A

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

PROPOSAL

FOR

Increasing the Number of Inhabitants, the Trade and Riches of the City of *Edinburgh*.

Humbly dedicated

To his Grace ARCHIBALD Duke of ARGYLL.

EDINBURGH,
Printed in the Year MDCCLII.

To his Grace

ARCHIBALD

DUKE OF

ARGYLL.

MY LORD DUKE,

I Have obſerved that all your Anceſtors, down from him who married King *Robert*'s Siſter to your Grace, are recorded in Hiſtory for having done ſomething beneficial to their Country; and, as your Grace is allowed to be the greateſt Encourager of all Arts and Sciences, Trades and Manufactures, that has appeared in this Age, if this Propoſal ſeems feaſible to your Grace, I ſee no Perſon ſo capable to throw it into Practice as yourſelf. I am, with the greateſt Submiſſion,

May it pleaſe, &c.

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROPOSAL for increasing the Number of Inhabitants, the Trade and Riches of the City of *Edinburgh*.

IT is an unspeakable Pleasure to every true SCOTSMAN, to think that our Countrymen have at last opened their Eyes to the Advantages of Trade and Manufactures; that the Great not only encourage it with their Countenance, but join in it; that the middling People have laid by their foolish Pride, and think it no longer a Disgrace to breed their Children to mechanick Employments, and that the Spirit of Industry reigns amongst all Degrees of People.

WHAT a comfortable Reflexion is it, that now our Posterity have a Prospect of living more comfortably than ever their Ancestors did? That, in all human Probability, this will be still increasing, and that the Æra from whence this

Spirit

Spirit took its Date, will be reckoned the *Epocha* from whence the Happineſs of SCOTLAND took its Beginning.

IT is for theſe Reaſons that I think every the leaſt Attempt towards advancing this great End is commendable, and, however mean the Performance may be in itſelf, yet it may give a Hint, that, when fallen into the Hands of People of ſuperior Genius, may be improven to Advantage; for I muſt ſubſcribe to that Author's Opinion, that whoever contributes to make two Piles of Graſs grow where but one grew before, deſerves more of Mankind than the greateſt Conquerors that ever lived. War is no farther neceſſary than as it protects and defends the Arts of Peace; when that End is obtained, War is uſeleſs; nay, if puſhed farther, it degenerates into mere Butchery: It may deſtroy, but never add to the Happineſs of a People.

IT is with Pleaſure I read a Pamphlet lately publiſhed, intitled, *Propoſals for carrying on certain publick Works in the City of* Edinburgh. The Deſign is certainly noble. The Improvement and Embelliſhment of our Capital is a Deſign worthy every SCOTSMAN, beſides the other Advantages that are built upon it, and, tho' it may be liable to ſome Objections, yet, as the Deſign in the main is generous, it ought to be read with a Deſire to rectify any Miſtakes that may be in it, rather than to cavil at it. I would fain aſk any of thoſe little Would-be-Wits, whether

whether the Publick will reckon themſelves more obliged to a Perſon who propoſes ſomething that has a Tendency towards promoting the publick Good, or to another who turns it into Ridicule, without propoſing any Thing himſelf.

I think it is now agreed on all Hands, that the Power, Strength, and Riches of a Nation conſiſt more in the Number of its People, than in the Extent of its Dominions. To inſtance only in two: The Province of HOLLAND is a little Spot of Earth, hardly capable to maintain its Inhabitants one fourth Part of the Year; and yet we ſee, by the Multitude and Induſtry of its People, it flouriſhes in Riches, Power and Honour; whereas the Kingdom of SPAIN, with all her Acquiſitions, and the Riches brought from the new World, is hardly able to ſupport herſelf. I would from thence conclude, that the firſt Step towards the Greatneſs and Happineſs of a Community, ſhould be to increaſe the Number of its People.

IF this is granted, we have *next* to fall upon the moſt proper Methods to obtain this End; and I humbly think that would be done by giving proper Encouragement to all Manner of Manufactures, ſo as to bring every Article of our own Product to its utmoſt Perfection before we parted with it. The Wooll of ENGLAND would bring in a great deal of Money if exported as ſhorn from the Sheeps Backs; yet no

no Body will ſay it would bring in ſo much as when manufactured into broad Cloath: And what would become of the Numbers of People who are employed in that Manufacture? But, as we ſeem to be pretty ſenſible of this, by the Encouragement that is given juſt now, (I believe as much as our Funds will allow) if any Body could fall upon a Method to increaſe this Encouragement, without putting the Publick to any Charge, I think he would deſerve well of the Community; and this is what has prevailed upon me to appear in Print; if I fail, I hope the Publick will forgive it for the Sake of the Deſign.

I believe no Body will deny that a Tradeſman will chuſe to work where he can live cheapeſt, and, at the ſame Time, bring his Work to the beſt Market: Where theſe two can be aſcertained, Tradeſmen and their Families will flock; and I humbly think this may be done in and about the City of EDINBURGH. Every Body knows, that the moſt Part of the working People's Food in SCOTLAND is Oat-Meal; when this is dear they are in the utmoſt Straits; and, if it could be fixed at a reaſonable Price for ever, it would anſwer all the Ends propoſed.

THE medium Price of Oat-Meal, one Year with another, in SCOTLAND, is 100 *L. Scots* the Chalder, or 10 *s.* 5 *d. per* Boll: But how often do we ſee it ſold, in plentiful Years, for 80 *L. Scots*

L. Scots the Chalder, or, 8 *s.* 4 *d. per* Boll? Now, if a ſufficient Quantity were bought up in thoſe Years at the publick Charge, it would enable the City of EDINBURGH to command the Markets, ſo as the Meal ſhould never riſe above 100 *L.* the Chalder, or 10 *s.* 5 *d. per* Boll; at which Price it is acknowledged every Tradeſman can live. Now, what greater Encouragement for a Tradeſman to ſettle amongſt us, than to be aſſured that he ſhould never pay for his Food 8 *d. per* Peck?

To illuſtrate this a little. Suppoſe it ſhould be found neceſſary to buy 36,400 Bolls at 8 *s.* 4 *d. per* Boll, which would coſt 15,166 *L.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* this would enable the Town, whenever it ſhould riſe, to ſell to the Inhabitants 100 Bolls a-Day for a whole Year. Let any Body judge what Effect this would have upon the Markets: But, if it ſhould be neceſſary to buy up more, the Town could never be at a Loſs. It is viſible that they would have 2 *s.* 1 *d.* Profit upon each Boll, and yet the Inhabitants well ſerved: Nay, tho' it ſhould ly three Years by them, and Oat-Meal will keep ſo long, and longer, without Damage, they ſtill are Profiters. For Victual is generally bought Boll and Score: This is the Intereſt of one Year at 5 *per Cent.* if it is laid up new it generally comes out another Boll and Score; this is another Year's Intereſt; and the Profit will well afford the third, and pay all Charges.

Now,

Now, if proper Regulations were made, that the Members of the Community, and none but them, ſhould have this Benefit, what Numbers would it draw in to us, and with what Pleaſure would a Man part with a little Money for entering, when he was aſſured he ſhould for the future never pay 8 *d. per* Peck for his Meal? What Numbers of Journeyman would flock in to us, when they knew they would have a Share in the ſame Benefit? In ſhort, how would our Numbers be increaſed, and conſequently our Riches! All Ranks of People would find the Benefit of it; the very Revenue, both of the Crown and the Town, would be increaſed, and the Town not put to the Charge of one Sixpence; for it could never be called a Debt, when they were always in Poſſeſſion of a Commodity, whereon they could never be Loſers ſo long as Mankind eats Bread; whereas, as the Caſe happens this very Year, the Inhabitants of the City of EDINBURGH muſt be greatly diſcouraged, and Strangers will hardly venture to ſettle amongſt us, when they ſee the Oat-Meal fall 2 *d.* or 3 *d. per* Peck in the Counties round us, and not one Farthing in the City or Suburbs.

Object. 1. THIS may encourage Idleneſs, when People know they can always have a Piece of Bread at a reaſonable Price.

Anſw. ALL Charities are liable to the ſame Objection. Shall we therefore give none, becauſe

cauſe they may be miſapplied? Beſides, it may in a great Meaſure be obviated, by Certificates from People of known Character inthe Place, and from Maſters to their Journeymen, touching their Honeſty and Diligence.

Object. 2. THIS may bring in ſuch Shoals upon us, that, as in Time they are diſabled or ſuperannuated, they may be a Burden upon the Community.

Anſw. ALL Communities find the Benefit of providing Funds for the Support of their own Poor; and I believe no Journeyman would grudge a Halfpenny out of every Crown of his Earnings, when he did not know but he or his Family might have the Benefit of it, and, at the ſame Time, were intitled to ſuch a preſent Advantage. This might in Time ſo far increaſe the Revenue of our Poor-Houſe, as to make it capable to ſupport itſelf.

Object. 3. BUT here is a dead Stock, that, in cheap Years, might be exported, and bring in a great deal of Money to the Kingdom.

Anſw. THE End of all Governments is the Happineſs of the People in the firſt Inſtance; beſides, I think this Objection is anſwered by the Propoſal to reduce all our own Product to its utmoſt Perfection before we parted with it: If we do not draw in the Money for the Victual, we will draw it in with Intereſt from the Goods manufactured by the People who eats this Victua; beſides it would prevent a great deal of Import

port in a dear Year, and ſo keep Money amongſt us.

Object. 4. THIS Project is ſo obvious, that it may be followed by every Community in the Kingdom, and ſo be of no farther Uſe to the City of EDINBURGH than to others.

Anſw. Be it ſo. Are we afraid of running out of Hands? We are prolifick to a Proverb: The more of our Hands that are employed at Home, the greater our Exports muſt be, and conſequently our Riches.

Object. 5. IF this Project ſhould go on, the Town of EDINBURGH would be obliged to build Granaries for the Meal: Here is a great deal of Money thrown away, and a dead Stock upon their Hands.

Anſw. Oat-Meal does not require Granaries for Air; for the harder it is packed, and the leſs it is expoſed to Air, it keeps the longer, and is ſo much the better; ſo that there is no Occaſion for building, or putting the Town to the leaſt Expence that Way: There is Abundance of vacant Room in our Infirmary, Poor-Houſe, HERIOT's and WATSON's Hoſpitals, *&c, &c.* to contain all the Meal that will be neceſſary; and I believe no Body will ſay they will be put to a bad Uſe, when employed this Way, when the very Inhabitants of theſe Houſes will be intitled to the Benefit.

Object. 6. BUT the greateſt Objection is behind. Where ſhall we raiſe this Money? 15,166

15,166 *L.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* is a great Sum, and we all know the Town is conſiderably in Debt.

Anſw. I acknowledge that there are a great many People that are much better qualified to fall upon Ways and Means than I, and, as this is but a Hint, it is not to be expected that the whole can be ſo well digeſted, as it will be if ever it is put in Practice: But, to obviate this Objection as far as I can, I anſwer, there is not an Incorporation or Community in the Town of EDINBURGH or Suburbs, but have ſome Funds or other for the Maintenance of their own Poor. All our Hoſpitals have very conſiderable Revenues, particularly HERIOT's and WATSON's. Could Part of their Capitals be better employed? Would it not yield them more Intereſt than any Lands they could purchaſe, beſides the Advantage of having their Proviſions always at a reaſonable Rate; for when one Species of Proviſions is cheap, it has a great Effect upon all the others? Thus, I think, a very conſiderable Sum might be raiſed; beſides, it would be a great Encouragement for enlarging the Royalty; for, by this Means, as the Communities that are not included in it would have a Share in this Benefit, ſo their Contributions would greatly increaſe the Capital; and, tho' there ſhould be Occaſion for ſome Thouſands of Pounds more, I can never think it would be ſuch a mighty Hardſhip upon the Town. It is almoſt morally certain that they would draw upwards

upwards of 5 *per Cent.* for whatever they borrowed; and, as I ſaid before, it can never be properly called contracting a Debt, when they would be always in Poſſeſſion of a Commodity whereon they could never be Loſers, as long as Mankind eats Bread; and, I believe, pole the Burgeſſes, and it will be given, for *contracting* it by a great Majority.

BESIDES all this, the Calculation was made for the beſt LOTHIAN Meal, which every Body muſt acknowledge to be the beſt in SCOTLAND, and conſequently the deareſt. We all know we could have it much cheaper in other Counties; and, as the Excellency of LOTHIAN Meal does not altogether conſiſt in the Corns growing there, but rather in our Manufacturing it at our Kilns and Mills, ſo, if the Corns were bought up in the cheap Counties, and manufactured here, I ſee no Reaſon why it would not yield as good Meal as any of the Growth of LOTHIAN, Corn not being liable to contract that bad Taſte by Water-Carriage, as when it it is manufactured into Meal, and, if it was, it would be taken off in our Kilns.

THERE is one Thing which I had almoſt forgot, which is, that the Seller will always give a reaſonable Time, by which, at leaſt, Two and a Half *per Cent.* more will be ſaved than what was formerly repreſented.

THUS I have endeavoured to anſwer any Objections that occurred to me, and to give a Hint, which, if found practicable, may be capable

pable of many Improvements; if not, I hope the Publick will forgive it, as the Deſign is benevolent: Beſides, I have taken Care to conceal the Author; ſo, if it is thought ridiculous, I ſhall not be expoſed, and, if practicable, I ſhall have the ſecret Pleaſure of having given the firſt Hint of what I ſtill think would be beneficial to the Community of which I am a Member.

P. S. BEFORE any Gentleman take it in his Head to turn this into Ridicule, I would have him propoſe ſomething himſelf, and reflect upon the Praiſes that have been beſtowed upon every Perſon, who has taken Care of the People's Intereſt, in this Article, from JOSEPH down to this Time.

F I N I S.