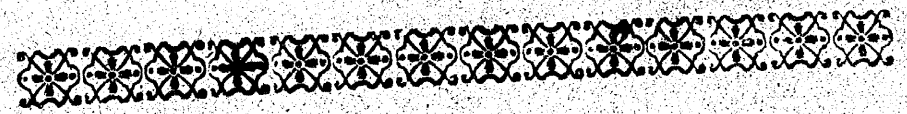


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SIX

LETTERS

UPON INTERESTING

SUBJECTS.



(Price Six-pence only.)

12

LETTERS

UPON

Interesting Subjects.

- I. Hints to the Legislature, touching as well the former Laws and Customs of *England*, relating to *Forefallers*, *Regrators*, and *Ingrossers* of *Corn*, *Meat*, and *Cattle*, as *Weights* and *Measures*.
- II. Proposals for reducing Numbers of Laws into different Acts of Parliament, so far as concerns *Treason*, *Felony*, the *Poor*, *Corn*, and other Matters therein treated of.
- III. An humble Proposal for sending some of the young Gentlemen in the public Offices, to study the *Prussian* Laws.
- IV. The Farmers defended
- V. An Account of the great Encouragement that was heretofore given for increasing Tillage, and recommending the Continuing it both here, and in *Ireland*.
- VI. My Lord *Coke's*, and other great Lawyers Opinions, in respect to the Blessings that may accrue from the Reformation of the Laws.

To which are prefixed,

The Representation of the Corporation of *Warwick*, and a particular Epistle in Behalf of the *Poor* of old *England*, with Remarks.

The Life and Strength of the Law, consists not in heaping of infinite Numbers of confused Laws, but in the right Interpretation and due Execution of the Laws.
ANONY.

By Mr. GROVE.

L O N N O N,

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row*.

MDCCLVIII.

T H E
P R E F A C E.

TH E following Letters have been at different Times published, and as they have met with a favourable Reception from several very Worthy and Honourable Gentlemen, it induces me not only to re-publish them, but also to lay before the Publick some interesting Matters which I wrote, and were ushered into the World some Years since.

T H E first Matter was—That which greatly affects the lower Class of People, the taking Recognizances for petty Assaults, and returning them to the Sessions after the Parties have given each other Releases.—This occasions great Expences, and often causes the Defendants to employ low Solicitors, who take Money under Pretence of getting the Recognizances discharged, and too often omit it, though, to raise that very Money, the poor men frequently pawn their Cloaths, besides running in Debt and neglecting their Business, and being once behind-hand, rarely recover, and, in the End, either the *Marshalsea*, or some other Prison, falls to their unhappy Lot, whilst the Parishes are burthened with their miserable Families.

This, is not all ; the Recognizances not being discharged, are estreated—and some Time after (nay Years) when the Parties have forgot the Cause, their Goods have been taken in Execution ; and where there were none, or not sufficient, they have been sent to *Newgate*, or some other Goal, where many

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have

have perished : (a) It has been said, so keen some of the penal Lawmen have been in raking up and putting in Suit old Debts as not to spare even Death (b) itself.

AND it is to be hoped, where Men in Offices encourage merciless Proceedings upon old or new Forfeitures, they would be so good as to hang up in their Closets, by Way of Memento, the Pictures of *Empson* and *Dudley*, who acted the like Part in King *Henry VIIth's* Time, and even pretended to have an Authority for what they did ; but that would not do, for in the next Reign they met with their deserved Fate by the Hands of the common Executioner. And, says the Historian,—Their Names will stand infamous upon Record as long as the *British Annals* remain. (c)

THE second Matter is, the Expences attending Law-suits, which are chiefly owing to two Causes :

I. THE Fees paid in useles Offices—We do not

(a) To put the Case general : Where there is no Release given, nor any Indictment found, is it not hard to estreat such Recognizance, because the Party has neglected or did not know he was to pay 2 s. 4d. It may be answered, if it was not for such Penalties, none would appear ; which we deny, because the Party would be liable not only to have the Recognizance estreated, but a Warrant granted to take him up in Case of an Indictment, which would sufficiently punish any one for Neglect. It is still to be hoped, that one Time or other a Law will be made to prevent estreating Recognizances where there are no Indictments, and to punish such Officers that should suffer such Recognizances to be estreated into the Exchequer.

(b) Which was the Name of a Man who lived near *H—ford* Market,

(c) *The great Lord Bacon as well as Lord Shaftsbury, were against raking for old Debts : These are the Words of the latter to Mr. Baron Thurland when he was sworn into his Office.*

“ Let me recommend to you, so to manage the King's Justice and Revenue, as the King may have most Profit, and the Subject least Vexation. Raking for old Debts, the Number of Informations, Projects upon Concealments, I could not find in the eleven Years Experience I have had in this Court, ever to advantage the Crown. But such Proceedings have, for the most Part, delivered up the King's good Subjects into the Hands of the worst of Men. See the Speech in the Lives of the Chancellors.

mean

mean those which relate to the carrying on the Business, drawing up the Proceedings, Recording the Judgments, or proper to support the Honour and Dignity of the Courts of Justice.

II THE large Stamp Duties unknown to our Ancestors further greatly inhanse the Charges of a Suit, which if taken off, and the useles Offices purchased in by the Publick, and all Causes under 20 l. (d) determined by Civil Bill, as in *Ireland*, except in Matters that relate to Property, &c. the Complaint would soon cease —but as there is little or no Hopes of any Redress in our Time, all that can be said, the Persons who act fairly and honestly in their Profession, must continue to bear with Patience, as they have hitherto done, both the Blame and the Loss. For it is a just Observation, that where Men meet with Hardships they too frequently reflect on those who are often as much Sufferers as themselves, owing to their not understanding the Source from whence the Evil springs ; and whilst Men thus remain in Ignorance, no Wonder they cry out against the Practisers of the Law, when they miscarry in their Causes.

THE third Matter is, the Case of the poor insolvent Debtors ; it must be owned, that of all our Laws, those of Debt are the most preposterous, for the Insolvent and Miserable are sent to starve in a Goal, though their Misfortunes did not arise through their Neglect ; yet are they treated no better than those that have used the utmost Art to cheat and defraud their Creditors ; the Law having made no Distinction or Provision for their Relief, save that in Bankruptcies, and of Debts under 100 l.

IN fact, it is greatly to be lamented, that the poor honest Debtor's deplorable Case has not been seriously taken into Consideration (both here and in *Ireland*) and proper Methods proposed for their Relief : How glo-

(d) Consider 40 s. formerly was equal to above 10 l. now.

rious would it be, if some of our great and good Patriots would bestow a little of their Time in drawing up Heads of a Bill for that End, which if passed into a Law, would not only be the Means of inducing several well inclined Debtors to return to their native Country, but also the clearing our Goals of the miserable and unhappy, and thereby make them useful to the State; for it cannot be denied since all the Assylums are taken away (except the Verge of the Court) that a great Number of Artificers and Manufacturers are daily flying into foreign Countries to avoid the Miseries of a Prison. The Dangers the Nation has suffered and now suffers therefrom, are too obvious to need any Comment. In short, many have thought, if there was no holding to Bail for Debt as in other Countries, it would be better, except in extraordinary Cases, such as where the Debtor had been guilty of some gross Imposition on his Creditor, or was endeavouring to run away; wherever that appeared, why should he not be treated as a Criminal, imprisoned as such, and not suffered to be let into the same Ward with those who fell to Decay through unavoidable Misfortunes, let his Condition be what it will.

THE Fourth is a Matter of another Kind, greatly complained of—That is, the Want of natural Ties of Humanity and Affection, the Band of human Society, especially in a free State, is of dangerous Consequence; sorry we are to say it, here the Father disinherits the Son, and throws him off to Misery and Contempt, for the very Frailties he learnt in his Infancy, and indulged in his Youth; and which he had all along experienced in himself. The Voice of Nature will not touch him. The Relation of Blood, which should be the Reason of Men's uniting in Justice and Love, is often the Cause of Disunion and Hatred, none being generally worse Friends than Brothers and Brothers, Sisters and Sisters; and the nearer Kin the greater Enemies. But formerly it was a common Saying among *Britons*, when two Men

Men shewed an uncommon Respect for one another, that they loved as Brothers; now on the contrary, when two Men hate and despise each other, it is sufficient to say the same as if they were Brothers and born of one Woman; nay, even Marriage, the Foundation of the State, that should join Hearts as well as Bodies, has no Force; the very being Husband and Wife frequently puts an End to the most violent Love. This being the Case, what can be the Consequence, but Disgust, Strife and Separation? In fact, there is rarely any Difference or Distinction of Mankind, other than what is meer nominal. We call Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, Brothers, Sisters, Mothers, Fathers; but the sacred Endearment annexed to those Names in the early Days of the World is lost; Money is generally preferred to all Manner of Duties, which in Fact is greatly to be lamented.

A Gentleman very justly remarks—That their is scarce any one Act in a Man's whole Life so solemn, or of more Consequence, and yet there are few that are executed with less due Consideration, than making of a Will; which ought not to be executed without a great Regard to Affinity, Humanity, and Justice. Now as to Affinity, it ought never to be forgot; and though the next Heir may be a wild and profligatic Person, his Children may not tread in his Steps; and though it may be prudent to keep a Son or Daughter, who married contrary to the Inclinations of a Parent, at a Distance, during the Minority of other Childern, yet the Law of the Land leaves every one, who is at Age, to choose for themselves, nor does the Scripture any where countenance the disinheriting a Child; on the contrary, the *Jews* were tied up from settling their Estates for any longer Term than the Jubilee, at which Time they were to return to the Families that originally possessed them. As to Humanity, it is the Duty of every Christian to forget and forgive; and indeed it is their highest Interest so to do; for on that ex-

press Condition, we are taught to expect Forgiveness at the last great Day.

SINCE Men have latterly been more prone to act unnaturally by one another, especially Relations, than formerly, as fully appears from the Wills of many who are dead: Some Gentlemen have thought it would be of Service to the Public, if our Courts of Judicature were impowered to inspect the Wills of deceased Persons, and where they appeared to be unnatural, to set them aside, and consider such Testators in no other Light than if they died Intestate; some such Law would soon destroy those infamous Creatures called Legacy Hunters; a Race of Men as much to be detested and abhorred as a common Informer for Lucre; and possibly might be the Means to deter cruel Parents and Relations from making unjust Wills, especially when they knew the Courts of Judicature had Power to set them aside: This puts me in Mind of a Passage in the Travels of *Cyrus*, which I shall here subjoin.

“ THERE was in *Egypt*, a sort of Justice unknown in other Countries: As soon as a Man had yielded his last Breath he was brought to a Trial, and the public Accuser was heard against him. In Case the Behaviour of the Deceased had been culpable, his Memory was branded, and he was refused Burial. If he was not convicted of any Crime against the Gods and his Country, he was entombed with Marks of Honour, and a Panegyric made upon him, without mentioning any Thing of his Birth or Descent.”

THE fifth and last Matter is very interesting, and with all due Submission I think, deserves a very serious Consideration, and is a Mischiefe many believe the Nation has laboured under some Years, that has not been sufficiently attended to; I mean, where great Ministers of State, Captain Generals of Armies, Admirals of Fleets, and other Persons intrusted with the Affairs of the Government, entertain *French* Valets in their Service, during the Time we are at War with *France*.

Pray,

Pray, do not these great Personages, after they have read their Dispatches, often put them in their Pockets, or lay them upon their Tables either in their Dressing-room or Closets? And has it not been known, that sometimes they have gone out in a Hurry, and forgot to lock them up? Besides, when they are dressing, how frequently are their particular Friends with them, speaking of some important Matters in the Presence of these Men: May not a Word accidently drop concerning Schemes that are then concerting against the *French*? in Truth, might not an artful Valet, from reading his Lord's Papers, and what he might gather from loose Hints, gain a perfect Knowledge of the whole to be transacted, that were then believed to be secretly carrying on, and thereby discover them to his Countrymen, and so put them on their Guard, as to render abortive what were design'd to have been put in Execution.

INDEED at Times—we may receive some Comfort from reading the News-papers, that our Fleets were returned Home in safety from the Coast of *France*, having failed in their Attempt to surprize the Places they were destined to; and at last concludes the News-writer, with a Sneer, thus ended the first secret Expedition. If any should afterwards be suspected of not doing their Duty, it may be likewise possibly seen in the same Papers, that such a one and such a one were tried by a Court Martial, at a very great Expence to the Nation, and ended in his Acquittal.

*A Martial Court, shall try their Brother's Cause,
And they'll acquit him—for they have martial Laws.*

BUT, to consider the Point a little further, as to what might encourage a *French* Valet to be a Traitor to his *British* Master: He may be an Exile, and by his Perfidy obtain a Pardon, and considerable Reward. Supposing the *French* Valet's Case not so bad; Has he not quitted his Country, either upon Account that he could no live there, or to better his Fortune, that

is,

is, where they are Papists, as many of them are? Is it not natural for a Man to think of returning to his own Country, in order to end his Days, as soon as he has gained what he proposed from quitting it? Will he not be much better received, if he has, during the Time of his residing among us, discovered some important Secret that had proved useful to his native Country? From all which, and many other Considerations, most of these Sort of Men are, by several of the sensible Part of this Nation, looked upon as Spies. Let me ask: Do any the *French* Generals, or Ministers of State, entertain, in their Service, any of our Countrymen, especially at the Time they are at War with us? I believe no Man can shew an Instance of it. (e)

BUT not to leave this Subject without saying, that many hope to see an Act pass, to make it High Treason for any Ministers of State, Generals of Armies, or in Fact any Person intrusted with the Affairs of the Government, (knowingly) to entertain *French* Valets in their Services, during the Time we are at War with that Country. If such a Law was made, and strictly put in Execution, it is not to be doubted but we shall soon become as remarkable for transacting our Affairs with Secrecy, as the *French* did theirs in the last War. As to those who are so thoroughly frenchified, that they cannot live without such Sort of Servants, let them, in the Name of God, go and live in *France*, and, to use the old *British* Saying, *Joy go with them*.

I shall conclude this Preface in the Words of a very Honourable Gentleman now in a high Station, *The French have given us their Language and their Fashions, what now remains for them to give, is their Laws; WHICH GOD AVERT, Amen.*

(e) Whether we are not informed by Authority, that the *French*, contrary to a solemn Engagement, were contriving the Destruction of *Hanover*.—Pray, who can read the Accounts of the *French* Cruelties in those Parts without Horror.—Yet too many here are fond of *French* Servants, tho' known to be Papists.

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L E T T E R I.

S I R, &c.

THE great Complaints for some Time of the excessive Price of Corn, have been of such a Nature as to require the most serious Attention.

The like Complaints have arisen above two Ages ago, the following Letter to Cardinal *Wolsey* fully proves, which I copied from the Original under Sir *Edward Guildeford's* Hand, now to be seen in the State-Paper-Office near *Westminster-Abbey*. This Gentleman was one of the Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, lived in the County of *Kent*, and made a considerable Figure in King *Henry* the Eighth's Time.

If you publish this, I will search farther, and see what was done in Consequence of the Letter; for I am very certain, that so great and watchful Minister as *Wolsey* was, did not let such an Evil pass without applying a proper Remedy: In short, he was one of those who was not above Advice, and very remarkable for employing under him brave, able, and learned Men. I am, Sir,

Richmond,
Dec. 15, 1757.

Your constant Reader,

And humble Servant,

J. GROVE.

B

P L E A

(2)

PLEASTH your Grace to understand, that the King's poor Subjects in these Parts do make great Noise and Lamentations for that there cometh so little Corn to Market, and that is bought, at so unreasonable a Price, Wheat at seven Groats and 2d. the Bushel, and Barly at 16d. for the Price hath risen within this Month to 18d. and it is thought that it will rise to a higher Price 'till the Harvest be past; for those who have Corn to sell do know, that the People must needs buy for setting of Men to Work, in Haying, in Harvest, and Carriages. Beseeching your Grace, that by your Favour that those that have Corn may be compelled to bring it to Market, and sell it at a reasonable Price; or else some other Measures be devised by your Grace, for the Relief of the King's poor Subjects; for I assure you there is great Rumour and Wailing amongst the People. It is great Marvel, that the Prices they so rise, seeing there is so fair Corn upon the Ground, except those that be Cornsellers do keep the Corn, to the Intent to make the Dearth to continue yearly, as it is done two or three Years past: and that it may please your Grace that the Corn, that is now upon the Ground may be viewed, and the Number of the Acres of all Manner of Corn may be certified unto your Grace, by such as shall stand with your Pleasure to point; and that every Farmer and Occupier in this Shire may be examined what Corn he has sold aforehand, at what Price, and to whom; so that those that be Reqrators, or Sellers of Corn, may be compelled to sell at the same Price so before bought, except those that buy for their own Household only; for those that be Reqrators, and before Hand, are they that make the Dearth.

And also I do advertise your Grace, that I am right sorry that *Rumney Marsh*, that has been the plentiful Place of Cattle and Corn, is fallen in great Decay

(3)

Decay, as well of Cattle as of Corn; for many great Farms and Holdings neither have in them Corn nor Cattle in Manner as before; and where, Time out of Mind, 'till now of late Years, Farmers have dwelt upon their Farms, and kept good Household, and used Tillage and Breeding of Cattle, and many of these Farms none dwelleth upon the same, neither tilleth nor breedeth Cattle, but useth the same in Grazing, trusting upon this *Welsh* Cattle, which is a great Destruction of the Breeding and Tillage in these Parts, and Decaying of Houses and Households: (b) and where at my last being with your Grace I moved your of certain Articles, at which Time your Pleasure was, that I should put you in further Remembrance at this Time; which Articles I do send unto your Grace here inclosed, most heartily praying your Grace to consider the Premises; I do not write unto you only of my own Mind, but that I have called before me Worshipful Persons in these Parts, and Grayzers, Husbandmen and Butchers, who know the same that I have

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(b) *May number Rumney's Flower's, or Isis' Fish.*

DRAYTON.

"*Rumney* is that Famous Marsh in *Kent*, at whose side *Rye*, a Haven-Town, both stand: Hereof the Excellent *English* Antiquary, Mr. CAMDEN, and Mr. LAMBERT in his Perambulation do make mention. And Marshes are commonly called those low Grounds which abut upon the Sea, and from the *Latin* Word are so denominated. *Isis* is here used for *Thamesis*, by a Synecdochical Kind of Speech, or by a Poetical Liberty, in using one for another: For it is said, that *Thamesis* is compounded of *Thame* and *Isis*, making, when they are met, that renowned Water running by *London*, a City much more renowned than that Water: Which being plentiful of Fish, is the Cause also why all Things else are plentiful therein. Moreover, I am persuaded that there is no River in the World beholds more stately Buildings on either Side, clean thorough, than the *Thames*. Much reported of the *Grand Canal* in *Venice*, for that the Fronts on either Side are so gorgeous."

(4)

have written unto your Grace: And that I beseech Almighty God long to preserve your Grace. Written at *Haldane* in *Kent* the 24th of *June*,

By your Most Bounden,

EDWARD GULDEFORD.

First, for Tillage; every Man to sow the Eighth Part of his Land, or Farm of Arable Ground, being in his Hands.

Item, For Increase of the Breed of Cattle; no Calves to be killed that fall or be calv'd betwixt *Christmas* and *Midsummer*, except for honourable Men's Housholds, as the King's Highness and Honourable Council shall think meet.

Item, For the Destruction of Rooks, as well as the Place and the Nests where they breed, to be taken with Nets in every Hundred and Borough, and a Pain to be set upon them that suffer any Rooks to breed upon his Ground.

Item, That where Constables and other Officers ought to take or receive *Vagabords* and other *unthriftly Persons*, which should be had to Jail, because of the great Charge of conveying them they avoid their taking of them; wherefore it may please your Grace that such Order therein may be had, so as the Prisoners may be received by the Constables and Borsholder from Hundred to Hundred till the Prisoner came to goal.

Item, Where there is no Justices of the *Coram* dwelling within the Hundred, it may please your Grace by my better Assistance, that my Cozin *Thomas Gilford*, and *Thomas Harlackunden*, may be Justices of the *Coram* in the Commission of the Peace.

To

(5)

To My Lord Cardinal's Grace.

(Here follows an Extract of another Letter.)

I do beseech your Grace to have in your good Remembrance the Contents of my last Letter written the 24th of *June*, and the Articles therein closed.

The Price of Wheat at seven Groats and Twopence the Bushell in the Market; it was last *Saturday's* Market at *Cranbroke* at eight Groates and Threepence a Bushel*, and it is to be thought that every Market day, till Harvest beinned and Corn thrashed, the Price shall rise.—I have written to Master Baron *Halis*, to put your Grace in Remembrance of all the Premises; beseeching your Grace not to be discontented that I do so often trouble you with my Letters.—This dated from *Haldane*, the eleventh of *July*.

(Part of the Letter is concerning a Man that was taken for clipping the Coin, who broke Prison, and inclosed he sends to his Grace his Confession, taken before the Mayor of *Rye*.)

* Equal to eight or nine Shillings a Bushel at this Day.



L E T-



LETTER II.

S I R, &c.

I HAVE looked into ancient Histories, and several authentic Pieces, to see what was done in Relation to the Matter Sir *Edward Guldeford* mentions in his Letter to *Wolsey*, and I find Reagrators of the Market were very numerous, and extremely obnoxious in those Days, and tho' they were not easy to be distinguished, so as to be punished by the Statute Laws made against those Sort of Persons, owing to the Want of their not having being sufficiently made and provided for; (a) Yet Reagrators were well known and punishable at the Common Law by Indictment, Fine, and Imprisonment, and were stiled *inimici publici patrie* i. e. *Enemies to their Country*; and in that Light they were considered by King Henry the VIIIth, during *Wolsey's* Administration, and, in order to bring to Justice those evil Doers, Directions were sent to prosecute them to the utmost Severity of the Law; and at the same Time other Directions were sent to the different Counties in *England*, to command and encourage all Persons possessed of Corn to send it instantly to Market; which were so well attended to, that as soon as the Harvest was over, Corn gradually fell, and was sold at a moderate Rate, and by that Means the Disquietude and Uneasiness that had before arisen thro' the Dearness of Corn entirely subsided.

(a) Those were Statutes made in the Reigns of *Edward I.* *Edward III.* and *Richard III.* and as they are obsolete, is the Reason, as I believe, they are out of the Statute Books, seeing I cannot find them in those I have looked into.

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As to Sir *Edward's* Complaint of the Want of Tillage, and Neglect of Husbandry, *Wolsey* took care instantly in the Year 1517, to obtain an Act of Parliament under this Title.—If any Person should decay a Town, or Hamlet, or House of Husbandry, or convert Tillage into Pasture, the immediate Lord of the Fee should have the Moiety of the Offender's Lands, till the Offence be reformed;—and at the same Time, *Wolsey* was remarkably employed in that of calling to a strict Account those who had been intrusted with the publick Money, (one of whom was a Person of great Quality and nearly allied to his Royal Master) and whoever was found in Arrear and Debtor to the Crown, were compelled instantly to pay such Monies unto the Exchequer.

He had also an extreme Attention in respect to the Reformation of the Law and punishing Persons guilty of Perjury, oppressing the Poor, Riots, and other enormous Crimes, and it was observed, Perjury in particular soon became much less frequent: In Fact, *Wolsey*, upon Account of exerting himself in those Instances, has been much applauded and commended by Lord *Herbert*, and other Historians of latter Times, tho' no Favourers of his Name and Memory.

Notwithstanding all *Wolsey's* Care for the Encouraging of Tillage, under the Sanction of his Sovereign, still it soon appeared that there wanted something farther to be done, for that in the Year 1521, Notice was particularly taken, that several of the Nobility and Gentry had for near 50 Years then past, been much given to the ingrafting Cattle, as *Stow* Terms it, and keeping Sheep, and reducing Lands into Pasture, to the great Decay of Husbandry and Tillage (b).

Another

(b) The converting such a great Quantity of Tillage-land into Pasture, and the Neglect of Husbandry, was one of the principal Reasons for the then Scarcity of Corn ——— And it is feared that one of the principal Reasons for the present Scarcity, has been princi-

Another Grievance complained of was, that of the inclosing Lands with Pales, Hedges and Ditches, and the keeping in it Deer, &c. (c) to remedy these great Mischiefs an Order was made in Council, and sent into the different Parts of *England*, with Directions to put the Laws in full Execution that had been made to prevent those Evils; which the Justices of the Peace, and the other Magistrates so well executed, that it had a very good Effect.

These Proceedings were so grateful to the People in general, that Dr. *Bullock*, of *Cambridge*, acknowledged them in a grand *Latin* Oration (d) which he pronounced in the Presence of the Foreign Ambassadors, before a numerous and polite Audience, when *Wolsey* did the Univerfity the Honour of a Visit: A Translation of some Passages in the Speech I shall here introduce.—After the Doctor had enumerated, in general Terms the Services *Wolsey* had rendered his King and Country, he proceeded thus :

“ We congratulate you on these your prosperous Successes, proclaim these your Virtues, which we can-

principally owing to our suffering such large Quantities of Corn to be transported abroad, when there seemed to be a Sort of Plenty. In short, that Matter requires a very serious Attention, seeing we have no publick Storehouses in *Britain*, as they have in many Countries abroad ; and it appears by Holy Writ, that that was the Method taken by the *Egyptians*, thro’ the Advice of *Joseph*, (who had been most unnaturally, tho’ as the Event afterwards proved, fortunately, sold by his envious Brethren to those People) in respect to that of laying up Stores in the Time of Plenty and by that Means the *Egyptians* had it in their Power to supply their Neighbours with Corn, when a Famine happened, or otherwise, in all Probability, the *Israelites* must have perished for WANT.

(c) There was an Attempt at that Time to inclose the Fields round *London*, so as to hinder Persons walking in them, which Design was defeated through the noble Spirit of our Ancestors ; the Utility and Benefit whereof the People in and about *London* have the Pleasure to enjoy even at this Day, and it is hoped they ever will.

(d) See the Copy of the Original, in *Latin*, in *Fiddes’s* Collections in the Life of *Wolsey*.

not

not pass over in Silence, unless we should be willing to be deemed the most ungrateful of all People, by not acknowledging the manifold Advantages reaped through you, most accomplished Prelate, by this Republic.”— And then the Orator descends to particularize some of *Wolsey’s* Actions, “ *Who procured such a profound Tranquility to this Island ; who delivered the Poor from the Powerful, the Needy from the Rich, the plain Dealers from the Law without Delay ; who ordered the Towns ruined through the boundless Avarice of the Wicked to be rebuilt ; who had the Fields fertile in all Manner of Fruit restored to the Farmer ; who but your own most prudent Sublimity (e) ?*”

Now as to those infamous Persons called Reagrators, they were looked on so injurious to the Public, that the Wardmotes in the City of *London*, in former Ages, were particularly charged to present all Reagrators, which included Forestallers of the Market, and who were therein described to be Persons that bought Victuals, Provisions and Merchandizes at a low Price, on the Way as they were bringing to such Markets, and afterwards selling the same at an excessive high Price.

It is against the Common Law of *England* to sell Corn in Sheaves, before it is thrashed, for by such Sale the Market is forestalled ; and he that buys Things in the Market before the accustomed Hour,

(e) To support what the Doctor had so beautifully urged, there are now preserved in the State Paper Office a very great Collection of Letters, besides other Papers (that were seized when *Wolsey* was condemned in the infamous Cause called the Premunire) which were sent to him from the most illustrious Personages in *Europe* ; and there are also upon Record, in the Univerfity of *Oxford*, many Addresses from that learned and grateful Body to him. In truth, the Letters, Addresses, and other authenticated Papers, seem as if they were but one, in regard they so closely join in acknowledging, and that in the strongest Terms, his great and masterly Abilities, and what is still more to his Honour, and Justice, and Rectitude of his Administration.

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has been deemed a Foretaller, and it is highly criminal for a Set of opulent Persons to engross and get into their Hands Victuals, &c. or Merchandizes, with an Intent to distress the Public, in which the Poor greatly suffer, by raising the Price of those Things to an exorbitant Height, which has been deemed at common Law a Conspiracy, and punishable in an exemplary Manner.

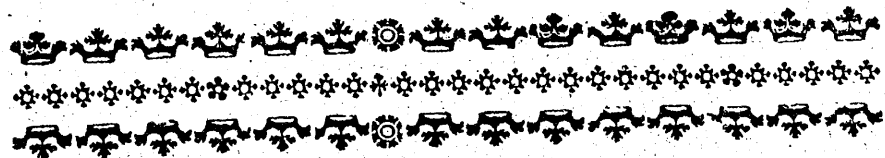
WHEN you have inserted this, I shall afterwards send you other Letters, wherein I will endeavour to shew the Steps that have been taken since *Henry* the VIIIth's Time, by the Legislature, in order to put a Stop to the Evil now so justly complained of; with some other Observations, which I hope will be useful to the Public. And am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Richmond, *And constant Reader,*
20 Dec. 1757. J. GROVE.



L E T



L E T T E R III.

S I R, &c.

THE Encouraging of Husbandry, whilst *Wolsey* resided at the Head of public Affairs, did great Honour to the Reign of *Henry* the VIIIth. but, after his Disgrace and Death, Reqrators, Foretallers and Ingrossers, begun again to shew their Heads, and became at last such dangerous Enemies to the Welfare of the People, that it caused the Parliament in the next Reign, to take the Laws then in Being, relating to these evil Doers, into their serious Consideration, and which produced a very salutary Law under this Title (a),

Who shall be adjudged a FORESTALLER, who a REGRATOR, who an INGROSSER (b), and the Punishment of them.

(a) See the Statute 5 and 6 *Edward VI. Chap. XIV.*

(b) Let us see how the Learned define the Words Foretaller, Reqrator, and Ingrosser, seeing these Words at present seem to be very little understood.

1. FORESTALLER is derived of two *Saxon* Words *Far* and *Stall*. — *Far* signifying the Way or Passage, and *Stall* a Hindrance or Interruption. 3 *Inst.* 195.

2. REGRATOR, is derived from the French Word *Regratement*, *Hukstery*. Anciently the Ingrosser and Reqrator were comprehended under the Word *Foretaller*, (but you see they are separately distinguished by this Statute) *ibid.*

3. INGROSSER — (Ingrossiator) from the Word *Great*, or *Whole*, — The Persons are stiled at other Times, Merchants *Grossier*, Merchants that sellet by the Great or Wholesale.

The Reason for making that Law, the following Preamble shews :

Albeit divers good Statutes heretofore have been made against Forestallers of Merchandize and Victuals, yet for that good Laws and Statutes against Reqrators and Ingrossers of the same Things, have not been heretofore sufficiently made and provided; and also for that it hath not been perfectly known what Person shall be taken for a Forestaller, Reqrator, or Ingrosser, the said Statutes have not taken good Effect, according to the Minds of the Makers thereof.—

“ 1. It is enacted, That whatsoever Person or Persons, that after the first Day of *May* then next ensuing, shall buy, or cause to be bought, any Merchandize, Victual, or other Things, coming by Land or by Water, towards any City, Port, Market or Fair, to be sold in the same, or coming from any Haven, Creek or Road of this Realm or *Wales*, from any Part beyond the Sea, to be sold, or make any Bargain, Contract, or Promise, for the having or buying the same Victuals, or any Part thereof, so coming as aforesaid, before the said Merchandize, or other Things shall be in the Market, Fair, City, Port, Haven, Creek or Road, ready to be sold; or shall make any Motion, by Word, Letter, or otherwise, to any Person or Persons, for the Enhancing of the Price, or dearer selling any Thing or Things abovementioned, or else dissuade, move, or stir any Person or Persons, coming to Market or Fair, to obtain, or forbear to bring or convey any of the Things above rehearsed to any Fair, Market, City, Port, Haven, Creek, or Road, to be sold as is aforesaid, shall be deemed, taken and adjudged a FORESTALLER (c).

2. “ And that whatsoever Person or Persons, that after the said first Day of *May*, shall by any Means,

(c) See *Cro. Jac.* 214.—*Cro. Car.* 231, 314.

regrate

regrate, obtain, or get into his or their Hands or Possession, in any Fair or Market, any Corn, Wine, Fish, Butter, Cheefe, Candles, Tallow, Sheep, Lambs, Calves, Swine, Pigs, Geese, Capons, Hens, Chickens, Pigeons, Conies, or other dead Victuals whatsoever, as shall be brought to any Fair or Market within this Realm or *Wales* to be sold, and do sell the same again in any Fair or Market, holden or kept in the same Place, or in any other Fair or Market within four Miles thereof, shall be accepted, reputed, and taken for a REQRATOR OR REQRATORS.

3. “ That whatsoever Person or Persons, that after the said first Day of *May*, shall engross or get into his or their Hands by Buying, Contracting, or Promise, taking other than by Demise, Grant, or Lease of Land or Tythes, any Corn growing in the Fields, or any other Corn or Grain, Butter, Cheefe, Fish, or any other dead Victuals whatsoever, within the Realm of *England*, to the Intent to sell the same again, shall be accepted, reputed, and taken as an unlawful INGROSSER OR INGROSSERS.

4. — *Every Person that shall offend as above, being thereof duly convicted or attached, &c. shall suffer for the first Offence, two Months Imprisonment without Bail or Mainprize, and forfeit the Value of the Goods, Cattle, and Victuals.—For the second Offence shall suffer six Months Imprisonment, and forfeit double the Value of the Goods, &c.—And for the third Offence, shall be set in the Pillory in the Place where he dwells, and forfeit all his Goods and Chattles that they have to their own Use, and shall be imprisoned during the King's Pleasure.*

The following are excepted out of this Act.

“ Those who buy Barley, Bigge or Oats (not forestalling) to convert into Malt or Oatmeal in his own House (d), or the Buying by any Fishmonger, Butcher,

or

(d) Persons buying Seed Corn are directed to sell as much Corn of their own if they have it.

or Poulterer, such Things as concern their Trade, who shall sell the same at reasonable Prices by Retail, &c. or the taking any Cattle, Corn, &c. reserved upon any Lease, &c. buying Wine or other dead Victuals, by Innholders or Victuallers, to sell by Retail in his House, or to his Neighbours, at reasonable Prices ; or the buying of any Corn, Fish, Butter, or Cheese, by any Badger (e), Lader (f), Kidder (g), or Carrier (h), or any common Provision made by any Person, without Fraud, of the Things abovesaid, for any City or Town Corporation, or for Provisions for Victualling of any Ship, Castle, or Fort, without Forestal-

Live Cattle are not to be sold after purchased in less than five Weeks, under penalty of forfeiting double the Value of the Cattle.

Corn may be transported from one Port to another, by Leave of three Justices of the Peace.

Drivers, under certain Restrictions in the Act, may buy Cattle to sell.

(e) Badger (from the French, Baggage, a Bundle, and thence is derived Bagagier, a Carrier of Goods) signifies with us, one that buys Corn or Victuals in one Place, and carries them to another to sell, is exempted in the above Statute, but they are to be licensed by three Justices of the Peace. By the Statute 5 Eliz. c. 12. Badgers are to be licensed by the Justices in the Sessions, whose Licence will be in force for one Year, and no longer ; and the Person to whom granted must enter into a Recognizance that they will not, by Colour of their Licences, do any Thing contrary to the Statute made against Forestallers, &c. If any Person act as a Badger without Licence, he is to forfeit 5 l. one Moiety to the King and the other to the Prosecutor, leviable by a Warrant from Justices of the Peace, &c.

(f) Ladder, or (g) Kidder, are those that badge and carry dead Victuals or other Merchandize, up and down to sell says the Stat. 5 Eliz. c. 12,

(h) Carrier (Gestator) is a Person that is also employed to carry Goods up and down for others for Hire. It has been held that neither Hop or Malt are within the Meaning of the Statute, nor the buying the Corn to make Starch, and that to sell is not within the Clause of the Statute ; and for the like Reason it seems, that the buying of Corn to make Meal of it, or the buying of Barley to make it into Malt, and then to sell it, had no need of the Exception made for it in the Statute, 1 Hawk. 237.

No Information is good for any Offence against the Statute, if the Quantity ingrossed is not therein specified. 1 Hawk. 238.

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ling, shall not be deemed or taken to be any Offence against the Act."

THE Act further directs, That all Prosecutions for Offences against it, shall be tried at the Quarter Sessions ; and that Prosecutions for such Offences shall be commenced in two Years after the Offence committed, otherwise it shall not take Place. That by the Statute 5 Eliz. Chap. v. under this Title, Constitution for the Maintenance of the Navy, &c. there is a Clause wherein it is enacted, " That so much of the Act of 5 and 6 of Edward VI. shall be repealed, that relate to the buying of Sea-Fish unsalted, or Mud-Fish, or any Wine, Oil, or Salt, to be taken and brought into English Subjects Ships, Crayers, or other Vessels, in any Port, &c. in England, which were actually bought upon the Sea."

By the Statute 13 Eliz. Chap. 25. That against Forestallers, &c. was made perpetual, but with this Proviso, That that Statute is not meant to extend, or shall extend, to any Wines, Oils, Sugars, Spices, Currants, nor other foreign Victuals, brought or to be brought into this Realm from beyond Sea, Fish and Salt only excepted.

ALTHOUGH Fishmongers be not within the Statute of Ingrossing, if they buy only Things belonging to their Trade, yet if they regrate and sell at an unreasonable Price, they are expressly in it. Cro. Car. 229.

It was resolved in the Exchequer, that Salt was a Victual, and the buying and selling thereof was within the Statute—but that Apples and Fruit were not within the Act. Cro. Car. 168.

THE Publick sees with Pleasure, the noble and grand Resolutions of the House of Commons in Ireland, against such Practices (i) as the above Acts have provided

(i) The Hon. House of Commons have come to the following Resolutions: Resolved, Nem. Con. That the exorbitant Price of Corn is occasioned,

provided Remedies, in order to prevent the like in future Times. And it is with the utmost Duty and Respect submitted to our Legislature, whether it is not necessary some new Law should be made for the better explaining and enforcing the above; seeing that of late Years certain Grievances have arose, and very justly complained of, by the Corporation of *Warwick*, and for ought appears there is no Law in Being, so as to enable the Magistrates to check or put a Stop to them.

Now as to the above Act of Parliament against Forefallers, &c. many faithful Subjects think that the different Clauses above rehearsed, should be more fully known; and to make them so, they think it would be of Use, if they were sent to every Market Town in *England* and *Wales*, with Directions to hang them up in the most conspicuous Part of their Market-houses, that Forefallers, Regrators and Engrossers may see in what an infamous Light these Sort of Persons were esteemed

caused, not by Scarcity, but by Engrossing, Forefalling, and Regrating thereof.

Resolved, Nem. Con. That the Engrossers, Forefallers, and Regrators of Corn, Grain, Flour and Meal, are most pernicious Enemies to the Society.

Resolved, Nem. Con. That it is the indispensable Duty of the Magistrates, to put the Laws into Execution, with the utmost Rigour, against all such Offenders.

Resolved, Nem. Con. That any Magistrate who shall wilfully neglect his said Duty, will incur the highest Displeasure of this House.

Resolved, Nem. Con. That an humble Address be presented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, that he will be pleased to issue a Proclamation, commanding the several Magistrates, to put the Laws in Execution, against Engrossers, Forefallers, and Regrators of Corn, Meal and Flour.

Ordered, That the said Address be presented to his Grace, by such Members of this House, as are of his Majesty's most Hon. Privy Council.

Resolved, That this House will To-morrow Morning, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration, the State of the Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal and Bread, in this Kingdom, and by what Means the present high Price thereof may be most properly reduced.

(17)

esteemed by our Ancestors, and in the same Light they are considered at this Day.

HOWEVER, I beg Leave to observe, that the chief Design of recommending the Clauses of the Act to be sent to the respective Towns, is only with a View to put the Magistrates and the substantial Inhabitants in Mind of seeing the Law enforced, where absolute Necessity required it—But not to encourage a Parcel of infamous common Informers to use them for their own unjust Advantages.—— We have so many penal Laws buried (as one may say) in our Statute Books, that if such Abstracts are not at proper Times, by that or some other Means published, they will mostly suffer the same Fate as has generally attended many good Edicts, (passed and published in a certain Empire) that is, they are no sooner made than forgot, except where they are revived, to answer the sordid Ends of particular Persons, contrary to the real Intention of the Law-makers.

— SOME other Matters have occurred, both in Respect to the present State of the Law, and that of Husbandry, which, if agreeable, I will immediately send after you have published this. And am, Sir,

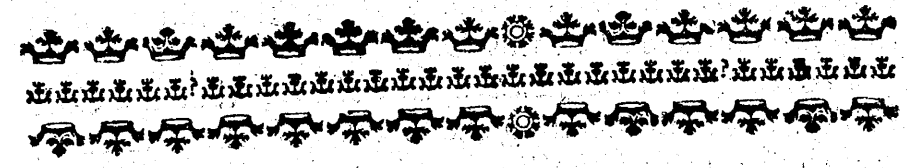
Your humble Servant,

Richmond,
Jan. 10, 1758.

And constant Reader,

J. GROVE,





LETTER IV.

S I R, &c.

THERE is not any Country in *Europe* whose Constitution is better calculated for the Liberty of the Subject than that of *Great Britain*: Yet it is certain, that our Laws are so voluminous, that three Men cannot carry them.—Nay, it is well known, that one laborious Gentleman * spent near FIFTY YEARS in making a *grand Abridgment of the Law Cases*, and published above twenty Volumes in Folio—Still such was his arduous Task, that he died before the Completion of his Work. Since his Death the Remainder has been ushered into the World, by the Means of a very learned Body (x), and make compleat 23 Volumes. I have heard it also averred upon a certain Occasion, that if a Man had in his Custody all the Acts, Law-Cases, and other Matters that have been passed and wrote relative to the Law, and they were placed in a Waggon, *five able Horses* could not draw them; and it is against one of our Statute Laws to add a *Sixth*, unless the Waggon has broad Wheels.—Nevertheless we are bound, as becomes good Subjects, to pay Obedience to the Laws, let them be ever so prolix, and to endeavour to understand them as far as we are able.

As we are speaking of the Law, it puts me in Mind of what our own, as well as foreign Gazettes, have proclaimed, in relation to several noble Acts which the most illustrious King of *Prussia* has per-

* Mr. *Vyner*. (x) The University of *Oxford*.
formed

formed for the good of his People; two of which I shall here mention.

1st. His Majesty has caused to be collected all his scattered Laws, and taken them into his serious Consideration, and, after the Example of the immortal JUSTINIAN, reduced those Laws into a new and concise *Code*, which is extremely valuable, seeing that all Affairs respecting Property, and the Administration of Justice, are now very quick and easily determined.—

The Plant becomes a Tree.

2d. THE King has introduced into his Army a new military Exercise, which has been found, from Experience, in several late Battles, to be very useful, and is so much approved of here, that our Troops are learning that Discipline.

It has been remarked of late Years, that a Parcel of Youths have been received into several Offices to the Prejudice of old, brave and experienced Men, who are too often left without Employ: And as we so much approve of the *Prussian* Exercise, some Well-wishers to the Welfare of their Fellow-subjects think the *Prussian* Laws might also be equally useful, if they were known here; and to make them so, they believe it would be highly commendable in our Governors if they would be so good as to send some of these Youths, at the public Expence, to study those Laws, and learn the Manner of conducting the Proceedings in their Courts of Justice: And that during their Absence it is most humbly presumed their Places will be extremely well supplied by some of the Gentlemen above spoken of, and by that Means they may all become very useful to their Country.

INDEED it is said the *Prussian* Laws are so plain, that they are easily learnt: Then of Course, supposing they are Youths of quick and lively Abilities, their stay Abroad will be very short. Upon their Return they

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will be able to report to our Superiors the Purport of the *Prussian* Laws, which no doubt, if practicable, will be ingrafted into the *English*. Should that be the Case, they will be sure to be jointly employed with some Adepts in our Laws, and paid for their Trouble, (during the Recess) to reduce those now in Being relating to *Treason, Felony, Debts, Bankruptcies, Trespasses, the Poor*, and all other material Matters, into separate Bills; which when done, and passed into different Acts of Parliament, and that in as concise a Manner as the *Prussian* Laws are, it certainly will be of infinite Advantage to the Public; and then a Man may hope, after he has served a few Years Clerkship, to be properly qualified to practice, and conduct Causes with the same Celerity and Precision, as the present *Prussian* Lawyers are said to do.—For at present, I have heard it asserted, that some have spent many Years, in only endeavouring to attain a competent Knowledge of the several Cases stated in the Reports (as they are styled) wrote by *two* celebrated Lawyers in a certain Island.

If what is so much wished for by some should take Place in *England*, a Man might reasonably expect, one Time or other, to be able to carry his Law-books under his Arm: And when these Matters are accomplished, our Countrymen so skilled in the *Prussian* Laws will deserve to be farther rewarded; and, in Truth, every faithful Subject will rejoice to see them properly provided for in the public Offices.—Whereas it is now unknown what these young Gentlemen have done for the Benefit of the Nation, to entitle them to the Favours that have been so plentifully heaped on them, to the Prejudice of those who are well known to have deserved well, and yet left destitute of any Employ.—It is an old and a true saying, *That the brave and experienced Elders ought to be first preferred, and that a Man should stay his Time,—how-*
ever

ever that saying may be forgot by some in *Great Britain*.

BUT to return, and add somewhat farther as to what I have said in my three former Letters, relating to Husbandry, I would by no Means be understood that in speaking of Forefallers, &c. that any blame ought in particular to be imputed to Farmers and Occupiers of Land; for the real Husbandmen are as useful and valuable a Body as any in the Nation; and it cannot be denied, that through their Care, Industry, and Pains, they have reduced within these Fifty Years many Thousands of Acres of Land to Tillage, that before lay Waste, or were under Water; and it may with Truth be affirmed, that no Lands in *Europe* are in general so well cultivated and improved, as those in *England*, owing entirely to the Diligence of our Farmers. And in Fact it may be properly said, that they earn their Bread by the Sweat of their Brows; and I believe we may Challenge any Nation in *Christendom* to produce a Set of more brave, stout, and sociable Men than our Farmers and Husbandmen mostly are. The Truth of these Particulars are well known to those who have been Abroad, and have used the Markets and Fairs at Home: As to those who raise Objections and Cavils against Farmers, they are such as know nothing of the real Worth of those useful Men, and consequently it would be Loss of Time to enter into any Disputes with them (b).

And this I have also to observe, that the *Chinese* are so sensible of the Benefit that accrues to their Country from Husbandry, that they rank the Husbandmen above Mechanics or Merchants, and have granted them several very great Privileges, and even consider them

(b) Several *Hanoverians* and *Hessians*, whilst in *England*, often declared, that they never saw a mote compleat Set of Men than our Farmers were in general—nor Lands better cultivated and improved.

as the most useful Men in the State ; and for that Reason it has been the chiefest Aim of their Government to promote Husbandry, which they have done to so great a Degree, as to institute a Festival in Honour of it, which is yearly celebrated with great Pomp and Ceremony, and even the Emperor himself condescends at a certain Time in the Year to stoop to guide the Plough ; and this he does in Honour to one of his Ancestors, who was so attentive to the Welfare of his People, that perceiving his Country was near ruined, through an intestine War, this good Prince, after it was over, to engage his Subjects to cultivate their Land, was so humane, that he even converted his Fields belonging to his Palace into Tillage, and by setting the Example, it obliged all his Courtiers to do the like by their Fields adjoining to their Country Seats ; and to prevent Disputes among Husbandmen, he caused Land-marks to be fixed where they were necessary.

THE common Opinion, according to the Missionaries, is, that Husbandry was invented and taught by SHINNONG, (c) whose Name at this Day is highly revered in *China* ;—and such is the particular Regard that the Emperor shews as to the Preservation and Increase of Tillage, that when the Deputies arrive from the Governors of the different Provinces in the Summer, he first makes a strict Enquiry into the State and Condition of the Corn then growing in the different Provinces of his Empire ; (d) and it is accounted

(c) Which signifies the celestial Husbandman.

(d) Many have thought it would be of Service to the Nation in general, if proper Persons were ordered throughout the different Counties in *Britain*, at a seasonable Time in the Year, to transmit to the Lords of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, the Number of Acres of Land in each District that were respectively sown with Grain, distinguishing what Sort of Grain each Acre was sown with, and the State and Condition the Corn then appeared in ; and also the Number of Acres of Pasture Land, and some

counted a very great Blessing when seasonable Showers fall, and upon which the Emperor is complimented by his whole Court.

The Emperor, to shew his uncommon Regard for Husbandmen, and to encourage them in their Labour, orders the Governors of the Cities to make a particular Enquiry in their respective Districts after the Person who is the most remarkable for his Application to Husbandry, and has withal an unblemished Character. Upon the Report of the Governor the Emperor ennobles the diligent Husbandman, and sends him Patents accordingly ; which Distinction enables him to wear a noble Vestment, to visit the Governor of the City, to sit in his Presence, and drink Tea with him ; and he is afterwards particularly respected by the whole Country the Remainder of his Life—and at his Death his funeral Obsequies are performed suitable to his Degree, and his Title is wrote in the Hall of his Ancestors.—Such honourable Treatment must naturally excite among Husbandmen a particular Emulation to excel each other in their Profession. I am, Sir,

Richmond, Your constant Reader,
Jan. 16, 1758. And humble Servant,
J. GROVE.

P. S. A French Author makes *Virgil* relate some Particulars of his Life to a noble Lord, that Part as concerns his Original, and of his being employed as a Supervisor of the Corn that was sent from

some Account of Wastes, &c. not forgetting the State and Condition of the Cattle in general. The Use that might accrue to the Public from these Reports is very obvious, seeing that some Judgment might be formed from thence, whether it would be proper, the Remainder of the Year, to suffer Imports or Exports of Corn, let the then Price be what it will ; and which might in future Times prevent the present Evils, and what Sir *Edward Guldeseord*, mentions to have happened in the Reign of *Henry the Eighth*. Sicily,

(24)

Sicily, to supply *Rome*, and *Virgil's* Explanation of the Word *Fortune*, I shall here introduce.

An illustrious Descent, said he, is a Gift of Fortune, which entails no hereditary Glory upon the Receivers; it costs them neither Study nor Labour, and it is so far from deserving the Title of Merit, that it is oftentimes an Obstacle to the Acquiring it: But yet, my Lord, it ought to be confest, that though it be not the Reward, it is the Lustre of Virtue, and that illustrious Qualities shine not in their native Splendor and Orb, but in a Subject of an illustrious Title.

I labour'd a long Time under this Injustice of Fate, and it was that which caus'd me to take my Leave of my Country, more than the flaming Ruins of delightful *Mantua*. Its Destruction, destroy'd none of my Riches, nor my Dignities: My Losses by the Fire were not so great, but that a small Cot was able to repair them: But the Obscurity of my Birth, eclips'd all the Lustre of my Talents; and as I valued myself more upon the Nobleness of my Deserts, than of my Descent, I was very willing to exchange my native Air for any other, where my Person might be better known, than my Extraction.

You know, my Lord, how this Design succeeded; I was favour'd by *Mecænas*, and presented by him to the Emperor; and within a short Time, obtain'd the Place of Supervisor, for the Transportation of Wheat, and all other Grain, wherewith the Isle of *Sicily* supplies *Rome*. I was ambitious to shew myself worthy of the Employ I was honour'd with; and I not only dedicated all my Cares and Diligence to advance the fruitful Harvests of every Season, but likewise to improve them to an Advantage, that Island had never before been sensible of. I taught the Inhabitants a new, and more beneficial Way of Tillage; I gave them many wholesome Precepts for the Increase of the Health and Fruitfulness of their Cattle: This Method, which

(25)

which no Man had taught, or practis'd before me in that Place, render'd me familiar and in high Esteem with Persons of that Calling. They would come and consult me upon all their Affairs, and I have a Thousand Times admir'd, to see what Pleasure Nature takes to repair in them by Ingenuity and Industry, the injustice Fortune has done them by a blind Partiality. My Lord, says an old Man, in whose innocent Converse I took great Delight, one Day to me, What is this Fortune, of which I have heard you Discourse so often; you call Her sometimes unjust and capricious, and at other Times you reverence her, as a Goddess; and, in effect, you have inroll'd Her in the Catalogue of your Deities, and dedicated Temples to Her in *Rome*? Tell me, I pray you, what Authority has She over Mortals? Does She send them into the World? Can She take them out of it? Or maintain them in Health in it? She does not do any Thing of all this said I, She cannot destroy the World, but She furnishes it with Things, without which it would be less to be desired than Death itself: But replied the old Man, She has furnished me with not any of the Things you speak of, my Labour is the only Benefit, I subsist by, which is scarce able to feed and cloath me, and yet I live contented.—If you live contented said I, you are one of Fortune's Favourites, and She has given you all that She can give you.—I am glad says the old Man, I have learned so excellent a Lesson To-day, I shall remember it when I hear others complain, and I shall not fail to tell them, that they ought to attribute to themselves, not to Fortune, the Dissatisfaction they find in their Condition.

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LET-



L E T T E R V.

No Man ever was a Loser by a good Work, for tho' he be not presently rewarded, yet in Tract of Time some happy Emergency or other arises to convince him that virtuous and kind Men are the Darling of Providence.

ANONY.

S I R, &c.

THE kind Reception my former Letters have met with, encourages me to enlarge on what I have laid before the Public.

The laudable Behaviour of the Chinese to the Husbandmen I have spoke to already.—It is obvious, the Cultivation of Land is the principal Labour of Man; and the more the Climate inclines Men to shun their Labour, the more the Religion and Laws of a Country ought to excite them to it.—The ancient Persian Kings descended, as one might say, from the Throne on the eighth Day of the Month called Chorrem Ruz, to eat with the Husbandmen; but what is surprizing, the Greeks, so famed in History for Learning, were charged with having generally despised them. Nevertheless, so sensible were the Indian Kings of the Advantage that accrued to their Countries from Agriculture, that they, after the Example of the Emperors of China, often employed themselves in Tilling their Lands. Nor are the Turks, even at this Day, less attentive to that grand Point.—These Encouragements have

have greatly animated the People of those Nations to use their utmost Industry to raise Corn, in order to make Bread, which is most properly called the Staff of Life.

Agriculture provides not only Wealth to a Kingdom, but Hands both able and willing to defend it; and perhaps is the best Nursery for Soldiery in the World. In Truth, Agriculture began with it, and was the principal Employment of the first Inhabitants; and it may be justly said, she was the Parent of all Sciences and Arts, howsoever they have since carried their Heads far above her.

I should do great Injustice to Britain, if I omitted to relate that Tillage is so highly regarded by our Laws, that Arable Land is preferred to Meadow, Pasture, and other Grounds; and so careful is the Law to preserve Tillage, that a Bond with Condition. to restrain that and plowing, &c. is void: (See Coke Rep. p. 38) and what is very remarkable, as the Legislature saw in the last Century, that the natural Inclination of the People was to that improving so valuable Science as Agriculture, (for so I stile it) that it induced them to repeal the Compulsary Laws made to enforce Tillage, and in lieu of them passed a particular Act (15 Car. II. Cap. 8.) to further promote it, under the Title of Trade Increase. The Preamble to it, which speaks their noble Sentiments, follows:

“ Forasmuch as the Tillage ought to be in an especial Manner regarded and endeavoured, and the surest and effectuallest Means of providing any Trade, Occupation or Mystery, being, by rendering it profitable to the Users thereof; and great Quantities of Land in this Realm lying in a Manner Waste, and yielding little, which might thereby be improved to considerable Profit and Advantage (if sufficient Encouragement was given for the laying out Cost and Labour on the same) and thereby much more Corn produced, greater

Numbers of People, Horses and Cattle employed, and other Lands rendered more valuable." Be it enacted, &c. (a)

It is very true, the Soil in England has a long Course of Time, often produced much more Corn than was necessary for the Maintenance of the People; which caused the Parliament at first to grant Liberty to export Corn abroad on particular Occasions, and under certain Reflections. The earliest Acts that now stand in our Statute Books are as follows.

| | l. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| 1 and 2. Phil. and M. Wheat was restrained from being exported, if it sold for more than | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| 5. Eliz. If it sold for more than | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 Jac. I. If it sold for more than | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 21. Jac. I. If it sold for more than | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 3. Car. I. If it sold for more than | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 12. Car. II. If it sold for more than | 2 | 0 | 0 |

for each Quarter; and so in like Manner certain Rates and Prices were fixed upon each Quarter of the other Grain that was suffered to be exported; and by the four last Acts of Parliament, particular Duties were laid upon those Commodities when they were suffered to be exported; but those Acts at this Time are looked upon in a Manner obsolete, and therefore some have thought not worth abridging.

Corn was (after the 12. Car. II.) considered by the Legislature in another Light; and therefore it may now be properly placed under the Article Trade.

15 Car. II. Cap. 8. Wheat was permitted as Merchandize to be exported, if the Price for each Quarter,

(a) As there are prodigious Quantities of waste Land in Ireland uncultivated, it is surprising to many, considering the truly patriot Spirit of the present Parliament there, that some Act is not passed, to encourage particularly the cultivating those Lands, by reducing many Parts of them to Tallage.

Winchester

Winchester Measure (b), did not exceed 2 l. 8 s. and at the same Time the other Grain were also permitted to be exported upon the Terms in the Act.

This Act gives Permission to import foreign Corn, if Wheat did not sell for more than what is before-mentioned; but its subject to pay a Duty of 5 s. 4 d. for each Quarter, and also a certain Duty for foreign Grain that were permitted to be imported.

This Act also gave Permission to all Persons to purchase in open Market what Corn they pleased, (when the Corn bore the different Prices in the Act) and the Purchasers had free Liberty to store it up, sell it again, or export the same at their Pleasure (c).

22 Car. II. Cap. 23. enacts, that it shall be lawful for Natives or Foreigners to export Corn as Merchandize, although the Prices exceed what is set by the Act, (15. Car. II.) so as it does not exceed 2 l. 13 s. for Wheat, upon paying a Duty of 16 s. for each Quarter; and in this Act the like Permission is given to export the other Grains, &c. upon the Terms therein mentioned.

(b) By the Statute of Henry VII. both the Weights and Measures were directed to be kept to one Standard throughout England.—What a Pity it is the same is not now settled and regulated! In short, if it was once accomplished it would be of infinite Service, by putting an End to many Complaints, and thereby prevent for the future much Trouble and Confusion, which at present too frequently happens.

(c) Quere, Whether it would not have been of Use, if there had been a Clause in the Act, seeing we have not yet public Storehouses in Great Britain, to have obliged the Persons who had purchased large Quantities of Corn, which might be registered, to sell the same again at reasonable Rates, be fixed by the Magistrates when Corn became scarce under proper Restrictions. However, this would seldom be the Case as to troubling the Magistrates; if these Corn Buyers would act, as I am well assured the Grocers do in London, that is, if two Persons should be possessed of the greatest Part of a Commodity, they readily sell it at a moderate Price to the Trade, and that in so regular a Manner, that there is no Complaints against them on that Head.

This

This Act further permits Grain to be exported, provided Wheat does not sell for more than 4*l.* for each Quarter, upon paying 8*s.* per Quarter Duty. And it is likewise enacted, that if Corn shall sell for more than what is specified in this Act, yet Persons had Liberty to export it, upon paying the Duty imposed before the making this Statute, and it was thereby directed, *that each Quarter should contain Eight Bushels, and each Bushel contain Eight Gallons (d).* This Act was made perpetual by the 23d of George II. Chap 7.

After making the above Laws it is plain there was a great deal of foreign Corn imported, and that made it necessary to pass an Act on that Head.

1 Jac. II. Cap. 19. this was principally designed more particularly to ascertain the Price of foreign Corn: For that End a Power was vested in the Justices at the Quarter Sessions, after *Michaelmas* and *Easter* yearly, to enquire, as to the Price of our Corn, by the Oaths of substantial Persons of Estates, not concerned in the Importation of the Corn, after which to set the Prices, and cause what was done to be reduced into Writing, and that the same should be hung up in a Custom-house where the Corn was landed. And the Act also directs, that the Duty should be paid according to what was contained in the Certificates.

This Act also settles the Method that shall be pursued when foreign Corn was landed in the Port of *London*.—But it expressly forbids that any *Cornchandler, Mealman, Factor (e), Merchant, or any other* that shall be interested in such Corn, from being any Way concerned in settling the Prices thereof.

(d) Here the Measure was fixed at one Gallon less than the *Winchester*, which is nine Gallons.

(e) Cornchandlers, Mealmen and Factors. I do not find their Names mentioned before in the preceding Acts of Parliament. Since they are known to our Laws in Respect to the Corn Trade, why should they not be related and sworn, in some such or the like Manner as the Brokers are in the City of *London*.

In

In the next Reign Corn became so Plenty, that the Legislature thought proper to take the Duties off upon exporting it; and further to encourage Tillage, Trade, and the Landed-interest, they even allowed a Bounty upon Corn being exported.

1 *Wil.* and *M. cap.* 12. was made to regulate the Corn Trade, and when it bore certain Prices, in the Act not only Permission was given to export that Commodity, but a Bounty was allowed upon the Exportation; which was then of great Use to the Kingdom. Before the Parliament was prorogued they passed another Act, *Cap.* 24. In this they further regulated many Matters in Respect to the Corn; which shews how attentive they were to encourage so valuable a Branch of Trade.

11 and 12 of *Wil.* III. It was enacted, that all Duties paid upon Exportation of Corn, &c. shall cease.

12 and 13 of *Wil.* III. States how the Bounty should be paid upon the Exportation of Corn, in Case the Collector, who had been directed to pay it, should not have sufficient in his Hands for that Purpose.

3 *Ann. Cap.* 18. allows a Bounty upon Exportation of Oatmeal (f).

(f) What the *Monitor* mentions, inserted in your Paper the 21st of *January* last, relating to the Acts passed in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, King *Charles II.* King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and Queen *Ann*, that they were built upon the Statute against Foresters, is a Mistake: for they are of quite a different Nature from that of the 5 and 6 of *Edward VI.* It is remarkable, that there was from *Great Britain* a very great Exportation of Corn during the Years 1732, 1733, and 1734, inasmuch that the Bounty paid upon the Exportation of it amounted to some Hundred Thousand Pounds, and that even in one Year there was exported above Eight Hundred Thousand Quarters of Corn and Grain Abroad; and it has been confidently affirmed, that if it had not been for these Exportations some Countries must have been almost starved. It will possibly be useless at present to relate, how ungrateful one Nation in particular afterwards treated the *British* Merchants, when they found they could get a Supply elsewhere, and therefore I shall say nothing further on that Head.

2 *George.*

2 *George, Cap. 18.* directs, that if the Justices should neglect to have the Prices fixed upon the Importation of foreign Corn, then the Collector was thereby impowered to get it done, and to take the Duty according to the Admeasurement by a *Winchester* Bushel.

5 *George II.* directs the Justices to charge the grand Jury at the Quarter Sessions, to present the Price of foreign Corn imported.

11 *George II.* inflicts certain Punishments upon those who shall beat, &c. or hinder any Person from buying Corn, or shall unlawfully stop any Waggon loaded with Corn;—for the first Offence, to be imprisoned and publickly whipped; for the second, to be transported, and if the Party returns before the Expiration of the Time, then to suffer Death as a Felon.

14 *George II.* directs that no Corn shall be exported unless Leave is given by the King's Proclamation.

15 *George II.* another Act to the same Purport passed.

30 *George II.* prohibited the Exportation of Corn for a limited Time, which has since been enlarged to the 14th of *December, 1758.*

31 *George II.* Corn was allowed to be exported from *Southampton* and *Exeter* to the *Isle of Man.*—This Act allows the Importation of foreign Corn from our Friends, Duty free, to the 14th of *December, 1758;* and it also allows the Exportation of Corn for the Supply of Forces in the *British* Pay, but without any Bounty.

Permit me to ask, should all the Acts relating to the Corn Trade, be reduced into one, Whether it would not be better, and more useful, especially if it be done in a clear and concise Manner, so that it may be generally understood?—Seeing the general Rule is not to

receive

receive a *Plea of Ignorance*, for human Laws oblige all Men to submit to the Penalty annexed to the Transgression, though in reality they did not know there were any such Laws in Being; which if it was otherwise, *those Pleas* would be continually offered by all Offenders.

I readily admit the Truth of what Mr. *Cay* alledges, *That our noble Collection of Records are not to be equalled by any other Nation;* but some say, that many of them are so ill digested and laid by, that when they are wanted a Man scarcely knows where to find them except he is of the Society of *Antiquarians* (b). Besides this good Result might follow the reducing these Laws (which are are no less than *Twenty-one* ——— Supposing, in future Times, (though God be praised we have nothing to fear at present,) there should, by the Means of a corrupt Ministry, be placed a set of weak or wicked Judges in our Court of Justice, would they not thereby be prevented from putting wrong or unjust Constructions on the old Statutes respecting the Corn, as they would then no longer exist. Something like this, the magnanimous and learned Civilian the King of *Prussia*, has taken Care to guard against, for the Benefit of his faithful Subjects, in his *new Code.*

Should it be said that this is not a Time (considering the State of Affairs Abroad) to hope any Attention will be paid to a Proposal of this kind.—Pray let me, with all submission, speak—If I rightly remember, Bishop *Burnet*, in the History of his own Times, gives us to understand that the Nation, between the Years 1692 and 1696, was more than once at the brink of Ruin, owing to its being encompassed with numberless Enemies both within and without Doors. What did

(b) See the Royal Charter.

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the Legislature do in those Days? Why, to their immortal Honour, they settled several grand and interesting Points, that were then, and, I think, are now extremely useful; such as the Coinage, making Provisions to satisfy the public Debts, restoring its Credit, and establishing the BANK that now makes so great a Figure in *Europe*: Nor did they forget to provide proper Funds to carry on the War. And to crown all, the Beginning of the Year 1697 Peace was at last concluded, though it held but a few Years.—However, I dare say no one will deny that knows any Thing of History, that the Face of Affairs afterwards bore a very different Aspect the Remainder of the Reign of King *William* the Third.

It is true, we are engaged in a very expensive War, and have been deserted by some of our unnatural Allies. Still we have, through the Blessing of Heaven, the Pleasure of enjoying Peace at Home; as this is our present Condition, and the People are truly sensible of the public Spirit and Zeal of the great *Guardians* of our Liberties (now assembled in Parliament) for the Welfare of their fellow Subjects—Many of whom with all humility, most ardently Wish that our August Assembly will, at a convenient Time, take into their serious Consideration the State of the Laws of this Kingdom, and appoint, at the public Expence (during the Recess) proper Persons to reduce some of them under distinct Heads, in such Manner as the Wisdom of the Legislature shall judge expedient.—For I hope it will never be said of this Nation, what has been of others, *That they save a little, and spend a Mickle.*

That great Lawyer my Lord *Coke* hints, that the Wise-headed and Expert would be well employed in assisting to forward so beneficial a Work:—Nevertheless it is certain, good Builders carefully remove the Rubbish, and see the Foundations are well laid, before

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fore they begin to raise the Structures; and when these Matters are effectually performed, and they receive the Sanction of Parliament, all grateful Subjects, in Return for so glorious a Regulation, will naturally say, in the Words of another great Lawyer (*Plowder*) *Blessed be the reforming Hands.*

Still it must be acknowledged, in Honour to our Ancestors, that some Steps were taken by them to clear Part of the Way so far, that they caused to be abrogated above one Hundred useless Statutes by three different Acts.*

History furnishes us with Instances of great Ministers of State being very attentive to the Reformation of the Laws, where they have been thought necessary, though it has not always answered what might reasonably have been expected from such Attempts.

I write not this, nor did I the former Letters, with a View to censure what has been solidly established; but only shortly rehearse some Matters that have occurred; for I am truly convinced, that to propose and lay down the Manner of the Alterations, and the Method of raising the Structures, belong to our Lawgivers, and those Sages that are learned in them.—Yet I believe that no one will Dispute the Truth of what Mr. *Cay* has asserted, *That the present Number of Laws are attended with this inconvenience, that the Knowledge of them is rendered less clear and certain:* And this he was so sensible of, that in his laborious Pursuit (abridging the Statutes) found himself obliged to own (though he was a very learned Lawyer) that he could not certainly tell whether one particular Statute that now appears in the Books was repealed or not; and therefore he very wisely placed a *Q* against it.—So that as a learned Antiquarie well observes, *That the Life and Strength of the Law, consists not in heaping of infinite and confused Numbers of Laws, but in the*

* Passed in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, King *James* I. and King *Charles* I.

right Interpretation, and due Execution, of good and wholesome Laws.

Some make light of and even despise those engaged in Works of the above Nature, though they too often reap the Fruits thereof.—As a Memento to such ungrateful Persons, I shall conclude this Letter with an Extract from Lord *Coke*, who was an Honour and Ornament to his Country. *

“ Whilft we were in Hand with these Institutes, we often having Occasion to go into the City, and from thence into the Country, did in some Sort envy the honest Plowman and other Mechanicks; for the one, when he was at his Work, would merrily Sing, and the Plowman Whistle some self-pleasing Tune; and yet their Work proceeded and succeeded; but he that takes upon himself to write, doth captivate all the Faculties and Power both of his Mind and Body, and must be only intente to that which he collecteth, without any Expression of Joy and Chearfulness whilft he is in his Works.” I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,
Richmond, *And constant Reader,*
20 Feb. 1758.

J. G R O V E.

P. S. The late honest, worthy, and learned Mr. *Serjeant Hawkins*, spent the greatest Part of his Life in collecting, composing, and digesting several laborious Works, relating to the Law, which has been of great Service to the Public, and yet this very Gentleman met with the hard Fate of receiving no Reward, for such Services, and what was still worse, he was suffered to retreat disregarded, and neglected, and at last died in Obscurity.

* From this Lord the Right Honourable the present Earl of *Leicester* is descended, who is allowed to be a Nobleman of a fine Task, and a great Encourager of our own Artists, and is now Building a grand Structure in *Norfolk*.

L E T-



L E T T E R VI.

S I R,

I Had some Thoughts of pursuing the Subject as to that of enquiring into the Cause of the excessive Price of Meat, and to have looked into the Laws as they now stand, in Respect to the Cattle, however for certain reasons I shall now forbear speaking to those Matters, and shall content myself in laying before the Reader, a Paragraph I find in the News Papers, wrote by a Neighbour.

“ As the settling one Standard Measure for Corn, &c. is now under Consideration, it is hoped the Legislature will take into Consideration (what affects the Poor almost equally with Bread) the Methods used in selling Beasts and Sheep: Which at present is all done by Jobbers. For now, a Beast shall pass thro’ six or eight Hands from the Grazier, before it comes to the Market, each enhancing the Price; and many of these People near Town have 500 or 1000 Sheep at a Time, by which they only feed the Market, and keep Meat up at the present high Prices, when feeding upon Turnips is cheaper by far than it was before *Christmas*. Formerly Graziers and Farmers brought the Beasts to Market, and Salesmen disposed of them; but now it is almost all done by Jobbers, even at Country Fairs. For these Jobbers run to every Farmer’s Yard, all over the Kingdom, and buy up their Beasts and Sheep, fat or lean, and then sell them out, in small or large Quantities,

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Quantities, as the Markets rise.—Sure this is Fore-stalling.

Yesterday's Market at *Smithfield* was fuller of Beasts than has been generally known at this Time of Year; yet the Jobbers and Managers of Cattle continue to keep up the Price."

As to the Question, whether it will be of Advantage or not, to suffer the Importation of *Irish* Cattle, Meat, Tallow, &c. as they are very properly under the Consideration of the Legislature, I shall forbear saying any Thing here relating thereto, not doubting but the Wisdom of Parliament will determine such interesting Matters, in a Manner as will be of real Advantage to the Nation in general. I am, Sir,

Richmond, *Your humble Servant,*
March 8, 1758.

J. GROVE.

Though the following Letter was wrote by another Hand, and has already been inserted in the Papers; yet as it is calculated for a very good Purpose, I shall make no Apology for reprinting it; and wish it may be published in all the Towns and Villages in England.

For the POOR of OLD ENGLAND.

IT having been artfully insinuated in two of the daily Papers, that as raw Hides and Calves Skins (though the Thistle is mumbled in Regard to Leather) are as cheap again as they have been; and from thence it is intended it should be inferred, that there is no Necessity for the allowing the Importation of them from *Ireland*: I have made some Enquiry into the Truth of the Affair, and find, that though Hides and Calves Skins are now cheap, the low Price has not subsisted for

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for more than two or three Months; that is, since the Meeting of the Parliament. We have heard of an artificial high Price being given for Corn, in order to raise the Price of Bread, and grind the Face of the Poor; and, I doubt not, but the Ingrossers in the Leather Way understand their Business as well as they, and have it as much in their Power (to use their own Phrase) to throw down the Market, when it suits their Purpose, as in this Case it does doubly; and an Ingrosser always likes his Knife the better for having two Edges, and his Bread for being buttered on both Sides; and he can with as little Remorse eat up half a score Butchers for Breakfast, as the like Number of Shoemakers, or the Poor that wear them, for Supper; and should the Bill for allowing the Importation be defeated by this Artifice, we shall, after they have bought up all they can, soon hear of another Price, which we shall be told, is occasioned by the great Demand, though it will have no other Foundation than their keeping their Orders back till all is over. As to the Argument, that the Importation of Cattle, Tallow, and Hides, will not only disable the Grazier from paying his Rent, but ruin his Family, it is a known Truth, that they lived as comfortably when Mutton was at Two-pence Half-penny a Pound, * as the Farmer did when Corn was at three Shillings or three Shillings and Six-pence the Bushel; † and, indeed, in general, neither Farmer, nor Grazier, are much benefitted by a Rise, as the Ingrossers know their Trade too well to raise the Price before they have bought most of them out. The relieving the Distresses of the Poor (and by the Way, the middling People are not a little pinched

* This is Truth no Body can deny.

† Considering the great Expence of Labour, many considerate Persons think if Wheat was not more, nor less than 5 s. for each Bushel, the Farmer might live, and the People would not complain.

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by the high Price of the Necessaries of Life) is well worthy the Attention of the Legislature; but there is another very cogent Reason for their allowing the Importation of the above Articles from *Ireland*; that is, if we do not take them from them ourselves, our hereditary Enemies, the *French*, (by the Help of neutral Bottoms) will, and I have heard it asserted by People of very good Understanding, that they can neither victual a Fleet, nor their Settlements in the *West-Indies* subsist, without the *Irish* Provisions; and I know no Method so effectual to prevent them from having them and consequently wounding their Power in the vital Part, as bringing them over here (x).

Ingrossing is almost co-eval with Trade; it was much practised in *Solomon's* Time, or he would not have said severe Things of it; as, *he that withholdeth the Corn, the People shall Curse him, &c.* Another of the sacred Writers calls an Ingrosser a Man of Blood and a Murderer; (r) and *Isaiab* reproaches the Ingrossers of his Days, with eating the People up as it were Bread; but it never was reduced to such a System as now. Till there was an Act passed to oblige them to unload Turbot and Lobsters within a limited Time, they were ingrossed, and though there was a Vessel with 70 or 80 Tons of Lobsters at Anchor in the *Hope*, the *London* Market was fed with but 1000 or 1500 on each Market-day. Milk has been attempted to be ingrossed, and that necessary Article of Life Butter, was once ingrossed in such a Manner by one Man, and 30,000 l. did it, that no one else could supply the Government; and had they not found

(x) Certainly this would be of infinite Service to the Public, if it takes Place, but there is in most Countries *French* as Agents and frenchified Men.—*I wish there may be none here.*

(r) These Hints surely must make a strong Impression in those (if any there are) that are so employed by having this Effect, that of forsaking so odious a Calling.

Means

(41)

Means to supply the Navy with *Irish* Butter, he must have had his own Price: As it was, the Loss of that Demand laid him at the public's Mercy, and his Teeth were so effectually filed, that he never lived to attempt the grinding the Poor again. "The Poor in the best of Times fare hard enough, and therefore, every Attempt to oppress them ought to be crushed; and though for want of Education they cannot express their Grievances with that Propriety which is necessary, neither are they able to see Council who can; yet in me they shall ever find a free and ready Advocate. God forbid! that I should (whilst I have Ability) forbear to plead their Cause against the Oppressor, and him who is too mighty for them." * I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

AN OLD ENGLISHMAN.

The Representation of the Corporation of *Warwick*, to their Members of Parliament, mentioned in Page 16, in the foregoing Letters here follows:

To the Hon. JOHN SPENCER, and HENRY ARCHER, Esqrs. Representatives in Parliament for the Borough of Warwick.

GENTLEMEN,

WE the Mayor, Aldermen, and other Constituents, of the Borough of *Warwick*, too sensible that the illegal Exportation of Corn, and mercenary Combination of Farmers, Corn-factors, Millers, and Meal-men, are the destructive Causes of the enormous high Price that Bread has been at, for such a

* The Writer's Resolution is noble, and I doubt not, but many will join with him, in so laudable, and generous an Undertaking.

G. Length

Length of Time as no History can parallel! We are also too tenacious of our sacred Laws, so far as we have Power, to suffer Tumults to redress Complaints: But should the Multitudes around us, enraged with Hunger, and despairing Sustenance, rise to support Existence! Too feeble would be then the civil Power, with our Assistance, and useful than the Military, only to put poor starving Wretches out of Misery!

But to reflect that such Convulsions may be produced even in the Bowels of the Land, by such a low Minority of the Whole, who trample on the Laws, or sneering evade them, greatly alarms us! Yet, if the real Great would condescend to see the real Poor; thence must arise a sure Prevention of the dread Calamity. Hope supplying us with an enlivening Presage, from your best Endeavours! We, without further Proem, beg Leave to transmit to you these following Instructions, viz.

That the Ports of *Great Britain* may be continued open for twelve Months, or until Wheat shall be generally sold at five Shillings per Bushel.

That no Wheat be exported with, or without the Bounty, when it is more than five Shillings per Bushel; and that foreign Wheat may be imported, Duty free, when the general Price is five Shillings and upwards.

That all Sorts of Grain be sold, for the future, in *Great Britain*, by the standard Measure of *Winchester* only.

That no Farmer shall blend any Sort of Grain otherwise than as it grows, under the severest Penalty.

That every Farmer shall bring his several Species of Corn to his respective Market; and that the destructive Introduction to ingrossing and forestalling, otherwise the fallacious Practice of selling by Sample, be totally abolished.

That Collusions in Bargain-making for Corn be deemed illegal, and strictly punishable; and that every Buyer and Seller of Corn shall be obliged to give in their

their Prices, upon Oath, to the Clerk of the Market, or other proper Person, if the Magistrate shall require them.

That no Miller shall buy any Corn, but for his own domestic Use, nor buy or sell any Flour upon any Consideration.

That every Miller shall be obliged to grind every Species of Corn separate; and that he be paid in Money for the future, and not in Toll (as formerly) for his Trouble.

That their Deceptions and ruinous Machines, called Dressing-mills, may be demolished, to the End of Time; such Implements as cloak the Iniquity of their compound Grinding; rendering Horse-provender the Food of Men; whilst the avaritious Cannibals devour the Poor, imposing their Killing-powders for nourishing Wheat Meal; whilst the unwary Magistrates, throughout the Kingdom; fix the Assize and Price of Bread, as the pure Product of the neatest Wheat.

That Prosecutions be carried on at each City and County's Expence, or other *Modus*, as the Wisdom of the Honourable House think most expedient; that the Prosecutors may not be embarrassed with Expences or Delays; and that the Penalties may be so high, and so easily acquired, as to compel the Miller, &c. to be Honest: For if they are subject only to trivial Fines, those, their exorbitant Profits in Combination, would enable them to pay, and they continue to deride the Law, and starve the Poor.

That half the Penalties, without Deduction, be given as Encouragement to the valuable Informers; the other Part to be deposited in the Hands of the chief Magistrate of the Place, as a Fund to carry on (as far as it will go) each future Prosecution.

Your Honours adhering to the above, shall ever demand such just Regard, as Friendship for the Distressed claim, and Gratitude can pay, from

Your Honours most obedient humble Servants.

F I N I S.

