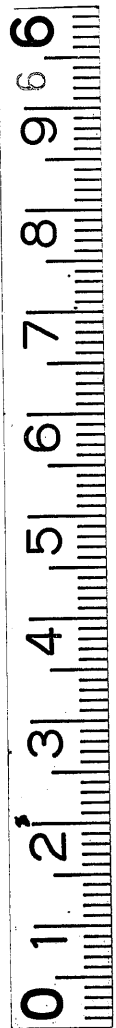


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S C H E M E

For Infuring

SEA-WALLS, &c.



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The Most *Advantageous* and *Necessary* *N*

PROJECT

FOR

ENGLAND,

THAT

Ever was yet **UNDERTAKEN.**

CONTAINING

- I. Very reasonable Proposals for Insuring all the *Sea-Walls*, or *Sea-Banks*, and *Marsh-Grounds* thereunto belonging, within the Kingdom of *England*, Principality of *Wales*, and adjacent Parts of *North-Britain*, from Loss and Damage by Overflowing Tides and Inundations of of the Sea, or from any Dreadful and Destructive Effects, which may be occasioned that Way. The Whole being laid down in a very rational Scheme, and Method of Procedure.
- II. Very Easy Proposals for Gaining all Sorts of *Marsh-Lands* from the Sea, which never have been taken in before.
- III. Reasonable Proposals for Insuring *Keys* and *Wharfs*, and for Clearing and Enlarging of Docks and Harbours, any where within the above mentioned Bounds.
- IV. The Draining of *Fens* proposed after a New Method, which will effectually preserve great Quantities of Corn in some Counties of the Kingdom from the Damage it commonly sustains in Moist or Wet Summers.
- V. Proposals for Preparing, or Forming *Mill-Ponds* for *Rape-Mills*, or *Corn-Mills*, on convenient Creeks of the Sea; as also for Clearing and Enlarging *Mill-Ponds* that are Landed up. Proposals for drawing *Canals* from Fresh-Water Rivers to Noblemens Seats in the Country; as also for rendering Rivers Navigable.

By a SOCIETY at London.

LONDON:

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Price 1 s. 6 d.



THE
SOCIETY

OF

Sea-Wall INSURERS

To the *Candid and Impartial*

READER.



AMONG the few Things we are to acquaint the Reader with at this Time, we must not omit that a Dedication to the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament assembled, was designed to have been prefix'd to these following Sheets; but though we had fully adjusted some very Critical Points relating to our Scheme, settled Things among ourselves, and sent the Papers to the Press, yet the Session was over before they could be got printed.

We know, however, that Venerable Body to be of too deep a Penetration not to perceive at first View, that

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To the READER.

our Society, pursuing the Scheme which we have laid, will bring a vast Advantage both to the Crown and to the Subject; and which, perhaps, will not give way either for Loyalty or universal Usefulness to any Society or Corporation in Great Britain, or in any other of his Majesty's Dominions.

And therefore we hope, that that Honourable House, which makes up so great a Part of the most August and Powerful Senate, or Assembly of Men, in the whole World, will be pleased, at next Session of Parliament, to favour us with such Encouragement, as will prompt us with Alacrity to go through with so beneficial and necessary a Work. And on the other hand, we promise to conform ourselves to all those Regulations which the Legislature does require of any Persons that are join'd in Societies or Corporations for the Welfare of the Kingdom, and Promoting of Trade.

That some very considerable Advantages will accrue to the Crown by this our Undertaking, the several Particulars which we have mentioned in the Body of the Treatise itself, do sufficiently evince; and besides what are there related, we shall only mention the Land-Tax, which

To the READER.

which our Scheme, we believe, will help to support on the sinking Side, in those Places where it seems to be upon the Decline. We have it not only from common Report, but from such Information as we can very readily depend upon, that some Estates adjoining to the Sea, which, within these seven or eight Years last past were let at two hundred Pounds per Annum, are now let for no more than one hundred Pounds per Annum, and the Land-Tax being appeal'd off, is sunk in proportion. viz. from twenty to ten Pounds per Annum. And should the like occur in all or most Estates adjoining to the Sea, 'tis plain that fifty Pounds per Cent. appeal'd off, would very much lessen that Income to the Government. And in a great many other Sea-Estates, tho' the Abatements are not quite so much, yet the Rents are sunk from twenty to forty or fifty per Cent. Neither is this Fall of Rents, in the Places, at least, which we have mentioned, occasioned by any Loss or Lessening of Land, there being none tore away or rent off by the Sea; the Estates remain of the same Dimensions as before, only the Sea-Walls being neglected, and not kept in so good Repair as is requisite, the Marsh-Grounds are

To the R E A D E R.

too much exposed to Inundations: And suppose these Lands to lie but a very few Days under Salt-Water, 'tis sufficient to bark the Feed of them for some Years to come, and the Fresh-Water on those Marsh-Grounds being once salted, is a great Loss too; after all their Pains and Industry of clearing or scouring of Ditches, and emptying of Pits, it is not soon purged from those saline Particles, which have not only intermixed themselves with that, but are also incorporated with the Earth itself, so that the sweetest Shower of Rain, after all its Decoctions and Refinings in the Clouds, is tainted as it falls, by this unlucky Mixture. And upon the whole, the Grasier, after his best Industry, finds that his Farm does not answer his Expectation; he can no longer provide for his Family, and pay his Rent, and consequently the Landlord must either sink that, or look out for a new Tenant, and sometimes do both. Neither, indeed, must it be said here, that the Landlord is chiefly to blame; for these Sea-Walls being out of Repair, we have elsewhere sufficiently vindicated him from that Imputation: The Sums which he disburs'ts to maintain these Repairs are very considerable; but as Affairs at present stand,

'tis

To the R E A D E R.

'tis almost impossible for him to prevent their being misapplied.

And therefore our Scheme is calculated to prevent Things of this Nature: We shall endeavour to fence against Inundations; and if they should happen, we shall make good the Damages; so that no Abatement of Rents will be desired on the one hand, or granted on the other; and the Rents of those Estates which have been harrassed and flowed with the Sea, will in a little Time amount to what they were before, to the Advantage of the Government, the Landlord, and, we may say, the Tenant too; which last may, perhaps, gain more by his Farm, being preserved from the Sea, than any other whatsoever, even though he should be brought to a little Advance of Rent.

It is true, in some Cases, the Circumstances of Things may be such, that some Gentlemen and Freeholders may in all Respects be as great Sufferers by Inundations of the Sea, as those we have mentioned, and yet have none, or but little Abatement of the Taxes, and other Duës, which commonly are annex'd to the Rent.

'Tis said the Proprietors of the Lands flowed by the Breach of Dagenham, paid the Land-Tax for their Estates even when they were under

Water,

To the READER.

Water, and at the Time too when they had been at considerable Expences in attempting (but in vain) to recover them. Such Instances are, no doubt, a Grievance both to the Government and Subject: The Government, that aims at nothing but the Happiness and Welfare of all the Subjects, may be supposed on such Occasions to receive what is their Due with a kind of Reluctancy; and with Commiseration of the Distressed; and yet, we believe it is not in the Power of any Private Officer or Collector of the Revenues, to dispence with, and much less to reverse any Publick Acts of the Legislature; and, perhaps, this Grievance, at that Time, is laid not judicially, and in form fallen under Cognizance of the Legislature, in order to be redressed: And that the Subject, in such Cases, does lie under some Difficulty and Uneasiness, is plain, because he answers a Demand where he has no Effects to raise it from. But all such Grievances and Intricacies as these, by the happy Consequences of our Undertaking, we believe, will be effectually removed for the future.

'Tis said the very Fountain of Compassion itself is dried up, or runs but low on such Occasions. It is al-
ways

To the READER.

ways supposed that a Christian Sympathy with, and Pity towards the Distressed, is to be met with in the Clergy. But even that Supposition, in some Respects, fails here: Some of that venerable Set of Men (we shall be loth to say all) make but small Abatements of their Tythes, even where such Disasters as Overflowing-Tides happen. 'Tis true, where they take their Tythe in Kind, they must be supposed to be Fellow-Sufferers themselves; but these Inundations, for the most part, fall heaviest on Pasture-Land, the Tythe of which is commonly paid by a Composition of two Shillings per Pound Rent, which Sum is very often claimed even when the Marsh-Grounds have been flow'd, and the Tythe not worth six Pence, or, perhaps, three Pence per Pound: But then a great many Gentlemen of the Sacred Function let their Tythes; and those who farm them, commonly make but small Abatements on any Consideration whatsoever; nay, 'tis said, their Hands have sometimes the Effects of an Inundation itself, and make good what the Wise Man somewhere speaks, A Poor Man, that oppresseth the Poor, is like a sweeping Rain, which leaveth no Food.

Our

Our Design is to hush all these Clamours, and not leave Room for Complaints of any kind.

We believe, we have sufficiently shewed in the following Tractate, what Advantage this our Undertaking will be to the Subject, viz. to Landlords, and their Tenants in particular, as also to the Nation in general.

The very melancholy Instance, which we have brought out of the printed Brief, of the lamentable Effects of an Overflowing-Tide, or Inundation of the Sea, wants no Proof, being of unquestionable Authority, and some Hundreds of other Instances might be produced, all dismal and effecting enough in their kind, which have also happened in this Kingdom: But the Brevity, which we proposed, obliged us to pass them over. A great many Gentlemen, to be certified of these Things, need turn over no other Annals but their own Memories, they having been of late Years presented with dismal-enough Sights of their Estates adjoining to the Sea.

And because some will be apt to say, That Sea-Walling may still be kept up according to the old common Way, but cannot be done according to the Methods we have proposed; we have taken Care to refute this
Whim,

Whim; 'tis just as if any Person should assert that such a magnificent and stately Building as St. Paul's, here at London, may indeed be built by Butchers and Coblers, but could never be erected by Stone-Cutters, Masons, and other Artists, which are perfectly skill'd in all the Methods and Rules of Architecture. When a Breach is now at any Time made in a Sea-Bank, Men of several different Trades and Occupations are hurried together to help to shut it, and consequently employ'd in an Affair which they know nothing of, and which is altogether foreign to what the greatest Number of them, by far, have been brought up to, there being, perhaps, but few experienced Wallers among them; whereas those we design to employ, shall be inur'd to, and constantly kept at that one Business, without shifting about to any other of a different Nature.

In a Word, the Method of Procedure, which we have laid down in the Treatise itself, is sufficient to obviate all Objections which may at any Time be raised against so necessary a Work: And moreover, we do not think that, after what we have said, any Objection can be made with any
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To the R E A D E R.

plausible Colour, except only that such a Performance or Enterprize has not hitherto been undertaken. And even this itself is the weakest Way of arguing in the World, viz. to conclude, 'tis impossible that ever such a Thing should be, because it has not hitherto been. This City of London stood several Ages before it enjoy'd the Benefit of what we call New-River Water; and yet if any Person, in any of those Ages, had asserted that it was impossible ever the Town could be supplied by such a distant Fountain, he, nevertheless, might find all his best Arguments for such an Assertion overturned and confuted by the Experience of the present Age, because we now see so great a Part of the City and Suburbs plentifully watered with that Delightful Stream.

It is very sure there is no Impossibility in the Nature of this our Undertaking itself, or in any of those Difficulties that may attend it: We have shewed that those may with Ease be all overcome; and therefore, is only in the Power of those to frustrate so beneficial a Work, who should be most forward to promote it, viz. Gentlemen and Freeholders

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To the R E A D E R.

concerned with Estates adjoining to the Sea; and if our sincere and well-meant Intention should meet with any Interruption, the Blame must be laid there: But we believe every one will have so much Regard to his own Interest, as will prevail with him to banish any Thought of this Nature.

It is very sure, that Gentlemen may, by entering into our Scheme, devest themselves of abundance of Care and Incumbrances which they are now under, and at the same Time too very sensibly sink and lessen those Expences, which they must unavoidably be at in repairing their Sea-Banks, and making good their Damages.

It is impossible for us to know who are desirous or willing to have their Sea-Banks and Marsh-Grounds insured, or where, or in what Places or Counties of the Kingdom those Marsh-Grounds or Estates lie; but then, according to the Directions which we have given in the following Treatise, it will be the easiest Thing imaginable for every Gentleman to enter his own Estate to be insured; and when once Entries are come in, we shall be to blame if we do not use all convenient, or

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even possible Dispatch in the Survey. No Time shall be lost with Respect to that; and when once that is over, we count the whole Affair to be as good as adjusted, or may, at least, be so in a very little Time.

As we have elsewhere signified, it will be impossible for us to undertake this Affair without a Survey: For as that will give us a true Notion of what we are to undertake in general, so we shall be directed thereby to make a suitable Provision for it, and at the same Time be able to make a very just Computation of what every Gentleman may safely contribute per Rod, towards the insuring his Sea-Wall and Estate in particular: And as to the Survey-Money, we believe, no Gentleman will be averse to it, because it is both an easy Charge, and then it will be no returning Charge, it will never again be repeated. And if any Gentleman should argue with himself, that his Walls are in good Repair; that he need not enter them to be insured; that his Repairs will not cost him six Pence per Rod, one Year with another. To which we reply, by laying down this Maxim, viz. That
there

there are no Sea-Walls or Banks, but will want Repairs sometime or other, while the Sea itself continues to Ebb and Flow, and while there is tempestuous Winds to ruffle and discompose it; and then if a Gentleman should do his Repairs for six Pence per Rod, yet it will still be an Advantage to him to have them done for four or three Pence per Rod; and as we have already said, we believe, we can afford to do the whole Repairs in the Kingdom much easier in proportion in general, than any Gentleman whatsoever can be reasonably supposed to do his own in particular.

We hope Persons of the best Quality in the Kingdom need not be ashamed to appear at the Head of our Society, seeing the greatest Monarchs that have warm'd the English or British Throne in the Ages now elapsed, have gloried in their defending the antient Bounds of the Realm, against the Incurfions and Assaults of foreign Enemies, even though they made no new Conquests: Whereas we propose not only to secure and defend the present Limits of the Kingdom from the Incurfions of the Sea, but also to enlarge and extend those by new Acquests

quests: By the first, a great many Families will be preserved from Calamity and Ruin: And by the last, both the Manufactures and Inhabitants of the Nation will be increased.

The Insuring of Sea-Walls, with the Marsh-Grounds belonging to them; the Taking in of new Marsh-Lands from the Sea; the Insuring of Keys and Wharfs, and Clearing of Docks and Harbours, being our primary Design, the other Particulars, which we have mentioned, fall in of Course: The Draining of Fens; the Preparing of Mill-Ponds on convenient Creeks of the Sea; the Drawing of Canals from Fresh-Water Rivers to Noblemen's Seats in the Country; the Clearing and Enlarging of Mill-Ponds; the Rendering of Rivers Navigable, being all Shovel-Work, and of a Piece with what our Workmen are to be chiefly employ'd in, they will be ready on Occasions to turn their Hands to any Work of that Nature, except an extraordinary Call, another Way, should for some Time retard them.

It will be a singular Satisfaction to us to see all the Marshes, or Marsh-Grounds, under our Care and
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Inspection, thrive and improve, both with Respect to the Grazing Part, and Goodness of Water; which last, in some Marshes, cannot well be expected, at least, to any great Degree of Perfection, even though Inundations should be fenced off, unless, at the same Time, Outfalls are kept Clear. By Outfalls, we understand those Water-Courses, or Drains, by which Fresh-Water Brooks, Rivulets, or Waters issuing from Inland Marsh-Ditches, after they have passed the Sluces and Gutters laid in the Sea-Wall, are directed to the Sea. Sometimes these Outfalls are but very short, the Water which they convey from the Inlands falling, as it were, immediately into the Sea; and sometimes again, they shape their Way through large Dimensions; and at other Times, through lesser Quantities of Salt Marsh-Grounds before they, at Low-Water, reach it.

The better then to freshen the Water in the Inland-Marshes, it would be proper, in Times of great Freshes, which commonly succeeds a Glut or Plenty of Rain, to clear away the Mud and Ooze from Sluces and Gutters, to open their Doors or Lids, and let them have,

on such Occasions, a full Vent towards the Sea, which, perhaps, is sometimes neglected by Marsh-Men and Lookers. This would both very much freshen the Inland Water, and might serve also to sweep away much of that Slud and Ooze which commonly lodges in the Outfalls into the Sea.

We promise to give Directions in general to all our Sea-Wall Officers and Workmen, to open Sluces and Gutters on such Occasions, on all those Marshes under our Care; and this shall be done Gratis, and without any Expence to Gentlemen or their Tenants: But if Outfalls be so landed up that no Run of Water from within can clear them, or, perhaps, is not able to force a Passage for itself, and on this Account want to be scour'd or clear'd of Mud; this being a Performance distinct, and by itself, and which is often very chargeable to Gentlemen, we promise by our Workmen, which will be always ready, and at hand, to perform Jobs of this Kind on as easy Terms as can be expected.

A good Harmony between the Insured and Insurers, and a mutual Confidence in each other, will be

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a steady Mean to fix this great Undertaking, and which will be so very Beneficial to the Nation, on a strong and lasting Foundation, and this receive some Addition of Strength also from our being punctual in our Payments on both Sides, according as by our Articles they may become due.

We, who are the Insurers, believe we may be the Objects of the Envy of some, and of the Ignorance of others; but these Things shall not in any Ways molest us, while we are Conscious to ourselves of our own Innocence and Integrity: And moreover, we shall not be desirous to continue one Day longer in the Management of so weighty an Achievement, than we are impeached with, and convicted of any Thing that is Base and Dishonourable. But what we have said elsewhere, we believe, may serve to hush all Clamours against us, we having divested ourselves of any Self-Interest by declaring in the following Treatise, That as the Publick Good was the great Spring that moved us on towards this Undertaking at first, so that should be still in our View, (we being firmly perswaded that the Nation in general, may receive

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many

many Thousands of Advantage yearly from what we have proposed:)
 And therefore, if there be any Man, or Society of Men, who will lay before us, in a full Assembly, after our Office is open'd, more advantageous Terms, or a better Scheme of this Kind, for the Publick Advantage of the Kingdom, than we have proposed, and will at the same Time give us some tolerable Evidences of their Ability to carry on the same, we shall relinquish this our Undertaking, and freely resign it to them. And moreover, we shall make it appear, for several Reasons, some of which are very obvious, that it would be in vain for any to oppose them in it, because such an Opposition, would not only frustrate the whole Scheme, and deprive the Publick of so invaluable a Good, but would also dash the Insurers to Pieces one against another; and therefore, if any should go about to oppose us, before they have made Trial of the Friendly Proposal which we have here made, whatever their Words may be, yet their Intensions may be thought neither Honest nor Sincere; and therefore, we believe the Publick will be caution'd against all such Interlopers.

When

When we make our Rounds, or take our Circuits at the Times which we have fixed, we shall use our best Endeavours to compose any Differences or Fars that may have happened among our Workmen, neither shall we suffer the Meanest of our Labourers to be wrong'd or oppress'd in the least.

As the Weekly Paper, which we have subjoined to the End of this Treatise, will be of great Service to us, so it will be of singular Advantage to all Gentlemen, who have either insur'd, or are about to insure their Estates. By This they may keep up a mutual Correspondence among themselves, and as frequent too as they please.

And moreover, we must needs say this one Thing, viz. We believe that no Journal, or Weekly News-Paper, that ever was printed or published in Great-Britain, had such Opportunities of obliging the Publick with a true Account of Affairs transacted on all the Sea-Coasts round the whole Kingdom, as this Paper will have; our Sea-Wall Officers being ranged round the Shores, will not fail to transmit to us an Account every Week, or as often as there is Occasion,

To the R E A D E R.

son, of every Thing memorable that happens there.

The Names of the Insurers may at any Time be seen at their Office, when it is opened; at the Place in the Treatise mention'd: And if any Gentlemen who live in remote Places of the Kingdom desire it, their Names will be printed in the Publick Paper which they design for the Service of the Office.

London, June 10. 1725.

E R R A T A

IN the Preface, pag. 6. lin. 19. for is laid not judiciously, read had not judiciously. In the Project, p. 3. l. 4. for nearing, r. near; p. 5. l. 25. dele to the; p. 13. l. 34. for uncreaping, r. unripping; p. 29. l. 24. for Transcript, r. Transcripts; p. 55. l. 30. for Ell, r. Elb.

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THE MOST
Advantageous PROJECT.

WHEN we consider the vast ^{The Sea re-} Extent of the Sea, and how ^{strain'd,} often it is enraged by boisterous and tempestuous Winds, (it being a Fluid, and apt upon such Occasions to shift its Place,) we may justly wonder that whole *Continents* are not swallow'd up by it. But the Wonder is still greater, when we see that *Islands* are not at once lost in that Element, their being preserv'd must be owing to a Kind and Watchful *Providence*.

This *Island of Great Britain* is known to *Atlantick Ocean* be surrounded by the *Ocean* on all Sides; ^{cean three} and its Extent bears but a small Proportion ^{thousand} to the Dimensions of those Waters, ^{Miles broad} which encompasses it. Should we survey the *Ocean* that washes it on the west Side, we find three thousand Miles Extent of Water together (*Ireland* only excepted) before we can reach any Land. And then, ^{Ten thousand} should we take another View of the same ^{eight hundred} *Ocean*, ^{Miles from} viz. from *South* to *North*, we may ^{Pole to Pole} say it reaches, from Pole to Pole, about ten thousand eight hundred Miles.

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God

The most Advantageous

Fences against the Sea, rais'd out of Nature.

God, at the first Formation of Things, raised Fences and Barriers out of Nature itself, to those Places of the Dry Land that were like to be most expos'd to the Insults of this Element; and left other Places, that were in less Danger, to be secured by human Art and Industry; and therefore we see that those Places of the Earth, which are expos'd to Northern Seas, where the Beat is still most violent and severe, are secured by Nature herself.

Fence towards the North.

And consequently, the Northern Parts of this Island being expos'd to the great Northern Ocean, is sufficiently fenced with Rocks against all Seas and Winds: Whereas we, on this South Part of it, knowing nothing of the Outrageousness of those Seas, are left to use our own Skill and Industry in fencing in a Country that lies so much upon the Flat, and may be so easily secur'd.

Norway secur'd with Rocks.

And Norway too, that secures a considerable Part of the Northern Continent of Europe from Westerly and Norwesterly Seas and Winds, is itself secur'd by a Rocky Coast; so that from Dronthem to the North Cape in Finmark, along the Shore, being near five hundred Miles Extent, is almost one continued Chain of Rocks; and from Dronthem to the Mouth of the Baltick, is pretty well secur'd too that Way.

And so is Ireland too.

But Ireland, of all Places, is most expos'd to the Violence of North and Northwest Seas and Winds, and therefore has a proportionable Security provided by Nature: For beginning at Carickfergus, in the County of Antrim, a Northern County, going round by Island-Magee, and so to Leann, thence

PROJECT for England.

thence to Glinarm, from thence to Red-Bay, from thence to Dunluce, and then over to Ennishioban, in the Country of Dunegal, (in all its Windings, nearing two hundred Miles,) the whole Coast is almost one continued Rock, and in many Places near twenty five or thirty Yards perpendicular, and the Rock so firm, and solid too, that those Tools and Instruments, with which they work on Portland Stone, cannot make the least Impression upon it: And yet as we are informed, the South Parts of that Kingdom are not so well secur'd, being laid much more open to the Sea.

Tho' we are far from asserting, that any human Art, or Industry, can equal those Fences rais'd by Nature, yet at the same Time we must needs say, that more Care, and a greater Industry, might appear in Affairs of this Kind, and in which we are very far out-done by some of our Neighbours: And when we look also into the Accounts that Magaillans, and Le Compte, have given us in their Histories of China, a remote Nation, we find that one of their Supream Councils, or Tribunals Royal, have allotted them, for their Province, the Care of their Fences against the Sea, Sluces, Canals, and the like.

It were pity but the publick Care in this Kingdom extended it self more towards preventing the Encroachments of the Sea; and that any had reason to complain, with respect to this Particular, under a Government so regularly, and so well constituted in all other Things. In Holland we find that when the Sea at any Time breaks in upon them, not only those who are immediately

England out-done by the Dutch in Walling.

The Care the Dutch take of their Sea-Walls.

The most Advantageous

diately concerned repair the Loss, but those also who live remote, and at a Distance from the Sea, are commanded, by publick Authority, to assist their distressed Neighbours in repairing their Losses, and doing up their Sea-Walls again: So that when any Damage of this Kind happens in any Part of a Province, the whole Province are ordered to contribute towards it: And this occasions the Burden to sit much lighter on the rest. A very memorable Instance of this kind we shall mention: A few Years ago, Gronninghen, one of the Provinces of the United Netherlands, suffered very much by an Inundation of the Sea, a great Part of their Dikes, or Sea-Banks, being washed away, and their Land flow'd: The West Quarter of that Province, being at some Distance from the Sea, having escap'd the Effects of the Inundation, refus'd to contribute with the suffering Part of the Province towards the Repairs. Upon which it was agreed to refer the Whole to the Determination of the States-General. The general Meeting of the States immediately ordered, that the whole Province should contribute towards the Repairs. But the Inhabitants of the West Quarter, instead of submitting to that Decision, from which there was no Appeal, took up Arms in great Numbers, and pillaged the House of their principal Deputy, for having given his Consent to any such Decision. The States General allarm'd at this, immediately ordered a Detachment of their Train'd-Bands to march against them; and unless they had immediately dispers'd, and comply'd to contribute with the rest of the Province, the States-General wanted

A Case of Sea-Walling laid before the States General.

Their Decision.

PROJECT for England.

ed not above two or three Days to have march'd into that Part of the Province ten thousand regular Troops, with Orders to perform military Execution on the Rebels. If any should doubt of the Truth of what we have said here, we refer them to the London Gazette of October 7. 1718. published by Authority, in the Paragraph from the Hague of October 7. in which are the following Words:

“ The Tumults in Gronninghen have hindered the States of that Province from meeting at the Time appointed, to deliberate on their Accession to the Quadruple Alliance. These Troubles are occasioned by a Tax laid on the whole Country for the repairing their Dikes, and Sea-Banks, which were for the most Part broke down and carried away in the violent Storm last Winter. The West Quarter of that Province being at some Distance from the Sea, had refused to contribute with the rest towards the said Reparations. Upon which it was agreed to refer the Differences to the to the Decision of a Deputation from the States-General; which was accordingly sent thither, and the Repartition of the Taxes to be levied on every District for this Service settled by them. But the Peasants of the West Quarter, instead of submitting to this Decision, have taken up Arms to the Number of 3000, and pillaged the Country-House of their principal Deputy, for having given his Consent to the said Repartitions. A Detachment of

London Gazette of October 7. 1718.

3000 Peasants in Arms.

“ of the Town *Gronninghen* is sent against
“ them, &c.

Every whole
County could,
with Ease,
fence Part of
the County
from the Sea.

We must confess, if the same Methods were pursued here in *England*, and every whole County obliged to contribute towards repairing the Sea-Walling that belongs to the County, or which fences some Part of it from the Sea, the Loss would be insensible: Whereas, now the Burden to some (as we are informed) is insupportable.

Law for Re-
lief of Persons
robb'd ap-
plauded.

All Men allow that to be a reasonable and very gracious Act, which enjoins the whole County to contribute towards the Relief of those Persons, which have fallen into the violent Hands of Men, who have robb'd them of their Money, in any Part of the said County. We believe it would be look'd upon by some as a very gracious Act, and by none could be counted unreasonable, if those, who are dispoiled of their Land (a more steady and lasting Good than Money) by those violent and unmerciful Elements, the Seas and Winds, were also relieved the same Way.

Whole County
might easily
relieve Part
of itself.

Proposals to be
made for their
Relief.

But till this take place, or some other Expedient be found out, of the like Nature, we design to make some very reasonable Proposals in these Sheets, for the Relief of all those who are distress'd this Way.

That there are in this Kingdom great Numbers of Sufferers of this Kind, which want to be relieved, needs no Proof, being sufficiently confirmed by every Year's Experience, and which equal many times any Foreign Instances, of this Nature, that are transmitted us from Abroad, though attended even with the most melancholy

lancholy Circumstances: We shall at present only mention in particular, one Instance; which being, by his present Majesty's most gracious Command, so lately related in all Religious Assemblies of this Kingdom, must needs be fresh in the Memories of some.

“ **G E O R G E**, by the Grace of God, Brief from
“ &c. Whereas it hath been the County of
“ represented unto us, as well upon the Lancaster
“ humble Petition of *Edmund Ball, Oliver* cited.
“ *Rymer, Lawrence Abraham, &c.* on the
“ Behalf of themselves, and about four
“ hundred other Inhabitants, Farmers,
“ and Rack-Tenants, within the Parishes
“ and Town-Ships of *North-Meols, Hef-*
“ *keth cum Beconsals, Tarleton, Martin-*
“ *Mear, Pilling, Lytham, Warton, and*
“ *Westby cum Plumton, Cokerham, and Ince*
“ *Blundell*, in our County *Palatine* of
“ *Lancaster*; as also by five several Certi-
“ ficates, under the Hands and Seals of our
“ Trusty and Well-beloved *Robert Mar-*
“ *desty, Samuel Crook, John Owen, &c.* Esqrs.
“ our Justices of the Peace for the said
“ County *Palatine* of *Lancaster*, made at
“ their several General Quarter-Sessions
“ of the Peace, held at *Lancaster, Wigan,*
“ *Preston, and Ormskirk*, in and for the
“ said County of *Lancaster*, on the tenth,
“ twelfth, and sixteenth Days of *January*,
“ and also on the twenty fourth Day of
“ *April*, in the seventh Year of our
“ Reign, that upon *Sunday* and *Monday*,
“ the eighteenth and nineteenth Days
“ of *December*, then last past, there hap-
“ pened a prodigious Storm of Wind,
“ which

The most Advantageous

“ which (falling out at the Change of
 “ the Moon, and the very Height of the
 “ Spring-Tide) occasioned such an extra-
 “ ordinary Overflow and Inundation of
 “ the Sea, that it broke down, and wash-
 “ ed away the Sea-Bank, Ramparts, and
 “ other Fences, and made a great Ir-
 “ ruption along the Sea Coast, and over-
 “ flowed above six thousand six hundred
 “ Acres of Land, utterly destroying, and
 “ washing away all the Wheat, Rye,
 “ Clover-Grafs, Salt-Works, Corn, Hay,
 “ Barns, Out-Houfes of the Petitioners
 “ thereon; together with great Numbers
 “ of Horses, Cows, Oxen, and other Cat-
 “ tle, which were drowned thereby :
 “ That the said Flood washed away a-
 “ bove one hundred and fifty seven
 “ Dwelling-Houfes, and so damaged above
 “ Two hundred more, that they will
 “ not be habitable without great Charge
 “ and Expence ; and that most of the Pe-
 “ titioners lost all their Household Goods,
 “ Wearing Apparel, and every Thing ne-
 “ cessary for their Subsistence, many Per-
 “ sons being drowned, and the rest, by
 “ Divine Providence, narrowly escaping
 “ with their Lives ; some with great
 “ Difficulty preserving themselves by
 “ Swimming on the Pieces of Timber
 “ torn off by the said Storm from their
 “ Houfes ; and others remaining a long
 “ Time in the Water, till taken out by
 “ the Assistance of their Neighbours ; and
 “ are by this sad Calamity, without Ha-
 “ bitations for themselves, having no-
 “ thing to depend upon but their chari-
 “ table

PROJECT for England.

“ table Neighbours, for their Lodging and
 “ Subsistence.
 “ That the Truth of these Premisses
 “ hath been made appear to our said Jus-
 “ tices, in their several open Sessions of
 “ the Peace, not only upon the Oaths of
 “ the said poor Sufferers, and several
 “ neighbouring Gentlemen, but also up-
 “ on the Oaths of divers able and ex-
 “ perienced Workmen, who were seve-
 “ rally examined in open Court, and
 “ made a careful Estimate of the Petiti-
 “ oners Losses in the Premisses abovesaid ;
 “ and the same, upon a just and reason-
 “ able Computation, amounts to the
 “ Sum of Ten thousand two hundred
 “ and twenty seven Pounds, and upwards.
 “ By which sad Calamity, the said poor
 “ Petitioners, and their Families, are re-
 “ duced to the extremest Degree of Po-
 “ verty, and must inevitably perish,
 “ unless relieved by the Assistance of
 “ of our Loving Subjects.”

All will allow, that the Relation, as
 mentioned in this *Brief*, is very affec-
 ting: To which we may farther add, That
 there was at the same Time near Ten
 thousand Acres of Land flow'd in *Nor-Inundations*
folk, Suffolk, Essex, and Kent, (though they *more frequent*
 had the Tide, not directly, but at the *than ever.*
 Rebound only,) the Owners whereof ne-
 ver moved for any Brief at all ; but
 shews us, however, how extensive Damages
 of this Nature were in the Kingdom that
 Year. And moreover we have obser-
 ved, that these eight or nine Years last
 past have produced more overflowing
 C Tides

Tides, and Inundations of the Sea in this Kingdom, than has been known in a greater Number of Years before; and consequently this has occasioned so thick a Succession of Misfortunes to a great many Gentlemen who have Estates adjoining to the Sea, that without some proper Expedient of Relief, it may be supposed they cannot hold them much longer, unless they be considerable Loosers thereby.

The Case of many hundreds of Freeholders of Sea Estates, may be guessed at by an Instance which we shall give.

A melancholy Instance brought of an Estate held by the Landlord. A Gentleman, as we are by good Authors informed, having a Sea Estate, not much above fifty Miles from London, has had it flow'd three Times, and part of the Sea-Wall carried away, within these five Years last past. The Estate is about One hundred Pounds *per. Ann.*

We may suppose then, the Profits of the said Estate to amount in five Years to Five hundred Pounds.

But then there must be a Deduction made for Repairs, which we shall state thus:

	l.	s.	d.
The Repairs of the Wall the first Inundation, rise to	157	00	00
The Second Inundation amounted to	169	00	00
The Third and Last Inundation happened on the 20th Day of <i>October</i> last past: He has let the Repairing of the Damage done his Sea-Wall by that Tide for	217	00	00
<hr/>			
Repairs in all	543	00	00
			And

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And the Wallers are now at Work upon it.

	l.	s.	d.
But then we must consider, he paid during these five Years last past, the Land-Tax, at two Shillings <i>per</i> Pound, in all	50	00	00
Tythes at two Shillings <i>per</i> Pound, in all	50	00	00
Poor's Rate, at two Shillings six Pence <i>per</i> Pound,	62	10	00
<hr/>			

In all, for five Years, 162 10 00

	l.	s.	d.
Now	162	10	00
With the former Account for Repairs,	543	00	00
<hr/>			

Amounts to in all 705 10 00

If from this we subtract the supposed Profits of the Estate	500	00	00
The Gentleman, even then, has been out of Pocket in five Years	205	10	00
<hr/>			

But then the worst Part of the Story is still to come: For though we supposed the Gentleman to raise one hundred Pounds *per Annum*, during that Time, from his Estate, yet it being Pasture-Land, and so often flow'd, it may be more reasonably supposed he did not raise one hundred Pounds off of it during the whole Time: For Land that is once flow'd, will scarce recover itself in less than three Years Time; and some will require a longer Space.

A Sea Estate given away, no Favour to the Receiver.

At this Rate, should a Gentleman freely give his Friend an Estate in Land of one hundred Pounds *per Annum*, yet he would do him no Favour, unless, at the same Time, he as freely gave him a thousand Pounds in Cash, to help to support it. We do not say, that all Sea Estates are such: There are some not near so Expensive in their Repairs; but we believe a great many, as they are at present managed, are such as we have mentioned.

Noblemen, of vast Incomes, can bear out these Disasters.

Earl of Nottingham mentioned.

Though these Disasters bear hard upon Gentlemen of small Estates, yet we must allow that Noblemen of great Incomes do not feel them. It is said, the Right Honourable the Earl of Nottingham has an Estate of about One thousand five hundred Pounds *per Annum*, in an Island called *Foulness*, near the Main Land of *Essex*: If a Disaster should at any Time happen to that, his Lordship has such vast Possessions in many other Places, that he could easily retrieve it. We believe, however, that there are no Persons, whether Noblemen, Gentlemen, or others, but would be willing to embrace any Opportunity that is proposed for lessening the Expence of Repairs, and, at the same Time, securing of the whole, as knowing what they save this Way, they can turn it to a much better Account by expending it in another Manner.

Money may be much better expended, than on Repairs.

We do allow there are some worthy Gentlemen who have propos'd a good End, in procuring now and then Commissions, empowering them to inspect Sea-Walls in some particular Places, and to put them

them into such a Posture, or Condition of Repair, as was judged proper. Tho' the *Some Jury-Commissioners themselves* may be very proper Judges in such Affairs, yet most of the Jurymen which they call and employ to inspect the Sea-Walls, know little more than the Beasts they ride on. There is only this Difference: The one are clamorous, and noisy; and the other are mute Animals, and never are offensive by their Ignorance. Scarce any of these Jurymen know how to plumb a Sea-Wall, or how to use a *Water-Level*.

But the Thing that has render'd these Commissions a Grievance to many of the Freeholders, is the *Marsh-Lott*, (as they call it,) which is every Year exacted; being so much levied *per Acre*, according to the Quantity of *Marsh-Land*; and spent by the Jurymen (as 'tis said) in good Eating and Drinking.

Suppose a Freeholder to have 1000 *March-Lott*. Acres of *Marsh-Land*: This at six Pence *per Acre* for a *Marsh-Lott*, (which they raise or depress as they please,) amounts to 25 *l. per Ann.* Which Sum, if it were apply'd another Way, would be of great Service.

'Tis said the Freeholders would signify a great Satisfaction, if the Money raised from their *Marsh-Grounds* that Way, were expended in stopping Breachs in their Walls, or in unreaping and new ramming their Sluces and Gutters; or in clearing their Outfalls, or in helping to repair the Losses of those who have had their Land flow'd by an Inundation.

We have been also informed that the Inundation

The most Advantageous

Inundation, which happen'd the Twentieth of last *October*, which we mentioned before, proved as destructive, and ruinous in those Places where Commissions had been on Foot for several Years together, as it did in those Places where there was no Commission at all.

The natural Causes of the Inundation.

However, as an Apology for this, we must needs say, that the Clouds being render'd very Ponderous with the vast Quantity of Rain which fell that Night, must needs occasion an extraordinary Pressure of the *Atmosphere* upon the Surface of the Water: This, together with the full Moon, and Height of the Spring, every Circumstance concurring, and then the Sea wrought far above it's true Level by a violent and tempestuous Wind, must needs produce a dreadful Inundation, and of such Force, as almost to be able to carry every Thing before it, and which (as we are informed) has done such Damage on the Coasts of *Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex*, as will require some Thousands to repair.

The Insurers give Way to second Thoughts.

When the Difficulties which we saw a great many struggled with, suggested to us the first Thoughts of this Project, we had only in our View the making good Damages, without being concerned with the Repairs: But then upon second Thoughts, we were obliged to alter our Measures for some Reasons that are very obvious; so that our Scheme, upon the most mature and deliberate Consideration, is this, *viz.* We shall not only oblige ourselves to make good all Damages occasioned to *Marsh-Lands*, and their Products

The Scheme the Insurers have laid down.

ducts, and to Sea-Walls, by overflowing Tides and Inundations of the Sea, but we shall also take the common and ordinary Repairs of the said Sea-Walls or Banks into our own Hands, in all Places throughout this Kingdom. And during the Time of our Contract, we shall exempt noble Men, Gentlemen, Freeholders, or others, concerned, from any manner of Repairs at all. Tho' some may believe that this Undertaking is an impossible Task, yet we nevertheless have rendered it to ourselves both easy and familiar.

We must allow that some Undertakings have, at a superficial View, been thought difficult, if not impossible; which nevertheless, by a little Time and Experience, have been brought to the utmost Perfection, and managed with the greatest Ease. When the Excise on Beer and Ale was first in Agitation, no Body believ'd ever it could be wrought up to such a Degree of Perfection, so as that no Person, that keeps a publick House any where in the Kingdom, could at any Time brew a Bushel of Malt, but a Society of Men, appointed for that End, could exactly tell, to a Pint, the Quantity of Liquor contained in the said Brewing. And yet we see that all this is performed with great Order and Exactness. In Respect of which, what we propose is but a Trifle, that extending from the Centre of the Kingdom to the Circumference of it in every Point.

In a Word, we not only are fully persuaded, that our Scheme is practicable, but also believe that we can repair and maintain

Some Undertakings have at first appeared difficult if not impossible, which have in Time been render'd easy.

The Insurers can repair easier than the Freeholders.

maintain the whole that we have mentioned, in general, for much less Expence, in Proportion, than any Freeholder can be suppos'd to maintain and repair his own, in particular.

No empty
Speculation.

That this is no empty Speculation, but what may soon be reduced to Matter of Fact, will we hope appear to every intelligent Person, when we have given but a brief Account of our designed Procedure.

Insurers can
lay in Mate-
rials easier
than Freehold-
ers.

In the first Place, we are perswaded we can lay in Materials for Sea-Walling at much less Cost or Expence than Freeholders of Sea-Estates commonly do.

Freeholders when Breaches happen in their Walls, commonly pay one Pound, fifteen Shillings *per* Hundred for Piles: And since the last Inundation of *October* 20. we are informed, they have raised them to near two Pounds *per* Hundred. The Truth is, on such dismal Occasions they must have them at any Price; for after the the Breach is made, the Water will force a larger Passage for it self every Tide, and may do ten, fifteen, or twenty Pounds additional Damage to the Breach every Time it flows; and then the Days are short, the Roads bad, which renders Carting of them difficult: Every Thing concurs to enhance the Price. And besides, a great many of those Gentlemen, who have Estates adjoining to the Sea, live at *London*, and some of them at a greater Distance, and on that Account are obliged to allow some Perquisites to some Acquaintance, that resides near the Place where the Damage is done, to officiate for

for them on such Occasions, in their Absence.

And then few of these Gentlemen are so provident, as to make any Provision before Hand, by laying in a Stock of Materials: After they have had so many Losses, they think this looks like an Invitation given to a new Disaster; and these are such unwelcome Guests when they come, that they think 'tis no Prudence to go out to meet them. And moreover, when a Gentleman has laid out two hundred Pounds to repair his Walls, and recover his Estate, he thinks it a Difficulty to lay out fifty or sixty Pounds more in Piles, to lie by him he knows not how long; and yet he may have Occasion sooner than he is aware.

The Method we propose to make the above Article easy to ourselves is this: We design to purchase great Quantities of Timber as it grows, at the first Hand, which is but very seldom done by the Gentlemen we have mentioned: They purchase for the most part from the second or third Hand. And where we find that Conveniences will suit, we shall buy up whole Woods: The greater Timber will be very serviceable to us another Way; what is fit for Piles, will be cleft out by our own Servants in the Summer, when the Days are long, and Carriage easy: We shall drive in the Summer what Quantities of them we think proper; that being a Season in which it will not be so proper to carry on Walling, that is altogether Earth Work: And if Inundations should oblige us to use any

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The most Advantageous

in the Winter, we shall have them at Hand, as having laid up good Store of them in several Places by the Sea-Side, so that a few Hours of Water-Carriage will bring them to any Place where they are wanted. By some little Experiments, which have been already made this Way, we may venture to say the Piles will not stand us in above fifteen Shillings per Hundred; and yet at the same Time we believe those Gentlemen, from whom we purchase Timber growing, cannot make more of it than we shall give, should they fell it themselves, (if so much;) nor can they dispose of it to better Advantage to any other Persons.

May be had for 15 Shillings per hundred.

The same Scene is acted with respect to Chalk-Stones, which must needs be had to fill up the Vacancies between the Tires of Piles. These, as we are informed, in many Places are sold for two Shillings and six Pence per Ton, and in some Places for more.

Freeholders pay unreasonably for Chalk Stones.

But then on such Occasions they must be had, let the Price be what it will; and then they many Times make forty Tons pass for sixty, and sixty for an hundred Tons, it being a most unfit Time to dispute Matters with them: They will tell you, unless you please to take their Freight as they nominate it, They know where to unload it, and desire you to provide yourself.

Insurers have them much easier.

We design to make this Article as easy to us as the former: We believe we may easily be possessed of Chalk-Quarries in some Places; and where these cannot be had, we shall see to pro-

PROJECT for England.

provide ourselves in Ragg-Stones, or the like Materials; and then we shall manage the Water-Carriage by Barges, Hoys, and Lighters, of our own, and hope much easier, than if we subjected ourselves to the common Extortion which now prevails in this Affair.

And then, we believe, we can save considerably by furnishing ourselves with Tools and Implements for the Work. The usual Method is, When a Gentleman has a Breach in a Sea-Wall, though, perhaps, he may have it repaired for forty Pounds, or thereabouts, yet if he purchase the Implements, such as Ladders, Barrows, and Planks, or Fir-Deals, which are very necessary for the Work, it will cost him about ten or twelve Pounds more; and if the Undertakers of the Work find themselves in these Implements, they will be sure to charge him as much for the Use of them, as tho' he had bought them new. Here the Gentleman is at an equal Loss either Way: If he buys them, when his Turn is over, these Implements are cast aside, and for want of constant using are either stolen, or go to decay, and in a little Time rot, and so are unfit for any farther Service; so that against the next Inundation, the Landlord, or Freeholder, must provide himself in a new Set of Implements. And if the Undertakers furnish him a second or third Time, they must still be gratified as at first.

Gentlemen must either buy Implements dear, or purchase the Use of them at an unreasonable Price.

We design to find ourselves in all these Implements as easy as we can, and have still by us a good Stock of

The most Advantageous

Insurers use their Tools and Implements till they are worn out, without casting them by, and in so doing save very considerably

as good and lasting Norway Deals, as we can possibly light on; and then by keeping them in constant Use, we believe we may go through with five hundred Pounds worth of Work, with as little Expence this Way, as commonly it now costs a Gentleman to dispatch a Jobb of about forty Pounds.

And then as to Workmen, which, indeed, is a principal Article, we believe we can have them much easier, then they can be had by Gentlemen now. When Breaches happen, or in the Time of an Inundation, the common Sea-Wallers can, without any Scruple of Conscience, accept of Half a Crown for an Hour's Work, which is one Pound and ten Shillings a Day: Nay, we have it on good Information, that some have had Half a Guinea for about an Hour's Work, which is six Pounds and six Shillings a Day; and others have thought it no extraordinary Wages to take four or five Shillings a Day, for several Weeks together; and their least Wages is two Shillings, and half a Crown a Day; and then their Working-Hours are not so much regulated by the Day, as the Time of the Tide; six or eight Hours pass for an extraordinary Day's Work many Times.

The Wallers many times make a Run on Gentlemen.

The Insurers can procure better Terms.

If these Workmen should at any Time enter themselves into our Service, tho' their Wages may be somewhat retrench'd, and they brought to more moderate Prices, yet a sufficient Amends will be made them for that, by their being constantly employ'd: We shall find them in constant Work

PROJECT for England.

Work throughout the whole Year, or while they live, at stated Prices; by which it will be impossible for them to exact on us; and we shall not make the least Attempt to defraud them. At this Rate their Affairs and Way of Living will be vastly changed for the better: Sometimes, perhaps, for a few Days, they have a Glut of Work, and soon after, for many Days together, nothing to do; and in one idle Day some of them foolishly spend and lavish away what they had slaved very hard for, during a Month before: When they have spent all, and consequently their Frolick over, if they fall into a new Jobb again they are in course obliged to repeat their former Exactions: By treading in this Circle, the greater Part of them are perpetually poor. We design to govern all that are under our Care with great Order and Exactness, and we will be very inquisitive to know how they have spent any Time in which they have been absent from their Work; and at the same Time, however, we shall freely confess that we do not design to let due Merit, in the meanest common Labourer, go unrewarded: For if the meanest Labourer in our Service, should happen to be the first Person that discovers the first Beginning of a Breach, and gives the Alarm to the neighbouring Workmen, if they prevent a Breach, and turn the coming-in Tide, by turning a Horse-Shore (as they call it) on the Salts, or other Ways, and so prevent great Expences to us, such a Person shall not pass without some distinguishing Marks of

Merit in any common Labourer shall be rewarded.

Marks of our Favour; and all skilful and experienced Wallers in every County, shall have from us what Encouragement they can desire.

In order to carry on our Affairs regularly, we design to list into our Service a competent Number of able-bodied Workmen, which we shall range round the Shores throughout the whole Kingdom, where there is the least Occasion: Those scattered Stragglers, that pretend to know something of Sea-Walling, and ramble from one County to another (as they pretend) in quest of Work, shall meet with all reasonable Encouragement from us: They shall be incorporated with a Body of regular and well disciplin'd Workmen, and will not have the least Occasion for the future, to wish for a *Poor Man's Tide*, (as they commonly call a sweeping Inundation,) which carries Banks, Walls, and all away, because we shall employ them constantly by the Year.

No Occasion of wishing for a Poor Man's Tide.

A List of all their Names.

And then we design to keep an exact List by us, of the Names of all the Workmen we employ in every County, or Division, throughout the Kingdom.

Sea-Wall Officers constituted.

And moreover, for the better regulating of our Affairs, we shall employ a certain Number of Men, which we shall call *Sea-Wall Officers*: The *Sea-Wall Officer's* Business will be to over-see such a

The Sea-Wall Officer's Business described.

Number of Workmen, as he can with Ease take Care of: He must let them their Work; must view it when 'tis finished; must pay the Workmen once a Week punctually; and keep an exact List

List of all the Workmen under his Care.

And moreover, we design that three or four of the *Sea-Wall Officers* next adjoining, shall all meet together once every six Weeks, throughout the Year, to consult about such Affairs, as we think proper, from Time to Time, to lay before them, and by next Post to send us the Result of their Consultation. And 'tis our Design also, that every *Sea-Wall Officer* in the Kingdom send us his Book, or an exact Copy of it, once every six Weeks throughout the Year, and give an Account therein how many Hands he has employ'd the six Weeks past; how many Rods of Sea-Walling are done; how they took their Work for the last six Weeks, whether by the Rod, by the Floor, or by the Day, and how many Piles have been drove, and where.

Three Sea-Wall Officers to meet once every 6 Weeks.

Their Books transmitted to the Directors once in six Weeks.

And then one of the *Directors*, or *Insurers* of the Company will punctually, once every Quarter in the Year, in taking his Round, meet with three or four *Sea-Wall Officers* together, to consult of particular Measures to be taken in any Particular which relate to our Affairs; and this to continue till he has met with all the *Sea-Wall Officers* in his Round, and viewed their Work.

One of the Directors, once in a Quarter, in his Round meet with 3 or 4 Sea-Wall Officers.

And moreover, three of the *Insurers* together, once a Year, will visit all the *Sea-Wall Officers* within the Circuit allotted them, and take a particular Cognizance of the Work, as they pass their Circuit. And then, when at any Time an Inundation happens, and Damage is done, and consequently a Demand to be made,

one

The most Advantageous

One Insurer
still present
when Losses
are to be valu-
ed, and Mo-
ney paid.

one of the Directors of the Company will always be present, to see the Losses fairly computed, and the Money paid to the Sufferers.

A Sea-Wall
Officer shall be
had in Repute.

We design that every Sea-Wall Officer shall have a handsome Sallery allow'd him *per Annum*, and paid Quarterly: We shall keep up his Repute and Esteem among the Workmen, and where he resides; and when we have had Proofs of his Fidelity, he shall have Discretionary Orders to draw upon us for what Sums he wants, and his Bills shall be answered upon Sight.

The Sea-Wall
Officer in a lit-
tle Time, by
Blank Sum-
mons by him,
may call to-
gether a great
Number of
Hands.

We design also that he shall always have some Blank Summons by him, sealed with the common Seal of the Company, which he may fill up when any Disaster happens in his Province, and so call to his Assistance, from the neighbouring Sea-Wall Officers, what Number of Hands he thinks proper, unless they have met with the like Disaster: And if some of them have, his Orders will still be valid, when he summons those at a greater Distance. So that, according to this Method, upon any sudden Emergency, we believe three or four hundred Workmen may be got together in a few Hours. Every Sea-Wall

Boats of five
or six Oars a
Side for the
use of the
Company.

Officer will have a sufficient Number of Boats always at his Command, for the Service of his Company, or Gang, of five or six Oars a Side: These Boats with Ease, and in a short Time too, will Transport the Workmen with all their Implements, *viz.* Barrows, Planks, Ladders, Skeets, Shovels, Scoops, from one Place to

to another: And as these Boats will be very serviceable for carrying the Workmen expeditiously from one Part of the Sea-Coast to another, so will they also be very useful for the Relief of Islands *Islands re- under our Care: When at any Time an Inundation should happen to these, some of them lying a considerable Way from the Main Land, by these we shall be able to hasten to their Relief.*

We shall take care, however, to Ar-
ticle with the Sea-Wall Officer that he shall at no Time travel above twelve Miles from the Sea-Coast without Leave obtained first from us, or about our particular Affairs; and that he always Live or Lodge in a House, Town, or Village, by the Sea.

These are some of our Measures, which we thought proper at this Time to relate, and by which we design to proceed, tho' at the same Time we must say a little Time and Experience will instruct us better, and ripen them into a greater Degree of Perfection: We have at present laid down what we think a Rational, and which we are sure is a very Practicable Scheme.

But before we can execute any of these Measures, we have mentioned, we must beg Leave to lay before Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Freeholders of Lands adjoining to the Sea, and would have them insured, the following Directions:

In the first Place, in order for a Survey, that Entries be made of all Banks, or Sea-Walls, and Marsh-Grounds, that are to be insured throughout the

E King-

Attendance
given.

Books open'd
and shut, &c.

Kingdom, at our Office, which will be open'd in *Broad-Street*, near the *Royal-Exchange*, *London*; where our Clerks will give constant Attendance from Eight in the Morning till Noon, and from Two in the Afternoon till the Evening.

The Books will be open'd to take in Entries the first Week of next *October*, 1725; and shut as soon as we find there is such a competent Number of Entries made, as may in some Respects encourage us to undertake a Survey.

In making Entries, Care must be taken to be very particular with Respect to the County and Parish, in which the Estate or Marsh lies; and the Tenant's Name, who at present occupies it, and where the Gentleman may be met with that is the Owner; as also the Name that the Estate is commonly known by, and by which it passes in Deeds and Records.

All which we shall briefly sum up in the following Instance, *viz.*

The Draught
of an Entry.

JONH MILLER, *Esq;* who is to be heard off at any Time in the Town of *Lancaster*, is willing to enter to be Insur'd upon reasonable Terms, and as he and the Insurers can agree, one hundred Rods of Sea-Walling, and about fourscore Acres of Land thereunto belonging, with one Sluce, or Gutter, lying in the County of *Lancaster*, and Parish of *Tarleton*, three Mile from the Village of *Nolton*, and now in the Occupation of *Thomas Villars*. The Estate, or Marsh, is commonly known by the Name of *Blondell's*.

This

This Draught will serve to form an Entry by from any Place, *mutandis mutatis*, the changeable Circumstances in it being alter'd. *This Draught will serve to form any Entry by.*

These Entries may be transmitted to us at *London*, from the remotest Parts of the Kingdom in a little Time, and with Ease too: They may be sent by Stage-Choaches, by Waggons, or Carriers; or some of those at the greatest Distance, may employ a Friend at *London* by a Letter, to enter for them. Gentlemen who reside nearer *London*, may please to make Entries themselves, or may enter by their Servants. A singular Care shall be taken of all Entries: They will be immediately Register'd by the Clerks, who will give their constant Attendance for that End. We desire that the Entries may be given in at length in Writing.

Where Noblemen and Gentlemen have large Estates adjoining to the Sea, and occupied by many Tenants, it will not be improper to let us know the Names of two or three of them, *viz.* Tenants.

We desire that Gentlemen who occupy their Sea-Estates themselves, would be pleas'd to signify so much to us in their Entries.

We pray that Persons of Distinction, would be pleas'd, in their Entries, to let us know their Titles of Honour; otherwise we will have much Confusion, both in our Transcripts, and Books of Survey. *Necessary to know Titles of Honour, when the Register is made.*

There will be five Shillings at least to be paid for every Entry, as a Perquisite to the Clerks; and when all Things

Considering his Pains a small Allowance.

are considered, this will be but a small Allowance to them; for besides the first rough Draught of the *Entries* in general, there must needs be made several Transcripts of them, for the Use of of the Surveyors, as they pass through the Counties, in particular, where surveys are to be made: And then, besides all this, there must be one large Volume of the Whole, alphabetically digested, to lie always before the Directors; by the Help of which, (the County being once known,) any of them will, in an Instant of Time, be able to turn to any particular Entry made throughout the whole Kingdom, and then by inspecting the Book of Survey, he will at the same Time perfectly know what State of Repair the said *Entry* or Estate is in.

Two distinct Entries must be made, where Noblemen or Gentlemen have Estates in two distinct Counties.

We must nor omit to mention that any Noblemen, or others, that have Estates lying in two or more distinct Counties will, we believe, count it no Grievance to let the Clerks have the above mentioned Consideration for each County: This will appear but reasonable, when we consider that they will be obliged, according to the Exactness of our Method, to keep distinct Registers, and Transcripts of every County.

When the Books are shut, the Survey will commence, and be carefully performed.

When the Time, which we have mentioned, of keeping our Books open to register or take in Entries of Estates and Sea-Walls, is elapsed, then we shall set out for our *Survey*, according as we are directed by our Registers, or Entries. And this being the most expensive, as well as the most nice and critical Part of

of the whole Work, we are fully resolved to see it exactly and carefully performed.

Scarce any Body will doubt of it's being expensive, when he considers what it is to take such a just and careful Estimate of every Rod of Sea-Walling, round the whole Kingdom, so as to be able at any Length, or Interval of Time, and at any Distance of Place, to give a true Account of what State and Condition of Repair, not only a Gentleman's Wall, by the Lump, was in, when it was survey'd, but also in what State of Repair the particular Rods of the said Wall were in, when the Survey was made; and this we design to do, if our Entries be as extensive, as what we have mentioned.

What even the Clerks, who must needs attend us through this Part of the Performance, will receive for their Part, will amount to a large Sum. And they will earn it too; seeing, as we believe, one Volume of Transcript will produce several Volumes of Surveys, and of the same Bulk; and there must also be a large Volume of the Surveys, or Volumes, digested alphabetically, to correspond with the other, which we mentioned of the Registers, or Entries, that so the one may always reflect a Light on the other, and direct us how to proceed ever after the Survey is over in the Management of our Affairs, and what are the proper Orders to be given to the Workmen, concerning any Gentleman's Wall within the Kingdom, not only in general, but also with respect to every Place,

The Survey will be expensive.

The Clerks must be paid, which require a large Sum.

Use of the Books of Registers and Surveys.

Walls must be particularly inspected.

The most Advantageous

Place, or Part of the said Wall in particular; tho' perhaps at the same Time we may be at a considerable Distance from our Workmen.

For tho' we shall mention several general Heads, under which a great Part of Sea-Walling may be ranked, yet these are but like general Rules, which are us'd in other Cases, which commonly are clogg'd with a great many Exceptions; and therefore if at any Time we should say that such a Gentleman's Sea-Wall is in tolerable good Repair in general, yet there may be several Exceptions in particular: Ten Rods of the said Wall may be in a very sorry Condition, and other ten Rods of the said Wall may be in very good Order: Sometimes a Gentleman's Sea-Wall, that fences his Estate, may begin with Chalk, and eight or nine Rows or Tires of *Piles*, and yet, in the Space of a few Rods, these may gradually dwindle away into two, or three Tires of *Piles*; and these again, in a few Rods more, be lost in a good or large Beat of Salts, or of a Salt-Marsh before his Wall.

Things not to be run at in the Lump, &c.

And therefore these Things must be minded by us in particular: And consequently, when we are out on our Survey, it is not barely running the Chain along a Sea-Wall to see how many Rods it contains, that will serve our Turn: This indeed would look like taking Things in the *Lump*, as Persons sometimes do, who are devested of any future Concern for what they undertake: And therefore, to manage our Survey as we have propos'd,

pos'd, we believe we shall be oblig'd, in surveying a Sea-Wall, to make several *Pauses* in the Space of twenty Rods, or less, and during the Time of our Stops, the Clerks will be employ'd in writing such Things as is thought proper to be insert'd in our Books of Survey, with respect to those Places of the Wall, or Fence, that occasion'd our Stop.

And then when we reach the Rails *Reflections* or Bars upon the Wall, which are the *past at the Rails* common Boundaries of Estates, or which separate one Gentleman's Estate from another's, we must needs stop for some considerable Time, to insert what *Reflections* we think proper to make upon the Whole, for our future Use; and the exact Number of Rods contained in the said Wall, or Sea-Fence, will be register'd at the same Time. These Things, together with our viewing the Marsh-Ground belonging to the said Wall, and how far the *Run* of Water would continue or vent itself, to the damaging of other neighbouring Estates, in case the said Marsh happened to be at any Time flow'd or drowned by a Breach in the Wall, must of Necessity take up some considerable Time.

And then, besides what the Clerks *The Directors* will receive from us on this Occasion, *Expences* our own Expences, and the Charge, or Expences of Servants who attend us, even after we have used the best Frugality, and good Oeconomy, must needs be very considerable.

Tho'

Requisite 'tis
some Person,
acquainted in
the Place, at-
tend the Sur-
veyors.

Though by our *Entries*, our Directions will be so particular, that we suppose ourselves able, without any further Assistance, to go directly to, and survey any Gentleman's Sea-Wall in the Kingdom, yet, for the more expeditious Dispatch of Things, we design to procure some Person, or other, in every Parish where the Survey is made, to accompany us till we pass that Parish, at least, a Gentleman's Tenant, a Herdsman, Looker, or any other Person well acquainted with Marsh-Estates, will serve our Turn. When we find him begin to hesitate in Things, and consequently wearing out of his Province, we shall dismiss him, and procure another; and we can do no less, than gratify such Persons as these for their Service and Trouble.

And then our own Expence of Time, and Absence from our Affairs of some Moment in other Places, we believe will still be reputed of some Value.

Though all these Particulars, laid together, will amount to a great Sum, yet it is our Design, through the whole of this Affair, to make all Things as easy as possibly we can; and therefore we

Gentlemen are
only to contri-
bute two Shillings
six Pence to-
wards the
Survey for
each fifty
Rods.

desire that Noblemen, Gentlemen, or others concerned, contribute only two Shillings and six Pence for every fifty Rods of their Sea-Walling, towards defraying the Expences of the Survey: We so understand it, as that two Shillings and six Pence will be the lowest Survey. If any Gentleman have only twenty, thirty, or forty Rods of a Sea-Wall to Survey, we presume he will very willingly

ingly contribute two Shillings and six Pence for that; and if the Number of Rods contained in his Wall amount to fifty, we shall not desire him to contribute any more: When the Number of Rods survey'd exceeds fifty, the Survey-Money will be five Shillings; and when it amounts to an hundred, it will be but the same Sum: Two hundred Rods will be ten Shillings, and so upwards in Proportion according to the Number of Rods.

And moreover, we do not desire that Gentlemen advance this Money to us till after the Survey; we do not expect it till that is over, and we meet them in order to sign, interchangeably, the Articles of Insurance, and we have given them a faithful and impartial Account of their Sea-Walls, and Number of Rods contained in them.

Not to be
paid till the
Survey is over.

And even then, if any Nobleman, Gentleman, or any other Person, be pleas'd with the very advantageous Proposals, which we shall Produce of Insuring his Estate and Sea-Wall for the future, he shall not be obliged to pay, or contribute any Thing towards the Survey-Money at all.

They shall not
be oblig'd to
pay then, if
they do not like
the Articles of
Insurance.

We believe, however, that the Terms of Insurance, which we shall propose, if comply'd with, will in a little Time make it appear, that they will make almost an infinite Amends, not only for that Trifle, but also for every other Expence, which may attend them.

And when Gentlemen have universally contributed towards the Survey
F what

what we have mention'd, we believe that the greater Part of that Expence will still fall to our own Share.

Survey Money, Half-penny per Acre.

The Sum which we have propos'd to them on this Occasion is so small a Matter, that it amounts to but about one Half-penny per Rod, for the Measuring and Surveying of their Sea-Walls: But then, considering that we will also have the Marsh-Lands to traverse and view, which belong to the Sea-Walls we measure, and are to insure, and so must we also on this Occasion not only view, but carefully inspect old Counter-Walls from which the Sea has *receded*, because these may be serviceable to us for the future; we say, considering these Things, when we have equally divided the Survey-Money, (allotted to Gentlemen to contribute,) amongst the Rods of Walling, and Acres of Land, it will not amount to a Farthing per Rod, nor to so much per Acre.

Not one Farthing.

And though we have mentioned old Counter-Walls, yet we design that Gentlemen be accountable to us, and we to them, only for those Walls, which directly front the Sea, and are washed by it.

We must, however, at the same Time say, that having once undertaken a difficult Task, none can blame us if we should use all possible Precaution in the Management of it: And therefore, if at any Time we think proper to raise two, three, or four hundred Rods of Counter-Walls for our own Security,

Counter-Walls said.

none shall contribute any Thing towards the Charge but our selves.

It has been sometimes observed, that after the Sea has shattered, and broke down all its out Fences, an old Counter-Wall has stopp'd its Course, and preserved some thousands of Acres from the dismal Effects of the Inundation. And though we design to make our Out-fences as secure as we can, yet we shall not promise to make them always Impregnable against the Sea.

The general Directions, which we design to give the Surveyors, when they set out for the Survey of Sea-Walls, or rather, which we design to carry along with us ourselves, will be such as these, *viz.* Whether the Sea-Bank, or Wall, be all of Earth, or Chalk and Pile? If all Earth, what Beat of Salts, or Salt-Marsh, may lie before it, and if it may be raised without being sided? Which Query, we believe, needs not be proposed; because we have seen a wretched narrow Seat or Foundation to be the general Defect of most Sea-Banks or Walls in several Places where we have been; so that a Gentleman's raising of his Sea-Wall, without enlarging the Foundation at the same Time, and carrying the Siding up to the Top, is nothing but acting the same unhappy Scene still over again, *viz.* a right-up Top or Raising set upon his Sea-Wall, and of little or no Seat or Breadth, which the next Summer chinks from one Side to the other, and then it standing perpendicular, is in an instant quite washed

General Directions given the Surveyors.

A narrow Seat or Bottom, a great Defect in most Sea-Walls.

away with the first Inundation that happens, his Wall is gull'd, and at length cut quite through in the Land-side, a Breach made, and his Marsh-Ground flow'd. And then the Fore-Lands are in most Places so very narrow too, that we expect in many Places to be obliged to lay the Foundation of our Siding in the Bottom of a Delf, either in the Sea or Land-side, before we can raise it with a true Batter. In some Places one Foot perpendicular may require but three Feet upon the Batter on the Sea-side, viz. a Wall of six Foot high will require to be eighteen Feet upon the Batter, but in other Places a Foot perpendicular will require much more upon the Batter; and till such Measures of raising Sea-Walls as these be taken, it will be impossible for Gentlemen, how much soever their repeated Toil and Expence is, to preserve their Sea-Walls and Estates safe from the dismal Effects of high Tides and Inundations. By such Methods they might well raise their Walls four Feet higher than they are, whereas the Narrowness of most of them now will not allow the raising of them two Feet. And these are the Measures which we design to pursue, viz. enlarging the Foundations.

Foundations of Sea-Walls must be enlarged.

To what Wind the Wall is most exposed.

And then should the Wall be Chalk, and Piles, we shall endeavour to know what Depth of Water, at Spring-Tides, lies upon it, and to what Beat it is most exposed, whether to the *North, South, East, or Westerly* Winds; any one of which may have very pernicious Effects

fects, according to the Bearing of the Place where the Sea-Walling lies.

A great many other Particulars shall be taken Notice of in our Survey, which we shall not insert here. We shall only mention some general Heads, to which we may reduce the present State or Condition of most of the Sea-Walling that will fall under our Survey.

- A Wall with a good Beat of Salts *Some General* before it, but wants to be sided and *Heads.* rais'd.
- A Wall that in a little Time will come to Chalk and Piles.
- A Wall of Chalk and Piles, but very much out of Repair.
- An Expensive Wall of Chalk and Piles.
- A very Expensive Wall of Chalk and Piles.
- A Dangerous Wall.
- A Wall that in a few Years will come to a new Infeat.

We believe the greatest Part of Sea-Walling in our Survey, may be reduced to some one or other of these Heads we have mentioned; and if we should meet with some Instances, that differ from all these, we shall take Care in our Books of Survey, to range them under other Heads by themselves. As to the several Instances we have mentioned, we still suppose they will all want to be rais'd; the want of which, as we have hinted before, is the chief Cause

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Cause of destroying Tides and Inundations : And as we have signified that a true Batter is the best Security that Walls of Earth can have against the Sea, so this is also a great Safe-Guard to Piles too ; and yet we may every where discover much Neglect or Ignorance in driving of Piles in Sea-Walls: You shall find most of them drove almost as perpendicular as they they can stand ; whereas all the Tires of them, were they ten or a dozen in Number, should be drove shelving, by which they elude the Waves, and withstand the Force of the Sea much better and longer.

By a Wall's coming to an new Infeat, we understand an old Wall, so sapp'd and undermined by the Water, and the Foundation so decay'd, that there is no maintaining it any longer without incredible Expences, and therefore it is abandoned to the Mercy of the Sea, and a new Wall or Infeat cast up at some Distance behind it.

A difficult Task.

The inspecting or veiwing of Sluces or Gutters, laid in Sea-Walls, will be the most difficult Part of our Undertaking. When we make our Survey, sometimes the Time of the Tide will not allow us to view them ; and though it did, yet we may easily be imposed upon and deceived, by what View we can have of them ; both the Ends, which commonly are to be seen for about a Foot or two, may be good, but then this signifies but little to forty, fifty, sixty, or an hundred Feet besides, that runs quite through the Body of the Wall, and

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and may be naught ; for being lodg'd so deep in the Earth that Part cannot be view'd.

A Gutter is commonly the most chargeable and expensive Part that any Gentleman has in his Sea-Wall. 'Tis so on a double Account : In the first Place, on Account of the Timber-Work ; and then again on Account of the Earth-Work. Sometimes a small Flaw in the Lid or Gutter-Top, into which a Man can scarce thrust his Fift, will serve to blow up a Wall, in its greatest Depth, from Top to Bottom. We must confess this Flaw or Failure in the Wood, may be repair'd for half a Crown or three Shillings, Stuff and Carpenter's Work together ; but then before the Carpenter can reach it with his Tools and Implements, the Earth-Work, in making way for him, may amount to two Guiners, or perhaps, to three or four Pounds, or more : For supposing the Shovel-Men, who manage the Earth-Work, to go fifteen Feet down before they can reach the Gutter, the Delf above must be of the same Dimensions in Breadth, otherwise the Earth will *calve* down on them, as they are at work ; and then, after they have unripp'd it, unless it be very carefully rammed, the whole may be in Danger of blowing, and going to Sea.

Sometimes the driving a Nail or two into a Hook, to keep fast the Lid, or Door of the Gutter, cannot be effected without a long Preamble of clearing above fifteen or twenty Rods of
of

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of an Out-Fall, to make way for the Carpenter, because it cannot well be supposed he can work when the Mouth of the Gutter is entirely stued up, and so much must be clear'd to give Vent to the Water, which otherways would stagnate there, and still hinder his Work, even when the Mud is removed: Such very critical Things are Sluces and Gutters to maintain and keep in repair; their Repairs being almost as stated and constant as the Sea is in its Ebbing and Flowing, when once they begin to decay.

Oak Plank is, by some, reputed the best for Gutters, and yet Elm, if you saw it out as soon as it is felled, and lay it down green, will last longer. Elms, indeed, in some Places are not easy to come by, at least, that will rise to any considerable Scantling, for even twelve Inches clear in the Run, will require a Bottom of eighteen Inches, three Inches in each Side being the least that can be allowed for the Rabbits.

Fir excels for Gutters.

If Fir-Trees were fell'd in Norway, or in the North Parts of Scotland, in such a proper Season as we can direct to, we believe Deals might be saw'd out of Trees thus fell'd, that would last an Age in Sea-Gutters, and longer, with little, and perhaps, no Repairs at all.

A Fair Proposal.

We are willing to make this Article of Gutters and Sluces as easy to Gentlemen as we can: We shall either insure them for so much by the Year, during the Term of Years we insure the Walls, where they are laid, or then we

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we shall insure them for so much by the Lump, during the said Term of Years, suppose it to be thirty, forty, or fifty Years. When we come personally to treat with Gentlemen, or their Stewards, we shall propose Terms that are very reasonable either Way, and leave it to them to chuse what they think most proper.

We may on both Sides be directed, in a great Measure in this Affair, by what Run of Water the Gutter bears, and Length of it, and by the Time of its being laid. Concerning the first of these, we can inform ourselves; and as to the second, the Time of their being laid, we shall be very well satisfied with the Information that Gentlemen, or their Stewards, give us: We may be directed, with respect to Sluces, by the same Rule, viz. their Age and Dimensions.

Gentlemen will soon feel their Advantages in being altogether exempted, not only from these lesser incidental Repairs, which very frequently happen to Gutters and Sluces, but also from the greater Expence of laying down new ones: A large Bill is now brought into a Gentleman, when a new Gutter is laid for him of eighteen Inches clear in the Run, and sixty Feet in Length. Though the Expence must needs be considerable, yet their Charge is very often more by a Third than it ought to be, and yet the Workmen have a moderate reasonable Gain too. The Expence of Sluces rises still higher.

New Gutters expensive.

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We

We shall rather chuse to lay down a new Gutter, than for two or three Times repair and patch an old one.

We desire that when any Gentleman enters his Estate and Sea-Wall to be in-fur'd, he would let us know how many Gutters or Sluces are in the Sea-Wall.

In our Survey we design to Measure all the Sea-Walling throughout the Kingdom, of which Entries have been made, with a Chain; and so order the Book of Surveys, that every Gentlemen's Sea-Walling can in an Instant be pointed to from the Book of Entries, where will be seen at the same Time, the exact Number of Rods contained in the Bank or Wall, and the Condition it was in when survey'd; and when it alters its Condition for the better, the exact Time of our repairing it, will appear from our Register.

Gentlemen may, perhaps, sometimes over-do the Number of Rods in their Entries, contained in their Sea-Walling, and sometimes may fall short somewhat in their Account; and therefore an exact Measure can be no Injustice to either Side.

Use of the Book of Entries and Surveys.

Marsh-Lands not measured.

As for the Marsh-Ground which belongs to the Sea-Walling, we shall not measure it, but leave that to the Candour of the Gentleman who enters the Account: We shall only say, we will be apt to take it unkindly, if any Gentleman enters only forty Acres of Marsh-Ground, and some Years after, if the same should come to be flow'd, he should charge us with the Damage that
sixty

sixty Acres has received. We do not say this as though we would have Gentlemen scrupulously to measure their Estates on this Occasion; it will abundantly suffice us, if in their Entries they only say in or about such a Number of Acres to the best of what they know, or the like.

When the Survey is over, (which we design to dispatch as soon as possible, on Account that we may improve the Summer, in order to make what Provision we possibly can for the next Winter's Walling,) and we all met together from the several Quarters of the Kingdom, every Thing shall be fairly and candidly stated; and after the most mature Consideration, we shall come to a Resolution what is the least that we can promise to insure every Nobleman's, Gentleman's, or Freeholder's Sea-Wall for by the Year, counting according to the Number of Rods contained in every Gentleman's Wall, so much per Rod.

Dispatch will be used in the Survey.

We design to proceed herein according to the most exact Equality; for by this Time it is supposed that we know the Number of Rods contained in every one's Wall, and the State and Condition of the Wall itself by our Books of Survey; and therefore every Thing, so far as we can, shall be adjusted with all the Exactness to which we can be directed by human Skill. No Gentleman's Wall, that is in tolerable good Repair, shall be over-charged, to ease another's, not in so good a Condition.

Justice will be done in it.

A great Abatement in Repairs.

We cannot possibly tell till after the Survey, for how much *per Rod* we can promise to insure any one's Sea-Wall: But we can, however, venture to say this in general, That we design to ease every Nobleman, Gentleman, and Freeholder, of a third Part of that Expence they used to be at yearly in their common ordinary Repairs, that is to say, where they used to pay twenty Shillings towards the Repair of their Sea-Walls, they shall not pay to us above thirteen or fourteen Shillings *per Annum*, of that Sum, and besides be exempted from all Hazards of High-Tides and Inundations, and from all that extraordinary Expence which does attend them; and not only so, but all the Damages also and Losses which thereby happen to them, or to their Tenants, shall be sufficiently made up and repair'd.

London the most proper Place to sign the Articles.

As soon as we have adjusted our own Affairs, with respect to the *Survey*, we shall immediately fix the Time of meeting with Gentlemen who have enter'd, and desire to have their Sea-Walls and Estates insured. And we believe *London* will be the most proper Place of Meeting; a great many Noblemen reside there during the greatest Part of the Year, and a great many Gentlemen, who have Estates adjoining to the Sea in several Counties of the Kingdom, live at *London*; and most other Gentlemen, who have Marine-Estates, have commonly Business that brings them to Town once or twice in the Year, which, perhaps, without any great Detriment to

to their Affairs, they may easily bring to bear with the Appointments which we shall fix in our Letters, or publick Advertisements; and if there are any whose Circumstances will not allow them either to come or send to us at *London*, the Company in such a Case will take Care to send one to wait on them with the Articles.

The Articles will not amount to above twenty Pence each, or two Shillings at most: We design to defray the Charge of one; and several Gentlemen, whose Estates are contiguous, may join in the other, if they please, which will reduce that Expence to nothing.

In these Articles, thus executed, we shall oblige ourselves to insure Wheat, Pease, Beans, Rape-Seed, Mustard-Seed, Clover-Grass, Pasture-Land, or any other Thing that is produced by the Marshes which are enter'd, and which we promise to insure, we will oblige ourselves also to repair all Damages, that any Houses, or household Furniture, receive by any Inundation of the Sea in the Marshes insur'd; and we shall also make good the Loss of Cows, Sheep, Oxen, or Horses, that any sustain on the said Marsh-Lands thus insur'd. And we are willing that these Losses be immediately valued, and computed by any three or four Persons in the Neighbourhood, of an honest *Repute*, and good Character, and the Money shall be punctually paid in the following Manner, *viz.* When there happens any Loss by an Inundation, any Sum not exceeding three thousand Pounds,

The Particulars to be insur'd.

Losses immediately valu'd.

Times of Payment fixed.

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Pounds, shall be paid in the Space of eight Weeks after an Estimate of the said Loss is made; and any Sum not exceeding six thousand Pounds shall be paid in the Space of four Months after such Valuation is made; and any Sum not exceeding ten thousand Pounds shall be paid in the Space of seven Months after an Estimate of Damages is made: And moreover, we promise that no Sum, let it be ever so great, shall exceed nine Months, after an Estimate of Losses are made, till it be paid.

All Persons will allow, that it will not be proper for, or Prudence in us, to keep by us always such Sums in Cash, as will be sufficient to answer in one Day's Advertisement all Demands that may be made; and therefore it will be necessary to allow us some little Time to withdraw Money, in a regular Way, from those Funds which we thought most proper for the improving of it. We are resolved to go upon such a Foundation, as will bear out our Scheme in every Particular.

Payments may be said to be present.

But, besides, in some Respects our Payments may be said to be present too, because the Breaches made in Sea-Walls, on such Occasions, do not fall under the Valuation of Losses to any but ourselves; and these we must immediately repair, which may draw great Sums from us, from the very first Day they are made, till they are again repair'd.

And therefore to make Provision for these Damages, the repairing of which must not be deferred for one Day, we

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we are come to a Resolution to lodge ^{150000 l. to} *one hundred and fifty thousand Pounds* in the ^{be lodged in} Bank of *England*, to which we shall always have Recourse for a Supply, when we have any pressing Calls, or present Demands for Money: And when that Sum is any Respect lessened, we shall make it up again as soon as possible. Besides, we design to have by us as much in Cash, as will pay all our Workmen for the Space of one Half Year, as also a good Stock always of Chalk, and Piles, and other Materials for the Work: But it will be impossible for us to come to a just Estimate of these Things till the Survey is over: We shall then in a little Time be able so to calculate Things, that Supplies will be proportionate to all the Demands or Necessities which we can foresee.

There are very few, who have for any Time inhabited by the Sea, but know by the Bearing of the Wind, and Time of the Moon, when a Round Tide is to be expected: We would desire all such who may be hereafter insured, that they would do by us, as they would do by themselves in the same Case, that is, to remove their Beasts, and Sheep from the Marsh-Grounds, (if possible,) at least during the Night-Season, till such Tide, or Tides, are over. When any Claim comes to be made for Damages sustained by Inundations, a Defect of such Care will be inquir'd into: Whereas their Care and Diligence in this Particular in these Places, where Time has not allowed us to put the Sea-Walls in Repair, may be of great Service

Beasts may be removed to higher Grounds.

*Sea-Wall Officers will be-
fir themselves
on such Occa-
sions.*

vice to us, and no Disadvantage to themselves. And moreover, our Sea-Wall Officers will be ranged round the Borders of the Kingdom with their Workmen, and still at Work, and their Prognosticks of an extraordinary Tide will seldom fail: Not one of these Officers but will have (we believe) fifty, sixty, or, perhaps, an hundred Persons at his Command, which will be ready to serve him by Day, or by Night, and on all Occasions: These he may dispatch so many several Ways, when he perceives any such Danger to be impendent. Some of these Hands thus dispatch'd, will serve to give Grainers, and Marsh-Men the Alarm, who, perhaps, were not apprehensive of such eminent Danger, and at the same Time help them to remove their live Goods from the Marsh-Lands to higher Grounds, at any Hour in the Night or Day. Others of them he may dispatch to raise, if it were but a *Croch*, on some Places of a Wall where he is apprehensive of a Breach. Sometimes a Dale of about ten or twelve Inches deep pent against the Rising Tide, has prevented Damages of two or three hundred Pounds. We are sure our Officers will do more on such Occasions, than we can at present name.

When Sufferers come to receive their Claims for Damages sustained, we believe it will not be accounted unreasonable if we discount five Pounds *per Cent.* with them for defraying the Expences of our Journeys, viewing and computing their Losses, and for other necessary

*5 l. per Cent.
deducted, and
why-*

necessary Uses to which it will be applied on such Occasions, and yet by an exact Calculation, this may, perhaps, scarce amount to one Pound and ten Shillings, or, at most, to two Pounds *per Cent.* counting the whole Loss; because, as we said before, the greatest Loss on such Occasions may be referred to the Walls, which the Landlord always sustains, his Loss this Way is very often three to the Tenant's one: But this does not fall under the Valuation, because we sustain the whole of it in his Room.

In some Cases, should the Tenant be paid without first consulting the Landlord, it might injure the last: Pasture-Land is what does not recover itself for some Years after it is flow'd with Salt Water. Now should the present Tenant be refunded the whole Damage, it is possible he may remove the very same, or the next Year, and so carry away with him the present full Restitution of a *Loss* continuing for two or three Years yet to come; by which, both the Landlord and succeeding Tenant may be injur'd. But both in this, and in all other Cases, which seem dubious to us, we shall not determine any Thing without positive Instructions from the Landlord in Writing.

As to the Sea-Walls, or Banks, which properly belong to the Landlord, as said before, these will bear no Dispute, nor want to be viewed after an Inundation. These, together with the Gutters, Sluces, Posts, and Rails upon the Wall,

H

we

*In some Cases
the Landlord
may be inju-
red by refund-
ing the Tenant
his whole Loss,
&c.*

*Sluces and
Gutters in-
sured.*

The most Advantageous

we own ourselves obliged to keep in Repair, during the Term of Years we insure for, and have agreed upon.

The Insurers not willing to insure for any Term of Years under ten, but above that to any Term.

We must, however, signify that we are not willing to enter into Articles to insure for any Term of Years less than ten, but shall be willing to article above that as far as any Gentleman pleases: If any should be willing to be insured for the Space of three or four Years only, and if in that Time we should put their Walls in very good Repair, this, perhaps, might be some Inducement to them not to renew their Articles, and consequently their withdrawing from the Company might in some Degree weaken them, and would also injure us; for we all account it a grand Piece of Injustice, altogether to deprive a Person of the Fruit of his own Labours.

Those insured will always have an Equivalent in their own Hands.

As to the Method of our Procedure, with respect to Gentlemens making Returns to us according to Article who are insured, we are willing it should be this, (and if any please to direct us to a better, we shall readily comply with it,) viz. That Gentlemen would be pleased to order Payment to be made us quarterly, or once every Half-Year, of what Money is settled in the Articles; we are willing to agree to the last. But then before we receive any Money from Noblemen, Gentlemen, or others, that are insured, we design first to earn it by working out our Half-Year or Quarter; and we propose to ourselves to disburse some thousands of Pounds before we receive

PROJECT for England.

ceive in any. According to this Procedure the Company, or those who are insured, will still have of our Money in their Hands: Nay, we suppose that when we the Insurers or Directors of the Company are to advance Money on Account of an Inundation, that even then we allow that the Company, or those insured, will still have more than an Equivalent to the Sum we are to advance in their own Hands, which we may demand. Though this Method may in some Particulars be expensive to us, yet we believe it cannot displease any that are insured: We shall expect, however, our Payments to be as punctual as may be, according to the Time fix'd.

We allow all the Walling on the Thames and Thames, Humber, Severn, and other Fresh-Water Rivers, to be included in this our Scheme, and to share in all these advantageous Proposals, which we have therein made, and therefore we shall be careful to make our Surveys according to the Entries which are sent us from these, or any other Rivers.

All Persons that have any Marsh-Ground to take in, never gain'd from the Sea before, must enter what they probably suppose is the Number of Acres, and the County, Parish, and other Particulars, as we have before directed; which if done, we shall take Care to view it in our Survey, and at the same Time we shall calculate the Dimensions of the new Wall, which is to be raised to fence the said Marsh or Marshes from the Sea.

H 2

Any

One Entry will serve both old and new Marshes.

Any Gentleman that has new Marsh-Land to be gain'd from the Sea, and has enter'd a Sea-Estate in before, either adjoining to the said new Marsh-Ground, or elsewhere, may without any farther Expence or Trouble, enter the said new Marsh-Ground at the same Time, making one Entry of both; and when we come to agree with him to gain the said new Marsh from the Sea, when it is gain'd, as far as the new Wall is a Barrier or Fence to the old, so far shall he be exempted, from the Expences of his former Entry, so many Rods of the old Wall being discounted in his Policy as are to be transferred to the New.

Great Encouragement to take in new Marshes.

And to encourage all those who have Marsh-Ground to be gain'd from the Sea, we think proper in this Place to acquaint them, that if we have good Security, we shall take in Marsh-Grounds, though of the largest Dimensions, finish Walls, and furnish them with Sluces and Gutters; and all this, we hope too, on very reasonable Terms, before we make the least Demand of Money. And when these Marsh-Grounds are thus inn'd, we shall insure them on the most reasonable Conditions.

The great Advantage of shutting of Creeks.

We know that sometimes the shutting of a Creek, or small Branch of the Sea cast up several Miles within Land, may for ever cut off the Incumbrance of a thousand Rods of Sea-Walling; Where there are such Creeks, any of these Gentlemen concerned in the Walling, may enter them with that: The Expence will be

be no more on that Account; and in our Circuit we shall survey these Creeks. And when all Gentlemen, concerned in in these Creeks, have agreed to shut them, or any of them, we shall do it on easy Terms. And then their former Article concerning Walling, which they had insured, and was occasioned by the Creek shall be cancelled; and for the future they may only enter that short Piece of Wall to be insured that shuts the Creek. We know that a great many Workmen, who have hitherto endeavour'd to shut Creeks, have been defeated in their Attempts: And this, in a great Measure, has been owing to their Ignorance, who laying too great a Weight upon the Foundation, without any previous Care to secure that, have had their whole Work carried away at once. We must needs think that that vast Quantity of Earth, Chalk, Piles, and other Materials, which is necessary to shut a Creek, must be of a prodigious Weight, and unless the Foundation be good to support it, (as seldom or never it is in such Cases,) it will certainly settle in the Ooze; and this occasions a continual Raising of it on the Top, which still heightens the first Mistake by serving only to sink it lower, till by some Fatal Tide, when they were just getting ready, prevents their raising of it, by sweeping all away.

Reason why Attempts miscarry.

If we should undertake any Work of this Kind, we design to perform it in the following Manner: We shall in the first Place bring the Foundation to as exact

exact a Level as we can; and then again, we design to pile the Foundation, observing the same Dimensions in Piling, and especially in the Gut of the Creek, that we design shall be occupied by the Seat of the Wall which we run cross, or over the Creek. The Piles will be of a large Size, and good Length, drove in with a Beetle of a great Weight, and raised with an Engine made for that Purpose. According to this Method our Foundation will never give way, whatsoever Weight we lay upon it; and moreover, the Settling of our Work will not keep us in perpetual Fears of High-Tides and Inundations.

Docks and Harbours clear'd.

Sometimes *Docks* and *Harbours* prove very expensive to those Cities, Towns, or Corporations, to which they belong; the one is apt to be sanded up, by which a Passage to Ships of any considerable Burden is obstructed, to the great Detriment of the Trade and Business of the Place; and then the other is very often so fill'd with Slud, which settles there, that in a great Measure it is render'd useless. Any Town or Corporation that are under such Incumbrances, and would have them removed on easy Terms, let them register the particular Places in our Books of Entries, according to the Directions before given, and we shall take Care to view them in our Survey, and if the Attempt be practicable in itself, we believe we can rally as great a Number of Hands to perform the Work, as can be got together at once by any other Means,

Means, and they will come prepared too with all those Engines and Machines which are proper to be used on such Occasions.

Keys and Wharfs too are often very chargeable, especially those which lie in deep Water, being on that Account exposed to a violent and shocking Beat of the Sea: These we shall also undertake to insure, and to repair from Time to Time, and we hope on reasonable Terms, and shall survey them, if they be registered in our Entries according to the Directions we have given. We are not ignorant that Keys and Wharfs consume vast Quantities of large Timber; and therefore if we cannot purchase such Quantities in this Kingdom as we shall want, at reasonable Prices, we shall see to furnish ourselves according to our Mind from *Norway*, and from the Forests of *Germany*: From the one Place, we shall have Fir-Trees from the first hand, which will be very serviceable to us on such Occasions, and if fixed in proper Places will be durable withal. And from the other, we will have the best of Oak convey'd down to us from the Heart of the Country, by the *Ell*, at the easiest Prices.

Some Counties of this Kingdom do so abound with Fens, that in Summers that are any Thing more than ordinary Moist or Wet, the Products of the Earth are almost entirely lost; all which might in a great Measure be prevented by Industry: The draining the worst of these Fens might by Pains and Skill be effected

The most Advantageous

fected; by which the Owners would find that they would soon quit all Cost, and turn to a much better Account than now they do. But then this Work must not be managed with so little Judgment as hitherto it has been in most Fenny Places: The Drains and Ditches, which they have made, have in many Places been performed with great Expence and Labour: But then by running the Bottom upon a Level, when once the Ditch is full, the Water stagnates just as much in the Ditch or Drain, as it did before in the neighbouring Level or Plain.

Method of draining them.

And therefore to remedy this, a due Descent ought to be observed. It has been commonly said, that one in five hundred is necessary to the running of Water, or to prevent its Stagnation, that is, an Inch in five hundred Inches, or a Foot in five hundred Feet: But by several Experiments that have been made, as much less Descent in proportion will serve: Such a Method as this would be of more Service in Fen-Countries than their Water-Mills; the one, indeed, throw it off, but then the other would prevent its coming on. Any that have a Mind to see an Experiment of this kind made, may inform us, and we shall set Men to work, in order to perform it; and if in some Places the Drains are sunk as deep as the Bottom of the Rivers, in such Cases, we believe it is possible to remove Obstructions from the Rivers, and give a better Vent to all the Drains.

For

PROJECT for England.

For as we conceive, one great, if not the main Reason why Rivers, Brooks, and Canals are obstructed, and stagnate, and consequently, by not venting the Water that is conveyed into them by the *Ditches* and *Drains*, frustrate the Endeavours of those who attempt to drain Fens, is, because they fall into the Sea where there is a *Getting Shore*; by which we understand a *Shore*, where the Land or Earth is gradually enlarged and extended in Breadth, and the Sea or Water recedes and falls off. And therefore 'tis very plain, that the Land or Salt-Marsh, without any Sea-Wall, on a *Getting Shore*, must needs be higher than the Land adjoining to it that is walled in from the Sea; the Salt-Marsh being much oftner soaked and moistened with Water than the Land within, will soon swell and grow higher than that which, being but seldom refreshed with Showers, rather settles lower than grows; for even Water itself is soon incorporated with, and turned into the very Nature and Effence of Earth: But then considering that Spring-Tides, especially when they are attended with strong Easterly Winds, bear hard on the Coasts of *Suffolk*, *Norfolk*, particularly on the Coasts of *Lincolnshire*, which last lies very much upon the Flat, and consequently abounds with Fens. These Spring-Tides not only thoroughly moistens the Salt-Marshes, but also lodge great Quantities of Earth, and other Stuff on the Salt-Marsh Grounds, which very sensibly raise them; and then the Channels of the Rivers and Brooks,

Brooks passing through these Marsh-Grounds are fluded up, and rais'd in proportion as the Grounds are rais'd through which they shape their Way. And hence it is that the Land where these Rivers and Brooks discharge themselves into the Sea, is much higher than the Grounds through which they pass many Miles within Land, which occasions a constant Stagnation of those Rivers throughout all the Upland Country; and if in Times of great Rains high Spring-Tides should happen, all the Drains are soon full, and the Water which is forced out down the adjacent Fields, and sometimes the Banks are broken down, and the whole Country flowed with Fresh Water.

Where this, which we have mentioned, is the Cause of the Stagnation of Rivers and Flowing of the Fens, it never can be remedied by the best Industry of the Inhabitants, unless they remove the first Obstacle. This may be done two Ways: The First is obvious to all, viz. clearing and sinking the Channels of the Rivers and Canals where they empty themselves into the Sea, and preserving them so. The other Method has been, and now is practised with good Success by some foreign Nations, but we shall not at this Time tarry to insist upon it.

As to the First, it is sure these Gentlemen, whose Estates join immediately to the Sea, are not able to perform it alone, at least, as it should be done; and then Gentlemen and Farmers at a Distance

Distance from the Sea, think it sufficient if they work on Drains and Ditches on their Estates and Farms, to fence off the Water, but never dream of carrying on that Work to much better Purpose, and more effectually, ten, twenty, and perhaps, thirty Miles distant from their own Estates and Farms, viz. where the Rivers fall into the Sea; whereas one Crown expended there would turn to a much better Account to them, than five hundred Crowns laid out in working on their Estates and Farms, at great or lesser Distances from the Sea, which never can be of the least Service to them while the other remains undone: So that the Work must be performed by an equal Contribution rais'd among Freeholders and Farmers, whose Drains any where fall into any of these Rivers or Brooks, or who at any Time are affected with, and damaged from the same: The Charge we suppose will be but a Trifle, when equally divided among all concern'd. And therefore, if any Gentleman enters at our Office any of these Rivers or Brooks that wants to be clear'd, and be particular in the Description of them, according to the Directions we have given concerning Sea-Wall Entries, we shall endeavour to perform the Work, if practicable in itself, and not only clear and sink the Channels of such Rivers where they meet with them, but we hope also, by a Method of our own, to be able to preserve them from being fluded up, and fill'd with *Easterly,*

or any other Winds for the future. Or if we find the other Method, which we have only mention'd, after a Survey, more practicable, we shall make use of that. The Expence of an Entry will be but a Crown, and the Surveys which we must needs undertake in such Cases, shall be as easy as Gentlemen can desire.

Canals to Noblemens Seats.

Sometimes Canals, drawn from Fresh-Water Rivers to Gentlemen's Houses in the Country, do serve both for Use and Pleasure: Some of those many Hands, which we design to imploy, shall at any Time, on easy Terms, be ready to perform such Tasks as these. Fish-Ponds may be rais'd to the greatest Degree of Perfection on these Canals, and stocked with Variety of Fish.

Mills turn'd by the Tide.

It is very observable, that in many Places, both in *Kent* and *Essex*, there is a Scarcity of Water-Mills to grind Corn withal, Fresh-Water Rivers being but rare, that can serve to turn a Mill with any kind of continued Stream, and yet these two Counties lie as convenient for supplying *London* with Provisions as any in the Kingdom. Any Gentlemen, therefore, that have Estates in these Counties adjoining to the Sea, or in any other that lie convenient for supplying *London* with Meal, if there be any Creeks or Bays of the Sea, form'd by these their Estates, then we shall undertake to Wall in such a Part of the said Creeks or Bays, so that we shall preserve a constant Current or Stream of Water sufficient to turn any Mill, or, perhaps, to turn two or three Mills at the same Time, which must needs turn

turn to a good Account to Gentlemen, if they erect such Mills, considering the great Quantity of Corn they will work off in a little Time, we would desire to be inform'd of those Places where Gentlemen may design to build such Mills, that so we may inspect them in our Survey.

Mill-Ponds clear'd of Slud.

We have observed in some Places of the Kingdom, that the Ponds of some Rape-Mills and Corn-Mills are so fludged up, or fill'd with Mud, that they lose more than half their Time for want of Water, for the Brook or Stream, on which they stand, not having Force enough of itself to turn them constantly, and must very often be stop't in order to recruit itself, and so gather a Quantity of Water fit for that End; but then the Mischief of it is, that when they have stop't the small Current, they have no Place to contain any Quantity of Water to signify any Thing, which if they had, they might be provided with a large Stock in those Nights they are not at work, or on the Lord's Days, or Holidays; and in Times of great Rains, they lose all the Advantage of the Freshes too, which would furnish them with a long Supply; and yet these Ponds cannot be clear'd of Mud by the best Industry of common Labourers: We shall give Orders, if desired, that some one or other of our Sea-Wall Officers, with Part of his Company, and Engines proper for the Work, to dispatch such Jobs as these, in case they do not lie too remote from the Sea: By all which it is very apparent, that the

Decoy-Ponds made on easy Terms.

Insurers promise to repair the Walls shattered last October.

What is to be done where the Shore runs on the Cliff.

the Company of Workmen which we design to erect, will be of universal Usefulness. Gentlemen may also have *Decoy-Ponds* made by the Sea in convenient Places for catching of Wild-Fowl, which may turn to a great Account.

Gentlemen that have had their Sea-Walls shattered, beat down, or gull'd by the late Inundation of *October* last, and have not yet repaired them, if they enter with us, and are willing to have their Walls insured for the future, we will repair those their late Damages on the easiest Terms; for seeing we are to take Care of their Walls for the Time to come, we rather chuse to do them our own Way, though we save nothing by it, than to have them done up by unskilful Hands in a different Manner, which may prove very expensive to us afterwards.

What we have hitherto said, is meant of those Places in the Kingdom that lie upon the Flat, or have a level Shore; As to those Shores, which run upon the Cliff, we shall only say in brief, That the Owner's Advantage is first to be considered therein; and then, whether or no the Thing be practicable in itself. Tho' the Owner's Advantage be as great as we in Reason suppose, yet if the Undertaking be impracticable, it would be the Height of Folly to attempt it: And sometimes the Thing may be practicable, and yet the Owner receive little or no Advantage, though it were performed.

Where the Shore runs upon a Cliff, though the Rock in many Places be of such

such a mouldering Nature, that when once undermined by the Water, both vast Quantities of that, and of the Earth above it, even to the Surface, fall into the Sea together, never to be recovered yet there is no great Danger of an Inundation; and very often it passes human Industry to prevent these gradual Encroachments of the Sea upon the Land, where the Cliff is so very subject to decay.

We thought ourselves obliged to give *Reasonableness of the Scheme.* the World this short Account of the Method of our Procedure, which we hope will hush any Clamour that may be raised against our Scheme as impracticable by unthinking Persons, and, we believe, will fully satisfy the rational and judicious Part of Mankind, that by Care and Industry we may perform every Thing we have projected.

And if what we have said be but duly consider'd, we believe it will soon be obvious to all, that our Scheme must *Usefulness of the Scheme.* needs carry in it a very extensive Usefulness, which will still be set in a better Light, by considering the following Reasons.

In the first Place, when *First, When* Sea-Walls, Marsh-Grounds, and the Products *Marshes and Sea-Walls are insured, Gentlemen* of them, are insured, it is very plain that Gentlemen may let their Estates *Gentlemen will let their Estates better.* for considerably more *per Annum* than now they do. When a Tenant now is about to bargain for a *Marsh-Farm*, he does it with Fear and Caution, as fearing the Consequence; for though the Land-

Landlord commonly stands to all Repairs of the Sea-Wall, yet the Tenant knows that a Breach in that by, an Inundation, must always of necessity be attended with some considerable Loss to himself; his Cattle may be drown'd, or his Corn destroy'd; or if neither of these should happen, yet the very Flowing of the Pasture-Land may be a great Detriment to the Man for two or three Years still to come; and as the Tenant counts it a Difficulty to him to undergo the Loss, so the Landlord thinks it would bear too hard on him to repair both Losses; for by the Time that he finishes his Wall he finds himself so roundly sauc'd, that he has no Appetite to engage in farther Expences, and consequently the Tenant is left to bear his own Misfortune as patiently as he can; and therefore in the first Contract he endeavours to make some Provision for an evil Day.

We must confess, however, that there are several Landlords who have been very generous to their Tenants, when under any Distress of this Nature: They have either favour'd them with an Abatement of Rent in the following Years, or come to an easy Composition with them for Arrears for the Years past, or by some other Method have allowed them a Remittance, as a sort of Equivalent to the Damage which they sustained: But this is what cannot always be expected. But when Sea-Estates are once insured, the Tenant will enter upon his Farm with Boldness and Resolution and fix there,

there, by which the Landlord can be no Loser, seeing he will be exempted in Time to come from those Losses which commonly happen between the removing of one Tenant, and coming in of another; during which Interval, the flowed Estate or Farm is many Times cast upon the Landlord's Hands for three or four Years together, to his great Loss. And sometimes the Inundation proves so fatal, as quite to ruin the Tenant, and to distress the Landlord to that Degree, that it is not in his Power to relieve his Tenant.

The Effects of Inundations.

And then in the next Place, if any Gentleman has a mind to part with, or sell his Sea-Estate, it is very easy to foresee, that, if it be insured, he may dispose of it for several Years Purchase more than though it were not. We must confess that all Estates adjoining to the Sea are not alike: Some are not near so much exposed to the Insults of the Sea as others are: Some by a little Care and Expence may still turn to a very good Account to the Owner for hundreds of Years to come: Whereas others can scarce be preserved by the Owners best Care and Industry. Such Estates after they have eat up and consumed all the Profits and Incomes which can be raised from themselves, Gentlemen are very often oblig'd to cast in now and then an hundred Pounds, and sometimes a much larger Sum, to help to work out the Repairs of the Sea-Walls. And though there is this great Difference between Sea-Estates, yet the general Prejudices, that

Secondly, Sea-Estates will sell much better.

The most Advantageous

most People have formed, and taken up against them, does proclaim them to be all alike; so that if a Gentleman had a Design to sell his Sea-Estate, and to that end, to make it look well and set it off the better, laid out as much in one Year for repairing it, as would serve to insure it for five hundred Years to come, yet the Purchaser, for all this, would still object, That a small Estate, but great Incumbrances, were about to be turned upon his Hands: By which repeated Topick he would endeavour to sink the Price as much as possible. And therefore we believe it is plain, that nothing less will serve to remove the general Prejudices, that People have entertained, than the universal Remedy which we have here proposed.

It is true, where Lands are held in Fee-Simple, 'tis to be supposed that the Purchaser does purchase for ever; but then the Estate being only insur'd for such a determinate Number of Years, he cannot be thought to reap such a lasting Advantage from it: To which we reply, That the Owner, before the Sale, may at any Time renew his Policy, or Article of Insurance, and enter what Number of Years he pleases, and after the Sale, may convey or assign it with the rest of the Deeds of the Estate to the Purchaser; or if he should omit this, yet the Purchaser can easily do it after he has made his Purchase. And when once the happy Influence of our Society is felt throughout the Kingdom, we are fully perswaded that it will be con-

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continued in our Successors to the End of Time.

And if any should say, That the insuring-Money will still remain an Incumbrance on an Estate: To which we answer, It will be so small and insignificant an Incumbrance, that 'tis not worth mentioning, and which never will hinder the Conveyance of an Estate, being attended with many Advantages, much greater than it can ever be reputed a Loss. It will be a fix'd and stated Thing; and in bargaining, Gentlemen will know what they have to stand to, and avoid all those Chances and Uncertainties, into which unwary Gentlemen sometimes, by such Purchases, used to plunge themselves headlong before. And moreover, it will be raised, we believe, from the Premises insured, or any other Way that the Landlord pleases, and without any manner of Trouble to him: He will not be put to the Fatigue of a long Journey to see his Sea-Wall lying in Ruins, or be presented with such a melancholy Scene, as to see his Estate drown'd in the Ocean.

Gentlemen will go on Certainties.

And moreover, it is very possible that this Undertaking of ours, when once put in Execution, may prevent many poor Families, who may be sufferers by outrageous Tides, and Inundations, from being sent adrift in the World, or cast on the Mercy of a Brief, destitute and devested of every Thing. We hope we will prevent their Calamity two Ways: In the first Place, by raising better and more secure Fences

Thirdly, A Relief to many poor Families.

against the Sea, that so by the Blessing of God, we may prevent Inundations, which still are attended with Ruin. Or then in the next Place, If they should sometimes happen, (when we have used our Industry to prevent them,) by making a full Restitution to the Sufferers, according to what their Losses have been.

*A Wonder that
Fire-Offices
are not more
frequented.*

It is very sure, that the *Fire-Offices* here in *London*, have, in this last Respect, prevented the *Ruin* and *Misery* of a vast Number of Families, and, indeed, considering how honourably they always make their Payments upon the Back of a Loss by Fire, where Houses are insured, it is a Wonder they are not more universally encouraged and resorted to. When we call to Mind that great Number of *Briefs*, which are printed every Year, on Account of poor Sufferers by Fire; and then again, when we consider by how many various Accidents it may happen, and the Trifle for which a House may be insured; we may admire that all the Houses in *Great Britain*, from a Palace, even to a Cottage, are not insured: And then one would think, that those who dwell in *London*, *Bristol*, *York*, *Norwich*, or other great Cities or Towns in the Kingdom, are strangely infatuated in not insuring their Houses; for though a Man may have a well-govern'd Family of his own, and use his Care and Circumspection that no Fire break out in his own House, yet it is impossible for him to act so with respect to his Neighbour's; and yet

yet it is possible that he may be burnt out sooner by his Neighbour's House, than by his own: Nay, he may be said to be exposed to as many Incidents by Fire as there are Houses in the Town, in which he dwells.

And then in the fourth Place, we believe the Influence of our Scheme will very much tend to the Advantage and Improvement of Marsh-Grounds, already gained from the Sea, these being once flowed, before they can recover themselves, they are drowned again by another Inundation, so that in many Places they never come rightly to Bear or Graze; and on this Account it is, that some of the best Land in the Nation is not much better than a *Barren Desert*. Our Design is to prevent these Incurfions of the Sea, at least, from being so frequent as now they are, that so these Lands may have some respite; which if they have, 'tis well known, they will soon answer the Expectation of the Occupier, they being the best Land in the Kingdom, if secured from the Sea.

And then again in the fifth Place, we are fully perswaded, that such a Scheme as we have laid will prevent any small Irruption of Water from rising to such a dangerous Crisis, as at length to become a *National Charge*, as that late famous Breach at *Dagenham* did: For how small a Sum might that *Breach* have been stopped at first? But by Delays and Negligence came afterwards to require some thousands of Pounds

The most Advantageous

Pounds to shut it: And the like still, at least, as to some Degree, is acted almost every where; for when a Breach happens in a Sea-Wall, while the Landlord is writ to, and the Steward sent for, the Damage is still growing worse by far, than if it had been taken at first; and sometimes by a little more Delay it grows into an irreparable Mischief. Our Business will be to give constant Attendance to such Things: We shall always have Hands upon the Spot, and in a Readiness to set about such Disasters at the very first, and so prevent any further Mischief.

Sixth Reason. Navigation encouraged.

In the sixth Place, we hope Navigation will receive some Advantage from that Care and Labour, which we shall readily bestow on Keys, Docks, and Harbours, whenever we are employed or set to work that Way, according to the Proposals we have made.

Seventh Reason. Several Advantages accruing to the Government.

And then again, seeing our Business will in a particular Manner oblige us to send a great many Letters to, and receive as many from the remotest, nay, even from all Places of the Kingdom, this must needs be a very considerable Advantage to that Branch of the Revenue. And then the great Number of Policies which will be executed at first, and the continual Renewing of them afterwards, will be a greater Addition to the Stamp-Duty, than can be well imagined. And moreover, when Sea-Estates are once insured, we believe there will be twenty Purchasers then, for one now, and consequently the Deeds of Conveyance, such as

PROJECT for England.

as Lease and Release, &c. must still increase this Duty, to the great Benefit of the Government. And then we shall oblige ourselves, that all the Hands which we employ, shall be both faithful, and (so far as they can) serviceable to our present happy Government: For the Men that we employ being always at Work in the Creeks or Bays, in the outmost Confines of the Kingdom, may be a great Check to the Smugglers, should they attempt to land there; and those of them that make any Discoveries of this kind, either to us, or to any of our Sea-Wall Officers, shall be well rewarded. And on the the other hand, should any under our Care assist, or even connive at any such Practices, we promise he shall be turned out of our Service, and delivered up to the Government, to treat him as he deserves. And we believe 'tis the Duty of all honest Men to use their best Endeavours to suppress such Practices as these, seeing, as 'tis said, that such incredible Sums in Specie have been exported out of *Sussex, Kent, Essex, Suffolk,* and other Counties, and laid out in *St. Mallo, Calais, Dunkirk, Holland,* and in other Places, for Counter-Band Goods, to the great Detriment of the Kingdom in general, and Impoverishing of those Counties in particular.

In the next Place, the great Quantity of Marsh-Grounds, which never yet has been gained from the Sea, but may be walled in according to our Proposals, we believe will be a great Advantage to

A Check on the Smugglers.

Eighth Reason of its Usefulness.

The most Advantageous

*The enlarg-
ing of Eng-
land itself.*

to the Nation, it would be like a new Conquest: Other Schemes may advance the Peace, Happiness, or Tranquility of the Nation, but ours enlarges the Kingdom, by laying an Addition of Land to *England* itself. It were well if by a long and expensive War, we could wrest as much Land from any Nation on the Continent of *Europe*, and peaceably enjoy it, as we can acquire here at home without so much as one drop of Blood; and yet some thousands of Acres lie neglected, and upon the Matter are of as much Use to us as though they were situate in the Bay of *Mexico*, or Gulf of *Ormus*. Had the *Dutch*, who are our Neighbours, but Access to the *Wastes* which we neglect, they would set the greatest Value on them, and be able almost to raise a new *Republick* on that Ground, which we don't so much as attempt to bring to Graze: And we think we ought to value them as much, and, we believe, are able to improve them as well as they.

*An Objection
answered.*

It is true, some may say, That those Lands already gained from the Sea are so expensive to maintain, that there is no great Inducement to recover more. We shall allow the whole to be true; but then to set Things right, the Fault is not to be laid on any Attempt of gaining Lands from the Sea, which is still plausible in itself, but on the Manner of performing it: One may hope even almost as soon to stop the Tide with his Breath, as with those *Bawbles* of Fences, which in many Places they have

have raised against the Sea. If the *Dutch* had but our *Shores* to work upon instead of their own, we believe they would not suffer any Inundation for many hundreds of Years together, if indeed ever at all: But then in the next Place, our Proposals do in Course remove this Objection out of the Way, seeing, for the future, we are willing to run all these Hazards ourselves, the good Effect of which, we hope, will soon appear in the Increase both of the Inhabitants and Manufactures of the Nation.

Those Gentlemen who have this Opportunity of insuring their Sea-Estates, and are willing rather to go on their old Way, will have their own Disadvantages by doing so. Gentlemen, who do not insure will have some Disadvantages.

In the first Place, They will not let their Marsh-Lands to such Advantage as though they had insured them, which we believe is plain from the Reasons which we produced before; for every Thing which stands an Advantage to those who insure, with respect to this Particular, will be a Loss to them. And then, First, Will not let their Estates so well, as if insur'd.

In the next Place, neither will they sell their Sea-Estates so well, should they have a mind to dispose of them, as though they had insured them. Secondly, Nor sell them so well.

And then again, We all know that Water runs very much upon a Level, and will still attempt the lowest Places of Sea-Walls first; and, therefore, by how much their Neighbour's Walls are higher, and in better Repair than theirs, Thirdly, These who do not insure, will be liable to make good Damages, if their Walls flow insured by Estates.

by so much will they be the greater Sufferers in Times of Inundations; because on such Occasions, a much greater Glut of Water will be cast on them, than was usually before, when the Neighbouring Walls were not in so good Repair: And if the Company of Insurers have the Walls in the Neighbourhood committed to their Care, they hope to keep them in as good Repair, at least, as theirs. And the Company also believe they can easily recover Damages, if the Estates, which they insure, be drowned by any Defect in those Walls which are not insured.

Fourthly, *It will be difficult to raise Workmen.*

In the fourth Place, In Times of overflowing Tides or Inundations, those who have not insured their Estates, may, perhaps, find some Difficulty in raising Workmen to repair their Breaches. We suppose that all that are good for any Thing will be listed in the Service of the Company, and others will not be worth employing, and yet they will be ready enough, as it but too often falls out in such Cases, to exact as much as good Workmen really deserve, which will cast Gentlemen into a double Expence.

Fifthly, *Entering afterwards will be expensive.*

And in the fifth Place, Though Gentlemen do not enter with us now, before we make our first general Survey, yet if they should enter their Estates adjoining to the Sea afterwards, it will be both expensive to them, and at the same Time create a great deal of Trouble to us, because then we expect they will defray all the Expences of the Survey

vey and Journey, which now we propose for the most Part to bear ourselves, and not put Gentlemen to any great Expences, on the Account of our first Survey: It will be but a Trifle to them.

And we are fully resolved not to undertake the insuring of so much as ten Rods of Sea-Walling in any Place of the Kingdom, before we have seen it ourselves, and exactly view'd it, and then we may very readily leave it to those Gentlemen to compute, at whose Request we set out to make a second Survey, how much it may cost us to perform a Journey to any Place, twenty, forty, sixty, one hundred, or two hundred Miles from LONDON, and to have the same Number of Miles in our Return; and, perhaps, the longest of these Stages, which we have mentioned, must be gone to, in order to survey a very small Concern, which might have been dispatched in an Hour or two, when we made our General Survey, and not above five Shillings Expence to the Owner, or, it may be, would not have cost him more than half of that Sum.

Second Surveys expensive.

And then such late Surveys as these, frequently repeated, will be a constant Fatigue to us, as well as chargeable to Gentlemen who are the Owners; both which may now easily be avoided by an universal Survey at first.

And in the last Place, Gentlemen, Sixthly, *Gentlemen who do not insure, will still be liable to ordinary Repairs.* who decline this Opportunity of insuring their Sea-Walls and Estates, cannot propose any Advantage to themselves

selves by so doing, because they will still be liable to common ordinary Repairs: And besides, they run the Hazard of extraordinary Tides and Inundations, which may in a little Time, and that unexpectedly too, run them to an unaccountable Expence. As to the common ordinary Repairs, we are resolved to make them as easy as we can to those who enter to be insur'd by us. We have propos'd the sinking them a third Part, or more, that is to say, what they contribute towards the insuring of their Sea-Walls, will fall short a third Part of what they usually expended on the common ordinary Repairs of the said Walls before: But if by any Means we can sink their former Expences to the half of what they us'd to be, it shall be done; but we are not willing to be positive in this last, before we have finish'd our Survey.

And then the being altogether freed and exempted from the miserable Effects of Inundations for the future, we count to be more than an Equivalent to all ordinary Repairs; for suppose an overflowing Tide or Inundation to happen but once in seven, or in ten Years, the Repair of that Loss will, we believe, amount to as much, if not more, than the ordinary Repairs of the Wall which fences the Estate will amount to during any of those Intervals of Time, though we suppose them to rise yearly pretty high too.

Are sometimes very charge-ble.

And moreover, those Gentlemen who decline entering with us may sometimes find, that even common and ordinary Repairs

Repairs are very chargeable to them. Gentlemen who live remote, and at a Distance from their Estates suffer most this Way: A Tenant that has been employ'd in such Repairs, knows sometimes how to swell a Bill to an overgrown Size, to help to piece out his Rent, which, perhaps, he could not raise from his Farm, it having frustrated his Labours and Industry, as not thoroughly having recovered itself from the Effects of an Inundation that happened some Years before. Gentlemen, indeed, who reside on their Estates, may, we believe, have these Repairs easier done: But by their best Frugality, we are perswaded, though they reside upon the Spot, that they cannot have them so easy done, as we have both propos'd, and can afford to do them.

To conclude the Whole, after what has been said, we believe nothing can hinder Gentlemen, but an amazing Neglect of their own Interest, from taking this Opportunity of easing themselves of that Pressure, and of those unequal Burdens, they are now under. As for our Part, we are resolved to be careful in the Discharge of our Trust; we shall endeavour to imitate *Guardian Angels*, that let Gentlemen be asleep or awake, near hand or at the greatest Distance, we shall constantly watch over their Concerns; and therefore they may very freely deest themselves of all Cares, and uneasy Thoughts, which may have their Rise on this Account for the future.

We

Proposals all safe and honourable.

We believe our Proposals are both safe and honourable: Let the common ordinary Repairs of any Gentleman's Sea-Wall be less or more, we have proposed to sink them considerably whatsoever they are; and besides, we propose to make good all Damages received by overflowing Tides and Inundations. And as there is no undertaking such a Task without a previous Survey, so we have proposed every Thing that is fair and honourable, with Respect to that; and if there be any Detriment in it, we are willing it should rather effect ourselves than the Gentlemen with whom we have to do: We have proposed to undertake, and go through with that, at our own Expence at first; and when 'tis finished, what we have proposed Gentlemen to refund us, is as modest an Allowance, as can well be nam'd. And then as to the Insuring-Money, we shall not make the least Demand till we have earn'd it, and consequently it is become due. Gentleman on this Account must needs be still on the safest Side, and cannot in any Manner of Way be affected with the least Damage. And as to the Times of Payment, we have so fixed them at present, that we believe we can stand all Losses, and answer every one's Demand. It is possible that an Inundation may happen that will raise Damages to twenty thousand Pounds, or more; and even for the Payment of this Sum we desire but nine Months: But lesser Losses will be discharged much sooner. The Sea-Walls
now

now being generally much out of Repair, we cannot well condescend on other Terms at present; but when once the Survey is over, and the Sea-Fences put into a better Posture, we may, perhaps, make this Article easier to any that may be displeas'd with it. And then we believe no Gentleman can desire better or easier Terms, concerning the taking in of new Marsh-Grounds, than what we have proposed: And we design to proceed by the same easy Methods with Respect to all the other Particulars mentioned in our Scheme.

And if any should cry out, That our Scheme is impracticable; That it never can be performed: We have fully answered that Objection before; we have view'd it on all Sides, and turn'd it every Way, and find it to be very practicable. And yet 'tis very strange to think how this Cry, which is only the *Eccho* of Sloth, nothing else but an airy *Phantom*, is nevertheless able to prey upon, and sometimes to devour and eat up the very *Vitals* of Industry. It is incredible to think how much Sea-Walling even one hundred good Workmen, well tended, and constantly employ'd, will dispatch in the Space of one Year, and then we shall not finish our Work with a superficial Hand, and with Wishes, and hearty Desires of having the same Work to do again in the ensuing Year, as is now too often done, to the great Loss and base Defrauding of Gentlemen who are the Owners.

We believe some of the *Fire-Insuring* Offices here at London have undertaken much

What the Fire-Offices undertake.

much greater Tasks than what we have proposed, seeing they propose to insure Houses and Goods from *Fire*, in any Place of his Majesty's Dominions, and therefore they insure not only throughout *Great-Britain*, and *Ireland*, but also in his Majesty's large Dominions in *Germany*, and in his much larger Empire in *America*: And they must needs insure also on the Coasts of the Bay of *Bengal*, in the *East-Indies*; and not only so, but they pass the *Ganges*, which is much farther then either the *Macedonian*, in his amazing Flight over the World, or *Rome* in all her Grandeur, were ever able to push their Conquests. Some of these Places where they insure being (if we compute by that Passage, which is open by Sea) near ten thousand Miles from *London*, and some of the Places themselves ten thousand Miles from one another; and yet we have not heard that any of the *Fire-Offices* have failed in their Performances.

The Project to be esteemed.

In respect of these Undertakings, ours will only appear a modest one, and to be performed at home too: And when once the Company of our Workmen is compleat, and dispersed round the Borders of the Kingdom, we believe, the Method which we shall introduce of fencing against the Sea, will as much differ from what has hitherto been practised in many Places, as a House built by a Gentleman's Domestick Servants, differs in the Method from one erected by Masons and Carpenters: The first may do it in Process of Time, and after a sort: The last will perform it with

Dis-

Dispatch, and according to the Rules of Art. And then the many Hundreds which we design to imploy, being all united together by one common Tie, we shall on any Occasion whatsoever be able to move them all like one Man, and will still have a sufficient Number of Hands ready when an Inundation happens.

As the Publick Good was the great *A Fair Proposal* Spring that moved us on towards this Undertaking at first, so that shall be still in our View: And therefore, if there be any Man, or Society of Men, who are perswaded that they can manage this Affair better for the Publick Advantage of the Nation than we have proposed, we shall relinquish this our Attempt, and resign it to them; and as we believe they may reap some Advantage from this Method of our intended Procedure, which we have order'd to be printed, so we shall very readily communicate to them some particular Instructions, which we have not yet made publick, and from which, 'tis possible, they may still receive greater Advantage, and better Help in the Management of this Affair: But till some such Society of Men appear, we design to proceed according to the *Proposals* which we have here made. The communicating of the *Project* before the printing of this, having met with Encouragement and Applause in many Places, we believe it will meet with a kind Reception every where now, seeing it brings with it those Advantages, which, if but embraced and improved, will be an ineffable Good and lasting Blessing to this Kingdom.

M

Because

Because we design to provide a Number of Hands sufficient to carry on the Work in every County where there is Sea-Walling, and we shall want a great many more than we yet know of, (supposing our Scheme to be carried on, as we are fully perswaded it will,) and we take leave to say, it will be a Case of some extream Necessity that shall oblige us at any Time to apply to the Dutch for Hands, we believe we can be provided at home; we think it, therefore proper to signify in this Place, that those Persons in any County that design to stand Candidates for Sea-Wall Officers, may have their Names, their Places of Abode, and where they may be met with, inserted in our Office; they may also signify what Gentlemen they have wrought for, and where the Work lies; if they have gone Masters at shutting of Creeks, and stopping of Breaches, and can handle a Denn well, (though perhaps when they enter with us, we shall not confine them to that Labour;) we shall inquire into their Character, and, perhaps, see their Work in the Course of our Survey; and we promise they shall not want Encouragement according to their Merit.

What Persons may stand Candidates for Sea-Wall Officers.

Carpenters, that are clever Men for Sea-Work, such as Gutters or Sluces, shall have from us what Encouragement they can desire. We shall want several such in every County where there is Sea-Walling, and, we believe, keep them constantly employ'd too: Such may also have their Names entered in our Office, and when they may be

be met and treated with. As for those Sea-Gutters, which we shall make entirely new, we believe the labouring Part will be performed in Norway: We can have Deals saw'd out there to what Scantling we please, so that only the Splicing, Rabbating, and the like, will be wanting when they come over; the old Gutters and Sluces will be our more constant Labour.

Carpenters that can work to Advantage in Woods, and are well skill'd in cleaving out of Piles, without any Loss of Timber, shall very readily be entertained by us, and may have their Names and Places of Residence inserted in our Office.

We shall also employ a great Number of Hands that are skill'd in Barking of Timber, making up of Stackwood, and Burning of Charcoal, and that can work in Chalk-Quarries.

And shall also list into our Service a sufficient Number of Shovel-Men, or common Labourers in Sea-Walling in every County, all which shall be very kindly used, and punctually paid.

We believe all Gentlemen, who shall at any Time enter their Estates to be insured in our Office, or those who are about to enter, will be very desirous to know how Affairs proceed, and are carried on, with respect to the Office, from Time to Time.

To satisfy and inform them in this Particular, we have given Directions for getting ready a printed Paper of half a Sheet, and to be publish'd thrice a Week; by which Gentlemen, though at the greatest Distance from one another, yet

may all be united together by this common Intelligence, and keep as free and frequent a Correspondence as they please.

It may easily be sent to the remotest Places.

Gentlemen who live in the remotest Places of the Kingdom, may leave, or send Orders to our Office, or to the Printer or Publisher of the Paper, to send the three Papers down once a Week by what Means or Hands they are pleased to direct, or think most proper, paying only for their Letters, if they send them by the Post, and for the Papers as they have them.

And Gentlemen, who preserve the said Paper by them from the first publishing, and have them constantly, may render themselves Masters of the whole Series of Affairs transacted in our Office.

Coffee-Houses will oblige Gentlemen, by taking in this Paper.

Gentlemen who live in Town may order Coffee-Houses, or other Houses of publick Resort, to take in the said Paper for their Use, and then it will be sent thrice a Week per Post, they giving Notice to the Office or Printer, that so there may be a Number still ready for them.

Contents of the Paper.

This Paper will give an impartial Account of what Entries are made in the Office every Week, the Counties, the Rods of Sea-Walling, and Acres of Marsh-Land that are enter'd: And if any Gentleman that enters desires to have his Name mentioned in the Paper, he may.

And when the Surveyors set out for the General Survey, we shall order an Account to be given in this Paper, when they set out, where they begin, and what Proficiency they make every Day in the Survey.

It

It must needs be supposed that such uncommon Task, as the insuring of Sea-Walls is, cannot be undertaken without some Objections rais'd against it.

And therefore, another End of this Paper is to give Gentlemen concern'd, and all others, an Opportunity of proposing what Objections they please: They may send them to the Printer or Office, paying only the Postage, and they shall be fairly insert'd in this Weekly Paper, and we hope candidly answer'd; so that by this Method, any Objection that is made against our Scheme, and Answer to the Objection, will in one Week be made known to all Gentlemen concerned, or who have Thoughts of being concerned in our Office. So very fair and open we design to be in all our Proceedings.

Some Gentlemen, perhaps, may think that we have been too brief in some Things in our Proposals, and therefore want Things to be more largely insisted on; and others may think some Things are dubiously expressed: These, or any other Gentlemen, when once they have let us know where they are at a Loss, shall in this Paper have all Things set in a true Light.

'Tis possible some Gentlemen may lend us a kind Hand, by rectifying us in some Things with respect to our Project: They may set Things on a better Foundation, or may suggest to us some necessary Particulars which we had omitted. Such Helps as these shall be published in the Paper, and be very thankfully received.

When a Man is about to advertise any Thing here at London, the Variety of printed

Another End of the Paper.

A fair Proposal.

All Gentlemen will be satisfied.

A general Advertiser much wanted.

The most Advantageous

printed Papers so confounds him, that he is at a Loss what Paper to put his Advertisement into; and after all his Precaution, he may, perhaps, insert it in a Paper, which never comes to the Persons Hands for whom he designed it, whereas two or three other Papers, and some of their Advertisements, have, perhaps, been perused by the said Person; which shews us what a Loss the Nation is at for want of one general advertising Paper, to which every Body might have recourse without Disappointment.

And then some of the Advertisements too are printed on such indifferent Paper, and crowd together in so small a Letter, that in some Papers where there are thirty of them, we are persuaded scarce five of that Number are ever read.

The Paper next to a general Advertiser.

But till some such Paper take Place, we design that all Advertisements relating to our Office, and other Affairs, shall be inserted in this Paper; and Gentlemen, or any other Persons who have any Affairs to transact with us by the Way of Advertisements, may believe that their Advertisement in that Paper will never fail of coming to our Hands. And moreover, seeing this Paper will be perused by a great Number of Gentlemen who live at London, but have Estates in the Country adjoining to the Sea; and then considering that it will circulate round the whole Kingdom too, we believe that no Advertisement, of any kind whatsoever can be made more universally publick than by inserting it in this Paper. 'Tis possible we may have very much depending upon one Advertisement: We may fix Appointments,

PROJECT for England.

ments of meeting with our Sea-Wall Officers, and Workmen in several Places of the Kingdom, or fix the Time of viewing Damages occasioned by Inundations, or of paying off of the said Losses, and each of these in one Advertisement; if any of which did not reach the Persons to be advertised, it would be the greatest Loss both to them and us; and therefore we must advertise in a Paper which they have previous Notice to take in, or inspect in Houses of publick Resort, and on that Account, our Advertisements will not fail of coming to their Hands, which will prevent all Disappointments.

Advertisements from the Office of the greatest Consequence.

It is possible that some Gentlemen who live in remote Places of the County, and take in this Paper, may not have a very ready Access to Publick News, or Occurrences from Abroad: To remedy this, we shall take Care that they shall have a Swatch or Taste of Publick Transactions in the said Paper, and therefore the Persons to whom we have recommended the Care of this Paper have promised to maintain the best Correspondence that can be had on the Continent of Europe, and besides, to procure as regular and constant an Intelligence from America, and the Islands and Plantations thereunto belonging, as the Distance of Place and Hindrances arising from Winds and Seas will possibly admit of. Neither will Occurrences from other Places of the World, or Domestick News from the best Hands, be wanting to furnish out that Part of the Paper which relates Publick Occurrences; all which will be inserted in an easy and comprehensive Method. But when Publick

A very useful Part of the Paper.

The most Advantageous

*A glorious
Design.*

lick News fail, they do not design to dwell on a dull Repetition of Things, than which nothing can give a greater Disgust. And therefore, when either these or the Affairs of our Office give them room, they design to fill up their Paper with Miscellaneous Subjects, which they promise shall be writ with some Life and Spirit, and that they shall be *Useful, Instructive, and Diverting*, and that they will endeavour to avoid any Thing that is mean or trifling. And moreover, they assure us they have one Subject to lay open, and insist upon, which will tend to the universal Advantage of *Great-Britain*, which has not as yet been touched by any Pen, or at best, only some very imperfect and superficial Hints given of it.

*The Paper
very necessary
to Publick
Houses.*

It will be requisite that Publick Houses, near the Sea in all Places where there is Walling or Fencing against the Sea, or other Work for *Shovel-Men*, take in the said Paper for the Information of Workmen, that design to enter, or are entered into our Service, that so they may be acquainted with our Advertisements from Time to Time.

This Paper, however, is not to be printed or published till our Office be open; and if any should attempt to print any such Paper before, and without our Leave, we shall take such Methods as will soon suppress any such Attempt, and, besides, do ourselves Justice with respect to those who have been guilty of any such Thing.

We expect that the Postage of all Letters will be paid that are sent to our Office, or to the Printer of this Paper.

F I N I S.