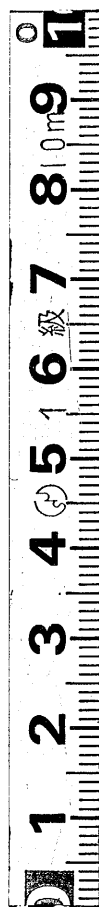


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T H R E E  
T R A C T S  
O N T H E  
C O R N - T R A D E  
A N D  
C O R N - L A W S :

Viz.

1. A short Essay on the Corn-trade and the Corn-laws, containing a general relation of the present method of carrying on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws relating thereto in this Kingdom, first printed in 1738.
2. Considerations on the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, being an inquiry what alteration may be made in them for the benefit of the Public, wrote in the beginning of the year 1759.
3. A Collection of Papers relative to the Price, Exportation, and Importation of Corn, with some Observations and Calculations, shewing what the Nation may be supposed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation, what the quantity of each sort of Corn annually Consumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown may amount to, and the Proportions they severally bear each to the other.

To which is added,

A S U P P L E M E N T.

Containing

Several papers and calculations which tend to explain and confirm what is advanced in the foregoing Tracts.

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The S E C O N D E D I T I O N,  
Corrected and Enlarged.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by J. BROTHERTON,  
at the Bible in Cornhill.  
M.DCC.LXVI.

## E R R A T A.

**I**N the Advertisement fronting page 5, for 1765, read 1766.—p. 23, in the note, l. 2. from the bottom, for *is r. are*—p. 58. l. 15, for *has r. had*—p. 79, first l. in the note, for 14 and 15, r. 16 and 17. p. 83. instead of 19s. 19d. for Duty on Beans, r. 19s. 10d.—p. 102, by mistake is marked 10.—p. 104, l. 6. from bottom, for *reasonable r. reasonably*—p. 116, l. 9, after 7d. add  $\frac{1}{2}$ .—p. 153, l. 14, from bottom, for *these r. the*.—p. 205, l. 18. after *but* add by.

## G E N E R A L

## P R E F A C E.

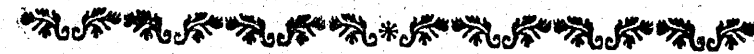
**T**HE publishing the ESSAY in 1758, and writing the CONSIDERATIONS in 1759, though the last was then communicated only to a few, were the occasion of many papers, relative to Corn, being communicated to the Author, which he had never heard of before; and *those*, as they in general tended to confirm and strengthen many of the facts and observations contained in the said Works, induced him to procure as many more as possible, and by these means he became possessed of what appeared to him a *valuable Collection*, in that it proved from *facts*, the great propriety and utility of, and benefits that have arisen from our *Corn-laws*, which are not the work of a day, but were framed by slow *degrees*, and are founded on an experience of upwards of *two hundred years*, which elapsed while they were bringing to their present state, *viz.* from 1534, 35 H. 8. to 1738, 11 G. 2. since when they have not been altered although they have had some temporary suspensions\*.

For which reasons, and as many papers in the Collection appeared too valuable to be lost, it was resolved to communicate them to the Public; and, if possible, though this seemed very difficult, to range them in such a manner as to shew their connection, make them intelligible, and, at the same time, throw light on each other, and on the two first mentioned Tracts, which, in general, were well approved

\* See list of Statutes, pages 44 and 45.

proved. How far this is done, as well as of the value of the papers themselves, and of what utility the publishing them may be, the Public will judge, on whose candour the Author relies for any mistakes he may have made, and the many repetitions which will be found in the performance; some of which are casual, but much the greater part were made with a view that the Reader might, as much as possible, constantly have the whole matter he is reading of before him, without being referred; which yet, after all, will be found too frequently the case.

Whenever any thing is said relative to the Corn-trade, especially if it contains *proposals* for making any alteration in the *Corn-laws*, it should be well weighed, and the reasons given for making the alteration well and maturely considered before any regard is paid thereto, for the Corn-trade is of a very comprehensive nature and very few, if any, are *fully* masters of the subjects, the good management of which is of the *utmost* consequence to the *Public*; besides, every man is liable to be mistaken, misinformed, and misled, and the Author, after all his care, and the helps he hath been favoured with, is very sensible that this may be his own case, and therefore, in his attempts to explain our *Corn-laws*, and hinting wherein he thinks they may be improved, hath given his reasons for every material thing he hath advanced, of which the Reader will judge, whom he begs leave to assure, that, in this publication, his principal view is by explaining the Corn-trade and Corn-laws to contribute what little is in his power towards *keeping Corn continually at such a moderate price as may be within the reach of the labourer and industrious poor.*



A SHORT

## E S S A Y

ON THE

CORN TRADE,

AND THE

CORN LAWS.

CONTAINING

A general Relation of the present Method of carrying on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws relating thereto in this Kingdom.

First printed in 1758.

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L O N D O N:

Printed in the YEAR MDCCLXVII.





THE  
P R E F A C E\*.

*IT* may justly be questioned, whether many of the late Writers, who have communicated their thoughts to the Public concerning the Corn-trade, have not considered the affair in too restrained a light; as also whether the alterations they propose in the method of carrying on this Trade, and the amendments they would make in the Laws relating thereto, would suit any other than particular Places.

It is a quite different thing to make Laws for the regulation of Trade in one particular town; and to make Laws for regulating so considerable a Trade as that of Corn is throughout so large a kingdom as this of Great Britain; which must be acknowledged by all, who consider how much the annual produce in many places falls short of the general consumption of the inhabitants, whilst in others it exceeds it.

These considerations have given rise to the following Essay; wherein is laid down a general, but fair relation, in what method the Corn-trade is at present carried on in these kingdoms; together with the Laws relating thereto: and till the nature and method of carrying on this business in general is well understood, it is hardly possible to make Laws for its regulation with any probability of Success.

\* This is verbatim as in 1758.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN this edition some paragraphs are added, which are marked thus +; the list of the Statutes is continued to 1765, several notes, references, and a table of contents are added, and the whole is revised and corrected by the Author.



A SHORT  
E S S A Y  
ON THE  
CORN TRADE,  
AND  
CORN LAWS.



ALTHOUGH it be the general opinion, that the present dearth of Corn arises principally from the Avarice of the Farmers and iniquity of the Factors, Merchants, Millers, Bakers and Dealers in Corn; yet there is cause to believe, that it arises chiefly, if not wholly, from a real scarcity, occasioned by the short crops, which for three or four years past have been in the west and northwest parts of the kingdom, and from the general shortness of the crop throughout the whole kingdom in the year 1756. For supposing the crop of the last year 1757 to have been as good as the fine prospect in the field promised, which there is reason to doubt, much of it being lighter, by two or three pounds in a Bushel, than in fine years, from the Blight or Mildew brought  
brought

6 A SHORT ESSAY on the

brought on by the dry weather, it would not be sufficient to reduce the Price much, or soon, as little or no old Stock was left remaining, and of course a much larger quantity of this year's growth must be already consumed than is usual at this Time of the year. To confirm these observations, if we recur to former Times, we shall find that in the year 1693 Wheat rose from 2l. 6s. to 3l. 7s. per quarter, and was not much under that price, except in 1695, when it was 2l. 13s. till 1700, when it came down to 40s. In 1709 Wheat rose from 2l. 1s. 6d. to 3l. 18s. 6d. at which Price, within sixpence, it continued the next year, and was not so low as 40s. till 1718. In 1740 Wheat rose to 2l. 15s. from 1l. 17s. 6d. and though the clamour was at that time as much against Farmers, &c. as it now is, and the harvest of 1741 was good, both as to quantity and quality, yet Wheat was at 2l. 7s. throughout that year; though in 1742 it came down to 1l. 12s. and after that continued declining, and was cheap to 1745.

But how reasonable soever this may seem, yet it must be owned that the general opinion, even amongst many persons of rank and character, appears to be on the opposite side of the question. The dearth of Corn is felt; and how to bring the Corn-trade under such regulations for the future, as to prevent the like distress hereafter, is under the consideration of the Parliament. And we may justly expect from the integrity and abilities of the honourable persons to whom this affair is committed, that the business of the Corn-trade will be thoroughly examined, from the first throwing of the seed into the ground, to the Consumption of the product in bread and drink

CORN TRADE and CORN LAWS. 7

drink, or the Exportation of such part of it as may at any time be conveniently spared; as also that the several Laws which, since *Edward vi.* have been made in relation thereto, with the good or bad effects they have had, and wherein and why the expectations of them have been answered or failed, will be carefully enquired into and examined, and the Laws themselves in consequence thereof be either confirmed or amended.\*

Corn is to be considered both as a Food and Merchandise. The providing it either by growing or importing, its preservation for use or sale, the preparation of it for Food by grinding and baking, the fixing, or rather declaring, the price of bread, and what weight the same should be of according to the price of Corn, are particulars which have at all times, and in all places, been more or less the care of the Legislature, and fallen under the direction of the Civil Magistrate ||. The Parliaments of this kingdom, as appears by the Statute-book, have frequently had this matter under their consideration, and generally treated it in the view we have mentioned above, both as Food and Merchandise †. In almost every Statute which attempts any regulation in this Trade, we may visibly discern they have endeavoured to order it so, that, while they were guarding against any thing which might tend to distress the poor, Tillage should not be discouraged.

\* No alteration was made.

|| See an account of the care taken in most civilized nations, &c. by the Rev. *Rich. Ouely*, fold by *Hawkins*, 1758.

† The Author of *Les Interêts de la France* thinks it was never seen in this light till 1660, see Supp. chap. 2. sec. 3. but the Statutes prove the contrary.

discouraged. To this End they have generally fixed the prices at which all persons might buy and lay up Corn, or export it; and seem to have endeavoured, by all possible means, to make the People see it in the same light; having in the space of seventy-nine years, beginning with 1548, the 5th of Edward VI. and ending with 1627, the 3d of Charles I. passed eight several Acts, as may be seen in the list at the end of this treatise, in which they have encreased the Exportation-price from 6s. 8d. equal to 20s. of our Money, to 32s. the quarter. How this Trade was managed during the Civil War doth not appear. But on the restoration, in 1660, the Exportation-price was immediately set at 40s. the quarter. In 1663, only three years after, it was carried to 48s. By this law, it was enacted, that when Wheat doth not exceed that price, all and every person may buy, lay up and keep the same, and sell it again, under such regulations as by the said Act are laid down: which Act appears to have answered the intentions of the Legislature, as Wheat, which for 20 years before, viz. from 1646 to 1666, had been on the average 2l. 17s. 5d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  per quarter, was for 20 years after, viz. from 1666 to 1686 only 2l. 6s. 3d. per quarter on the average: and this was a virtual repeal of the Acts 5 and 6 of Edward VI. and 5 Elizabeth, so far at least as they regard Licencing till Wheat is 48s. for, doubtless, upon passing this Act, many engaged in the Corn-trade, who were not qualified to take out Licenses by the former Statutes, and if at any time it happened that out of, or between the quarter-sessions, Wheat came to exceed 48s. when none could be licensed, it could not be supposed that all buying and selling  
Corn

Corn should cease till Licenses could be granted; nor would it be right to oblige such, who were not qualified † to take Licences by the former acts, and yet had legally, while Wheat was under 48s. by the authority and under the protection of this act, engaged their fortunes in this trade, immediately to leave off; and where would others be found, who had sufficient knowledge, or were disposed and ready to enter into this trade, which any might again resume on the fall of the prices of Grain.

It might be the intent of the proposers, or makers of this Law, 15 Car. II. to leave the Corn-trade, as it hath in effect been ever since, *free and open* ‡, and so much did the desire of making Corn a Merchandize then prevail, that in the year 1670 an act was passed allowing Wheat to be exported even after it exceeded 48s. paying the Custom; from which Time till 1688 the average price of Wheat was 2l. 6s. a quarter; in which year, nevertheless, an act was passed, repealing all Custom, and giving a Bounty of 5s. per quarter on exportation, \* till it should exceed 48s. the quarter; after which, till 1693, Wheat, on the average, was 36s. 3d. per quarter only; but growing and continuing dearer till 1698, the Exportation was forbid for one year, and then, for 9 months, the Bounty was suspended; from the expiration of which term, till 1709, Wheat continued cheap, the average price being 1l. 14s. 5d. per quarter; but in that year it rose to 3l. 18s. 6d. per quarter, and exportation  
C tation

† i. e. Is or hath been married, an householder, and thirty years of age. See Stat. 5 El. c. 12. sec. 4 and 5.

‡ See Supp. ch. 2. sec. 8. how free and open the French have laid the Corn-trade with them.

\* In English Ships.

tation was again prohibited for one year; yet Wheat was never under 40s. till 1718; from which time, till 1725, it continued under that price; from 1725 to 1730 it was on the average 2l. 7s. 8d. and in the year 1729 an act was passed regarding the Importation, as also in 1732, and the method of enquiring into the price, in order to fix the Duty on Importation, was settled. From 1729 to 1740 the price was 1l. 15s. 7d. per quarter; in which year the price was 2l. 15s. and the Exportation again prohibited for one year. It continued at 2l. 7s. the following year, but from thence to 1756 the price was 1l. 14s. 3d. In the latter end of that year, and the beginning of 1757, growing excessive dear, and great disturbances arising under pretence of the high price, the Parliament again took the affair into consideration, and passed one act to stop the *Distillery*\*, another to prohibit for a year the *Exportation*\*\* , and a third to allow the *Importation* Duty free, for a time certain †; in all which acts, such necessary clauses were inserted as prove they never forgot or intended to oppress the Farmer, whilst they endeavoured to relieve the Poor.

But Corn is still dear, and the discontent near the same, and how far the Farmer, and others concerned in the Corn-trade, are or may be the cause thereof, and guilty of ill-practices, or whether all or any of them are in fault, or in any degree to blame, may in some measure be determined by reflecting on the nature of that Trade, and the manner in which each branch

\* 30 G. 2. c. 10. which was by several other acts continued to 21 Ap. 1760.

\*\* 13 G. 2. c. 1. continued to 25 Mar. 1759.

† 30 G. 2. c. 7. to the 24 Aug. 1757.

branch thereof is transacted, and the means made use of with us to provide, preserve and prepare Corn for Food: and perhaps what follows may be of some use to that end.

In regard to the procuring a sufficient PROVISION of our own Growth, or by Importation; the Legislature seems to have taken the following care.

First, as much as possible by encouraging the Farmer to till so much land, that our own Growth may be sufficient, and, in case it should exceed the consumption, by making provision for a bounty to be paid in order to export the surplus, whereby the Farmer's fears of loss, in that case, are removed, or rather prevented.

Secondly, by a law empowering the Magistrates every six or three months to allow of the Importation for six or three months to come, on a very moderate duty, after Wheat exceeds 53s. 4d. the quarter, and by the late act, for a time certain, duty free; in all which, as was before observed, the interest of the Farmer was remembered as well as the necessities of the Poor.

And here it may not be amiss to consider more at large the circumstances, and general method of marketing, of our present Farmers, or Growers of Corn, and the Merchants, Factors, and others, concerned in this Trade.

Now the Farmers may be divided into four classes, viz. the poor Farmer, the Farmer in moderate circumstances, the Farmer in good circumstances, and the rich Farmer.

1. The poor Farmers, who are very numerous, with great difficulty and labour, and seldom without some credit, as well from the shopkeepers, as their landlord,



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landlord, are able to subsist themselves and families till after harvest, and their crops are generally all threshed, sold and gone before Christmas, or by the Time their lands are in order and the seed put into the ground for the next year's crop.

2. The Farmers in moderate circumstances, whose necessities, nevertheless, are such, that, as each Seed-time, every Quarter, and Fair come round, they are obliged to raise money to defray the expence, pay rent, or buy in live stock, and if they have any Corn left in *May* they think themselves well off.

3. The Farmers in good circumstances, who generally have it in their power, after seeding their lands, paying rent, purchasing live stock, and paying all other expences through the year, to reserve a few loads of Wheat to sell in, or after harvest, in order to bear the expence thereof, and in expectation, if the Season should prove bad, to make a better price than before harvest.

4. The rich Farmers, who are in a capacity, as to Fortune, to keep the whole, or the greatest part of their Crops, the year over, speculate on the markets, thresh out and sell when they like the price. These in some measure serve at their own private expence the same purpose as public Magazines, and without many ill Consequences which might attend such *Magazines\**, keeping a quantity of Corn always in the nation, and the Markets from being unreasonably dear; and, whatever may be thought, these men scarcely ever have it in their power, however in their will, to distress the Poor; for their numbers are but small, comparatively speaking, and

\* See Supp. ch. the first throughout.

the waste made by vermin makes their expence in keeping it very great, and frequently forces them to market sooner, than they might otherwise intend to go.

The next thing to be considered is the PRESERVATION of Corn when grown, both for use and sale, and in this regard is to be had both to quantity and quality. Such quantity should be always in the nation as will be sufficient for the consumption of the current year, and also to supply any accidental deficiency in the Crop; and this must be kept, either in public Magazines, or private hands. How far the Farmers keep, or can keep, may be observed from the account of their usual method of Trade, as before related, from which it may be gathered that the sale in the fore part of the year, or immediately after harvest, is more than the consumption, and if the excess is not then laid up in Granaries, the same would be in all probability exported, and Corn before the next harvest become scarce, and consequently *dear\**. But this is provided for and prevented by act 15 *Car. II.* which enables, or impowers, all Persons to buy, and lay it up; in consequence of which many subsist by storing up this excess at their own risque, and the Public, or Legislature, have seldom any necessity to take any care about it, and were never yet, at least since this act passed, obliged to form Magazines, which, if ever they should be obliged

\* This used to be the case before the Bounty was given, and our forefathers have sometimes bought their own Corn again; and the People of Berne at this day, notwithstanding their Magazines, are often reduced to the same necessity. See the Avoyer's letter, Supp. chap. the first.

obliged to do, might become a very great discouragement to tillage, and the Corn-trade, and in the end make Corn dearer than before; as the Farmer, seeing large quantities collected together in one view, might imagine Corn would never bear a price for the future, and the fear of the market being spoiled by the Magazines being opened would prevent all private persons from keeping a sufficient quantity by them, to carry on their business with profit, and consequently the Trade would decline, or be in a manner left off, which might be attended with many other ill consequences, at present impossible to be known or foreseen. Neither can that care be taken to preserve the Corn from corruption, decay, or being diminished or destroyed by vermin, in such public Magazines, as in private Hands, and consequently the goodness of the quality cannot be so well preserved; for they will seldom be emptied more than once a year, and all, who know the Corn-trade, know how difficult it is in this climate to preserve Corn sweet, after it is out of the straw, for the whole year round.

But in private Hands, though the quantity may be, and generally is, as large as it would be in public Magazines, yet it is always circulating, by many shifted once a month, and by scarcely any less than three times a year; in consequence of which the Corn hath no time to decay, and the vermin, such as Rats and Mice, are too well watched to be permitted to destroy it; for was the private trader to suffer them to make much waste, or the good quality of but a small part of what he circulates in the year to be spoiled; by the natural decay of the Corn, which is very apt to heat, and thereby introduce an innumerable

innumerable army of Worms, or Weavils, it might bid fair to wipe off all his profits for that time.

The PREPARATION of the Corn for food, by grinding and baking, is the next consideration: in regard to both which our Parliaments have very properly and judiciously interfered; where Corn is ground for hire, punishing the Miller if he takes more than his just due for toll, though the grinding being now in most Places paid for in money, these Laws are but little known; and where Bread is baked for sale, fixing the affize, or weight of the penny and other loaves, according to the price of the Grain, Meal, or Flour, of which the same is made, having regard to the sort or fineness of the bread, by which the Poor are, or ought to be, satisfied; that the Baker hath *only* a reasonable Allowance; and he hath no right to expect more, and if he attempts any fraud the Magistrate has it in his Power to punish him for the same.

It were hard to say which of these Trades lies under the worst imputations at present; some of them are of a serious nature, many trifling, and many contrary to common sense. What truth there is in any of them, doubtless, the Parliament will enquire, and cause those to be properly punished who have offended against any Law now in being, and provide such *Laws*\* as may seem proper to prevent such male-practices in both Trades for the future, as the present Laws will not reach.

What

\* An act for regulating the Bakers, &c. was passed, viz. 31 G. 2. c. 9. but this chiefly respecting only places where the Affize shall be set; another act, viz. 3 G. 3. c. xi. was passed to regulate them where the Affize shall not be set.

What has been already said might serve to give a general idea of the Corn-trade ; yet it may not be improper to be a little more particular in regard to the method in which it is carried on by Merchants and Factors, Meal-men and Meal-factors, Millers and Bakers.

Now, Corn may be considered as a Merchandize, not only in regard of the Exportation to, and Importation of it from, foreign parts, but also in regard to the buying and transporting it from one part of the same Kingdom to another ; since in many parts much more is grown than the inhabitants can consume, and in many others enough is not grown for the use of the people ; and Merchants and Factors are employed in this business, either buying on their own accounts, or by commission, as opportunity offers. And this must always have been the case, as the members of Cities and large Towns, being employed about other affairs, and often at a great distance from the growing Counties, can neither have had leisure nor opportunity to fetch it themselves ; and those Purveyors, Laders, Badgers, Kidders, and Carriers, mentioned in the old Statutes, must have been men employed in the same sort of Business as our present Merchants and Factors are ; nor was the Statute, 5 and 6 Edward VI. made to give rise to, but to regulate, their method of Trade, some evil practices having crept in among them, which were rather increased by that Law than removed, as appears by 5 Eliz. all which regulations seem to have been rendered useless, or rather repealed by Statute 15 Car. II. as was before

before observed, and the Corn-trade left in a manner free.

It is not to be supposed that these Merchants and Factors are averse to large profits, or that they will not get what they can for their trouble ; but their number seems too great for them ever to combine, by refusing to sell at reasonable prices, to oppress the People. For, as the commodity they deal in is perishable, should they ever have such thoughts, they might lose more by the Corn growing worse, than gain by the contrivance, before they could attain their ends. I say not that it is impossible, that attempts of this kind may be sometimes made in particular places, but then they will generally turn out to the loss of such Schemers, whilst, the post is regular, and the Corn-trade continues free ; for interest never sleeps, and every advance of price is quickly known to all dealers, and a desire of sharing in the profit will soon overstock the market.

Mealmen and Meal-factors are employed in Meal and Flour, as Merchants and Factors are in Corn, and often have Mills of their own, tho' they sometimes hire ; but in the last case the Miller is but a very inconsiderable person, barely living when Corn is in plenty round his mill, and at other times being greatly distressed ; which hath been the reason that many of them, who could raise a capital, have engaged in the Meal and Flour-trades, adding to their old occupation those of Mealmen, and Meal-factors.

Having mentioned the word Capital, it may not be improper to observe, that to carry on every branch of the Corn and Flour-trades, a much larger sum of money is required than may commonly be imagined,

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but will easily be believed, when it is remembered, that the whole is paid for in present money, and though some part may be returned in a month, yet the whole, by those who have any considerable trade, is not returned more than three or four times in a year; and he that cannot in plentiful markets lay in a stock, but is obliged to buy in proportion to his sales in short markets, will find his trade turn out to little account.

The following general Calculation may serve to illustrate this still more. Suppose the whole number of the people to be six millions, and that they each eat one quarter of Bread-corn yearly of thirty shillings value; that they each drink the produce of four bushels, in the same time, of the value of ten shillings; that the whole quantity of Oats, Beans and other Corn, given to and consumed by Horses, Hogs, Oxen, other Cattle and Poultry, in the same time, is equal in number of quarters to half the quantity consumed in Bread only; each quarter of which may be valued on the average at sixteen shillings: And lastly, suppose the annual quantity exported, though this seems most liable to be doubted, is equal in value to one sixteenth part of the home consumption, and that the account stands thus viz. \*

	Quarters	£.	s.	d.
Bread Corn — — —	6,000,000 at 30s.	—	9,000,000	0 0
Corn made into Drink —	3,000,000 at 20s.	—	3,000,000	0 0
Oats, &c. for Cattle & Poultry	3,000,000 at 16s.	—	2,400,000	0 0
<hr/>				
Total of the Home Consumption, Value	£.	14,400,000	0	0
Add the Value of $\frac{1}{16}$ thereof for the Export	£.	900,000	0	0
<hr/>				
Total Value of Corn consumed and exported	£.	15,300,000	0	0
Suppose the Money returned 4 Times a Year, $\frac{1}{4}$ is	£.	3,825,000	0	0

Now

\* See other calculations, supp. ch. 5. sec. 26.

## CORN TRADE and CORN LAWS. 19

Now let us consider, that though some few concerned in the Export may have larger dealings, yet, he is reckoned no small Trader who returns one hundred quarters weekly, and multitudes do not return forty quarters in that time; and at the same time let us reflect on the number of persons, who must be employed in the Corn-trade, to which may be added the Farmers and Growers, who probably are ten times more in number than the others, and it may then be easy to judge how far it may be likely they should all combine to enhance the price, more than the smallness of the quantity may require; as the least of them all, in such cases, who should sell through fear, necessity, or inclination, would break the knot. It is true, an opinion or prepossession that things are scarce may sometimes accidentally run through the body, and raise the price\*, but nothing but a real scarcity can support it; and though perhaps, the steadiness in the price of Corn may be deemed a certain proof of its being in plenty; yet this steadiness may, in a great measure, be preserved, if not sometimes procured, by the Magistrates, as will be explained below.

And here it may not be amiss to take notice, how much the generality of people differ in opinion, in regard to the whole quantity grown†, and the proportion which the annual produce of Corn in this kingdom bears to the consumption, or rather what the latter bears to the former; it being very common to hear men of good capacities and understanding assert, that we commonly grow enough in one year

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\* See Supp. ch. 2. sec. 16.

† See Supp. ch. 5. sec. 26.

to serve two, often three, nay some do not scruple to advance, that in one good year we grow enough to serve seven years. In some particular parishes this possibly may be true, but it is very far from being the case throughout the whole kingdom. Let us only suppose we grow enough to serve fifteen months. Now, to make the matter plain, we say, that in twelve months we consume twelve quarters, and we suppose, that the Export and Distiller together take off one quarter and half more, which is beyond the truth; in this case the whole, used and exported, will amount to thirteen months and a half, and we have one month and a half left; which will in ten years amount to twelve millions of quarters, and be worth as many pounds at least, even supposing our account in regard to the consumption as above to exceed the truth one sixth part. Now, we had ten as good years as ever were known in succession from 1741 to 1751; nay, if the common opinion is right, we have had sixteen. But where was the Corn seen in 1751? Or what is become of it now? Let us reflect on the appearance of stacks and fulness of barns after harvest in every year, and then say where such a quantity could lie concealed, either in the straw or out. It could not be hid. Corn, even, when threshed, is a very bulky commodity, and requires much room to be properly preserved; and when it lately happened that a great quantity of Wheat was imported into *London* at once, which could not be above forty\* thousand quarters, the whole

\* The accounts having been since made up, it appears to have been 79,610 qrs. 7 b. and that the whole was  
130,343

whole Importation not amounting to seventy, and the Merchants, who could not meet with sales, were obliged to lay it up, they found it extremely difficult to get sufficient granaries for that purpose; and yet a Gentleman in appearance took the liberty to say, and that too in a public Inn, that, of his own knowledge, one Man had engrossed and laid up Wheat enough to serve the City of *London* and Suburbs three months; which is at least 150,000 quarters, and was worth at that time near £.400,000. So apt are Men to talk freely of what they have so little knowledge.

The forementioned calculations are exclusive of the seed, which is at least equal to one tenth part of the growth, and, almost every year, whilst it is putting into the ground, occasions some small rise in the markets; and the mouths of the clamorous are then open against the Engrossers; but they don't consider, that, at that time, the demand is more than double to what it is at other times; neither need the quantity used for seed be taken notice of, when we consider how much more the annual produce is lessened by a failure in the Crop, of only one sixth part, than is taken off, on an average, by both Distiller and Exporter.

In the first calculation we supposed the quantity used by the Distiller to be comprehended in that used for drink, and in the same account the Export is reckoned at only one sixteenth of the consumption.

130,343 qrs. 2 b. but this argument will still hold good, 80,000 qrs. is but a small part of the whole annual consumption.

tion. In the last we reckoned both together to amount to one eighth of the consumption. Both these estimations were so made in order to give the greater face of probability to the argument.

Now, suppose the annual produce of an acre in common, besides seed for the next year, is three quarters of Wheat, and that one eighth, in common, is taken off by the Distiller and Exporter, that is, three bushels; and then suppose the Crops fall short one sixth part, amounting to four bushels; by this means there will be a diminution of one third more than the whole quantity taken off by the Distiller and Exporter, on the average, which, perhaps, may not have been enough considered.

Let us make one short reflection, and then return to our subject. The Exporter and Distiller, whether they take off one eighth, or only one sixteenth of the produce, are large customers, and give great encouragement to Tillage; for whatever may be thought to the contrary, the quantity sown will ever bear a proportion to the demand; and if one eighth, or one sixteenth, of the demand is taken away, the Farmer finding his stock too large, will contrive to lessen it, by growing less; as, on the contrary, he will endeavour to grow more, when the demand increases; and for this reason in dear years, the demand being, at least in appearance, increased, a much larger quantity is always sown; and though this for the present still helps to increase the scarcity, it nevertheless makes provision for greater plenty the ensuing year. The quantity of  
Corn,

Corn in plentiful years, exported and distilled, \* may be compared to the expences of a Man of fortune in diversions and amusements, for which he takes care to provide the proper funds, as well as for necessaries; but these increasing, he is content to forego his pleasures, and applies what was provided for them, to supply his wants, and by that means finds comfort, when otherwise he would have been in distress.

But to return to our subject.

The method in which Bakers carry on their trade is different, according to their different situations. Many, in Country places, buy all in Corn, and have it ground, either on hire, or at Mills of their own: Some buy only part in Corn, and part in Flour, or Meal, as opportunity offers; whilst others buy all they use, in London more particularly, in Flour of the Mealmen, or Mealfactors; and these last are most capable to make good bread for a constancy; for the Mealmen buying larger quantities, and the Mealfactors having many sorts to sell, they scarcely ever use the Flour of one sort of Wheat alone; and the advantage this gives them is inconceivable; for a number of sorts, judiciously mixed, by the mutual assistance of their different qualities,  
arising

\* If these reflections are right, neither Exporter or Distiller should be too much discouraged, and the Distiller, while spirits are used, should have the preference in point of policy; since, it is said, he pays sixteen shillings and upwards for liberty to use what the Exporter hath large sums for taking away.—Now by the act 33 G. 2. c. 9. the duties on spirits is so increased as to amount to above three pounds per quarter on all Corn distilled.

arising from the various soils on which they grow, will do much better than almost any one sort alone. Whereas the Baker, who buys Corn for himself, is always obliged to use what he hath bought, tho' his judgment may have deceived him in the buying, or the market may not have enabled him to provide himself with such in quality as he may have desired, or having been bought good, it may be by accident debased in grinding, each of which circumstances will at different times be the case; and when any of them happen to the Mealman, he will have better opportunities of helping himself, by selling the Meal for a coarser use.

When the Bakers have provided the Wheat, Meal, or Flour to make Bread, they are, or may be, bound to make it of such weight, or sell it at such price as the Magistrates shall order, who are authorized by Law to set the same, according to the price which the Grain, Meal, or Flour, whereof it is made, bears in the market, common or reasonable allowance being made them for their labour; and this power of the Magistrate, *discreetly exercised*\*, may be of great use in checking the too great fluctuations in the market.

Wheat must alter four shillings in the quarter for the price of the peck-loaf to vary *two pence* †; and the price of the peck-loaf being generally between

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\* What is meant by *discreetly exercised*, is explained further in the paragraphs added to this edition, which are marked thus †.

† *Two-pence*, this, which was said of the old Assize-table, is also true of the table in 31 G. 2. taking both sorts of Bread into the account; consequently these arguments still hold.

18 pence and 3 shillings, every such variation may be called  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, or  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the whole value, which is a great deal.

Now, suppose that Wheat should vary in one week eight shillings per quarter, it might be proper for the Magistrates to raise or lower the weight and price of bread, as if it had varied only four shillings; always remembering to ballance the account, which they will scarcely miss an opportunity of doing within the space of three months, by giving the Baker, when he hath suffered, for the like time that he hath suffered, as much more than the common allowance, as will make up the difference to him; and, on the contrary, taking from him when the public hath suffered.

It is true the table of Assize hath provided for an alteration of one penny the peck, which is two shillings in the quarter of Corn; in regard to which the Magistrates may sometimes proceed in a discretionary manner, as before hinted in regard to four shillings. But they will find it impossible, many times for a long while together, to raise and fall no more than one penny in the peck at a time; and it may sometimes happen, though it is presumed very seldom, that they will be obliged to vary more than two pence.

If, *from any accidental glut in the Market*\*, an extraordinary fall in the price should happen, and the Magistrates should exercise their power with too much exactness in fixing the Assize of Bread, it may deter those who have goods, preparing or prepared,

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\* See this further explained in the additions marked †.

from bringing them to market, and make as sudden and considerable an alteration the other way, which it might be equally imprudent in them to follow in fixing the price of Bread, as it might tend to alarm the Farmer, and make him for a time withhold his Corn. Complaints against the Farmers for withholding in times of scarcity are never wanting, and yet our Parliaments have not, as we know of, thought proper to make any Laws to compel them to sell; for which doubtless they had good reasons. And Laws of this sort seem needless, since the Farmers in general are obliged to contrive the matter so, that their whole stock may be sold by harvest to make room for the growing Crop; and the returning demands they all, except a very few, have for money, cause some of them every market day to sell some species of Corn or other, and thereby as regular and continual supply in general is found, as could possibly be dealt out under the direction of any law. And, from some years observation, we are persuaded, that if the stock in the Farmers hands had been annually taken account of at *Christmas, Easter*, or any other time, nearly the same quantity of the Crop would have been found exhausted each year at the same time; and perhaps more would have been found exhausted, both in very plentiful and very scarce years, than in those of moderate plenty. In the first case, more Corn must be sold to raise the like sum, and in the last, the increase of money seldom equals the shortness of the Crop, and many Farmers find their Bains empty before they have raised the necessary sums. But let us suppose the Farmer in times of scarcity doth not bring his Corn to Market in due proportion according to the time of  
the

the year, it is possible, though he regards only himself, this conduct may be of public utility; for was he to supply the Market in the beginning of the year with as much as in good years, too great a quantity might be *exported\**, and famine stare us in the face before next harvest. It will be replied, a reasonable withholding may be right, but they always carry it to a wicked excess. We allow this case possible, but hardly probable. The hopes of gain are always attended by fears of loss; and fear being the stronger passion of the two, and backed, in regard to most of them, with their returning necessities, though some few may be carried by avarice so far as to withhold unreasonably, yet much the greater part, pressed by necessity, and urged by fear, will act otherwise; and, upon the whole, the quantity sold will be generally found, even in scarce times, in proportion to the time of the year; and though upon any accidental rise, as above observed, they may withhold for a time, they cannot continue to do it long, since, in a very short time, Corn will be brought from more distant parts, and spoil their sales.

The power of the Magistrates, in regard to the Assize, seems *declaratory*, and if they take care that the Baker hath, one time with another, the common, or reasonable allowance, and no more, neither the people nor he are injured; and if the Magistrates can, in which however they should act upon good informations and with great caution, by sometimes giving more, and sometimes less to the Baker, keep the Markets tolerable steady, the places where they

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preside

\* See note, page 13.



prefide will hardly ever fail of a regular supply; and perhaps CASES may have happened within memory, which, upon reflection, may justify this way of thinking.

† When this pamphlet was wrote, it would not have been proper, on account of the prejudices which then prevailed, and the bad opinion to which almost all sorts of people were then worked up, by anonymous authors against the Farmers and Dealers in Corn: or decent, on account of the transactions having so lately passed, to have fully explained what was hinted at by the words *discreetly exercised*, page 24, the last paragraph, and the *cases* therein mentioned which was this.

† The Magistrates in *London* had, in the year 1757, been very strict, and it was thought much too hasty, in following every sinking in the price of Wheat and Flour, in setting the Affize of Bread; and some attempts were made to reduce the prices of Wheat and Flour, by setting the Affize of Bread lower than the returned prices of them would bear. The consequences of which management were exactly such, as it is herein before said, such proceedings, *on any accidental glut in the Market\**, would produce. Such Mealmen as depended wholly, or chiefly, on the *London* Market, seeing they were to trade on a much greater uncertainty than common, or rather to a certain loss; proceeded with great caution and were afraid to do their usual quantity of business: Large quantities of Corn and Flour, which were originally designed for that Market, never came there at all; but were carried where it was imagined they would turn to a better, or at least

See Page 25.

least a more certain account; and many loads of Flour were fetched out of *London* again: and so bare of that commodity was the City at one time, that application was made to the Lords \* of the Privy Council for advice, and it was proposed to their Lordships to put in execution the powers given by an Act of 25 Henry VIII. to fix a price, at which Wheat and Flour shall be sold †, and some Factors and Mealmen were

\* Their Lordships were told, "there was just ground to suspect a combination had been entered into to raise the price of Flour and Wheat, and that with this view many Mealmen have ordered their Factors not to sell the Flour consigned to them, and have actually carried great quantities of Flour and Wheat back into the country, in order to make a scarcity in the *London* Market which may raise the price.

† What is above observed in relation to the power of the Magistrate in regard to Bread, will hold good as to every species of provision, and a French Author gives us the following story, which confirms what is here advanced, and is an account of the success of an attempt to make a regulation like that proposed to the Privy Council.

The ORDONNANCE of PHILIP THE FAIR, in *March* 1304, says, None, under pain of confiscation of their goods, shall sell the SETIER of the BEST WHEAT, Paris-measure, for more than forty *sols* Paris-money, and the SETIER of other inferior Corn in proportion, and of Beans and Barley at thirty *sols*, of Oats at twenty *sols*, Bran at ten *sols* and other grain in proportion.

But, says my Author, this ORDONNANCE was made in a great scarcity, and it produced a most unhappy effect, in that it hindered the Markets from being supplied; and it was revoked some days after by another ORDONNANCE, dated at *Paris* in 1304 on *Palm-sunday*, in which PHILIP THE FAIR, permits the sellers of Corn to get what price they can.

*Essai sur les Monnoies, Paris, 1746, 4to. fo. 35. notes.*

were ordered to attend the 25 Aug. 1757, which they accordingly did, and were examined; after which, more regard being had to set the Assize of Bread according to the returned prices of Wheat and Flour, the affair was soon remedied; and the same having been continued ever since, with more regularity, the Markets have in general been well supplied.

† However, it was then found, from experience, that the power of the Magistrate in setting the Assize of Bread, is in *fact*, as was before hinted, only declaratory, or saying at what prices, according to the *returned* value of the grain, &c. the Baker will have a reasonable living profit. It is true, where they lay under any difficulty to get a *true return*, they will be at a loss how to make such declaration with propriety: but this can only happen in small towns or villages; and in such places it is best not to set the Assize at all: more especially since the Statute of 3 Geo. 3. cap. 9. brings the Bakers of Bread, particularly of that made of Wheat, under a tolerable good regulation in those places where Magistrates shall not think fit to set the Assize.

† But, as it would be proper in small Towns and Villages to omit; so in large Towns and Cities it will always be necessary to set the Assize, in order to satisfy the people that the price which the Bakers demand is no more than what is thought reasonable by the Magistrates, and they have two rules by which they may judge if they have been mistaken or misled; that is, for any considerable time, accidental mistakes and impositions, as they are impossible to be avoided, are not here meant.

† First then, if they have been induced to set the Assize too high, or so as to give the Bakers too large

an

an allowance, they will find *many*\* of them sell for less than they allow.

† And, secondly, if on the contrary they have been induced to set it too low, they will find as in the above case the Markets badly supplied.

The Assize-table † seems to want some enlargements, no notice being therein taken what price Flour should be esteemed to bear in proportion to Wheat; and, when this is done, it might not be amiss to explain the method which should be taken in setting the Assize out of Corporations, which is now seldom done, and in many places neglected, only because the Law seems not explicit enough on that head; though it may require great care in appointing for what district the same should be set; possibly every HUNDRED may do; but, it seems, a certain distance round every Corporation, in regard to *London* it would be best if it were ten or twelve miles, should be obliged to follow the Assize set, and Orders made, by the Magistrate thereof; otherwise, as Bread may, and will, often be different in its price in the Town and its neighbourhood, a continual discontent, on account thereof, will be kept up amongst the poor, which may, by the foregoing method of making certain distances round Corporations follow the Assize thereof, be prevented, and that without departing from the rules of justice,

since,

\* *Many*—there are very frequently or indeed generally some who undersell; and it too often happens that they make themselves ample amends in the quality, or quantity, and sometimes in both.

† A new Assize-table was settled and the Baking-trade regulated by Stat. 31 G. 2. c. 9; many of which regulations were by 3 G. 3. c. 11. extended to places where an Assize shall not be set.

since, one time with another, the neighbourhoods of Cities and great Towns are served much on the same terms as they are.

Thus have we in general considered the Corn-trade and Laws, endeavouring to shew in what methods the Trade is carried on, from the Farmer to the Consumer; and in what light it hath, or seems to have, been regarded by several Parliaments from Ed. VI. to this day, wherein we could not forbear to intermix a few reflections; and, if our account is generally true, most of those who have wrote upon this subject have been mistaken; probably, from considering the Corn-trade and Laws as they regard or effect particular places, or parts of the Kingdom only; whereas all Laws, made for the use of the whole nation, should be considered in a more enlarged view.

It is not intended to insinuate, that the Corn-trade wants no regulation, or the Laws relating thereto no Explanation or amendment, and that the Dealers in Corn are a sort of righteous Men, who want no restraint or looking after. All that is aimed at is only to shew, that this Trade is at present under better regulations, and the present Corn-laws, tho' they may want some amendments, much better adapted to the intended purpose, than is commonly imagined: and that, whatever may be the will of particular Persons, Providence, by the nature of the commodity, the large sums necessary, and the number of hands required to carry on this Trade, hath put it out of the power of the Corn-factors, and all others concerned therein, in any considerable degree to oppress the people, more especially whilst the present Laws are in force; and, we are fully persuaded, no better Laws in general for conducting this affair

fair can be framed or delivered, how much soever, in particular instances, they may be improved. Let us reflect once more upon what they say.

To the Farmer—Till your land, and fear not having so great a plenty as to be a burthen and loss to you, for we will give a Bounty for the Exportation\* of what can be spared.

To the People—Be not uneasy at the Exportation of Corn, for when it begins to grow dear, the Bounty shall cease\*, and when it is dear, it shall be imported at such a moderate and proper duty, as whilst it adds so little to the price †, as not to distress you, shall yet prevent so great a quantity being thrown in, as may deter our own Farmers from Tillage §, nay, even when it becomes necessary, it shall be imported Duty free.

F To

\* 1 Wm. and M. c. 12. 5 Ann c. 29.  
† 15 Car. 2. c. 7. 1 Ja. 2. c. 19. 2 G. 2. cap. 18. and 5 G. 2. c. 12.

§ How far the Farmer may by Exportation, for which we give a Bounty, be prompted to till, or by the prohibition thereof generally, or absolutely, or by the fear of large Importations, be discouraged from Tillage, our Legislators know; and the following short piece of History, communicated to me by a Gentleman, who was an Eye-witness of the facts, may serve to shew their wisdom and foresight in making the Laws which are provided for that purpose.

In Turkey, the Grand Vizir, between twenty and thirty years ago, suffered a more general Exportation of Corn to be carried on, and more openly, than any of his Predecessors had done, infomuch that three hundred French Vessels, from twenty to two hundred Tons, were, on one day, seen to enter Smyrna Bay to load Corn, and Wheat was then sold for less than seventeen pence English a Bushel, with all the expences in putting the same on board included. From

To the Corn Merchants, Factors, Mealmen, Mealfactors, and all concerned and employed in transporting Corn and Flour from the growing Counties, to such parts where the consumption exceeds the growth, and collecting it for Exportation when allowed.—Proceed freely in your business, for if the false notions, which the populace may of themselves conceive,

From these open proceedings, the Janizaries and People took the alarm, pretended that all the Corn was going to be exported, and that they, in consequence, must be starved; and in Constantinople, grew so mutinous, that they could not be appeased till the Vizir was strangled, and his body thrown out to them.

His Successor took particular care not to split on the same rock, and would suffer no Exportation at all; many of the Farmers, who looked on the Exportation as their greatest demand, neglected Tillage to save their rents, which in that Country are paid either in kind, or in proportion to their Crops, to such a degree, that in less than three years, the same quantity of Corn, which, in time of Export, sold for not quite seventeen pence, was worth more than six shillings, and the distresses of the People in Smyrna were such, that every bakehouse, and Magazine of Corn, was obliged to have a military guard, which took care that no one Person should have more than a fixed quantity; and so strictly was this Order observed, that an *English* ship in the *Turkey*-trade, was detained from sailing some time for want of Bread.

The ill consequences of these proceedings were not removed in many years, and to this day, the fate of the Vizir, as an unfortunate good Man, is lamented.

While we have a Parliament, we need not fear such ill consequences from the mistaken notions of the People, or the Farmer, but, within memory, the People, in more parts of *Great-Britain* than one, have proceeded to Extremities upon as mistaken principles, as the People at *Constantinople* did in the case above related, and which, if they had not been timely checked, might have proved as much to their own disadvantage.

conceive, or wicked Men for bad purposes, or for want of better information, may possess themselves with, should make them interrupt you, and forcibly take away, or spoil your property, the PLACE \*, where such interruption happens, shall pay the damage, or those who do it shall be punished. But let not this promise of protection and recompence be so ill received, and ungratefully returned by you, as to induce you to endeavour to get an unreasonable Gain, and to oppress the Poor; for, in that case, we will set a price on your commodity †, and punish you, if you do not comply with our Orders; yet this shall be done, not by any inferior Magistrates, who by their connections may, however well they intend, be byassed either for or against you, or for want of proper information may give improper Orders, but by the King's Privy Council, and great Officers of state, or any seven of them, of which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord President, or Lord Privy Seal, shall be one, who being best apprised of what is fit to be done throughout the whole Realm, and in every part thereof, are, for that reason, the most capable to judge and the only proper Persons to be trusted in what is fit to be done in this affair.

In regard to the Bakers, it is true, we have trusted them to Magistrates of Corporations and Justices of the Peace, who have a clear rule for their conduct. But while the Bakers act uprightly, they may proceed with the same freedom and safety, as all others may, in the carrying-on their branch of the Corn-trade.

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In

\* 11 George 2. c. 22. † 25 Hen. 8. c. 2.

In this small compass may be seen a general view and purport of most of our Laws relating to the Corn-trade, except those regarding Malt, Markets, and Measures, and which it might be possible to reduce, except the Baking-act, which seems necessary to be kept apart, into one plain act of Parliament; in which, though some amendments may be made, we are bold to say, the general PLAN cannot be improved.

Here a question naturally arises, how, and in what respects, can those amendments in our Corn-laws be made? To this, of myself I presume to say little, but what I have heard from some able Men, who seem to understand the affair, I shall take the liberty to put down.

Let the *Bounty* \* on Wheat be reduced to 4s. per quarter, and on other Grain in proportion, and payable on Wheat to 40s. Rye to 26s. Barley and Malt to 20s. yet when they exceed these prices, and do not exceed the old Exportation prices, let them be freely exported; and when they exceed those prices, let Exportation cease, except to our own subjects abroad in our service, and the Garrisons in our Forts, and such as ought to be excepted, and then let Corn be imported at the present low duties, till it shall have risen, Wheat to 54s. and other Grain in proportion; and, after that, duty free, taking care not to make the Law so positive, but that the King, by the advice of his Council, when he shall think proper, tho' Corn shall be under the Exportation prices, may forbid the Exportation of every, or any Species

\* See this stated at large in the considerations of the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn.

Species thereof, for a time to be limited: And, to prevent confusion, let the Justices of the peace, in each Quarter-sessions, and the Privy Council at all times, have power to enquire into the prices of Corn in each Port, and certify the same to the Customers thereof, and let such prices, as they shall certify, for three months after, be his guide, except the King in Council shall order otherwise, in regard to paying the Bounty, permitting the Export without Bounty, stopping the Exportation, and permitting the Importation at the low Duty or Duty free, the present method of obtaining the Bounty by affidavit, in regard to the Market-price, in all Ports where no such Certificate shall be in force, being still observed.

Two things, they pretend, ought to be taken especial Care of, viz. to guard against the Bounty being paid for Corn *not* exported, which they affirm formerly to have been the case, and to protect, at all times, Persons who may be engaged in carrying Corn, or Flour, from one part of the Kingdom to another, that the whole may have, as near as may be, an equal share of the blessings of Providence; otherwise, whilst a Bounty may be paying in one place for the Exportation of Corn, another part of the Kingdom may almost suffer famine. So much for the general Laws about Corn.

As to the Laws about Malt, it would be needless to mention them here, since they, in their Execution, are under the Commissioners of Excise.

In regard to the Laws about Markets, they seem not full or explicit enough, or to be grown by the alterations of times in a manner useless, or rather impossible to be used; besides, the Statute 5 and 6

of Edward VI. as far as relates to *Westmoreland, Cumberland, Chester, Lancaster and York*, and all foreign victuals imported, except Fish and Salt, is by 5 and 13 of *Elizabeth* altered, or repealed; by Statutes 21 of *James I.* and 3 of *Car. I.* till Wheat is 32s. any Person may buy it \* in Market or out of Market; and by 15 of *Car. 2.* this Act is further altered, as hath been before observed.

A notion had some time prevailed, that buying Corn by *Sample* is FORESTALLING, and contrary to Law, which seems to be a mistake. The Statute of *Edward VI.* says so plainly what Forestalling is, that it may be wondered how such a notion could prevail. It is buying any thing *coming*, or making a bargain for any thing *coming*, before the *same* shall be in the Market, or persuading Persons *coming* to abstain. Now what hath this to do with Samples? In many places it is not practicable to bring all into the Market, or, if it were; would it be reasonable? Or could it ever be intended, that in such Towns, and many such there are, where from 500 to 2000 quarters are sold every Market-day, and whose inhabitants do not consume 2000 quarters of Bread-corn in a whole year, every part of the quantity sold should be pitched in the Market, after having been drawn many miles, and that, perhaps

\* And yet *Howell*, afterwards Clerk of the Council, in a Letter from *Rouen*, dated *Sept. 7, 1619*, says, "Tis true *England* hath a good Repute abroad for her Fertility, yet be our Harvests never so kindly, and our Crops never so plentiful, we have every year commonly some Grain from thence, (*France*) or from *Dantzic*, and other places imported by the Merchant." The alteration or different situation between these times and those in regard to our plenty need not be mentioned.

haps, thro' very bad roads, to be drawn afterwards possibly another way as many miles more, nay sometimes directly back again by the Farmer's own door, to be ground, or put on Ship-board, either for the use of distant parts of the Kingdom, or foreign parts.

There is a custom still retained in *London* which seems to explain this affair, and to have been at first introduced to prevent Forestalling: Which is this, no Corn is permitted to be measured till a Sample is carried to the Lord Mayor, who is thereby not only apprized of its Arrival himself, but also of its *Fitness for Man's Use*, and hath, by his Crier, an opportunity to give notice to the whole City of its arrival, and then grants his permit to the person requesting to measure and take up his Corn, either for sale, or to put in Granaries.

REGRATING is selling *victuals*, in which Corn is included, bought in the same Market, or within four miles thereof, again, except to each Person for his Family, which, however, by Stat. 15 *Car. 2.* may now be done after three months.

Now, however necessary it may be to prevent those who, knowing the particular sort of Corn that their neighbours may want, or taking advantage of ignorant, or idle People, which come late to Market, engross what they can early in the morning, and then, out of *pure friendship*, spare it again on the same day; yet the general and strict execution of this clause would be hurtful; for who would venture, in *London* more particularly, to buy and lay up any Corn when the Market is overstocked, if he was obliged, either not to sell it in the same Market again at all, or not till after three months; or how would that Market be supplied, most certainly very sparingly,

sparingly, where any the least surplus must either be laid up at the expence, of the Importer, who generally wants the Money, or else sold for next to nothing. So sensible were our Legislators of this, that when Corn is imported, if the importer cannot sell it but to loss, it may be re-exported to foreign parts and great part of the duty will be returned: \* and if he takes care to report his ship for Exportation, and keep her without the Port, he may, if he dislikes the price, go to any other port of the Kingdom which otherwise he cannot.

INGROSSING of Corn, is getting it into possession with intent to sell it again, except by persons properly qualified, or lawfully authorized, which every Man now is, till Wheat is 48s. by Statute 15 Car. 2. in regard to which enough hath been said before.

In this, as was before observed in relation to the Corn-laws, it is not intended to insinuate, that no Laws can be enacted for the better regulation of the Markets; for there certainly may, but only to shew, at least, that we think, that the old Laws could not have the intention, in their first institution, which some Men may imagine; and that, till every Market in the Kingdom is exactly or at least nearly, in the same circumstances, or the growth of Corn is nearly the same throughout the whole Nation; no one general Law seems possible to be made, which will properly, at all times, and in all cases, regulate them all; yet it may be presumed, that, upon application from any particular Place, the Parliament would pass a temporary act to regulate their markets, and their experience might be of great use in serving to shew, how far it would be proper to put other Places in the same or like circumstances on the

\* See Book of Rates title CORN.

the same footing. That which bids the fairest to suit them all is, to cause a certain hour for the opening of each Market to be fixed, and to make it penal to sell any Corn before notice is given by a Bell or otherwise, and then those, who are not in time, may blame themselves.

Measures have been attempted to be regulated to no purpose, as appears by many Acts since *Magna Charta*, which is now 500 years ago, by obliging all Persons to use the like; and, it may be feared, there are difficulties to be surmounted, which may retard their regulation as yet for a long *while*.\*

† We shall mention only one, which it seems would not be easily got over, in regard to the measure of Corn; where the poor buy it for their own use and a large bushel is at present used; for there it would be very difficult, if it was reduced to the present standard, to satisfy them that they received no injury by the reduction.

† For instance, let us suppose the act to commence in a place where the measure of the bushel of Wheat is nine gallons, the weight 72 lb. and the price 4s. 6d. this bushel being reduced to eight gallons of the weight of 64 lb. and to the price of 4s. would at first give no offence; nor so long as the price should remain under four shillings, as it would be plain that although the size and weight of the bushel were less than before, the price was also reduced in a due proportion; but whenever it should

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happen

\* Since this was wrote, two or three Committees of the House of Commons have taken great pains in regard to Weights and Measures; but the difficulties are not yet got over.

happen that the eight gallon bushel was sold for 4s. 6d. then the poor would be apt to grow discontented, and say, the bushel is lessened, and yet the price is raised, and it would not be an easy matter to persuade them to believe, that if it was still nine gallons, the value would be more than five shillings.

In the mean time, if it were enacted, that in every Market-house in Great Britain, or some more conspicuous place in every Market-town, the contents of the bushel, and other measures, in Winchester quarts and pints, should be wrote up, and kept continually legible, and every Person selling Corn there should be bound, without express mention being made thereof and in case no express mention be made at the Bargain-making to the contrary, to deliver the Person to whom he sells the quantity for the Bushel, or other measure, as so wrote up, and at the same time it should be prohibited to depart from the use of the customary measure to any other but the legal, or Winchester measure.

Many good ends might be answered by this regulation; every Stranger coming into the Market would know what measure he is to expect; and, if certificates of the measures used in each Market were transmitted to the Excise, the whole might be made into a kind of alphabet, by which every Person would be enabled to find the various measures used in every part of the nation.

The Statute 15 Car. 2. fixes the prices at which all other Sorts of Grain may be laid up, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 1 Will. and Mary gives a Bounty on the Exportation of Rye, Barley, and Wheat-meal, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 5 Ann, on Oatmeal, but

but it was thought proper to take notice of Wheat only in this Essay in order to avoid prolixity.

The prices of Wheat mentioned herein are taken from the Register of Eton College, an abstract of which from 1646 follows; and we will close the whole with a List of the Statutes above referred to.

	£.	s.	d.
From 1646 to 1666 the Average Price of the Qu <sup>r</sup> of Wheat	2	17	5½
1666 to 1686	—	—	— 2 6 3
1686 to 1706	—	—	— 2 5 9¾
1706 to 1726	—	—	— 2 4 9¾
1726 to 1746	—	—	— 1 17 10½
1746 to 1756	—	—	— 1 17 5

Note, These are the prices of the very best Wheat; besides the measure there is full nine gallons; so that, deducting 2s. for the fineness, and one ninth for the measure, the prices will stand thus, viz.

	£.	s.	d.	
From 1646 to 1686	—	—	— 2 4 4	Winchester Measure
1686 to 1756	—	—	— 1 15 1	Ditto,

For the last 70 Years—Wheat hath }  
been cheaper — — — — — } — 9 3 per Quarter.

In 1688, the Bounty on Exportation was first given, and Wheat having on the average been so much cheaper ever since shews, that the Law then made was a good Law, as well as 15 Car. 2. for, if only two thirds of the Corn consumed in Bread hath been Wheat, and the above Register is true, the Money, which hath been saved annually in that article only, amounts to above a million and a half of Money\*; an almost incredible sum, and more than four times the sum paid for Bounty on the Exportation of all sorts of Corn in the year of the greatest Export ever know; besides the ready money which hath been brought into the nation for the Corn exported.

\* See the account stated in the Collection of Papers Tract the third.



## A LIST of the STATUTES about Corn, most of which are above referred to.

Year.	Kings.	General Purport.
1534—25	Hen. 8.	cap. 2—regulating the price of victuals.
1548	5 and 6 Ed. 6.	cap. 14—against ingrossers, &c.
1553	1 and 2 P. and M.	cap. 5—allowing Exportation till 6s. 8d.
1563	5 Eliz.	cap. 12—alters 5 and 6 Ed. 6. in regard to buyers.
1571—13	Eliz.	cap. 13—regulates Exportation, &c.
1603	1 Jac. 1.	cap. 13—the same.
1624—21	Jac. 1.	cap. 28—the same and alters 5 and 6 Ed. 6. still more.
1627	3 Car. 1.	cap. 4—nearly a repetition of the last and allows Export to 32s.
1660—12	Car. 2.	cap. 4—relates to Export and allows it till 40s.
1663—15	Car. 2.	cap. 7—the same and alters or suspends 5 and 6 Ed. 6. till Wheat 48s. to which it allows Export.
1670—22	Car. 2.	cap. 13—allows Export after 48s. paying custom, &c.
1685	1 Jac. 2.	cap. 19—regulates the manner of ascertaining the prices according to which custom on the Importation is to be paid.
1688	1 W. and M.	cap. 12—gives Bounty and repeals custom on Export to 48s.
1698	10 W. 3.	cap. 3—from Feb. 10. no Export for one year.
1699	11 W. 3.	cap. 3—from Feb. 12. no Bounty for nine months.
1700	11 and 12 W. 3.	cap. 20—no custom on Export after 48s.

1706—

1706	5 Ann.	cap. 29—gives Bounty on Oatmeal and Wheat-Malt.
1709	8 Ann.	cap. 2—no Export for one year.
1729	2 Geo. 2.	cap. 18—relates to importation.
1732	5 Geo. 2.	cap. 12—the same, and amends 1 Jac. 2. c. 19.
1738	11 Geo. 2.	cap. 22—made felony to hinder Exportation.
1740	14 Geo. 2.	cap. 3—no Export for one year.
1741	15 Geo. 2.	cap. 35—no Export for one year.
1757	30 Geo. 2.	cap. 1—no Export till 27 Dec. 1757.
		cap. 7—Import allowed till Aug. 25, 1757, duty free.
1758	31 Geo. 2.	cap. 1—no Export till 24 Dec. 1758.
1759	32 Geo. 2.	cap. 2—no Export till 24 Dec. 1759, but subject to alteration and by cap. 8—repealed after 25 Mar. 1759.
1765	5 Geo. 3.	cap. 31—no Bounty on Export or Duty on Import of Wheat till 24 Aug. 1765.
1765	5 Geo. 3.	cap. 32—if Wheat is 6s. a bushel, the King and Council may prohibit the Export thereof, during next recess of Parliament.
1766	6 Geo. 3.	cap. 3.—Wheat may be imported from America duty free to Michaelmas.
		cap. 4.—Oats and Oatmeal generally to Ditto.
		cap. 5.—Export of Wheat from Feb. 26, to Aug. 26 prohibited. These

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These are all the most material Statutes we can find relative to the Corn-trade; and it is remarkable, that although the Bounty hath been before suspended, and the Exportation prohibited, yet, till 1757, the Importation was never allowed duty free.

The following papers, which were before added, are here continued by way of Appendix, the writers are entirely unknown to the Author, nor doth he know how he came by them, but thinks they were given away at the door of the House of Commons, and in his opinion should not be lost, as they not only contain some things which have slipped him in the Essay; but also explain some of those he hath mentioned in a better and clearer manner than he hath done.

APPENDIX,



APPENDIX.

January 19, 1757.

MEMORIAL

FOR THE

ROYAL BOROUGHS of Scotland.

IT is now past all Doubt with the discerning Part of this Nation, that the present high Prices of Grain proceed from the great Deficiencies that happened in the two last Crops. The first was almost entirely consumed before the last was got well off the Ground; and the last proves extremely deficient, both in Quantity and Quality.

It is therefore perfectly evident, that an Addition to the Quantity can alone relieve the Distresses of the Poor and labouring People. It is this, and this only, which will reduce the present exorbitant price of Grain in the populous, grazing, and manufacturing Counties, which never yield Grain sufficient for their own Subsistence, where the Poor presently labour under extreme Distress, and which, it is too greatly to be feared, must even increase, if some effectual

fectual Measures be not immediately taken for their Relief.

It would be highly proper to suspend the Duties on the Importation of all kinds of Grain for a limited Time, in order to encourage the bringing Corn from abroad to supply the Wants of the Poor, and thereby to support the Trade and Manufactures of the Nation which otherwise must suffer in a very high Degree. But at the same time that the Legislature should be attentive to such Measures as will not only reduce the present Prices, and prevent their growing higher, they should also be careful to prevent any unnecessary Consumption of foreign Grain; as that must drain the Island of so much of her Treasure, and in some Degree discourage her Agriculture, and abate her Strength.

To this End it is of high Importance, that the Communication be rendered as free and easy as possible, from the growing Counties to those who never produce enough for their own Consumption. The Legislature ought therefore to consider, how to prevent the present riotous Proceedings of the common People, their seizing on the Rivers and High-roads the Corn going to or coming from the public Markets or Shipping Ports, and selling it off, or otherwise distributing it as they please, in open Defiance of the Laws.

It is to be observed too, that these Proceedings demand the stricter Attention, that they prevail chiefly in the growing Counties, thereby preventing the Supplies from going to the populous manufacturing Districts, which are in real Want. The least Evil that ensues from such Abuses, is inhancing the price in a great Degree, by increasing the Risk and Charge of the Adventurer.

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The old Laws which were made before Commerce was well understood, those, to wit, of the 5th and 6th *Edward VI.* and of the 5th of *Elizabeth*, seem to have a considerable Tendency to increase the Prices to the manufacturing Counties. They lay many Restraints upon the Purchasers of Corn, and subject them to heavy Penalties, which they are liable to incur by very innocent Mistakes. Hence Persons of Character and Substance in many Places now decline all Concern or Adventure in Grain, to the great Detriment and Distress of the Districts distant from the Places of Growth, which were in use to be supplied by their Means, and can hardly indeed be supplied otherwise. It is true, that, in order to abate the Rigour of these Statutes, there was a Law passed in the 15th of *Charles 2.* whereby it was enacted, *cap. 7. §. 4.* "That when the  
 " Prices of Corn or Grain, *Winchester Measure*,  
 " do not exceed the Rates following at the Markets,  
 " Havens, or Places where the same shall be bought,  
 " viz. the Quarter of Wheat 48s. the Quarter of  
 " Rye 32s. the Quarter of Barley or Malt 28s. the  
 " Qr. of Buck Wheat 28s. the Qr. of Oats 13s.  
 " and 4d. the Qr. of Pease or Beans 32s. that then  
 " it shall be lawful for all and every Person and  
 " Persons (not forestalling nor selling the same in  
 " the same Market within three Months after the  
 " buying thereof) to buy in open Markets, and to  
 " lay up and keep in his or their Granaries or Houses,  
 " and to sell again such Corn or Grain of the Kinds  
 " aforesaid, as without Fraud or Covin, shall have  
 " been bought at or under the Prices before express-  
 " ed, without incurring any Penalty; any Law Sta-  
 " tute or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding."

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This Act, it must be acknowledged, does in some Degree mitigate the Acts of *Edward* and *Elizabeth*. But it is to be observed, that the Prices therein specified bear no just Proportion to each other, especially those of Wheat, Barley, and Oats; the first being rated at 48s. the next at 28s. and the last at 13s. 4d. per Quarter. It is well known, that Wheat and Barley seldom now reach these Prices, but that good Oats exceed the Price at which they are rated almost as often as they fall short of it.

The Proportion may have been very just at the Time this Law was made; but the Alteration in Consumption, Produce, or Quality, has put those Articles on a very different Footing; so that now, when Wheat bears the Price of 48s. the Quarter, and Barley 28s. Oats cannot well be under 20 or 21s.

Mr. *King*, a very ingenious and accurate Calculator, in his Computation of the Land-product of *England* given by Dr. *Davenant*, estimates, that, in a Year of moderate Plenty, the Wheat sells at 28s. the Quarter, Rye at 20s. Barley at 16s. Oats at 12s. and Pease and Beans 20s. He likewise tells us, that one tenth of Defect in the Harvest will raise the Price of Corn about three tenths above the common Rate; that two tenths of Defect will advance the Price eight tenths, and three tenths Deficiency will advance it about one and  $\frac{1}{10}$ . If we suppose his Computation any Thing nearly just, and that the Price of Oats, in ordinary Years of Plenty, may be rated at 12s. a Quarter, surely their advancing above 13s. 4d. must very frequently happen. To lay any Restraint therefore upon the purchasing of Oats when at that Rate, is doing great Injustice to the Farmers and

and Landholders of the growing Counties, as well as to those which always stand in need of Supply; preventing the first from obtaining so good Prices as they might and ought to obtain, and the others from being supplied so freely, and on such easy Terms, as they would if they were relieved from such Restrictions.

It would be proper therefore, that a Review was made of this Law; that the buying of Oats was relieved from any Restraint, except when they shall exceed 20s. to 21s. the Quarter, which will bring them on a par with other Grain contained in the Act of *Charles* 2. It is surely for the Advantage of the whole Nation, that no Part of it should enjoy a Monopoly against another; and that every Part should be cultivated to the greatest Advantage. Some Districts are found most proper for Tillage, others for Grazing; the Produce of both is equally necessary for the Support of the People. The Legislature ought therefore, at all Times, to have in view the rendering the Circulation of the different Products into all Quarters of the Kingdom as easy and free from Restraints as possible: For every Restraint must lessen the Value to the Grower, and enhance the Price to the Consumer; especially when the Article consumed is to be brought from Places that are distant. The immediate revising of this Statute becomes the more necessary, that the Justices of the Peace, in the Counties of *Northumberland* and *Durham*, have refused to give Licences for the buying of Corn in the Terms pointed out by Law, though the Price of Oats is far from being high in those Counties; and it is well known, that Agriculture has, within thirty years past, so increased in the first of

them, that the People cannot even in the very worst Year, consume near the Produce of that County: So if some Method is not taken, to check the increasing riotous Disposition of the People there, and to relieve all Doubts and Difficulties which the Justices may have in regard to the Laws, the Corn there may be coopt up in the Hands of the Farmers without Sale, to the Detriment of the landed Interest, and Distress of the manufacturing Counties, which consume Oats in Bread, and demand immediate Supplies. It may also occasion an unnecessary Exportation of the Nation's Substance, by creating greater Demand from abroad for that Article, than would be requisite, if the Communication between the growing and manufacturing Counties was rendered free, open, and safe. Therefore, if any Measure should be taken for suspending the Duties on Importation of Grain, it is of great Importance, that something effectual should, in the first place, be done towards quelling the present riotous Spirit that too much prevails; and rendering the purchasing and Transportation of Oats from the growing Counties to the distant Markets, as safe and easy as that of any other Grain.

To those who have Occasion to know the Situation of the Kingdom in regard to that Article, the suspending the Duties upon the Importation of Grain appears every Day more and more requisite, to preserve the Lives of many of his Majesty's Subjects. It is, however, a Measure that ought to be conducted with great Delicacy, lest the landed Interest and Agriculture of the Nation should suffer by too large Importation.

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The Duties ought therefore to be taken off only for a limited Time, with Power to his Majesty and Council to prolong the Time, as they see Cause. On the other hand, Supplies from abroad are absolutely necessary, and this Nation can only have them from Countries that lie very distant; therefore the Time of Suspension should not be too much limited, lest it frustrate the Intention, by preventing many Persons from adventuring upon such Uncertainty as they must be under, whether they shall be allowed to import the Corn after it shall arrive; the Duties upon every kind of Grain, except Oats, being equal to a Prohibition, unless the Prices should go so high as can happen only from the most dismal Famine.

As the Culture of Land is of the highest Importance to this Nation, every Way of encouraging Agriculture ought to be carefully sought after and cherished; and every visible Obstruction to its Improvement, and whatever tends to lessen the Value of its Product, ought to be removed. It were a Pity an Opportunity of doing any Thing to answer these Ends should be lost; and none can offer more favourable than the present, when the Scarcity of Corn has occasioned a Bill on that Subject to be brought into Parliament.

One great Hindrance, and needless Load, upon carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Britain* to the proper Markets within the Island, is that of exacting Coast-Cockets, and Bonds under high Penalties, for all Corn that may be transported coastwise, from one Place of *Britain* to another, without the Bounds of any navigable River. This Method is attended not only with very great Delay and Charge to all Persons concerned in the shipping of Corn, but also

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fo with the greatest Trouble and Hindrance to the Navigation; and there have been Instances, wherein, by Neglect of sending the proper Certificates for relieving these Bonds, that some Mariners and others have been ruined by Prosecutions following thereupon, though there is not the least Necessity for any such Securities being granted; and it might be shewn, that, in many Cases, the taking of them may be even hurtful to his Majesty's Revenue.

By the Act 13th and 14th of Charles 2. intituled, *An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuses in his Majesty's Customs*, it is enacted, " That if any Goods, Wares, or Merchandises shall be shipped, or put aboard, to be carried forth to the open Sea, from any Port, Creek, or Member, &c. to be landed at any other Place of this Realm, without a Suffrance or Warrant first had and obtained from the Managers of his Majesty's Customs; all such Wares and Merchandise shall be forfeited, and the Master enjoined, before the Ship be removed out of the Port, to take out a Cocket, and become bound for Delivery and Discharge thereof in the Port for which the same shall be entered, or some other Port within the Realm, and to return a Certificate of the Goods being so landed and discharged."

Upon this Law is founded the Practice of taking Bond, &c. But it is evident by the very Title and Nature of the Statute, that it was intended to prevent Frauds and Abuses in his Majesty's Customs, and to prevent Corn shipped coastwise in any Part of the Kingdom, from being fraudulently carried out of

of it\* to Parts beyond the Seas. There were considerable Duties at that Time upon the Exportation thereof, which made these Bonds and Cockets necessary. But by the subsequent wise Laws, encouraging the Exportation of Corn of all sorts, and giving of large Bounties on particular kinds thereof, the Necessity of these Securities was entirely taken away; nay, the Continuation of them rendered altogether absurd; for no Man will clear Corn coastwise which he intends to export, as by this he would lose the Bounty. But after Corn is shipped coastwise, and the Vessel has perhaps proceeded partly on her Voyage, if any sudden Advance at a foreign Market should induce the Owner to dispatch his Cargo abroad, with such Expedition as not to suffer the Delay and Charge of relanding and shipping, new Entries, &c. to intitle him to the Bounty, he is totally cut off from this Measure, by the Impossibility of getting his Coast-bond relieved by a proper Certificate of the Corn being landed in *Britain*. Such Circumstances have happened, and will frequently happen in the Corn-trade; and it may be prudent for the Merchant to take this Course, especially when the Corn on board is of the kind whereon the smallest Bounties are allowed. In this View of the Thing, the Practice of Bond is hurtful to the Revenue, as well as the Merchant. And no doubt many Cargoes in this Situation would have gone abroad, without

\* Being fraudulently carried out of it, the Kingdom. Possibly no Law is more rigorously carried, at all Times, into Execution than the above; how then can there be any of those illegal Exports, which were said lately, in Print, to be so notorious, as to need no Proof.

without the Bounty, if the Coast-security had not stood in the Way.

These Securities therefore for Corn carried coastwise, serve no End but to raise high Fees to Custom House Officers, to delay and retard Navigation; especially when the Cargoes may be loaded at Creeks perhaps ten or twenty Miles distant from the Customhouse, they often occasion Vessels to lose their Passage, or come too late to Market, and put the Shipmasters to considerable Charges, in travelling so far to give their Securities, and to Trouble, in finding Bondsmen to join them; besides the great Trouble and Expence that is incurred afterwards, by procuring Certificates, and transmitting them to the different Customhouses for cancelling the Bonds.

It is evident, that all this Charge and Trouble may be considered as a needless Burden on carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Great Britain* to Market.

And it is not to be doubted, that the Custom of taking Bonds and Cockets for home Corn carried coastwise would have been abolished, when that valuable Law was made for giving Bounties on Corn exported, if the above Observations had then occurred to the Legislature.

If it should seem hard to risk hurting so valuable an Object as the Culture of Land in *Britain*, by suspending, even at such a Juncture as this is, the Duties on foreign Corn imported; why allow that Land to continue loaded with a Tax on its Produce, when carried coastwise, which answers no good Purpose, and which in itself is oppressive and absurd?

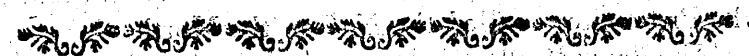
The City of *London* got free of this oppressive Custom, by Statute, *imo Annæ, cap. 26.* for the whole River *Thames*, and the Coast between the Promontory

montory called the *North-Foreland* on the South, and the Promontory called the *Nase* on the North.

The Preamble of this Statute declares how grievous a Thing it was at that Time; and that the Officers taking Cockets and Bonds, and exacting Fees for the same, was oppressive and illegal.

Ought not therefore the whole Kingdom to be freed now in the same Manner, by a Clause inserted in the Corn Bill now depending, **DECLARING,** That, for the future, Permits or Transfers only shall be necessary for Grain carried coastwise from one Part of the Kingdom of *Britain* to another, at all Times while that Commodity may be lawfully exported upon Bounty, or without Payment of Duties; and that while Corn is prohibited to be exported, as at present, Bonds and Cockets should be exacted as formerly.

I OBSERVA-

  
**OBSERVATIONS**

ON THE

**Present High Prices of CORN.**

THE Crops in *Britain* and *Ireland* in the Year 1755 were very scanty; and it is certain, that on the Approach of the last Harvest, which proved late, seldom, in the Memory of Man, has a smaller Stock of old Grain been known in these Islands.

The last Season of 1756, from its Beginning, was extremely unfavourable; Thousands of Acres remained unsown; and the bad Condition in which many more were sown, rendered them incapable of producing a good Crop, altho' favourable Weather has followed. It is certain, that the Weather during the Spring, Summer and Harvest, was generally unfavourable; great Quantities of Grain perished by the Rains and Winds, and most of what remained proved defective, both in Quantity and Substance, by its not duly ripening; and, whatever People prejudiced or ignorant of the general State of these Matters may affirm, it is a melancholy Truth, that the Crops, tho' middling, or even good, for some Kinds of Grain, in particular Counties, have at no Time, during thirty Years past, thro' *Britain* and *Ireland*, proved more scanty upon the whole.

In this Situation, it is the Duty of every one who wishes well to his Country, to suggest all reasonable  
 Methods

Methods by which the present Exorbitancy in the Price of Grain may be corrected, and the destructive Consequences of another backward Season or bad Crop may be prevented. This is in all Respects the more necessary, as the Effects of the last bad Season have been almost equally felt over the greatest Part of the Northern Continent of *Europe*, and as a Scarcity in any one Country must necessarily affect the Prices of Grain in every neighbouring Country.

The Legislature has wisely prohibited all Exportation of Grain; but it may be doubted whether this prudent Precaution will of itself be sufficient for preventing the Calamities which another bad Season may produce.

Experience has shewn, that the Price of no sort of Grain has been reduced by this Measure, though, at this Time of the Year, Corn is generally brought most plentifully by the Farmers to Market. This also affords a strong Proof, that, without the seasonable Prohibition of Export, the Prices would have run higher, and that there is a real Defect in the Quantity of Corn in both Islands.

To prevent the Forestalling and ingrossing of Corn, especially in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town, where the Millers, Bakers, Maltsters, &c. may themselves purchase from the Growers directly, and take off all the Produce, is most necessary, and strict Attention ought to be given to the Execution of this Measure; but it may be doubted how far the Prices of Grain will be lowered, by renewing the antient Laws against Forestallers and Ingrossers, in their full Latitude; and many are of Opinion, that



the late well intended Proclamation has rather been hurtful, as otherwise, in that Respect\*.

The Counties which are most populous, and where Manufactures chiefly flourish in both Islands, generally grow less Corn, than the other Counties less populous and less Manufacturing. Thus many Counties on the East Coast generally supply others on their own Side, but particularly the West Coast of the Island, even in Times of Plenty.

It is natural, and indeed reasonable, at first View, for People to think, that in Times of Scarcity there should be no Interposition, if possible, between the Grower and the Consumer, or at least the Manufacturer of Grain; but this, in fact, is generally impracticable, unless so far as the Produce in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town will go.

The Corn therefore necessary for supplying distant Places or Counties has always, and generally must be bought and transported to the Places where the Demand is, by Merchants, or others of Substance and Knowledge in that Branch of Business.

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\* It was dated 26 Nov. 1756, and after reciting the 5 and 6 of Ed. 6. c. 14. and the 5 Eliz. c. 12, &c. goes on, *And whereas the prices of Corn are already very much increased, and the same is likely to grow much dearer, to the great oppression of the poor; partly because the said Acts are not duly put in execution. We have, &c.*—Which words, it was thought at that time, did much harm, in that many of the Farmers took the hint to wait for the higher price, and that the Dealers being threatned with prosecutions under Laws of which many of them had never heard, proceeded with great caution; whereby the circulation in the Corn-trade moved very slowly, the price of Wheat rose apace and it became very dear, and this, it was imagined, was in great measure owing to the said Proclamation, and may be added to the Consequence so well described by the Writer further on.

It is obvious the Growers and Manufacturers of Grain, and far less the Consumers, cannot engage in such Purchases and Transportation of Corn to or from distant Places. It is also obvious, that the contractors for the Sale of such Corn, or the Agents who may be employed for the Purchase of it in the growing Counties, must collect great Quantities at different places, until Opportunities of Shipping can be obtained for carrying it off; and this Practice, however necessary for the Supply of distant Places of the Island, comes under the Letter of the old Statutes against forestalling and ingrossing of Corn.

This is more particularly so in the Case of Oats or Oat-Meal, which by the Statute *Ch. 2. Chap. 15.* cannot be bought without Licences, &c. when Oats are above 13s. 4d. per Quarter. Now, as this Price bears no Proportion to that of other Grain mentioned in that Act, the Regulation is hurtful in many Parts of the Island, especially those the most remote from the Capital; and it is inconceivable, how such a Disproportion should have been established between the Price of Oats and other Grain in that Act.

The Consequence of the late Proclamation has been, in many growing or shipping Counties, to make the common People riotous, and to prevent the buying or shipping of Corn even in such Quarters of the Country where it can be spared; and where the Prices are moderate. It being natural for the common People, in such Times, to wish for Corn still cheaper, and to prevent any Thing being shipped or going out of their Bounds, especially if the Letter of the Law gives the least Countenance to such a Procedure.

The

The Effect of this is immediately to stop all Purchases, and to distress the distant and populous Places, which depend on their Supplies Coast-ways, even in Time of Plenty. Many such Places are in the Kingdom, which might be enumerated if the Fact were not well known; and they begin already to feel this Inconveniency, it having gone to such a Height, that the Transportation of Corn from one Place to another at the Distance of a few Miles to and even from the Sea-Coast, has been violently interrupted by the Populace.

Dr. *Davenant*, a judicious Writer, has observed fifty Years ago, That a Review of our antient Laws concerning Corn was necessary, for they were in no ways suited to the State of the Kingdom, Increase of People, and other Circumstances of the then Times. The Observation will more forcibly apply to the present Times.

This Author's Thoughts on this Subject are worthy of Perusal at present, as he points out some Methods for preventing Dearth for the future, though not indeed applicable in a scarce Year. He exposes in the clearest Light the fatal Consequences of a Dearth, especially to a Trading Nation; such Consequences indeed as he mentions are not to be dreaded in our Times. Our Agriculture has been so immensely improved by the wise Institutions of Bounties on Corn exported; Commerce is more practised and better understood; and it may also be reasonably supposed, that our Merchants having both more Knowledge and Capital than in former Times, will, by Importations from one Quarter of the World or another, always prevent a Scarcity from becoming intolerable.

But

But whatever is done by the Legislature for regulating the Inland Commerce of Corn, if no other Measures are taken, it will be only festering the Wound, and in no sort remove the growing Evil; it may indeed make Corn cheaper for a Time in such Counties where it can be spared, and where it is already moderate, but it will doubly distress the distant and manufacturing Places.

Quantity is wanted; and nothing but an additional Quantity brought to Market can effectuate the good End proposed, and enable the Poor to purchase at an easy Rate.

This may be done in two Ways; and both will be necessary at present: first, by prohibiting for a limited Time the Distillery from Wheat in *Britain*, which will add immensely to the Quantity for Bread; and, secondly, by suspending the Duties on all Corn that may be imported, at least for some Months, or while the Prices keep high at Home.

As to the first, without entering into the Arguments for or against Distillery in general, it seems natural and absolutely necessary to prohibit Distillers the Use of Wheat, at least for a Time; if that be true which is asserted with great Appearance of Reason, that half the Wheat that comes to the Market of *London* at present is bought by Distillers; that more of that Grain is consumed by them alone within *England* in a Year than would maintain 500,000 Persons\*, or than the whole Quantity of Wheat which is consumed in this Island northward of *York*.

Certainly

\* The Observator was greatly imposed on in this; I am credibly informed they never used near one sixth Part of a Quantity sufficient for that Purpose.

Certainly the saving such a Quantity of Corn at this Juncture is very desirable and necessary.

As to any Encroachment on the Revenue thereby, without question, in our present Situation, that is a tender Point; but it is supposed the Wheat so used pays little if any Thing of the Malt Tax, and any Deficiency sustained thereby may be more than compensated by the Increase of Duties on Spirits made from Barley-Malt, by the saving of the whole Bounties on Corn and Malt exported this Year, and by the additional Duties \* on foreign and *American* Spirits that may be imported to supply the Want of our own made from Wheat.

As to the second Part, *viz.* The encouraging of Importations from abroad, there is no doubt, if we are not too dilatory in our Resolutions, but we can have Corn from *America*, the Southern Parts of *Europe*, *Barbary*, and possibly some Places nearer Home. But the present Duties on most Grain, especially Wheat, Rye, and Pease, are in effect equal to a Prohibition. The Duty on Oats is indeed low, but it would still be a sufficient Profit to the Importer, and consequently an Encouragement to bring them into the Kingdom.

Why then may not all Duties on Corn imported be suspended for some Months, until the Appearance of next Crop be seen, or until Prices at home become moderate? The Interest of the public Revenue will not be affected by this, it being indeed our Happiness, that, for nineteen years in twenty, these Duties produce little or nothing: And as to any Objections from the Landholders and Farmers,

or

\* The Author means Increase of the Duties.

or the Dealers in home Corn, whose Gains may be lessened by this Measure, they ought to be disregarded at a Time when the Condition of the Poor is so distressful.

If these Methods are pursued, large additional Quantities will come to Market. The very Apprehension of a free Import of foreign Grain, or the Appearance of a few Cargoes thereof in our Ports, will induce all the Hoarders of Home-Grain, whether Farmers or Dealers, to bring it out to Market, and the Prices will of course be lowered for the Poor.

QUANTITY, and that alone can frustrate all Attempts to engross or forestall. If there be a good Crop, or a proper Quantity of Grain, either at home or from abroad, to be got for the Market, no Art or Scheme can enhance the Price of Grain, whatever speculative Persons may fancy to themselves; and if there be a bad Crop, and the Quantities of Grain be scanty, no Art or Regulation of Government will keep the Prices low.

These Methods will, it is hoped, serve our Purpose, if the next Season should prove early and favourable; but if these Methods should fail, or the Season in any degree appear backward, a total Prohibition of Distillery, and perhaps even of Malting, may be necessary. But it would seem that a small Bounty upon all Corn imported for a limited Time, over and above the Suspension of the Duties, might answer the end better, and with less real Loss or Inconvenience to the Revenue or Kingdom.

These two Papers appear to have been printed about the Year 1757, and are here copied exactly, except the Quotation out of 15 *Car.* 2. in the first, which is copied from the Statute.

K A T A B L E

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T A B L E  
O F  
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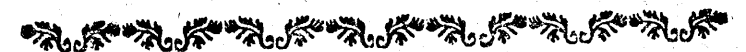
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CONSIDERATIONS



CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

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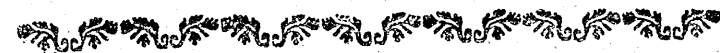
Relating to the

IMPORTATION and EXPORTATION of CORN.

BEING

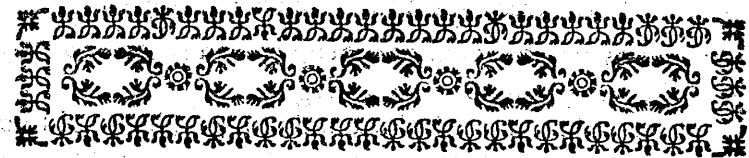
An Inquiry what Alteration may be made in them for the Benefit of the Public.

Wrote in the beginning of the Year 1759.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T .

THE following treatise was wrote in the beginning of the year 1759, for the use of a particular Gentleman, who soon returned the manuscript, which has been since lent to several others; notwithstanding which the Author hath taken the liberty to make some corrections therein, and additions thereto, the most material of which became necessary on account of the late alterations in the Corn-laws in France, and are marked thus †, as to the rest, the substance is the same as at first.



C O N S I D E R A T I O N S

O N T H E

L A W S

Relating to the

I M P O R T A T I O N and E X P O R T A T I O N of  
C O R N , & c .

S E C T I O N I .



THE variety in the seasons, one year from another, will ever cause fluctuations in the price of every thing which depends on them, and it seems as possible to regulate the seasons, as by any Law to order it so, that Corn shall always remain at one fixed and certain PRICE, and, for this reason, should any thing of that sort, at any time, be attempted, it would certainly fail.

Besides, could any regulation of that sort be carried into execution, it would tend to lessen the  
economy

72 Considerations on the Laws relating to  
economy of the common people, and the attempt  
would greatly discourage Tillage,

The economy of the common people would be  
lessened by knowing at what price they could buy  
Bread, which is their principal expence; and many  
of them would act too much like many of those  
who subsist on certain Salaries, that is, calculate  
their expences in so exact a proportion to their In-  
come, that they would find a very small accidental  
loss extremely difficult to recover.

Few of those, whose Incomes and Expences are  
certain, are known to lay up any great matter before  
hand, and it will be generally found, that those, whose  
Incomes and Expences are uncertain, are the best Hus-  
bands; and this, because they are thereby obliged to  
a constant economy, and to strive, if possible, to have  
something in store for accidents.

The attempting such a regulation would greatly  
discourage Tillage, as the Farmer would be thereby  
assured, that should he have the misfortune to loose  
half his Crop, he could receive no indemnification  
by selling the remainder at a higher price.

These inconveniences seem naturally to attend the  
attempting such a regulation, and it may be ques-  
tioned if any good purpose could be answered there-  
by.

All that can be done by the Legislature in this  
matter, is, to frame their Laws so as to prevent  
Grain from being at any Time, either so dear that the  
poor cannot subsist, or so cheap that the Farmer can-  
not live by growing of it, which hath been, or at  
least should have been, the general view of all Go-  
vernments in their Corn-laws; and no regulations  
that have ever been made, in any Country, in regard  
thereto,

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 73

thereto, can have answered these ends better than  
those established in this Kingdom; which in general  
are these, viz. permitting an Importation at a low  
duty when dear, and by a high duty prohibiting it  
when cheap, and at the same time, in order to the  
encouragement and increase of Tillage, giving  
a Bounty on the Exportation, and securing the pro-  
perty of all Persons who shall trade therein for that  
end.

The Bounty was first given on the Exportation of  
Grain in the year 1689, now seventy years since\*;  
during which period, Grain hath in general been  
from fifteen to twenty *per cent.* cheaper than for forty  
years before that time, which is a good proof of the  
utility of the Law by which it is ordered to be given,  
and which is further proved, in that, since its first esta-  
blishment, the Parliament have not thought fit to sus-  
pend it, either in part or the whole, only four times,  
viz. in 1698, 1709, 1740, and 1757, which last sus-  
pension is still in force, and to continue to *Christmas*  
next †.

That Corn hath been as much cheaper since the  
Bounties took place as before mentioned, is so no-  
torious, that the prices thereof to which the Boun-  
ties are payable by Law, which when first established  
were thought *moderate*, and under which the then  
Parliament thought the Farmer could not afford to  
grow it, are now thought *very dear*, and long be-  
fore Corn is sold at those prices, at which the Boun-  
ties are to cease of course, we have of late heard  
L clamours

\* This was wrote in the month of *Jan.* 1759.

† The Stat. 32 G. 2. chap. 2. which enacted this pro-  
hibition, was in pursuance of a clause therein, by chap.  
9. repealed after 25 *March*, 1759.

74 Considerations on the Laws relating to clamours for taking the Bounty off, and stopping the Exportation.

Few understand the nature of the Corn-trade so well as to be able to determine justly, if it would be proper to make any alteration in this matter, and even amongst those few, much the greater part are interested in the question, and therefore all should be heard with great caution.

And so different are their opinions, that whilst one urges the necessity of taking off the Bounty, now paid on the Exportation of Corn, for the future, because, as he thinks, it tends to make Bread too dear for the poor; it is pressed by another as making Corn so cheap, that the Farmers cannot live, and this Author seems to think, that no other Country can export Corn but our own, and that foreigners must have it at what price we please.

A third contends that the Bounties should not be withdrawn for the same reason, saying, the same effect will follow, and that to such a degree, that the Farmer could not go on without a great abatement in his Rent; adding moreover, that were the Bounties taken away, our shipping would decrease, and consequently our seamen; and therefore he concludes, that the continuing to give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn is necessary to the well being of the Nation.

A fourth says, a Bounty should be continued, giving for instance, Wheat; which, in his opinion, should never be sold under 3s. 6d. nor for more than 4s. a bushel, and proposes, in order to keep it in this medium, that a Bounty of 6d. a bushel be continued

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 75  
tinued, when the price of the bushel doth not exceed 4s. 6d. and, when it exceeds 5s. proposes that a duty of 8d. a bushel be paid on the Exportation, which duty should go towards the Bounty when Corn is low.

Although it might be much easier to shew, that most of these propositions are calculated to serve particular interests, than to determine what is right, and fit to be done; yet the present time, during the SUSPENSION of the Law, is most undoubtedly the proper time to consider the question, since no plea can now be made against any alteration in the affair, on account of its tending to deprive any set of Men of their present livelihood, and we have also an opportunity of seeing the Corn-trade at present carried on, without either Exportation or Bounty. Let us therefore suppose the question, in relation to both Importation and Exportation, to be stated as follows.

First, Is it proper to allow of any Importation or Exportation of Corn for the future?

Secondly, If it is proper to allow of Importation and Exportation of Corn, should it be done under any and what encouragements, restrictions, and regulations?

Thirdly, Are those encouragements, restrictions, and regulations, if any are necessary, to be made certain and remain fixed? Or is any and what power of varying them from time to time to be lodged in any and what hands?

To which questions the following answers may be given.

I 2 First,



76 Considerations on the Laws relating to

First, As it would be contrary to common sense to think, when our own growth is not sufficient for our consumption, of prohibiting the Importation, so it would be highly unreasonable, when we have Corn to spare, to deny the liberty of Exporting the surplus; and therefore, both Importation and Exportation of Corn must be allowed for the future.

Secondly, As it appears, that under the present encouragement, restrictions, and regulations, relative to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, most of which have now subsisted seventy years, that commodity hath in general, been as cheap, and Wheat in particular cheaper than before they took place; it may fairly be concluded, that to them such cheapness hath been owing, and therefore both the one and the other should still be allowed under some such encouragement, restrictions, and regulations as are now subsisting, though at present suspended.

Thirdly, From the same reason, the success of the present Laws in relation to Corn, which are certain and fixed, with a power of variation, lodged in either of the two Quarter-sessions next after Michaelmas and Easter in London, and in every Quarter-sessions in all other parts of the Kingdom, as to the opening the ports for Importation only; we must conclude, that it is best for them to remain much on the same footing; and if any alterations are made therein, they must consist only in regard to Exportation; either in lessening the Bounty, paying it to a lesser PRICE, or, perhaps, taking it quite away; and in regard to Importation; in a new regulation of the

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 77  
the Duties payable in that case, or in regard to the opening the Ports \* for that purpose.

The better to determine what may be done in each of these particulars, the following positions may be laid down,

viz.

- 1. Corn may at some price be so cheap, that the Grower will not have a reasonable reward for his labour.
- 2. At some other price so dear, that the poor may find it difficult to purchase it.
- 3. And it may also be at so moderate a price, that both the poor may afford to purchase, and the Farmer afford to grow it at the same time.

Now, it seems very clear, could the prices at which Corn may be said to be cheap, reasonable, or dear, be ascertained, it would be of great use in determining what alterations might be made, with propriety, in all or any of the present Corn-laws.

And for the ascertaining those prices, we have only to refer to the register of Eton College, and the Statutes which give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn, adding a reflection or two.

By the said register it appears, that the average prices of the best Wheat and Malt, nine gallon measure, have been for 164 years, as follows.

Number

\* By opening the ports is meant, the certifying from the Quarter-sessions to the Collector of the Customs, that the prices of Grain are so high, that it is chargeable with the low duties only; and for want of such certificate, the full duties are to be taken, and they amount to a prohibition. See Stat. 1 Jac. 2. c. 29. 2 G. 2. c. 18. and 5 G. 2. c. 12.

Number of years and when			Prices.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
51	1595	1646	2 5 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
40	1646	1686	2 11 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 9 4
40	1686	1726	2 5 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
33	1726	1759	1 18 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 4
91	1595	1686	2 8 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
73	1686	1759	1 18 11	1 7 3
164	1595	1759	2 4 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 6 $\frac{1}{4}$

And the said Statutes ordering the Bounty to be paid on Wheat till 48s. Rye till 32s. Malt and Barley till Barley is 24s. and Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. shew, that till the several Grains exceed the said prices they are to be esteemed *cheap*; and that when the Bounty ceases they are not to be thought *dear* till the prices, except *Oats*\*, are considerably advanced, for the duties are so very heavy as to prevent any Importation till Wheat is 53s. 4d. Barley 32s. Rye 40s. and Oats 16s. and, though they should exceed these prices, the duties must still be paid, till the port hath been opened; which can only be done at certain seasons, and in a particular manner, as mentioned page 77 in the note.

We can by no means suppose the Legislature had an intention to keep Grain up to these last, or even

\* The Bounty is payable on Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. and yet at 16s. the low duty commences.

to the Bounty prices. The views of these Laws are most evidently no other than to give all possible encouragement to Agriculture and the growth of Corn, by opening to the Farmer a certain Market for his surplus, and assuring him at the same time, that, in case of a failure in his Crop, foreign Corn shall not be imported on him till the necessity of the people requires it, and the price is so far advanced as to put it in his power in some measure to make up his loss.

And the consequences have answered; for Agriculture hath been so much extended, and the art of husbandry so much better attended to, and managed with so much more judgment and success, since the passing the above Laws, and under the protection and encouragement they give, than it was before that time; that, although large quantities of all sorts of Grain have been exported, and Wheat is much more generally used for Bread by the common people\*, yet the price thereof is considerably sunk, and the price of Malt and other Grain is not advanced; and also, although the rents of Lands have, in general, been very much raised, yet the Farmers are, for the most part, men in much better circumstances than when those Laws first took place.

From

\* See supp. ch. 5. sec. 14 and 15. where this is remarked, and it there appears that a labouring man spends sixpence a week more for Wheaten than for Rye-bread; from which increase of expence, arise those complaints we have so frequently heard of late of the high price of Wheat long before it is sold at 48s. when the Bounty is to cease; the bread made of Wheat being always dearer than that made of any other grain.

80 Considerations on the Laws relating to

From what hath been recited and observed, may be collected at what prices Corn may be esteemed *cheap, reasonable, or dear*; or in other words, what the consumer can afford to give, and the growers afford to take, and this from what hath been done for a considerable time, and by making a comparison between the state of the affair, not only at the precise time the Laws were made, and the state thereof at present; but, as to the prices of Grain, by comparing the averages thereof for ninety-one years preceeding with seventy-three since they took place,

And we may venture to fix the price of the quarter of each sort containing eight bushels of the *Winchester* or Statute measure, as follows, *viz.*

Wheat	to 36s.	} per quarter, {	42s.	} moderate, and	
Barley	to 18s.		22s.		} then dear.
Rye	to 24s.		28s.		

Pease may be reckoned as Wheat, and Beans as Rye.

Oats to 12s. per quarter cheap, to 16s. moderate, and then dear.

We keep Oats at 16s. as before, because it hath been said, and with an appearance of reason, that they were permitted to be imported at too low a price \*, in proportion to the other Grain.

From the above prices it may be concluded, that each of the Grains should be exported freely, till it exceeds the moderate price, and afterwards till the ports are open for Importation, if not without, at least with a small duty; say Wheat 6d. Barley 3d. Rye

\* See note, page 78.

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 81

Rye 4d. and Oats 3d. per bushel; but as these duties would amount nearly to a *prohibition* \*, it may be better not to impose them.

From thence it also appears, that the Farmer will have no need of a Bounty; provided Corn continues on the average as high as it hath done since the Bounty took place.

But as all experiments, which may possibly hurt or discourage Agriculture, should be very cautiously made, it may be very proper to allow, for times certain, a Bounty on Wheat, Barley and Rye; but lesser than the present *Bounties* †, and payable to lesser

M prices,

\* It would be adding twenty five per cent. to the first cost of Wheat; the ceasing of the Bounty adds 12½, and that would be a sufficient check; for example, say Wheat costs 36s. in the Market, a Bounty of 4s. reduces it to 32s. Now 4s. is 1/8th of 32s. *i. e.* 12½ per cent. and, consequently, was the like duty to commence when the Bounty ceases, it would be 25 per cent. besides it is an experiment which hath been already tried; for when, in 1688, the Bounty was given, the act of 22 Car. 2. which makes custom payable on Wheat exported after 48s. was not repealed, but after 12 years experience, *viz.* in 1700, it was repealed by 11 and 12 W. 3. and what is remarkable, it had been so dear the year before, that the Bounty was suspended, and the price was 40s. at the time.

† The present *Bounties* are as under,

Wheat till	48s.—5s. od.
Rye till	32s.—3s. 6d.
Barley till	24s.—2s. 6d.
Oatmeal till Oats are	15s.—2s. 6d.

Malt receives the same as Barley, and by Statute 3 G. c. 7. sec. 14 and 15, every *two* quarters of Barley is to be esteemed to make *three* quarters of Malt, and the duty is paid accordingly; by which means, with the expence of *two* pence per quarter, paid by the Excise

82 Considerations on the Laws relating to prices, and lessening every year till the whole are taken off, which we may suppose as follows, *viz.* Wheat 6d. per bushel till 36s. per quarter, for one year, to decrease  $\frac{1}{4}$  per bushel each year after, till the whole is taken off. Barley 3d. per bushel, till 18s. per quarter for one year, to decrease  $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel, each year after, till the whole is taken off. Rye 4d. a bushel, till 24s. per quarter, for one year, to decrease  $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel, each year after, till the whole is taken off. By which means it might be known without any great *hazard*\*, how far the Bounty on Corn might be altered or withdrawn without discouraging Tillage.

Whilst a Bounty is allowed, we apprehend no better method can be found of ascertaining that the prices do not exceed those to which it is payable, than the old method of the Exporter's oath, on making the entry in order to the taking out the debenture, that the average price of the Grain to be exported did not exceed the Bounty price the last Market day.

As

Excise for breakage on the shipping it off, the Bounty given on every quarter of Barley made into Malt for Exportation is four shillings, which, if the price was always twenty shillings, is 20 per Cent. whereas *two* shillings and six pence on Barley is only 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by which means the Exportation of Malt is greatly encouraged.

\* Between the writing and printing these considerations, reasons have arisen to alter these opinions, as will be explained further on, and distinguished thus †.

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 83

As to the IMPORTATION: in order to §. 5. know if any new regulations or alterations in the duties payable on Corn imported, and in regard to opening the ports for that purpose should be made; it is necessary, first, to give a short account how these matters now stand.

The Duties payable for the several sorts of Grain on Importation, are noted by Mr. *Sauby*, in his Book of Rates, as follows,

Grain	Duties	Duties	Duties
Beans to 28s. per qr.	19s. 19d.	after till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Barley to 28s.	19s. 10d.	—	32s. 16s. — 12d.
Malt is prohibited.			
Oats to 16s.	5s. 10d.	after —	9d. $\frac{1}{2}$
Pease to 40s.	16s. 0d.	after —	9d. $\frac{3}{4}$
Rye to 36s.	19s. 10d.	till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Wheat to 44s.	21s. 9d.	till 53s. 4d.	17s. then 8s.
till 41. and after that about 1s. 4d.			
Buck Wheat to 32s. per qr.			to pay 16s.

M 2

And the Collector of the Customs is to govern himself, in regard to taking the duties, by certificates of the prices of Corn which may be made by the Justices of the Peace in every Quarter-session, except in *London*, where the Magistrates are empowered to certify in *October* and *April* only.

The

84 Considerations on the Laws relating to

The above duties amount to a prohibition on each sort of Grain, except Oats\*, till the prices are very high, which tends greatly to encourage our own Tillage, as hath been before observed; and therefore no great alteration should be made. But there are some who are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged 5s. 10d. till 18s. per quarter, and if the low duties were to commence on Beans at 36s. on Barley at 28s. on Rye at 36s. on Wheat and Pease at 50s. the affair would stand rather more on an equality, and no inconvenience could arise.

And they add further, that it would be well if a certain price were fixed at which, the same being duly certified, Corn might be imported, for a time certain, duty free; as nothing will tend more to keep the price moderate, and the desires of Farmers and all other holders of Corn within reasonable bounds, than being under a constant apprehension of such an Importation.

As to the present method of taking the duties according to the certificates of the price of Corn, made by the justices in every Quarter-sessions, and of the Magistrates in *London* in *October* and *April*, it seems founded in reason, and fit to be continued. For if the Crop hath failed, it begins to be felt in *October*, and if it is nearly expended, it is known in *April*, in which two months the Magistrates in *London* are to certify; and if they certify that Corn is so high as to be imported at the low duty, the Importation must continue for six months; which, in re-

\* It is to be observed, the importation of Oats hath far exceeded that of all other Grain, being more than two parts in three of the whole as may be seen in the Collection of Papers, &c.

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 85

gard to that port, is very reasonable, for if they had it in their power to allow of the Importation for three months only, it would not be of any great utility, since nobody would venture to load any quantity, as the time might possibly elapse before the arrival to the loss of the Importer. And the certificates of the justices in every Quarter-sessions out of *London*, seems as proper in regard to the circumstances of most other places; and as well adapted for their service, as the regulation for *London* doth for the service thereof; for in them, or most of them, a small additional quantity will carry them on for three months, and if enough doth not arrive in that time, they can continue the port open, by certifying anew, for three months longer.

These certificates may be made either in the Quarter-sessions, or at any adjournment thereof, and the making them seems to be discretionary, not compulsory; and that it should be so is quite necessary, since it may accidentally happen that the prices of Corn may, for one or two Market-days next before the Sessions, be at so high a rate, as to allow of the Importation, and an Importation improperly allowed may be very hurtful to the Farmer.

Therefore, the method, that hath at some times been taken, of adjourning the Sessions for this particular purpose is very prudent, and it might be proper always to adjourn the consideration of all petitions as may be presented in regard to this affair in the *Michaelmas*-sessions, till about the 20th of *November*, as by that time it will be known, if the high prices are owing to the shortness of the Crops, lateness of the Harvest, want of arrivals, or to any other cause.

When

When Corn is once imported, in pursuance of these certificates, it cannot be reshipped, except for Exportation, abroad and not to carry coast-ways in *Britain*; and with good reason, for particular Importations should be so ordered, that, whilst they are of service to the place for which they are intended, they may not hurt the Farmers in other parts. So far for particular Importations, for the Laws as they now stand regard no other.

General IMPORTATIONS have been ef-

§. 6. teemed by our Legislators of the greatest moment, and they can never be permitted, but by a new Law expressly made for that purpose, as is at present the case, and if ever the power of permitting them is intrusted by the Parliament to any but themselves, it seems as if it can be no where safely lodged, but in the King and Council, and whenever the question comes before them, they will undoubtedly proceed with the greatest caution, the state of the Markets in all foreign parts, from which Corn may be imported, as well as the state of our own Markets throughout the Kingdom, and the time of the year will be considered.

At *Michaelmas*, a late harvest may make Corn in general dear for a time, although there may be a sufficient stock in the Kingdom, then and at all times contrary winds, and in war time want of convoy, and every other means which tends to prevent the free transportation or circulation of Grain from one part of the Nation to another, which circulation there can be no doubt but all in power, in imi-  
tation

tion of the Legislature, will always promote, protect and encourage, may make Corn dear in particular places; and if a sudden rise in the price, occasioned by the above or any other accidental stops in the circulation, should at any time be mistaken for a real scarcity, and a general importation allowed, it may be the cause of having so much Corn imported in six months, and such Importation will scarcely ever be granted for a lesser time, as to make our own Farmers labour for nothing the whole year, or perhaps longer, and consequently greatly discourage Tillage.

It will throw some light on this reasoning to consider, that a general failure of the Crops throughout *Europe* is but rarely the case, and though it may happen, that our own growth may be so short as to require a permission of either a general or particular Importation; yet, at the same time, some neighbouring Kingdoms may have so much Corn to spare, as, if either is allowed without restriction, to be able in a few months to import so great a quantity, that our own Farmers may not be able to get a common price, though they have but a very short Crop. Which was the case a few years since in the port of *London*, with regard to Oats.

When a general Importation is allowed it should not be for less than six months, for the same reason as in the particular at *London*,\* viz. a small quantity would be of little or no use, and if the time limited for Importation is too short, no great quantity can arrive.

As in particular Importations none of the Corn imported should be reshipped, to be carried coastways in *Great Britain*, because such Importations are for the service of particular parts of the  
Kingdom

\* Altered last Sessions to every three months.

88 Considerations on the Laws relating to Kingdom; so, on the contrary, whenever a general Importation is allowed, the Corn imported should be permitted to be reshipped and carried coast-ways to any other part of the Kingdom with the same freedom as Corn of our own growth, because such Importations are for the benefit of the Kingdom in general.

There is an opinion, that, as the Law now stands, the Exportation of Grain can be prohibited only by the *Parliament*\*, which may strictly speaking be true, more especially in time of peace; but surely the King by his prerogative, may at any time, particularly in time of war, prevent it by an embargo. And it might be proper to empower him to do it at all times by proclamation, with the advice of his Council, which Mr. Burn says he may, and quotes an Act 1 *Ja.* 1. but this power was only an exception to that Act, and was, at least virtually, repealed both by 22 *Car.* 2. and 1 *Wm.* and *Mary.*

The Parliament hath, in the Act for suspending the Laws till *Christmas* next, 1759, reserved a power of making any alteration during their present Sessions, and if Corn continues cheap, and it can be done without hazard of assisting the enemy, they may possibly allow an Exportation †, and it deserves consideration; if that be done, whether it should not be without a Bounty for the remainder of the year, as was

\* This opinion appears to be right, by the passing of the Act of 5 G. 3. cap. 31. to authorise the King and council to prohibit the Exportation of Wheat during the prorogation in 1765.

† It was by Stat. 32 G. 2. c. 8. allowed to be exported without any restriction, and with the Bounty.

was the case in 1699, and whenever Corn is allowed to be exported again with a Bounty, whether an inquiry should not be made, if there is any foundation for the rumour of the Bounty having been paid for great quantities of Corn which were never exported\*.

Nothing but experience can shew, how far any of the alterations here proposed may be of service. We are certain that the present Corn-laws have had their desired effect, and therefore should alter them with great caution, and this the rather, since, how light soever some amongst us may think of them, two very sensible late *French* Authors † attribute to them, and to the Act of navigation, the present figure we

N make

\* A report, which hath long subsided, was current in the year 1759, that, in some of the out-ports, means had been found to impose on the officers of the Customs, in whose presence the Corn is measured into every vessel, the first time she loads in bulk, and to make them certify, that many of them held more than in fact they did: If there was any truth in this report, surely it could not be done as to Malt; for, by Stat. 3 G. 2. c. 7. §. 14 and 15. all Malt made for Exportation is to be locked up by, and shipped under the inspection of the Excise officer.

However; all frauds in the Exportation of Corn may easily be prevented for the future, by making the Bounty payable on the proof that the Corn is landed according to the Entry, or lost, which proof the Master of the Vessel might be bound to make in like manner as he is in regard to his having made the payments to *Greenwich* Hospital.

† *Les Interêts de la France mal entendus*, and *L'Ami des Hommes*.

90 Considerations on the Laws relating to  
make in *Europe*, and press the making the like for  
their own Kingdom.

† And the sentiments of those writers  
§. 7. have been so far adopted by the govern-  
ment, that, between the writing and  
printing these *Considerations*, the King hath published  
two remarkable Edicts ||, one allowing all persons  
to trade in Corn, and to circulate it freely through-  
out the whole kingdom; the other authorising and  
encouraging the Exportation and Importation there-  
of: the Exportation to cease when Wheat hath been  
for three following Market-days, at a price which  
answers to about 48s. our quarter, Statute-measure,  
and there are those who say, that they are fully per-  
suaded they shall live to see as good a Bounty given  
for Corn exported from *France* as is given from *Eng-  
land*.

† These proceedings of the *French* should at least  
put us on our guard as to any alterations we may  
think of making in the relation to the Bounty; for  
if those Edicts are continued and attended with suc-  
cess, we shall not only loose our Corn-trade in  
*France*, but also meet the *French*, as competitors in  
that Trade, in all other foreign Markets.

† Therefore the hints thrown out page 80 of re-  
ducing the Bounty, paying it to the prices there  
mentioned, and taking it entirely off by degrees;  
which in 1759 it was thought might be attempted  
*without any great hazard*, seem now in the year 1766  
highly improper; and that it would be wrong, even  
to

|| See an account of them. supp. ch. 2. sec. 8 and 9.

the Importation and Exportation of CORN. 91  
to think of taking the Bounty entirely off, or to re-  
duce it, and at the same time pay it to lesser prices.  
One of the last two may, however, surely be done,  
without any great risk; and we might either con-  
tinue the same Bounties, but payable to lesser prices,  
say Wheat to 40s. and the rest in proportion; or  
reduce them, say one third, and continue to pay  
them to the same prices as at present.

† Was the first carried into execution, we should  
in general continue to send our Corn to foreign  
Markets on as good terms as heretofore, but when  
it should happen to rise to the prices at which the  
Bounty would cease, it would be so great and sudden  
a check, as might turn the Trade into another chan-  
nel for some time; and it may accidentally rise to  
that price either just before or soon after Harvest,  
and yet, at the same time, the stock in hand may be  
so large that a great quantity may be spared for Ex-  
portation, and Corn sold for a moderate price in  
the remaining part of the year and until the next  
Harvest.

† If the second was to be the Law, as the Mar-  
kets abroad always regulate the prices at which Corn  
is bought here for Exportation, the Merchant must  
always buy at so much less as the deduction in the  
Bounty, to be on a par with them; and consequent-  
ly, what he shall buy will tend less to raise the Mar-  
ket here, a very large sum would be annually saved  
in the Bounty, and no interruption would happen  
to the Exportation-trade, by the ceasing of the  
Bounty, until the high price should require it.



The purport of all that hath been  
**CONCLUSION.** said, is this, that as the variety of  
 the seasons will always prevent the  
 price of Corn being fixed by a Law, and could it  
 be done, it would be attended with inconveniences,  
 and the attempt would discourage Tillage, there-  
 fore all that can be done, is to regulate the matter  
 so, that it may be kept in a due medium; which  
 our present Laws have done beyond expectation;  
 and consequently, that every attempt to alter them,  
 with the least probability of success, must be made  
 by comparing the state of the affair before the time  
 they were made, with the state thereof since they have  
 been in force, which hath been endeavoured, with  
 what propriety we freely submit, but could wish,  
 whether any alteration is made or not, all the Laws  
 relating to the Corn-trade were reduced into one Act  
 of Parliament.

F I N I S.

A T A B L E

A  
**T A B L E**  
 O F  
**C O N T E N T S**  
 T O T H E  
**CONSIDERATIONS.**

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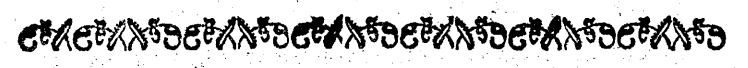
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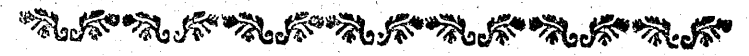


A  
COLLECTION  
OF  
PAPERS

Relative to the  
Price, Exportation, and Im-  
portation of CORN:

With some  
Observations and Calculations,  
Shewing

What the Nation may be supposed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation. What the quantity of each sort of Corn annually Consumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown, may amount to, and the proportions they severally bear each to the other.





A  
COLLECTION  
OF  
PAPERS

Relative to the  
Price, Exportation and Importation  
of CORN, &c.

AN account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and  
*Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to  
1765 exclusive, Taken from the Audit-books in *Eton*  
College.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1595	2	0	0	1	0	0
1596	2	8	0	1	6	8
1597	3	9	6	2	6	4
1598	2	16	8	1	12	6
1599	1	19	2	1	3	4
1600	1	17	8	1	0	0
1601	1	14	10	1	4	6
1602	1	9	4	17	4	
1603	1	15	4	14	8	
1604	1	10	8	14	6	

\*1603

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Papers have been published, in  
part at least, by others; except the accounts  
of the Importation; but it is not remembered that  
they have been viewed or considered in the same  
light as in this Collection.

98 A Collection of Papers relative to the  
 An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt*  
 in *Windfor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 ex-  
 clusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
*1605	1	15	10	1	2	0
1606	1	13	0	1	19	4
1607	1	16	8	1	18	4
1608	2	16	8	1	4	0
1609	2	10	0	1	9	0
1610	1	15	10	1	19	4
1611	1	18	8	1	19	8
1612	2	2	4	1	5	4
1613	2	8	8	1	6	4
1614	2	1	8½	1	7	0
1615	1	18	8	1	5	4
1616	2	0	4	1	4	8
1617	2	8	8	1	0	4
1618	2	6	8	1	0	0
1619	1	15	4	1	19	8
1620	1	10	4	1	18	8
1621	1	10	4	1	16	0
1622	2	18	8	1	6	0
1623	2	12	0	1	11	2
1624	2	8	0	1	3	4
*1625	2	12	0	1	1	6
1626	2	9	4	1	7	8
1627	1	16	0	1	0	0
1628	1	8	0	1	18	0
1629	2	2	0	1	4	0
1630	2	15	8	1	14	0
1631	3	8	0	1	18	8
1632	2	13	4	1	11	0
1633	2	18	0	1	8	0
1634	2	16	0	1	12	4
1635	2	16	0	1	7	8
1636	2	16	8	1	8	8
1637	2	13	0	1	19	4
1638	2	17	4	2	2	4
1639	2	4	10	1	11	8½
1640	2	4	8	1	7	8

\*Note, these are the last years included in each average.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 99  
 An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt*  
 in *Windfor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 ex-  
 clusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1641	2	8	0	1	9	0
1642	wanting in the account. The year					
1643	1646 supplied by Bihop Fleetwood.					
1644						
*1645						
1646	2	8	0	1	9	0
1647	3	13	8	1	17	0
1648	4	5	0	2	0	0
1649	4	0	0	2	2	0
1650	3	16	8	1	18	6
1651	3	13	4	1	9	0
1652	2	9	6	1	8	0
1653	1	15	6	1	8	0
1654	1	6	0	1	0	8
1655	1	13	4	1	0	0
1656	2	3	0	1	4	0
1657	2	6	8	1	8	4
1658	3	5	0	1	9	4
1659	3	6	0	2	8	8
1660	2	16	6	1	12	8
1661	3	10	0	1	13	4
1662	3	14	0	2	2	0
1663	2	17	0	1	12	8
1664	2	0	6	1	10	0
*1665	2	9	4	1	8	4
1666	1	16	0	1	6	0
1667	1	16	0	1	2	8
1668	2	0	0	1	4	0
1669	2	4	4	1	7	4
1670	2	1	8	1	6	6
1671	2	2	0	1	5	4
1672	2	1	0	1	2	0
1673	2	6	8	1	4	0
1674	3	8	8	1	14	0
1675	3	4	8	1	14	0
1676	1	18	0	1	6	0
1677	2	2	0	1	8	0

O 2

1678

100 A Collection of Papers relative to the  
An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt*  
in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 ex-  
clusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1678	2	19	0	1	8	8
1679	3	0	0	1	6	8
1680	2	5	0	1	2	8
1681	2	6	8	1	4	8
1682	2	4	0	1	8	0
1683	2	0	0	1	8	8
1684	2	4	0	1	5	4
*1685	2	6	8	1	8	0
1686	1	14	0	1	5	4
1687	1	5	2	1	4	0
1688	2	6	0	1	2	0
1689	1	10	0	1	0	0
1690	1	14	8	19	4	
1691	1	14	0	17	4	
1692	2	6	8	1	4	4
1693	3	7	8	1	10	0
1694	3	4	0	1	12	0
1695	2	13	0	1	12	0
1696	3	11	0	1	8	0
1697	3	0	0	1	8	0
1698	3	8	4	1	12	0
1699	3	4	0	1	19	4
1700	2	0	0	1	11	4
1701	1	17	8	1	4	0
1702	1	9	6	1	8	0
1703	1	16	0	1	3	4
1704	2	6	6	1	8	0
*1705	1	10	0	1	6	0
1706	1	6	0	1	2	0
1707	1	8	6	1	3	4
1708	2	1	6	1	8	0
1709	3	18	6	1	13	4
1710	3	18	0	1	16	0
1711	2	14	0	1	15	4
1712	2	6	4	1	10	8
1713	2	11	0	1	7	0
1714	2	10	4	1	9	4

1715

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 101  
An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt*  
in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 ex-  
clusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1715	2	3	0	1	10	8
1716	2	8	0	1	8	0
1717	2	5	8	1	5	4
1718	1	18	10	1	4	8
1719	1	15	0	1	6	8
1720	1	17	0	1	11	4
1721	1	17	6	1	8	4
1722	1	16	0	1	2	8
1723	1	14	8	1	3	8
1724	1	17	0	1	10	0
*1725	2	8	6	1	8	0
1726	2	6	0	1	8	0
1727	2	2	0	1	8	0
1728	2	14	6	1	12	0
1729	2	6	10	1	15	4
1730	1	16	6	1	7	0
1731	1	12	10	1	0	5
1732	1	6	8	1	5	8
1733	1	8	4	1	2	8
1734	1	18	10	1	2	8
1735	2	3	0	1	2	8
1736	2	0	4	1	4	0
1737	1	18	0	1	6	8
1738	1	15	6	1	8	0
1739	1	18	6	1	6	0
1740	2	10	8	1	12	0
1741	2	6	8	1	12	8
1742	1	14	0	1	10	8
1743	1	4	10	1	8	8
1744	1	4	10	1	4	8
*1745	1	7	6	1	3	4
1746	1	19	0	1	2	4
1747	1	14	10	1	2	8
1748	1	17	0	1	3	4
1749	1	17	0	1	5	4
1750	1	12	6	1	5	4
1751	1	18	6	1	6	0

1752

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 An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt*  
 in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 ex-  
 clusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1752	2	1	10	1	7	4
1753	2	4	8	1	7	4
1754	1	14	8	1	8	0
1755	1	13	10	1	5	4
1756	2	5	3	1	6	0
1757	3	0	0	1	16	0
1758	2	10	0	1	16	0
1759	1	19	10	1	7	4
1760	1	16	6	1	6	0
1761	1	10	3	1	5	4
1762	1	19	0	1	7	4
1763	2	0	9	1	16	0
*1764	2	6	9	1	14	0

*Note.* In the foregoing computations you are to know, that in every year there are two prices of *Corn*, the one at *Lady-day*, the other at *Michaelmas*, both which are put together and the half is taken for the common price of that year, and the tax is deducted from the price of *Malt*.

Since printing the former Edition the accounts for 1765 and 1766 have been obtained and are

1765	2	14	0	1	12	8
1766	2	8	6	1	14	0

That is on the average London Measure.

1765	2	2	8	1	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1766	1	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	6	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Average of the two years

2	0	5 $\frac{8}{9}$	1	6	4
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A TABLE of Averages of the foregoing prices of *Wheat* and *Malt*.

Number of years and when			Averages.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
11	1595	1606	2 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	1606	1626	2 3 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 2 9
20	1626	1646	2 10 5	1 10 0
20	1646	1666	2 17 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 12 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
20	1666	1686	2 6 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 6 7
20	1686	1706	2 5 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 6 8
20	1706	1726	2 4 9	1 8 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	1726	1746	1 17 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
19	1746	1765	2 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
51	1595	1646	2 5 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
40	1646	1686	2 11 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 4
40	1686	1726	2 5 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
39	1726	1765	1 18 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 4
91	1595	1686	2 8 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
79	1686	1765	2 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	1595	1765	2 5 4	1 7 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

These averages are taken to such particular years, that those as were struck by Bishop *Fleetwood* might stand here, as he hath given them; and the chafin of 1642, 3, 4 and 5, is not here regarded; but the average of the sixteen years from 1625 to 1642 is taken for that of the twenty years from 1625 to 1646; as it can make no great difference in the said twenty, and scarcely any in the whole one hundred and seventy years.

The

The way the College comes at these prices is this: The Collège Baker and Brewer attend *Windfor* Market on the Market-days next before *Lady-day* and *Michaelmas*; and bring an account of the highest prices that Wheat and Malt is sold for in the Market on those days to the Provost and Fellows: and it cannot be doubted but they are taken with great care; for, according thereto the Rents are settled for the current year. It being only left to the tenant's option whether he will pay in Wheat and Malt in kind, or in Money, at the said Market-price.

As these are the prices of the best Wheat and Malt, and the bushel at *Windfor* contains nine gallons; they by no means give a true state of the mean or middle prices of the said Corn or Grain, or what the value would have been of all the Wheat fit for Bread, and all the Malt made from all the Barley fit for that purpose, supposing the whole of each to have been mixed together on two distinct heaps; or what each of them would have been worth or have sold for in each year; or what the respective averages at or for the times before noted would have been.

But yet the same may be found from them with great exactness; by deducting one ninth for the difference of the bushel above the Statute-measure, and then one ninth more from the remainder, for it hath been found that the value of all the Wheat fit for bread, if mixed together, would be eight ninths of the value of the best Wheat, and the same proportion may reasonable be supposed in Barley.

This, however, would be too tedious to do here for the whole time, but the following table shews what the general averages are, according to such calculation.

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A TABLE shewing the value of the quarter of middle Wheat and Malt in *Windfor* Market for several periods within 170 years, and for the whole time, Statute-measure.

Number of years and when			Averages.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
11	1595	1606	1 12 10 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	18 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1606	1626	1 14 1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	17 11 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1626	1646	1 19 10 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 3 8 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1646	1666	2 5 4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 5 4 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1666	1686	1 16 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 0 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1686	1706	1 16 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 0 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1706	1726	1 15 4 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 2 3 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
20	1726	1746	1 9 10 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
19	1746	1765	1 11 8 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 10 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
51	1595	1646	1 15 9 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 0 1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
40	1646	1686	2 0 11 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 3 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
40	1686	1726	1 15 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
39	1726	1765	1 10 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
91	1595	1686	1 18 0 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
79	1686	1765	1 13 2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 7 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>9</sub>
170	1595	1765	1 15 9 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1 1 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>9</sub>

From the foregoing accounts, and the last table, it is observable, that the prices of Wheat and Malt have not been higher since the Bounty hath been paid, which was first given in 1689; but on the contrary, Wheat hath been considerably cheaper on the whole, and continually on the decline; notwithstanding the Export hath continued to increase, and there is reason to believe, Bread made of Wheat is

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become

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become more generally the food of the labouring  
part of the people than before the Bounty was given\*, which difference in the price of Wheat is explained below, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18 0
1686 to 1726 Average	—	1	15 9
Less for the first 40 years	—	0	2 3
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18 0
1726 to 1765 Average	—	1	10 9
Less for the last 39 years	—	0	7 3
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18 0
1686 to 1765 Average	—	1	13 2
Less for the last 79 years	—	0	4 10

and if we compare the Average of the forty years immediately before that in which the Bounty took place, with the average of the whole time since, the difference appears still greater,

	l.	s.	d.
From 1646 to 1686 Average	—	2	0 11
1686 to 1765 Average	—	1	13 2
Less for the last 79 years	—	0	7 9

and hereby the utility and good effects of the Bounty are manifested, in that Tillage hath been thereby so encouraged and improved as to make Wheat cheaper at home, and at the same time, bring large sums into the Kingdom for the Corn exported, of which the following accounts have been laid before Parliament.

\* See supp. c. 5. fec. 16.

An account of the quantity of Corn exported from England, from Michaelmas 1696 to Christmas 1764, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	quarters.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To Mich. 1697	32,855	—	51,811	5	295	3	2,596	4	14,698	6
Ditto 1698	30,984	6	44,526	6	151	7	1,275	2	6,857	1
Christm.* 1698	5	—	2,059	—	20	5	68	—	28	7
1699	75	—	1,511	3	301	6	405	—	557	2
1700	25,896	5	37,571	4	391	1	27,231	—	49,056	5
1701	21,953	2	50,447	1	285	5	43,917	—	98,323	7
1702	16,280	1	71,856	6	89	4	51,710	2	90,230	4
1703	71,523	7	123,291	2	159	2	58,438	4	106,615	4
1704	30,729	4	102,873	7	219	7	29,284	7	90,313	5
1705	21,386	6	137,396	2	100	4	24,059	4	96,185	1
1706	10,221	3	141,084	4	62	2	49,892	2	188,332	3
										Account

\* No Export for one year. † No Bounty for about ten months.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN.

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Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
* 1707	4,771	3	111,153	1	103	7	34,032	-	74,155	1
1708	29,937	6	97,789	3	67	6	4,720	3	83,406	3
1709	40,512	6	139,934	4	37	5	166,512	5	169,679	7
† 1710	5,744	5	79,530	-	125	1	12,215	6	13,924	1
1711	8,412	6	139,975	7	321	4	37,957	4	76,949	-
1712	19,838	5	191,624	5	303	5	17,735	3	145,191	-
1713	52,542	-	217,975	7	1,376	3	38,625	7	176,227	-
1714	18,579	5	220,274	7	129	0	20,455	-	174,821	2
1715	5,080	1	103,365	1	303	5	31,161	2	166,490	1
1716	14,857	-	226,617	-	719	6	40,123	1	74,926	7
1717	18,435	7	251,083	1	404	1	23,031	6	22,953	-
1718	71,139	7	303,133	3	868	5	49,416	6	71,800	-

Account

\* Bounty on Oatmeal commenced. † No Export for one year.

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1719	9,649	3	357,499	1	219	3	45,502	2	127,762	4
1720	4,505	6	253,599	6	3,471	4	49,241	3	83,084	2
1721	11,608	3	338,942	6	577	7	69,697	5	81,632	3
1722	37,528	7	366,728	2	324	4	42,579	-	178,880	3
1723	45,789	6	305,063	5	541	5	12,737	6	157,719	6
1724	10,208	5	241,895	-	516	4	23,441	4	245,864	6
1725	13,782	6	294,025	1	1,447	4	20,539	5	204,413	3
1726	20,017	1	335,925	5	1,412	6	18,835	2	142,183	3
1727	8,688	4	241,428	4	2,204	7	9,169	3	30,315	3
1728	198	2	195,340	6	1,383	2	13	5	3,817	-
1729	4,650	4	130,743	7	2,541	-	1,460	3	18,993	3
1730	14,982	3	179,446	2	4,479	2	12,394	4	93,970	7

Account

Account of Corn exported continued.

Year	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1731	13,562	2	177,699	4	1,808	1	21,089	7	130,025	2
1732	13,874	6	161,075	4	1,274	7	15,535	5	202,058	4
1733	37,598	4	203,115	-	1,487	4	28,155	1	427,199	-
1734	70,224	5	233,124	-	3,038	6	10,735	-	498,196	4
1735	57,520	3	219,781	7	1,920	6	1,329	4	153,343	5
1736	6,860	1	192,602	4	1,196	5	1,220	5	118,170	7
1737	23,669	5	103,718	2	1,921	4	7,849	3	461,602	-
1738	70,689	6	188,607	7	1,777	3	36,159	1	580,596	4
1739	54,447	1	191,876	6	1,116	3	29,791	2	279,542	4
1740	24,036	6	145,527	5	2,571	7	8,979	4	54,390	4
*1741	6,614	1	123,357	6	1,106	6	7,022	1	45,416	7
1742	11,482	4	189,525	7	1,380	2	63,272	2	293,259	6

\* No Export for one year.

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1743	34,995	1	219,217	5	1,882	3	88,272	7	371,431	3
1744	20,090	-	219,862	4	1,657	6	74,169	1	231,984	5
1745	95,878	7	219,354	6	9,770	3	83,966	2	324,839	5
1746	158,719	3	282,024	6	20,203	-	45,782	3	130,646	2
1747	103,140	2	361,289	3	2,122	4	92,718	3	266,906	7
1748	73,857	-	349,363	-	3,768	4	103,891	4	543,387	5
1749	105,262	3	355,469	5	1,281	2	106,312	4	629,049	-
1750	224,500	7	330,754	2	4,283	4	99,049	3	947,602	1
1751	32,698	-	256,547	4	2,476	2	71,048	4	661,416	4
1752	106,331	3	287,578	6	1,590	1	57,847	2	429,279	4
1753	67,049	-	274,424	7	7,012	1	24,835	7	299,608	7
1754	47,776	3	321,995	-	2,330	2	42,915	1	356,270	1

Account

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1755	32,836	-	341,568	6	1,112	2	43,441	7	237,459	2
*1756	26,938	5	236,925	6	2,310	4	29,968	7	101,936	4
†1757	7,094	7	56,164	2	4,417	6	907	1	11,226	4
1758	691	-	10,728	1	1,831	4	-	-	9,233	6
1759	22,862	4	166,079	-	3,134	6	41,480	2	226,426	-
1760	34,592	4	224,195	-	2,338	4	52,776	4	390,710	4
1761	97,897	1	279,051	5	2,839	6	57,571	1	440,746	2
1762	130,873	-	254,429	5	1,368	4	28,410	2	294,500	-
1763	38,390	1	105,494	-	1,664	4	12,933	7	427,074	3
1764	9,218	6	223,220	5	1,101	-	27,690	1	396,537	5

\* Christmas 1756 to March 1759 no Export  
 † Import duty free to August, about eight months

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn exported, distinguishing each fort.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	251,689	7	623,345	4	2,015	4	238,985	7	552,867	2
1706	433,237	2	4,381,205	-	11,922	1	789,618	6	2,518,213	4
1726	590,080	6	3,871,332	4	45,932	3	520,020	6	4,461,337	4
1746	1,268,088	1	4,777,303	6	67,186	4	939,580	7	6,800,017	1
1697	2,543,096	0	13,653,186	6	127,056	4	2,488,206	2	14,332,435	3

Amount of all the Corn exported.

Years.		per annum	
from	to	quarters	b.
1697	1706	9	1,668,904
1706	1726	20	8,134,196
1726	1746	20	9,488,703
1746	1765	19	13,852,176
1697	1765	68	33,143,980

Average of the last 39 years, viz. } 598,484 Qrs.

Average of the quantity of each species of Grain annually exported, and the value of the middle quarter thereof.

Years.		Quantity.											
		Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat			
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.		
1697	1706	27,965	4	69,260	5	223	7	26,554	0	61,429	6		
1706	1726	21,661	3	219,060	3	596	0	39,480	7	125,910	5		
1726	1746	29,504	-	193,566	5	2,296	5	26,001	0	223,066	7		
1746	1765	66,741	4	251,437	0	3,536	1	49,451	5	357,895	5		
1697	1765	37,398	4	200,782	1	1,868	4	36,591	2	210,771	-		

Years.		Price.											
		Barley		Malt		Oats		Rye		Wheat			
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.		
1697	1706	0 16	6	1 0	1	0 12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4	2	1 16	3		
1706	1726	0 18	8	1 2	3	0 14	0	1 3	7	1 15	4		
1726	1746	0 17	9	1 1	4	0 13	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 19	11	1 9	10		
1746	1765	0 18	3	1 1	10	0 13	8	1 1	1	1 11	8		
1697	1765	0 18	0	1 1	7	0 13	6	1 2	0	1 13	2		

Price, Export and Import of CORN. 115

Note, The prices of Wheat and Malt in the last page are taken from the table-page 105, the price of Barley is the same as Malt, deducting 3s. 7d. per quarter for making: the price of Oats is calculated at three-fourths of the price of Barley; and the price of Rye is calculated at two-thirds of the price of Wheat, which proportions are frequently, or rather generally found between their respective prices.

The said price of Malt however is to be understood of that made for home consumption only; for, by Stat. 3 G. 2. c. 7. sec. 14 and 15. three quarters of Malt is to be allowed for every two quarters of Barley when malted for exportation, and the Bounty is paid accordingly.

Now two quarters of Barley having been worth on the average only 36s. we ought not to suppose three quarters of the Malt set down in the said account as exported, worth more, i. e. 12s. per quarter.

Here follow the accounts of the sums paid for Bounties on the foregoing quantities of Corn exported.

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from England from 1697 to 1706, being NINE years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	251,689	7	2	6	31,461	4	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Malt	623,345	4	2	6	77,918	3	9
Oatmeal	2,015	4	2	6	251	18	9
Rye	238,985	7	3	6	41,822	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wheat	552,867	2	5	0	138,216	16	3

Quarters	1,668,904	0			£. 289,670	14	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Averages	185,433	6			£. 32,185	12	8

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Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1706 to 1726, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	433,237	2	2	6	54,154	13	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malt	4,381,205	0	2	6	547,650	12	6
Oats	11,922	1	2	6	1,490	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rye	789,618	6	3	6	138,183	5	7
Wheat	2,518,213	4	5	0	629,553	7	6
Quarters	8,134,196	5			£. 1,371,032	4	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Averages	406,709	2			£. 68,551	12	2

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1726 to 1746, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	590,080	6	2	6	73,760	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Malt	3,871,332	4	2	6	483,916	11	3
Oatmeal	45,932	3	2	6	5,741	10	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rye	520,020	6	3	6	91,003	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wheat	4,461,337	4	5	0	1,115,334	7	6
Quarters	9,488,703	7			£. 1,769,756	4	2
Averages	474,435	1			£. 88,487	16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Account

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 117

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1746 to 1765, being NINETEEN years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	1,268,088	1	2	6	158,511	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malt	4,777,303	6	2	6	579,162	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oatmeal	67,186	4	2	6	8,398	6	3
Rye	939,580	7	3	6	164,426	13	1
Wheat	6,800,017	1	5	0	1,700,004	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Quart.	13,852,176	3			£. 2,628,503	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Averages	729,061	7			£. 138,342	5	6

Account

An account of the total amounts and annual averages of the several Bounties which have been paid for Corn exported from England from 1697 to 1765, being sixty-eight years.

Names	Quantities.		Bounty per qr.		Sums total		Annual.		
	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	£	d.	£	s.	d.
Barley	2,543,096	-	2	6	317,887	0	4,674	16	2
Malt	13,053,186	6	2	6	1,706,648	6	25,097	15	5
Oatmeal	127,056	4	2	6	15,882	1	233	11	4
Rye	2,488,206	2	3	6	435,436	1	6,403	9	5
Wheat	14,332,435	3	5	0	3,583,108	16	52,692	15	5
Total qrs.	33,143,980	7			£.6,058,962	6			
Ann. Export	487,411	3					Annual Bounty 89,102	7	9

Note, In all these calculations the Export from Michaelmas to Christmas 1696 is taken as part of 1697, which is inclusive, and 1765 exclusive.

It would have given us great pleasure to have been able to have begun the foregoing accounts from 1689, when the Bounty took place; but we do not find them made up further back, and it is most probable that before 1697, the Export was not considerable enough for notice; as a course of nine years cannot be thought too long to have elapsed before the laws could operate so far, as to enable us to export any material quantity, *who* before they took place, used to be frequently large *Importers*.†

During the foregoing period of sixty eight years the *Export* hath with some few exceptions been prohibited four several times, *viz.* from Feb. 10, 1698, for one year, from Nov. 18, 1709, to Sept. 29, 1710; from Dec. 1740, to Dec. 25, 1741; and from Dec. 1756, to Dec. 27, 1757. Which last prohibition was prolonged to Dec. 25, 1758, and continued to March 25, 1769. And from Feb. 12, 1698, to Sept. 29, 1700, no Bounty was paid on any Corn exported; nor was any payable on Oatmeal exported till May 1, 1707.

Which prohibitions, non-payment of Bounty, and none being paid on Oatmeal at first, would all together, make a considerable deduction from the monies in the preceeding pages, could we distinguish their amount; but no account thereof as we can learn hath been made out by Authority, no more than of such grain as hath been exported, for which no Bounty is at any time payable. For these reasons, and because it is intended in these observations to give the objections to paying the Bounty their full force, no notice is taken thereof in these accounts, and the Bounty is supposed to have been paid on all the Corn exported of every sort for the whole *sixty-eight* years.

An

\* See Note p. 38. and supp. ch. 2. sec. 12 and 13.

An account of the quantity of Corn imported into England, from Michaelmas 1696 to Christ-

mas 1764, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	quarters.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To Mich. 1697	211	4	—	—	1	4	—	—	400	—
Ditto 1698	150	—	520	—	—	—	3,622	2	845	—
Christm. 1698	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	844	—
1699	—	—	1,280	4	—	5	350	—	486	3
1700	—	—	234	4	—	—	—	4	4	6
1701	—	—	20	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
1702	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1703	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
1704	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	1
1705	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
1706	—	—	98	4	480	4	—	—	—	—
									77	1
									Account	

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1707	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1708	—	—	70	4	—	—	—	—	86	4
1709	606	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1,552	3
1710	576	—	139	3	113	3	2	—	400	—
1711	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1712	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1713	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1714	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	15	7
1715	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
1716	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1717	—	—	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1718	—	—	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1719	—	—	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1720	252	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	20	1
1721	445	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
									Account	

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1722	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1723	—	—	112	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1724	—	—	61,630	3	—	—	—	—	148	2
1725	—	—	2,152	4	—	—	—	—	12	2
1726	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1727	—	—	15	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1728	—	—	70,070	1	—	—	—	—	74,574	2
1729	—	—	184,071	6	—	—	—	—	40,315	2
1730	—	—	95,149	4	21	3	—	—	75	7
1731	—	—	15,892	7	—	—	—	—	4	—
1732	—	—	12,044	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1733	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
1734	—	—	6,439	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1735	—	—	267	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1736	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
										Account

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1737	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1738	—	—	21	3	—	—	—	—	32	4
1739	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
1740	—	—	1,333	3	—	—	—	—	22	7
1741	—	—	84,821	7	—	—	—	—	5,468	5
1742	—	—	25	6	—	—	—	—	7,540	2
1743	—	—	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	7
1744	—	—	67	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
1745	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
1746	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1747	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1748	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1749	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1751	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
										Account



Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Whe at	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1752	—	2	250	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
1753	—	—	33	3	2	4	—	—	—	—
1754	—	—	52,421	7	—	—	—	—	201	—
1755	—	—	1,591	2	292	—	—	—	—	—
1756	—	4	41,390	—	5,280	4	1,695	5	—	—
1757	5,781	1	7,460	2	298	3	7,861	7	130,343	2
1758	9,752	2	12,276	2	1,563	7	—	—	19,039	7
1759	42	4	321	4	13	2	—	—	82	1
1760	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	—	—	—
1761	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1762	942	3	16,570	1	829	6	—	—	56	2
1763	3,227	7	217,637	5	836	5	—	—	8	1
1764	5,110	2	122,477	3	11,892	3	—	—	1	1
Totals										

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn imported, distinguishing each fort.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	361	7	2,056	4	4	5	3,972	6	2,633	—
1726	1,879	—	64,622	6	593	7	—	6	2,313	—
1746	48,073	6	470,314	2	21	6	186,354	—	128,087	3
1765	24,901	3	474,762	1	21,023	—	9,556	7	150,407	5
1697	75,216	—	1,011,755	5	21,643	2	199,884	3	283,441	—

Amount of all the Corn imported.			
Years.	No.		per annum
	from	to	
1697	1706	9	1,003
1706	1726	20	3,470
1726	1746	20	41,642
1746	1765	19	35,823
1697	1765	68	23,410

Average of the quantity of each species of Grain annually imported.

Years.		Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat		
from	to	No.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	9	40	2	228	4	—	4	441	3	292	4
1706	1726	20	94	—	3,231	1	29	5	—	—	115	5
1726	1746	20	2,493	4	23,515	6	1	1	9,317	4	6,404	2
1746	1765	19	1,310	4	24,987	6	1,106	4	503	—	7,916	2
1697	1765	68	1,106	—	14,878	7	318	2	2,939	4	4,168	2

Note, The importation of Malt is prohibited, and yet 381 qrs. 4 b. have been imported since 1697, which are included in the above account of Barley: And although the Oats, are here inserted, no notice is taken in the foregoing account of Exports, of either Oats, Beans, Pease, or any Grain, on which no Bounty is given; the quantity of the first, it must be acknowledged, is very small, but the quantities of the two last are at sometimes pretty considerable.

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of Barley and Malt exported and imported and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.		General Accounts				Annual Averages	
from	to	No.	Exported	Imported	Exports exceed	Imports exceed	
1697	1706	9	875,035	361	7	874,673	
1706	1726	20	4,814,442	1,879	0	4,812,563	
1726	1746	20	4,461,413	48,073	6	4,413,339	
1746	1765	19	6,045,391	24,901	3	6,020,490	
1697	1765	68	16,196,282	75,216	0	16,121,066	
Years.		Annual Averages				Exports exceed	
from	to	No.	Exported	Imported	Imports exceed	Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	97,226	40	2	97,185	
1706	1726	20	240,721	94	0	240,627	
1726	1746	20	223,070	2,403	4	220,667	
1746	1765	19	318,178	1,310	4	316,868	
1697	1765	68	238,180	1,106	—	237,073	

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of Oatmeal exported and Oats,\* and Oatmeal imported, and the annual averages thereof compared

Years		General Accounts			
from	to	No.	Exported	Imported	Imports exceed
1697	1706	9	2,015	2,061	45
1706	1726	20	11,922	65,216	53,294
1726	1746	20	45,932	470,336	424,403
1746	1765	19	67,186	495,785	428,598
1697	1765	68	127,056	1,033,398	906,342
Years		Annual Averages			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Imports exceed
1697	1706	9	223	229	5
1706	1726	20	596	3,260	2,664
1726	1746	20	2,296	23,516	20,220
1746	1765	19	3,536	26,094	22,558
1697	1765	68	1,868	15,197	13,328

General

\* Note, Two quarters of Oats make one quarter of Oatmeal.

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of Rye exported and imported and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.		General Accounts.			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	238,985	3,972	235,013
1706	1726	20	789,618	—	789,618
1726	1746	20	520,000	186,354	333,666
1746	1765	19	939,580	9,556	930,024
1697	1765	68	2,488,206	199,884	2,888,321
Years.		Annual Averages			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	26,554	441	26,112
1706	1726	20	39,480	—	39,480
1726	1746	20	26,001	9,317	16,683
1746	1765	19	49,451	503	48,948
1697	1765	68	35,591	2,939	32,651

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the *Wheat* exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years		General Accounts			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	552,867	2,633	550,234
1706	1726	20	2,518,213	2,313	2,515,900
1726	1746	20	4,401,337	128,087	4,333,250
1746	1765	19	6,800,017	150,407	6,649,609
1697	1765	68	14,332,435	283,441	14,048,994
Years		Annual Averages			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	61,429	292	61,137
1706	1726	20	125,910	115	125,795
1726	1746	20	223,066	6,404	216,662
1746	1765	19	357,895	7,916	349,979
1697	1765	68	210,771	4,168	206,602

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the Corn exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.		General Accounts			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	1,668,904	9,028	1,659,875
1706	1726	20	8,134,196	69,409	8,064,787
1726	1746	20	9,488,703	832,851	8,655,852
1746	1765	19	13,852,176	680,651	13,171,525
1697	1765	68	33,143,980	1,591,940	31,552,040
Years.		Annual Averages.			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	185,433	1,003	184,430
1706	1726	20	406,709	3,470	403,238
1726	1746	20	474,435	41,642	432,792
1746	1765	19	729,061	35,823	693,238
1697	1765	68	487,411	23,410	464,000

From the five last pages may be seen the progress of the Export and Import from time to time, and for the whole time from 1697 to 1765, as to QUANTITY; we shall presently see the value in MONEY, whereby

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whereby will appear what benefit and savings the na-  
tion hath received therefrom.

But before the accounts are produced, it may be  
proper to shew upon what principles they are stated,  
that it may appear that in those, as well as in all the  
rest of the foregoing papers, nothing is taken for  
granted or inanced in favour of the Export, but  
that the most moderate principles are adopted through-  
out, with a view, if possible, to obviate every objec-  
tion.

First, then the Debtor sides of the accounts consist  
of a charge of the Bounty for all the Corn exported;  
and the value of all the Corn imported, rated at those  
high prices at which the low duties are to commence.\*

The first article might have been lessened by de-  
ducting the Bounties for 1700, and in some other years,  
when none were paid, and for Oatmeal till 1707.

And the Corn imported might very justly have  
been left out of the accounts, since it is most pro-  
bable, had there been no Export the Import would  
have been much larger\*.

Secondly, the credit sides of the accounts consist  
of the value of all the Corn exported, rated only  
at the average prices † as noted pages 114 and 115.  
And to the profits at the foot of the said account,  
reduced into annual averages, are added the savings  
in the price of Wheat eat at home, which for the  
first

\* See page 83.

\* See Note, page 38. and supp. ch. 2. sec. 13 and 14.

† It might, with great reason, have been valued  
somewhat higher, it is seldom shipped so low as the a-  
verage price; and it may be questioned if the Bounty,  
one time with another, pays freight, commission and  
all other incident charges.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 133

first twenty-nine years is valued only at *nine pence*,  
and the last thirty-nine years at only *one shilling and  
seven pence* per quarter, although it appears page 106  
to have been cheaper by *two shillings and three pence*  
during the first, and *seven shillings and three pence* du-  
ring the second period, than it was from 1595 to  
1686.

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1697  
to 1706 being NINE years.

	l.	s.	d.
Bounty as per page 115	—	289,670	14 0
Imported as per page 125			
Barley — 361 7 at 32 0 —		579	0 0
Oats — 2,056 4 — 16 0 —		1,645	4 0
Oatmeal — 4 5 — 32 0 —		7	8 0
Rye — 3,972 6 — 40 0 —		7,945	10 0
Wheat — 2,633 0 — 53 4 —		7,021	6 8
Quarters 9,028 6	£.	306,869	2 8

Cr.

Exported as per page 113			
Barley — 251,689 7 at 16 6 —		207,644	2 11
Malt — 623,345 4 — 12 0 —		374,007	6 0
Oatmeal — 2,015 4 — 24 9* —		2,494	3 7
Rye — 238,985 7 — 24 2 —		288,777	0 3
Wheat — 552,867 2 — 36 3 —		1,002,071	17 9
Quarters 1,668,904 0	£.	1,874,994	10 6
Deduct as above Dr.		306,869	2 8
Gained in nine years		1,568,125	7 10

That is per annum	174,236	3 1
To which add 9d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in England	140,625	0 0
Total gained and saved per annum	314,861	3 1

Dr.

\* Note, Oatmeal is double the price of Oats.

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Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1706 to 1726 being TWENTY years.

	l.	s.	d.
Bounty as per page 116	1,371,032	4	0
Imported as per page 125			
Barley — 1,879 0 at 32 0 —	3,006	8	0
Oats — 64,622 6 — 16 0 —	51,698	4	0
Oatmeal — 593 7 — 32 0 —	950	4	0
Rye — — 6 — 40 0 —	1	10	0
Wheat — 2,313 0 — 53 4 —	6,168	0	0
<b>Quarters 69,409 3</b>	<b>£. 1,432,856</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

Per Contra Cr.

Exported as per page 113			
Barley — 433,237 2 at 18 8 —	404,354	15	4
Malt — 4,381,205 0 — 12 0 —	2,628,723	0	0
Oatmeal — 11,922 1 — 28 0 —	16,690	19	6
Rye — 789,618 6 — 23 7 —	931,092	2	2
Wheat — 2,518,213 4 — 35 4 —	4,448,843	17	0

<b>Quarters 8,134,196 5</b>	<b>£. 8,429,704</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
Deduct as above Dr.	1,432,856	10	0

Gained in twenty years 6,996,848 4 0

That is per annum	349,842	8	2
To which add 9d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in <i>England</i> .	140,625	0	0
<b>Total gained and saved per annum</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>

Dr.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 135

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1726 to 1746, being TWENTY years.

	l.	s.	d.
Bounty paid as per page 116	1,769,756	4	2
Imported as per page 125			
Barley — 48,073 6 at 32 0 —	76,918	0	0
Oats — 470,314 2 — 16 0 —	376,251	8	0
Oatmeal — 21 6 — 32 0 —	34	16	0
Rye — 186,354 0 — 40 0 —	372,708	0	0
Wheat — 128,087 3 — 53 4 —	341,566	6	8
<b>Quarters 832,851 1</b>	<b>£. 2,937,234</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>

Per Contra Cr.

Exported as per page 113			
Barley — 590,080 6 at 17 9 —	523,696	13	3
Malt — 3,871,332 4 — 12 0 —	2,322,793	10	0
Oatmeal — 45,932 3 — 26 7 —	61,051	15	4
Rye — 520,020 6 — 19 11 —	517,853	19	11
Wheat — 4,461,337 4 — 29 10 —	6,654,828	8	9

<b>Quarters 9,488,703 7</b>	<b>£. 10,080,224</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Deduct as above Dr.	2,937,234	14	10

Gained in twenty years 7,142,989 12 5

That is per annum	357,149	9	7
To which add 1s. 7d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in <i>England</i>	296,875	0	0
<b>Total gained and saved per annum</b>	<b>654,024</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>

Dr.

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Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1746 to 1765 being NINETEEN years.

		l.	s.	d.
Bounty paid as per page 117	—	2,628,503	4	7
Imported as per page 125				
Barley	— 24,901 3 at 32 0 —	39,842	4	0
Oats	— 474,762 1 — 16 0 —	379,809	14	0
Oatmeal	21,023 0 — 32 0 —	33,636	16	0
Rye	— 9,556 7 — 40 0 —	19,113	15	0
Wheat	150,407 5 — 53 4 —	401,087	0	0
Quarters	680,651 0	£. 3,501,992	13	7

Per Contra Cr.

		l.	s.	d.
Exported as per page 113				
Barley	1,268,088 1 at 18 3 —	1,157,130	8	3
Malt	4,777,303 6 — 12 0 —	2,866,382	5	0
Oatmeal	67,186 4 — 27 4 —	91,821	11	0
Rye	— 939,580 7 — 21 1 —	990,474	16	11
Wheat	6,800,017 1 — 31 8 —	10,766,693	15	7

Quar.	13,852,176 3	£. 15,872,502	16	9
Deduct as above	Dr.	3,501,992	13	7

Remains gained in nineteen years 12,370,510 3 2

That is per annum 651,079 9 7  
 To which add 1s. 7d. \* per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in England 296,875 0 0

Total gained and saved per annum 947,954 9 7

\* Instead of 1s. 7d. which was taken for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 4s. 10d. — 2s. 5d. i. e. —  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 7s. 3d. should have been taken in this, and the last page: See page 106.

Totals

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 137

Totals of the Gains and Savings per annum, brought forward from page 133, 134, 135, 136.

No.	Years from	to	Gains		Savings		Totals		By
			l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.	
9	1697	1706	174,236	3 1	140,625	0 0	314,861	3 1	
20	1706	1726	349,842	8 2	140,625	0 0	490,467	8 2	
20	1726	1746	375,149	9 7	296,875	0 0	654,024	9 7	
19	1746	1765	651,079	9 7	296,875	0 0	947,954	9 7	
29	1697	1706	295,343	18 4	140,625	0 0	435,968	18 4	
39	1726	1765	500,346	2 11	296,875	0 0	797,221	2 11	
68	1697	1765	412,918	14 6	230,239	0 0	643,157	14 6	

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By the last page it appears, at one view, what the totals of the gains and savings made by the Exportation of Corn for *sixty-eight* years have been, and how the same have increased during that period, the value of all the Corn imported, and amount of all the Bounties being deducted.

And these accounts are founded on facts; which, it should seem, cannot be in the least controverted, the most material doubt that can be raised against them would be to assert, that, however fully and clearly they may be stated, however certain the facts on which they are founded are, yet there can be no dependence thereon, unless we could know that an equal quantity of Corn hath been consumed since, to what was consumed before the Bounty took place; and that the number of Men and other animals who are fed with, and live on Grain, in the year 1764, is equal to that of those which was supported in 1689, thereby.

For although it doth appear, that Bread-Corn and all other Grain are, and have been, as cheap, or cheaper, since the Bounty on the Export hath been given than before; yet it may have happened by the number of the people being lessened, or by some other means, that the *consumption* of Grain in this Kingdom hath been so decreased, as that such cheapness should not at all, or at least not wholly, be attributed to the *imaginary* increased quantity of Corn grown by the extension of Tillage arising from, or rather occasioned by the encouragement given by such Bounty.

This must undoubtedly be admitted; but then it must at the same time be also granted on the contrary, that it may have happened by the number of the

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 139

the people being increased, or by some other means, that the *consumption* of Grain in the Kingdom hath been also increased during the said period, and then such cheapness ought wholly to be attributed to the *really* increased quantity of Corn produced by the extension of Tillage arising from, or rather occasioned by such Bounty.

The general opinion seems to be for the last of these propositions, and that the number of Men and other animals fed on Grain is greatly increased. But this, as to Men at least, doth not appear to be the case; and yet there are reasons to think they are at least equal to, or somewhat exceed what they then were, and from the best authority could be obtained, that the number in *England* and *Wales* was then, and is now about SIX MILLIONS\*.

The difficulties that attended this inquiry were not inconsiderable, and in making it, an opportunity was taken, in order to get at the amounts of the annual *growth* of all sorts of Grain, to inquire what quantity of Bread they consume per head annually, and how much of each sort of Grain is made into Bread, and applied to other uses, and this is the result of our enquiries.

That the numbers of the said six millions, who eat the several sorts of Corn in Bread, and the average quantities which they annually consume per head, are as follows,

T 2 3,750,000

\* See supp. ch. 3.



140 A Collection of Papers relative to the

Numbers * of the people		qr.	b.
3,750,000	} Consume annually each	Wheat	1 0
739,000		Barley	1 3
888,000		Rye	1 1
623,000		Oats	2 7

Besides that which is made into Bread, there is reason to suppose the following quantities of the above and other sorts of Grain are annually expended in other uses.

90,000	Wheat distilled and made Starch, &c.
3,300,000	Barley in beer.
147,000	ditto, other uses.
2,461,500 †	Oats, horses, soup, &c.
31,000	Rye, Tanners and hogs.
90,000	Beans and Pease, for Negroes, horses and hogs.
134,000	Pease, for Sailors and soup.
90,000	Rape and other seed, for oil.

And this exclusive of the several sorts of garden feeds and pulse eat green, of which we could form no idea.

From these last accounts, together with those in the foregoing part of this Collection, we may proceed to state the particular and general accounts of Corn consumed, exported, imported and grown annually, and the proportions they severally bear to each

\* See supp. ch. 4 and 5.

† Note, From the year 1752 to 1765, the annual consumption of Oats in London only is increased above 52,000 qrs.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 141

each other; wherein, although it may be possible, some things will be mistaken, yet we presume, that the whole will be rather under than above the truth.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

First, of BARLEY.

Bread	—	—	—	qrs.
Malt	—	—	—	1,016,125
Hogs and other purposes	—	—	—	3,300,000
				117,000
Consumed at home	—	—	—	4,333,125
Exported page 114				
<i>viz.</i> Raw	37,398	}		171,253
Malted	133,855*			
Consumed and exported	—	—	—	4,604,378
Imported page 126, deduct	—	—	—	1,106
Annual growth	—	—	—	4,603,272

Of which the annual Export is little more than one twenty seventh part, and that in the year 1750, which was 445,004, after reducing the Malt into Barley, being the highest ever known, was not quite one tenth.

Second,

\* Note, One third of the Malt exported is deducted to reduce it into Barley.

† See page 111.

#42. A Collection of Papers relative to the

Second OATS.

	qrs.
Bread	1,791,225
Horses and other purposes	2,461,500
Confumed at home	4,252,725
Exported page 114	3,737*
Confumed and exported	4,256,462
Imported page 126, deduct	
viz. Meal 636 4}	15,515
Corn 14,878 4}	
Annual growth	4,240,947

To which both the annual Export and Import bear a very insignificant proportion, but the highest Importation which was in 1763, as per page 124, with the meal amounted to 219,310, i. e. one nineteenth part of the growth.

Third, RYE.

	qrs.
Bread	999,000
Other purposes	31,000
Confumed at home	1,030,000
Exported page 114	36,591
Confumed and exported	1,066,591
Imported page 126, deduct	2,939
Annual growth	1,063,652

Of

\* Note, One quarter of Oatmeal is equal to two quarters of Oats.

Price, Export, and Import of CORN. 143

Of which the annual Export is about one twenty ninth part, and that in 1706 being the highest Export, viz. 166,512 qrs. \* if there is no mistake in the accounts is more than one seventh, however the next highest, which was in 1749, viz. 106,312, is one tenth.

Fourth, WHEAT.

	qrs.
Bread	3,750,000
Other purposes	90,000
Confumed at home	3,840,000
Exported page 114	210,771
Confumed and exported	4,050,771
Imported page 126, deduct	4,168
Annual growth	4,046,603

Of which the annual Export is rather less than one nineteenth part; but the highest Export, viz. in 1750, being 947,602, was more than one fifth.

As to the remaining articles of Beans, Pease, Rape-seed, &c. as mentioned page 140, we shall not take any further account of them, nor include them in the general account of the growth, as the quantities there mentioned are founded more on conjecture than any of the others there noted.

GENERAL

\* Page 108. † Page 111.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

	Growth	Consumed	Export	Import
Barley	4,603,272	- 4,433,125	- 171,253	- 1,106
Oats	4,240,947	- 4,252,725	- 3,737	- 15,515
Rye	1,063,652	- 1,030,000	- 36,591	- 2,939
Wheat	4,046,603	- 3,840,000	- 210,771	- 4,168
	13,954,474			
Seed *	1,395,447			
	15,349,921	- 13,555,850	- 422,352†	- 23,728†

The PROPORTIONS, which all the Corn annually grown, consumed, exported, and imported, bear to each other are as under.

The EXPORT is bare one *one thirty second* part of the CONSUMPTION, *one thirty third* part of the GROWTH exclusive of the seed, *one thirty sixth* part of the GROWTH, including the seed, and not near *one third* of the SEED itself, supposing it only *one tenth* of the GROWTH: nor did even the highest year ever known, the year 1750, when the amount of the Export

\* The seed is called *one tenth*.

† The total of the Export being here only 422,352, and the Import amounting to 23,728, whereas the first, page 113, is 487,411, and the last, page 125, is only 23,410, arises from the Malt being reduced into Barley, and the Oatmeal into Oats, which it was not proper to do in the general accounts, the Custom-house not having done it.

port was 1,500,220 qrs.\* surpasses the SEED *one twelfth part*, and yet what prodigious benefit hath the Nation reaped from the Exportation.

The IMPORT hath been about a *five hundred and seventy first* part of the CONSUMPTION and *one eighteenth* of the Export, and never equalled but a very small part of the GROWTH.

The GROWTH, exclusive of the seed, which to save deducting we here omit, exceeds the consumption *only about one thirty-fourth*, which confirms what is advanced page 19, and shews how much they are mistaken who talk of one year's growth serving two, three, or four; which is the error of many sensible men and judicious writers, and this confirms what is advanced in the Essay, page 22, and proves that a *small* deficiency of Crop far exceeds the Export.

And it must be allowed, that what is here supposed the annual surplus is not under-rated, if it be granted that the stock in hand at *Michaelmas 1764* was equal to that in 1697, and that it could not be more seems clear, for it was found to be so small that the Parliament thought necessary by act 5 G. 3. c. 31, to allow no Bounty on Export, or Duty on Import of Wheat till 24 August, 1765, and also made further provision to stop the Export, if found necessary, neither of which steps were taken in 1697, though

U. Wheat

	qrs.
* Barley	224,500
Malt 330,754, deduct one third	220,503
Oatmeal 4,283 doubled	8,566
Rye	99,049
Wheat	947,602

As may be seen, page 111.

Wheat was then 3l. a quarter at *Windsor*, whereas in 1764 it was only 2l. 6s. 9d. as may be seen in the foregoing Register.

And if we could suppose all the 1,500,220\*, which was exported in the year 1759, to have been the surplus of the year 1749, the *growth* of that year did not exceed the annual *consumption* ONE NINTH.

The whole view in collecting and publishing these papers, and of the observations made on them, is only to endeavour to set the state of the Corn-trade, and the effects of our Corn-laws, in a true light, wherein, if we have failed, we may at least hope they will tend to engage some other more able hand in the attempt, and be of some assistance to him in accomplishing the same.

\* See page 145.

**F I N I S.**

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**O F**  
**C O N T E N T S**

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A SUPPLEMENT.

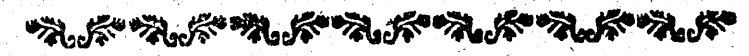


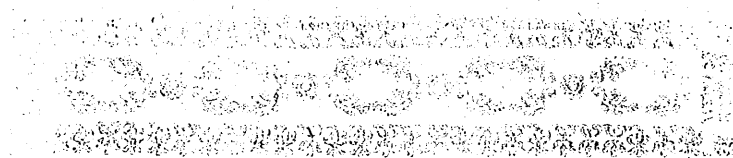
S U P P L E M E N T

Containing

Several PAPERS and CALCULATIONS,

Which tend to explain and confirm what is advanced in the foregoing Tracts.





S U P P L E M E N T

S U P P L E M E N T

N O T E

**T**HE division of this Supplement into Chapters and Sections was done in order to refer to it from the foregoing Tracts.

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A  
S U P P L E M E N T.

C H A P T E R I.  
O F M A G A Z I N E S.

S E C T I O N I.

*Translation of a Letter from the Avoyer, or chief Magistrate, at Berne, in Switzerland, to ———, relative to the Magazines for Corn and Wine there\*.*

S I R,  
**Y**OU ask me for an account of the provisions both for Corn and Wine, which are subsisting in the Canton of *Berne*, and if it is true that we owe the establishment of them to the patriotic zeal of a citizen of this Republic, who, dying without children, left his riches for that purpose: in regard to which, I have the honour to acquaint you, *that you have been misinformed as to the nature of the foundation of*

\* A translation of this letter hath before been published in the *Museum Rusticum*, vol. ii. numb. 41.

of our *Magazines*\*; and give me leave to add, by the way, that it is not in this little Republic, as in great States: At *Berne*, private men have very slender fortunes: on the contrary, the *State* by a course of disinterestedness and prudent œconomy in those who govern, may pass for rich, since the rights of the royalties only, with the rents of the estates, or lordships, of which they are possessed, both by purchase and conquest, put it in their power, and even without raising any sort of tax or excise on the people, to lay up almost every year some saving in the treasury: from thence it arises that the government is always both willing and able to relieve the wants of its citizens and subjects, and therefore such foundations would, in this country, be works of supererogation.

The Magistrates of *Berne* even flatter §. 2. themselves, that it is more honourable for them to administer the revenues of the Republic in such a manner, that none but itself should be in a capacity to relieve the people, than it would be, if by augmenting the salaries of their officers, which they are well able to do, they should become, after the example of many great States rich citizens in a poor Republic. But it is time to finish this long digression, and to apply myself to satisfy, Sir, your curiosity: I will begin by laying before you the nature of the *Magazines* of Corn.

The

\* The original of the words in Italic is, " que l'histoire pretendue de cet honnête Citoyen et de sa fondation est une fable faite à plaisir, dont il n'y a pas un mot de vray."

The People of *Berne* have two forts, §. 3. one subject to great variations, the other always the same. There are of the first sort many in the capital, and in many other parts of the Canton, which are filled, more or less, according as the abundance of the harvest, and goodness of the grain, furnish an opportunity; for, besides the fixed revenue which the state hath in fee-farm rents, it hath a great quantity of tithes, which are of a very casual, and very different produce: when there are several fruitful years in succession, the granaries of this sort in the capital become full; but in other parts, if there is an appearance, towards Easter, of a good harvest, the corn is sold which is in the castles of the different bailiwicks, after having paid the several salaries to which they are made liable; and the Bailiffs, who have a certain revenue made good to them, account for the surplus to the chamber of œconomy at *Berne*. The *Magazines* of this capital, on the contrary, are never opened and sold but in dear times; and then care is taken not to sell to any family more than is sufficient for its supply, and always below the Market price.

As to the *Magazines* of the second §. 4. fort, they are called the PROVISION, and were established in pursuance of a convention, called the DEFENSIONAL, which the whole Helvetic body hath entered into for the common defence of Switzerland, in case of an attack from a foreign enemy. This treaty, regulating the number of troops and artillery which each Canton

is bound to furnish, obliges them at the same time, to have always ready, and in store, provision and amunition in proportion to their contingent. There are of these Magazines of Provision, as well at *Berne*, as in all the castles where the Bailiffs reside: they are never either diminished or increased, only care is taken to keep them always in good order, and to substitute good Corn in the place of that which decays. A Bailiff, who should misapply this provision, would be deposed; and from time to time the deputies of *Berne*, without giving notice of their intention, visit these Magazines, and cause the Corn to be measured over. Although there is six times more Corn in these Magazines than the contingent, which *Berne* furnishes by the DEFFENSIONAL, requires, they have never taken, in times of peace, more than one fourth part in an exceeding scarcity; and they have had great care to refill them without delay.

This is, Sir, in abridgement, an account of the Magazines for the provision of Corn in the Canton of *Berne*. Several short Crops within fifteen years having caused the common people to suffer by the high price which they were obliged to give for their Bread, and the Corn which the government caused to be purchased in *Burgundy* and *Suabia*, and resold to a great loss, having given but little relief to the misery of the poor, there is at present a project under consideration at *Berne*, which, if it is brought to pass, will, in all probability, prevent the subjects of this *State* from paying very dear for their Bread for the time to come; which is this: It is proposed to build, in those parts of the Canton which are most fruitful

fruitful in Corn, large *Granaries*, and at such times when the abundance of the harvest shall have caused the value of a certain measure of Corn to fall below a certain price, to buy up, on account of the government, all that shall be left for sale in the Markets, after private persons have done buying, to the end that the Owner, or Farmer, may be always sure of having a certain price for his Corn, and not be under a necessity of being at the expence and trouble of laying up what he may have left in the Town-hall, or carrying it home again, or else selling it at too low a price to *Foreigners* in the neighbourhood, of whom the subjects of *Berne* are often afterwards obliged to buy it again at an exorbitant rate. The government, on the contrary, will sell their Corn again to their subjects, as soon as ever the price shall have risen to a certain degree; and by this management they will prevent both the too high, and too low price of this commodity, both of which are inconveniences, in their consequences hurtful enough to deserve the care of a *Sovereign* to prevent, who hath nothing more at heart than to procure, as much as can depend on his care and foresight, the happiness of the people which *Providence* hath submitted to his government.

As to Wine. The State of *Berne* §. 6. having a great quantity of Wine, as tithes and quit-rents, in the several vineyards in the Canton, had formerly a great deal in store, both at *Berne* and elsewhere, of which they made use, in short years, both to pay the salaries in Wine, which are annexed to a number of employments, and to supply the poor citizens therewith at a moderate price,



price, observing the same precaution as when they sell Corn at a low price; but the salaries in Wine have by little and little encreased to such a degree, that at this day there is so little left to be laid up, that after two succeeding short years, the State finds itself under a necessity of paying a great part of the salaries in Money, which were appointed to be paid in Wine, in order to keep it in their power to supply the tradesmen and other poor citizens of Berne therewith at a low rate.

I hope, Sir, that I have been so successful as to satisfy your curiosity and have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your humble servant.

The foregoing curious letter was received some years since by a gentleman of rank, whose superior abilities are continually employed in searching out and communicating to the Public, such things as may be useful to mankind; particularly such as tend to the improvement and increase of Agriculture, and to make Corn cheap; and to him we are indebted for many of the most material facts and papers contained in this Collection.

Notwithstanding the great care of the §. 8. Magistrates of Berne, it appears by this letter, that the people in that Canton suffer oftener by the dearness of Bread than in England, which proves that our Corn-laws are better than those established there, and that Magazines do not answer the end of keeping Corn at a moderate price so well as an Exportation under proper regulations, which most men think they will, and seem justified in so thinking

thinking, since they have been generally erected by most politicians.

In relation to this subject, we have the §. 9. following sensible conversation in a paper called the Humanist, numb. 3. dated April 9, 1757. Signior Guastaldi, when minister here from the Republic of Genoa, being asked, "Whether in his country public granaries had not been found of service? replied, At Genoa there was no doing without them, and that the State had always seven years PROVISION before hand\*; but, said he, in your Isle it is quite different, for you annually grow more than you eat; and if I am not misinformed, it is hardly one year in twenty, that the produce of the earth is not fully sufficient for the inhabitants of it. Therefore, your business rather should be, to get a market for your superfluity abroad. Yet, I have been told, so negligent is the police here, that at certain times, the public have given a Bounty to transport the Corn from the mouths of your own people, who at those very times stood in great need of it."

Thus far Signior Guastaldi, the Author §. 10. goes on, "I am sorry to say the remark of this learned foreigner had too much foundation in truth; yet, I think, the injury he complains

\* Only one year's PROVISION in England would cost very near as much as the amount of the land tax at 4s. all expences and waste included, to keep it in good order. But our Corn is of a softer nature and more apt to decay than that of Genoa, and it may be supposed, the City only, and not the State is here meant.

“ complains of may be easily redressed, by disal-  
 “ lowing the Bounty when the Corn exceeds the  
 “ mean rate, and when beyond such a certain rate,  
 “ by a total prohibition of Exportation\*. And  
 then says, “ Satisfied I am, that the common  
 “ method of stacking Corn in the midlands of Eng-  
 “ land, which preserves it good many years, will  
 “ fully answer the end of public granaries.

Translation of abstracts from *Ami des*  
 §. 11. *hommes*, vol. 3. printed at *Amsterdam*  
 1758, the supposed Author Monsieur  
*Mirabeau*.

After shewing, page 60, the inconveniences which  
 the regulations and restrictions relative to the Corn-  
 trade have had in *France*, he proposes the leaving it  
 intirely free † for the future; which, page 61, he  
 says, Mr. *Colbert* did, except as to great Cities, par-  
 ticularly those near the sea, which he took care  
 should be provided with foreign Corn. But that  
 care appears to him superfluous and dangerous. *Su-*  
*perfluous* for that the industry of the Merchant will  
 always prevent the necessity of such provisions, and  
 by that means the charges and loss of the *Magazines*  
 will fall on strangers, or private persons, who will  
 be

\* See Considerations, sec. 4.

† The bad effects of the contrary conduct are  
 seen, or rather felt, in the *Roman* ecclesiastical state,  
 where there is now, or very lately was, a famine, and  
 the Husbandman is so far from being free, that an agent  
 of the Pope's granaries fixes the prices of his Corn at so  
 much a bushel, which price he cannot dispute, nor has  
 he liberty to sell to any other than the said agent, and  
 therefore only raises for the support of his own family,  
 see *Essays on Husbandry*, Lond. 1764, p. 117.

be very ready to support them, and not on the *pub-*  
*lic*, whose affairs are never better managed than when  
 they have nothing to do\*. *Dangerous*, in that it is  
 beginning an inspection into matters where every  
 inspection opens a door to greater inconveniences,  
 page 63. It hath been proposed, in some provinces,  
 to erect *Magazines* of the King's Corn, either for  
 the service of the troops, or for the convenience and  
 necessity of the country. But what would be the  
 consequence? when it was necessary to fill those  
 granaries, the name of authority would stop the  
 Corn every where, and those employed would have  
 it at what price they pleased.

When it should become necessary to empty the  
 Magazines lest the Corn should perish, the same  
 sacred name would stop all other sales, and serve as a  
 veil to a certain and unlawful gain.

“ I have seen such men starve a country, and,  
 “ what is more, wrest from it both honour and  
 “ wealth.”

He goes on to page 74, in removing all objections  
 which occur to him against making the Corn-trade  
 free; and there, as the sum total of what he hath  
 said, proposes an EDICT something like that which  
 was passed at *Paris* in 1764, of which a copy is giv-  
 en in the following chapter.

In regard to Magazines, the ingenious  
 §. 12. Author of the *Essays on Husbandry*, †  
 says, page 116, “ I think public gra-  
 “ naries quite detrimental, rather than useful, in  
 a free

\* “ Du public dont les affaires ne sont jamais mieux  
 administrées, que quand il n'en a point.”

† Printed at *London*, 1764, and sold by *Brotherton*, &c.

“ a free state like ours. *National* and even *pro-*  
“ *vincial* Magazines of Corn will naturally produce  
“ *Monopoly*; and an undue fear of famine joined  
“ with much anxiety about hoarding up Grain,  
“ which will put a stop to Exportation, is one of  
“ the surest methods, I know, of bringing on a  
“ dearth.” He goes on and confirms what he says  
with very strong and conclusive reasons.

CHAPTER II.

ACCOUNTS FROM FRENCH AUTHORS.

SECTION I.

**A**N account what some late *French* Authors  
say of our Corn-laws, and of some late  
EDICTS published there in regard to the  
Corn-trade.

The Author of *L'Ami des hommes*, vol. iii. p. 53.  
says, “ The *English*, to encourage the culture of  
“ Corn in their Island, have made use of a singular  
“ method, which hath *succeeded*, which is to gratify  
“ at the expence of the *State* the Exporters of that  
“ Merchandise.

“ They have methodised and regulated that im-  
“ portant object of the police, in proportion to the  
“ Market prices with them of that valuable Mer-  
“ chandise.

“ This method may have been good for a time,  
“ and may become hurtful in other circumstances;  
“ for

ACCOUNTS FROM FRENCH AUTHORS. 161

“ for there is no political regulation that in all mi-  
“ nute cases can remain fixed here below.”

Abstracts from a work, called, *Les In-*  
§. 2. *terêts de la France mal entendus dans les*  
*branches de l'Agriculture, &c.* 2 vol. 12mo.  
at *Amsterdam*, 1757, supposed to be wrote by Mr.  
*Boulainvilliers*.

Vol. i. page 93 to 111, an account is given at  
length of the method of Tillage pursued in the  
County of *Norfolk*, and the benefits which have ac-  
crued therefrom, which it is said the *Bounty* esta-  
blished in 1689 gave rise to, and that the produce  
of the land hath in general been augmented thereby;  
the Author goes on.

“ In other *States* private persons pay the govern-  
“ ment for the Exportation of Grain; *England* acts  
“ quite otherwife and pays them.

“ All common means made use of to that time  
“ to increase the fruits of the earth had been insuf-  
“ ficient, or, at least, of little use.

“ Before that *Epocha*, the Agriculture of *England*  
“ was of little account in *Europe*.

“ As long as that *Monarchy* thought  
§. 3. “ only of its *own* subsistence, it always  
“ found itself short of the *necessary*; it  
“ was very often obliged to have recourse to foreign-  
“ ers to make up the deficiency of the growth of the  
“ Nation: but when it made its Agriculture an ob-  
“ ject of *Commerce*, the cultivation of its land be-  
“ came one of the most abundant in *Europe*.

“ Without that stroke of state, the best concert-  
“ ed of all those which have yet appeared in modern  
“ politics, *England* had never sown but for herself,

“ for what would she have done with the surplus of her Grain?

“ It was the Bounty only which could assure her of the sale in foreign Markets; and, for that reason, be the only source of the augmentation of her harvests”.

He then proceeds to answer objections, §. 4. shews the benefits which have arisen from the Bounty, and says,

“ Let us combine all the means which that Monarchy hath put in use, for an age past, to establish its power; and, we shall find, that it is to this in particular, which she is indebted for her elevation.” He then proceeds to page 113, to shew the necessity of giving a Bounty on the Export of Corn in France, after our example.

Vol. ii. fol. 123. speaking of the Act §. 5. of Navigation, he says, “ It fixed for ever in favour of this Nation the ballance of power at sea.” The Author of *l'Ami des hommes* quoted above, speaking of the same Act, confesseth the great consequence it hath been of to us, by the uneasiness it gives him. In vol. iii. page 259, he saith, “ It would be easy to prove to them, the English, that their famous Act of Navigation was a folly, even at the time in which it was proposed; although the incidents, which, at that time, turned the views of foreign powers another way, have caused it to succeed;” which he explains, and adds, “ If those powers, which were equally affected by that injury done to all Mankind, had taken combined measures against that

“ that attempt on public liberty; the English would have shamefully retreated; instead of which each power looked on it as not regarding himself, and content to obtain the permission to carry to the Queen of Nations the Merchandise of its own growth, saw no harm in that Act; except the Dutch, who are great carriers, but grow little or nothing.” He goes on to give it some more abuse, and says, “ Now, when every Nation turns its view to commerce, it could not be passed.

It must be confessed the last quotations §. 6. are not directly to the present purpose; but if that Act hath been of such benefit in general, no Trade in particular, hath contributed more to promote the ends thereof than that of Corn, by the great number of men necessarily engaged in the navigation of ships and vessels employed for the carriage thereof, both coastways and to foreign parts, which will, it is hoped, be a sufficient excuse for our so doing, and help to shew, how careful we ought to be in dispensing with, or altering, not only that Act, but also our Laws relative to the Export of Corn.

Since the publishing the works, from §. 7. which the above quotations and abstracts are taken, all possible encouragement hath been given to Agriculture in France; many other valuable pieces have been published, relative more immediately to that, and to the Corn-trade; and several Declarations and Edicts have been published for the regulation of the said Trade, both

within the Kingdom and in respect to Exportation and Importation to and from foreign parts, all which are drawn up in a manner so conformable to the sentiments of the above Authors, as to give reason to believe they were advised with, or at least, the plans they have sketched out were followed, as far as the nature of the thing would bear.

It would be tiresome, and is unnecessary to give translations of all those papers, we shall, however, give the titles of such as could be obtained, and attempt a translation of the EDICT concerning the Export and Import, which more immediately concerns us.

Titles of EDICTS published in *France* relative to the Corn-trade.

First, "A declaration of the King, giving permission to circulate Corn, Flour, and Pulse through the whole extent of the Kingdom, free from all duties, even those of Toll.

Given at *Versailles* the 25 *May*, 1763.

Second, "Order of the King's Council of State, explaining an order of 27 *March*, 1763, and setting a Duty on all Flour imported."

Dated 18 *September*, 1763."

Third, "Order of the King's Council of State, which directs that the liberty given to export Flour in Casks shall extend to every sort of Flour."

"Dated 21 *November*, 1763."

The

The next is that which relates to the Exportation, and is as follows.

Translation of the *French* King's EDICT relative to the Exportation of Corn, &c.

EDICT of the KING.

Concerning the LIBERTY of the EXPORTATION from, and IMPORTATION of Grain into the Kingdom.

Given at *Compeigne*, in the month of *July*, 1764.

REGISTERED IN PARLIAMENT.

LOUIS, by the grace of God, King of *France*, and *Navarre*, to all present and to come, Greeting;

The attention which we owe to every thing that may contribute to the welfare of our Subjects, hath induced us to give a favourable hearing to the petitions which have been addressed to us from all parts, to establish an entire Liberty in the Corn-trade, and to revoke such Laws and Regulations as have been heretofore made to restrain it within too strict bounds. After having taken the opinion of persons the best acquainted in the affair, and having carefully deliberated in our Council. We thought it necessary to comply with the solicitations which have been made to us for the free Exportation and Importation of Corn and Meal, as proper to encourage and increase the cultivation of Land, the produce of which is the source of the most real and certain riches of a state, to maintain plenty by Magazines and the Importation of foreign Corn, to prevent Corn from being at a price which discourages the Grower,

to

to banish Monopoly by an irrevocable exclusion of all particular permissions, and in the end, by a free and entire concurrence or competition in the Trade, to keep up between different Nations, that communication of exchanging superfluities for necessaries, so conformable to the order established by divine providence, and to the views of humanity which ought to animate all Sovereigns. We are convinced, that it is worthy of our continual care, for the happiness of our people, and of our justice towards the proprietors of Lands and the Farmers, to grant them a liberty which they so earnestly desire: and we have, moreover, thought it necessary to secure, by a solemn and perpetual Law, the Merchants and Traders from all fear of the return of prohibitive Laws; but to remove the fears of those who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantage which the liberty of such a commerce must produce. It seemed to us necessary to fix a price of Corn, above which, all Exportation out of the Kingdom should be prohibited, when Wheat shall have risen to that price. And as we ought not to neglect any occasion to excite industry, we have resolved to encourage at the same time the *French* navigation, by securing to *French* vessels and seamen, exclusively of all others, the carriage of Corn to be exported. FOR THESE CAUSES, and others moving us hereto, with the advice of our Council, and of our certain knowledge, full power and royal authority, we have by this present, perpetual, and irrevocable Edict, ordered, decreed, and ordained, ordering, decreeing, and ordaining, willing, and it is our pleasure, as follows:

Our

## I.

Our Declaration of the 25 *May*, 1763, concerning the free transportation of Corn within our Kingdom with permission to establish Magazines, together with the Letters patents, explaining the same of the 5 *March* last, shall be executed according to their form and tenor; consequently, it is our pleasure, that the said interior circulation, shall not be in any wise obstructed.

## II.

Also, we permit all our Subjects of whatever quality and condition they may be, even the Nobility and privileged persons, to trade in every species of Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulse, and Meal, whether it be with natives or foreigners, and to form, for that end, such Magazines as they shall think proper, without being liable to be searched, disturbed or bound by any formalities other than those mentioned by this present Edict, nor shall the said Nobility and privileged persons be subject to any impositions by reason of such Trade only.

## III.

It is our pleasure, to that end, that the Exportation, to foreigners, of all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulse, and Meal, shall be entirely free, both by land and by sea, with the exceptions and limitations only laid down by the following articles. We strictly prohibit and forbid all our officers and those of *Lords* to oppose or hinder such Importation in any wise, in any case, or under any pretence whatsoever.

The

## IV.

The Export of Wheat, Rye, Maſlin, and Meal ſhall not be permitted, when by ſea, as to the preſent, untill it ſhall be, by us, otherwiſe ordered, except from the ports of *Calais, St. Valory, Dunkirk, Fécamp, Dieppe, le Havre, Rouen, Honſleur, Cherbourg, Caen, Granville, Morlaiſe, St. Malo, Brest, Port Louis, Nantes, Vannes, la Rochelle, Bourdeaux, Blaye, Libourne, Bayonne, Cetté, Vendres, Marſailles, and Toulon*, and the Exportation may not be carried on but on *French* veſſels, of which, the Captain and *two thirds* of the mariners at leaſt ſhall be *French*, under pain of confiſcation.

## V.

Being deſirous to provide, by the Introduction of foreign Corn into our Kingdom, ſo that Corn may not riſe to a price burthenſome to our people, we permit all our ſubjects and all foreigners to bring freely into our Kingdom, on all kinds of Veſſels without diſtinction, all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Meal, and Pulſe, coming from abroad, paying the duties impoſed by this preſent Ediſt.

## VI.

In caſe, nevertheleſs, when, contrary to our expectation, and notwithstanding the reaſonable hopes which the free Importation of ſuch foreign Grain gives; the price of Wheat ſhall be riſen to twelve livres ten ſous the quintal\* and upwards, in any one of the ports or places ſituated on

\* About 48s. the quarter, *London* meaſure.

on the frontier of our Kingdom, and that the ſaid price ſhall be kept up in the ſame place, for three following market days: It is our pleaſure that the liberty granted by the foregoing Articles ſhall remain ſuſpended in ſuch place, abſolutely, and without there being need of any new regulation. We therefore prohibit, and moſt expreſly forbid, in the ſaid caſe, all our ſubjects to *export\**, or cauſe any Grain to be exported, from the ſaid place, untill that, upon the representations of the officers of the ſaid place, which are to be addreſſed to the Controller General of our Finances, the opening of the ſaid place hath been ordered in our Council, to the end, to re-eſtabliſh there, a general and indefinite liberty for the Import and Export of Grain, without which, no particular permissions in this reſpect ſhall or may be given in any caſe by our Governors, Commandants, Commiſſaries in their departments, or other our officers.

## VII.

Wheat ſhall be ſubject, on the Importation into the Kingdom, to a duty of one per cent. and Rye, other Corn, Seeds, Grain, Flour, and Pulſe, to a duty of three per cent. It is our pleaſure, nevertheleſs, that the ſaid Grains ſhall not pay, on the Exportation from our Kingdom, only a duty of one half per cent. for which purpoſe, thoſe who would import or export theſe commodities ſhall be obliged, under ſuch penalties as ſhall be fixed, to make at the Cuſtom-houſes, eſta bliſhed on the frontiers of our Kingdom, for the receipts of our dues,

Z

declarations,

\* *Export* or is not in the original.

170 SUPPLEMENT. Chap. II.  
declarations, conformable to the regulations of the  
quantity and quality of the said commodities.

VIII.

We permit all foreigners or natives to import all  
kinds of Grain into our Kingdom, and there to lay  
them up, that is to say, Wheat for a year, and o-  
ther Corns, Seeds, Grain, Meal or Flour, and Pulse  
for six months only; during which times, they may  
export them freely to foreigners, either whole or in  
Meal, on all sorts of vessels without distinction,  
without paying any duty; and they shall not be lia-  
ble to pay the duties imposed by the preceding ar-  
ticle, only in the case where the said commodities  
are brought in for the consumption of the inhabi-  
tants of our Kingdom, or after the expiration  
of the time allowed for laying them up.

IX.

We repeal all Edicts, Declarations, and Regula-  
tions contrary hereto, nevertheless, without making  
any innovation, as to the present, in the rules of the  
police hitherto observed, for victualling our good  
City of *Paris*, which shall continue to be observed,  
as heretofore, untill it hath by us been otherwise or-  
dered. Moreover, we command our well beloved  
and trusty *Counsellors\**, holding our Court of the  
Parliament of *Paris*, that they cause our present E-  
dict to be read, published, and registred, and the  
contents hereof to keep, observe, and execute accord-  
ing to its form and tenor, every thing to the contrary  
notwithstanding. We will that to copies of this  
present

\* *Conseillers les Gens.*

ACCOUNTS FROM FRENCH AUTHORS. 171

present Edict, collated by one of our well beloved  
and faithful Counsellors-secretaries, credit be given  
as to the original, FOR SUCH IS OUR PLEASURE:  
And to the end, that this be a matter firm and stable  
for ever, we have caused our seal to be fixed hereto,  
GIVEN at *Compeigne*, in the month of *July*, in the  
year of grace 1764, and of our reign the forty-  
ninth.

Signed LOUIS, and lower down par le Roi, signed  
PHELIPEAUX, examined LOUIS, examined in coun-  
cil, *De l'Averdy*, and sealed with the great seal of  
green wax, in strings of red and green silk.

Registred, &c. in due form at *Paris*, in Parlia-  
ment, all the Chambers assembled, 19 July, 1764.

Signed *Dufranc.*

Since the foregoing Edict, Letters patents of the  
King which fix the duties on the Export and Im-  
port of Grain, and permit the circulation and Ex-  
port of every kind of Grain paying the duties there-  
in mentioned, were published at *Fontainebleau*, Nov.  
7, 1764.

These are explanatory and in amendment of the  
Edict of *July*, 1764, and extend it to *Linseed*, *Rape-  
seed*, *Turnip-seed*, *Cole-seed*, and others the like\*, fit to  
make oil.

If any thing hath been done since the last it hath  
not come to hand.

Z 2

During

\* *Lin*, *Rabette*, *Navette*, *Colfat* et autres sembla-  
bles.



During the year 1764, the propriety  
 §. 10. of the foregoing Laws have been fully, freely, calmly, and fairly debated in print, in several pamphlets, &c. in *France*, some of which we have been favoured with, and subjoin the original titles, that those who think proper may procure them, and they will find in them a clear account of the nature of our Corn-laws with very little mistake, the chief or most material is in relation to opening the ports, they know it is done by the price in the Markets advancing to a certain value; but are not acquainted that it is ascertained at, and certified from, the Quarter-sessions, and that when once the port is open, it is to remain so for a fixed time; but imagine, that if the Markets should fall ever so soon, or even after a *ship* is in the port, the *high* duties must be paid. Their Merchants must be better informed, at least those of any consequence, and yet it is very possible a mistake of this kind may at sometimes have prevented some Imports.

Titles of *French* pamphlets.

Numb. 1. Contains upwards of 150 pages, octavo.

§. 11. " De l'Exportation & de l'Importation des Grains. *Memoire* lu à la Société Royale d'Agriculture de Soissons, par M. Dupont, l'un des Associés, 1764.  
 " Lettre contre la liberté de l'Exportation.  
 " Reponse à la lettre contre la liberté, &c.  
 " Reflexions pour servir de seconde reponse.

Numb.

Numb. 2. " Reflexions sur la police des Grains en FRANCE et en ANGLETERRE, Mars. 1764."

From the first of these we shall give only  
 §. 12. one extract; at page 146, the Author having before recited many objections to the scheme there proposed, adds, " when it was under consideration in *England* to restore Agriculture from its perishing state by a grand operation, the same reasonings stood in the way there, and were then made use of, and even stronger, for *at that time we supported Spain entirely, and we supported England more frequently than she comes at this day to our assistance*\*; we had, notwithstanding all this, at that time, still more lands capable of cultivation, so that the boldness of our neighbours was so much the greater. Let us compare the present state of our cultivation and of theirs, and we shall find the solution."

The words for the Italics are *voilà la solution*; and the Author explains himself no further, but leaves us to guess at his meaning; which seems to be precisely this, if *England*<sup>th</sup> dared to attempt a revival of her

\* This is confirmed by *Howel*, see note, page 68, to be the case in 1621, and in *Sam. Hartlib's* legacy of Husbandry, 3 Ed. Lond. 1655, page 93, are the following strong expressions, " Although the Husbandman hath been laborious and diligent in his calling *these last years*, yet our Crops have been thin; his cattle swept away, and *scarcity* and *famine* hath seized on all parts of this Land; and if we had not been supplied from abroad, we had quite devoured all the creatures of this Island for our sustenance, and yet we could not be satisfied, but must have devoured one another." This appears to have been wrote in Aug. 1651.

her Agriculture when ours was in such a flourishing state, and so much exceeded theirs, that we supported Spain entirely, assisted them oftener than they now do us, and still had more lands capable of cultivation; and notwithstanding all this, succeeded in the attempt. Surely France, whose present state of Agriculture will not be found on the comparison, so deplorable as that of the English then was, need not fear to succeed in attempting its restoration.

Our extracts from the Reflections on the police of Corn in France and England will be somewhat longer.

Page 9, "England heretofore languish-  
§. 13. "ed in the bonds of an absolute prohi-  
" bition\*, it felt the same effects as we  
" feel at this day, a disregard of Tillage, a reduc-  
" tion of the price of labour, and poverty was the  
" lot of all who had no other patrimony besides  
" health and the labour of their hands. A writing  
" published in 1621, by Sir Thomas Culpeper, in-  
" forms us, that, at that time, the French with their  
" Corn, and the Dutch with that of Poland, sup-  
" plied the English Markets, and that the national  
" Corn was continually below its true value, at pre-  
" sent, says Culpeper, whilst Corn and the other Mer-  
" chandises which the earth produces are at a low price,  
" the spade and the plow are forsaken. The poor find  
" little employment and wages are extremely low. If the  
" proprietors of Lands could find their account in mending  
" them, there would soon be many more people employed  
" in

\* It was so in effect, though not in fact, see list of statutes, page 44.

" in their cultivation than there now are; and wages  
" would be better. Every man blest with health and  
" strength would not be poor except through extreme lazy-  
" nefs.\*"

" The ascendant which prejudice had  
§. 14. " on the multitude, and the weak and flow-  
" ing impression, which more solid and clear  
" principles made on prepossession, did not permit  
" the English to distinguish readily the causes of  
" their poverty, and it was not till 1660 that our suc-  
" cess and their losses † opened their Eyes, &c."

He goes on to page 13, in giving an account of the progress of the alterations made in the English Corn-laws, and there says, " This is an account of the origine, progress, and present state of the English policy in relation to the Corn-trade. It was established in passing through all the degrees of experience necessary to form, with a knowledge of the principles, a permanent plan."

Nevertheless, he says page 17, " Our policy is still imperfect and hath plain inconveniences which cannot be removed, as long as the Bounty subsists."

And page 24, " by reason of prohibiting the Importation, by excessive duties, England hath been under a necessity to suspend sometimes that free commerce therein to which the English are indebted for the superiority of their Tillage, and

\* Not being able to meet with Culpeper's book, the above is translated back from the French.

† What losses he refers to doth not appear, the Export-price was carried up to 40s. in 1660.

“ and consequently, for the value of landed estates with them. † ”

It may plainly be collected from this §. 15. pamphlet, which seems to be the work of, or at least wrote under the direction of the Author of *L' Ami des hommes*, that the writer foresees, if by the continuation of the Bounty we go on to encourage the Export, and by the high duties prevent the free Importation of Corn, the success of the late alterations in their Corn-laws, as far as they regard Exportation, will be more materially obstructed thereby, than by any opposition which can be made to them at home; and there can be no foundation of hope to see the time return, when the Corn of *France* shall AGAIN supply the *English* Markets, and spoil the sales of that grown at home.

Page 35, &c. it is proved that the §. 16. scarcity in *France* in 1740, was only imaginary, and arose solely from the restrictions on the Corn-trade, the circulating thereof being then unlawful, which prevented the Merchants from speculating in Corn; and by that means the whole stock was in the hands of the Farmer, who on its growing dearer, left off selling and withheld it in hopes of a still higher price, “ An evil which, “ as he says, is inevitable in all places, where those “ who are possessed of the Corn have nothing to “ fear from the competition of Merchants from a-  
broad,

† The expression is *les forces du fonds national*.

“ broad, [or others.]—Mr. *Orry*, he says, imported “ the value of Thirteen Millions \*, but there was “ none of it sold, and that Corn perished, because “ on the arrival of that succour, how moderate so- “ ever it was for a great Kingdom †, where they “ talked of want, the fear of loss determined all to “ open their Granaries.”

Have we not, more than once, found §. 17. the like effects from a small Importation? Hath not every Importation, even at its beginning, such an effect as to prevent Corn growing dearer? And, do not these observations shew the necessity of fixing a price at which Corn should be permitted to be imported duty free? Why should not Wheat, for instance, be imported duty free, when the price thereof is returned to and certified from the Quarter-sessions to be fifty shillings, and other Grain in proportion?

We must, however, take care not to fix the price too low, lest we encourage foreign Agriculture to the detriment of our own.

A 2 CHAPTER

\* Between 250,000 and 300,000 *English* quarters.  
† Which is supposed to consume more than FIFTEEN MILLIONS of *London* quarters annually in Bread.

## CHAPTER III.

## OF THE NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE.

## SECTION I.

EXTRACT from a pamphlet in 12mo, published at London, by Carew Reynel, Esq. 1674, intituled, *The true English Interest*, page 59, of Marriage and Populacy. "Our people were consumed mightily in these late years, some three hundred thousand were killed in the late Civil Wars, and about two hundred thousand more have been waisted in re-peopling Ireland, and two hundred thousand lost in the great sickness, and as many more gone to the Plantations."

All these together make 900,000, and perhaps the numbers are not greatly exaggerated. Rapin, vol. ii. fol. 224, says, 40,000 were lost in the civil wars; but that he hath not given the whole number: the account of re-peopling Ireland seems probable, for, according to Rapin, vol. 2. fol. 386, upwards of 300,000 were massacred there in 1643, besides what were afterwards killed in war. Near seventy thousand died of the sickness in the Bills only, and the numbers that for many years continually withdrew to the plantations were very great. And supposing these accounts to be true, more than one eighth of the people were lost by those means; not that it can be supposed the number was lessened by one eighth, these losses were many years coming about

about, and were at the same time continually making good.

We have since 1674, had four wars, in which many lives were lost; but we have had no very considerable emigrations of our people, and by the revocation of the *Edict of Nantz* in 1685 and other means have gained a very considerable number,

There have been since 1685 four several accounts taken of the number of houses in *England and Wales*.

The first from the *Hearth tax*, published in 1697, by *John Houghton*, F. R. S. and reprinted in 1727, by *Richard Bradley*, F. R. S. in a collection of papers, called *Husbandry and Trade improved*, which makes the number 1,175,951, there are reasons to think this was the work of Dr. *Halley*, and this account is copied in the present state of *England*.

The second, which is published in the *Philosophical transactions*, vol. xlix. fol. 268. by Dr. *Brackenridge*, who says, the Houses, about the year 1710, he finds from a public office, which had caused an account to be taken of them in order to lay a tax, were 729,048, and the cottages which were omitted, he supposes one fourth more, in all 911,310.

The third, not published, was in the year 1755, but contained only the total number of Houses in *England and Wales* charged with the duty, which was 692,389.

The fourth, which also was not published, was in the year 1758, and contains an account of the total number of Houses in *England and Wales*, charged and not charged, inhabited and uninhabited, the whole number

of which is 986,482, of which there were Cottages 282,429, and there were uninhabited 24,904.

This last must be supposed the most exact account ever taken, and by its agreement with 1710 and 1758, we may conclude that the number hath in general continued much the same; as to that published in 1692 it appears to have been only a calculation made from the produce of the Hearth-tax; and the number of Houses set down, by supposing a certain number of Hearths, about three to each House for the whole tax is said to have produced 256,000*l.* † per annum, which at 2s. per Hearth, allowing three to each house, will make the whole number amount to 853,333, the remaining number of 322,618 being little more than one fourth of the whole, may be supposed to have been added for Houses of and under 20s. a year, that were not chargeable.

And that this is not mere conjecture, appears in that the number of Houses in the Counties of *York, Middlesex*, including *London, Kent, Essex, Surry*, and *Suffex* in the account of 1758 is only 279,277, whereas in that of 1692 it is 336,103, that is more by 56,826 at that time than now \*; and it will be difficult

† *Rapin*, vol. 2. fol. 630.

	1692	1758
<i>Yorkshire</i>	106,151	96,212
<i>Middlesex with London</i>	100,136	—
<i>Ditto and Southwark</i>	—	89,736
<i>Kent</i>	39,242	35,483
<i>Essex</i>	34,819	26,769
<i>Surry</i>	34,218	14,721
<i>Suffex</i>	21,537	16,356
Totals	336,103	279,277
Deduct	279,277	
Difference	56,826	

ult to prove that the number of Houses is lessened in those Counties since 1692.

This difference must therefore arise from the rate of Hearths, whatever it was, being too low, and consequently, calculating from the amount of the tax in each place made the number of Houses too great.

By the account of 1758, 704,053 Houses were charged; by the account of 1755 only 692,389; now between those two years the Act of 31 G. 2. c. 22. passed which charged a greater number than the former Acts, so that these accounts agree very well with each other, and with that of 1710, which supposeth 729,048 the number proper to be taxed at that time; and it cannot be supposed but those sent to number them raised the account as high as possible; upon the whole, there seems reason to think, that for this Century past, the number of Houses hath been near one million, and six to each dwelling is not over-rating the people; which agrees with *Dr. Brackenridge*; as may be seen *Philosophical transactions*, vol. xlix, page 279, and he calculates the annual increase at 18,000, which, he says, is small but without the increase of foreigners would be very inconsiderable if any thing at all.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE SORTS OF BREAD, AND WHAT NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE EAT OF EACH.

IT is certain that Bread made of Wheat is become much more generally the food of the common people since 1689 than it was before that time, but it is still very far from being the food of the people in general; and some, who have considered this matter with great attention, and are better informed in regard thereto than most enquirers generally be, were inclined to think that in the year 1764, one half of the people could not be supposed to feed on such Bread.

In order therefore to get at all possible certainty in this matter no pains have been spared, and from a consideration of the several sorts of Grain with which, the London Market is supplied from, and sends to the distant parts of the Kingdom, after many enquiries made of, and conversations held with, many who travel into, and have lived, or live in several of the distant Counties; particularly the labouring people, who are best acquainted with the Bread they eat, and calculating the number of mouths from the number of Houses, there is reason to think that more than half the people do live on such Bread.

This work would be too tedious to insert, but an abstract follows; in which, though there may be some

some small difference as to the number of Houses as a full copy was not permitted, but only the total number and some extracts\*, yet the whole number agrees with the account of 1758, and, if any thing, the number who eat Wheat is set rather too low.

The Kingdom, with Wales, is divided into six parts taking those Counties which lie most contiguous as may be seen in the Map.

Part the first contains,

- 1 London with Middlesex and Southwark,
- 2 Essex,
- 3 Kent,
- 4 Surry,
- 5 Sussex,
- 6 Hants,
- 7 Berkshire,
- 8 Buckingham,
- 9 Hertford,
- 10 Bedford,
- 11 Cambridge,
- 12 Huntingdon,
- 13 Suffolk,
- 14 Norfolk.

Part the second contains,

- 15 Wilts,
- 16 Somerset,
- 17 Dorset,
- 18 Devon,
- 19 Cornwall.

Part the third contains,

- 20 Monmouth,
- 21 Gloucester,
- 22 Oxford,
- 23 Hereford,
- 24 Worcester,
- 25 Warwick,
- 26 Northampton,
- 27 Salop,
- 28 Stafford,
- 29 Leicester,
- 30 Rutland,

Part

\* Which See note, page 180.

Part the fourth contains,

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 31 Chester,    | 34 Lincoln,   |
| 32 Derby,      | 35 Lancaster. |
| 33 Nottingham, |               |

Part the fifth contains,

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 36 York,        | 39 Cumberlands,    |
| 37 Westmorland, | 40 Northumberland. |
| 38 Durham,      |                    |

Part the sixth contains,

Six Counties in South, and six Counties in North  
Wales.

The accounts of each part stand as follows,

Parts

Parts	Numb. of Houses.	Number of Souls six to each.	What number in the whole eat.			
			Wheat	Barley	Rye	Oats
1	348,187	2,089,122	1,866,405	36,741	185,976	—
2	150,689	904,134	682,815	221,319	—	—
3	170,746	1,024,476	691,258	159,136	156,237	17,845
4	123,025	738,150	200,339	128,621	118,795	290,395
5	148,760	892,560	283,996	37,196	285,382	285,986
6	45,075	270,450	29,344	127,585	113,521	—
	986,482	5,918,892	3,754,157	710,598	859,911	594,226

Say the whole number is 6,000,000 and that of those who eat

Wheat is	3,750,000
Barley	739,000
Rye	888,000
Oats	623,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>

## CHAPTER V.

OF THE QUANTITIES OF THE SEVERAL SORTS  
OF GRAIN CONSUMED ANNUALLY IN THE  
KINGDOM.

## SECTION II.

THE quantity of Bread, which is daily or annually consumed by each individual, depends so much on his health, exercise, labour, constitution, and the quantity of his other sorts of food, that after all our enquiries we must be content with conjectures; but in order to found such conjectures on probability, here follow what material informations could be obtained, with some observations thereon, and averages of each are struck.

*Maitland*, in his Survey of London, §. 2. ed. 1756, fol. 756, says, "The Bakers, after some deliberation, unanimously agreed, that, including puddings and pies, and other pastry ware, the quantity of Flour consumed in this City and suburbs would daily amount to ten ounces \* per head." to supply which requires

\* Wherever *English* weight is mentioned, that of *Avoirdupois* is meant.

## QUANTITIES OF GRAIN CONSUMED. 187

requires 5 b. 2 p. † of Wheat, *London* measure † per annum.

Dr. *Brackenridge*, in Philosophical transactions, vol. xlix. fol. 268, says, "Now it is known, and I have observed in the country, that labouring people in health on the average eat one quarter, which is 512 lb. of Flour [annually] or 1 lb. 6 oz. per day, we may allow that healthy and unhealthy do not consume half that quantity one with the other, and to make the consumption as *small* as can reasonably be imagined, suppose three people, children included, consume as one labourer; i. e. one quarter yearly, or each person 7 oz. per day &c." If the Doctor really means *Flour*, a third part must be added thereto, to shew the Wheat; if he mistakes Meal for Flour, then it is the same as Wheat; but he makes his bushel 64 lb. whereas a bushel of Meal is only 56 lb. we will suppose he means Meal, 512 lb. of which is full 1 qr. 1 b. per annum, the one third of which is only 3 b.

B b 2

Mr.

† *Note*, The proportion of the Flour to the Wheat is as seven to nine of the fine sort, and as six to eight on a medium; which last proportion is followed throughout this Supplement, and the weight of the bushel of Wheat is called fifty seven pounds, which is as much as all the Wheat fine and coarse together, Statute-measure; would weigh; and here it may be proper to remark, that Statute, *London* and *Winchester* measure, are all the same.

† *Note*, All the following accounts and quotations are reduced to the same measure.



Mr. *Hume*, in his *Essay*, *Edinb.* edit.

§. 4. 1752, page 235, of *antient Nations*, says,  
 “The portion of Corn given every  
 month to every man of full years in *Rome* was 5  
 modij, or about  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an *English* bushel \*; *i. e.*  
 “1 qr. 2 b. per annum.”

Mr. *Wallace*, of the number of man-

§. 5. kind, *Edinb.* edit. 1753, page 293,  
 speaking of the *Athenians*, says, “They  
 had of Grain alone, more than one *Scotch*, or  
 about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *English* peck a week to each of them;  
 no inconsiderable allowance, considering the  
 plenty of fruits and other provisions with which  
*Attica* abounded.” In proof of which he hath  
 the following note, *viz.* “Many of the labouring  
 people in *Scotland*, when they are on board  
 wages, have no more a week than two *Scotch* pecks  
 of Oatmeal for the whole maintenance. One  
*Scotch* peck is to an *English* peck as 1,47 to one  
 nearly.” The *Athenians* had 2 qrs. 3 b. 2 p. of  
 Wheat, and the *Scotch* have 4 qrs. 7 b. of Oatmeal  
 per annum. But query, if there is not some mis-  
 take

\* Which he says, “Was too little for a family, and  
 too much for an individual.” But if by bushel is  
 meant that of *London*, it should seem he is mistaken, for  
 according to what he says, the contents of the *modius*  
 weighed about 9 lb. 8 oz, whereas, according to Dr.  
*Arbuthnot*, it weighed 14 lb. and above  $\frac{2}{3}$ , say 14 lb.  
 8 oz. the contents corresponding to one *London* peck,  
 and 7,68 cub. inches, and we think Dr. *Arbuthnot*'s  
 opinion preferable to Mr. *Hume*'s, as he made these sorts  
 of enquiries his particular study, and call this 1 qr. 7 b.  
 1 p. per annum.

take in the last? for it will require 9 qrs. 6b. of  
 Oats to make 4 qrs. 7b. of Meal.

In *Lancashire*, a measure of Oats,

§. 6. equal to near half a *London* bushel, makes  
 9lb. which is a peck measure of Oat-  
 meal, and what a labouring man eats in a week;  
*i. e.* 3 qrs. 2b. \* of Oats per annum.

*Recherche de Monnoie*, printed at *Paris*,

§. 7. 1762, page 157, says, “a modius, or  
 “*Roman* bushel of Wheat was sufficient  
 “to support a man a week; it is the present *Tuf-*  
 “*can* bushel, and contains 16 lb. marc weight †.  
 “The *Egyptian* bushel, which is at this day the *Paris*  
 “bushel||, which the *Romans*, frequently used, weigh-  
 “ed twenty *French* pounds. Our *peasants*, one with  
 “another, with the animals which they support, con-  
 “sume in the same time of eight days, twenty pounds  
 of

\* Note, Two quarters of Oats will seldom make one  
 quarter of Oatmeal.

† It is natural to suppose, the *Tuscan* pound is here  
 meant, but by the Author saying the *Italians* are a little  
 more moderate, it should rather be understood of that of  
*Paris*, for then they eat 1 qr. 7b. per annum; *i. e.*  
 four fifths of what the *French* eat; although if it is  
 taken in this sense, it should seem there was no need to  
 apologize for the great stomachs of the *peasants* in com-  
 parison of the *Italians*, by introducing other animals,  
 and saying Bread is almost all they eat. However, we  
 prefer the alteration as most probable.

|| Twelve *Paris* bushels make one setier, and the  
 quarter of *London* is one setier and  $\frac{35}{4}$ ; therefore, the  
 setier is 4 b. 1 p. and  $\frac{1}{3}$ . See *Essai sur les Monnoies*, fol.  
 68.

“ of sixteen ounces: It is true Bread is almost all  
 “ they eat, and that the *Italians* are a little more  
 “ moderate.” Sixteen pounds marc weight of *Tus-*  
*cany* are, by *Pereira's* tables, equal to about 8 lb.  
 avoirdupoise; *i. e.* 7b. 1p. per annum. Note,  
 twenty pounds of *Paris* make 21 lb. 14 oz. 6dr. but  
 we shall go by the measure, and 52 bushels of *Paris*  
 make 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  setiers; *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3b. per annum.

*Essai sur les monnoies*, printed at *Paris*,  
 §. 8. 1746, page 52, in the notes, says, “ It  
 “ is not thought too high an estimation  
 “ of the consumption of men, one with the other,  
 “ to rate it at three setiers a year; if there are those  
 “ who eat less, there are a great many who consume  
 “ more.” Now three setiers are full equal to 1 qr.  
 4 b. 3p. *London* measure.

Page 57, “ It is estimated that those who are  
 “ the greatest eaters of new and soft Bread, con-  
 “ sume four setiers a year (*i. e.* 2 qrs. 1b. but that  
 “ a fourth part remains in Bran\*. Workmen and  
 “ laborious people who eat only *brown* bread eat  
 “ more; it may be reckoned that those whose labour  
 “ is the least fatiguing eat two pounds and a quar-  
 “ ter, and those whose labour is the hardest, as por-  
 “ ters, &c. consume as far as three pounds a day.

2  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. is 1qr. 4b. 3p. and 3lb. is 2qr. 1b. per ann. †  
 “ Each domestic of *Paris*, on the footing of 9 lb.  
 “ of Bread per week, without reckoning that eat in  
 “ soup, or that which they eat as way-bits, would  
 “ consume annually 468 lb. of white Bread, or  
 “ three

\* This agrees with note 187, which see.

† Note. In this Bread the bran is included.

“ three setiers of Wheat at least: it will require  
 “ more for workmen who eat very little meat, and  
 “ who have not that which one gives to domesticks  
 “ besides their Bread.”

Three setiers are equal to 1 qr. 4 b. 3 p. *London*  
 measure.

But notwithstanding what this Author hath said  
 as above, he hath in his notes, page 57, as follows,  
*viz.*

“ The prisoners, according to the e-  
 §. 9. “ leventh article of the Arret of Par-  
 “ liament, published the 18th *June*,  
 “ 1717, ought to have each of them per day, a loaf  
 “ of a good quality and of the weight of 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. at  
 “ least; so that the setier of Wheat making 272 lb.  
 “ of *brown* bread, will last them 181  $\frac{1}{2}$  Days, and  
 “ they will consume two setiers of Wheat at least  
 “ in a year, *i. e.* 1 qr. 6 b. 2 p. The ration of e-  
 “ very soldier is the same, a pound and a half be-  
 “ sides meat and wine.

“ The cavalry are furnished, even on the march,  
 “ with 36 ounces of Bread per day, *i. e.* 1 qr. 4 b.  
 “ 3 p. besides two pounds of meat, and a pint and  
 “ half of wine. They consume each three setiers  
 “ on this footing. The *Quinze vingts* \* who had  
 “ formerly four, have now only three setiers,

It  
 \* A sort of hospital at *Paris* for blind men and wo-  
 men, both married and single, who beg in the churches  
 and streets. *Richelet.*

It appears that our soldiers have also  
 §. 10. one pound and a half of Bread a day when encamped, and that the prisoners in some goals † have the same, both these are *brown* bread made sometimes with the Bran taken out, and sometimes with it left in, suppose half of each sort, and then the consumption is about 1 qr. 1 b. per head yearly.

In the Royal Hospitals, at *Chelsea* and  
 §. 11. *Greenwich*, the allowance is one pound per head a day of *wheaten* Bread which it is said will go as far as a larger quantity of brown, *i. e.* 7b. of Wheat a year.

From the inspection of the accounts  
 §. 12. of a parish workhouse, within five miles of *London*, for seven years †, it appears that they have consumed on the average six pounds of Bread per head weekly; *i. e.* six bushels of Wheat a year. A

† In *London* the prisoners have of *Wheaten* Bread only one penny loaf per day, and in some other goals one three penny loaf every two days; consequently these allowances vary according to the price of Wheat, when Wheat is 4s. a bushel the first is 11 oz. and the last sixteen.

† *Viz.* from *March*, 1753 to *March* 1760, and the numbers and ages of the poor on the average were as follows not exceeding *ten* years 15, *ten to thirty* 10, *thirty to fifty* 13, *fifty to seventy* 31, *seventy and upwards* 5; in the whole *seventy four*.

A Baker says, "When I was an apprentice in the country, we served two  
 §. 13. "single men who were *shepherds*, who constantly eat the one five quartern loaves and the other four every week, *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3b. 2p. per annum each."

Two Citizens of *London*, the one a  
 §. 14. Jeweller and the other a Printer, say, the first, that he hath ten in family, of which seven are apprentices, that their weekly consumption of Bread and Flour is seven half peck loaves, *i. e.* 6b. 2p. per head, per annum, the second that he hath six in family, four of which are apprentices, and that his weekly expence of Bread and Flour is six half peck loaves, *i. e.* 1 qr. 2 p. per head per annum.

The medium of these two might be taken for the average of the Bread consumed by the labouring people in *London*, *i. e.* 7b. 2p. but deduct the two pecks, and call it only seven bushels.

Two Farmers, who live in *Essex*, in  
 §. 15. such a situation, that what they and their servants eat at market at least equals what their visitors eat in their houses, consume in their families, which together consist of seventeen persons, in Flour annually 24 sacks, *i. e.* 1 qr. 1 b. 1 1/2 p. per head.

And it appears upon enquiry, from the quantity of Bread Corn ground at a mill in the country for several families there that they consume about the like quantity per head.

Extract of a Letter from Newcastle  
§. 16. upon Tyne, Oct. 1765.

“ With regard to the quantity of Rye  
“ which will serve one man in Bread for one year,  
“ the most exact calculation I can get is as fol-  
“ lows,

“ A labouring man generally eats in a week as  
“ much Rye Bread as costs him 1s. 3d. which  
“ weighs 20 lb. 10 oz. and I am informed a *Win-*  
“ *chester* bushel of Rye when baked weighs four  
“ stone, so that at that rate a man will eat in a year  
“ nineteen bushels of Rye, 2 qrs. 3 b. See the note  
at the end of the next Section.

“ That kind of Grain is not so much used now  
“ amongst the poorer sort of people as formerly;  
“ for almost all the pitmen and those labouring men  
“ that earn above nine or ten shillings a week eat  
“ Wheaten-bread, so that I reckon only one *half*  
“ of the labouring people in this country are now  
“ fed with Rye.”

Upon receipt of the above a request was made to  
know what quantity of Wheat a man consumed, and  
the following answer returned.

§. 17. “ The Wheat-bread most in use a-  
“ mongst the labouring people, is what  
“ we call Household-bread made of 1st,  
“ 2d, 3d, and 4th Flour all mixed together, a la-  
“ bouring man will eat of this Bread in a week as  
“ much as costs him 1s. 9d. which weighs accord-  
“ ing to the present standard 18 lb. 11½ oz. and ac-  
“ cording to the best information I can get a bushel  
“ of Wheat, *Winchester* measure, produces of Flour  
3ft.

“ 3ft. 5lb. weight, and it gains when baked into  
“ Bread 6lb. which makes 3ft. 11lb. in Bread.  
“ At this rate I reckon a man will eat in a year 18½ b.  
“ of Wheat, 2qrs. 2b. 1p.

ft. lb.  
“ One Bushel of good Wheat 4 7  
“ Deduct for Bran and Meal } 1 2  
“ when ground }  
3 5 neat Flour.”

*Note*, This writer is extremely exact, the only error  
he falls into, is one common to the most accurate writ-  
ters, viz. the taking for his calculations the weights  
of the *best* Wheat and Rye, which is 6lb. above the  
average, and consequently, we should call the first  
2qrs. 5b. and the second 2qrs. 4b. 0 p.½.

In order to make what hath been said intelli-  
gible, let us bring the same under one view, by giv-  
ing

A LIST of the foregoing accounts, be-  
§. 19. ginning with the least and correcting Hume's  
account of the Romans, and the account  
from Recherche de monnoie, of the Tuscans, by Ar-  
buthnot.

Section	qrs.	b.	p.
3 Brackenridge's average	0	3	0
2 Maitland's ditto	0	5	2
12 Workhouse	0	6	0
14 Citizens	0	7	0
11 Hospitals wheaten	0	7	0
9 French prisoners and soldiers	1	0	2
3 Brackenridge's labourers	1	1	0
C c 2		10	Our

Section	qrs.	b.	p.
10 Our soldiers and prisoners	1	1	0
15 Farmers and Families	1	1	1 1/2
8 Average of French nation	1	4	3
8 Domesticks of Paris	1	4	3
9 French Cavalry and Quinze Vingt	1	4	3
8 Ditto labourers	1	4	3
7 Italians 0 7 1/2 } by Arbutnot	1	7	0
4 Romans 1 2 0 }	1	7	1
8 French eaters of new Bread	2	1	0
8 Ditto porters	2	1	0
7 Ditto peasants	2	3	0
5 Athenians	2	3	2
13 English shepherds	2	3	2
17 Ditto pitmen	2	4	0
Note, All the above are Wheat.			
5 Scotch labourers } Oats	2	4	7 0
6 Lancashire ditto }	3	3	2 0
17 Pitmen Rye	2	5	0

From the several accounts thus placed, §. 20. however trifling they may seem, there is reason to conclude, that the quantity of Corn consumed by the most laborious part of mankind hath been in all places, and at all times nearly the same, varying only according as the quantity of other food was more or less.

And from the said accounts may also be §. 21. formed some calculation of what the annual quantities of Wheat, Rye, and Oats are on the average which each person consumes in England.

And

And, first as to Wheat, Dr. Brackenridge's three bushels is so much below any account we ever found confirmed by facts, that it ought to be left quite out of the question. Our shepherds and pitmen consume so much above the common rate, that too much regard should not be paid to the accounts of what they eat, though very well attested. Mr. Maitland's account is given after so careful an enquiry, that it ought not to be entirely disregarded; but it is only a calculation founded on opinion, and it is most probable that both the Workhouse account, considering the sort of people maintained there, and the account of the Citizens, considering the quantity of other provisions; it is most likely their families eat, are below the average of the consumption in London: for, besides that they are barely equal to the consumption in the hospitals, it must be supposed that much the greater part of the people do much harder labour and are not otherwise so well fed.

Dr. Brackenridge's account of labourers in the country, which is given from his own observation, agrees so well with the allowance to our soldiers and prisoners, and with the consumption of the farmers and families in the country, which are found, after repeated enquiries, to be just, that it might very reasonably be taken for the average of the consumption of all eaters of Wheat, more especially when it is remembered how much the greater part of the people are in the state of life he mentions, and how much more our shepherds and pitmen eat.

However, that respect may be paid where it is due, let us suppose the whole number of men, women and children who feed on Wheat to be divided in eight

eight parts; and that one part consumes according to Mr. *Maitland's*, another according to the *Workhouse*, a third according to the *Citizens* account, two others as the *Doctor's* labourers, and the remaining three parts according to the farmers; and the average will be 1 qr. and something more as may be seen below\*; but let us call it only the *London or Winchester* quarter, which although it is more than the general estimation is still rather below our opinion, and not two thirds of the consumption in *France*, even in *Paris*; and it doth not appear, there is sufficient reason to suppose we eat so much less, for our *shepherds* and *pitmen* prove themselves equal good Bread eaters with the *French labourers* and *porters*.

As to Rye, there can be but little difference between that and Wheat, and §. 22. it may be called 1 qr. 1 b. the *Newcastle* account making it appear not to go quite so far as Wheat.

\* *London* and the *Bills* are generally esteemed about one tenth of the people, so that if we suppose three eighths to eat below what we have reason to esteem the average there, only two eighths at what appears the general average, and the remaining three eighths the next degree higher; discarding the rest, it seems very moderate.

	qrs.	b.	p.
One <i>Maitland</i>	—	0	5 2
One <i>Workhouse</i>	—	0	6 0
One <i>Citizen</i>	—	0	7 0
Two labourers	—	2	2 0
Three farmers	—	3	4 0 1/2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 1/2</b>

As to Oats, Mr. *Wallis's* account, §. 23. supposing it 4 qrs. 7 b. of Oats, as it approaches that of the greatest eaters both at home and abroad, it tends to strengthen and confirm them; but, as we are afraid we do not fully understand his meaning, we shall content ourselves with the *Lancaster* account, and deduct therefrom 3 b. calling the average only 2 qrs. 7 b.

There could not be any certain account §. 24. of Barley obtained, other than that of an old careful man, who hath occasionally fed a large family with Barley-bread in dear times, and saith that he always found it as cheap to feed his family with Wheat as with Barley, unless he could buy the Barley at two-thirds of the price of Wheat. Now the average bushel of Barley will weigh barely 49 lb. which is five-sixths of the weight of Wheat, and if we allow one sixth more for the deficiency of nourishment in Barley than Wheat; it agrees with his account, and we should suppose the consumption of Barley 1 qr. 4 b. per head; but as the family might not like Barley-bread so well, or be so careful of it as of Wheaten-bread, and there doth not appear so much difference between the other Grains, say 1 qr. 3 b.

Having now done with regard to the §. 25. quantity of Corn consumed in Bread, let us consider what quantity is consumed in drink; and that made into beer appears to have been, on the average, from the account of the produce of the tax on Malt made for home consumption for fifty

200 SUPPLEMENT. Chap. V. fifty years, beginning with 1703 inclusive, and ending with 1753 exclusive, as follows

Years		Averages*	
from	to	qrs.	b.
1703	1713	2,959,063	7
1713	1723	3,542,157	2
1723	1733	3,358,071	2
1733	1743	3,215,094	2
1743	1753	3,404,026	1

The general average of which is 3,295,682 qrs. 4 b. which may be called 3,300,000, and still be a very moderate account; for, by Stat. 12 Ann, c. 2. §. 20. 24 bushels of wet Malt is to be taken as 20 b. dry, and we may suppose the Duty is sometimes evaded, and there can be no doubt but those families who have compounded for the Duties found their account in so doing.

We are now to consider what quantities of each sort of Corn are annually consumed for other uses besides those of making Bread and Beer. In which we shall be obliged to trust more to conjecture than in the foregoing estimates, and yet it may be hoped, that from what will be said some general idea may be formed of the amounts of the annual consumption, and consequently of the whole growth of the several sorts.

As to Wheat, the Meal or Flour thereof is used by Distillers, Starch-makers, Paper-hangers, Stationers, Book-binders, Linen-printers, and Trunk-makers,

\* The regularity of the amount of this tax may be taken as arguments that the numbers of the people have continued nearly equal.

QUANTITIES OF GRAIN CONSUMED. 201

makers, and probably by some others; It is impossible to say the exact quantity consumed by all or either of these, but the whole annual quantity we esteem at 90,000 qrs. the distillery using barely half that quantity.

As to Rye, the Meal thereof is used by Tanners and to fatten hogs, and many Pease and some Beans and Barley are used for this last purpose.

Maitland, fol. 758, says, 186,932 hogs are sold annually in London, call this one fourth of the consumption; and considering the hogs used for the Navy, say 800,000 is the whole consumption of the Kingdom; allow these two bushels of Corn each, the amount is 200,000 qrs. of which say, Pease and Beans 100,000, Barley 70,000, Rye 30,000, to which add for Tanners and other uses 1,000, and the Rye, besides for Bread, will be 31,000 qrs.

As to Barley, say the Distillers use 44,000 qrs. besides Malt, which is accounted for before, to this add the 70,000 for hogs, and 3,000 for fowls, and the Barley used, besides for Bread and Beer, will be 117,000 qrs.

As to Oats, the average of the quantities brought by water, and measured in London in 1752 and 1765 is

—	290,266
Brought by land not measured annually	20,800
	<hr/>
	311,066

From which must be deducted, being for double the quantities of 179 qrs. 7 b. Oatmeal exported and 1,513 qrs. of Oats sold Victualing-Office

—	3,385
Consumed in London	<hr/>
D d	307,681
	Call

Call the consumption of the Kingdom little more than eight fold, and it will be 2,461,500 of Oats annually consumed besides in Bread.

No notice hath been taken in the foregoing accounts of Beans or Pease, a very considerable quantity of each of which is consumed annually both green and in the Grain for the food of man, and in the last for the food of beasts, and no inconsiderable quantity of Pease are shipped and used for part of the food of the Royal Navy and other ships, and of Beans for the Negro slaves.

It may be supposed that the Beans sold annually in London for the Negroes is 20,000 qrs. that horses eat 10,000, together 30,000, and if this is called a third of the consumption it will make the whole 90,000.

The Pease sold annually in London to the Victualling Office for an average of years hath been 4964 qrs. to private Bisket-bakers about 3000, the soup is supposed to consumed 500, together 8464; call this a fourth, the amount is near 34,000 to which add the 100,000 given to hogs, and the whole will be 134,000 qrs.

The quantity of seeds sold for oil in London annually varies very much, but it is supposed it may be set at 15,000, and to be about the sixth of the consumption which makes the whole 90,000 qrs.

Of the whole quantity of all sorts of Corn and Grain annually grown, it is supposed, that *one tenth* is expended in seed for to produce the ensuing Crop, some indeed say a larger proportion is used for that pur-

purpose with us. And a French writer \* says, *one sixth* is applied to that use with them, it should seem it cannot be less than one tenth; if it is more, the Export will still be a lesser part of the growth than it seems at present.

The foregoing accounts and estimates are brought together and shewed in every view, that seemed necessary to make them useful from page 140 to 146, and some short remarks are there made on them, to which we cannot forbear to add, that from them it appears, we depend more *immediately* than most men imagine for our daily Bread on providence, whose gifts are so equally and regularly dealt out, that it very rarely happens, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the seasons, on which the whole in appearance so much depends, that the annual produce of the earth is not equal to the necessary support and wants of man, provided he is not wanting on his part to endeavour to obtain it by a due application to that labour to which he was at first condemned, and from which he never can be dispensed with; for let him exert all his skill and abilities to the utmost, it seems impossible for him to obtain so great a surplus † as to have it in his power to forbear to till the ground, even for one year, but that he must throughout his life subsist by a continual labour and constant dependance on him who hath promised that seed-time and harvest shall never fail.

\* *Essai sur les monnoies*, fol. 19.

† He must be 34 years storing it up in common Crops, and more cannot be expected; and besides, the time it would take up, many other obstructions, some of which are noted in the foregoing work, tend to render such an attempt abortive.



## CHAPTER VI.

OF THE HOUSES, INHABITANTS AND CORN  
CONSUMED IN LONDON AND PARIS,

IN the course of the foregoing enquiries, some accounts were met with, which, at first sight, seemed to lead to the stating of a more particular comparison of the numbers of Houses and Inhabitants and quantity of Corn consumed annually in *London* and *Paris* than hath yet appeared.

But a very little application discovered the mistake, and from the judicious remarks made concerning those two Cities, by the Author of the *Police of France*, part 5. fol. 123, it appears probable, that all the comparisons, which will ever be made, will be done with so small a degree of certainty, that they will serve for little more than to amuse, which is all that the reader hath to expect from the contents of this Chapter.

The exact number of Houses in *London* and the bills of mortality could not be obtained; but in 1758 the whole number in *London*, *Westminster*, *Southwark*, and the whole County of *Middlesex*, was 89,736, and if we suppose the number in the County of *Middlesex* out of the bills equal to that in *Surry*, viz. 14,721, the number in *London* and the bills will be 75,015, and each house must contain eight persons to make the number of Inhabitants 600,120; *i. e.* one tenth of the people, which they are generally esteemed.

According

## HOUSES, &amp;c. IN LONDON AND PARIS. 205

According to the rule laid down by Dr. *Brackenridge*\*, which was founded on observation, of adding 2,000 for Dissenters and Jews to the annual bill of mortality, and multiplying by thirty, it appears, that the number hath been from the year 1680 to 1760 on the average 766,090; *i. e.* above ten to a house.

Here follow the averages of the bills of Mortality for the said time †.

Years	from	bills	added	Inhabitants
1680 to 1700	—	21,566	— 23,566	— 706,980
1700 — 1720	—	22,685	— 24,685	— 740,550
1720 — 1740	—	26,990	— 28,990	— 869,700
1740 — 1760	—	22,905	— 24,905	— 747,150
1680 — 1760	—	23,536 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 25,536 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 766,090

We are unable to reconcile these accounts, but whatever number the bills are, or should be multiplied, it will appear, if we trust to them, that although the buildings are so much increased, yet the number of people are of late diminished within the bills of mortality, and that from 1740 to 1760 there was not one eighteenth more than from 1680 to 1700, nor doth the destruction of the human species diminish but increase, for the births in the first period were as 681 to 1000, in the last only 638, as may be seen by the account.

An

\* Philosophical Transactions, vol. xlix. article 95.

† Note, These averages are taken from the account published by *Corbyn Morris*, Esq. to 1750, and continued down to 1760 in his method.

An account of the proportion of the births to the burials in London, &c.

1680 — 1700 as 681	} to 1,000.
1700 — 1720 — 721	
1720 — 1740 — 649	
1740 — 1760 — 638	
1680 — 1760 — 672	

Some idea may be formed how destructive the above difference hath been by the following account of the numbers which have been lost by the deaths exceeding the births, viz.

	per ann.	total.
1680 to 1700	— 6,877	— 137,553
1700 — 1720	— 6,317	— 126,353
1720 — 1740	— 9,473	— 189,467
1740 — 1760	— 8,281	— 165,630
1680 — 1760	— 7,737	— 619,003

After the above was wrote, whilst the work was in the press, we have had an opportunity to compleat the account for the last five years, ending Dec. 1765, and the average is

Deaths with addition Inhabitants  
23,993 — 25,993 — 779,790

Births to Burials as 664 to 1000.

Loss per annum 8,061, in the whole 40,305.

By the best accounts that could be obtained of the Corn-trade in London, the annual average of the whole quantity measured by the Meters for seventeen years, ending with 1764, was \* 1,200,000 qrs, and two thirds of that quantity hath been sold in Meal, Flour, Barley, Malt, Oats, Beans and Pease, with which

which the said Meters had nothing to do, in the whole 2,000,000 qrs. of which\* 150,386 qrs. 1 b. have been exported<sup>1</sup>, and 28,053 qrs. 3 b. have been delivered to the Victualling Office<sup>2</sup>, for the service of the Navy. For these a deduction must be made of 356,879 qrs. being double their amounts by reason they have been measured twice, we must also deduct 70,000 qrs. for half that quantity carried coastways and laid up, which is also measured twice; also 300,000 qrs. for Oats, 40,121 qrs. for 20,060 qrs. 4 b. of Beans and Pease shipped off, 18,000 qrs. for the same eat by horses at home, and 15,000 qrs. for feeds: all these deductions amount 800,000 qrs. and leave 1,200,000 qrs. for the support of the Inhabitants in Bread and Beer, and for other uses.

Great as this quantity appears it seems to be much under rated, if common report says true, viz. that more than half thereof is annually expended in drink.

If the drink consumes 660,000 qrs. it is one fifth of all the Malt for which duty hath been paid, and the Citizens seem to drink more than their share; for they are but about one ninth of the Beer-drinkers

* Export.		* Vict. Office.	
5,624	1 Barley	5,098	0 Malt
68	0 Malt	4,964	3 Pease
179	7 Oatmeal	2,109	4 Oatmeal
4,473	1 Rye	1,513	6 Oats
140,041	0 Wheat	14,367	6 Wheat
<hr/>		<hr/>	
* 150,386	1	28,053	3
28,053	3		
<hr/>		<hr/>	
178,439	4 double is	356,879	0

drinkers, as it is reckoned that there are about nine hundred thousand persons in the Cyder Counties, viz. Somerset, Gloucester, Worcester, Devon, Monmouth, and Hereford, and that full two thirds of them drink no Beer.

But please to remember that all these accounts are founded on conjecture, except those which have an asterisk before them.

In one year, ending Nov. 8, 1765, the quantity of Oats measured was 316,416 qrs. In one other year, ending Nov. 8, 1752, the quantity was 264,117 qrs. so that the annual increase in the consumption in thirteen years is 52,299 qrs. which will maintain 4,023 horses allowing each two bushels a week.

This increase in the consumption of Oats in London is wholly attributed to the greater number of horses kept now than heretofore, and one principal cause for their being kept, is the great improvements made in the roads, and as those improvements are now become almost general throughout the Kingdom, we may suppose the additional number in the whole at least eight fold that in London; and then, can it be made a query, whether the Land employed to grow food for the said horses is not one means of raising the price of black cattle?

That the number of horses hath increased in London as above, is highly probable, for all the Oats in 1765, at the same rate of allowance, after deducting 46,416 for other purposes, will support only 20,000, and all the Oats in 1752, after deducting 43,117, would support but 17,000, so that the increase is only from seventeen to twenty, i. e. not from four to five.

The

The houses in Paris 1736 were 28,571. But the Author of the Police, page 125, says, "That the French Authors have calculated the number differently, some at 30,000, others at 28,000, and therefore he takes the difference, and putting down 29,000, and allowing, as the French Authors pretend, 20 persons to each House, the number of people would be 580,000;" but he observes, page 129, the bills of mortality there are less extensive than those at London; and observes further page 131, that the Boundaries of the circumference of the City have not been enlarged since 1724, the date of the last Edict, which circumscribed the extent of those boundaries: with liberty, nevertheless, of enlarging the Buildings contained therein.

And we are well informed, that several large houses have since that time been destroyed, and in their stead, and in vacant places, many smaller houses have been built.

The average of the Corn consumed in Paris in the years 1729 and 1730, in French and English measure, was as under.

	French measure		English measure		
	muids	set.	boisseau	qrs.	b.
Wheat and Rye	81,241	10 4	—	528,072	1
Oats	—	17,283	7 0	—	112,343 2
Barley	—	2,699	4 6	—	17,545 6
				<hr/>	
				101,224 9 10	— 657,961 1

Note, The muid is twelve setiers, each twelve bushels of all Corn, except Oats, and there the setier is divided into twenty-four bushels, but two of

of these bushels are no more than one of the first \*, The muid, as well as the setier, being the same in all, and as the setier is 4 b.  $1\frac{1}{3}$  p. London measure, the muid contains exactly 6 qrs. 4 b. London measure.

My Author says, that allowing a muid, *i. e.* 6 qrs. 4b. of Oats to keep a horse a year, there would not be found full 17,300 in *Paris* in 1729: it is to be observed that allowing double that quantity, the horses in *London* in 1752 were 17,000, and in the year 1765 were increased to 20,000.

Such of these accounts as relate to *France* which are not noted to be taken from the Author of the *Police*, may be found in the *Essai sur les monnoies*. from page 50 to 61, &c. which work contains many entertaining and useful conjectures.

We could have wished to have been more particular, but it was not in our power.

## CHAPTER VII.

## OF THE STATE OF THE CORN-TRADE IN FRANCE.

THE Author of *Gazette du Commerce* in his papers of the 22d and 27th of *September*, 1764. No. 76 and 77, hath inserted the following speech made by *Mr. De Caradenc de la Chalotais*, Procureur General, to the parliament of *Brittany*, on the 20th of *August* preceeding; when he carried into Court the Edict of the month of *July*, 1764, a translation of which we have given page 165, requiring it to be registered.

What

\* See *Police*, page 101.

What the general State of the Corn-trade hath been in *France* for more than a Century preceeding that Edict may be seen from the said Speech, the purport whereof is as follows,

## GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to inform you of the most signal benefit with which his Majesty can gratify his people, a liberty to trade in Corn.

After having permitted the free circulation in the interior part of the Kingdom, by his declaration of the 25th of *May*, 1763, the King grants by this Edict, which I bring into Court, the entire liberty of exportation and importation. He permits all his subjects to trade in all sorts of Corn, Grain, Pulse, Flour, &c. either with natural born subjects or strangers.

You may understand this Edict, Gentlemen, as a preface of the increase and improvement of Agriculture, which will infallibly be the source of the re-establishment and prosperity of the Kingdom.

In short, thanks to his Majesty, and the Minister who manages his finances, the system of prohibitions seems to be abandoned for ever: a fatal system which forbids the subjects of the same sovereign to lend each other mutual assistance, and cuts off between *France* and other nations that communication of exchanging superfluities for necessaries, which is so conformable to the order of divine providence. Particular permissions, that useless resource, which enriched a few private persons at the expence of the nation, will not for the future discourage the Farmer. We shall no more be in fear of want, nor, which is almost as much to be dreaded, the too great abundance

dance of Crops. We shall no more fear, above all, excessive variations in the price of Corn, equally hurtful with scarcity itself. In short, we may hope for an equitable plan of taxations, founded upon true and simple principles, the cultivation of the lands, and the augmentation of the riches of the State\*.

I shall not stand, Gentlemen, to prove truths at present too well known, and carried to the highest degree of demonstration by so many solid works, which are the produce of the knowledge of zealous and well informed Citizens.

Who

\* From hence, says the ingenious Author of *The Laws and Police of England examined, &c.* printed for T. Harrison, 1765; we may conceive, that the proposals lately offered for promoting Agriculture in France, are not likely ever to be carried into execution, whilst the Intendants have a power to raise the *taille réelle*, or Land-tax, from time to time, according to the improved culture of their ground: whereas the Land-tax in England, tho' in some respects an unequal rate, yet being fixed on the original registered value, the quota payable by each county remains equally the same, notwithstanding the several districts may be improved to yield a larger share of productions, and which indeed, without such a sanction and protection, would not receive any improvement at all, page 32. And the same Author at page 57, after having referred to, and explained what is here said, goes on, although ordonnances have been lately published for allowing a free export of Corn, at some districts, and at some certain seasons, yet how vain are all such local and temporary expedients, whilst the nature of their constitution will not admit of that general freedom of sale, which, I have so often laid down, as most essential and necessary for promoting the interest of every Trade both at home and abroad. He then explains the benefits we have received from the Corn exported.

What this intelligent Author hath advanced, and Mr. Chalotais hath thrown out, may serve to abate our fears of the Effects of those Edicts, but should by no means put us off our guard.

Who is unacquainted, That it is the Earth only giveth riches, because it only produceth and reproduceth annually a new Stock? That the sale of merchandise is the only means to cause a circulation of money, which is only the representation of the more real riches, the fruits of the Earth? That a State rich in productions, which it can sell, will, necessarily, be rich in money? But let its Merchandize fail, or find no sales, it feels infallibly the want of circulation of Specie, and falls into a languor which, in its effects, is equally bad as poverty. It is therefore certain, that the most useful of all political laws is that which gives the greatest facility to the sale of the productions of the earth. The necessaries for consumption, taxes, even the trade of the nation, all take their rise from the sale of merchandise; therefore we cannot extend this source too much, nor be too careful how we straiten it; if it should be dried up, the evils of the State would be without remedy and without bounds.

I shall confine myself, Gentlemen, to a few slight observations, on the necessity of the exportation of the principal merchandise (Corn); they may appear unnecessary, since his Majesty hath established its truth in a perpetual and irrevocable Edict, an Edict conformable to the prayers of the nation which obtained it, to that of the States of this Province †, to experience which is the instructor of man, to the sentiments of HENRY THE GREAT, and the illustrious SULLY, to the opinion of all those who have examined this question without prejudice, and

without

† Deliberations of the 1 Feb. 1759, 15 Sept. 1760, and 7 Sept. 1761.

without interest; an examination in regard to which no one hath hitherto presumed publicly to contradict, either the reasons, the facts, or the calculations.† But it is requisite to encourage the timorous, to instruct those who are not as yet fully informed, to remove all mistrust from the people. We have no reason to fear when we are laying down maxims which promise the good of the state.

Is there any necessity by a long chain of reasoning to prove, that to prevent the sale of Corn is to prohibit the Cultivation? that such prohibition hath made the profession of a Farmer *in France*,\* although the most necessary, the most unhappy of all the professions in the State? That a free trade in Grain both within, and without the Kingdom, is the sole and only means to put the Farmer and Land-owners in a condition to support publick and private expences.

Let us not fear to descend to particulars; Experience is the foundation of all physical enquiry, calculation is the measure. We arrive at general maxims only by the knowledge of particular facts.

The necessary expences of every cultivation whatsoever are the seed, the plowing, the manure, the expences to harvest, to lay up and to preserve the crop. It is necessary that the Farmer make interest of the money advanced, wherewith to subsist himself and family, pay tithes, taxes and his Landlord, whose expences ascertain the payment of the other classes of the state, who being composed of neither Land-owners nor Farmers, live at the expence of those who are.

The  
 † This seems to refer to the French pamphlets quoted page 172.

\* *In France*, these words are here, and in many other places, inserted to keep the reader in mind that what is said relates to *France*.

The Earth doth not produce every Year the best of Grain. It must have years of rest; it is necessary to take into consideration good and bad years, and place to the account unforeseen accidents, for they will not be wanting.

Now, in calculating these expences at the lowest rate possible, it appears that the Setier of wheat is barely worth to the Farmer that which it cost him; men well skilled in Agriculture have made the calculation, and desire all Land-owners to make it themselves: it is a work which relates to all Men, and in which all professions are interested. The neat produce of the cultivation of the earth is the only source of the prosperity of a farming state: to know exactly what an acre of land well cultivated will produce, in different kinds of merchandise, according to the difference of the Soils, is the fundamental problem of Agriculture, Commerce and Finances.

If the Farmer doth not gain all his expences, and wherewith to satisfy all charges, the earth will remain untilld, as more than the moiety in this Province doth; the starving proprietor will be forced to sustain losses and bankruptcies; the Farmer ruined, badly cloathed, and badly fed, will sell his little property: he will take up with his indigent family the art of begging, too common, and which is a disgrace to the Nation; the State itself will suffer; the Taxes will not be collected but with extreme difficulty, and with the greatest rigor; And it must be acknowledged, that this hath been the state of the Kingdom of *France* for more than an age: In every Province the Earth shews, in an infinity of places, the marks and vestiges of a deserted cultivation:

vation: houses unroofed proclaim a desertion and depopulation: the Cities and even the Capital are peopled with Poor, whilst those, who have ruined so many families and enriched themselves with their spoils, make parade of a luxury which is an insult on publick misery.

There is moreover another principal which manifestly proves the price of Corn in *France* is too low, and that the Farmers are far from being in an happy situation.

The price of Corn ought to be in proportion to the value of every merchandise, and every kind of labour, which, after deducting the value of the material, ought to cost more or less according to what is paid per Day to the workman.

It is manifest, that for about an age past the price of labour and merchandise are considerably raised in *France*. There is none that for fifty years past hath not experienced this.

The price of Corn, which is the measure of the whole, should then have risen in proportion, in the mean time, it hath not only not increased, but it is a certain fact, that it hath fallen considerably, and that it would require an age ago, a greater weight of Silver to pay for a Setier, than it doth at present.

In 1649, the Deputy of Mr. — the Procureur General at the Chatelet, said in his requisition of the 6th of *March* to the Police, as a known fact, that Wheat was at 15 livres the Setier, a moderate price (these are his words); but, the same Setier hath this present year, 1764, been in *Paris* at 14 livres, and 14 livres 10 sous. It was of less value in the neighbouring Cantons, and of necessity in the Country.

It

It appears by the account of prices kept at *Paris*, that it was worth 18 livres, 18 sous in 1649; 26 livres, 10 sous, 5 deniers in 1650: 25 livres, 13 sous in 1651, and 24 livres, 18 sous in 1652—then the price of Wheat hath diminished very much since 1649, that is within 115 years; and it cannot be denied, that other workmanship and merchandize, wages, &c. have greatly increased.

What shall we think, Gentlemen, of so great a difference, when we reflect that the *mark* of silver was in 1649, at 28 livres, 13 sous, 8 deniers, that is to say, at almost half less than at this day, *viz.* (from 1726) at 54 livres, 6 sous?

The value of the Setier of Wheat, (in money at present in use) was during these five years on the average price, at 42 livres, 2 sous; These prices are calculated in *The Essay on moneys*, and in the treatise of the *Police of Corn*. Ought one to be surprized, after these examples, that his majesty hath fixed the limits of the exportation at 30 livres the Setier, weighing 240 pounds.

It is then proved true to a demonstration, that Corn is in *France* at too low a price, in proportion to the advances, to the charges and expences of the Farmer; in proportion to other works and merchandise; and consequently to both public and private expences.

But to enable the Grower to receive back his charges and expences, that he may support and pay all taxes; it is not sufficient even that Corn should be of a certain value, it is necessary that value should be regular, the least subject as possible to variations: if he is not certain of selling, and of selling every year for profit, this uncertainty deprives him of all security, and he loses the courage to till, F f Now.

Now, this was impossible under a System of prohibitions, under a System of temporary and particular permissions, often granted from Interest to importunity, scarcely every free from suspensions.

A state, whose Agriculture is under the direction of prohibitive Laws, can never cultivate but for its own necessary use, it can never by good, make compensation for bad years, for such a State is poor, when it hath a superfluity of Grain, and it is poor when it hath too little: the superabundance produceth stagnation, and the failure produceth want: one brings with it a vile price, and the other excessive dearth.

These variations, the alternative of liberty and prohibitions, left the Farmer in fear, and could not fail to discourage him, because he was obliged to sell at any price whatsoever, to satisfy his annual advance. There is nothing but the constant keeping the ports open, and a free exportation of Grain, that can remedy these inconveniences. In time of great plenty that freedom will support cultivation, because the certainty of sales either within the Kingdom, or to foreigners, will make both the Landlord and Farmer contentedly to see their riches lie idle in their Magazines. This confidence will make them easy, and prevent in unfruitful years the terrors of want, which often causes real want; The disadvantage of expences in bad years will be made up by advantageous sales in those which are good. The poor will find himself comforted by the abundant consumption of the rich, and by the circulation. He cannot live, if the rich doth not furnish him with the means of subsistence, and the latter cannot furnish the former

former therewith, if he doth not draw from the earth sufficient to pay those recompences and wages which are the reward of labour.

But that which ought to remove intirely all his fears of want, is that constant uniformity of the price of Corn which exportation will necessarily produce. The principal end of a free exportation is not so much to sell as to support the merchandise at the best price possible, to restore that equilibrium, which is supported naturally in the commerce of other merchandise.

The common price of Wheat through EUROPE varies but little; It is notorious, that it is never below eighteen livres the Setier \* (that is twenty four, the Charge of RENNES) and that it scarcely ever rises above twenty two; therefore the average price is twenty livres. † For

\* By the *Setier* in this place is to be understood the measure, not that of 240 lb. mentioned before page 218, for that is the weight of the Setier of the best Wheat, and much exceeds the Average; the weight of the Setier from 1418 to 1700 played between 205 lb. and 244 lb. See *Essai sur les Monnoies*, folio 49.

† Equal to 33s. 6d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  the London quarter. Now it appears, page 105, that the average price of Wheat for the last 79 years hath been 33s. 2d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  at *Windsor*, that is 4d. below the general market of *Europe*, whereas before for 91 Years it was 38s. 0d.  $\frac{2}{3}$ , that is 4s. 6d. above the said general price. And that these *Windsor* prices are more to be depended on than could at first be known; is proved not only by the said average price of *Europe*; but also by the average price at *London* from 1740 to 1764, being found on inquiry to have been only six pence per Quarter less—and by the average of all the Wheat bought at the Victualling Offices at *London*, *Dover*, *Portsmouth* and *Plymouth* for the last 20 years, ending Feb. 18th, 1765, as appears by an account laid before Parliament, being only 32s. 6d.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ! that is 10d. above the *Windsor* price for the same time; and this last sum will amount to about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  discount on the Bills, but we cannot well call it less than 5 per Cent. and then it will be found to have been six pence below the *Windsor* and to agree with the *London* price.



For an age past *France* hath not, as before that time had any share in the general market price of *Europe* which is the highest price possible; and it is a notorious fact that the value of Corn in *France* hath almost always been since the prohibitions below the general market price. By what fatality should we obstinately persist in keeping our merchandize below the current price between Nations, to lose continually by all we buy of and all we sell to Foreigners. We in 1748, 1749, and 1750, felt this by sorrowful experience. From the time we unfortunately forbade the Exportation, our neighbours had encouraged and rewarded the exportation of Corn. They tilled with emulation, their fields were covered with harvests; and in those years of want, we who formerly used to sell them Wheat, were obliged to pay them the tribute of that encouragement which they gave their fellow-citizens. In those three Years, the *English* received from *France* 10,465,000 Livres.

The consequences of this bad administration are, first, that *France* dare not cultivate more than her own wants require; and not being able ever to elevate her views above what is barely necessary, she must infallibly often fall below, and consequently remain exposed to all the accidents of bad seasons and short Crops.

Secondly, that she can never make her Corn an object of Commerce.

Thirdly that she generally loses, although she may sometimes gain.

In short, that her Agriculture must continually remain in a declining state, whilst that of her neighbours becomes daily more flourishing.

*France*

*France*, if well cultivated, can never dread the superiority of other Nations in any thing; and she would have been but too happy, if by prohibitive regulations she had not herself shut the door against the labour and industry of her own inhabitants. The time will come possibly, when every Nation, reduced to the exportation of its own growth, will be of value only in proportion to its extent, the fertility of its soil, and its situation. *France*, in all these respects, hath the greatest advantages: She produceth Corn equal to the most fertile Countries; frequently for a year and half, sometimes for two years, and yet is always in fear of want. There is no cause to fear that in scarce years, which is the same as to say dear years; Corn should be exported for sale in places where it is in plenty, and at a lower price: there is no foundation for such fear only in the case when all *Europe* shall be afflicted with want. The facility of a free trade is a remedy as well for Scarcity, as for the too great plenty of merchandize, which is naturally carried where it is most wanted.

The Liberty of exportation is about to remove those barriers that laid a restraint, which attacks the foundations of Society. The people will be no longer forbid to enjoy the fruits of their labour, Corn will no longer in *France* be a merchandize prohibited or conterband. We may give ourselves up to the flattering hopes of seeing plenty revive, and by a necessary consequence, a flourishing trade which always follows plenty of Merchandize.

Is it necessary to say more, Gentlemen, to establish confidence and tranquility, when we are furnished with true principles we need never fear, but we shall draw just conclusions.—

Objects

Objects of so great an extent, which tend to increase the revenues of the King, and the Nation, are not confined, as appears, to furnishing Bread for the markets; that supply, although essential, is only one branch of national œconomy, of which the Corn-trade is the agent and general spring; in as much as it impresses the motion of buying and selling on all the rest; nevertheless, as this is one of the most important points of the legislation, and that which strikes most forcibly on the mind of the people, it is right to make them easy in regard thereto, and to prevent their fears. There ought to be a constant proportion between the price of Corn and that of Bread, there are several Cities in this province where there is not, at least where it is not either enough known or exactly observed\*.

A public regulation, or table is wanting, which should express what the value of Bread ought to be in proportion to that of the Setier of Corn, and I am preparing to lay such a Table before you.

It remains to speak to you, Gentlemen, of the restrictions laid by the Edict on the free exportation, we could have wished, that the Liberty had been entire and indefinite in all the Ports, that there were no limitation to restrain that liberty, that the exportation were exempt from all duties; because freedom only can extend and support the sale of any merchandise, and promote the consumption; seeing that the least obstruction stops the course; because the least duty on buying or selling (for they are both the same) is an imposition which dries up the source, because, in fine, the augmentation of the expences of transportation causeth the Nation to loose considerable revenues, and necessarily destroys its competition with other Nations.

\* Some lines relating to this matter are here, and in the following page omitted, as being only local.

But I do not mean to consider those restrictions, nor yet those duties contained in the Edict, as matters of revenue, the Edict bears too much the marks of the King's beneficence and love for his people. Convinced of the truth of those principles, which are there established with such force and dignity, he hath paid some attention to popular fears, which, tho' with little foundation, are natural to indigence. He perhaps thought prejudices, which had taken root by long use, ought rather to be destroyed by experience than authority.

It is then concurring with those views to make representations to him in this respect, which are for the good of the State.

To remove all uneasiness from those who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantages which such a freedom of trade must produce: his Majesty hath thought proper to fix a price, above which all exportation out of the Kingdom shall be prohibited.

It is fixed at 12 livres 10 sous the quintal, by the sixth Article of the Edict, and it is there ordered, that when that price shall be kept up in the same place for three following market days, the liberty shall remain suspended in such place, and to restore it, application must be made to the Minister of the Finances. There is no inconvenience in fixing 12 livres 10 sous, as we have seen by the average price of Corn in the general market of *Europe*; but have we not reason to fear, that some covetous persons may, by some private practices, raise the price of Corn for a few days, to the end that the Port may be shut, and they take advantage of the fall in the price, which will necessarily follow the prohibition. It would appear then right, to prevent monopoly, that the export being absolutely prohibited

prohibited, when the price shall be kept up at 30 livres the setier, or, that which is the same thing, at 12 livres 10 sous the quintal during three following Markets; it should be also restored absolutely when during three Markets the price of the Setier shall be below.

It appears that in limiting the number of ports, a view was had to the advantage of having regular accounts of the importation and exportation: But give me leave to remark, on the other hand, that this regulation confines the good intentions of his Majesty, and is even contrary to the Spirit of the Edict; for the principles which are there established are true throughout, or not at all. To fix a certain number of ports is to favour a small part of the subjects at the expence of the rest, and to prejudice the greatest part. It would appear more natural, that exportation should be permitted without distinction from all ports, at least, from all those where there are Commissaries capable to keep a register of exports and imports. We may venture to affirm, moreover, that the number of twenty seven ports throughout all *France* is too inconsiderable, that six ports for *Brittany* are not sufficient, the fourth Article hath fixed eight for *Normandy*, whose coasts are not so extensive.

From *St. Malo's*\* to *Morlaix* there are forty or fifty leagues of Coast, where no ports are appointed, in which are comprehended the Bishoprics of *St. Malo*, *St. Brieux* and *Treguier*, countrys which are as fruitful in Corn as any other part of the Province. There we

\* Such readers as are acquainted with the coast of *France*, will best understand the force of what is here advanced.

we find the ports of *Leguay*, or *St. Brieux*, *Binié*, *Pontrieux*, *Treguier* and *Lannion*. From *Morlaix* to *Brest*, eighteen or twenty leagues of Coast in which no port is mentioned. From *Brest* to *Port Louis* twenty five or thirty leagues of Coast, where might have been mentioned *Audierne*, *Quimper*, *Pont l'Abbé*, *Pont d'Avoine*, *Concarneau*, &c. from whence much Grain is brought. Also *Hennibonde* and *Auray* between *Port Louis* and *Vannes*. *Croisic*, *Rebon*, &c. between *Vannes* and *Nantes*. All these places are fruitful in Corn, and if there is no other view but to have entries, there are in all these Ports, even the smallest, Commissaries of the Ports and Harbours, Commissaries on duty, or Controllers, who may take the entries and duties, keep a register of the importations and exportations.

If it is said, that from these Ports the Merchant may transport to those which are mentioned; besides that it is a considerable increase of charges, the risk of the vessels, and of necessity a diminution of the value of the merchandise; it will be a subject of chicanery and disputes on the part of the Commissaries, in regard to the quantity of Corn, Grain, &c. for the discharge of the security, and consequently an embarrassment to the trade. Ought it to be necessary, for example, from *Paimbœuf*, which is at the mouth of the *Loire*, to go up that river as far as *Nantes*, to make an entry? or will the Commissary at *Nantes* be contented with that which shall have been made at *Paimbœuf*?

I add, that a liberty to go from every port would favour the *French* navigation, which is one of the objects which his Majesty had in view, for from thence would arise an increase of navigation from place to place, and port to port; it is well known, that the coasting trade is the school in which the best mariners are bred.

It is true, that in order to encourage this navigation the Edict secures to *French* vessels and mariners exclusively of all others the transportation of Grain: But to make a profit of this privilege we have perhaps neither vessels, nor Sailors enough. No one is ignorant that the price of freight in *France* is more considerable than with many other Nations, it is therefore thought, it would be proper to beseech his Majesty to give permission to make use of all vessels without distinction, at least, for two or three years.

As to the duties which are established by the seventh Article of the Edict, although they have no other view than to obtain an exact account of the Corn which shall be brought into the Kingdom, and that shall be carried out, the difference of one per Cent in the Duty of entry upon Wheat, and of three per Cent on Rye, and other inferior Grain, may appear extraordinary, in as much as in short years, when only importation can take place, this difference would turn to the disadvantage of the poor, who for the most part live only on Rye. In short, the emolument which can arise from all these duties is so inconsiderable for the finances of his Majesty, and the damage which ariseth to his subjects is so great, by the immense diminution of the whole price of the Corn of the Kingdom, that we are persuaded his Majesty would be pleased to suppress them; or, at least, moderate them, and order that they shall not be ever increased upon any pretence whatsoever.

I thought, Gentlemen, these representations necessary: they have no other end but to accomplish the views of his Majesty, and those tend only to favour our competition with other Nations in the Corn-trade: But we ought not to flatter ourselves to succeed soon; whilst the duties though moderate, the fetters

fetters with which we bind trade, and the scantiness of tillage shall continue to discourage; and our neighbours shall give encouragement to export.

So far Mr. *Chalotais*, what he says\* of the general Average price of Wheat throughout EUROPE appears to be founded on fact, and his observation || that except in case of general want throughout all EUROPE, there is no danger of too large a quantity of Corn being exported, when at a high price is very just; it can happen in that case only, and scarcely then; for as it must be supposed that every place will feel in some measure the general want, and Corn cannot be very cheap any where: every nation will at such times be too much on its guard to be drained of the Corn necessary for the subsistence of the people; and the very orders which will be received, as they will chiefly be commissions for supply, and consequently without limitation of price, will directly raise the market, and immediately give the alarm: however, it is a very proper argument to quiet the minds of the people. And the Author of *Reflexions sur la Police des Grains en France, et en Angleterre*, §. in order to convince them that so much Corn cannot be exported from *France* as to be hurtful, whilst other nations have so much to spare, gives † the annual average of the exports from *Europe*, as follows.

<i>Viz.</i>	Setiers
England for 25 years average	+ 1,020,000
Poland, Dantzick, the North and Holland	7,350,000
Sicily, Barbary and Archipelago	— 1,630,000
	<hr/>
	Total 10,000,000

G g 2

That,

\* Page 219

|| Page 221

§ At *Paris* 1764.

† Page 49.

† That is 552,500 Quarters: this exceeds the general Average, and falls short of that of the last 39 year: But

it

That is, about 5,417,000 Quarters London measure, and if the growth of France, as he says || exclusive of the seed, which the French Authors set at about one sixth thereof, is 35,000,000 of Setiers, or 18,958,333 London Quarters, besides seed. What reason can the French have to fear that too great a quantity will be exported by them, when the exports of all Europe doth not amount to one third of their own growth: and as our growth, besides seed, † appears to be two thirds of theirs, our fears seem much worse founded, at least in common cases, and when the want is not general throughout all Europe\*; since the number of our people in England is never estimated at half the number of those in France.

CHAPTER VIII.

REMARKS and OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing COLLECTION.

THE Author of the foregoing collection thinks himself bound to acknowledge the many obligations he is under for the several remarks and observations he hath received relative thereto. The most material of which came after this Edition was near printed off, and consequently too late to be noted therein. The purport of them are, viz.

1. That the calculations are different in different parts thereof: let the reader please to esteem the papers as distinct works, wrote at different times, and take which he likes best.

2. That supposing certain OTHER general principles, OTHER conclusions may be drawn: the principle

it is near enough for general argument.	Qrs.
Average of the last 39 years	598,448
General Average	487,411
See before page 113.	
Page 48.	† Page 144. * See page 227.

ples here argued from are founded on Facts, which seem well established; therefore they are not affected by OTHERS.

3. That many of the Arguments will not hold good in all places: these are meant only as general arguments for the whole Kingdom.

That the hint thrown out, \* that some are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged 5s. 10d. till 18s. is wrong, and no good reason appears why they should not be imported at the present low duty; as the practice is of very great benefit in places where poor people consume Oats in Bread. And there seems much more need to give some public encouragement for the increasing the Growth of Oats at home, by a Bounty on that Grain when exported, or by a premium for the cultivation of waste or heathy lands in Oats, than to alter the old salutary practice.

Further, it will be found when examined into, that though Wheat and Barley bear a much higher price in proportion than Oats just now, yet, this last article has been advancing more steadily for a number of years last past; and the Growth seems more and more unequal to the Consumption; and if the Legislature doth not give some encouragement to this Grain, it seems probable, there must be an Importation of it in some parts of the Kingdom or other every year.

5. That the arguments for continuing the same Bounties, and payable to the same prices, are not to be withstood: how then comes it that it is said, § "that without any great risk we might either continue the same Bounties, but payable to lesser prices, say Wheat to 40s. and the rest in proportion; or reduce them, say one third, and continue to pay them to the same prices as at present;" for though experience

\* Page 48.

§ Page 91.

ence teaches us, that, but a small Quantity of Wheat is ever exported when it exceeds 40s. even with the Bounty, and without it there would most probably be none, so that it might have no great influence on the Market; yet it never can be urged as a sufficient reason for making an alteration in this respect *merely* because no hurt can ensue, it cannot be supposed *any* Legislators will pass an Act but with a manifest view of doing good; and not when the effects may or can be only nugatory, and can do harm.

6. That the making a comparison of the prices of Corn, since with those before the Bounty, § is going too far back; we should not go further than forty years back, as there is a necessity that the manufacturer should always have bread cheap, in order to enable him to underwork other nations, and because within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes.

The matter under consideration is to enquire, *if the Bounty hath done any good*: now how can this be known, but by comparing the prices of Corn before and after it took place.

As to the necessity that the manufacturer should always have bread cheap to enable him to underwork other nations, and because within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes; It is notorious that the Farmer and Landowner bear a full proportion of those *very* taxes, which were imposed, not to promote and protect Agriculture, so far as it regards the Growth of Corn at least, but, to promote and protect the Sale of our Manufactures abroad: in order to obtain which, no reasonable Expences ought to be spared.

And yet Wheat, when the prices thereof are compared either with those of other nations, or with what our Forefathers

Forefathers gave for it in the last century, although money was then as dear again, will be found to have been cheap during that period.

What is there but Corn, and the labour of the manufacturer thereof, if the labourers in the field may be so called, that hath not considerably risen in value within forty years? have the wages of the husbandman been raised in proportion with those given to other workmen? he cannot with the labour of four days support himself and family a week.

Is it any reason, because *all* other things are grown dearer, that Corn which *only* hath continued moderate should be further reduced?

Perhaps it may not be possible to grow Corn much cheaper than it was on the average from 1726 to 1765, and yet there seems no doubt that if it can be done, it must be effected by continuing to give all proper encouragement to tillage and promoting a due circulation in the Corn-trade: At least we may be assured that, with years of common plenty, under such regulations it will not be dearer, and be one great means of supporting the necessary expences of the nation and without encreasing, at least in any great degree, the salary of the Husbandman.

7. That the stating the average of all the years \* is wrong: the dear years should have been left out; and then it would not appear that Wheat hath been so much cheaper on the average since the Bounty took place.

This deserves a particular answer.

It must be acknowledged, that had these averages been struck with a view to point out, that the price of Wheat hath been so low that the plow is forsaken, and

and the country left desolate, as in *France*; the dear prices should have been left out here, as the French Authors have done with great propriety; \* for the Farmers reap very little, or rather no advantage from such dear years, as the shortness of the Crop does generally more than counterbalance the advance of price.

But the people pay those high prices although foreigners only gain thereby and not the Farmer, and it is not what the Farmers gain, but what the people pay is the matter under consideration: and that before the Bounty, they paid more than they have done since, is an undoubted Fact; and yet our Farmers are far from those distressed circumstances as the *French* Farmers are said to be in, although they received on the average 19 *livres* a *Setier*, i. e. about 31s. 10d. a *London* quarter, from 1725 to 1745 †; whereas our own Farmers received, during the same time, only 29s. 10d.

Therefore the striking those years out by the *French* authors is right, and the leaving them in here is not wrong; and let it be noted, how often such dear years came round before the Bounty, to what they have done since, and to what height the prices sometimes rose.

The *French* find their Farmers cannot live by the present prices, and argue for an export to raise them: We find our Farmers thrive at the present prices, although lower than with them, and finding that they have fallen since the export took place, therefore we argue for the continuation thereof, as not only the most likely, but also the most certain means to keep them down: for it is inconsistent to think, that those

who  
\* See *Essai sur la Police Generale des Grains*, at *Berlin*, 1755, Page 243, &c.  
† See *Police des Grains*, 255. § Page 105.

who live in an exporting Country should pay more for their Corn than those who live in an importing Country: was any ever known to buy at a high price to sell at a lower?

8. That the value of the gains and savings which have been made by the export are much under valued, § particularly, that there hath been Corn to the Value of 100,000 £. or 120,000 £. every year since the UNION carried to SCOTLAND, where it was prohibited before; which should be added to the account: as should also the Oats and Pease exported on foreign Vessels to the account of Growth; but the accounts of these exports were never made up.

That the number of people, the quantity used for seed\*, and the quantities of Peas and Beans are much under-rated: and consequently, by not bringing them into the account, † that the annual Growth is estimated much too low.—Therefore the Export hath not borne so high a proportion to the Growth as is calculated, and this confirms that it bears but a very little proportion to a *small* failure in the Crop §.

10. That many people in *Wales* eat Oat-bread, whereas it is supposed, † there is none eat there; whether they eat Oat-bread, or that made of any other Grain is immaterial; the *whole* Growth will be nearly the same.

H h

That

§ Page 137.

\* That one ninth for *England* would be nearer, for that in some parts a sixth is used; and if the proportion was to be reckoned for *Scotland*, one fifth of the Growth will be found upon an *average* of the different Grains and years to be *under* the quantity that is used for seed, Wheat included.

† Page 144.

§ Page 22.

† Page 158.

11. That estimating the whole number of Horses § eight-fold, those in London, is rating them too high; and that supposing ||, two quarters of Oats to make one quarter of Oatmeal is wrong, it will take two quarters three bushels; therefore the Oats used for Meal is much under-rated, let this ballance the error in regard to Horses.

12. That it is manifest from experience, that the old Laws, against Engrossers, † &c. do not answer the ends for which they were made, are not suitable to the present times, tend to discourage tillage by preventing a freedom in the Corn-trade, and whenever they are put in force, which they at any time may when Wheat exceeds 48s. always make the price of Grain higher than it would otherwise be, by stopping the circulation thereof; and not only cause, but also make more grievous the evil they were calculated to prevent. That therefore there seems an absolute necessity to repeal them, and to pass "An Act to encourage Tillage and lower the price of Corn, by regulating the Corn-trade in this Kingdom, encouraging the transportation thereof from place to place within the Kingdom, and particularly from the growing to the manufacturing Counties, securing of the property and protecting of the persons of those who shall lawfully deal therein, or in any branch of the said trade, and punishing such who shall be guilty of any male practices in carrying on the same."

13. That since the Bounty hath had such an effect as to cause Wheat to be so much cheaper, that  
it

§ Page 202    || Page 128.    † See Page 49.

it " is become much more generally the food of the " common people since 1689, than it was before that " time, " \* and it costs Sixpence a week more to feed a poor man with Wheat than Rye, § it is insisted that, it is not only unnecessary but also unreasonable to continue to pay it as high as 48s. and it ought either to be paid to a less price, or entirely taken off, in order to keep Wheat within reach of the poor; That is, as the giving the Bounty on Wheat hath made it cheaper than it used to be, so the forbearing to give it will make it cheaper still.

Thus have we to the best of our abilities fairly stated the purport of every material Remark and Observation, both for and against the foregoing Collection, which have either been communicated to, or occurred to us; and which it appeared necessary to lay before the Public, as the affair of Corn cannot be too well understood, or too maturely and dispassionately considered under every view, whether it regards the growth and internal circulation, or the exportation and importation thereof, or the part we bear in the Trade thereof in Europe.

\* See Page 182.    § See Page 194.

F I N I S.



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