities and manufacturing towns are ransacked to fill their places. But how ought the account to stand, so as to render us truly powerful and invincible? This kingdom should be occupied or tenanted by four or five hundred thousand moderate farmers, and twice as many cottagers: what I mean by a cottager, is a family having the use of one to four acres of land. The effect of such an alteration would be, that the Duke of Devonshire, or other noblemen and gentlemen of large landed property, might wait on his majesty, when attacked by his enemies, and say to him, "Sire, I come to offer you the services of one or two regiments of hardy and intrepid men!" Then would the aristocracy, which branch of our excellent constitution I hold to be most valuable,

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able, as being the guardians of the crown on one hand, and the natural and faithful friends to the people on the other, then would it stand on its proper base and respectability. And as all nations must be governed by an aristocracy, under one name or another, when it loses its due influence, as we unfortunately have seen happen to France, Flanders, Holland, Italy, and Switzerland, a nation is always afloat; the consequence of which is uniformly attended with the most dreadful effects. I cannot avoid, in this place, paying a small tribute of respect to the late unhappy noblemen and gentlemen of France, who, whatever may have been their follies, were beyond contradiction the most polite, urbane, and accomplished men in the world. Well would it have been for them and for their country, had they attended more to the concerns of their estates, and thereby given an opportunity to their small tenants of knowing their worth; for it is a strict truth, the oppressions the country people met with there, principally arose from the unfeeling conduct of their stewards and bailiffs, who fathered their peculations on the backs of their masters; thousands of those miscreants were the first to join in the revolution, and are now rioting
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on the estates of much better people. This nation is not without examples.

But the advocates for monopoly and speculation will say, What is now to be done? Great part of the lands are under lease, and you would not wish Parliament to interfere and break private contracts. No, it is not desired that any individual should have injustice done him; but it is contended, that Parliament should so far interfere for the benefit of the nation at large, to compel the leaseholders, who occupy more than a certain quantum of land, to relet the remainder to others on the best terms they could. What that quantum ought to be, which each individual should occupy, so as to encrease the produce, increase the population, and thereby the strength of the country, must be left to the investigation of that body of men, from whom all the laws of the people originate. But, reasoning from the conduct and experience of other nations, we may venture to say, it ought to be small. The Chinese, the example to the whole world for industry and population, have laws to restrain the engrossing of land; and the universal smallness of their farms, visible throughout the whole country, is a sufficient proof. The high re-
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spect paid to agriculture, as being the first link of the political chain, and the true riches of a state, by the government of that very enlightened people, is evident from the conduct of their Emperor; who is the first each year to put the plough in the ground. Would to Heaven it was a law with us! which I am certain our present gracious Sovereign would heartily subscribe to; we should then behold the greatest of human blessings—an abundant country spreading its bounty to all classes of the people.

That agriculture is the most respectable employment in China, we have the authority of all travellers for so saying; and that they carry on their exertions with constant perseverance. No spot is left untilled or unimproved, the very tops of the highest mountains they think worth their attention, and Mr. Anderson tells us in his account of the Chinese, that he saw a man, who in order to obtain the produce from a few yards of land on the steep declivity of a hill, actually fastened a cord round his middle while he broke it up. It is also well known the Chinese, in consequence of their numbers and industry, oblige all other nations to pay tribute to their abilities; ourselves not excepted. From
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one side of the globe, from whence I have drawn a strong example in favour of small farms to national prosperity, I will pass to the other, namely, the United States of America, where there is proof of the truth of that opinion of the most striking kind, and it shall appear by the comparison of the two most powerful states in the same union, namely, Massachusetts and Virginia; the soil of the former, taking it aggregately, is of middling quality, and requires an immense deal of hard labour to bring it to; yet the farms there, being generally of moderate size, by prudence and industry, the farmers not only maintain themselves and very large and increasing families of children in plenty, but they export yearly great quantities of beef, pork, butter, cheese, hog's-fat, cyder, fish, &c. &c. besides many thousand sheep and live stock to the West Indies; they are also the principal manufacturers in the United States, and their troops are some of the best in the whole Commonwealth; and all this is done, generally speaking, on farms from forty to sixty acres of cleared land; the soil and climate of which will not bear comparison with our's for agricultural concerns. Whereas in the State of Virginia, where the land is better than in

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Massachusetts, the farms are very large, and the proprietors seldom working on the land, (which is the constant practice of the farmers in the other State,) themselves, they leave the management to servants and blacks, and their produce is by no means equal to what would arise if their farms were smaller, and managed by the industrious hand of the working husbandman.

I will now endeavour to draw the attention of the reader to a part of Europe well known to many of the first persons in this kingdom, that is to say, Switzerland; a people who have by their virtue and courage, till lately overrun by the French Pagan Reformers, enjoyed for centuries uninterrupted peace and happiness; it is well known their farms are of a very small size, and where on the tops of mountains thousands of families, consisting each of eight or ten persons, are supported in plenty, by the produce of five or six acres of indifferent land; and yet the young people there are as healthy and hardy as any nation on earth.

From Switzerland we will come nearer home, with additional proof that a small quantity of land, well cultivated, will yield not only plenty for the occupier and his family,
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but also enable him to spare abundantly for the market, and that example is all Flanders and Brabant, where the farms are mostly of inferior size; I might say very small, when compared with our's. It is well known to all Europe what immense crops they raise, and what full markets they support; the merit of which arises from the husbandman principally; for the stamina of the soil is little better than most parts of England, notwithstanding on equal quantity of land they raise near twice the produce; this must be owing entirely to the farms being small, to the great pains taken to make and collect manure, and the additional labour spent on their farms. The late sagacious Emperor, Joseph II. a thorough statesman, was so sensible of the national advantage of small farms, that he passed an edict, that no person in his hereditary dominions should occupy more than sixty acres of land; a quantity perhaps sufficient, if of good quality, for a farmer in this kingdom.

Nor can I omit Holland, the example to all Europe for industry and perseverance. Farms in that country of twenty to forty acres, are reckoned considerable; yet when we behold the magnitude of their barns, and the size of
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the cattle, we are struck with astonishment at the success of the efforts of the human race when applied with energy; their dykes, their drains, their canals, and the luxurious aspect of the country, announce to us inhabitants whose minds are both sensible and solid; whose ancestors have had the manly resolution of rescuing from a boisterous ocean a mass of sand banks, and converting them to the most beautiful pastures. O! England, thy people do not want good sense, or the spirit of useful enterprise, turn thy eyes to thy own eastern coast, and let no labour or expence be spared to make it quite equal to thy pattern; let the nation bear any proportion of the expence that may be necessary to assist the proprietors. Such an enterprise would be worth more than all thy transatlantic settlements put together, which are thine to-day, but in a short time will pass to another power, *and for ever!*

We will lastly proceed to Ireland, a country, more to our shame be it said, we are less acquainted with its natural resources than those of Jamaica and Bengal; in that fertile island, where ignorance stalks with oppression in the farming line, the poor peasant is allowed but a small modicum of land to procure

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cure the greatest part of his subsistence for himself, and oftentimes a large family; seldom more than one acre is allotted him, and frequently but half the quantity; yet, fortunately for our navy and army, we see spring from such scanty means a numerous, hardy, and intrepid race of men.

By the specific proofs which I have brought, it appears indisputably clear, that to render a nation truly respectable and invulnerable, every care and attention ought to be paid to agriculture and population; and that it should not be in the power of a few individuals to speculate on its indispensable necessities: but to this kingdom of England, the arguments apply with double force; when we consider our innumerable manufacturers with their families, obliged to go daily to the market; on their returning home imposed on, oppressed, and the plainest food sold at very exorbitant prices, it makes them discontented and unhappy, and may lead to emigrations of the most dangerous and important consequences.

Many more weighty arguments might be adduced to support what I have advanced in favour of small farms; but I shall close them by adding the sentiments of that celebrated philanthropist

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philanthropist and philosopher, the Abbé Raynal, who is decidedly of opinion, that large farms are highly destructive to population, and small ones the only proper means of keeping up that class of men. He also adds, that every peasant should have land.

I will boldly assert, that the secondary cause of many of the mischiefs we have experienced of misery and almost famine, has been from an animal which, although a noble animal, and of value in himself, has proved to this country uncommonly pernicious; I mean the *horse*, not in himself, had he been bred in moderation; but from the extravagant numbers now in the land, and the doubly extravagant manner in which they are kept.

In the first place, the high price of horses of late years, has encouraged the monopolizers of many of our superior lands to occupy them in breeding and rearing these animals, which, in the early stage of life, can be looked after without much trouble.

It appears by the Minister's report, there are near one million and an half of horses in this kingdom; to those who know the great expence of keeping *one* only of these beasts in good order, on grass, hay, and grain, will surely agree with me, that five human beings could

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could live in great plenty on the produce of the same quantity of land needful to support one horse. It is therefore evident, the horses in England devour not only a very large proportion of the grain raised in it, but also occupy the best pastures in the kingdom; pastures which ought to be employed for the support of much more useful animals.

As every possible proof on so weighty a subject ought to be brought forward to support bare assertion,

I shall adjoin the actual state of the constant tillage-land in England, as taken from an account published by authority. It consists of ten millions and one half of acres, (Wales excluded,) of which there are only yearly in wheat 2,100,000 acres; there consequently remain 8,400,000 acres employed in raising barley, oats, rye, beans, peas, &c. or fallow, admitting that 3,400,000 are sown with barley and rye, there yet remain 5,000,000 unaccounted for, and it is but fair to affirm that 2,500,000 acres are sown with oats, beans, and peas, the remaining two millions and a half being fallow; and for argument sake we will allow that the produce of 250,000 acres sown with oats is eaten by the people, and 150,000 acres used for fattening swine; it ap-

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appears clear if this statement is correct, that as much land at least is sown for the support of horses as is for the people. A very melancholy reflection when the poor have so severely suffered.

In times of peace let any person look over the bills of entry of London only, and he cannot but notice the many hundred thousand quarters of oats imported from Holland and Flanders, and be sensibly struck with the heavy expence horses are to this country.

I shall be asked, on the other hand, how is the ploughing, the drawing, and all kind of team-work to be performed without horses? I answer, by oxen, bulls, or mules, the preference is due to the first animal, on account of his encreasing size; and also for the value and quality of his carcase.

That the ox or bull is capable of performing all the business of heavy draft not only as well as the horse, but even better, is proved beyond contradiction by the use of them in Flanders, Germany, Spain, Turkey, and all the East where they plough, &c. with no other animals; they are also generally employed in the northern States of America, and even in some few places in England. In the five New England States, all farming business, such as ploughing, harrowing

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harrowing, weeding among corn, &c. : also, all the waggons, carts, sledges, dragging timber of the largest size, clearing land, &c. all is done by oxen; and they not only execute the work I have specified, but go very long journeys of many hundred miles in as short a time as can commonly be done by horses: as one striking instance, a gentleman with whom I was well acquainted, removed his family from the eastern part of Massachusetts to Kentucky, a distance of upwards of one thousand miles, which journey he performed in forty-three days, with only two yoke of large oxen, that drew the weight of two tons, the waggon included. I mention this circumstance, to contradict as much as possible the mistaken prejudice which prevails in this country, that oxen cannot travel; and if they could, it is said, they are tediously slow, whereas it is a well-known fact, that oxen will, without difficulty, and with heavier loads than an equal number of horses can draw, travel two miles and one half in the hour; a pace quite as quick as our heavy stage waggons usually go; and besides, this labour is executed with requiring little more than half the food necessary for horses. But if a creature with a quicker step is wanted, the breed of the buffalo might be introduced;

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duced; this beast will go six or seven miles per hour, and the meat is very good. The ox and bull have also this great advantage over the horse, that they eat their food much faster, and are sooner refreshed. Still further to convince the nation of the superlative benefit of oxen compared with horses, I will mention a fact well-known to every one who has been in the middle and northern States of America, and the effects of the different conduct, are an unanswerable proof of the great profit in raising and using horned beasts.

The New England farmers, as I have before stated, employ oxen for most of their work; but when you get into the States of New York, the Jerseys, Pennsylvania, the farmers in general employ horses to perform their work, the consequence of this opposite practice is, that was it not for the thousands and tens of thousands of beeves which are drove annually from New England to those last-mentioned States, the great cities of New York and Philadelphia would scarcely be supplied with beef in their markets, at all events they would have none for shipping, while the markets of Boston, Salem, Portsmouth, &c. are as well provided with beef and veal as any place in the world, both in its size and its quality.

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Exclusive of the advantage from the flesh of the ox, the immense quantity of leather made from his hide, has enabled the people of Massachusetts to establish several very extensive shoe-manufactories, in so much that the single town of Lynn, near Boston, makes more than three million pair of women's shoes yearly, and the business is daily encreasing; some of the neighbouring towns have supplied the French army with many hundred thousand pair of men's shoes. This manufactory is of very great importance with us, and it now very sensibly feels the want of plenty of hides.

When we consider the incalculable value of working oxen in a manufacturing country, we cannot help being surprized that our legislature has not turned its thoughts towards this object; for example sake, I will put down the certain yearly value of 500,000 oxen in the place of 300,000 horses laid aside: the food necessary for the horses being quite as much as would be wanted for the oxen. And that I may not overrate the true value of the oxen when brought to market, I shall put down the price at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per head, which alone would produce, or be a saving to the nation, of the immense sum of six millions pounds sterling;

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sterling; and the hides, when manufactured into boots, shoes, harness, &c. as equal to one million more. It may be said you reckon the horses of no value; which is truly the case, for 500,000 oxen will do twice as much labour of the draft kind as 300,000 horses can do; and as I before stated, that the food needful for the oxen would not be more than what would be necessary for the horses, the horses, speaking nationally, would be nothing worth.

In addition to what I have advanced in favour of working oxen, it should be remembered that the ox or bull requires not that care, which is indispensable with the horse, for without it even his food scarce does him good; while the other animals after their daily labour need nothing more than to be turned out to their pastures, or well foddered in their stalls. The difference this circumstance alone makes to the comfort and profit of the farmer is considerable, as one man can look after twice the number of oxen he can of horses. It is now very well known that an ox team will plough with ease one acre a day; and from the experiments of His Majesty, Lord Somerville, and other true patriots, much more may be done.

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It is a well-known recorded fact, that the Egyptians, in the zenith of their prosperity, worshipped the ox as being one of the most valuable gifts of God.

Finally, it must give singular pleasure to every friend of his country, and humanity, to observe the minister has begun to put his finger upon horses, and it is to be hoped he will not stop his hand until the numbers are much reduced. It is a great pity any exceptions have been made to the general tax. The intent of serving the poor by this alteration is a very mistaken idea; if poor persons have occasion to carry burthens, why not employ the asses? This creature is much stronger than the horse, twice as durable, will live on one-third of the food, and that food the refuse of other animals, yet with these valuable qualities he finds in this country an unjust bias against him; yet in other nations, full as well informed as ourselves, he obtains a due share of attention, which his intrinsic worth deserves. This beast that humbly contents himself with the coarsest food, by browsing and living on the banks of the roads, who rarely commits trespass, and seldom strays far from his home, stands always a faithful and ready servant to the indigent.

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The great use made of him in Flanders, France, Spain, Italy, and all the eastern part of the world, testifies, I will again repeat, his undoubted merit.

So high does he stand in the opinion of the Persians, that yearly, on a few particular days of gala, an ass is exhibited richly caparisoned, and is brought into the royal apartments, and there fed out of a golden trough.

One thing is curious and worthy of remark, that the milk of the ass, which is of a most salubrious quality, and that every cottager in the kingdom may enjoy great part of the year, and which is rejected and despised by him, is sought after with avidity by the valetudinarian, and the rich, at a very extravagant price. But, that malicious fiend *prejudice*, I am sorry to say, deprives mankind of a great part of the comfort they might enjoy. It must not be dissembled, the asses in general in England are of a very small size, owing to their half starved state, and want of care of their owners; being seldom more than eight or ten hands high, whereas the asses in Spain and other countries, are twelve hands high on an average; nor is it uncommon to have them fifteen hands and upwards. With due attention and encouragement, our breed might be highly

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highly improved, which the example of the horse is a sure guarantee. Our celebrated Sterne has done himself immortal honour by doing justice to this meritorious animal.

From the truly useful, yet neglected ass, I will endeavour to draw the attention of my countrymen to the increase of the queen of all animals, the *Cow*, that has long been, and now is, worshipped as a deity by many of the eastern nations, for her invaluable produce to the benefit of the human race; and yet with us who affect superior sagacity, great part of our finest meadows and pastures are occupied altogether by the horse.

I shall not hesitate to affirm, that the decrease in the breed of cows almost all over this kingdom, is as great a cause of want of food for the lower order of the people, as any that exists.

The evil is felt every way, not only in the scarcity and extravagant price of butter, cheese, and pork; but the loss of milk for children, which is now unattainable for the poor, is, in a national light, beyond calculation.

It drives the poor to the necessity of using, not only for themselves, but for their infant progeny, that curse to the country, the flow

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but poisonous shrub, the tea-leaf; and the visages of the indigent shew the source of their malady; milk, the natural food for the young and for the aged, is almost denied them; when sound policy requires it should be had in the greatest plenty, and at the cheapest rate, and I am not afraid to say, one half the children of the poor in London, and many of our large towns, actually die for want of proper food.

How different are the appearances in the countenances of even the country children of the present day, to what they were forty years ago, and surely the health and vigour of the inhabitants of a country, are objects of the first magnitude in the eye of an enlightened statesman!

I will mention a few instances to shew, that every nation that made use of milk, have at one period or another shewn the highest veneration for the *Cow*.

Our Saxon ancestors, whose principal patroness was *Hartha*, would permit no other animals than cows to draw the ark in which she was supposed to reside.

In the East Indies, the Abbé Raynal assures us, it is thought by the natives a great cruelty and an ungrateful action to kill a cow, the
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animal that during its life furnished so much sustenance to man.

The French on their feast of *agriculture*, which is on the first *Messidor*, corresponding with our 19th June, in the procession which takes place, exhibit a shew of the most useful animals to man. The first of them, and deservedly so, is the *Cow*, fancifully ornamented, children strewing before her flowers, &c. as a token of gratitude; the next creature is the ox, then the sheep, the ass, and lastly, the horse.

We will now endeavour to place the cow in her true point of view, by calculating her produce arithmetically: the daily yield of this creature, if kept tolerably well, will average seven quarts of milk for nine months in the year; that is to say, fourteen pounds of the best possible animal substance each day for 274 days, making in the whole 3,836lbs. of milk, which mixed with any vegetable substance, such as flour of all sorts, bread, potatoes, oatmeal, &c. would support constantly four grown persons in the greatest health and strength that can be attained by us mortals.

One proof in point we may observe in the people of Ireland, where taller and larger

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men have appeared than in any part of Europe, numbers considered, and their common food, it is well known, is milk mixed with some vegetable substance, and most frequently the milk is greatly reduced from its natural quality.

I was at a widow's house at Haërlem, in Holland, who kept twelve cows, by which she was enabled to send weekly to Amsterdam one hundred and thirty pounds of butter, taking one week with another, eight months in the year: exclusive of this, she made an incredible quantity of skimmed milk cheese, and principally supported with the whey, &c. ten large hogs, which hogs, I am certain, when killed would weigh seventeen to eighteen score each; and this was done on thirty-two acres of land; it is true the cows were very large, their pasture in the highest state of cultivation, and constant pains taken to keep it so: there was also a complete milk-house on the premises; a convenience well worth the notice of our dairy farmers. When it is considered the vast quantity of excellent food which was raised on so small a spot of land; the butter alone amounting to 4160lbs. the cheese much more, and nearly as much pork; I would ask in the name of common sense, whether

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whether from this example, which is by no means overcharged, the very term of want ought to be heard in this land: or at least is it not high time we should try to found the causes of our difficulty: and from henceforth keep a steady eye to the health, plenty, and happiness of the lower order of the people?

With what grief and sorrow of heart do I relate another fact which passed before my eyes in my own country!

I was going through Oxfordshire the latter end of 1795; night coming on, I put up at an inn: I had not sat long in the Bar, before a poor man came to the house; it being Saturday night, the mistress asked him how much he had received in charity? he replied ten shillings, adding, that would not buy him sufficient wheat for the support of himself, a wife, and several children for the week to come; he then put his hand in his pocket, and pulling out a shilling, gave it to the landlady, saying, "I owe you eight-pence, and if you will let me have another mug of beer there is your money," One shilling consequently was gone out of the ten. The next morning I observed the same man returning with a woman, who, I found, was his wife, under pretext of buying a peck of wheat,

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the landlord being the only person in the neighbourhood who had any to dispose of; while this was measuring, the man went to the Bar, and desired that his wife might have a glass of gin, and he would take a mug of ale, which together cost six-pence, there was then eighteen-pence gone; but this was not all, after the wheat was measured, the woman says to her husband, "John, I want some money to go to the grocer's for some tea, sugar, butter, and Heaven knows what;" so that I found clearly all the sustenance the whole family was likely to receive from the ten shillings, was one peck of wheat, for I count the tea and the other trash to a poor family as worse than nothing.

How different would have been the situation of this poor man and his family, in plenty and comfort, had the hand of wisdom or humanity furnished him with the produce of a cow! Then would there have been no occasion for his haunting the public house to obtain a little momentary relief from his distress, for from my heart I could not blame his conduct: then would his children's bellies have been filled with wholesome and nutritious diet, which creating a mass of good blood in their veins, would one day enable them

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them to stand forth the bold defenders of their native land.

And I shall here observe once for all, that I write not for the rich, as they never feel the distresses of the belly, but in behalf of those classes, which, when made content and happy, are the foundation of our strength, our wealth, and all the luxuries enjoyed by the opulent.

If then, as I have before proved, one cow with a little assistance is capable of maintaining in food four grown persons, how much ought such an animal to be prized above all others; and what attention should be paid by the legislature of a country to obtain the utmost increase of this invaluable creature. But, with us Britons, the object of providing abundance of wholesome food for the people, thereby to obtain an increased population, is so material to counteract the politic plan of our exasperated and implacable rival, who is determined to overpower us by numbers, that it is to be hoped every effective moderate means will be employed to establish this point.

Who, that has his country's welfare at heart, but must reprobate in the strongest terms that unnatural and impolitic act, called the

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the Marriage Act, which has not its parallel in the world? A law, although far from answering the illiberal policy of the framers of it, has caused more vice and disease in the land, than the plague itself would.

I appeal to the dictates of common reason, whether it is not natural that young persons, who live in ease and great plenty, should sooner feel the impulse of love than those whose constant employments draw their attention to other objects; besides, the amorous novels and wanton prints with which our young ladies are amply provided by their accommodating chambermaids, add not a little to inflame the youthful blood.

That persons should marry young, for the benefit of the state, and for the order of the community, is an eternal truth. The universal good effects of such conduct is no where better exemplified than in London, where I will venture to pronounce that three out of four of all those who have made fortunes by trade, &c. were married men and married early. Besides, the English character being naturally of a domestic turn of mind, when a couple are married agreeable to their inclinations, I hesitate not to say, no men in the universe prove themselves better husbands, or any
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women more affectionate and faithful wives. But what instance can I bring more striking of the beneficial consequence of such practice than our gracious Monarch and his family. He marrying young a virtuous and amiable princess, and living with great regularity, has begot a numerous offspring, which having been brought up in an exemplary manner—the sons are among the most hardy and intrepid in the nation, and the daughters the most beautiful and accomplished. It is to be wished that some patriotic and enlightened statesman would take this matter up so as to remove all obstructions to legal connexions between the sexes.

Sheep being the favourite animal of the nation, to cast the least reflection on the management of him will be esteemed great presumption, but as the evil I mean to complain of will be obvious to every gentleman who will take the trouble to turn it in his mind; it is evident the too common practice of putting sheep into pasture-land where cows are kept, or intended to be kept, is totally wrong; it is a well known fact that no animal bites closer the fine and sweet herbage than the sheep, even to the root. The consequence is, that the cow in such pastures eats but little more than is necessary to support nature, and

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falls off prodigiously, not only in quantity, but what is worse in the quality of the milk. This last observation every good dairy-maid must notice, in the quality of her cheese especially.

The next creature to the cow, in value to the lower order of the people, is the *Hog*, the breed of which has been most shamefully neglected of late in the country. When we consider there is no kind of food, whether animal or vegetable, the hog will not only feed but thrive on, it is matter of some amazement so few are now kept; yet when it is recollected the decrease in the stock of cows, and also that the peasant is not allowed a single foot of land to improve, our wonder ceases. Hard as the lot of the poor Irish is, it has this advantage, he is permitted to hire a small spot to his hut, on part of the produce of which he commonly keeps a hog, and it is a great means of the quantity of pork brought into the markets of Ireland. But in England, through the superciliousness of the persons who call themselves gentlemen farmers, the very sight of a cottage is not to be permitted near their dwellings, much less that the poor labourer should be allowed to keep a pig, or scarce a cock and hen.

It is high time the country gentlemen, and even

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even the legislature, should see into these matters and procure relief for the peasant, who is so needful even to those by whom he is despised. There is not perhaps any animal that increases in weight so fast as the hog, if he is well fed; many instances have been known of hogs growing to the enormous weight of thirty score, or six hundred pounds and upwards in nineteen months, and shoots to fifteen score or three hundred pounds in seven months. To this quantity of meat a remark should be added, that six hundred pounds of large pork is equal to a thousand pounds of beef, or twelve hundred pounds of mutton and veal in a farmer's family, or in any family where vegetables are plenty: the sort of hogs that has been introduced of late years, called the Chinese, is fit only for fresh pork, and valuable for its nicety alone: but to poor people, who want quantity without so much delicacy, the large species is the proper kind, as undoubtedly salt pickled pork is the cheapest animal food for the country poor. And I confess it is a great pity to observe, that great part of our hogs are, after being killed, made into bacon, a very wasteful practice, and any person who has attended at the broiling of these creatures, or as it is termed, singeing them before they are opened, cannot be in-

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fenfible of the great lofs this method occasions in weight, and nearly ruining the intefines, befides the large quantity unfit for ufe by becoming rancid. All large hogs ought to be fcalded, whereby the rind would be faved, which alone on the quantity confumed in England would amount to millions of pounds weight.

Of fuch importance is it to this nation to keep a large and never-failing flock of hogs, that in the debate on the Foreftalling Bill in the Houfe of Commons, on the 13th of June 1797, Sir William Pulteney obferved in oppofition to it, that one principal caufe of the dearness of butcher's meat, was the decrease of fat hogs, and pork meat, owing to the ftoppage of the diftilleries which had taken place the year before. Good God! that fuch an argument fhould be reforted to in a country where the vegetation is almoft perpetual, and where food for fwine may be encreafed *ad infinitum*; it is a difgrace to legislative attention. Nor can it be thought out of order in this place, to recommend to our Agricultural Societies to petition Parliament to frame a law to compel all farmers to cultivate potatoes in proportion to the extent of their farms. With all the atrocious acts of Robefpierre, the Republic of France owed its falvation to the

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the decisive meafures he made ufe of to fupply the people with this excellent fuccedaneum for grain; he infifted that the gardens of the court-yards in Paris fhould be planted with potatoes, nor did he fpare even the celebrated garden of the Thuilleries, part of which he planted with his own hands: and it is true to relate, that the inhabitants of that country who fifteen years ago defpifed the potatoe, as the moft taftelefs and infipid of all roots, are now become fo attached to it, that they eat it at all times and with all things.

After the hog, as a domeftic animal for the cottager, I fhall place the *Goat*, formerly very numerous both in England and Wales, but the breed of which is now almoft annihilated, although our climate and foil are perfectly congenial to raife them of the largeft fize. This creature would be very valuable to the poor on various accounts. The fhe-goat gives from two to three quarts and upwards of excellent milk each twenty-four hours, and will not only exift but thrive on feveral forts of food which few other creatures will touch, fuch for example as all the refuse of the garden; and it is fo eafily domefticated, that it will live on fwine the fame as the hog: with plenty of food and care, it will grow exceeding fat, twenty-fix pounds of the beft and
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hardest tallow having been frequently taken from the kidneys of one of them. The meat of the kid is quite as good as lamb, and we well know both the hair and skins of goat and kid are very valuable. It must be acknowledged they are dangerous near young fruit trees, the bark of which they are remarkably fond of: but this difficulty is easily obviated by the simple means of tethering them, as is practised in many parts of the world; when this precaution is taken, few creatures deserve more consideration, their milk making the best of cheese, and the cream good butter. Those cheeses, the Parmesan and Gruyere, which commonly sell in London at two shillings and sixpence per pound, are made from milk, one part goat and the other cow, of this I have been an eye witness; but could the farmer find sufficient goats' milk to supply the perpetual demand from all parts of Europe, not one pailful of cow's milk would be used. There is no doubt it would well pay many of the Welch mountain farmers to keep considerable flocks and have them, as formerly, attended by goatherds, for great part of their food would be different from that eat by the sheep.

I am now come to an article of the utmost consequence to this country, either as the

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the means of supplying food for millions of people, or employment for an innumerable class of valuable men, namely, Fish, and the Fisheries. Various causes, many of them obvious, have operated to reduce the consumption of fish in England to an insignificant point in the scale of national supply of animal food for the lower class of the people, and to confirm this assertion, underneath is the actual state of the annual consumption of the different substances, as published by authority: viz.

lbs.	
108,000,000	of Veal.
600,000,000	of Beef.
81,000,000	of Lamb.
360,000,000	of Mutton.
122,000,000	of Pork and Pig.
80,000,000	of Bacon.
10,000,000	of Fowl, Fish, Venison, and Game.
39,000,000	of Dairy Supplies thrown into Meat.
26,000,000	of imported Animals, namely, thirty thousand live Beasts, and ten thousand Hogs.

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That is to say, fourteen hundred and twenty-six millions pounds of animal food, butter and cheese included. I can safely pronounce there is not such an extravagant scale in the qualities of food for supplying the mass of a great nation on the face of the whole earth.

We here see more veal than pork, the pig-meat deducted, and more lamb than bacon.

But what shall we say to the small portion of fowl and fish? two articles that ought to be had in the greatest plenty, and on the lowest terms, not only for the sustenance but for the comfort of man, when we find they stand in the scale as one to one hundred and forty-two.

The extreme scarcity of all sorts of poultry is easily accounted for, and has arose, speaking comparatively, within a few years, from the magnitude of the farms; the wealth of the farmers, who are now above raising small stock for the market; and their wives and daughters, whose province this was, have now assumed a class in society which ought *not* to be, and has deprived the country of at least nine-tenths of their numbers. But for the small quantity and consumption of fish, there is no excuse: for round all our islands we are provided by the bountiful hand of Nature with
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an assortment of the best quality and greatest variety, and we have moreover a privilege belonging to no other northern nation, of being generally able to take them all the year round.

Let us pause for a moment: and reflect on the careless conduct of the nation on this important subject. A country, confessedly as we are, a maritime one, whose power, security, and wealth, depend on its immense navy, and in the valour and number of its seamen: that such a nation, with the most ample means in its hands, should not by some politic custom or *law*, encourage a great consumption of fish, appears altogether unaccountable; for admitting that the poultry, venison, and game, in the statement I have before given, stand only as three millions in the ten there mentioned, it is evident that seven millions of pounds of fish is the utmost weight expended in England; that is nearly as one to 204 of the animal substance consumed therein. It would be needless to say more on the impropriety of our conduct; figures speak for themselves, and the application must be obvious to all. Yet it is not enough to discover or lay open the defects of our policy; but it is likewise the duty of us all on this *general concern* to
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throw in our mites of information, whether derived by experience, or acquired by observation, on the conduct of those nations that make fish the principal part of their food, most of whom do it by choice.

I shall not therefore hesitate to say, that the two most useful and profitable fish in the ocean, are the *Herring* and the *Cod*; the first of these is incontestably the most valuable to the lower class of mankind, because it has no need of sauce as an assistant.

The *Herring* dressed in any manner is excellent; for keeping when salted, smoked, or dried in the open air, or kept in salt pickle after the practice of the Dutch, is a very nutritious, wholesome, and relishing assistant, either with potatoes, salad, or any boiled vegetable. The immense consumption by the people of Ireland, the north of Europe, Germany, Holland, Flanders, France, and all the south of Europe, also the northern parts of America, prove to the clearest demonstration how much this fish is prized. In Germany many thousand waggons come several hundred miles from the interior to purchase each a load; and to form some small conception of the quantity taken, it is a melancholy fact, that the Dutch, for more than a century and a half,

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a half, have never failed to employ in time of peace seven hundred buxses yearly, on that fishery alone, each buxse carrying from ten to sixteen men, and from forty to seventy tons burthen; but more strange is it to relate, that they not only fish on our own coasts, but even in our bays.

What a resource as a nursery, of hardy seamen! and how much ought it to be attended to by us?

I am well aware that on this subject I am treading on beaten ground; and I am proud to join my humble opinion to that of very many of the most able men in this kingdom. It may be asked, What are we to do with such immense quantities? The reply is easy, a great many might be consumed at home, was the use of them brought into general esteem, and at a moderate price; many might and would be sent to Germany, and all the south of Europe; a great many to the West Indies: to prove in part the amount of their consumption in that part of the globe, more than 100,000 barrels are shipped yearly from the coast of America, and the quality of most of those sent from thence, is no ways equal to our's; the species that comes on our coast,

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feldom going farther west than Cape Sable on the coast of America.

By the Custom House Books of Hamburgh, where the Dutch emigrants have carried part of the herring fishery, one hundred and ninety six thousand large casks of herrings were shipped for foreign markets in the year 1797.

When we consider the extravagant manner of cooking cod-fish in this country, it is not surprizing so little barreled or dry cod should be eat, for as it is dressed with eggs, butter, &c. it becomes an expensive dish. When on the contrary, if the modes of other nations were followed, there is no animal food cheaper; the easiest method and that which would best please the palates of our people, is simply, after a proper time soaked in cold water, to boil the fish and potatoes, when after picking the meat from the bones, mix it with potatoes, adding milk, &c. and warm it; or, fry the fish and potatoes mashed with fat pork, sweet hog's fat, milk, or butter, and it produces a very agreeable and nutritious aliment; for a few pounds of fish will give an excellent relish to many pounds of potatoes. We know the practice in the south of Europe is only to boil the fish, and eat it with oil, vinegar, salad,
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onions, &c. It would be well if gentlemen did insist on having salted cod, or herring dressed once a week in their families, in the plainest and cheapest manner; such practice would, by degrees, prevail on their neighbours to fall into it; for until example is set, the common people of England will do nothing. By encreasing the use and consumption of these sorts of fish; two very patriotic purposes will be answered: *one* of obtaining an indefinite supply of wholesome food for the people; the *other*, a means of employing and encreasing the number of our seamen and shipping, which employ will be wanted when peace takes place.

I shall be brief in describing the magnitude and importance of the cod fishery, the subject having been so frequently and ably handled; but to give a small idea of its immensity to persons unacquainted with it; I shall observe that the Americans employ *one thousand* sail of vessels in the fishery; and in time of peace the French have had at one time on the Great Bank of Newfoundland, *five hundred* square-sail vessels, many of them of great burthen; while, I am sorry to say, the English have not half that number. This difference is
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greatly owing to the want of consumption at home for the produce of the fishery.

I will now proceed from those invaluable fish the herring and cod, to various other sorts, which are always round our coast, or in our rivers.

The first in quality is the *Salmon*; and it is pity, in spite of the several acts of Parliament, very great fault is to be found in the care of that fishery; for it is certain, with only using proper precautions, twenty, I might add fifty times the quantity could be bred, and for ever.

It is a well known fact, that all fish of transit, such as the salmon, return yearly to the same river they were spawned in, and it is generally allowed the increase of size of this fish, when it returns from the sea, is thirteen inches and upwards; indeed many actual experiments have proved the fact. If therefore at one or two periods of the year the river fisheries were forbid altogether, or at most allowed to be fished two days in the week, we should have all our *salmon rivers* in less than five years full of that delicious animal. And the river *Severn* alone, which breeds the very best quality, and is now almost

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almost empty, would produce not only sufficient for the towns on its banks, but amply supply the London market. It would be well also to enlarge the mesh of the nets by an act of Parliament if only one quarter of an inch, or even the eighth of an inch, but enforce the law with the utmost rigour. From the size of some salmon brought to London and openly sold, it is evident the acts are grossly evaded, and therefore every fishmonger who bought salmon under a certain weight should be liable to a heavy fine, and the fisherman a severe punishment; for the cupidity and obstinacy of the fisherman not only materially injures the country, but his own permanent interest: for he might with a little patience, get ten times the weight he now does. When the present price of two shillings per pound is now paid in London for salmon, and not likely to be plentiful and cheap again, without parliamentary interference, no doubt it will shortly be attended to with zeal and complete effect.

But is it not a shame to the internal regulation of the metropolis of the empire, that *Paris*, distant one hundred and forty miles from the sea, and no tide navigation, should be, not only more plentifully supplied with
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sea-fish than London, but commonly at half the price. As to fresh-water fish, there is no comparison in the supply of the two cities, *Paris* having constantly abundance, and *London* next to none. There is also a glaring absurdity and mismanagement to be noticed at Billingsgate, where we observe constantly in time of peace a number of Dutch boats, loaded with turbot, plaice, flounders, eels, &c. but what encreases the surprize is, the Dutch fishermen buy the lamprey fish, the best bait for the turbot, in our own rivers. Surely this matter merits the attention of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, that some effective plan may be adopted to supply London ourselves, without being obliged to pay a tribute in cash of 60,000*l.* and upwards yearly, to our more industrious neighbours and rivals, and for what may be said to belong to us.

Without meaning to be too critical, I cannot let pass the conduct of a respectable Chief Magistrate, a very few years back, who, because the smelts were unusually plentiful that spring, permitted the fishermen to lessen the mesh of their nets, not reflecting on the consequence for the next year, and the effect was, they brought smelts to market not broader than straws; and since then another Chief Magistrate

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gistrate allowed the fishermen above London-Bridge to put in their nets fourteen days before the time allowed by law, not considering the intent of that law was to give the largest and strongest smelts an opportunity to spawn before the mass of the fish should come up the river. It is wonderful that the Magistrates of Westminster have not erected a fish-market of their own near Hungerford; and one ought to be on the Surrey side of the Thames, by which means Billingsgate would be a little freed of its confusion, and the town easier and better supplied: for when we reflect that in a diameter of twenty miles, taking St. Paul's for its centre, there are two millions of inhabitants, and they to be furnished with fish from *one* ill-contrived market, and that monopolized; we must acknowledge there is *at least* great inattention somewhere.

An infinite number of remarks might be made to promote the increase of many other sorts of fish, all of which are nationally important. I shall confine myself, however, to a few only, and begin with the use that may be made with the water in the canals that now are, or will be, in the kingdom. And I cannot avoid bringing forward again the conduct of the Chinese, who have intersected their country

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greatest luxuries of food, are become almost unattainable to the lower order of society; when all of them might be bred in profusion on our coasts and in our rivers: tens of thousands of tons of oysters may with little care and attention, and small expence, add to the mass of our food, and the health and comfort of the people at large: but that cursed spirit of monopoly with which the nation is so much tainted, deprives us in every shape of the numerous natural advantages we possess. The encrease of oyster-beds, so easily made, and so easily augmented, almost without number, merits the attention of the legislature to regulate and encourage.

Nothing more is necessary, with regard to the crab and lobster, than to prohibit the fishermen from selling them under a certain size, and as far as the law could operate, compel him to return to the sea those under the standard measure. This easy and simple means alone, exclusive of procuring an abundant supply of lobsters in our markets, would save to the nation a considerable sum paid yearly to the Norwegians for this animal.

The wanton extravagance and wickedness of our fishermen, respecting that delicate fish the shrimp, deserves severe reprehension and
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correction: the fisherman is not content with taking them of the most minute size, but he brings them in that state to market, where they are sifted, and one-fourth thrown away. Why not sift them when caught, and let the fry fall into the sea? I know not whether there is a law to fix the size of the mesh for taking the shrimp; but if there is not, there ought to be; for this animal is so extremely prolific, that the aggregate quantum that could be bred in the year would be immense, as is visible on the Dutch, French, and Flemish coast, where the size also, by only regulating the width of the mesh, is as large as most of our prawns. It should not be forgotten to observe, that the magistrates on those coasts compel likewise their fishermen to go out to sea, the weather permitting; and if by misfortune they lose their nets, which oft-times happens, the magistrates are authorized to supply them; nor will they suffer every idle and paltry pretext to deprive the public of the benefit of sea-fish. Too much the case in this country, and the effects of the different conduct in the nations is very sensibly felt by us.

With what pleasure does every stranger go into the fish-markets in Holland, to observe the abundance, the neatness, and regularity
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with which they are conducted: officers are appointed to superintend the markets, and keep in check those boisterous females. From the examples of the Chinese and Dutch, those patterns to mankind on many accounts, no canals, rivers, ponds of water, or where pieces of water can be made at little expence, ought to be without its full compliment of inhabitants, thereby to encrease the object I have in view—the blessings of plenty to us all!

On the present mode of maintaining great part of the Clergy, as it is a subject of delicacy, I shall say little else than that it serves as a pretext to the illiberal-minded farmer for not raising more grain, which it is his civic duty to do; as also for not breeding small stock, and often for not improving waste land, in these points it is extremely hurtful. I cannot help besides remarking, that it is the interest and wisdom of all governments to render the established religion of a country as palatable to the people as possible. Therefore the present mode of gathering tythes gives an advantage to the sectaries, of which they very much avail themselves: but those reflections fall particularly hard and unjust on our Clergy, when it is recollected, if I am rightly informed, that more than half the tythes are in the hands

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hands of laymen. Certainly, if that is the case, other modes might be taken to support religion, and free its teachers from this stigma.

I shall now proceed on causes that have, by length of time, operated to encrease the use of bread, and decrease the cultivation of wheat, in some of the most fertile counties in England, namely Kent, Surry, Worcester, Hereford, &c. and the obvious reason why hop-grounds on the present extensive scale are so highly hurtful to raising wheat, and other grain in those counties, arises from the immense quality of the best dung necessary for the preparation of the grounds, and indispensable to the support and cultivation of that vine; but the worst consequence of all is, that the remaining part of the farms are generally starved to render a few acres highly luxuriant. What remedy can be applied to check this speculative article it is difficult to devise, except putting on a smart additional duty, and encouraging the use of other bitters; those of our native soil, the camomile, wormwood, and rue—none can be better; the famous beer of Bruffels, Louvain, &c. is principally bittered by the flower of the first of these articles, notwithstanding there is plenty of hops and of the first quality.

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The use of fruit in large quantities, and as food, is now so little known in this kingdom, that I am obliged to bring forward some very striking examples to shew, nature herself has pointed out to us that at the season fruit is quite ripe, it ought to be used in a very liberal manner, especially by the young and the aged.

Was I to recapitulate the various countries that raise and use it as food great part of the year, I should comprehend two-thirds of the habitable globe.

That ripe fruit is one of the greatest nourishers and sweeteners of the blood, is acknowledged by all the faculty, and to prove their opinion well founded, the immediate change that takes place in the habits and countenances of sea-faring men, who land in countries where fruit is plenty, after a long voyage, is so amazing, that their recoveries appear like a miracle.

In the West Indies it often happens, that whole gangs of negroes are in a sickly and dying state until the sugar-cane is ripe, when by a free use of the juice of that plant, they on a sudden become hearty, plump, and strong; it is likewise well known that nothing repels putridity in the blood equal to ripe fruit.

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So far for its salubrity. As examples how much the apple and pear, fruits very natural to the soil and climate of many parts of this kingdom, may contribute to furnish food, I shall relate the practice of the farmers in New England, where the orchards are very large; it is their constant method to plant apple trees, the fruit of which will ripen at different times; as soon therefore as the early kind is ripe, the children are allowed to eat as much as they like, large quantities are also gathered and thrown into the oven to bake, and from that time until the apple begins to grow scarce, a period of upwards of four months, not one third of the bread is used in the family, and that is chiefly eat by the men; for the women and children infinitely prefer the delicious and nourishing food of baked apples, with milk, &c. to any thing else. I know also that during the extreme scarcity of grain in France, as soon as apples and pears were ripe in Normandy, and the adjacent provinces, thousands of families did not taste bread for three months together; and yet they never were in better health and strength.

The introduction of the use of beer in the place of cyder, for the common beverage of

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the people, was undoubtedly the first great cause of the neglect of orcharding: for speaking generally, those who are fond of beer dislike cyder, and *vice versa*. It is unnecessary to contend which liquor is the most healthy, the habit of drinking beer and ale is now so universal, that it would be difficult to change the practice, yet that is no excuse why an infinite number of apple and pear trees should not be planted, as healthy and nourishing assistants to the food of youth, especially as they can be raised without occupying much land, by having them planted in the hedge rows. I would ask why they are not planted in gentlemen's pleasure grounds, in the place of those rascally firs, poplars, &c.? The apple tree is certainly handsomer than any of them, and when in blossom no object in nature is more beautiful. But in England we are without dispute the most extravagant in the employment of our land, of any nation on earth that has so small a quantity. Foreigners who travel among us, form a poor opinion of the quality of our soil from seeing such numerous clumps of firs stuck all over it; they consider it of the nature of California, Newfoundland, or the barren rocks of Nova Scotia, never suspecting such trash would be planted on
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some of the best land in the nation. It is mortifying to add, that what was at first an harmless ornament on some unproductive spots, is now becoming a serious evil. Apples and pears, in those counties where they thrive, will become a traffic of importance by the means of the canals to the north, and no time ought to be lost in encreasing the plantations. By what has been said it is not meant that any measures should be taken to abridge gentlemen from rendering their habitations in the country as pleasant and ornamental as they can, but let them at the same time have the feeling of the patriot and philanthropist, of which characters they should always be the examples; let them also consider, that the happiness and comfort of the peasant adds not only to the internal strength of a nation, but also, if times of attempt at revolution should take place, by behaving condescending and benevolent to him, the most powerful and ungovernable instrument is taken out of the hands of the ambitious demagogue.

Exclusive of the various general causes of the scarcity of provisions, which have been mentioned, there are several others that have operated in a lesser degree to the distressing chain which now pervades the nation.

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These secondary causes are:

Extensive parks and pleasure-grounds;

The common mode of sowing grain;

The extravagant manner used by the poor in dressing their meat;

The ridiculous waste of straw; with many others which the eye of a critic can easily discover.

In the room of deer and horses in parks, let them be replaced by cows, oxen, and mules; the change will be highly profitable, and on pasture land, no creatures look so handsome and natural as the cow and the ox, or that present more rural objects.

The actual method of sowing most grains by broad cast, is certainly a matter of serious and important consideration; for it appears, from a late official report, 787,000 quarters of the best wheat is required for feed, say 6,300,000 bushels, or three bushels to an acre; was the mode of setting wheat by hand, as is begun to be practised in some counties, to prevail all over the kingdom, more than two-thirds of the seed might be saved; this would be a prodigious matter, when considered the seed alone takes one-seventh of all the yearly produce; therefore two-thirds of seed saved would be 525,000 quarters, which, at the moderate

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derate price of 50s. per quarter, will produce £. 1,312,500 sterling, a sum that will repay the extra expence in a ten-fold ratio; but this is not, considerable as it is, the only advantage; this practice, when carefully executed, renders a crop almost certain: setting wheat by hand, prevents the grain being huddled together, and by putting only two grains in a hole, it gives opportunity for the roots and fibres to strike strong and vigorous, an object of the first importance in vegetation; besides, the grain being well covered, the blade does not appear until the root has taken good hold of the earth, by which the plant becoming hardier, is not subject to so many complaints that now affect it, and it will be secure from the depredations of the birds. Was the grain set so far apart, so as to admit the hand-hoe to go between the rows, it would well repay that trouble and expence, and the apparent loss of land, by the strength the plant would acquire from the air, fresh earth to its roots, and cleaning the ground from weeds and insects, especially in open winters, exclusive of saving the expence of hand-weeding in the spring, the method now practised, and when very often the grain is too high for such operations. The method of setting

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setting here recommended, will also find winter employment for a multitude of women and children; which circumstance becomes a matter of high consideration since the introduction of spinning machines, that are now multiplied all over the kingdom, consequently spinning by hand will be nearly laid aside; therefore every thing that will add to the useful employment of the poor, ought to be eagerly embraced.

Of the exemplary good effect of setting grain by hand has over the broad-cast practice, is no where more visible than in the neighbourhood of Alost, near Bruffels, in Flanders: the difference is so striking, that the blades appear two different kinds of grain, and the produce answers to the different size of the stalk, both in weight and quantity. Nor is the setting by hand so tedious as may be imagined, a woman, with a couple of children, will plant easily an acre a day.

There is one sort of grain which might be made infinitely more useful to us than it is; I mean buck, or French wheat: this grain will grow on the poorest and lightest soils, and yields a great produce, from fifteen to forty bushels an acre, and the seed necessary to sow an acre should not exceed ten or eleven quarts.

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The flour, it is true, is not so good for bread as that of some other grains; but when it is properly mixed and rose, there is no substance that makes so good a thin cake, of the crumpet kind, when hot. This article is excellent for hogs or poultry; the meat made by buck wheat being singularly white and delicate. Another advantage from raising this grain is, that it improves land instead of impoverishing it; and thousands of acres of light land, in the States of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, are constantly manured by sowing buck wheat and ploughing it in when in blossom, as a dressing before it is sowed with wheat. Sheep, and other animals, are fond of it green, and the grain is as serviceable as oats for horses. As buck wheat is sowed late in the summer, the flower is a great resource for bees, especially young stocks, that are often obliged to work hard to obtain their winter supply of honey, and the means, in the fall of the year, grow very scanty. The immense quantity of the finest wheat, rye, and barley straw, that is thrown under the feet of cattle, litter for horses, and squandered a thousand various ways, would maintain 300,000 head of horned beasts. Surely this is no trifling object to a country become so destitute of

of animal food; and when the pretences for such wasteful conduct is that of making manure, and it is also said we have more winter provender than summer; this is an advantage scarce any other country enjoys, and how easily and profitably remedied, when the encreased number of animals would fully supply the place of the manure, and by much better. Nor can it be passed unobserved, that in few countries are horses littered in the manner of our's; and is, I doubt not, a great cause why we have more foundered than in any nation, and our horses become so delicate as to be little fit for military purposes. The Continental European cavalry are principally supported by straw and grain; and it is unnecessary to make any remark on the courage of their horses, their activity, hardiness, and docility.

As one of the most material considerations for a farmer, is to obtain manure in plenty, I have often reflected on the prodigious quantity wasted and lost in our large towns, particularly in London, where tens of thousands of tons, or loads, are washed away into the Thames. If by any contrivance it could be saved, and certainly such contrivance might be done, without the least affecting the health of the people, or cleanliness of the place,
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the profit to the nation would be worth the income of St. Kitt's and Barbadoes. In Rome, where the population was at least three times that of London, the utmost care was taken to preserve and collect manure, and officers appointed to see it was not wantonly destroyed. In a word, we have in ourselves such resources of abundance, that were we to check a little of that Quixotick part of our character, England would become a magazine, and Britain invulnerable.

In a country like this, where vegetables are, or might be, so plentiful, so good, and so cheap, it is pity the poor did not change their mode of dressing their meat, and instead of roasting, baking, broiling, or frying, they would employ the pot, and make with their meat a quantity of soup; with a little practice, they would be as expert in that kind of cookery as the French and other nations, and both they and their children would soon feel the comfort and profit; but as I have before said, no fashion, or even prudence, will be followed here, except the example is set by the rich, it would be well if gentlemen gave orders for soup to be a standing dish at their tables. Not that strong soup, which is nearly gravy,
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and highly unwholesome, but any of the vegetable and farinacious kinds made by our neighbours. These come cheap, are agreeable, and extremely salubrious; such as cabbage, onion, leek, lettuce, sorrel, carrots, parsnips, &c. of the former sort; and peas, rice, barley, lentils, caravances, dried white or French beans; this last pulse is made great use of in many countries, and it encreases in bulk so much by stewing it gently, that one pint of beans, with one pound of salt fat pork, will be a sufficient meal for three hearty men, without the assistance of bread. The great difference this change would make in the expenditure of animal food, is well known to all who have travelled on the Continent; for Lord Kaims very wisely observes, that high cookery depopulates like a pestilence, because when it becomes an art, it brings within the compass of one stomach what is sufficient for ten. Nor would it be a rash conjecture to say, that the quantity of animal juices thrown away daily in this kingdom, would be sufficient to nourish two or three hundred thousand persons.

It is necessary once more to mention tea, in order to introduce to the general acquaintance of the nation an article that has been entirely

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tirely overlooked as a food. I mean chocolate and cocoa, so usefully and generally used by the Spaniards.

Our neighbours, the French, drink constantly coffee, and employ tea only as a medicine, for which purpose it is serviceable, as also to the rich, the idle, and the sedentary, whose stomachs are generally overloaded; but to the poor who have only dry bread, or dry bread skimmed over with bad butter, to eat with their tea, it creates such a gnawing in their stomachs, that, to remedy the feeling, they fly constantly to the dram shop; and, from the effect of both liquors, they and their infants become puny, sickly, and unhealthy.

The proper food, as before said, for poor women and children, should be milk or milk porrage; but if that cannot be obtained in large cities and towns (for in country places no excuse can be admitted) and for the sake of assisting *commerce*, other diet than the natural one of the land must be resorted to, Chocolate should be adopted; it is the best substitute for milk perhaps in nature; and it is acknowledged to be highly nourishing and delicious, although easy of digestion, and withal is one of the *cheapest* diluted foods that can be procured.

I know I shall be read with astonishment
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for this last assertion, when the extravagant price of chocolate in England is looked at, of four or five shillings per pound. Yet some reasons may be given why it bears so disproportionate a price, when compared with the prices of other places; namely, the high duty and excise, with the smallness of its consumption.

In Spain and Portugal the price is under one shilling per pound for very good quality; and in the United States of America it sells as low as eight to ten pence sterling per pound, although they frequently bring the cocoa-nuts from Old Spain. Was the growth of the cocoa-tree encouraged in our settlements, and large importations of the nut procured, we assuredly could manufacture chocolate as cheap as any other nation.

It should be known, that one ounce of chocolate, if even of middling quality, will make three pints of an excellent beverage, to which added half a pint of milk and two table spoonfuls of molasses or treacle, will, with bread, furnish a sufficient meal for four children or two men; the longer the chocolate is in diluting the better, and it will keep ready for heating many days in perfect goodness, consequently its preparation is economical.

Independent of a cheap and nourishing food
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for the people, by the introduction of chocolate and coffee for general consumption, the change will be attended with many important national advantages.

In the first place, it will essentially serve our West India Islands, several of which have only a small portion of land fit for sugar, as Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent's, and Tobago; yet the rest of the soil might be profitably planted with cocoa and coffee-trees, was there a consumption at home.

Secondly, it will require four or five times the quantity of shipping to bring cocoa and coffee, as is now employed to bring tea.

The French, before their West India troubles in 1788, 1789, and 1790, employed three hundred sail of ships to bring to Europe their coffee only, and supplied Germany and the North. It is also well known, the cargoes of the Spanish ships, from their settlements in America and the West Indies, are one-fifth cocoa.

Thirdly, it will save the nation annually more than one million of pounds sterling in hard cash sent to China, for which we can never have a counterbalance; this is one great cause why the French have twice the quantity of bullion that we have; for their trade to China is trifling compared to ours, even in
peace.

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peace. And if the East India trade is valuable to Britain, the part of it to China is certainly the least so. How necessary for us to introduce this alteration of diet, not only for the increase of food, but also to employ our shipping in times of peace, when so many fresh rivals have started up during this war, and who will contest the carrying trade with us after it is ended.

It should be added, that the revenue will be served by this measure; for both cocoa and coffee will bear a moderate duty, and as the weight of consumption will be four-fold that of tea, it will increase in productiveness; nor will they from their bulk be so liable to be smuggled.

The East India Company, the only party that profits by the importation of tea, might easily indemnify themselves by the growth of the cocoa-tree in India, where the quality would certainly be as good as the Caracca; in respect to coffee, they must be the only importers of the best kind, the consumption of which would be immense, and it cannot be doubted that very patriotic body will zealously espouse every means that will essentially serve their country.

One of the worst evils, not only to the nation

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tion, but to many of the individuals themselves, is the ignorance of almost all our gentlemen of large landed property, in respect to husbandry. There ought to be established several seminaries for *agriculture*, at which the sons of all noblemen and gentlemen should be fixed for a certain time, and where they should be taught the practical part of farming; for it is impossible, by any reading or theoretical reasoning, to become a good farmer: it would then frequently happen, that those who make miserable compositions in Greek and Latin, would turn up a neater furrow than the ablest Grecian in college, and be of infinite more worth to society at large: for it is certain that every Greek or Latin word remembered very soon after leaving the University, costs at least a guinea each, and to a large majority of those who go there, is never of service during life. For want of such a useful mode of education that is here recommended, young gentlemen, when misfortunes befall them, are really fit for nothing; and it is particularly hard on them, as most frequently their property is lost by the confederacy of sharpers and villains. But were they acquainted with the practical part of farming, and imbibed a respect for that first of occupations, after having suffered by their inexperience, they would return into the country,

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country, and find in agriculture, health, strength, and happiness with content, and become the most serviceable members of the commonwealth.

The Turks, a wise and experienced people, in the place of teaching their children dead and useless languages, which are now laying aside in the education of youth in several countries, compel every boy to learn some handicraft trade, or work, on land; they do not even exempt the heir apparent to that immense empire. It is a truth which any superficial observer may ascertain, that one-third of the landholders in this kingdom are obliged to pass a life of strict œconomy, and some even in penury, while their tenants are enjoying the greatest plenty. This is one of the causes why so many country gentlemen fly to London, where they can hide the defects of their purses by the appearance of wealth, and with occasional ostentation deceive their companions into the opinion, that fashion and gentility are altogether the motives for their absence from their native homes. Many, very many good consequences would arise, if gentlemen were induced by any motives to become practical farmers: from the liberality of their minds, education, and acquaintance, they would soon see the usefulness and necessity
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of upholding the small farmer, and providing for the peasant in a different manner to what is now done; instead of giving the latter money, which is commonly spent imprudently, they would put in his hands the means of providing for his family, plenty with health and comfort: the labouring man has many hours in the course of the year which he would gladly devote to the improvement of his small spot, and his wife and children would cheerfully assist him. It would, moreover, render him enthusiastically attached to his native country, which zeal, in times of danger, is beyond all the discipline and mechanical courage in the world. Besides, the spade cultivates the earth better than the plough, and soldiers who can make a ready use of it, are of the utmost advantage on all military expeditions.

In a word, no married man who lives in the country ought to be without some spot to improve; nor should any family that has children be without the use of a cow; if not able to purchase one of their own, let the parish do it, and when she became old she should be sold, and a young one bought; two acres of tolerable land will find her support, and this natural and easy means alone, we may safely

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affirm, would reduce the poor's rate one half annually. The value of milk for food is so great, that too much cannot be said in its praise.

The climate of this kingdom is so temperate, and the soil in general naturally good, that no spot ought to be neglected or unimproved; and was that minute attention paid to husbandry, which is to all our manufactories, I will boldly pronounce two, if not three times the number of inhabitants, could be maintained in the greatest plenty. We should not then feel the loss, in so sensible a degree as we now do, of the vast drain of men constantly leaving the nation, nine-tenths of them never to return. The number, even in times of peace, is so great, that it will scarce be believed, except by those who had an opportunity of seeing them abroad. It would not be a rash conjecture to say, that upwards of fifteen thousand of the most enterprising and daring of our people are lost to England alone, every year, viz. in the East Indies, West Indies, Coast of Guinea, America, die at sea or in foreign garrisons. But in time of war, the mortality is dreadful; and yet we are as careless of our numbers as if we had the resource of France or Russia for our support, where the births

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last year in the Republic, say 1798, male and female, much exceeded one million; and by an account, published by authority, this year, at Peterburgh, the number of births in that empire were 991,915; the marriages were 257,513; and only 540,390 deaths; the eparchy of Brazlaw is excepted.

That we have large quantities of unimproved land, the following official statement will prove; and also the probable annual value of it, even in the rental, viz.

1,000,000 of acres, uncultivable value	- -	£. 0,000,000
3,000,000 ditto, proper for plantation, at 8s.	-	1,200,000
14,000,000 ditto, upland pasture, at 5s.	- - -	3,500,000
3,000,000 ditto, tillage land, at 10s.	- - -	1,500,000
1,000,000 ditto, meadow land, at 1l. 10s.	- -	1,500,000
22,000,000 ditto, which might produce	- -	£. 7,700,000

to the landholders; and it is but fair to say, it would to the nation be worth double that amount.

Then why send our people rambling to every barren uncomfortable spot on the known globe, to obtain miserable and scanty settlements?

That almost every part of this kingdom might be made a garden, there are not wanting many striking examples of improvement, and no one more than that of Spring Grove,

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near Bewdley, in Worcestershire, where the owner* had the resolution to take in two hundred acres of common land of the worst quality in that county, being almost an entire rock, covered only with a very little soil and heath, yet notwithstanding its poverty, he has rendered it by his ability and perseverance highly fruitful, and also one of the most charming villas in England. Such valuable members of society deserve statues to their memories, as their philanthropic labours are of service to us all. Nor does one drop of human gore stain the merit of such enterprises. The farm-yard of this gentleman is well worthy of attention, as his stock of mules, for number, size, and quality, is perhaps superior to that of any other person in this kingdom; most of them are fifteen hands high, bony and large in proportion, with them he does all his farming work, and these animals drag the plough quicker than any other.

The mule, whose useful qualities are almost unknown to us, is exceeding active, strong, hardy, and so durable, that with tolerable care he lives to a very great age, and may be rode or worked forty or fifty years in full vigour. With a team of good mules a farmer is supplied for life, and at a much less expence than

* Samuel Skey, Esq.

horses.

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horses. Indeed the mule deserves the serious thoughts and attention of all persons who have draught work to perform. The gentleman before mentioned, keeps likewise a large stock of hogs, which he feeds on the roots of the mangel wertel, potatoes, turnips, &c. and on such food they thrive so well, no swine in that neighbourhood are equal to his. I mention this last circumstance to prove that the valuable creature the hog, can be raised, kept, and fatted on vegetables as well as on grain, and, in despite of our national prejudice, the meat is quite as good.

From the various examples which I have brought forward, and from the facts which I have stated, the following conclusions may be drawn, namely, that a reduction in the size of most farms is indispensable, to obtain a constant abundance of all the necessaries of life, as well as to provide settlements for an increased number of young farmers and cottagers, and thereby prevent emigrating from their native homes, two of the most useful classes of subjects.

But it is said, and said by persons whose opinions bear great weight in the nation on agricultural concerns, that it is useless, and improper, to make any alteration in the magnitude

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nitude of farms, because grain and other provisions, will, like merchandize, always find its level: no doubt it does find a level from one end of the kingdom to the other, and the connection is so intimate between the several parts, there is no material difference in the price of all the major articles of food. If those gentlemen mean, it is as probable while the land is so engrossed by large farmers, that the indispensable necessaries of life will be as plentiful and cheap as if the farms were divided, then I totally differ with them, it is contrary to universal observation, and to the opinions of many of the most eminent and distinguished philosophers and legislators that ever existed: besides, there is no sporting with the belly; and a very celebrated historian observes, that of all insurrections, the most desperate are those occasioned by famine. All the produce of England is become an easy speculation, and a few individuals, speaking comparatively, can command the whole; they therefore know the annual consumption, and I am afraid raise grain, &c. accordingly. But let us consider with trembling, what imminent danger we expose the nation to, when fifty or sixty wealthy men can lay their hands on all its produce, and thereby leave the mass
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of the people to the mercy, whim, or perhaps policy of foreign nations, to distress and impose on us, for in spite of all the attention of Parliament, it is now actually the case. To furnish provisions for a great and populous nation by the means of importation, is undoubtedly the most absurd conduct that can be pursued; independent of exposing the country, I will again repeat, to distress and convulsion; the loss by waste is so considerable on the shipping and landing articles of this kind, that I will venture to assert it exceeds on all fifteen per cent, and on some, such as flour, wheat, &c. twenty per cent from waste, spoiled, and other accidents. One instance, among a multitude, to prove the ill effect of trusting to a foreign market, I will mention, that in the year 1797, two French privateers captured six Irish provision-ships, that had not more than two hundred tons of butter on board, and yet so small a capture advanced the price in London more than fifteen per cent: and the wheat and flour market has been, and is, frequently very violently agitated, by only the appearance of a privateer on the Norfolk coast. I mention this last fact to shew in part the evil of not having more flour-mills in the neighbourhood of
London,

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London, on the banks of the Thames; and speaking individually, it is a great pity that artful combination, and thoughtless prejudice, deprived the city of that monument of good sense and utility, the Albion Mills.

Is it not a great disgrace to England, so long famed for her excellent cheese, to behold the immense quantities of Dutch and Flemish cheese exposed for sale in our warehouses and shops, a kind of cheese our fathers would have spurned at? It is true we are grown wealthy in cash, but our markets are grown poor and scanty; and the nation may be truly said to live by the penny; and if we go on at this rate, the labour of all our manufacturers and mechanics will scarce be sufficient to buy us provisions.

An immediate increase in the breed of cows, oxen, hogs, &c. should be adopted, and Parliament ought to take the most vigorous and speedy measures accordingly to prevent the killing of calves for a given time, to restore the necessary stock of cows, and also that no beef of the ox kind should be killed under six or seven years old, with severe penalties for breach of this law, which is needful to procure the introduction of oxen in general use, for the various purposes of
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heavy labour, and thereby gradually reduce the necessity of employing horses. It should be remarked, that the ox should be broke to the yoke gradually at a very early age, to render him quite handy and tractable, and learn him to step quick, which depends very much on the driver: it would also be well, if public experiments were made on the difference of strength between the ox and the horse, to eradicate the ridiculous notion most people in this kingdom entertain, that it requires two oxen to perform the work of one horse, whereas it is nearly the reverse: the ox being not only much stronger than the horse, but he draws steadier and firmer up hill, and holds back better on going down one. Premiums should be given on these occasions, or according to the fashion of the country, wagers laid. I am satisfied, were the heavy long stage wagons to be drawn by oxen properly trained, they would perform their journies at least as soon as horses, if the drivers did their duty, and at a much less expence every way.

The finishing those canals already begun, and opening others, ought to be attended to with unremitting perseverance; their extreme utility in assisting the easy transportation of provisions, and the carriage of manure, is not

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yet sufficiently known to interest the nation so much as the object is worthy. But as one example to shew their good effects, a canal of no great length in Wales, has put out of use five thousand horses, and yet ten times the business is done in its neighbourhood, and will render that part of the kingdom, from the improvements in its agriculture, and from the inexhaustible bodies of the most useful minerals in the bowels of the mountains, infinitely more valuable to Great Britain than the mines of Potosi to the Spaniards.

To conclude these reflections, I shall touch on the subject of an encreased population so wisely hinted at by the Bishop of Landaff, in his celebrated speech in the House of Lords, on the 11th of April 1799. That population may be augmented very rapidly without a convulsive change of manners, innumerable instances can be produced on the best authorities. Bossuet assures us in his Universal History, that Abderam king of Cordova, on the close of a most murderous war, found his nation so greatly exhausted of people, that he applied all his attention to agriculture and population; and in less than thirty years, the census of his subjects was encreased threefold. We have the authority of Lord M^r Cartney,

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ney, and the gentlemen who went with him on that embassy, to affirm, that the principal care of the Chinese government is to encrease the quantity of provisions and the number of inhabitants. The statistical account they have furnished us with exceeds credibility. The empire of China containing 236,000,000 of souls, a number more than double the people of all Europe. The Hollanders, who made many useful observations on the conduct of the Chinese, and closely imitated them where possible, have a population, as two to one, more than France for each square mile: and yet the French are so sensible of the importance of numbers, that whenever they can employ men in place of horses, they do it. One strong example of this sound policy strikes the eye of every traveller on his first landing in France, when he beholds men performing the business done by horses with us, such as drawing goods from ships or from one part of a town to another. I have heard Englishmen speak with contempt of this practice, and as a proof of the poverty of the country and the people, without once reflecting, that three or four men can draw as much as one horse; and that one horse would consume the produce of the land that maintains those four persons; con-

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quently there is the support for four hardy men for each horse, that are ready for the defence of the nation: and that by such means as this they have not only bid defiance to the greatest part of Europe, but actually put it under contribution.

The government of Sweden has turned its serious attention to an encrease of population, and the northernmost part of that cold country called Lapmarchan, which was wholly uninhabited forty years ago, has at the present day several hundred thousand inhabitants.

But how great has been the surprize and ignorance of a large majority of the people of England, to find, that *Ireland*, a country connected with us by every tie that can cement two people, has a population that exceeds four millions and one half, although the proportion of size of the two countries stands nearly as seven Ireland to sixteen England; therefore England ought, was it on a par of population with Ireland, to possess 10,300,000 inhabitants, which we unfortunately know is wide from the truth.

The United States of America, where the population is more than doubled every twenty-five years, is not mentioned, because it may be urged against that circumstance, that the immense

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mense emigration from several parts of Europe add greatly to the mass.

The subject of agriculture is capable of such extension, and so meritorious to the ministry of any nation that closely attends to it, that I flatter myself the distresses we have had, and do experience, will so open our eyes, that this subject will receive the aid of all the abilities in the kingdom; and that every person who values the safety, happiness, and prosperity of his native land, will throw in his mite towards the perfection of this invaluable science.

THE END.

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