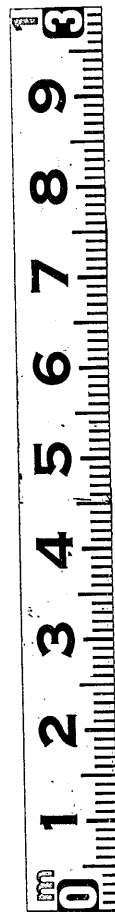


96-31



0287

EFFECTUAL MEANS  
OF PROVIDING,  
ACCORDING TO  
THE EXIGENCIES OF THE EVIL,  
AGAINST THE  
DISTRESS APPREHENDED  
FROM THE  
SCARCITY AND HIGH PRICES  
OF  
DIFFERENT ARTICLES OF FOOD.

BY  
GEORGE EDWARDS, Esq.

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, NO. 72, ST. PAUL'S  
CHURCH-YARD;

BY BVE AND LAW, ST. JOHN'S-SQUARE, CLERKENWELL.

1800.



[ 4 ]

ensuing harvest; which, however, appears to me an impossible event: there may be such a great scarcity of different articles of food, as to produce general and extreme distress; lastly, provisions may be so dear, that the high prices of them may press grievously upon the middle orders, and exclude the lower ones, more or less, from the purchase of food necessary to their subsistence.

The occurrence of one or other of these cases is, in the ordinary course of things, unavoidable in the kingdom, and therefore requires the attention of the legislature. The least of these evils will be productive of a degree of misery, which must excite serious alarm, from the prospect of its long continuance. Permit me, therefore, in the substance of my letter, to advert to the two first of these cases, as if there were substantial and solid grounds to be apprehensive of

5

of

[ 5 ]

of the actual existence of one of them: for the means of relief are the same in both cases. Upon the last case I will subjoin my thoughts in a postscript. Previously it will be necessary, to attend to some of the particular queries in your letter, which I now proceed to answer.

In this place and neighbourhood the situation of the poor is truly melancholy; but, perhaps, that of many families, which, by their labour, or by means of some inferior trade, earned a fair and decent livelihood, before the time of the present scarcity, is still more distressful. One half of the inhabitants of this place, the population of which consists of about three thousand persons, is at present relieved by soup, or supported by the parish. The poor-rate, which last year was three shillings in the pound, is now nearly double.

A 3

In

[ 6 ]

In the neighbouring and fertile country east of this town, one half at least, but I am credibly informed two-thirds of the produce of last year's wheat, and, with a trifling exception, the stock which remained on hand of the preceding harvest, are already consumed. Many of the farmers, who every year grow a great quantity of wheat, have none left to bring to market; and several small farmers buy at present their own bread-corn. The mining country, to the west of this place, is with difficulty supplied. Rye, at present, cannot be procured for it from Newcastle. The person who principally furnishes it with bread-corn assures me, that of late he has not been able to purchase more than one-fifth of the quantity, which he usually sold to the inhabitants. Of the barley grown, and suitable for human food, a small proportion remains unsold. A considerable quantity of the oats grown this year

[ 7 ]

year has been sold, but not, perhaps, equal to that of wheat above-stated.

Persons, on whose authority I can depend, inform me, that the produce last year of wheat in this country, compared with the average crop of other years, was at least one-half less in quantity, and one-third inferior in quality; that is, a given quantity, which in former years supported a family three weeks, serves it this year only two; but, I apprehend, not two weeks: that oats have not failed as much in quantity as wheat, but equally or more so in quality: that, in both respects, barley was a much worse crop, and pease and beans infinitely so. Prices have this day advanced in our market. I understand the deficiency of crops of grain has been greater in the eastern part of the county, but I cannot myself speak to the fact.

A 4

My

## [ 8 ]

My thoughts upon the means of preventing and remedying the evil, as this has been stated in the two first views above taken of the subject, will be succinctly proposed under the following heads, eight in number.

1. The agricultural grains commonly grown.
2. The different vegetables cultivated as auxiliary to grain.
3. A degree of compulsion, which, with your permission, I shall call pressing, to be employed in procuring an extraordinary supply of food for the poor, the ensuing spring and summer.
4. A general agency to be instituted for the purpose of carrying into effect any plan or means, which the legislature may think proper to adopt, for remedying the evil.
5. Importation of different articles of food into the kingdom.
6. Extraordinary advance of public money for affording relief in the present distress.
7. Finding proper succedaneums within ourselves, and not of the

## [ 9 ]

the vegetable kingdom, for remedying the deficiency of the produce of corn. 8. The restoration of peace, which I take the liberty of including as a means, for the purpose of making an important observation.

The aggregate of the several means is what must constitute the remedy; and an aid, ineffectual in itself, may become very important, as a part of a plan of general relief. The measures requisite, to give effect to the means of remedying the evil, should be adopted without delay, for the distress is urgent; and some at least of the means of relief will not be practicable, unless the necessary previous measures be taken early in the present season. It is a more important general observation, not to employ many weak and ineffectual measures, which will only amuse the people, and not relieve the real

[ 10 ]

real distress. A solid judgement is necessary, to decide upon the measures proposed.

In respect to the first head, the agricultural grains commonly grown, such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, pease, and beans.—It is very important, that the present stock of these in the kingdom, or which may be imported, be husbanded with the greatest care and attention; and all practicable means should be employed, to make it go as far as possible in actual consumption. On this account, I apprehend, that wheat-bread should not be permitted, but as made of flour with the whole bran in it. This, as a general regulation, put into force every where in the kingdom, would considerably retard the consumption. The fact is, that such bread is a considerable saving in a family, however it may be accounted for. The bran in it is, no doubt, nutritive, in a greater or less degree:

[ 11 ]

degree: it may, along with the flour, be more capable of assimilation into nutriment; and it must be serviceable in aid of the repletion, which the stomachs of many persons require, greater than the quantity of aliment necessary for the support of their bodies.

However, such a regulation does not appear to be practicable in the southern parts of the kingdom, as I apprehend, from the mills not being provided with the proper stones (usually called the Derby or grey) for grinding wheat into that sort of flour, which is suitable to be used with its bran in bread. Yet such stones might readily be procured. In other parts of the kingdom, the Derby or grey stones are in all the mills, as well as the french sort. Flour made with these, the very coarse part of the bran only taken out, which is a very trifling

[ 12 ]

trifling diminution, makes, with yeast, excellent good bread both in quality and taste.

Bread baked some time before it is used, is much more serviceable; but as the poor consume it as soon as it is baked, and are generally extravagant in the use of it, it had better be made for them, kept a proper time, even several days, and then sold to them at a moderate price, under the direction of suitable agents for the purpose. In this mode, which is unquestionably superiour to that of soup, the public liberality would be most advantageously distributed. For if corn can be had, the poor can hardly be expected to live without some bread. Bread is cheaper than animal food, and far less bread, than may be supposed, is saved by dispensing soup.

The

[ 13 ]

The poor, supplied with bread in the above manner, would not have to pay the profit of trade upon the small quantities of corn they purchase weekly. Their time would not be lost at markets, and imposition in grinding would be prevented: they would, by the restricted distribution of it, be obliged to husband their bread, and would not eat it new, but of a proper age, when it would go much farther. The corn or flour would be bought at the first hand, which would be a considerable saving; and being supposed to be brought in general from the sea-ports, would tend much to reduce the high prices of the article in the inland markets.

There are different preparations and mixtures of food, to which it might be very proper to attend at this time, as making it go further, or as improving the quality of

[ 14 ]

of inferior species of food. There is a mode of using wheat and rye flour, pearled barley and oatmeal, to which the lower classes have frequently recourse, and which saves, considerably, bread and other food. They boil any one of these in water, to which they add some milk, and a little treacle or coarse sugar, and consume the whole mess; and it is good as well as agreeable food. It might be useful to provide a quantity of these articles, and sell them to the poor on moderate terms, for the above purpose solely. Such relief may be very acceptable, especially if bread cannot be procured. Several poor or labouring families at present, who are not able to procure bread, have no other subsistence than rye-meal boiled in water, without the other usual additions.

Persons

[ 15 ]

Persons of fortune, who can supply their families with other food, should be called on in a particular manner to be sparing in the use of wheat, and thus leave a greater quantity for the consumption of the lower orders. Their families should use little or no bread with animal food, when they have a sufficiency of vegetables. These should be grown in their gardens in abundant quantities for the purpose. With potatoes, bread does not seem requisite to meat: they should stint the quantity of bread used in their families, and order it to be dispensed by a regular allowance. Flour should certainly not be consumed in articles of luxury, in hair powder, or in manufactures; and no doubt, at this time, too great a quantity of fine flour is made in the kingdom.

Other sorts of grain should be reserved as much as possible for human food.

Barley



[ 16 ]

Barley bread, I understand, goes further in a labouring family than that of wheat, calculating upon the actual consumption of different quantities of these grains, bought for a given sum of money; and, no doubt, oats make a good and wholesome cake. Few oats should be given to animals, especially to dogs. If judged necessary, racing should be prohibited the present year; pleasure horses should have no oats; and the cavalry should be kept at grass the ensuing summer, if not required for actual service.

It is very important, to take proper precautions, lest a late harvest increase the evil of the preceding one. There is yet opportunity of sowing rye on a larger scale than usual, which may prove very serviceable, if wheat be late in coming to market. A greater proportion of the early-ripe kinds of barley and oats should be grown on the forward

[ 17 ]

forward lands, and proper measures taken for distributing suitable seed through the kingdom.

Whatever regulations the legislature has provided, or may think proper to provide at this time, in respect of publick markets, the selling of grain by proper measures, and the grinding of corn at a reasonable price, should be particularly enforced.

In respect to the second head, the vegetables cultivated as auxiliary to grain;— I refer to cabbages of the different species, and to turnips, as well as potatoes, all of which, if they could be procured, would be found very useful in actual dearth. If this be apprehended, they should be provided according to the best modes of garden and field culture, on the largest scale possible for early consumption. The means will be pointed out under the ensuing head.

B

The

[ 18 ]

The two first would prove very serviceable to the poor; with a very small proportion of salt meat, they would be a very desirable article of food in a time of famine, or great scarcity. In all families they would be of considerable service, and, consequently, lessen the consumption of bread. However, it is, perhaps, too late to have recourse to growing of cabbages, and the evil is not so urgent as to oblige us to depend upon turnips; I therefore pass them over, and will speak more at large upon potatoes. Though early turnips would be very useful the ensuing summer, especially in the case of a late harvest, and a great quantity of them should be grown. If not wanted for human food, they would be consumed by cattle as usual. In a short journey yesterday I had occasion to go into a cottage, and found tea upon the table, with a large bowl of sliced turnips. The

master

[ 19 ]

master of it, a poor labourer, informed me, that his family had been destitute of bread many days, for which, one of his substitutes was that which I saw.

Instead of a premium proposed for the encouragement of the culture of early potatoes, it might be more useful to exempt from tithes such crops as should be taken up for consumption in the first months of the summer. The early kinds of potatoes, which are sufficiently productive, should be indulged with the most favourable soils and situations, that can be procured, and every means should be employed to forward a crop. Tracts of country, partial to their growth, should be appropriated to them; and such will be found every where within a distance sufficient, to admit of the carriage of this root to those parts, which cannot produce an early crop.

B 2

It

[ 20 ]

It is necessary to lose no time in preparing ground for them. Sets may really become difficult to procure for the purpose, but as potatoes are too dear for the poor to purchase at the present time, the immediate collection of them would not materially add to the present distress; therefore an agency should be immediately appointed, to procure the proper sorts for a general early crop of this valuable vegetable.

As to the suggestion of commons for growing this root in great abundance the ensuing summer, noticed in your letter, it would certainly be eligible, to select certain parts of those of suitable quality, to pare and burn them early, if spring permit, and with the ashes (other manures, as dung or lime, would be useful along with the ashes) to grow potatoes upon them: or such suitable plots might be dug or plowed, and set with.

[ 21 ]

with potatoes in the usual modes; or any sort of waste land, which suits the growth of potatoes, by road sides, in woods, on banks of rivers, &c. might be employed for the purpose. A design of this sort could easily be conducted by the agency proposed, authorized by the legislature, and invested with such temporary powers as the occasion might require. In a time of famine, it could not be considered a violation of the laws relative to property, to give permission, even to the agencies of distant districts, of growing a few acres of potatoes upon an uncultivated common.

A greater difficulty occurs, how to save from trespasses the crop grown upon such commons. But I apprehend, a temporary sod fence, coped with stones, and duly watched, might be sufficient. However, in exposed situations, commons would not

B 3                      be

[ 22 ]

be favourable to the growth of an early crop; and, in my opinion, a more sure and eligible mode of growing great quantities of early potatoes will, under the following head, be pointed out. Land, intended to be pared and burned for turnips, will be more usefully reserved for potatoes, if spring permit early firing of the fods.

In regard to the third head, to wit, a degree of compulsion, similar to pressing, proposed to be employed in procuring an extraordinary supply of food for the poor, that is, any who stand in absolute need of it, the ensuing spring or summer:—The legality of the measure may be disputed, but the principle of it, and the necessity for it, are at least as valid as the pressing of sailors in time of war; I therefore propose, for the purpose of growing early potatoes, and, if useful and necessary,

any

[ 23 ]

any other crop, actually to press every where a sufficient quantity of the best arable lands, in the most favourable situations for producing them, and to recompense the owner of such lands by the sale of the crop, and by the advancement of public money. In pressing ground by this mode, the pressing of the means of culture, and such dung as may be wanted, is a necessary consequence.

But more especially the pressing of milk is recommended, which, singly, would be a great means of removing the distress apprehended; that is, empowering the different agencies, to hinder milk from being made into butter and cheese, as they saw requisite, in the dairies through the kingdom, and reserving it for the use of the poor. This food may be conveyed to a considerable distance; and there would be

B 4

no

[ 24 ]

no difficulty in fixing upon a cheap mode of collecting it from different dairies, and conveying it where wanted, in the neighbourhood. It is plentiful through the kingdom; and where this is not the case, there is sufficient grass-land near great towns, upon which milch cattle may be brought and pastured, for affording this valuable supply. Though this mode may, perhaps, not be thought practicable for the relief of the metropolis.

The farmer is supposed to be fully recompensed for his milk, and proper regulations made, so as not to injure him in respect of rearing his calves: less butter and cheese would be made, but neither is an object of importance in the instance of a famine, or extreme general distress.

In

[ 25 ]

In regard to the fourth head, a general agency to be instituted for the purpose of carrying into effect whatever may be conducive to remedy the present evil.—This not only would be very useful, but indispensably necessary, to execute the several means of a proper plan of general relief. It would be particularly serviceable for the purposes mentioned under the foregoing head; also to collect and dispense supplies, or magazines of food, for the benefit of the poor, especially in the later period of the present interval between the harvests; to urge and incite all persons in practising such means as must prevent unnecessary consumption of food, but cannot be enforced by enacting laws for the purpose; to make application for private subscriptions, awaken the sensibility of those, whose circumstances are competent to afford them, and render charity more humane, and generosity more liberal,

[ 26 ]

liberal, by seeing the happy effects of their beneficence.

This agency, perhaps, should be composed of those inhabitants of the different parishes, who are of respectable characters and abilities; and two or more of these may be united, as will be most convenient. The different agencies should cordially co-operate, in order to afford relief to those parts of the country, which, from their situation, are more exposed to experience the effects of the present calamity. They might be instituted at first, and continue to act under the sanction of the magistrates. The powers with which it might be necessary to invest them, and proper rules for their conduct, should be fixed by the legislature, and liberty allowed them of appointing proper persons to execute the laborious part of their office.

In

[ 27 ]

In regard to the fifth head, importation of different articles of food into the kingdom; —This cannot be too much attended to, nor the exportation of them too strictly prevented. Whatever quantity of grain can be procured from abroad, should be procured by the merchant, or, if requisite, by government; they making every necessary exertion for the purpose. The different friendly powers should be applied to for their assistance on the occasion; and a free importation of all sorts of provisions permitted, by repealing, during a limited term, any laws, which prevent the introduction of them into the kingdom. Thus salt-meat and fish, dried herrings and cheese, might be procured, in considerable quantities, which would be very serviceable. A large supply of foreign pease, for boiling, would be of great relief; as would a great importation of rice, the reduction of it's present exorbitant

[ 28 ]

exorbitant price, by this means, and the more general use of it as food through the kingdom.

In regard to the sixth head, extraordinary advance of public money for affording relief in the present distress;—This seems more than advisable, it is absolutely necessary. No very large sum, when the purpose is considered, granted by the legislature, would render a suitable plan of relief certain of producing the most beneficial effects. It should be distributed, where relief is most wanted, and most difficult to be procured. This aid of the legislature would not prevent private subscriptions, which may and should be promoted in a more effectual manner than they are at present, and would only be more liberal by the example of the legislature.

It

[ 29 ]

It will be sufficient to mention, and leave to your consideration, the propriety of granting a bounty, in order to procure a larger importation of certain articles of food. No doubt the present high prices of these are a powerful incentive to import them. On the other hand, foreign provisions will rise in price abroad, on the prospect of a demand for them from this country.

In regard to the seventh head, the finding of proper succedaneums within ourselves, and not drawn from the vegetable kingdom, for supplying the deficiency of the produce of corn;—One effectual means would be, the appropriation of a part of the money granted by parliament, to the purchase of animal food, to be employed more generally than it is at present, in making soup for the relief of the lower orders in populous villages, as well as the greater towns and cities.

4

Another

[ 30 ]

Another means would be to graze, or bring into forward condition, by meadowing less land, a greater proportion of young stock, sheep or cattle; for these, in the later summer months, might be employed for soup, if not sufficiently fat to be used as solid food. Procuring by the proper exertions an extraordinary supply from our home and foreign fisheries, would be of great service during the ensuing summer.

A voluntary restraint may be mentioned under the present head, a restraint imposed upon the appetite, which, by the rich, is not rarely indulged at the cost of the health and vigour of their constitutions. Suppers are a meal which many of them can dispense with, until the return of harvest, and which may be converted into a subscription, for the relief of the lower orders. The army, especially during a march, consumes too freely,

at

[ 31 ]

at this time of distress, the provisions of the country; such unnecessary consumption may be readily prevented by the attention of the officers.

In regard to the last of the heads proposed, the restoration of peace;—It would, in many respects, unquestionably be conducive to the removal of the present evil. I am persuaded, it is both in our power and our interest, to make it at the present period. I profess myself so far acquainted with the present subject, when I positively affirm, that the practicability is not actually perceived by government, as founded upon a solid basis, of making a present peace, which will be more durable and advantageous to this country, than any peace hitherto experienced. Of consequence it will be an honourable peace to all parties, and equally desirable to the British government and people, and to the French



[ 32 ]

French nation and their allies. I trust, in this assertion, I shall not appear to you to be guilty of unpardonable presumption, as you know I have paid some attention to the means of advancing the general welfare of the nation.

The introduction of the subject, though certainly pertinent to the design treated of, is, I confess, improper; for it cannot be expected, that the legislature will adopt or even attend to the proposition. But I may be permitted on all occasions, more especially upon important subjects, such as the restoration of peace, and a salutary and moderate reform of the parliamentary representation of the people, to express freely to you my warm and earnest attachment to the true interests of my country. If only a single hint, conveyed by the present design, should be of service, and tend to the relief of the present

[ 33 ]

present distress, I shall feel an additional satisfaction to the honour I claim of being the sole author of the present new and solid system of finance, that of raising the supplies within the year, and the Income Tax. In vindication of this claim, which is so well and clearly founded, that it will hardly, and cannot justly be disputed, I find myself actually, and contrary to my inclinations, compelled, sooner or later, to throw myself upon the justice and benignity of the public: for a gentleman of high station has, in a late and much celebrated pamphlet, upon the state of the finances, studiously endeavoured to deny me this honour, which he well knows is my right; which is infinitely dear to me; which is my solace, under those hardships, to which I have subjected myself, in consequence of my sincere and honest exertions to serve my country.

c

“ Hos

[ 34 ]

" Hos ego versiculos feci, tulit alter honores.

" Sic vos non vobis nidificatis aves.

" Sic vos non vobis vellera fertis oves.

" Sic vos non vobis mellificatis apes.

" Sic vos non vobis fertis aratra boves."

I have the honour, Sir,

of being your much obliged

and most obedient servant,

GEORGE EDWARDS.

TO  
ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

POST-

[ 35 ]

### POSTSCRIPT.

IT will not have escaped your observation, indeed it has been expressly noticed, that the preceding plan is more immediately calculated to answer a case of universal distress, as approaching to a state of famine, and occasioned by actual failure of the necessary articles of food. However, when the subject is considered without unnecessary alarm, there will not be found sufficient grounds for the supposition, that such a perfect state of misery can exist in the kingdom, before the return of harvest: at least, the means are absolutely in our power, which are adequate to prevent it; and may readily be rendered effective, as, I trust, will be evinced, by the foregoing design. But that actual and urgent distress at present per-

c 2

vades

[ 36 ]

vades the kingdom, arising from the great difficulty of procuring the necessary articles of food; and that the same will continue, and, unless prevented, in the course of the year, become much greater, are truths which will be admitted on all hands.

But the difficulty of procuring the necessary articles of food arises from their high prices, as well as their deficiency. Nay the principal cause of the present evil is the high prices of the different articles of food, which, though absolutely necessary to their subsistence, the abilities of a considerable part of the lower orders are not able to purchase. Even a very large extraordinary importation of corn will not be adequate, to remove the present distress. The great demand at home for this article, which will keep up until the harvest, the high price at which it will be bought abroad, the

[ 37 ]

expence of importing it, and of inland carriage, and the profit of trade, which the merchant and his immediate customers will impose upon it, must necessarily cause it to be sold at an exorbitant rate. Nor may the present high prices of the different necessary articles of food be materially reduced by the return of harvest, at least not immediately at this future period. With the present evil there co-operates another species of urgent distress, in the high and excessive prices of various other necessities and comforts of life, occasioned by the vast increase of taxes and parochial burdens, and by the great and immense capitals of numerous individuals, employed in monopoly.

Two views, therefore, present themselves, as the means of removing or relieving the evil of the present case; to wit, an increase of the quantity of the necessary articles of food, to be procured immediately, or as soon

[ 38 ]

soon as may be, by all the practicable means, which it is in our power to employ for the purpose; and the sale of them at sufficient reduced prices to those individuals in the lower classes, who are not able to purchase them at their present high prices. A definite and adequate plan of relief, which will fully answer both these purposes, is necessary, and should be devised, settled, and carried into immediate effect, by the legislature. It should be so constructed, that it can conveniently be extended or contracted, as exigencies require; and be found sufficient, provided the evil prove greater than is apprehended at present. The sketch of such a plan, as will embrace both those views, I beg your leave to propose, and to take upon a somewhat reduced scale, from the design explained more at large in the preceding letter. This, however, should be curtailed with proper caution.

The

[ 39 ]

The agency therein recommended will be absolutely necessary, to procure and dispense the means of relief; for we must not think of committing this trust to the common parish officers, nor will the magistracy be competent to the execution of it. Too much attention cannot be paid to several of the proposals mentioned under the first head; especially to that of making bread for sale at a lower price, than that which corresponds to the present high price of corn, and distributing it to the poor, under proper regulations. It will unquestionably be very useful to grow the present year an extraordinary quantity of potatoes; and by some means or other this important object should be carried into full effect. As there may be real occasion in different parts of the country, there surely can be no serious objection urged to procuring, in the mode recommended, a supply of new, or even of old or skimmed milk,

[ 40 ]

milk. The importation of different articles of food cannot be too much promoted. As a succedaneum for corn, if this cannot be procured in sufficient quantity, more general relief should be afforded the lower classes, and extended through the kingdom, by means of soup, made upon a proper economical plan.

A principal and leading view should be to relieve those in the lower orders, who are not able to purchase the necessaries of life at their present high prices. The means of accomplishing this important and essential object are the voluntary subscriptions of persons, whose incomes are competent; and a parliamentary grant of public money, as a liberality, and in certain situations as a loan; which is a very practicable mode of relief, and absolutely necessary in certain

[ 41 ]

certain parts of the country, as I shall show immediately.

The legislature, which possesses the absolute power of conferring, or withholding it, must feel it a duty, and its personal honour concerned, to be humane, compassionate, and liberal, to the people, under the pressure of the present calamity; more especially as it is the war, which is one of the principal causes of the distress. A war! commenced and continued upon political motives, of the propriety of which its members have themselves decided; therefore a discretionary power should, and will certainly be placed, in the hands of administration, to advance, according as exigencies may require, public money, for the purpose of affording relief to the present distress.

E

For

[ 42 ]

For private subscriptions may be sufficient in the rich cities, and fertile parts of the kingdom, to relieve the evil apprehended, or to prevent the necessity of materially encroaching upon the liberality of the legislature. But there may be parts of the country, and those of considerable extent and population, which, from their general poverty, will require liberal assistance, or a loan, or both these, from government, where private subscriptions cannot be procured; where, if procured, they would be insufficient and ineffectual; where individual fortunes are too much oppressed, in other respects, as well as by the present calamity, to be able to afford adequate relief, by a parish rate, to the distressed of the poor, or labouring people; where the inhabitants in general cannot, by their industry, acquire the means of purchasing, at their present high prices, the necessities of life; where

[ 43 ]

where they never would be able to pay for them, if these were advanced to them upon credit, at their present high prices. Such actually is the case of the mining country west of this place, mentioned in the beginning of my letter! Such is the real situation of the extensive forest of Teesdale! Such must be the situation of similar parts of the kingdom!

F I N I S.

11-11-1964

[illegible]

I did not feel so