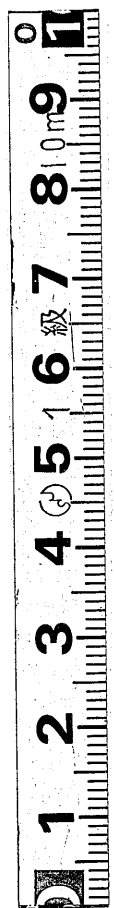


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THE  
BEST MINE  
ABOVE  
GROUND;  
OR,

The most *laudable* and most *certain* Means  
of *Enriching* this Nation, by improving our *Agric-  
culture*; and procuring the best MANURE yet in-  
vented, at the most *reasonable* Expence: Producing  
thereby extraordinary *Plenty*; affording full *Employ-  
ment* for the *Poor*; and raising to the *Publick* a *Re-  
venue* of near Two *Millions* yearly, without any  
Burthen to the *Subjects*.

Recommended to the *Publick Consideration*;

IN A  
LETTER  
TO A  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

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The SECOND EDITION, with Additions.

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LONDON:  
Printed for the Author, and Sold by J. HODGES, at  
the *Looking-Glass*, on *London-Bridge*, and by the  
Bookfellers of *London* and *Westminster*. 1739.

[Price Four-Pence.]



S I R,



OUR distinguish'd *Zeal* for your *Country*, and unwearied Application to serve it, on all Occasions, is a sufficient Apology for any One, who is convinced, he's offering to your Perusal a Matter of the greatest publick *Utility*. And I call this the greatest, that, perhaps, hath ever enter'd into the *Heart* of any private Man to *conceive*, or *Head* to *contrive*; and therefore without farther Ceremony, I beg your *Interest* to recommend it to the *Legislature*, the only *Hand* which can give the Authority needful to its *Execution*.

*Agriculture!* The most *laudable*, *necessary*, and *beneficial Branch* of human  
 A 2 *Industry*;

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*Industry*; which rais'd *Altars* to its first *Inventors*; and gave Immortality to its *Teachers*, at least to their Fame: Is from a most learned *Science* dwindled down to a meer *Handicraft*; while in Hands commonly *illiterate*, and incapable of urther *Improvement*: Notwithstanding the Charges of dressing with the several sorts of *Manure* now in Use, are too expensive, and their Quantities vastly insufficient for improving the Barren Lands now cultivated. Tho' doubtless other large Tracts of *Land*, now lying *waste*, would soon be *cultivated*, were sufficient Quantity of proper *Manure* to be had at *small* Expence. And this *one Thing*, so absolutely *necessary*, is here with great Humility propos'd to be supply'd. For Mr. *Liveings* hath not only invented a new Manufacture of *Foul Salt*; but has also invented and brought to Perfection a Method of putting the said *Foul Salt* on a Fermentation

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mentation with several Ingredients, with which he makes a Compound Manure for Land, which from certain Experience and Observations (on all Sorts of Land) is found to excel all other Manure commonly used in Husbandry.

For which Reason His Majesty has been pleas'd to grant His Royal Letters Patents to the said *Liveings*, for the sole making and vending in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, the said Artificial Compost, or Compound Manure.

Therefore to encourage the laborious and industrious Farmer, and also for a Publick Benefit to all His Majesty's Subjects in general, if the Method of making the said Compound Manure was made publick, we should soon see the Poor fully employed, our Trade and Commerce flourish, the Publick Revenues greatly increase, the  
Subject

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Subject enriched, and Corn will become one of the staple Commodities of *Great Britain*.\*

Sir, Of the three Sorts of Men, the most useful in a Commonwealth, (*viz.*) *Farmers, Manufacturers, and Merchants*; all wise *Statesmen* have always given the Preference to the *First*, as the most usefull of all, and most deserving of *Countenance and Preservation*; as they produce the most necessary Means of *Life*, and breed the ablest bodied Men to defend the *State*, in Time of Danger. But how shocking then must be the daily Instances we have of the unfortunate Farmers! and how great must the Loss be sustain'd thereby,

\* See, The several Letters to Mr. *Liveings*, concerning his Compound Manure for Land, from several Gentlemen and Others, giving an Account of the plentiful Crops produced on their Lands, by dressing the same with his Compound Manure, published in a Treatise of Husbandry, by *Samuel Trowell*, Gent. which caused this Second Edition to be published by the Author.

( 7 )

thereby, to their Landlords? Undoubted such sad *Disasters* call loudly for the serious Consideration of the *Legislature*, to apply the most suitable and effectual *Remedies*, to *Evils*; which if not immediately redress'd and prevented, must bring very fatal Consequences upon the *Publick*.

The *Farmer* complains that, as Things stand at present, he Rents his Land too dear: That he's oblig'd to sow it every Year, and that not having *Manure* to keep his Land in Heart, it becomes so poor, that the Produce thereof is not sufficient to pay the Expenses; and that consequently he cannot pay his Rent to the *Landlord*. Whereas, continues he, a plow'd Farm should raise, at least, Three Rents, (*viz.*) One for the *Landlord*, One for Charges of Cultivation, and One to subsist himself and Family withal; the Truth of all which is universally allow'd.  
But

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But whether he gives the only Reason for impoverishing his Farm, is a Question. But that it is impoverished, is true; and that he hath not or can procure *Manure* to mend his Land with, is as true; and by such Means he and his Family sink, and become chargeable to the Parish. The Landlord not only loofeth all his Rent, but is oblig'd to take his Farm into his own Hand, in the ruinous Condition the Tenant has left it, and for want of a Supply of proper *Manure* is oblig'd to lay it down with *Grass-seed*, and by such daily Accidents, the necessary Quantity of arable Land is very much lessen'd.

And as it's generally agreed, that there is at this Time more Farms in the Hands of the *Landlord* than ever were known before, and that many more are daily falling into the like Circumstance of Impoverishment, for Want of proper *Manure* to improve the same:  
So

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So likewise it more loudly calls for the Attention of the *Legislature*, to prevent the further lessening of the Quantity of Arable Land, and that immediately, otherwise it may soon be attended with very ruinous and destructive Consequences.

For it was ever justly observed by those dealing in Corn, that whenever the usual Quantity of arable Land is lessen'd, by laying it down with *Grass-seed*; and any Accident happeneth to the Crop then growing, that then Corn riseth to an Extravagant Price, &c. The Truth of which Observation was never more notorious, than in that memorable Year 1708; when the Price of Wheat rose from Three Shillings *per* Bushel to Thirteen Shillings *per Ditto*, in less than Two Months Time, and all other Grain in Proportion. By which Means the Poor then suffer'd great Extremity, some died for Want, others

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liv'd on Grains, &c. being unable to purchase a Morsel of Bread, or other wholesome Food for themselves and Families. While great Part of the Bisket then made for the Navy and Merchant Ships was of Horse Beans, Peas, Brank, Barley, and a little Rye, instead of good Wheat as usual. The Quantity of arable Land was then lessened, and the Frost was so severe, that it was believed then that the greatest Part of the Corn in the Ground would be destroy'd by its Severity; and indeed great Part of it prov'd so, for which Reason Corn continued dear for some Time after. If it so happened then, what may be expected now? when a much greater Proportion of arable Land is laid down already, and much more is daily expected to be turn'd into Grass Land for the Reasons aforementioned; unless some effectual Means are immediately apply'd to prevent it. But as the most effectual Method to avoid such impending

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ing Evils, and to obtain that most desirable Blessing of Plenty, is to improve our Lands with the aforesaid Manure: So for such glorious Ends, are these *Reasons* humbly submitted to publick Consideration.

And, That it will infallibly increase the *Revenue*, and greatly enrich the *Subjects*, by the aforesaid new Manufactory of *Foul Salt*, which *Salt* when fermented with other *Ingredients*, which are to be had in great *Plenty* in all Parts of *Great Britain*, makes the said *Compound Manure*, which amends and improves all Sorts of Lands for one fifth Part of the Expence it now costs in the common Methods of improving Lands, and causes the same to produce more than twice as much of all Sorts of Grain, Grass, Turnips, Hops, Flax, Hemp, Fruit, and Garden Wares, than is produc'd by Dung or any other Manure now in Use, and therefore the Consump-

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tion thereof will be exceeding great: In Regard that the Number of Acres of the Lands of *Great Britain* hath been by the most Judicious, computed to amount to 63 Millions of Acres, consisting of the several Sorts of Lands, as follows.

In Woods, Forests, Commons, Roads, Waste-Lands, Rivers, Lakes, Ponds, Hedges, Ditches, Houses, and Church-Yards, &c. 8,000,000

In rich Pasture and Arable Land, which will be mended with the Farmers own Dung, &c. 25,000,000

The remaining Thirty Million of Acres, for which it is suppos'd, there is no Improvement but by this Compound Manure, and may be dress'd therewith, once in Three Years 30,000,000

Total of Acres as above, 63,000,000  
And

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And whereas 10,000,000 of Acres will be to be mended every Year with this *Manure*, and will require about 80,000,000 Bushels of this new manufactured *Foul Salt*, which at but Sixpence *per Bushel* Duty to the Crown will amount to about 2,000,000 *L. per Annum*, which will be paid with Chearfulness, because, that every Subject that pays towards it, will be a Gainer thereby of very near *Cent. per Cent.* more, than if he was not to use the said *Manure*, nor pay the said Duty. Therefore the Demand for the same will be exceeding great.

Whereas the present Consumption of *Salt* for Provisions, &c. is about 2,000,000 *Bushels per Annum*, which at 3 *s.* and 4 *d.* *per Bushel*, amounts to about 333332 *L. per Annum*, but the Neat Produce is not above 180,000 *l. per Annum.*

And,

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And, by the aforefaid Calculation, it appears, that where one *Bushel* of *Salt* is now made and confumed, for Provisions, &c. There will be about *Forty Bushels* of this new manufactur'd *Foul Salt*, vended and confumed, in making the faid Manure for Land.

But fhould it be asked, how fo great a Quantity as 80,000,000 *Bushels* of Manufactured *Foul Salt*, can be made in *Great Britain*, over and above what is now made for other Ufes? The Answer is evident. For the *Salt Springs* at *Droitwich* alone, are more than fufficient for that Purpose. In Regard, it appears, by a moderate Computation, That where one Gallon of that *Brine* is made into *Salt*, more than Three Hundred Gallons run away in Wafte. To thefe may be added, the vaft Quantities of *Rock Salt*, and *Brine* in *Chefbire*, and all the many *Salt-works* for  
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making *Salt* from Sea-Water only, in many Parts on the Coafths of this Kingdom, which on this Occafion (will no doubt) be greatly enlarged.

This laft Article, will be a Means of employing a great Number of Coafting Veffels, in carrying Coals to the *Salt-Works*, which will not only very much increafe the Revenue on Coals, but the Number of Seamen likewise, and employ great Numbers of the Poor, in the feveral Branches, belonging to the Making this new Manufactur'd *Foul Salt*, and the Manure.

To which may alfo be added, the Number of Traders, who will employ large Sums of Money in this Affair, to their very great Advantage. Befides a much greater Number of Carriers, than is at prefent, will be employ'd in conveying this *Foul Salt* to the different Parts of the Kingdom, in  
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the same Manner as *Salt* for other Uses is now convey'd.

And it very providentially happens, that *Droitwich* is situated near the Center of the Kingdom; and as we are begirt with Seas, and have the Advantage of many Navigable Rivers within Land, so the Carriage by Land to any one Part, cannot exceed twenty five Miles; an easy Journey, when it's consider'd, it needs not be often repeated, because one Carriage will bring as much *Foul Salt* as will make Manure for Eight Acres, at least the other Ingredients to be mixed with it, being to be had in their respective Neighbourhoods, as aforesaid.

Therefore, if the Farmers had Liberty and Directions given them, how to make and use the said Manure without Restraint, the Revenues wou'd  
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be greatly increased, and the Subjects exceedingly enriched.

AND *Plenty* being one of the greatest Blessings a Nation can enjoy, all reasonable Encouragement ought therefore to be given, to the Promoting thereof; and the only Method, with the Blessing of God, to procure *Plenty*, is, to enrich and improve the Lands, as much as possible.

And that may be done at a very small Expence, if the Duty on such *Foul Salt* (as shall be boiled up with proper Ingredients, so as to render it impracticable to be apply'd to any other Use than for *Manure*) was not to exceed Sixpence *per Bushel*, and Satisfaction was given the Patentee for vacating His Majesty's *Letters Patents*, granted to him, for the sole Making and Vending his invented *Compound Manure*: To the End, that all His

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Majesty's Subjects may be at Liberty, and instructed in the Method to make and use the same, without Restraint, which they might then very easily do; for that the Materials for mixing with and fermenting the *Salt*, for making the said *Manure*, are to be had, in great Plenty, in all Parts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

And by this Means the Farmers will then supply themselves with such *Manure*, as from certain Experience and Observation, in many Parts of this Kingdom, hath been found to produce a much greater Increase of all Sorts of Grain, Grass, Turnips, Hemp, Flax, Hops, Fruit, and Garden Ware, than are produced in the common Method now used, and at a much less Expence, as aforesaid.

For, *Manure* being so very scarce and dear, that the present Expence,  
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to mend an Acre of Land, is from three Pounds to Four Pounds, and upwards, and there is not enough to be had, to mend one twentieth Part of the Lands, which want it; for which Reason there are several Millions of Acres in *Great Britain*, Part whereof lie uncultivated, and produce little or no Profit to the Owners thereof; and other Parts are so greatly impoverished, for Want of a sufficient Quantity of proper *Manure*, to dress and improve the same, that many of the Tenants are unable to hold their Farms, having lost all their Stock and Substance thereby, and are forced to leave them in their Landlords Hands, who can make but little thereof, for the Reasons aforesaid.

But if the Method for making this *Compound Manure* was made publick, and the Duty on such *Foul Salt*, as is used in making the same, was subject

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to such a small Duty, as aforesaid, then the Farmers will mend their Lands for twelve Shillings *per Acre*, at the most, and, in some Parts, for less.

For, this *Manure* is so adapted to Vegetation, that it Enriches, Mends, and Improves all Sorts of Lands, and remains much longer in the Ground than any other *Culture* whatsoever, for it contains all the Vegetative, or Growing Principles of Nature, and, for that Reason, it not only produces a much greater Increase, but every Thing in more Perfection, than what is produced by any other *Manure*.

And thus by Improving and Enriching Land, *Plenty* will be produced, by which the Poor will be enabled to work up the *Manufactures* of this Kingdom at so cheap a Rate, that the Merchants will be able to send the Produce thereof to foreign Markets,  
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and afford them cheaper than any other Nation; and, by this Means, not only the Produce, Trade, Manufacture, and Commerce of *Great Britain*, will be greatly increased; but the Landlords will receive their Rents without any Abatements, or Loss by Tenants.

And although the Farmers will sell their Corn, and other Provisions cheaper, yet as they will have so great an Increase, at so very small an Expence; therefore they will be, thereby, much greater Gainers, and be enabled to pay their Rents with Ease.

These, and many more very great Advantages will accrue, not only to the Crown, but also to the Subjects in general, by having the small Duty on such *Foul Salt*, and publishing the Method for Making of the *Manure* therewith, as aforesaid.

For,

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For, by this Means, an entire new Manufacture of *Salt* will be introduced into this Kingdom; and the Consumption thereof will be exceeding great.

The Revenues to the Crown will be very much encreased; and Plenty, with the Blessing of God, will be produced.

The Subjects will be greatly Enriched, by the Increase of their Produce, Manufactures, Trade, and Commerce.

The Poor will not only be employed, but, by their Labour and Industry, will enjoy all the Comforts of Life, without being chargeable to the Parishes, or burthenfome to their Friends.

Corn,

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Corn, will be one of the greatest *Staple Trades* of this Kingdom.

And, *Great Britain* will become the Granary of *EUROPE*.

I am,

*S I R,*

*Your humble Servant.*





*BOOKS Just Published, printed for James  
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don Bridge.*

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