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From the Author

LETTER

OF

CHARLES C. WESTERN, ESQ.

M.P. FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX,

TO HIS

CONSTITUENTS,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

The Foreign Corn Trade.

AUGUST 5th, 1814.

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1814.

[Price One Shilling.]

SHIRAZI

THE HONORABLE J. H. W. ...

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TO THE
FREEHOLDERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

GENTLEMEN,

The introduction of the bill in the session just closed, for regulating the foreign trade of corn, having excited a strong interest in the public mind; and having myself taken an active and decided part upon the subject, I am anxious to communicate to you, through every possible channel, my sentiments upon that important question. I am still more desirous so to do, on account of the total misapprehension of the subject which generally prevails, and the arts which have been made use of to mislead the public judgment.

Whenever our feelings are deeply interested, our understandings are more liable to be led astray, but if the facts of this case were fairly placed before the view of the people, so as to induce a calm and deliberate enquiry, I am convinced that the strong sense and discretion which so generally marks their conduct, would predominate in the present instance, and the first impression, arising very naturally from a superficial view of the question, would be completely removed.

In describing to you my opinion upon this subject, and explaining its various consequences, I must beg you to remember that the Corn Bill was solely applicable to the *foreign* trade, which has been at all times subject to *some* regulations. These have varied materially at different periods of our history: at one time prohibiting by high duties the importation of foreign corn and encouraging the export of our own; at another restricting exports, and giving comparative facility to imports. The question has been, and still is, To what extent these regulations should be carried, and how far it is wise to trust to *foreign* corn, or rely upon *our own* produce? There are persons, indeed, who imagine that we have not the means of growing corn

enough for our consumption; but when we consider, that in Great Britain there are not less than 20,000,000* acres of uncultivated waste lands, and that one bushel increase per acre, of those lands, annually applied to the growth of bread corn, supposing them to be only 10,000,000†, would amount to more than the average importation of the last ten years, their fears, I think, must vanish entirely. I have no doubt that we have the means of supporting double or treble our present population, and that the only cause of the deficiency of our own growth has been the attraction of a larger proportion of capital to manufactures than agriculture. In late years an

* A Committee of the Board of Agriculture, in the year 1795, drew up an account of the waste lands in England, Wales, and Scotland. It was founded upon the county reports, measurement of certain maps, and other more general information, and the result was as follows:

England	-	-	-	6,259,470
Wales	-	-	-	1,629,307
Scotland	-	-	-	14,218,224
				22,107,001

Exclusive of 640,000 acres of rock and sand.

No account is here taken of waste lands in Ireland.

† Result of various calculations. Vide Appendix, No. II. The total amount of acres in *England* only, as detailed in the returns to Parliament of the poor rates, drawn up under the inspection of the Right Hon. G. Rose, is 37,334,400.

increased share of capital has, indeed, been directed to agriculture; and the extension and improvement of our cultivation has been rapid in consequence. Our present abundance is a proof of it; and even in the years 1811 and 1812, though the price was certainly very high, we were *not* indebted to foreign countries for any part of our consumption. Our exports in those two years exceeded our imports to the amount of 600,000 quarters of corn, and 174,266 cwt. of flour*; and if it is said that the corn was exported to feed our own population abroad, it must also be remembered that we had the waste of war to contend with, and probably an equal number of foreigners, including prisoners, in this country to maintain. In the year 1813 the accounts are imperfect, in consequence

* Total exports and imports of the years 1811 and 1812, taken from accounts laid before the House of Commons.

	Corn and Grain.	Meal and Flour.	Rice.	Official Value.
	Qrs.	Cwts.	Cwts.	£
Total Exports -	1,115,934	259,885	116,213	3,077,819
Imports -	515,649	85,619	208,127	2,335,192
Balance Exports	600,265	174,266	91,914	742,627
			Balance Imports	

of the destruction of the Custom House: but in the quarter ending April 5th, 1814, our exports, *British and foreign*, of corn and grain, have exceeded our imports by 86,918 quarters, and our exports of meal and flour have exceeded our imports by 67,200 cwt.: the account of the last quarter to July 5th, is not yet come in.

Convinced of our ability, at all times, to grow corn enough for our own consumption, I have always entertained a decisive opinion that it is our *interest*, including of course that of the *consumer* as well as the *grower*, to throw off all dependence upon foreign countries, and if possible rather make them tributary to us, as they were for the first sixty years of the last century*. It is, in my opinion, not only our interest, but our *duty* to provide from *our own* soil the means of subsistence for our own population; it is indispensable to our political independence, and to the maintenance of our power and rank amongst the nations of the world. It has always appeared to me that a great nation should

* In the first thirty years of the last century the *excess* of our *annual exports* was on an average 345,392 quarters, and the average market price of wheat at home was 36s. 6d. In the next thirty years the *excess* of *exports* was 642,182 quarters, and the price at home only 30s.

be independent for its food, as an individual ought to be for his livelihood, and should neither beg nor borrow of its neighbours.

In the first place, let us recollect, that whilst we are so anxious to have *foreign* corn, the people of those countries from whence it is to be drawn may be equally desirous to keep it for their own use; in the next place, their governments may not choose to let it come, they may prevent it, for various reasons; if at war, to injure us, or they may stop it to please their own people, or they may, in proportion to our wants, levy duties upon the exportation of it; and we have had evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, that such has been *usually* the practice. The Prussian Government, I am told, at one time levied a duty as high as forty per cent. upon the export; and I subjoin a copy of a decree of that State*, by which it will appear the above-mentioned objects are always kept in view, and at *that* time the duty imposed was nearly seventeen per cent. In France, the export of corn has been recently prohibited; and I am informed by persons just arrived from thence, that such was the rising clamour

* Vide Appendix, No. 1.

of the people against exportation, that the merchants would hardly have dared to hold large stocks for exportation, even if the permission to export had not been withdrawn. America, we know, at one time, withheld altogether her corn, on account of a quarrel with this country. We ourselves exerted every effort to prevent corn getting to France, when she was distressed in 1792; and at a former period of our history, when we annually grew and exported a surplus produce of nearly 600,000 quarters, we at once stopped it upon the apparent wants we at that time felt. How vain, how fatal may it then be to rely upon foreign countries, which, from so many various causes, may be induced to withhold their supplies, when we stand most in need of them.

The largest quantity of grain of all sorts we have ever drawn from foreign countries in one year, has been about 2,400,000 quarters; and this we extracted by the great price we paid for it, amounting in that year to £10,149,000. Between the years 1796 and 1803 we paid £2,826,947. for *bounties* upon the importation of corn, exclusive of the price of the corn itself, which cost us £30,339,322. and was probably all remitted in specie. Upon an average of the

last eight or ten years we have imported annually about a million of quarters of all sorts of grain, which I really believe, notwithstanding the number of guineas it may have cost us, is not much more than a fortieth part of our consumption*. Reverting again to the observation before made, it is evident one single bushel per acre added to or subtracted from the produce of ten million of acres, being the number on which about forty million of quarters of grain are supposed to be grown, would make a difference of more than our average importation, and two bushels per acre would equal the largest import of any one year. The effect, therefore, that must arise from a very slight improvement or deterioration of our own cultivation, will make a greater difference in the aggregate amount of our annual supply of food, than the whole quantity we have hitherto drawn from *foreign* countries. You are in general well acquainted with the difference between the produce of the same farm, when cultivated in a spirited and judicious, or a sparing and slovenly manner; it is hardly credible to those who have no practical knowledge of agriculture. If I was to say one quarter per acre, instead of one or two bushels, I should be still within the mark; and if it was possible,

* Vide Appendix, No. 2.

by the introduction of foreign corn at this time, in addition to our own abundance, to keep the price down for two or three years below that which will remunerate the farmer under the present amount of his charges, a miserable sparing cultivation would ensue, and a consequent rapid diminution of our own growth: many farmers would be under a necessity of curtailing every possible expenditure; some would chuse to do it, or lay down a part of their lands to pasture; all would be as economical as they could, and the declension of produce would, from these circumstances combined, be so great, that in a very short time, comparatively, we should have corn as dear as it has been during these last few years. The people of this country will do well to consider, that they are indebted solely to the fruits of British and Irish* agriculture, that the price of corn is so low as it is at present. It is not the quantity that can be drawn from *foreign* nations that can keep the

* In five years, ending 1796, the official value of corn imported into Great Britain from Ireland was - - - - - £1,809,650
 In five years, ending 1812, it has amounted to £7,259,136
 and that quantity is capable of being still further increased to an immense extent.

price down for *any length* of time; that quantity must ever be small in proportion to our aggregate consumption, and the price will be governed accordingly. It never was, I believe, in any one year much more than a twentieth part, and in general not above a fortieth, or five and thirtieth at most*. Suppose that by uniformly encouraging the introduction of foreign corn, it should amount *annually* to a twentieth part, which perhaps is possible, it surely must be evident that the price of one twentieth would still be governed by that of the other nineteen; if the British farmers, in consequence of the heavy charges upon agriculture in this country, cannot grow it under a certain price, the nineteen parts must be paid for at such a rate as will induce them to continue its cultivation, and the remaining twentieth inevitably will come up to that rate, whatever it may be. The fact is, the British demand generally governs the price in those countries from whence we draw our principal supplies, which, by a comparison of their prices and ours, might be satisfactorily proved †.

* Vide Appendix, No. 2.

† Prices of best wheat in Dantzic in the years 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, per last of 10½ quarters, and of British whea per quarter, at the same periods.

Upon the whole, I think it is *not probable* that we shall draw more corn from foreign countries than we have done, on the average of the last ten years; at the same time, there are certainly circumstances which, concurring together, and in themselves not very extraordinary, *might* induce a more extensive importation. A very abundant crop throughout Europe, and a large supply from America coming in likewise, would throw, unless prohibited by law, a vast quantity of grain into our markets, however low the price of British corn might be. Poland, and some other countries bordering on the Baltic, generally grow a surplus of wheat for exportation, and in such case would have a superfluity that *must* be got rid of at any rate. Here is the danger to the growers of corn in this country, that the *foreign* supply may be overpowering, when *not* wanted; and to the consumers, that it may *not* be forth-

Prices in Dantzic.

	Florins.	£ s. d.
1800 July - -	1,050 - - -	5 13 7
1801 July - -	1,030 - - -	5 18 3
1802 July - -	760 - - -	3 7 5
1803 July - -	630 - - -	2 16 6
1804 July - -	550 - - -	3 0 0

At this time the price of wheat at Dantzic is not above 380 florins the last.

coming when *it is* wanted, thus discouraging and injuring the British farmer on the one hand, and on the other, disappointing and distressing the consumer in the time of the greatest difficulty; increasing also that distress in an infinite degree, by the previous depression of our own agriculture. In any view of the case I cannot help coming to the same conclusion, that in order to *secure* a regular supply of corn at a steady and moderate price, we must depend exclusively upon our *own* industry, and the fruits of our *own* soil.

Let me now draw your attention to the advantage of having our food within our own power, and generally to the beneficial consequences resulting from the prosperous state of our own agriculture. There certainly are no classes of people who do not participate in its effects; every description of country artizan, the blacksmith, collar-maker, wheelwright, carpenter, and bricklayer, feel it directly: but not only these, every other description of tradesmen, those of my constituents, whom I am now addressing, in all the various employments in that line of life, must, I am sure, concur in the truth of what I am now asserting; your books and ledgers must prove it to demonstration, and

even the labourer feels it in the demand for labour, which is the commodity he has to bring to market. On the other hand, if agriculture languishes, all other trades and manufactures participate in its decline, and the labourer is obliged perhaps to spend one or two days out of six in hunting after employment. Our *own* corn too is always at command, neither dependant upon war, jealousy of rival powers, or danger and damage of the seas; whilst we grow it ourselves, we are also adding to our actual strength, power, and independence as a nation; when we draw it from *foreign* countries, we are sending our money abroad to cultivate their lands, encrease their population and their riches, to enable them more effectually to rival, to combat with, and distress us when engaged in war. These observations, I am confident, when addressed to the good sense of our countrymen, cannot fail to have their just weight with the people in all ranks of life.

In the examination of this important subject, it is necessary to advert to the *causes* and *effects* of the *price* of corn, which indeed are equally applicable to the price of all other articles. Price is certainly a just estimate of *comparative* plenty or scarcity, as it must always be governed by the proportion of supply and demand; but high price is

not *always* a decisive proof of scarcity, nor low price of abundance; high price *may* be the consequence of diminished value of money, by excessive issue of paper, or deterioration of the coin, or it *may* be the consequence of the great wealth of a country combined with heavy taxation; but it does not therefore follow *necessarily* that the quantity of corn grown, in proportion to the number of the people, is smaller than in less wealthy and less taxed countries. If the price of corn in France is forty shillings per quarter, and in England eighty shillings, and the people in France earn but half as much as in England, their situation will not be better—it must so far be only equal. If wheat in England is reduced from twenty-five pounds per load to twelve pounds ten shillings, and labour reduced from eighteen to nine shillings a week, the quantity of corn grown not being altered, the people are in exactly the same situation as they were. The difference therefore is not in the *price*, it is the abundance of food in proportion to the number of mouths there are to eat it, which must ever be the main consideration. I do not mean to say that taxes and all charges upon the produce of any article have not an inevitable tendency to advance the price, and sometimes also to diminish production; on the contrary, I am aware they

have a most decisive effect, because the producers must indemnify themselves for the payment of them; and if they cannot do so, some of them will give up their trade, the produce diminishes, and then the price rises. But the increasing wealth of a country *may* enable the people to pay a higher price for commodities, and yet to enjoy as large a proportion of the comforts of life as their poorer and less taxed neighbours in other countries. The late high prices have arisen from the combined effects of all the causes just enumerated; but the great evil of all, and from which the people of this country have most suffered, is the excessive *fluctuation* of price of the chief articles of food, so that the price of labour and other commodities has not had time to settle to the same proportions, and that people in consequence have not known how to apply their capitals and industry, and regulate their expenditure.

Our taxes in this country have had, unquestionably, a great effect in advancing the price of all articles; if the rent of land has doubled in the last twenty years, our taxes have nearly quadrupled; they amount at present, including the war taxes, to £62,521,603: the total annual charge for debts, payable in Great Britain, including

the annual payments to the Sinking Fund, is £39,337,216. There will be great difficulty in bringing our peace establishment within our present revenue. We ought to do more—we *must take off our property-tax*; our revenue will then be reduced to little more than fifty millions a year, and even this sum, insufficient as it would be, could not possibly be raised annually, if the incomes of landlords and tenants, and the price of all articles not directly connected with land, were permanently brought to a level of what they were twenty or twenty-five years ago.

In the year 1792 our annual taxation amounted only to £16,433,221. now, as before observed, it is above £62,000,000. It is utterly impossible therefore that sixty or even fifty millions of taxes can be drawn from the same rents and incomes, which in 1792 were only charged with sixteen millions a year. I doubt whether the entire income of the country much exceeded sixty millions at that time. The actual wealth of the United Empire has no doubt vastly increased in the last twenty years; but allowing the utmost latitude to the increased means we possess, derived therefrom, I am confident we should only deceive ourselves if we were to suppose we could pay the public creditors, and keep up an ade-

quate peace establishment, if the prices of all articles were permanently reduced to the rate at which they were at that period.

Many invidious remarks have been made upon the effect of rent on the price of corn; and I am in consequence desirous to make some observations upon that part of the subject. Rent is in fact a share of the profits of agriculture; that share which the landlord takes for his capital, vested in land, and as such must by degrees rise or fall as the profit of agriculture rises or falls, it forms no doubt an ingredient in the natural price of corn, as the interest upon the farmer's capital of live and dead stock, and all his other charges do, but it does not determine the *market* price of corn any more than his other charges, which the recent fall of wheat, from thirty-six to seventeen pounds a load, abundantly proves: considering, however, rent in the light of a charge upon agriculture, and as such, *eventually* influencing the price of corn, let us see to what extent it will operate thereon, and consequently upon the price of bread. Suppose an acre of land to produce three quarters of wheat, which will make two hundred and forty quarter loaves, it will be obvious at once that ten shillings per acre rent added or subtracted will make only

about two farthings difference in the price of the quarter loaf, and so on, of course, in proportion. I have made the calculation also on a course of crops, on farms differently cultivated, and have found in that way, that ten shillings an acre rent will not make more than two farthings and about seven tenths of a farthing difference in the price of the loaf; now let us in the same point of view advert to the effects of the malt-tax. I will suppose the barley grown on an average to be five quarters per acre, the tax on which per quarter is thirty-four shillings and eight pence, which multiplied by five, amounts to £8. 14s. ; and divided by four, barley being grown only once in four years, gives £2. 3s. 6d. per annum per acre for the malt-tax alone. I need not enumerate other taxes, you are too well acquainted with them to make it necessary; they also certainly operate directly and indirectly to a great extent. The other unavoidable charges of farming have also been very heavy, and must continue for a time nearly as much so. Manual labour only, upon the average of Essex farms, is not less than forty shillings an acre, to which add rates for poor, highways, church, and county tradesmen's bills, original purchase and expense of horses,

and all live and dead stock, and wear and tear, and interest of capital employed, all must be paid to maintain our *necessary* establishments, preserve our *faith* inviolable with the *public creditors*, and keep our tradesmen and labourers fully employed. Prices of every thing may, and probably will, progressively diminish, and our taxes will also diminish, but the diminution must be gradual, and they must all go together.

It is quite out of my power to compress within the compass of this letter the various topics and considerations which will occur to those who have at all reflected upon this subject; but before I take my leave of you, I must again revert to the object of the Corn Bill, which, I must beg you to recollect, could have no further influence upon the price of corn, than by its effect on the importation of the growth of *foreign* countries. I think I have shewn you the dangers of placing too much reliance upon such resources. Supposing they can supply you cheaper, the advantage must be more than counter-balanced by the probability of its being withheld at the time best and most in need of it; and certainly if they can and do for *a time* give us corn cheaper, as it is *possible* they might, in that case they would, in the same proportion,

distress our own agriculture, and put out of cultivation our inferior lands, which would not pay the present expenses of tillage, even if they yielded no rent at all to the landlord; and then in some future war we should have ample reason to lament any momentary advantage from *present* diminution of price. I will not now enter into a detail of the corn laws in the different periods of our history; but take the liberty of referring you to a publication containing those observations, which I made in the House of Commons this year upon the question, in which I endeavoured to give a concise view of their several enactments. I will only observe, that under those laws, which gave the greatest protection to our own agriculture, and even encouraged by bounty the exportation of corn, and which laws were confirmed and settled at the Revolution, we had the most abundant supply at the most moderate and steady price*; and in fact, considering the great difference in the produce of seasons, in order to have a *sufficient* supply in *bad* years, we ought to have a *surplus* in *good* years, which surplus must be taken off by an export, or by consumption at

* Vide Appendix, No. 3.

home in distilleries, breweries, or some other means, and partly be kept on in granaries or stack-yards, to make up the deficiency of bad and unproductive harvests.

I doubt not, Gentlemen, that some of you, whom I have now the honour of addressing, may hesitate to admit the correctness of my reasoning upon this subject, and there may be those who perhaps imagine my judgment is in some degree warped by considerations of private interest; I am by no means inclined to deny that my opinion *may* be liable to such an influence, at the same time *I believe* it is founded upon a just and enlarged view of the general interests of the Empire. As my property is vested in land, I feel, no doubt, in common with other landholders, *individually* concerned in any question directly affecting the agriculture of the country, and I think this very circumstance most naturally and properly calls my immediate attention to it. Who can we expect to understand or attend to the true interests of a particular class of people, if those who belong to it do not? And how is it possible to separate the interest of individuals from the interest of a particular class, or even of the nation at large, the prosperity of which grows out of that of the individuals who

compose it? In like manner the real interest of all the different classes, agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial, depends each upon that of the others, nor can one decline without soon communicating some portion of its disease to the rest. My aim and object therefore is, to take a liberal and comprehensive view of the just and permanent *interests* of agriculture, the promotion of which, whilst it benefits the owners and occupiers of land, benefits also the *entire* community. Agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity, it has been so considered by the wisest men in all ages and all countries; but whilst it forms that basis, it receives in return its support from the other branches of industry. Those who grow corn must have customers for it; the multitude at large are the customers, and the extent of their number, and amount of their earnings, therefore, govern the extent and value of the market; it is thus that the universal prosperity of all classes is equally essential to the prosperity of those engaged in agriculture.

If I was to take a *contracted* view of this subject, I am not at all sure that it might not be more advantageous to myself and others, whose property is placed under similar circumstances, to pursue a policy very different to that which I have hitherto supported: I am convinced the

more we become dependent upon *foreign* countries, the *higher* in the *end* will be the price of corn, though it might be depressed for a time. In this country we derive advantages from vicinity to London, general wealth, and population of its inhabitants; good markets, good quality of grain, &c. that would, I think, altogether enable the landholders to sustain the first shock of excessive importation. Similar advantages in other parts of the kingdom would have the same effect; superior quality of soil would also support through great difficulties, those who have the good fortune to possess it: on the other hand, *poor* farmers in *poor* countries, with *a bad* sample and *a bad* market, would be ruined in great numbers, and their produce thus withdrawn, added to the effect of a generally diminished cultivation, would more than counteract in a very short time any supplies that could be extracted from *foreign* countries; in addition to which, we all know how much *alarm* advances price: as the proportion of our food drawn from *foreign* countries increased, those apprehensions must be more frequent and serious, independent of the effects of the actual deprivation of those supplies, that from war and other casualties would often occur. These circumstances can hardly have escaped the notice of those who have looked into this sub-

ject, and experience has also constantly shewn the price to be *high*, in proportion to the extent of our dependence upon *foreign* corn. If however I were governed by *such* views, I should be pursuing a mean and narrow policy, and sacrificing *secure* and *legitimate* interests to projects of advantage incompatible with the general welfare of the community. I earnestly hope *you* will give a full and fair consideration to this important subject. I shall be extremely happy to find your sentiments coincide with my own, and am sanguine enough to believe the more the subject is investigated, the more that is likely to be the case. I have the highest respect for your opinion; at the same time I know that it is my duty to act upon the best judgment I am able to form, which will be always directed to the interest, happiness, and prosperity of the nation at large.

I have the honor to be,

GENTLEMEN,

With the highest respect,

Your faithful and obedient,

CHARLES C. WESTERN.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX. No. I.

His Prussian Majesty apprises the committee of the merchants of Dantzic, in answer to their representation of the 26th of last month, that the object of the high duty on the exportation of wheat, is to prevent the excessive rise of the prices of this species of grain in the interior, from the situation of things abroad; to secure to the inland consumer, at whose expense the corn-dealers and cultivators would otherwise enrich themselves, a fair preference over foreigners; and to get a fund, by means of the duty, by which the consumer may be aided, in such places and at such times as may be thought necessary. To this end, and in the prospect of an even less than moderate harvest in Prussia, the duty, *which must always be governed by the internal and external situation of things*, cannot at present be lower than it is already fixed. And the inhabitants of Prussia (proper) have so much the less reason to complain as, during the best

part of the year, when in all the other provinces the export was prohibited, they enjoyed it perfectly free, and carried it to such a point, that in order to secure the interior from want and excessive prices, the further exportation must have been completely prohibited, if a milder remedy had not been found in the duty.

All the subordinate considerations respecting the interest of trade, mentioned by the petitioners, must give way to these reasons of a higher nature; and the alteration, or the complete renunciation of the measure cannot take place.

(Signed) FRIEDRICK WILHELM.

*Charlottenburg,
the 4th August, 1800.*

To the Committee of the Merchants of Danzig.

APPENDIX. No. II.

The following estimate of the growth of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, in the United Empire, is drawn out by Arthur Young, Esq. I have formed mine on the same principles; but estimating the produce of Wheat at only twenty bushels per acre, and considering the growth

of the other grains not to come so often in the general course of husbandry, I find a lower result, but am far from positive that mine is the accurate. It will be obvious, the larger proportion of our consumption drawn from our own agriculture, the greater the evils resulting from its depression.

Population of Great Britain - - 12,596,803.

If we refer to Smith's division of the people into the consumers of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, according to the population of his time, and proportion that division to the present number of the people, the consumers of Wheat in England (including a small quantity of Rye) will appear to be 8,500,000 each eating a quarter per annum.

Population of England and Wales 10,791,115, whose consumption may thus be calculated:

	Qrs.
Wheat consumed in bread - - - -	8,500,000
Consumed, not in bread - - - -	100,000
	<hr/> 8,600,000
Deduct balance of export and import on the average of 1811 and 1812 - - }	187,162
	<hr/> 8,412,838
Add for seed one-ninth - - - - -	934,759
	<hr/> 9,347,597

If the produce be 22 bushels per acre, the acres employed will be 3,399,126; and taking Wheat at one-fifth of the arable, and Barley and Oats as occupying half as much land again as Wheat, the acres of those two grains will be 5,098,686; and the produce at $4\frac{1}{2}$ quarters per acre will be 22,944,100; and the total of White Corn will be 32,291,697 quarters; if we allow proportionably for the population of Scotland, it will add 5,401,283 quarters.

As Oats are much consumed in Scotland, and the amount in quarters much exceeded the consumption in Wheat per head, this seems to be a moderate allowance.

Total consumption of Great Britain, 37,692,980 quarters.

In regard to Ireland, the authorities referred to by Mr. Wakefield will not allow us to suppose a greater population than that of five millions; and it is well known that the great basis of their support is the potatoe: we must however remember, that all the higher classes, with a large proportion of the inhabitants of towns, as well as counties in the north of that kingdom, are supported on Corn. If all these circumstances permit us to estimate them as equal to

the entire nourishment of $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions of persons, and allow to each (as their consumption is both of Wheat and Oats, but the latter in the far greatest proportion) 18 bushels,* the total will be 3,375,000 quarters; and the grand total for the United Kingdom will be 41,067,980 quarters; which would occupy in the growth about 10,000,000 acres.

* Smith calculates the consumption of Oats at 23 bushels per head per annum—*Tracts on the Corn Trade*, p. 161.

APPENDIX. No. III.

A TABLE, shewing the Average Prices of Middling Wheat per Statute Quarter, the Exports and Imports of every sort of Corn, Flour, and Meal; by Average of Five Years, from 1697 to 1764, both inclusive.

Period of Encouragement to British Agriculture.	PERIODS.	The Price of Wheat per Statute Qr.	The Excess of Exports.	The Excess of Imports.
		s. d.	Qrs.	
	5 years ending 1701	42 8	139,866	
	6 ditto..... 1707	25 11	289,304	
	4 ditto..... 1711	49 9	299,367	
	4 ditto..... 1715	37 8	453,986	
	4 ditto..... 1719	33 1	485,852	
	5 ditto..... 1724	28 10	532,732	
	5 ditto..... 1729	37 7	216,643	
	5 ditto..... 1734	25 9	468,844	
	5 ditto..... 1739	30 10	597,462	
	5 ditto..... 1744	28 7	446,378	
	5 ditto..... 1749	27 9	932,593	
	5 ditto..... 1754	30 5	1,080,077	
	5 ditto..... 1759	36 2	273,805	
	5 ditto..... 1764	30 7	696,117	
		465 7		
	Average.....	33 3		

Period of Encouragement to Foreign Importation.		s. d.	Qrs.	Qrs.
		5 years ending 1769	43 2
	ditto..... 1774	47 9½	276,206
	ditto..... 1779	40 9	290,595
	ditto..... 1784	45 9½	185,906
	ditto..... 1789	43 3	198,716
	ditto..... 1794	47 2	1,145,584
		267 11		
	Average Price } per Quarter }	44 7		

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