CONSIDERATIONS,

Humbly offered to

PARLIAMENT,

RELATIVE TO THE

HEADS OF A BILL

FOR

Promoting INDUSTRY,

Suppressing IDLENESS and BEGGING,

AND

Saving above ONE MILLION Sterling yearly,

OF THE

MONEY now actually paid by the Nation to the POOR.

LONDON:

Printed for A. MILLAR, in the Strand. 1758.

(Price One Shilling.)

DEDICATION.

THIS Treatiſe is moſt humbly inſcribed to his Majeſty:

To their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales:

To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled: And,

To all true Britons who ſincerely love their King and Country, who deteſt and abhor that ambitious, proud, perfidious Nation of France, our inveterate

Enemies, with all their flattering Vices and Fashions invented, kept up, and propagated to other more virtuous Nations, for their Destruction and utter Ruin; when their Cunning, Power, and Force, cannot otherwise prevail:

And finally, To all who love the Memory of the late ever-memorable and glorious King WILLIAM, who, in his last Speech from the Throne, when addressing himself to the House of Commons, concludes in these Words; "I hope what Time "can be spared, will be employ-"ed about these other very de-"sirable Things, which I have "so often recommended from "the

"the Throne; I mean the form-"ing of some good Bills *for em-"ploying the Poor, for encou-"raging Trade, and suppressing "of Vice.*"

PRE-

PREFACE.

MANY attempts have been made to make one law, which might effectually relieve and employ the poor, and punish rogues and vagabonds, which have all proved ineffectual;

1. Because too particular in the qualifications of the governors of workhouses, &c. Those particulars ought (with submission) to be left to the discretion of those who choose them, the qualifications which would fit persons for that office, in one county, would not fit them for that office in another, and far less through the whole kingdom: a law ordering such county to be divided into districts, and governors to be chosen at a time certain, and if not done, to be liable to a penalty, is what is essentially necessary; but whether one parish, two, or three, make a district, or whether this

diſtrict be made of conſent, or by the ſheriff's authority; whether the governors have landed eſtates or no, &c. are not eſſential, but only ſubjects of unneceſſary debate, and the occaſion of loſing many good laws which might otherwiſe be enacted:

2. Too much was truſted to the juſtices of the peace, who being gentlemen of fortunes, living at a diſtance from one another, and many of them unacquainted with the method of managing poor people, it could not be expected that the law would be put in execution by them alone; but if the managers of each diſtrict, who are at hand, had been veſted with the powers of the juſtices of the peace, within their own diſtricts, in things relative only to the poor, the apprehending and committing robbers, &c. many good effects would have followed, without infringing upon the rights of the juſtices of the peace, whoſe authority to do all the good for the poor they incline to do, is not in the leaſt impaired.

3. In

3. In the year 1752 it appeared, in the houſe of commons, that the ſum paid for the poor in England was near three millions, equal to a tax of ſix ſhillings in the pound: if ſo, is it not ſurpriſing that ſuch a burden ſhould lie ſo long without redreſs, and be paid ſo long without producing any advantage in proportion to the ſum paid, or curing idleneſs and begging, the very thing deſigned to be remedied by ſuch a ſevere tax; but this may, in ſome meaſure, be accounted for, if it be true that in parliament many were ſo exaſperated at the laws in force, relative to poors rates, that they were of opinion all ſhould be repealed: others had not ſuch a poor opinion of their anceſtors as to think they deſerved ſuch treatment; and therefore, not being able to agree upon a law which would pleaſe both parties, the tax continues, and the diſeaſe alſo as bad as before the tax was laid on.

But not to multiply cauſes of former ineffectual applications to parliament,

a in

in the following treatiſe the heads of a bill are exhibited (with great ſubmiſſion to additions, corrections, and amendments) as free as poſſible of any thing that may give occaſion to debate, having nothing in view ſo much as reviving induſtry, ſuppreſſing idleneſs, beggars, and vagabonds, and delivering Britain from one half of the preſent poors rate it now pays; and it may be hoped, in a little time, of two thirds thereof; and from the tranſcript of laws now in force, and the heads of the bill to be offered to parliament, compared together, it will appear that nothing chargeable to the nation is new, except the expence of building workhouſes, and furniſhing materials for work to the poor; and, reckoning one pariſh with another, this will not exceed two hundred pounds, and not be ſo much where two or three are conjoined.

And though this, no doubt, by many may be thought a great ſum, yet if it leſſen the preſent tax in a year or two, one half, or one third, as is evi-

dent from examples in the ſubſequent treatiſe already experienced, then it may juſtly be ſaid to be well laid out; and that it is the real intereſt of every diſtrict to pawn their whole credit, and borrow the money, rather than continue without a workhouſe.

As to the way of executing the law by perſons to be named by his majeſty, it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that no laws are ſo punctually executed as the laws of cuſtoms and exciſe; and for no other reaſon, but becauſe ſo many perſons as commiſſioners, ſuperviſors, and general ſuperviſors are appointed for that purpoſe: and in many caſes it would be of great uſe to appoint one to ſee the law put in execution; and as no law can be of greater conſequence than that under conſideration, the execution of it cannot be too carefully attended to.

In Scotland it may with ſome colour be objected that they are free, that they never paid any poors rates, and therefore want no ſuch law.

To which it is anſwered, they were never paid in the way the law directs, and few or no pariſhes are free of beggars; and the capital, even where there is a poor-houſe, is infeſted with them every day, and no place in Scotland ſo much infeſted as its ſuburbs.

But this is not all: there is not a pariſh in Scotland but now pays to the begging poor, double of what they would pay if there were workhouſes, and no beggars; and the farmers near, or within four miles of Edinburgh, pay triple, and ſome more. If this is to be free, it is (according to the proverb) To be penny wiſe and pound fooliſh: beſides, this freedom depends upon the indulgence, or rather negligence, of every ſheriff in Scotland, who is bound under ſevere penalties to put the laws in execution, to prevent begging, idleneſs, and vice, and to promote induſtry, virtue, and piety. Who would not rather ſupport an induſtrious perſon, under want, than an idler? Nothing but pride can prompt any one to argue for

for idleneſs, in oppoſition to induſtry; and from hundreds of years experience, it is certain that idleneſs and begging, with all their train, muſt continue in Britain for ever, if workhouſes and materials for work are not furniſhed in every pariſh or diſtrict.

Here, in point of gratitude, I muſt acknowledge my obligations to thoſe worthy and ingenious gentlemen, Mr. Fielding and Mr. Alcock, from whom I have abridged ſome of their thoughts; particularly the advantages flowing from ſuch a law; and would have followed them more, had not their plans been more calculated for great and opulent cities, than for the whole nation: of which it will be needleſs to ſay more, as their writings cannot but be well known to all Britain, whoſe public ſpirit and love to the poor ſhines in their works; and it is to be wiſhed and hoped that many, who have, without conſideration, ſupported an idle race of poor people, will now turn their thoughts to provide workhouſes, and materials for work;

work; that for the future they may have the pleasure, at much less expence, to support an industrious race of poor people; and by so doing procure a blessing upon the nation, and on their own particular families. And this will in all probability tend much to reform the morals of those poor idle creatures, who at present are the most vicious and wicked of all mankind. Which reformation reaching the eyes and ears of our clergy, it is hoped they will do their part to reform the highest ranks of men; and as soon as this is done, there is good reason to expect a general reformation meeting in the center. The consequence of which would be a joyful revival of those almost obsolete laws of the great King of Kings, which when duly observed, then may our legislators and rulers expect a sincere obedience to their laws, and not till then; and if any doubt the truth of this, let them consult their bishops and teachers, who can

can demonstrate it as evidently as any proposition in Euclid.

The author gives himself no trouble about criticisms, as this piece is designed for the good of the nation, and in particular for the poor: the more any thing that is wrong is exposed, the more pleasure he will have, being very sensible of his own defects both in judgment and language: the last is such as he learned fifty years ago, and as nothing but such a cause could have forced him to commence author in the decline of life, he has neither skill nor patience to examine it according to the nice rules of criticism: and therefore, such as it is, the public is welcome to it, and he is only sorry for their sakes that it is not better.

Conſiderations and Propoſals relating to the Poor.

THE vaſt number of Beggars in general, but eſpecially of thoſe who are able to work, not only for themſelves, but for the benefit of the public, has been, and is at preſent, the juſt complaint of Great Britain. The *Origo Mali* is the queſtion.

Can a wiſe nation complain of numbers of people able to work? That is impoſſible; becauſe it is agreed upon all hands, that the ſtrength and riches of a nation conſiſts in their numbers: numbers rightly employed are the bleſſing, but numbers idle and unemployed are the bane and peſt of a people.

What concluſion follows from theſe premiſes? Either that we have no good laws, or that they are not put in execution. That we have many good laws, will appear from a following abridgment; and what is called a defect, is not ſo much a defect in the law, as in the execution; an unwillingneſs and ſloth in the people to do what is for the common good. Overſeers in every pariſh were ordained to be choſen with power to rate the pariſh, for materials to put the poor to work. This implied a power to hire houſes for them to work in; but as ſufficient penalties were not annexed, and no perſon appointed whoſe proper buſineſs it ſhould be to ſee the laws put in execution, the diſeaſe continues, and the proper remedy has not been applied.

The more the laws are conſidered, the leſs defective will they appear; and it muſt be confeſſed, to the reproach of the nation, that the not executing the laws for repreſſing begging and idleneſs, (the only profitable part), and an inhuman keenneſs in executing what related to the ſettlements of the poor, is the true cauſe of the preſent public miſery complained of.

To trace the cauſe of this inactivity on the one part, and this keenneſs and activity on the other, will be no difficult taſk. No pariſh provided materials for work, or a houſe to work in. To ſuch a pariſh, the appearance of a poor man, even able and willing to work, was, if ſuffered to remain, no other than that of a thief or a pick-pocket; whereas if there had been a workhouſe, he would have added ſo much riches to the pariſh. Hence aroſe the barbarity of whipping a poor man becauſe he was poor, and a man for being idle when he could find no work.

To remedy theſe evils is the buſineſs of the legiſlature. It is well known to the whole kingdom, that his majeſty never refuſed the royal aſſent to any good law propoſed; and it is not doubted but the miniſtry will join unanimouſly in making a law ſo much calculated for the preſent and future good of the nation.

With relation to the poor, the nation may be conſidered as the parent, they as children; whence flow the duties of commanding and obeying, providing work, and executing it, &c. And as the nation has a power to compel the poor to work, ſo the poor have a right to demand work; and every pariſh, with regard to their poor, may be conſidered in the ſame light.

Humanity teacheth all ranks to pity the poor; and every one, whoſe heart is not of ſtone, will con-

tribute his mite to relieve them: and it is the public intereſt to enact not only good laws, but ſuch as may with the leaſt difficulty be put in execution; becauſe an indifferent law, which can be eaſily executed, is preferable to a better law, which is accompanied with many difficulties in the execution.

But to proceed with ſome method in a matter of ſo great importance, it will be neceſſary to conſider,

I. What perſons by law come under the name of poor.

II. In what place, and in what manner they are to be employed and maintained.

III. From what funds the neceſſary expence ſhould come.

IV. Who are the perſons that have a natural right to govern the poor, and in what manner proper governors ſhould be choſen.

V. What powers theſe governors ought to have, and what authority over the poor; in what caſe they are to apply to the civil power, and to whom.

VI. How far the laws are now in force, or deficient, with reſpect to the premiſes; none of which are to be repealed.

VII. The good effects of employing the poor, more eſpecially if made to take effect every where at the ſame time.

VIII. The heads of the law to be enacted, with the reaſons in ſupport of each head: to which may be added an appendix, containing ſome things which may be of uſe for the governors of every workhouſe.

I. To return to the firſt: the poor helpleſs infant, the aged, the infirm and impotent, will eaſily be admitted to be proper objects of charity; but ſome may doubt if poor people who have no other ſupport but their labour, who are able and willing to work, but can find no work, are ſuch: yet theſe, if duly conſidered, will, with ſubmiſſion, be found very

great objects of charity; becauſe if they can find no work, they muſt ſtarve, beg, ſteal, or rob; all which are contrary to the public good. And tho' idlers are bound to work, yet it would be moſt unreaſonable to puniſh a man for not working, who was willing to work, but could find no employment.

From which it follows that he comes under the law, and is a very proper object of charity; and it will be the fault of the pariſh if ſuch a perſon is not rather an advantage than a loſs: the word *poor* is general and comprehenſive, and cannot be reſtricted but where the law reſtricts it.

II. The poor are to be employed in a workhouſe to be hired, or built, in the moſt proper place for air, water, &c. as the governors ſhall direct; and the work they are to be employ'd in ſhould be that which is beſt known, and what the poor are beſt ſkilled in, or what may be moſt profitable, of which the governors muſt be the beſt judges. And the workhouſe ought to have in it, or near it, one, two, or three ſtrong rooms for a houſe of correction, and as many for an hoſpital for the ſick, according to the numbers to be lodged.

III. To pave the way for anſwering the third, it will be neceſſary to obſerve, that the great articles of extraordinary expence will only be for the firſt year; ſuch as hiring or building the workhouſe, &c. which may be done at a ſmall expence, if the beds and cloaths of thoſe brought in be carefully look'd after, and the proviſion of materials is made quarterly, as needed; ſuch as wool and flax, for that time, &c. the ordinary expence will be the yearly ſuſtenance of the poor, and ſervants neceſſary to inſtruct and overſee them, to buy proviſions, cook them, &c.

All which muſt be raiſed as the law permits in the diſtrict where the workhouſe is, which may be by

by a voluntary charity, a way pointed out by the practice of the primitive Chriſtians: and if a pariſh were wiſe enough to make this way effectual, it would ſave a great deal of trouble and expence in laying on, and collecting the tax for the poor; and if the landed gentlemen would but conſider, that the great burden, in caſe of a tax, muſt fall upon them and their tenants, they would be active in procuring ſubſcriptions, benefactions, legacies, and collections for their poor. But if theſe fail, the pariſh muſt tax itſelf, ſo as to put a ſtop to begging; and if the pariſh fail in this, the ſheriff muſt levy the fine impoſed by law.

Here it may be obſerved, 1. that it is the intereſt of the nation, that no idle people, who cannot maintain themſelves, be allowed to remain idle, but that they be obliged to work.

2. That one half of the begging poor are able, not only to work for their ſuſtenance and cloathing, but would bring gain to any pariſh who ſhould furniſh them with work. Suppoſe one ſuch perſon, and if work were furniſhed, that he gains four-pence *per* day, and can be maintained for three-pence, the pariſh gains about thirty ſhillings ſterling yearly, and the nation by his work about 4 *l.* 10 *s.* or let this man beg, the pariſh will loſe the above thirty ſhillings, and the nation the above 4 *l.* 10 *s.* and the ſame ſum by maintaining him idle, which is 9 *l.* to the nation, and 1 *l.* 10 *s.* to the pariſh, in all 10 *l.* 10 *s.* for he gains 6 *l.* without any coſt, becauſe his work can be ſold for that; but when idle the 6 *l.* is loſt, and the maintenance of an idle man is 4 *l.* 10 *s.* loſs to the nation; if ſo, can any expence be too great to cure the diſeaſe of idleneſs, or can charity be better beſtowed? For

The law ſuppoſes, that where there are ſufficient charities, there is no obligation upon a pariſh to tax itſelf;

itſelf: the law is only ſubſidiary to ill-timed defective charity, and to force open the purſes of the cruel and hard-hearted rich; and though charity is not to be forced, yet the furniſhing work to thoſe who cannot find work, and to prevent begging and idleneſs being national concerns, and the intereſt of every individual, every purſe may juſtly be forced open, which does not open of its own accord.

The expences in providing houſes and work the firſt year will be greateſt: but this need not, nay ought not, to deter any pariſh; becauſe the profits ariſing from a workhouſe, if rightly managed, will contribute greatly every year after to their ſuſtenance.

IV. The anſwer to the fourth is, that all who contribute have a natural right to manage; but to avoid confuſion, the proper perſons to chooſe governors are the whole land-owners and houſeholders, belonging to the workhouſe, who live within its diſtrict; they may chooſe twelve, ſix, more or fewer, as is convenient; the one half land-owners, the other half houſeholders, to continue for two years, except that after the firſt year, one half may go out by ballot, and as many new be choſen in their place, who are to continue for a ſecond year, and thoſe who have been in two years, to go out; the miniſters of the pariſhes being conſtant governors, without being choſen.

V. The anſwer to the fifth is, that the governors in name of the pariſh ſhall have power to hire or build workhouſes, to find materials and inſtruments for work, to put and keep the poor at work, to make regulations for the houſe, (ſpecimens of which ſhall be given in an appendix, out of which may be picked what ſhall be found moſt uſeful) to chooſe a maſter and miſtreſs, neceſſary ſervants, &c.

VI. The

VI. The beſt anſwer to the ſixth is, to give a ſhort tranſcript of the laws now in force both in England and Scotland. In the former

There are many good laws againſt Beggars, Vagrants, Strollers, and ſuſpicious Perſons. The firſt is Anno 1349. 24 Edw. III. cap. 7. prohibiting all perſons to give any thing to a beggar that is able to labour. Richard II. Henry VI. Henry VIII. and Edward VI. made many ſevere laws againſt them, holding idle perſons, refuſing wages to work, as vagabonds, and ordaining vagabonds to be made ſlaves, which, as too ſevere, were repealed, and other puniſhments inflicted.

In the 5th of Eliz. cap. 3. relief is given to the poor, but none permitted to beg openly; and by the 43d of Eliz. cap. 2. it is enacted, That the churchwardens of every pariſh, and four, three, or two houſeholders ſhall be choſen and called overſeers of the poor of the pariſh, with power to rate the pariſh for providing a convenient ſtock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other ware and ſtuff to ſet the poor on work, who are able to work, and not able to maintain themſelves; as alſo to rate the pariſh for building convenient habitations, and for providing the impotent poor. And in caſe of any pariſh in the hundred or county being unable to provide their poor, then the juſtices of peace have power to rate the hundred or county for its relief, &c. not above ſix-pence, nor under a halfpenny weekly.

In the time of * James I. houſes of correction were ordered, and in † Charles the IId's, the ſeſſions had power to provide ſtock and overſeers to ſet priſoners for felony on work.

* 7 Jam. I. 4. † 19 Cha. II. 4.

And

And in king William and queen Mary's reigns former acts, with relation to * ſettlements, were revived and amended, by ordering a regiſter for the names of the poor.

In the reign of † George I. the abuſe of juſtices of peace giving relief to poor perſons, without the knowledge of any of the pariſh, is rectified, and power is given to the overſeers of every pariſh to purchaſe or hire houſes; and when pariſhes are ſmall, to join two or more together, who may do the ſame for lodging the poor, and may contract for maintaining them, and make their work contribute for that purpoſe.

In Scotland alſo many good laws were made to the ſame purpoſe, from the reign of James I. anno 1624, to near the end of the reign of king William, anno 1698; the ſubſtance of which is contained in four proclamations of his, afterwards ratified by parliament, of which what follows is an abſtract.

1. That, in every pariſh, the heretors (or landowners) miniſters and elders, (or laymen who with the miniſters and deacons, alſo laymen, take care of the poor and concerns of the pariſh) do meet at their pariſh-church the firſt Tueſday of February and Auguſt yearly, and there make up leets of all the poor within their pariſh, and caſt up the quota of what may entertain them, according to their reſpective needs; and to caſt the ſaid quota, the one half upon the heretors, and the other upon the houſeholders of the pariſh.

2. That they appoint two collectors yearly to gather the ſaid quota, or ſum appointed to ſubſiſt the poor, in the beginning of every week, month, or quarter, as they ſhall judge moſt fit, and to diſtri-

* 3 & 4 W. & M. cap. 11. † 9 G. I. 7.

bute

bute the ſame to the poor, according to their ſeveral needs.

3. That they appoint an officer to ſerve under the ſaid collectors, and overſeers for collecting the ſaid maintenance for the poor, and for expelling vagabonds from the pariſh; whoſe fee or wages muſt be laid upon the pariſh as the maintenance of the poor is laid on.

4. That they provide houſes for the poor who want them, at the expence of the pariſh, in manner as the above maintenance is laid on.

5. That the heretors of vacant pariſhes meet and ſtent themſelves for the maintainance of their reſpective poor, and appoint the ingathering, uplifting, and applying the ſame for the foreſaid uſe, in the ſame manner as the heretors, miniſters, and elders are appointed to do as aboveſaid.

6. That the magiſtrates of all burghs-royal meet and ſtent themſelves for the maintenance of their reſpective poor, in ſuch order as is uſed on laying on ſtents, annuities, or other public burdens, in their reſpective burghs, and as may be moſt effectual to reach all the inhabitants.

7. That every pariſh may maintain only its own poor, all his majeſty's lieges, or every perſon in every pariſh, are commanded and have power to apprehend every beggar and carry him to the principal heretor reſiding in the pariſh, and in burghs-royal to one of the bailies, who are commanded to ſend ſuch beggar to the pariſh in which he was born; and if that is not known to the pariſh where he reſided the three laſt years, to be carried by two ſenſible men of the pariſh to the neareſt heretor of the next pariſh, with a note of the beggar's name and pariſh where he was born; or if not known, where he reſided as above, which is to be delivered to the next heretor who receives him; and every heretor

who

who receives him is to return a note granting the receipt of ſuch a beggar till he arrive in the pariſh where he was born or reſided.

8. That the half of all collections at the churches of every pariſh, and the intereſt of mortifications, without diminution of the ſtock, be applied to the uſe of the whole poor.

9. That correction-houſes be built by the magiſtrates of every headburgh of every ſhire, for receiving ſuch poor as ſhall be ſent; and that the pariſh ſend with ſuch beggar a quarter's payment, at two-pence ſterling per day, for the firſt year; and one penny per day for three years after, paying always a quarter per advance.

10. If any queſtion ariſe about putting the law in execution, with reſpect to the premiſes, the miniſter and elders, with advice of the heretors of every pariſh, who will meet and concur with them, have full power to determine all queſtions which may ariſe in relation to the ordering and diſpoſing of the poor, in ſo far as is not ordered above.

11. By 74 Act. P. 6. Jam. 6. the overſeers, and by K. Will. the heretors of every pariſh have power to put the poor to work; and if they refuſe, to ſcourge them; if they refuſe a ſecond time, they are to be treated as vagabonds.

12. Miniſters and heretors are required to inform the ſheriff, if any pariſh or perſon be deficient, who ſhall fine in double the deficiency.

13. The ſheriff of each county is ordained to put the above in execution, as alſo the juſtice of the peace.

The penalty, in caſe of diſobedience of the firſt ſix ſections, is 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. upon every pariſh every month.

The penalty of diſobeying the ſeventh, is 1 s. 8 d. upon every one who gives alms to a ſtranger or beg-

gar, and does not apprehend him (toties quoties): upon the heretors not tranſporting from pariſh to pariſh; is 1 l. 13 s. 4 d. (toties quoties): upon every ſenſible man diſobeying, 2 s. 2 d. $\frac{1}{3}$.

The penalty of diſobeying the ninth, is 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. $\frac{2}{3}$ every quarter, till correction-houſes are provided; and of the thirteenth, is 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. $\frac{2}{3}$ upon every ſheriff who neglects to give an account of his diligence to the lords of the privy-council, after the firſt of December, 1698; and of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. weekly thereafter, until they return an account of their diligence to the privy-council.

From the above abridgment it is evident that our anceſtors had it greatly at heart to take care of the poor, and prevent begging and being idle, but never enacted what was abſolutely neceſſary to provide workhouſes and materials for work over all at once, and to appoint one perſon whoſe only buſineſs it ſhould be to ſee the whole put in execution.

Since the 9th of Geo. I. cap. 7. the many workhouſes built in England ſhew, that ſuch a law as is propoſed would make the benefits ariſing therefrom univerſal, not only by leſſening the poors rates, but principally by encouraging induſtry, and checking robbers and pilferers, by having a ſmall houſe of correction in every workhouſe of the county to receive them, with little trouble or expence.

The above law has done much good, but is ſtill imperfect; and as the execution of a law is its life, ſo the reverſe is its death: therefore, to prevent the death of the many good laws enacted by king William, he and his parliament in Scotland gave power to his privy-council to grant commiſſions to perſons, one or more, with power to put the ſaid laws in execution; and particularly to cauſe the perſons

therein entrusted, to do and perform their parts as they are thereby enjoined.

VII. In answer to the seventh, the good effects of keeping all the poor at work, would lessen the number of idle people, who would rather chuse to work for themselves unconfined, than confined in a workhouse for others.

Of consequence care, labour, and industry would increase in the nation: hence a diminution of poor, and increase of labour, would produce a diminution of poors rates in every parish. Such workhouses would suppress a great number of strollers, vagrants, loiterers, idlers, and sturdy beggars, when they should find, that in every parish they would be taken up and put to hard labour; and that the parish was by law obliged to do it under a penalty, and without expence, or application to constables or justices of the peace, every one of his majesty's lieges being authorised to apprehend them, and the governors of every workhouse to commit them to hard labour.

And this would not only be a kindness to the nation, but to the idlers themselves; it would in a great measure suppress robberies and thieving, occasioned mostly by idleness, and save their necks from the gallows.

Where people cannot find work, they are under a necessity of being idle, of starving, begging, or robbing. But if work is found for them, instead of preying upon other mens lives, labours, and properties, they would earn their own bread, and the benefit of their labour to the public would make them useful members of society; and a raw unexperienced thief, or robber, would shun the danger of being brought to a college of thieves and robbers, huddled up in a common goal, and becoming more hardened than his teachers.

And

And as such a regulation would suppress a great number of the present vagrants, so it would lessen the future growth and produce of them, by training up all poor children in every parish at once to early industry, honesty, and virtue; from the neglect of which such numbers of felons are yearly put to death.

Such workhouses would prove a national blessing; they would ease the expences of the rich, provide fully for the necessities of the poor, and give work to all idle people.

Since the law of the 9th of Geo. I. for encouraging the conjoining of parishes, and the erecting of workhouses, many have been built, the poor rates much lessened, and the debts contracted for building or hireing houses, or for furnishing materials for work, all paid; some rates are lessened one fourth, one third, one half, some two thirds; in Bishopsgate Street, London, one half; in Luton in Bedfordshire, from 667 *l.* to 209 *l.* in Chelmsford in Essex, from four or five to one shilling, &c. These happened before 1733.

The good effects of workhouses in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dalkeith, Musselburgh, &c. are felt in Scotland, and it is hoped will soon be universal.

But, alas! at present the far greater part of all ranks seem to be in a lethargy, and wholly wrapt up in their pleasures or private gain, shewing little or no concern for the public or posterity, not considering that the safety of their liberties sacred and civil, and of their properties, consists in the public safety; that they go hand in hand, and that the public good ought to be preferred to all private interest.

If these are undeniable truths, and it is certain that the poor and their children can contribute nothing to the public good but their labour; it evidently follows, that the public is bound to furnish

nish materials, to provide work for them; and if the clergy and sheriffs of each county were but active in this, they, with the law and public good upon their side, would soon be an overmatch for all who should oppose them; then would workhouses be hired or built in every parish, or district of the county, and virtue, industry, and religion encrease every where. Behold not then, with an unconcerned eye, idleness and its never-failing companion vice, the ruin; industry and virtue the support of every nation. The more numerous the industrious poor are, so much the better, because the riches of a nation consists in, and is in proportion to the number and industry of its inhabitants; and its poverty consists in, and is in proportion to, the number and idleness of its people.

Idlers are the canker-worms of the state; the industrious the bees who make the honey: away then with all the drones, who only waste it; *Procul, O procul este profani!*

VIII. The last thing to be considered is an application for a law for the better support of industry, and for providing workhouses, materials, and work, for the poor in every parish, or district of conjoined parishes; and for suppressing and apprehending all robbers, thieves, beggars, vagrants, suspicious and idle persons, who have not wherewith to sustain themselves.

The law to be enacted may consist of the following, or such other heads as may be thought most proper.

1. That each county in Great-Britain be laid out into as many districts by the sheriff, his deputies or substitutes, as he shall judge necessary, without prejudice to the liberty of any single parish to build a workhouse for itself; and for two or more neighbouring parishes to join themselves into one district, for building

building one workhouse jointly; and if any parish or parishes be left out and not taken into some one district of the county, upon application to the sheriff, he is hereby impowered and required either to join such parish or parishes to the district or parish he thinks most proper, or to conjoin them in one or more districts by themselves, by an order subscribed by him; which parish or district is obliged to receive the parish or parishes so ordered to be conjoined, under the penalty of 50 *l.* monthly, till the order is complied with, against which there is to lye no appeal; and (after publication of this act in the London Gazette in all its clauses, and from the London Gazette in every other news-paper in Great-Britain, which is hereby ordained to be done by the publisher of the London Gazette immediately upon passing this act, and by every other publisher of every news-paper the first post after the aforesaid Gazette can reach them, under the penalty of 50 *l.* to be levied by the sheriff of every county, within which any publisher of news-papers lives) every parish within twenty days after such publication is to signify to the sheriff of the county, whether they desire to be joined in a district, or have a workhouse in their own parish; and if the parishes fail to give notice, or cannot agree in casting themselves into districts, then the sheriff within thirty days after publication shall meet at the head burgh of the county, and there, or in any other burgh of the county, divide the county into districts, consisting of one or more parishes, as he sees proper, and with power to alter such division, upon application, if found inconvenient; which division or alteration is to be final and without appeal; and the division of the county by the sheriff is to be finished in ten days after the time appointed for

for his first meeting at the head burgh, under the penalty of 100 *l.* every month till it be finished.

2. That each parish or district shall, within six months after publication as above, hire or build a workhouse sufficient for containing the poor within the parish or district, with one, two, or more rooms in it, or near it, for a house of correction, and one, two, or more rooms in it, or near it, for an hospital for the sick, under the penalty of 50 *l.* and the like sum for every month thereafter while the same is not hired or built, to be levied by the sheriff from any one or more of the parish or district, with power to such as pay to tax the parish or district equally with themselves for payment, to be levied the same way a parish-tax is ordered to be levied.

3. That each parish or district shall, within the above six months, provide sufficient provisions, materials, and instruments for employing all their poor, and in particular those who are willing to work and seek after it, such as the governors of each workhouse shall think most proper, under the penalty of 50 *l.* and the like sum for every month thereafter till the same are provided, to be levied as above.

4. That each parish or district shall, after the above six months, suffer none to beg within their respective parishes or districts, under the penalty of 20 *l.* for the first offence of every person begging, if the person begging is not immediately apprehended and maintained without begging and set to work; and 5 *l.* more for every repeated offence of the same person till maintained and set to work, to be levied as above.

5. That every parish or district, within two months after publication as above, shall name and choose a certain number of governors for managing the

the workhouse within the parish or district, where such workhouse is, or shall be hired or built, (the minister or ministers of each parish or district being hereby declared constant governors of the workhouse in their respective parishes or districts) under the penalty of 50 *l.* to be levied as above; as also, if thought proper, to chuse a certain number of extraordinary governors of the highest rank in the parish or district, to act in conjunction with the other governors, as shall be agreed by the rules to be approved by the sheriff: and in case any parish or district shall neglect so to do, the sheriff is hereby empowered and required to chuse such governors within a month immediately after, under the penalty of 100 *l.* every month till they are chosen; and the governors chosen by the parish, district, or sheriff as above, are hereby empowered and required to raise a sufficient sum in every parish or district, for the purposes in this act contained; and to bring in and appropriate all the effects of the poor taken in for the benefit of the workhouse; which, if they die in the workhouse, are to continue a part of its stock, and their heirs or executors to have no claim without paying for their past maintenance and funeral charges.

6. That the governors of every such workhouse are hereby declared a corporation in law, capable of sueing and being sued, and of taking benefactions of all sorts, lands excepted, for the poor; and to make by-laws and rules to be approved of by the sheriff for their better government, which, when approved, are to be strictly observed till altered by the governors and sheriff; to purchase from one to fifty acres of land to build houses upon, with power to chuse a master and mistress, a treasurer and all necessary officers and servants, to keep open markets within their limits for the sale of their

 goods,

goods, and buying ſuch as may be brought there for ſale; and to apply the profits of all work for the ſupport of the workhouſe, and every other thing neceſſary for the benefit of ſuch houſe, with the approbation of the ſheriff; and it is hereby ordained that the preſent overſeers of the poor of every pariſh, and their ſucceſſors in office, be ſubject to, and obey the governors of every workhouſe, in the pariſh or diſtrict in which they live.

7. That the rules and by-laws for the regulation of workhouſes, the method for providing materials and proviſions, together with the accounts, lye open to the inſpection of all who pay tax to the poor, with power to ſuch to give in propoſals, rules, or amendments, and to inform firſt the governors of theſe, as well as of all crimes and miſmanagement; and if not heard and redreſſed, to inform the ſheriff, who is to judge of them, and his ſentence to be final.

8. That the governors continue to ſerve two years, except the firſt ſet, when the one half are to go out by ballot, and as many new to be choſen in their places; and every year after, thoſe who have ſerved two years are to go out, and as many are to be choſen in their places; and all governors choſen are hereby obliged to accept, and act according to the rules approved by the ſheriff, under the penalty of 50*l.* each for every year he does not accept and act.

9. That the governors have all the powers of the juſtices of the peace, with regard to all crimes or miſdemeanors committed within their limits, by robbers, thieves, beggars, idle and ſuſpicious perſons; and that all his majeſty's lieges have power and authority, as they are hereby ordained to apprehend, and bring before one or more of the governors, all ſuch diſorderly perſons, to be by them committed, who have not a paſs from the miniſter of the pariſh, the ſheriff, or a juſtice of

the peace of the county, where the perſon did or does now ſojourn; which paſſes they are hereby required to give, with power to one or more of the governors to examine the perſon or perſons brought before him; and without proof upon oath, by declaration of the perſon bringing any ſuch, of any of the crimes of begging, robbing, ſtealing, or being idle and ſuſpicious perſons, and having no paſs, to commit them to the workhouſe, or houſe of correction, within his own limits; and to pay to all who apprehend any criminal, one ſhilling, if the diſtance is leſs than a mile; and if more, a ſhilling for every mile, or as he ſhall ſee cauſe, to ſend them, if robbers or thieves, to the ſheriff of the county, who is hereby empowered to commit them either to the county goal, or houſe of correction; and ſuch as are committed to the houſe of correction, for robbing or ſtealing, or any other crime, are to be compelled to work for their own ſuſtenance, unto the day they are to be tried at their own deſire, or till the judge who committed them think fit to try them by the common courſe of law; and with power to ſend them to the county goal for that purpoſe, if found neceſſary.

10. That the governors of every workhouſe ſhall be left at full liberty to raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies for maintaining their poor, for providing materials for work, for hiring or building houſes, and all other neceſſary expences in the way which ſhall appear moſt eaſy and agreeable, whether it be by charities, by this law, or the reſpective laws of England and Scotland prior to this, for taxing every pariſh for maintaining their poor, ſo as it ſhall be without begging: and for their encouragement, the governors of every workhouſe are hereby allowed to raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies for the firſt year only, if it is found agreeable, within the limits

of their ſeveral workhouſes by way of lottery, to be drawn and managed in the way they think moſt proper; but if any diſtrict ſhall be obliged to raiſe the ſupplies by way of tax, the ſame is to be laid on equally and juſtly upon every pariſh, by the governors. If a ſixpenny-tax produce 18 l. in one pariſh, and but 12 l. in another, that ſhall be levied; and ſo in proportion, for taxations greater or leſs in every pariſh.

11. That the miniſter of every pariſh, at the end of every year after this act takes place, ſhall certify to the ſheriff of the county the number of the poor maintained, the name of the pariſh, and in what diſtrict, if conjoined, and what was the expence of his pariſh for that year; and this he ſhall do every year within thirty days after the year elapſes, under the penalty of 30 l. and the governors of every workhouſe, within the ſame time, ſhall tranſmit to the ſheriff of the county every year, the number of the poor, the expence, the profits by work, and the names of thoſe who have been in the houſe of correction for that year, under the penalty of 50 l. jointly and ſeverally. Both penalties to be levied by the ſheriff.

12. That every ſheriff is hereby empowered and required to appoint a fit perſon to proſecute all perſons before him, who ſhall tranſgreſs this or any other law conſiſtent with this in favour of the poor, or for diſcouraging begging and idleneſs; and that the ſheriff of each county tranſmit to the perſon or perſons, to be named by his majeſty to receive them, the whole certificates he receives from the above miniſters and governors within his county, with a liſt of the pariſhes and diſtricts who have diſobeyed in whole or in part, and what procedure the perſon named to proſecute them has made; and that this perſon be allowed, by the ſheriff, his full coſts, and

and a fourth part of all penalties recovered for his trouble, and another fourth part to his informers.

13. That the ſheriff of each county do viſit by himſelf, or his ſubſtitute, at leaſt once every year, every workhouſe in the county, under the penalty of 100 l. or oftener, as he pleaſes, and enquire minutely into the whole management, and add ſuch rules as he finds proper for promoting frugality and good order, and expunge ſuch as do not promote them, after hearing the directors pro and con; of which, and of all complaints from the poor, he is to judge finally, and without appeal.

14. That the perſon or perſons to be named by his majeſty, receive and record the certificates from the ſheriffs, and (if thought proper) tranſmit to the lord chief-baron of the exchequer of England, the certificates from all the counties of Great Britain, and to the lord chief-baron of Scotland, an atteſted copy of the certificates from the counties in Scotland, with full power to the perſon or perſons to be named by his majeſty, (whom his majeſty is hereby humbly deſired to name and appoint, with a ſalary not exceeding 300 l. for England, and 200 l. for Scotland, payable out of the reſpective exchequers, upon tranſmitting the above certificates) to ſue the ſheriffs, within England and Scotland, for the penalties which may or ſhall be recovered by them, and not paid in to the reſpective exchequers, which they are hereby required to do, and for ſuch penalties as any of the ſheriffs may incur by neglecting their duty in ſo far as concerns the laws relative to the poor, before the barons of his majeſty's exchequer of England and Scotland reſpectively, in the moſt expeditious, ſummary, and leaſt expenſive way, by petition or complaint: in which the reſpective barons may, and are hereby required

required to judge, and their judgment to be final, without appeal.

15. To put a ſtop to the abuſe of the laws with regard to ſettlements, it is declared lawful for all perſons to ſeek for work where they can find it; and that the ſettlement of every poor perſon is declared to be the pariſh where the perſon is found ſeeking work, idle, ſuſpicious, or begging; with liberty to the pariſh, where ſo found, to receive the perſon into their workhouſe, or at their own expence, in a humane way, to carry ſuch to the pariſh where they can prove the perſon ſo found continued longeſt at work, from ſeven years of age to the time when found; or to ſuch pariſh or diſtrict where the perſon was found begging or ſeeking work, and was neither taken up, nor furniſhed with work; and upon proof of this before any one governor of a workhouſe, the ſheriff or juſtice of peace of the county where the perſon is to be carried, the perſon is to be adjudged to belong to the pariſh where he or ſhe was found ſeeking work, or begging, and was not taken up; or if carried to the pariſh where he wrought longeſt, and proof made of it, to belong to, and to be received by either of the pariſhes, where firſt carried, and the proof made, under the penalty of 20 l. and if the pariſh, carrying the perſon, fail in the proof, they are to take back and maintain the perſon in their own workhouſe, under the ſame penalty; and in caſe the perſon is under ſeven or eight years of age, the ſettlement is declared to be the pariſh in which ſuch was laſt found idle or begging, and not taken up, or the pariſh in which ſuch was born, and continued for three years, where ſuch may be carried by the pariſh firſt taking them up; and upon proof, to be received, or upon failure of proof, to be rejected in the ſame way, and under the ſame penalties

penalties as laſt mentioned; and in every other caſe, the ſettlement is declared to be the pariſh where it can be proved ſuch perſon was ſeen begging or ſeeking work, and was not taken up.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any pariſh is poor, or hath many poor, and is not well able to ſupport them, the ſheriff of each county, upon application, is hereby empowered to grant warrants for a voluntary collection in the neighbouring pariſh or pariſhes, or through the whole county; or to tax a rich pariſh or pariſhes, or the whole county, for the relief of ſuch pariſh, if not relieved by a voluntary collection. And it is hereby enacted, That the governors of every workhouſe ſhall bear their own charges; and that none eat or drink at the expence of the pariſh or diſtrict, but the poor, the maſter and miſtreſs, and ſervants under them.

And it is further enacted, That the ſheriff of each county (Middleſex only excepted) ſhall be maſter of the revels within his county, with power to tax all public diverſions and ſhews, ſo as not to exceed one third or fourth of the whole gain free of all expence; which taxation is to be applied for enlarging the houſe of correction of the head-burgh of the county, and for providing work for robbers, thieves, and incorrigible rogues; and no perſon is to exhibit or perform any ſhews or diverſions, without liberty from the ſheriff, or his ſubſtitute, under the penalty of 200 l. to be levied by the ſheriff.

ARGU-

ARGUMENTS in Support of the foregoing Heads proposed for a Law.

§ 1. BY the above it appears, when compared with the laws in force, that very little new is to be enacted, except as to the method for rendering the law practicable, and the execution easy. Therefore every parish is left at liberty to do what is enacted by itself, or in conjunction with other neighbouring parishes, as they can agree; if they cannot, the sheriff of every county, who by his office is the principal conservator of the policy and peace of his country, and obliged to put the laws in execution, is, with submission, the most proper person to order every thing that concerns the poor.

One single man clothed with power, independent upon the time and will of others, can in one day do more good, than a multitude in a whole year; and therefore the execution of the laws should never be committed to many, when one can do it.

The publication of such a law, so much for the benefit of the whole nation, in the London Gazette, and other news-papers, is the easiest, cheapest, and most expeditious way to make it known in every corner of the kingdom; and it fixes the time in which every one concerned is to do his duty.

No appeal in matters concerning the poor, seems most reasonable; because the sheriffs, their deputies, or substitutes, can lie under no temptation to judge wrong; and the consequences of appeals, in little things, are often more hurtful to the appellants than a wrong judgment, as it takes them off from their business, learns them to be idle and litigious, and often makes them spend a pound in seeking

seeking redress for a shilling, creates animosities among neighbours and parishes, &c. which cannot be too carefully guarded against, nor so easily, as by suffering no appeal in matters relative to the poor only.

The penalties can hurt none, if the law is obeyed, and cannot be too great if disobeyed; because no good subject can believe he is above the law, and ought to know that the law is above every subject; but if they are too high, they can easily be made less.

§ 2. Experience in all parts has shewn how absolutely necessary workhouses are for repressing begging, &c. and how profitable, by reducing the poors-rates, where they have been used; and how much more would they add to the public benefit, if a room or two were provided in each of them, for the correction of petty pilferers, idlers, and suspicious persons, who, without expence, so soon as apprehended by any, could, by one of the governors of the workhouse, be immediately set to hard or ordinary labour, as the crime deserved.

§ 3. To prevent the necessity of starving, stealing, or begging, &c.

§ 4. and 5. speak for themselves.

§ 6. As none of the laws and rules for the government of the workhouse can take place till approved by the sheriff, there can be no fear of any bad consequences.

§ 7. Every one will give the more chearfully when he has power, not only to advise, but to see that what he gives is profitably laid out, and that the design of it is to prevent and check frauds and mismanagement.

§ 8. is necessary and plain.

§ 9. is new but most reasonable, as it only augments the number who may lawfully apprehend

hend and commit robbers, thieves, beggars, and all idle and ſuſpicious perſons, without expence or trouble to the nation; and as it is the intereſt of the kingdom that ſuch ſhould be apprehended, ſo it is every one's duty to be aiding in it, and every one ought to have power ſo to do; and as oaths are already too frequent, a declaration is ſufficient for committing a beggar, &c.

§ 10. leaves the pariſh or diſtrict at liberty to raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies by charity, or by tax, or by both, or by lottery, if the inhabitants incline ſo to do; which may be allowed reaſonable for once, as the expence of the firſt year may be double, or more than double, of whatever it can coſt again after the purchaſe of houſes and materials, and ſetting the poor to work; and the conjoined pariſhes are at liberty to agree among themſelves in what proportion they are to pay, whether according to the number of poor they ſend, or otherways.

§ 11. As the ſheriff is the proper perſon to have the general inſpection of the county, ſo is the miniſter for inſpection of the pariſh, as he is by his office bound to inſtruct and take care of the poor; therefore this certificate is required: and as they are declared conſtant governors, without any other compulſion than what the duty of their office binds them to, the ſmall trouble of giving the certificate required once every year to the ſheriff, which is the only check upon the certificates from the governors, under a penalty in caſe of diſobedience by any wrong-headed clergyman, will by all other clergymen be thought moſt reaſonable, as proteſtants own their ſubjection to the civil magiſtrate: the reaſon of the governors tranſmitting a certificate is, that the ſheriff may be well informed of the ſtate of the poor in the county, and

and that ſuch a certificate being to be given may make them act the more cautiouſly.

§ 12. This no doubt will put the ſheriff to ſome trouble and expence; but as it is neceſſary, no good man will grudge it, when he conſiders the great good to the nation ariſing therefrom; that in England, for the moſt part, this will be but for once in his life; in Scotland the ſheriff is paid for his ſervice annually, and the ſingle conſideration that the number of felons muſt decreaſe annually, and the lives of many be ſpared by finding them work, and not obliging them to pilfer or ſtarve, will ſurmount every difficulty, and make every thing eaſy, when he has in his eye the good of his country, and the ſaving the lives of his fellow ſubjects; and if this ſingle law be enacted and duly obſerved, it may reaſonably be expected that, in two or three years, as few will ſuffer in Great-Britain for robbing or theft, as in any the beſt governed nation in all Europe.

§ 13. The naming the perſon or perſons, who ſhall have power to ſee the laws relative to the poor put in execution, is not new, but as old as the year 1698; at which time the late glorious king William, and the then parliament of Scotland, gave this power to the privy-council: they wiſely conſidered theſe laws as a beautiful and uſeful machine, conſiſting of wheels and ſprings, which, when wound up and in motion, is of great uſe; but when the ſpring of motion is allowed to go down, and none to wind it up, it muſt ſtand as a piece of uſeleſs and hurtful lumber, till it is again put in motion and made uſeful. But as the privy-council of Scotland was at a great diſtance from his majeſty, no ſuch commiſſion was ever granted: and tho' in his late majeſty's reign and the beginning of his preſent majeſty's, from 1722 to 1733, above ſeventy or

 eighty

eighty workhouſes were built; yet for want of a new law, and a proper perſon to ſee it put in execution, and to keep up the then public ſpirit, the machine is again without motion, and this law is propoſed to ſet it again in motion, and to continue it for ever. The law is plain and ſimple: each county is divided into diſtricts, conſiſting of one or more pariſhes; theſe diſtricts are to hire or build workhouſes, to provide materials for work and maintainance to the poor, to ſuffer none to beg, chooſe managers; theſe are declared a corporation in law, with power to make rules and by-laws; theſe and their management are left open to the inſpection of every contributor they ſerve for two years; the one half new every year; have the powers of juſtices of the peace, in ſo far as concerns the poor within their own limits; are left at liberty in what manner to raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies; indulged with a lottery the firſt year; the miniſters of every pariſh, and the managers of every diſtrict, are to ſend to the ſheriff certificates of the ſtate of every pariſh and diſtrict; and the ſheriff is to ſend theſe to one to be named by his majeſty to receive them; to appoint one to proſecute for the penalties incurred, and tranſmit them to the exchequer; is to viſit once a year the workhouſe of his county; to hear all complaints, and to judge of them without appeal; the perſon to be named is to tranſmit theſe certificates to the exchequer, and to have power to proſecute the ſheriffs neglecting that duty, and to receive no ſalary till he tranſmit them: which office ought to be for life, that he may not be afraid to do his duty; and one is eaſily capable of ſetting the whole machine in motion, both in England and Scotland, by having one office and one clerk in London, and another in Edinburgh, and the above 590*l.* will defray all the

the charges, which ſurely will not be thought extravagant to compleat and carry on a work of ſo much advantage to the nation, and of ſo much glory and renown to his majeſty's reign.

§ 14. And as paſt experience has ſhewn that all other methods hitherto tried have proved ineffectual; this method, at firſt found out by ſo great a prince as king William, and now adapted to the preſent law, may be tried, if his majeſty and the preſent parliament think fit ſo to do.

§ 15. Settlements, tho' well deſigned, for want of workhouſes and materials for the poor to work, had many bad conſequences, ſuch as perſecution, animoſities among neighbours, idleneſs, and great waſte of time and money in finding conſtables, attending juſtices of peace, the quarter ſeſſions, ſearching out witneſſes, attending appeals, even ſometimes to Weſtminſter-hall, &c. Here the ſettlement of a poor perſon is not where he was born, nor where his parents live; becauſe it is often the caſe, that a poor perſon was born in the pariſh A. his parents live in B. and the perſon has laboured ten, twenty, or thirty years in C. and the pariſh D. finds him idle or begging. The law here provides that D. may put him into their own workhouſe, (and, if able to work, will rather be a gainer than a loſer by ſo doing, and have no trouble); but if not able to work, and D. wants to get free of him, is it not more juſt and reaſonable that C. ſhould maintain him, who had the benefit of his labour for ſo many years, than A. and B. where he never laboured?

When the perſon is under ſeven or eight years of age, the ſettlement is made where found idle, or begging, and not taken up, by way of puniſhment, or where he was born, if the parents had wrought for ſome time there; in every other caſe the ſettlement

ment is where found, or where laſt found begging, and not taken up; which ſettlements will be eaſily known, and not at any great diſtance, and will be a ſpur to pariſhes to ſuffer none to beg without taking them up, leſt being found in another pariſh, they be taken up, and returned upon the pariſh which did not apprehend them, as their legal ſettlement, and juſtly, for ſuffering them to beg, in breach of ſo good a law.

And it is no good objection that many may be found in a pariſh, at the time the law takes place, who do not belong to it: this is poſſible, but more imaginary than probable; for every pariſh has its chance, and nothing more fluctuating than the poor; beſides, the objection reaches only to ſtrangers. The known poor of the county can eaſily be ſent to their reſpective ſettlements, and they will naturally chooſe it; ſtrangers for the moſt part are ſtrong and able to work, and no loſs to a pariſh which can furniſh work.

The true cauſe of the barbarity uſed, in whipping the poor from pariſh to pariſh, was this: the pariſh where they were found had no materials provided for giving them work, nor no workhouſe for them to work in. The expence of ſuch an idle perſon may be reckoned at 4 *l.* or 4 *l.* 10 *s.* The appearance of ten ſuch is 40 *l.* or 45 *l.* twenty 80 *l.* or 90 *l.* thirty 120 *l.* or 135 *l.* Such a ſum was a juſt cauſe of alarm; and if every thirty idle people coſts the nation the ſum of 120 *l.* or 135 *l.* what muſt hundreds and thouſands coſt?

But as ſuch houſes and materials are now to be found by law in every pariſh or diſtrict, the cauſe of the alarm ceaſes; and if every ſturdy beggar, or perſon willing to work, but cannot find work, can earn 6 *l.* yearly, and be maintained for 4 *l.* 10 *s.* the gain of one is, to the workhouſe, 1 *l.* 10 *s.* of ten

15 *l.*

15 *l.* of twenty 30 *l.* thirty 45 *l.* which 45 *l.* diminiſhes the poor's rates ſo much yearly: and a well regulated workhouſe wlil rather invite than diſcourage ſtrangers; becauſe the more they can furniſh work to, the leſs will their rates be, and the nation in a few years will be convinced that the Dutch, who refuſe none, are in this reſpect much wiſer than we.

This alone may convince the whole nation how neceſſary it is for its well being, and to prevent its ruin, to force induſtry, and prevent begging, idleneſs, and ſloth by a law; in framing of which, an excellent author ſays, a whole ſeſſion of parliament could not be better ſpent, as it would in a great meaſure be the death of robbery, theft, and idleneſs, without blood, and the parent of induſtry, virtue, morality, and riches, without expence, after providing workhouſes, and materials for work.

Rouſe thyſelf then, O Britain, rouſe thyſelf quickly, and let not even the expence of a French war terrify or fright thee from doing what is ſo humane and profitable, not only to the poor of thy people, but to thyſelf.

If it be alledged, that begging in times of ſcarcity with badges ought to be allowed; this is a bad plea, becauſe few or none are able to beg, but are able either to work, or overſee children or others working; and if they can but earn a penny a day, that is 1 *l.* 10 *s.* yearly profit to the pariſh, and juſt as much loſs if allowed to beg; and therefore begging upon no account ought to be allowed.

The paragraph of relief is only a mitigation of the 43d of Eliz. allowing a collection, firſt to prevent a tax, which, if not ſucceſsful, the ſheriff has no more power than the juſtices of the peace have juſt now by that law: and as to the laſt, diverſions are the parents of idleneſs, and can never be too

ſeverely

ſeverely taxed. The Dutch tax them for maintenance of their poor to the extent, ſometimes, of the one half of the gain; and it is hoped the reaſonableneſs of the thing, and the application to ſo good a purpoſe, will carry this clauſe without any exceptions, if poſſible; if not, with as few as may be.

If it is objected, that what is very profitable will be done without a law enforcing it, it is but reaſonable to think ſo; but daily experience teaches the reverſe, even in private concerns, and much more in things public. One ill-natured miſer in a pariſh is capable of doing more harm, than the whole can do good; and without a law to force him, never will do any thing for the public, or for the poor; therefore a law enacting, in as general comprehenſive words as poſſible, what is to be done by the ſubject, with full and ample powers to thoſe who are to manage for the public, and put the ſame in execution; and at the ſame time to leave to the ſubject the way he ſhall chooſe as the moſt eaſy to fulfill the law, with ſevere penalties in caſe he fail, is abſolutely neceſſary.

It is quite indifferent to the nation, in what manner robbery, thieving, begging, and idleneſs be reſtrained, or induſtry and virtue be promoted; but it is a matter of the higheſt concern to reſtrain the one, and promote the other.

Let one repreſent to his eye a pariſh or county, or if he pleaſes a nation, void of honeſty, chaſtity, virtue, and morality, begging, ſtealing, robbing, idling; and at the ſame time a nation where nothing was to be ſeen but honeſty, chaſtity, virtue, morality, and induſtry, without one idle perſon: how ſhocking is the firſt, how pleaſant and delightful the laſt!

If perſons of all ranks could but be perſuaded once every morning, but for a few moments, ſeriouſly to look upon theſe two very oppoſite pictures, and conſider the duty they owe to their God, their king, and their country, this law would be chearfully, ſpeedily, and unanimouſly enacted, and as chearfully, ſpeedily, and unanimouſly obeyed.

APPENDIX, or Hints, from which may be drawn ſuch Rules for the government of Workhouſes, as will make it more eaſy for the Governors.

1. AS ſoon as the governors are choſen, they may meet and chooſe a preſes for the week, month, quarter, or year.

2. They may divide themſelves into committees, one to form a plan for hiring or building a workhouſe, a houſe of correction, and hoſpital, advertiſe propoſals, receive eſtimates of hiring or building, &c. another for forming a plan for purchaſing materials and inſtruments for work, receive eſtimates, &c. A third for proviſions, wholeſome and cheap, for ready-money, or to be paid weekly. A fourth to receive, from the miniſter and overſeers of every pariſh, the names of the poor in the diſtrict, their ages, infirmities, &c. which, when well conſidered, will give the governors a pretty clear notion of the whole expence.

Theſe committees may conſiſt of one or more perſons, (tho' the committee of one is the moſt expeditious and profitable) who are to report to the whole, of whom may be declared a quorum, who may amend, approve, or diſapprove.

3. They may appoint as many general meetings as they find neceſſary, with a power to the weekly governor to call a general meeting at any time.

4. After finding out, as near as poſſible, the numbers of the poor, and expence of the houſe, a committee may be named for raiſing the ſame, in which the law is to be the rule.

5. From the publication of the act, to near the time of taking in the poor to the houſe, they may be at pains to find out an induſtrious frugal maſter and miſtreſs, well ſkilled in the work propoſed to be carried on in the workhouſe, and may chooſe ſuch with power to them, with the approbation of the weekly governors to chooſe the ſervants under them out of the poor; and if all cannot be had from them, to hire ſuch as are abſolutely neceſſary for teaching to cook, waſh, &c.

6. To make ſuch rules and by-laws as may be found neceſſary to be preſented to the ſheriff for his approbation.

COPY of what is practiſed in St. Andrew's Pariſh Workhouſe, Holborn.

THERE are ſixteen managers, five of whom make a quorum, who meet monthly to inſpect the management of the workhouſe; but every gentleman contributing may attend and aſſiſt the managers or governors.

Theſe managers, in their turns, viſit the workhouſe twice or thrice a week, to redreſs all difficulties which may occur to the maſter, and hear complaints.

Their family conſiſts of a maſter and matron, and of

7 Old men and women (of which two are 80 years of age, and one an idiot) employed in picking oakum.

4 Women and boys ſpin.
9 Knot yarn into caps for ſeamen.
2 Make the woollen cloaths.
2 The linen.
2 Cooks conſtantly attend the kitchen.
4 Get up the linen, and waſh for the houſe.
2 Make beds, clean and waſh the houſe.
2 Mend cloaths, linen, and woollen.
3 Nurſe thoſe that are in the infirmary.
1 School miſtreſs.
21 Children at ſchool, in rotation, as they can be ſpared from their work.
1 Child nurſed.
2 Lunaticks.

62 in all, employed as above in the ſervice of the houſe. Here proviſions are brought by the managers, and the maſter keeps a ſtrict account; and for that and other purpoſes there is, 1. a minute book for the orders of the managers, for admiſſion of the poor, buying proviſions, materials to cloath or employ them, with the manager's name who gives the order.

And there is, 2. the admiſſion-book, ruled with ten columns, to expreſs in one line the following particulars; time of admiſſion, number of perſons admitted, their names, ages, by whom admitted, to what employment put, when diſcharged, by being put apprentice, ſent to the hoſpital, or dead.

3. Wearing apparel-book, where is noted what is brought by each perſon into the houſe, which is immediately cleaned, and what they want is furniſhed out of the houſe wardrobe, and examined once a month, to ſee if any perſon has embezzled any thing.

4. A waſte book, in which every thing brought into, or carried out of the houſe, is entered, or an account of particulars kept on file.

5. The journal, which is a fair tranſcript of the waſte book, thus:

Received into the houſe,

Saturday, September 19, 1730.	l.	s.	d.
8 half-peck loaves - - -	0	5	4
14 Quarts of milk - - -	0	1	5½
80 Pounds of beef - - -	0	16	8
3 Pecks of coals - - -	0	0	7½
Total —	1	4	1

Sunday in the ſame way: which is thence poſted into another book, called

6. The ledger; which ſhews at one view a day, a week, a month, or a year's account, or expence, on every article of proviſion.

In other workhouſes a minute book and ledger is found ſufficient; but the governors will judge beſt of this, and be careful to avoid all unneceſſary expence.

ORDERS to be obſerved in Workhouſes.

I. THAT all perſons, upon their admiſſion, deliver up what houſehold goods and cloaths they are poſſeſſed of, to the maſter, in order to be cleaned and made uſeful for the ſervice of the houſe; that they be new cloathed, and have their proper apartments and employments aſſigned them by the maſter; and if any perſon ſhall conceal any thing, ſuch as linen or woollen, with an intent to ſteal or embezzle the ſame, ſuch perſon ſhall be puniſhed by the weekly governor, or if needful, by two or more, as the crime deſerves.

II. That

II. That prayers be read or ſaid every morning before breakfaſt, and every evening before ſupper; and that a grace be ſaid before and after each meal; and that all thoſe who are able, and do not attend prayers, are to loſe their next dinner.

III. All that are able, and in health, to go every Sunday to church, morning and afternoon; that they return home as ſoon as divine ſervice is over; and if they be found loitering or begging by the way, to loſe their next meal: if at any time they get drunk, or are guilty of profane curſing or ſwearing, to be puniſhed in the ſtocks, or as the weekly governor ſees proper; and to be debarred going out during the maſter's pleaſure.

IV. That no perſon preſume to go out of the ſtreet, or public door leading from the preſcribed bounds, without a ticket of leave from the maſter or miſtreſs, to return in good order at the time appointed, or to be denied going out for ſix months afterwards.

V. That no diſtilled liquor, or other ſtrong drink, be brought into the houſe; and whoever ſhall diſturb the houſe by brawling, quarrelling, fighting, or abuſive language, ſhall loſe one day's meat, and for the ſecond offence be put into the dungeon twenty-four hours.

VI. That every perſon in health ſhall be kept to ſuch labour as they can well do, from the firſt of March to the firſt of October, to work from ſix to ſix or ſeven; from the firſt of October to the firſt of March, from ſeven to five or ſix; and if any grown perſon refuſe to work, to be kept on bread and water in the dungeon, till he is willing to work. The children to be corrected by the maſter.

VII. That all perſons, who through idleneſs may pretend themſelves ſick, lame, or infirm, ſo as to be excuſed from work, ſuch impoſtors ſo diſcovered, either

either by their ſtomachs or by the phyſician, ſhall be puniſhed by the weekly governors, by reſtricting his allowance of meals, confinement in the dungeon, ſtocks, or ſtanding with a paper on his breaſt, while the reſt are at dinner.

VIII. That a bell be rung every morning in the ſummer by five, and in the winter by ſix, for the healthful people to riſe to work, and to go to bed in ſummer by nine, in the winter by eight; and that the maſter ſee all the candles of the men and boys, and the miſtreſs thoſe of the women and girls, put out at that time.

IX. That all the beds be made by thoſe who lie in them, by turns, as ſoon as thoſe who are in health, riſe; the reſt (or all) by ſervants before the hour of the rooms and paſſages ſwept before to be waſhed times a week in ſummer, and in winter, the diſhes to be waſhed after every meal, no waſte fire to be made, in ſummer none at all, except in the infirmary, kitchen, and waſh-houſe, in time of waſhing and ironing.

X. That all the children be waſhed and cleaned by in the morning, and ſome proper perſon choſen to teach them to read, to labour and work in ſuch things as may be moſt beneficial; and likewiſe as they grow up, to be taught to write and caſt accompts, to fit them for apprenticeſhips, and not permitted to play until they have finiſhed their taſk.

XI. That all the proviſions be cleanly and well dreſſed, to go to breakfaſt in ſummer at eight, in winter at nine, dinner all the year at one, ſupper ſeven or eight, to be allowed half an hour at breakfaſt, an hour at dinner; and all they who have not done their taſk by ſupper, to work afterwards till finiſhed; and great care is to be taken that they ſit decently at meat.

XII. That

XII. That the nurſes take care to mend all the linen and cloaths; when any perſon dies to deliver the cloaths clean and neat to the maſter, to be laid up in the wardrobe or ſtore-room, and alſo every thing elſe they die poſſeſſed of, for the uſe of the houſe.

XIII. That if any perſon fall ſick or lame, notice to be given to the apothecary or ſurgeon with all convenient ſpeed to be taken care of; and ſuch other victuals than what is daily uſed be allotted to the patient, as ſhall be thought proper by the phyſician.

XIV. That no penſion be allowed to any penſioner out of the houſe, unleſs in caſe of lunacy, plague, ſmall-pox, foul diſeaſe, or ideotiſm, and that the money collected for the uſe of the poor be applied for that purpoſe.

XV. That no perſon be allowed to ſmoak in bed, or in any room of the houſe, upon pain of being put ſix hours in the dungeon.

XVI. That a book be kept, wherein the names and ſurnames of every grown perſon ſhall be ſet down, and called every morning by ſix in the ſummer, ſeven or eight in the winter, and at one in the afternoon; and if any of the ſaid perſons be miſſing, or any other offences committed by any in the houſe, the ſame ſhall be noted and ſet down, in order that the offender may be examined by the weekly governor, and puniſhed.

XVII. That the weekly governor be at the houſe twice every week, to weigh and value all manner of proviſions that come in, whether wholeſome and good, according to the contract, and to examine into the management of the maſter and miſtreſs; and likewiſe to hear the complaints and grievances of the poor (if any) and to puniſh or report to the governors at next meeting.

XVIII.

XVIII. That every perſon endeavour to keep a good unity, and look upon themſelves as one family; and to prevent any diſpute which may create differences among themſelves by forging or telling lies, ſuch perſon ſo offending (upon good proof) ſhall be ſet on a ſtool in the moſt public place of the dining room, with a paper put on his breaſt, while at dinner, with theſe words wrote, *Infamous Lyar*; and likewiſe to loſe that meal.

XIX. That care be taken that none of the materials be waſted or ſpoiled; that there be no defacing of walls, or breaking of windows; and that theſe orders be publickly read once in every week, that none may pretend ignorance.

In ſome houſes, thoſe who have been houſekeepers in repute, are lodged in the beſt apartments, and eat at a different table, that they may not be incommoded by the noiſe of the common poor, who are clamorous and unaccuſtomed to good manners.

Some are not allowed to go to church in the afternoon, but attend prayers and reading the ſcriptures at home, to prevent goſſiping and coming home late.

In ſome the maſter not only keeps exact accounts of proviſions received and expended, but of all work, what is delivered to each perſon, and what is received back each day, which accounts ought to be well looked into by the weekly governor.

The poor to be admitted by order of the weekly governor, in his abſence by the maſter, or immediately ſent to their reſpective ſettlements, as the law now directs, that none may beg or be idle; upon admiſſion be examined by the nurſes or ſurgeon, if free of diſeaſe, and clean; and that ſepa-

rate wards be aſſigned to ſuch as are not ſo, in due time, that others be not infected.

That each may have two ſhirts, one clean every week, and be marked with their name.

That the girls may be inſtructed (as far as the cook and other ſervants can inſtruct them) in cookery, houſewifery, waſhing, ſcouring, &c. by turns.

That wormwood be provided to fumigate the wards, rooms, and infirmaries, be uſed in waſhing linen and in beds, and to be laid in all bed ſheets.

In ſome the houſe is viſited by one of the governors every day, who is to view every ward, the manufactures, materials, and proviſions; to give audience to all the poor who deſire it, to ſee proviſions brought in, weighed, and meaſured, and the weight and meaſure entered, to prevent fraud.

And a general view is to be taken four times a year by all the governors, of all the poor in the workhouſe; their particular circumſtances to be examined, what work they are employed in, how they behave, what children are fit to be put apprentices, or to ſervice, and to hear the complaints of the poor.

If any deſire to ſpeak with any of the poor, tho' their neareſt relations, the door-keeper is not to call them without leave; and if he ſuſpect the bringing in of any ſtrong waters, or the carrying out any thing belonging to the houſe, he is to ſtop them, and give immediate notice to the maſter, that enquiry and ſearch, if neceſſary, may be forthwith made.

None of the poor are to aſk for money or drink from any who come to view the workhouſe, there being a box for them.

If any of the poor know of any offence and do not diſcover it, he ſhall be held as guilty of the

offence; if he discover it, he shall have a reward from the master.

That the nurses take care to search all the beds for fleas, buggs, aud other vermin once a week, or oftner.

That children from three years of age to five, be taught to read, from five to nine to work, and read an hour or two every day, from nine to write and cast accounts for two hours every day.

When any person dies, the nurse attending that ward, shall immediately go for a coffin, and the dead person being decently laid in the coffin, shall be brought to the room appointed for that purpose; if she neglect, to be punished.

Every servant to have a small weekly, monthly, or quarterly reward, as they are careful, and the poor according to the quantity of work wrought, regard being had to the age or infirmity of the person; wages for masters, mistresses, and servants, must be according to the rates of the county, and what they do.

Some bake their own bread, and brew their own ale, others contract for these with the brewers and bakers by turns, or as best and cheapest served; for these, and every thing necessary for the house, contracts may be entered into; money may be borrowed for building, &c. and paid by degrees without augmenting the yearly rates.

Bills of fare must be regulated according to the custom of the county, and in country places may be such as farmers give their servants.

If two or more parishes agree to have one workhouse, they need do no more but write down the heads of agreement, and present them to the sheriff when he comes to divide the county into districts; and his approbation by making them a district,

district, confirms the agreement which the law allows them to make.

In the first election of governors, persons of too high or too low a rank ought not to be chosen; see 43 of Eliz. 2. where the church-wardens and four, three, or two housholders are appointed governors; those of a high rank do not, nor cannot, for the most part, know the tempers of poor people, their dispositions, or how they are to be managed; too low people have not time to spare for such purposes; therefore those of small estates, merchants, substantial tradesmen, and farmers who live constantly in the district, will be the most proper governors: but all of the highest degree are not to be excluded; because some of those, who have noble and public spirits, hearts full of love to their country, and a fellow-feeling with the poor, have been at pains to consider and know their case, and therefore are the most proper for governors, especially at first.

Unanimity in districts and governors to do what is enacted, as far as possible, will be of great service; none must expect a perfect law; if it is practicable it ought to be done; if any thing better occurs, it may be made known to the sheriffs, by them to the persons to be named by his majesty, and by them to parliament for an amendment.

From these imperfect hints, it is hoped the governors of no workhouse can be at a loss to form such by-laws and regulations as may best suit them, and their own sagacity will furnish them with such as may be necessary for their particular house, and are not hinted at here; and it is not doubted but, by the blessing of God, the whole nation will reap the benefit, and that every family in a few years, by paying to the workhouse, will save the one half of what they now give to the poor; that the poor will

will be better provided, induſtry promoted, begging and idleneſs; with their hideous train of vices and immoralities ſuppreſſed; if ſo, what happy days may Britain yet expect!

I have only one favour to aſk of the critics, which is, that where they find fault, they would be ſo kind to the public as to put ſomething better in its place; if not, ſilence is better than raiſing of duſt; becauſe as far as induſtry is preferable to idleneſs, ſo far is a law to promote the firſt and ſuppreſs the laſt, tho' in many reſpects imperfect, preferable to no law.

F I N I S.