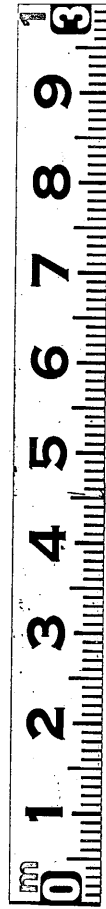


0055

93-11



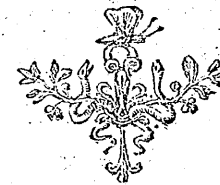
n

SOME
THOUGHTS
 ON THE
Tillage of Ireland:

Humbly Dedicated to the
PARLIAMENT.

*O fortunatos nimium, sua si bona norint,
 Agricolas —*

To which is Prefixed,
 A LETTER to the PRINTER,
 from the Reverend Doctor *SWIFT*,
 Dean of *St. Patrick's*, recommending the
 following Treatise.




LONDON:
 Printed for T. COOPER, at the *Globe* in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1737.
 [Price Six Pence.]

[3]



A
L E T T E R
TO THE
P R I N T E R.

Mr. Faulkner,

 *Received from you a
Manuscript, sent, as
you tell me, by some
unknown Hand, entitled, A
Discourse upon the Tillage of
IRELAND;*

IRELAND; of which you desire my Judgment. In Answer, I do assure you, I think it extremely well writ, and might be of the greatest Advantage to the Kingdom, if there were Virtue enough among us to follow the Author's Advice, as I heartily wish.

I am, Sir,

Your assured Friend,

and Servant.

Deanry-House,
Dec. 13. 1737.

J. SWIFT.



SOME

THOUGHTS

ON THE

Tillage of Ireland:



SHALL not take up the Readers Time by an Apology for the following Remarks: If they be just, they do not require any; if otherwise, no Apology can excuse them.

It will hardly be denied, that this Kingdom is at present in a declining Way. Money is
B certainly

[6]

certainly scarce, and Credit weak. Rents and all other Debts are ill paid. Landlords find the Poverty of their Tenants increasing. The trading Part of our People univervally complain that our Cash is exhausted. Indeed, all Ranks and Orders of Men among us, are more or less sensible of our Poverty.

By looking back into the State of our Trade for a few Years, it plainly appears, that our present Scarcity of Money hath been chiefly occasioned by the great Quantities of Corn we have lately imported, far exceeding our former Importation. The Wheat, Barley, Malt, Flower, and Oat-meal, we imported for the three last Years, ending at *Lady-day*, 1736, amounted yearly to so large a Sum as 108,031*l.* one Year with another: For the three preceding Years, they did not exceed 25,950*l. per Ann.* at a Medium; and in going further back, we seldom find them much higher. From these undeniable Facts it plainly appears, that our Country would have been 246,243*l.* richer than it now is, if our Importation of Corn had not increased for the three last Years; and the other Branches of our Trade had continued the same. This may seem but a small Sum when compared with Millions, the Wealth of a neighbouring Nation: But it is a very large one to a People whose whole circulating Coin hath not for many Years been computed at more than 500,000*l.* Indeed we never were incumbered with any Redundancy of Wealth in this Kingdom. Our Money, when in greatest Plenty, assisted by our Paper-credit, in its highest Pitch, was scarce sufficient to carry on the

[7]

the Commerce of our Island. When this is considered, it will not seem at all surprizing, that the Loss of almost one Half of our current Cash, added to the Shocks our Paper-credit suffered, about the same Time, and all in the Compass of three Years, hath so greatly affected us. Three such other Years, would, in all Probability, be attended with Consequences not proper to be mentioned.

I do not say, that our Want of Money is wholly to be imputed to the Sums we have lately sent out of the Kingdom for Corn. The Poverty of *Ireland* hath been an old and a just Complaint; and is, without Doubt, the Effect of many concurring Causes: But our late sudden Fall from Poverty to Beggary, cannot, in my Opinion, be otherwise accounted for, than by the prodigious and sudden Increase, we have lately had, in our Importation of Corn; at a Time, when our Paper-credit was not, in any sort, capable of repairing the Loss.

It is evident, that a Decay in the circulating Money of any Country, is a Disease, in the political Body, of a mortal Nature, such as must end in the utter Ruin of the State, if some Remedy be not applied. In our Case, the Cure may seem easy. If our Money be exhausted by importing foreign Corn; the Remedy appears obvious; to encrease our own Tillage. But as that would lessen our Exportation of Beef, Hides, Tallow, and the other Commodities arising from Pasture; and as some have doubted, whether we would not thereby lose in our Exports as much as we should save in our Imports; I shall endeavour

to

[8]

to clear up this Matter, by inquiring into the Profits respectively arising from Tillage and Pasture: And herein I shall confine myself entirely to Pasture of black Cattle.

Before I proceed, it may not be improper to observe, that there are two Ways of promoting Husbandry, very different from each other; the one is by encouraging Tillage; the other discouraging Pasture. The latter may by promote a publick Good; but, at the same time, must hurt the private Property of many Persons: The former is equally conducive to the same Good, without doing any private Injury. Hence I think it follows, that the Inquiry here proposed, cannot have any Tendency to hurt those, who now employ their Land in Pasture: For whatever Evils the Nation, upon a strict Enquiry, may be found to suffer for Want of Tillage, it is not to be imagined, that our Legislature would ever remedy those Evils, by invading the Property of particular Persons, when they can be as effectually remedied by other Means.

In comparing the Profit of Tillage with that of Pasture, I shall not have any Regard to the private Gain of the Farmer: That depends on the Value of the Product, Allowance being first made for the Expence of Labour; but the full Value of the Product, without any Deduction, is the National Gain. If we would know the private Gain of the Grazier or Plowman, we must deduct what he lays out in labouring his Farm, from the Money his Bullocks or his Corn bring him: But to know the publick
Gain

[9]

Gain of the Nation, we must compute what we get from other Countries, by exporting those Commodities; or how much Money is kept in the Kingdom, by having such Commodities, of our own Growth, for our home Consumption. The Labour of the Farm is, indeed, for the most Part, a considerable Expence to the Farmer, but not to the Publick; because the Money laid out on that Account is spent in the Kingdom. If the Commodities of the Farm be exported; the full Price they are sold at, to Foreigners, is so much clear Gain to the Nation: If they be consumed in the Kingdom; the Money we should have sent out to foreign Countries, for such Commodities, if we had them not of our own Growth, is just so much saved to the Publick: The Labour that produces them is not a national Expence, in a Country where so many Hands are unemployed.

In order to shew the Influence of Tillage, on the national Wealth, I shall first enquire into the Money our black Cattle bring us from other Countries; and then compute the Gain we might reasonably expect, by turning the Land to Tillage, that is at present employed in feeding those Cattle.

In computing the Money brought into the Kingdom by our black Cattle, I shall not have any Regard to the Manufactures that depend on those Cattle; such as Leather, Candles, and Soap: The Cattle we slaughter to supply us with Beef for our home Consumption,
C tion,

[10]

tion, afford us more Hides and Tallow than we manufacture; as appears by comparing the Tallow and green Hides we export, with our Exportation of Beef. The Offals may be also omitted, because we do not usually export them. There remains only the Beef, with the Hide and Tallow unmanufactured, which I think may justly be valued, according to the Prices such Commodities are usually sold at in this Kingdom, without Regard to foreign Markets; because those Commodities are generally bought here for the Use of foreign Merchants, and are exported on their Account: And were it otherwise, yet that manner of valuing the Product of Pasture, could admit of no Objection, in the present Case; the Product of Tillage, in the following Computation, being valued in the same Manner.

Our Bullocks do not weigh five Hundred Weight a-piece, one with another; and the Price of Beef, in the slaughtering Season, seldom exceeds seven or eight Shillings a Hundred. But to compute largely, I shall allow five Hundred and an Half for the Weight, and nine Shillings a Hundred for the Price, which brings the Value of the Carcase to 2*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

Hides are usually sold by Weight; the small, from twelve to fourteen; and the large, from eighteen to twenty Shillings a Hundred. Small Hides usually weigh, from half a Hundred to three Quarters: It is a large one that comes to a Hundred Weight. For these

[11]

these Reasons I believe, on a strict Computation, fifteen or sixteen Shillings for a Hide, might be found a just Medium, taking large and small together: But, to avoid all Colour of Objection, I shall value the Hides, one with another, at twenty Shillings a-piece.

As for the Tallow, I shall allow six Stone to a Bullock, which at two Shillings and six Pence a Stone, comes to fifteen Shillings. These several Sums being added together, amount to 4*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

Thus we find, that the Bullocks we slaughter for Exportation, on the highest Computation we can possibly make, bring the Nation, one with another, no more than 4*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* a-piece.

The next thing we are to enquire into, is, the Gain we might reasonably expect by turning the Land to Tillage, that is at present employed in feeding such Cattle. And here, to avoid Objection, I shall make the Computation so low, that I hope it will be allowed by all Persons, who understand Husbandry, to fall short of the real Value.

Black Cattle usually bring forth their Young in the Spring-season, and nourish them by their Milk for the first Year. The Grass eaten by the Young, during that Period, is inconsiderable. As for the Pasture of the Dam, it is in most Places fully recompensed by the Milk she gives over and above what is

[12]

necessary for Support of the Calf. I shall therefore, in the following Computation, omit the Land employed in feeding the Dam and her Young for the first Year.

The Land on which young Cattle are pastured, for the second and third Years, is generally so coarse, that we cannot allow less than an Acre of it, Plantation-measure, for the second Year, and two Acres for the third, to a Bullock of so large a Breed as is mentioned in the foregoing Computation. Though the Land thus employed generally affords but coarse Pasture, yet a great Part of it would bear good Oats, and in some Places, Barley, Wheat, or Rye, by proper Husbandry. An Acre of it under Tillage cannot be supposed to yield less than six Barrels of Oats; and where it is fit for Winter-Corn, we may reasonably expect four Barrels of Wheat or Rye, and six of Barley, from an Acre, besides the Seed. We cannot allow less than three Shillings a Barrel for the Oats, four and six Pence for the Barley, seven for the Rye, and eleven for the Wheat: At those Rates, supposing one Third of the Ground to bear Wheat, Barley, or Rye, and the other two Thirds Oats, the Product, at a Medium, amounts to 1*l.* 3*s.* an Acre, besides the Straw, which I on Purpose omit, as a Recompence for the Offals of black Cattle, omitted in the foregoing Computation.

Bullocks about three Years old are usually brought into better Ground; where they are
gene-

[13]

generally kept about two Years and an half, and then slaughtered. In computing the Value of the Land employed during this Period, I think I may justly consider it as three Years; in regard that the Winter-grass of the third Year is inconsiderable, and is more than recompensed by the extraordinary Expence that attends black Cattle, in the last Season, to fit them for Slaughter; being then put into the richest Land of the Farm, which is singled out and set apart for that Purpose, and is kept up from all other Cattle for a considerable Time before.

For the three last Years, I shall allow no more than an Acre and a half to a Bullock in the Year; which, in most Places, would be found but a very scanty Allowance to maintain him both in Grass and Hay. This, in three Years, comes to four Acres and an half. The Quantity of Land being known, the Product of it under Tillage may be computed in the following Manner.

The Land employed, during this Period, is generally very good, and in most Places might reasonably be supposed to yield of Wheat from eight to ten Barrels an Acre, and other Grain in Proportion, if not worn out by too frequent Crops: But my Intention being to make the Computation as low as possible, I shall compute no more than six Barrels of Wheat to an Acre, nine of Barley, and eight of Oats, besides the Seed. On this Computation, supposing one Third of the Ground
to

[14]

to bear Oats, and the other two Thirds, Wheat or Barley; and allowing the several Rates above-mentioned for the different Kinds of Corn, the Value of the Product, at a Medium, comes to 2*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* an Acre. The Computation then, will stand thus :

The Land taken up in feeding a Bullock, being three Acres for the two first Years, and for the three last, four Acres and a half; the former, at the Rate of 1*l.* 3*s.* an Acre, comes to 3*l.* 9*s.* and the latter, at 2*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* an Acre, to 9*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* in the whole 13*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* But it being requisite in Husbandry, that Land under Tillage should have proper Intervals of Rest, I shall suppose no more than one half of it under Corn, at the same time; and shall therefore take no more than one Half of the Sum above-mentioned, which is 6*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* as the Value of the Product; although many of our Farmers, in the Tillage-Countries, generally keep two Thirds of their Ground under Corn; it being the usual Course of Husbandry, in many Parts, to take two Crops in three Years.

Thus we find, that our Pasture Ground, if under Tillage, would, instead of a Bullock, worth at most but 4*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* bring us Corn to the Value of 6*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* on the lowest Computation that can well be made. The Gain appears to be 2*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* for every Bullock. I shall now compute how much that Gain would amount to, in the Whole, if we should rear no more black Cattle than are necessary for our home Consumption.

It

[15]

It appears in our Custom-house Books, that the Beef we exported for the three last Years, ending at *Lady-day*, 1736, amounts to 152,238 Barrels, in the Year, one Year with another. By this we might compute the Number of Oxen slaughtered yearly for Exportation at 76119; an Ox being generally allowed to fill two Barrels. But, to be as low as possible in the Computation; I shall allow two Barrels and a half to an Ox; which brings the Number of Oxen to 60,895. The Number of Oxen being thus found; the National Gain, from the the Tillage proposed, may be readily ascertained: For if the Publick would gain 2*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* by converting the Land to Tillage, that is taken up in feeding one Ox, in so great a Number as 60895, the Gain would amount to 145,767*l.*

It may perhaps be objected, that all the Land employed in feeding black Cattle for Exportation is not Arable; and that we have a great deal of heathy, mountainous Land in this Kingdom, and some wet, marish Ground, that cannot be better employed than in Pasture of black Cattle.

To this I answer; our Land of that Kind might be employed in feeding Cattle for our home Consumption. All the Bogs and Mountains in the Kingdom would not be sufficient for that Purpose. We employ very little Land, at present, in Pasture of barren Cattle, that is not either naturally Arable, or capable of being made so, at a very small Expence.

[16]

pence. There are not many grazing Farms of coarser Ground than the Mountains between *Dundalk* and *Newry* appeared to be about twenty Years ago; yet we see a great deal of Ground reclaimed there in the Compass of a few Years, and made good Arable Land at a very small Expence, and without any extraordinary Skill in Husbandry: We have also some Examples, in this Kingdom, of making Marishes and Bogs Arable by draining; and if we cannot boast of many Instances of that Sort, it is not because our Bogs are incapable of that Improvement.

I have compared the Profit of barren Cattle with that of Tillage, according to the common Method of Husbandry, most in Use among us, and therefore have omitted Grass-feeds; although we have Instances where Land under Tillage hath, by Means of that Improvement, produced as much Grass as when it was intirely under Pasture. I have also, for the same Reason, omitted the Use of Oxen in Husbandry, by which barren Cattle and Tillage might not only be made consistent, but mutually useful and improving to each other. Neither have I had any Regard to the Improvements arising from Manures, which would greatly add to the Ballance in Favour of Tillage.

We see what an immense Sum of Money would be brought into the Kingdom every Year, by employing the Arable Land in Tillage, that is now under black Cattle for Exportation:

[17]

portation: No less than 145,767 *l.* 8 *s.* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* the lowest Computation, over and above the Money at present arising from Pasture of that Nature; and all by the plainest and most easy Method of Husbandry, without any of the Improvements in Tillage, that are already practised in many Parts, from which a vast additional Gain could not fail to arise.

Persons who turn their Thoughts to Computations of this Nature, usually make them as favourable for their Purpose as they justly can. I hope mine will not be considered in that Light. The Profit of Tillage is, beyond Doubt, vastly greater; and that of Pasture much less than I have computed them. I over-value the one, and under-value the other, to leave no Room for Objection.

I hope nothing I have said, will be understood to discourage Pasture of Milch-Cattle: Tillage and Dairies are so far from being inconsistent, that they really assist and improve each other. It is necessary in Husbandry, that Land under Tillage should have proper Intervals of Pasture, which cannot be better employed than in Dairies: And therefore, I think the Exportation of Butter a Branch of our Trade that ought to be encouraged. But surely this can in no sort be urged as an Argument in favour of Dry-Cattle: For, although milch and Barren-Cattle are, in some Measure, relative to each other, they are so far distinct and independent, that the latter may be lessened without abridging the former. Indeed, the

D

turning

[18]

turning out Land from barren Cattle to Tillage, instead of hurting our Dairies, would greatly improve them: For the Milk now consumed in suckling barren Cattle, might then be employed in making Butter. Hence would arise another Fund of Wealth to the Nation. The Butter of the Milk, at present, employed in suckling the Cattle we breed for Exportation, valuing it at twenty Shillings a Hundred, and allowing half a Hundred Weight for every Calf, would amount to so considerable a Sum as 30,447 *l. per Annum*. This, added to the Sum of 145,767 *l.* above-mentioned, makes in the Whole 176,214 *l.* the yearly Gain, that, on the lowest Computation, might be expected from the Tillage proposed.

Thus we see the Influence of Tillage on the National Wealth, and yet, it cannot be doubted, that our Graziers find Pasture more for their private Gain. What are we then to expect? The publick Good draws one Way; private Interest another: It is easy to see the Consequence. This is a national Evil; and requires a publick Remedy. Our Law-givers alone can unite the private Interest of the Farmer, and publick Good of the Nation; by giving such Encouragement to Tillage, as may be found necessary for that End. A Law to discourage Pasture might carry some Appearance of Injustice in it, by affecting the private Property of those, who employ their Land in that Manner; but a Law to encourage Tillage could not be liable to that Objection:

[19]

jection: For as such a Law would not lessen the Profit of Pasture, it could not possibly occasion any Loss to Graziers, but would greatly promote the publick Good, without hurting the private Property of any Person whatsoever. Now, in order to recommend this Matter more effectually, to the Consideration of our Legislature, I shall mention some other Advantages, attending Tillage, no less valuable to the Nation, than even Wealth itself.

The First of these is the Increase of our People. It is certain, that the Power and Wealth of every Nation depend on the Number of its Inhabitants, employed in Labour; and it is as certain, that the enlarging our Tillage would greatly add to the Number of our labouring Hands. Where Pasture prevails, the low People are all Servants to the Rich; and a limited Number of them is sufficient for that Purpose. Hence it is, that as they increase in Numbers, finding no Employment at Home, they are under a Necessity of going Abroad into some Foreign Service, or of staying in their own Country, without any settled Way of Living, in Idleness and extreme Poverty. We have seen, by Experience, in what Manner our common People have multiplied, since the late happy Revolution in the Northern Parts of *Ireland*, where Tillage hath prevailed, notwithstanding the Multitudes that have gone from those Parts to *America*; and it is well known, we have not had any such Increase of People in our Pasture Countries. There we see large Tracts of the best Land in

D. 2

the

[20]

the Kingdom almost unpeopled; inhabited only by a few Wretches, dispersed among the Beasts of the Field; living in so miserable a State of Poverty and Barbarism, as is a Shame and Reproach to a Christian Country; being more vile than the Condition of *Indian* Savages.

The employing our idle Hands is another Advantage to be had by increasing our Tillage. Pasture of barren Cattle can afford but little Employment for our labouring People. Tallow is capable of very little Manufacture; Beef is not capable of any; the Hands required in Tanning are perfectly inconsiderable, when compared with the Multitudes employed by Tillage; and what makes the Case still worse with us, we export above one Half of our Hides green.

Whatever promotes Labour, increases the National Wealth. This is a Truth, clear and certain, beyond all Possibility of Contradiction. Labour and Industry are, indeed, the Riches of every Country. It is impossible that a Nation, whose Hands are fully employed, should ever be poor.

The Want of Labour for our common People is a great Occasion of Vice among them. An idle People are always vicious, as well well as poor. Industry promotes Virtue; at least, a sort of negative Virtue; it prevents Vice. A Nation and a private Person are to be considered, for this Purpose, in the
same

[21]

same Light: Industry begets Wealth and Happiness to both; but Poverty and Misery, Vice and Immorality, are the natural Offspring of Idleness.

There is yet another Advantage to be had from the Increase of Tillage, no less valuable than those already mentioned; and that is the Improvement of our Manufactures. It is certain, that whatever increases the Demand, for any manufactured Commodity, encourages the Manufacture; and it is as certain, that selling cheap is the best Method of enlarging the Demand. We have Rivals in all our Manufactures, whom we ought, by all possible Means, to undersell: For which End there is nothing so effectual, as keeping down the Price of Labour; and that can only be done by increasing our Tillage. When Bread is at a low Price, our labouring People can afford to work cheap: For which Reason the Price of Labour always did, and ever must, depend on the Price of Corn.

The enlarging our Tillage, would naturally introduce Granaries among us, to store up the Superfluities of a good Season, for the Scarcity of a bad one; which would encourage our Manufactures, by giving continual Plenty of Bread; enable our Merchants to wait for a reasonable Price abroad; secure to our Farmers a constant Demand at home; enrich us by the bad Seasons of other Countries; and prevent the dismal Effects of such Seasons in our own,

The

[22]

The encouragment of Tillage would not only improve our Manufactures in general, by keeping down the Price of Labour; but would have a particular Effect upon our Linnen Manufacture. If Gentlemen in the Pasture-Countries found Tillage more profitable, they would naturally look out for Tenants, in the populous Corn-Countries of the North; and transplant into the Southern Part Northern Farmers, skilful in the Linnen Manufacture, who would soon extend over the whole Kingdom, that valuable Manufacture, at present, confined to a few Countries. The vast Addition this would make to our Exports, could not fail to enrich us.

The Protestant Religion, as well as the Linnen Manufacture, would be hereby extended into the Popish Parts of *Ireland*, which would greatly strengthen and promote the Protestant Interest, and secure the Peace of the Kingdom.

Most of the Protestant Colonies, that have hitherto been attempted, in the Popish Parts of *Ireland*, were so weak, that they have not been able to stand their Ground, against the Natives of the Country, who imagine it their Interest to discourage them. It is, indeed, to be feared, that such Colonies will never be successful, until the Gentlemen of those Parts, universally find their Interest in Tillage. Whenever that comes to pass, Northern Protestants will be transplanted into the Popish Countries of the South, in such Numbers, as will give them

[23]

them Strength; and it will then become the common Interest of the Gentlemen in the Country, to support and protect them.

Any Person who had Leisure to make a Progress through the Kingdom, and see what a vast Difference there is, between the common People, in the several Parts of it, would not want any other Argument in favour of Tillage. Our common People, in the Northern Parts, are not much to be boasted of, for their Wealth or Manner of Living; and yet, they are greatly superior to those of the Pasture Countries: Indeed the Poverty of the latter is scarcely to be parallel'd in any other Nation. Their Cloathing is Rags; their Houses Hovels, fitter for Swine than human Creatures; and the Scantiness and Nastiness of their Food are hardly to be conceived. It is astonishing to see such a Difference in the People of so small a Kingdom. We find among our common People, in those Parts where Tillage abounds, warm Houses, clean and decent Apparel, wholesome Food, Manufactures, Industry, and the Protestant Religion: Among those of the Pasture Countries, there is nothing to be found but Misery and Poverty, Rudeness and Barbarity, Sloth, Idleness, and Popish Ignorance.

Before I part with this Subject, I must mention a Circumstance in our Trade, that seems to call upon us, in a particular Manner at this Time, to discourage Pasture of barren Cattle.

The People of *Ireland* having, for many Years, exported more Beef than could be consumed

[24]

sumed in *Europe*; large Quantities of that Commodity were sent to the *West-Indies*: But some of the Colonies on the Continent of *America*, finding themselves Owners of great Tracts of Land, without Hands to till it, have lately fallen into that Branch of Trade, and now supply the *West-Indian* Islands with Beef, at a much cheaper Rate, than it can possibly be afforded by any peopled Country. Thus have we lost some of our best Markets for the principal Commodity arising from Pasture of barren Cattle, without any Likelihood of discovering any new Demand, to recompense the Loss: Yet we have not made the least Addition to our Tillage, on that Account, but still continue to keep as much Land under black Cattle as formerly; which gives us such Quantities of Beef, so far exceeding the present Demand, that we are glad to sell it at any Rate. Such is our Fondness for Pasture of that Nature; not considering, that by exporting less, we should sell it so much the dearer; that the Price of all perishable Commodities, rises and falls in proportion to the Scarcity or Plenty of the Commodity; and that we might reasonably expect as much Money for one Half, or two Thirds of the Quantity we now export, as all that arises at present from this Branch of our Trade. It must be owned, the Demand of Beef hath increased a little this Year; but that Increase cannot be expected to continue.

The Antients understood Husbandry, and the Importance of it, much better than we do. They regarded it as an Art or Science; a Branch of Learning that required a Course of Reading and Study, to understand it. Their best Authors,

[25]

thors, most of their Philosophers, nay, several of their Kings wrote Books upon it. There were no less than fifty Writers, upon that Subject, in *Greece* alone. Husbandry was honour'd in those Times; and deemed an Employment worthy of the greatest Men. It was in such Esteem, among the *Romans*, that Persons of the first Rank tilled their Lands with their own Hands; and were frequently taken from the Plough, to be placed in the highest Offices of the State. The wisest Princes among the Ancients, regarded it as a Matter of the highest Importance; and made it the chief Object of their Government and Policy. Historians tell us, that most of the great Nations, which have arisen in the different Ages of the World, owed their Grandeur to Husbandry: That Husbandry not only gave them Wealth, but Strength and Vigour, both of Body and Mind; inured them to Labour, and the Injuries of the Weather; and fitted them for the Toil of War. The *Assyrians*, *Persians*, *Egyptians*, *Greeks*, and *Romans*, all excelled in Husbandry. The *Assyrian* and *Persian* Governors, who promoted it, were rewarded; and those punished, who suffered it to be neglected. The prodigious Wealth of ancient *Sicily*, was wholly imputed to their extraordinary Skill and Industry in Tillage. The immense Riches of *Egypt* were attributed to the same Cause. It would be endless to mention all the Instances of this kind, that are to be met with in the ancient Historians. Indeed, we scarce find in History, either ancient or modern, a wealthy or powerful Nation, that was not remarkable for Husbandry.

E

It

[26]

It hath been the constant Policy of the People of *England*, in all Ages, by all possible Means, to promote Tillage. They made Laws for that End, almost as early as the Conquest^a. In the Reign of *Henry VII*, Penalties were inflicted for suffering Houses of Husbandry to decay; and for not laying out Land, convenient for Tillage, to maintain them^b. In the succeeding Reign, converting Tillage into Pasture, was regarded as so great a Crime, that the Offender forfeited a full Moiety of his Land to the immediate Lord of the Fee^c. In the Reign of *Edward VI*, a Law was made, that so much Land should be tilled, as had been employed four Years in that Manner, at any Time in forty-two Years, next before the making of the Act, on Pain of forfeiting five Shillings an Acre^d. In the Reign of *Philip and Mary*, the Law that had been made in *Henry VII*'s Reign, for encouraging Husbandry, was confirmed; and Commissioners were appointed to enquire, hear, and determine Offences against it; with Power to bind the Offenders by Recognizance, for rebuilding decayed Houses of Husbandry; and for converting Pasture into Tillage^e. In the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, a Law was made, that all such Lands as had been in Tillage, in any one Year, and so kept four Years, at any Time in thirty-five Years, next before the making of the Act, should be plowed, and kept in Tillage, according to the Nature of the Soil, and Custom of the Country, on Pain of forfeiting 10 s. an Acre yearly, to the Person entitled to the Re-

^a 20 Hen. III. c. 4. ^b 13 Edw. I. c. 46. ^c 4 Hen. VII. c. 19.
^d 7 Hen. VIII. c. 1. ^e 27 Hen. VIII. c. 22. ^f 5 and 6
 Edw. VI. c. 5. ^g 2 and 3. Philip and Mary, c. 2.

mainder

[27]

mainder or Reversion; and, in his Default, to the immediate Lord of the Fee; and, in his Default to the Crown; to be recovered by Distress^f. The various Laws that have been made in *England*, almost in every Reign, since that of *Henry VI*, for regulating the Corn Trade; and above all, the Premiums^g given for the Exportation of Corn, by a Law made in the Reign of our Deliverer King *William*; for how inconvenient soever they may be found of late Years, clearly shew, that Tillage is, and ever hath been, the Darling of that wise People. They do not think the Product of the Soil a sufficient Recompence for the Husbandman's Labour; but reward his Toil by large Sums of Money, paid him out of the publick Treasure. Whether Premiums of this Nature be agreeable to the Circumstances of this Country, I shall not at present enquire. The Statute of 25 *Hen. VIII. c. 13.* was also made to promote Husbandry: The Preamble of which is so perfectly agreeable to the present Circumstances of this Kingdom, that I shall beg Leave to transcribe Part of it in the Words of the Act.

“ Divers of the King's Subjects of this
 “ Realm, to whom God, of his Goodness,
 “ hath disposed great Abundance of moveable
 “ Substance; now of late, within few Years,
 “ have daily studied Ways and Means, how
 “ they might accumulate and gather together,

^f 5 Eliz. c. 2. ^g By 1 Will. and Mar. Sess. 1. c. 12.
 a Premium of 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter is given for the Exportation
 of Barley and Malt, when they are at 24 s. per Quarter; 3 s. 6 d.
 for Rye, when it is at 32 s.; and 5 s. for Wheat, when it is at
 48 s. per Quarter, or under.

E 2

“ into

[28]

“ into few Hands, as well great Multitudes of
 “ Farms, as great Plenty of Cattle**, putting
 “ such Land as they can get to Pasture, and not
 “ to Tillage. Whereby they have not only pull’d
 “ down Churches and Towns, *** but also
 “ have rais’d and enhans’d the Prices of all
 “ Manner of Corn, *** almost above double
 “ the Prices which have been accustomed: By
 “ reason whereof, a marvellous Multitude and
 “ Number of the People of this Realm, be not
 “ able to provide Meat, Drink, and Cloaths,
 “ necessary for themselves, their Wives and
 “ Children; but be so discouraged, with Mi-
 “ sery and Poverty, that they fall daily to
 “ Robbery, and other Inconveniencies; or pi-
 “ tifully die for Hunger and Cold. *** Which
 “ Things be principally to the high Displea-
 “ sure of Almighty God; *** to the diminish-
 “ ing of the King’s People; *** and, in Con-
 “ clusion, if Remedy be not found, it may turn
 “ to the utter Destruction and Desolation of
 “ this Realm: Which God defend.”

Thus we see how the Lawgivers of *England* have acted, in the Matter of Husbandry, for these five or six Hundred Years. Indeed, we may trace the Example of that Nation, still higher, in their common Law; which speaks the Wisdom of our Ancestors, long before the Date of their oldest written Laws. It was from a particular Regard to Tillage, that the ancient common Law of *England*, exempted Beasts of the Plough from Distresses, and protected them even against the Landlord himself; where any other Distress could be found. Although that Privilege for the Encouragement of Manu-
 factories

[29]

factures was afterwards extended to all Utenfils of a Man’s Trade or Profession.

To the Example of *England*, in this Matter, may be added, that of all other civilized Nations. The Love of Ease, which is, in some Degree, natural to all Countries, inclines Men to Pasture: Insomuch that all Nations, *Ireland* only excepted, have found it necessary to balance that prevailing Inclination of the human Mind, by Laws for the Encouragement of Tillage. Whether we, of this Island, have more or less Occasion than our Neighbours, for Inducements to Labour; whether lazy Pasture be the Delight of our Natives, and the Toil of Husbandry their Aversion; whether the *Irish* be not slothful, to a Proverb; and whether there ever was a Nation, in any Age, where Laws to encourage Industry, were more wanted, I shall leave to the impartial Reader.

It must be owned, we made a small Effort in this Kingdom, for the Encouragement of Tillage, by a Law made in the Beginning of Queen *Anne*’s Reign^a, giving a Premium of one Shilling per Quarter, for exporting Bare, Barley, Rye, and Malt; and one Shilling and six Pence for Wheat. But as those Premiums are only to be given, when Malt, Bare, and Barley are so low as ten Shillings per Quarter; Rye, nine Shillings; and Wheat, fourteen; they are at present of no Use.

We also discover’d some Regard for Tillage, by a Law made in the Beginning of the present

^a 6 Ann. c. 18.

Reign;

Reign^b; which enacts, That five Acres in the Hundred shall be every where plowed; on Pain of forfeiting forty Shillings for every Acre unplowed. But that Law hath been found, by Experience, to be of little or no avail, for the Purpose intended.

I believe I may venture to affirm; that *Ireland*, inconsiderable as it is in Extent, hath exported more Beef, for many Years, than all the rest of *Europe*. Surely any Foreigner who heard this, would naturally conclude, that our Country was a Desert; that we wanted Hands to till our Ground; or that our People were so rude and unciviliz'd, as not to submit to the Toil of Husbandry. Indeed, when we consider, that Husbandry and Manufactures are the Effect of Government and Laws; that Idleness and Pasture are agreeable only to a State of Nature; and that the People of *Ireland* have been so far civilized, for several hundred Years, as to have had a Form of Civil Government established among them; it is amazing to find so much of our Country still remaining in its primitive State of Pasture and Barbarism.

The Miseries our People suffer for Want of Corn, make our Neglect of Tillage still more surprizing. We scarce have a bad Season, in *Ireland*, that is not followed by a Famine, among the common People, which never fails to drive Multitudes of our best Hands out of the Kingdom, to seek their Bread in foreign Countries. The Calamities of the Year 1728, and the beginning of the Year 1729, are still

^b 1 Geo. II. c. 10.

fresh

fresh in our Memories; when many of the poorer Sort, in the Northern Parts, who were not able to fly from the Famine, which then raged among them, perished under it, and died in their native Country for Want of Food: And many more would have had the same miserable Fate, had they not been happily preserved by an uncommon Charity, chiefly promoted and conducted by a most Reverend Prelate.

To see Famine in such a Country as this, is really astonishing. Our Soil, fruitful; almost one half our Hands unemployed; more than one half our Land untill'd; and, at the same Time, our People dying for Want of Bread. I am apt to think this would seem a Paradox any where but in *Ireland*.

Our Policy, in this Matter, is the more surprizing, in Regard that Nature hath given us Advantages in Tillage, beyond most other Countries. The Island is so narrow, and hath so many natural Harbours, that there are few Parts of it above thirty Miles distant from Water Carriage; and, we might excel all the neighbouring Nations in Land Carriage, by making proper Use of our Materials for Roads. Indeed, the Number of fine Harbours this Kingdom enjoys without the least Assistance from Art; the vast Plenty we find of the best Materials for Roads, treasured up in the Earth, wherever there is Occasion; the great Number of Rivers we abound in, considering the Smallness of our Island; some of which are navigable by Nature; others capable of being made so, by a very little Help from Art. The navigable Bays,

[32]

Bays, or Arms of the Sea, which, in many Places, run a considerable Length into the Country; and, above all, the natural Goodness of our Soil, are so many Demonstrations, that Nature intended this Island for a Corn Country. I shall pursue this Subject no further, but leave it to the Consideration of our Law-givers, to whom Inquiries of this Nature properly belong. It is their Business, and theirs alone, to search the Causes of our national Evils; because they alone have Power to cure them. They are the proper Persons to enquire, whether a great Part of our Cash, hath already been exhausted, by the Importation of foreign Corn; whether the little that remains, be in Danger of going the same Way; and, whether an effectual Law for promoting the Tillage of *Ireland* would not remedy that Evil: Whether such a Law, would not add to our Numbers; employ our Hands; improve our Manufactures; strengthen the Protestant Interest among us; increase the national Wealth; and, in all human probability, make us a rich, a flourishing, and happy People.

F I N I S.