

0339

96-8



CONSIDERATIONS,

UPON THE

EXPORTATION OF CORN;

WRITTEN

AT THE REQUEST:

OF

THE DUBLIN SOCIETY.

---

By JOHN WYNN BAKER, F. R. S.

---

DUBLIN:

Printed by S. POWELL, Printer to the SOCIETY.  
M.DCC.LXXI.

---

AT A MEETING OF THE  
DUBLIN SOCIETY,

At their House in *Grafton-Street*,

On *Saturday, November 2, 1771.*

P R E S E N T

Twenty-two Members.

REDMOND MORRES, Esq; V. P. in the Chair.

**M**R. *Jefferyes* reported from the Committee appointed to prepare for the Society's Consideration a Petition to Parliament, pursuant to the Subject of several Resolutions entered into by the Society on *Thursday* last in Relation to the present State of Tillage in *Ireland*, and the Means of further encouraging it; that the Committee had met pursuant to Order, and taking the Matter to them referred into their Consideration, had agreed upon such a Petition to Parliament, as directed; which being then read at the Table, and the Question severally put upon each Paragraph, the Society agreed with their Committee in the said Petition; which is as follows,

A 2

To

To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Bur-  
gesses in Parliament assembled,

The Petition of the DUBLIN SOCIETY for pro-  
moting Husbandry and other useful Arts in *Ireland*,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your Petitioners always considered the En-  
couragement of Tillage, as one of the greatest National Objects, and the chief Intention of their In-  
stitution, for which Reasons, they have in a more  
especial Manner applied themselves to that Subject.

The particular Distress of this Country, occa-  
sioned by a Scarcity of Corn the two last Years, and  
the great Apprehensions we were under for that va-  
luable Branch of the Community, the Corn Farmers,  
left from the great Plenty of Corn at present, the  
Price should fall below what may be any way pro-  
portionable to their Expences, have induced your  
Petitioners to take this Subject into their most serious  
Consideration, and your Petitioners having previously  
examined several considerable Merchants, Importers  
of Corn, and also some respectable Farmers in Re-  
lation to these Matters, have unanimously come to  
the following Resolutions.

“ I. RESOLVED,

“ That it appears to this Society, that a Quantity  
“ of Corn, Meal, Flour and Malt, in Value to up-  
“ wards of 600,000 l. has been imported into this  
“ Kingdom in the two Years ended the 25th of  
“ *March*,

“ *March*, 1771, the greatest Part whereof has been  
“ paid for in Specie; and that without said Supply,  
“ the Kingdom would have been in the most dis-  
“ tressed Condition.”

“ 2. RESOLVED

“ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that the  
“ sending out of the Kingdom so large a Sum of  
“ Money, has been a great Cause of the high Ex-  
“ change, the many Bankruptcies, the Lowness of  
“ Credit and Scarcity of Money so severely felt a-  
“ mong us.”

“ 3. RESOLVED,

“ That it appears to this Society, upon looking  
“ back for some Years past, that a great Scarcity of  
“ Corn frequently occurs, arising not only from the  
“ Badness of the Seasons, but from the Farmers not  
“ growing Corn sufficient for Home Consumption,  
“ and that the same has been occasioned by the Un-  
“ certainty of the Markets, and the Price not afford-  
“ ing them at all Times a Profit proportionable to  
“ their Expences.”

“ 4. RESOLVED,

“ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that it  
“ would be of the highest Benefit to this Nation and  
“ its Manufactures, to encourage the first of all  
“ Manufactures, a compleat Cultivation of the Soil.”

“ 5. RESOLVED,

“ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that the  
“ most powerful and persuasive Encouragement to  
“ Farmers to set the Plough at Work, is to establish  
“ a quick, and in some Degree a certain Market for  
“ their Corn.”

“ 6. RE-

“ 6. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it appears to this Society, that the Price  
 “ of Wheat has been progressively lower in *England*  
 “ these last 75 Years, since the Bounty upon Expor-  
 “ tation took Place.”

“ 7. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that a  
 “ Premium upon the Exportation of Corn, when it  
 “ falls so low, that the Farmers can scarcely live, con-  
 “ sidering the Rent Land generally now lets at,  
 “ would be so far from raising the Price to Manu-  
 “ facturers, that it would create Plenty, and conse-  
 “ quently Cheapness at Home.”

“ 8. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that when  
 “ Crops are light and bad, and have no great Pro-  
 “ duce, to prevent as far as may reasonably be, the  
 “ Importation of Foreign Corn, in Order that the  
 “ Price of Corn raised in this Kingdom might not be  
 “ reduced below what is consistent with the Rate of  
 “ Land, would be a great Encouragement to the  
 “ Farmer.”

“ 9. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that the  
 “ present Premiums established by the Act of the 6th  
 “ of *George* the III. which expires the 1st of *March*,  
 “ 1772, when Wheat shall not exceed the Price of  
 “ six Shillings *per* Hundred Weight, that is, 1 l. 10 s.  
 “ *per* Quarter; Barley, the Price of three Shillings and  
 “ nine Pence *per* Hundred Weight, that is, 15 Shil-  
 “ lings *per* Quarter; and Oats, the Price of three  
 “ shillings *per* Hundred Weight, that is, ten shillings  
 “ and

“ and six pence *per* Quarter, cannot operate with  
 “ Effect, from the Lowness of the Price of Corn, ca-  
 “ pable of receiving the Premium.”

“ 10. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that fix-  
 “ ing the Premiums to five shillings *per* Quarter,  
 “ upon Wheat, when the Price is forty shillings or *Limit*  
 “ under, *per* Quarter; upon Malt, Bere, or Barley,  
 “ to three shillings *per* Quarter, when the Price is  
 “ eighteen shillings or under, *per* Quarter; upon  
 “ Oats, to two shillings *per* Quarter, when the Price  
 “ is twelve shillings or under, *per* Quarter, would  
 “ Answer all the above good Purposes, be a great  
 “ Encouragement to Tillage, and of National Ser-  
 “ vice.”

“ 11. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that to  
 “ prohibit the Importation of Wheat till its Price  
 “ rises to fifty shillings or upwards, *per* Quarter; of  
 “ Malt, Bere, or Barley, till it rises to twenty-four  
 “ shillings or upwards, *per* Quarter; of Oats till it  
 “ rises to fourteen shillings or upwards, *per* Quarter,  
 “ (except all such Corn as shall be of the Growth of  
 “ *Great-Britain*, or any other of His Majesty's Do-  
 “ minions belonging to the Crown of *Great-Britain*)  
 “ would be a great Encouragement to the Farmer,  
 “ by preventing the Price of Corn from falling too  
 “ low, (when Crops were light and bad) a great En-  
 “ couragement to Tillage, and be of National Ser-  
 “ vice.”

“ 12. RESOLVED,  
 “ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that every  
 “ Quarter of Wheat and Rye, should contain forty  
 “ Stones; every Quarter of Bere or Barley thirty-two  
 “ Stones; every Quarter of Malt twenty-four Stones;  
 “ and

[ 8 ]

“ and every Quarter of Oats twenty-eight Stones;  
 “ and therefore the Society have formed the above  
 “ Resolutions upon that Computation.”

“ 13. RESOLVED,

“ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that it  
 “ would greatly promote Tillage to make it lawful,  
 “ when the Prices of the above different Kinds of  
 “ Corn do not exceed the Rates mentioned in the  
 “ 11th Resolution, for all Persons (not forestalling  
 “ nor selling the same in the same Market, within  
 “ three Months after buying) to buy in open Mar-  
 “ ket, lay up, and sell again, such Corn as shall have  
 “ been bought at or under the said Prices.”

“ 14. RESOLVED,

“ That it is the Opinion of this Society, that there  
 “ are many great Wastes and Numbers of Acres un-  
 “ inclosed and uncultivated in this Kingdom, capa-  
 “ ble of being improved and turned to Tillage with  
 “ proper Husbandry, and would most probably be  
 “ so, to the great Benefit and Advantage of the Coun-  
 “ try, if the same Encouragement was given in this  
 “ Nation, that is in others, by an Exemption from  
 “ certain Taxes for a limited Time.”

As this Honourable House has upon every occasi-  
 on shewn the greatest attention to promote this Na-  
 tional object, and has frequently delegated to your  
 Petitioners the Trust of carrying your good Intenti-  
 ons into execution, your Petitioners are thereby en-  
 couraged to lay their Sentiments on this subject be-  
 fore your Honours, having the firmest hope that you  
 will consider this their Proceeding in a favourable  
 light, as it arises entirely from the desire to contri-  
 bute

[ 9 ]

bute every thing in their power, to promote the wel-  
 fare and prosperity of this Kingdom.

Your Petitioners therefore beg leave humbly to  
 submit these their Resolutions to the Judg-  
 ment of this Honourable House, and pray  
 that you will be pleased to take the same into  
 your Consideration, and to do therein as to  
 your Wisdom shall seem meet.

*Grafton-Street, Dublin,*  
*2d November, 1771.*

ORDERED,

That the Assistant Secretary do affix the Corpora-  
 tion Seal of the Society to the said Petition, and that  
 he then deliver it into the Hands of our worthy Mem-  
 ber *St. John Jefferyes, Esq;* to be by him laid before  
 the Honourable *House of Commons.*

ORDERED,

That Mr. *Baker* be requested to communicate to  
 the Public his Thoughts upon the Subject of the  
 Resolutions of the Society contained in the said Pe-  
 tition.

CONSI-

---

---

# CONSIDERATIONS

UPON THE

## EXPORTATION OF CORN.

My LORDS and GENTLEMEN!

**I** CANNOT sufficiently express the satisfaction I feel, that my *humble* endeavours to lay before You, what I consider, as the most probable means, of affording *some* comfort and happiness to the lower people of this country, has engaged Your attention in so particular a manner, as to have determined You to lay Your resolutions before Parliament, respecting the exportation of corn:—Such resolutions, backed by the prayer of so respectable and zealous a body, cannot fail of obtaining a favourable reception from the Legislature.

At the same time that I rejoice at Your zealous adoption of the measure; Your final resolution, singling me out, of all other men, to lay before a scrutinizing publick, further thoughts upon so important a subject, and upon which our very existence almost depends; fills me with timid apprehensions, as to my handling a point, of so much delicacy and importance.—I can only thank You, Gentlemen, for the honor which such a distinction reflects upon me: It is Your province to call, mine to obey.—I shall shew my ambition to serve the cause You have at heart,

heart, and endeavour to acquit myself of this perilous task, by a candid, and concise investigation of the question.

It is with *pleasure* I discover, that gentlemen become every day more and more convinced, that agriculture is the pursuit, by which every other art, business, or profession, must stand or fall.—To every people, it is the *essence* of happiness, the *stamina* of wealth: But to *this country*, the *first*, and the *only* object, \* that can enable her to stand the necessary calls of government, in men and money, and the drains of absentees; because, *it leads to population, it leads to wealth.*

How most effectually to invigorate its motions, and to rescue it from languor, and an expiring state, seems to have been the object of Your institution—This leads me at once, Gentlemen, to pronounce, with all *deference* to a *discerning publick*, that one *grand* means to *effectually* aid the husbandry of *Ireland*, is to obtain a reasonable bounty upon the EXPORTATION OF CORN, that not being embarrassed with too *narrow a limitation* in point of price.

From the long *experience* of England, I shall shew that the exportation of corn has been, not only a great foundation of wealth to her, but that it has given vigour to cultivation, and has progressively lowered the price of corn.

In the reign of *Henry* the IVth of France, and his most able minister, the Duke of *Sully*, agriculture flourished in that kingdom, because every means that could be thought of, were employed to encourage it; and at that period, England and France were competitors,

\* In this idea, I hope I may with safety assert the linen manufacture, to be at least an appendage to, if not a branch of agriculture.

petitors, in this most valuable pursuit—but so feeble were the English, that they were under the necessity of receiving much corn from France; and therefore, they frequently found corn rising in their markets to a most extravagant price, at the discretion of France; and that from the plainest reasons; the French had a free exportation, and agriculture flourished under the influence of the king and his minister. The English farmers market was uncertain, cultivation imperfect, and therefore the production of grain insufficient for the consumption of the nation: under all these difficulties, the British farmer found himself frequently undersold in his own country by the French, whose agriculture was in a more vigorous state.—And perhaps, in no period of time, did the sagacity of that nation appear in a stronger light, or at least more *effectual*, than in the period now before us.—We see, that at discretion, they raised the price, and lowered it; so that when the English farmer, from the high price, was invited to extend his cultivation, the French lowered the price, by which the farmer became discouraged, and lessened his culture; then the French raised the price, and by this government of the English market, would certainly have ruined the British husbandry, had not some happy changes occurred—Such as the succession of *Lewis* the XIVth and his minister *Colbert*, whose frenzy for manufactures, almost obliterated the remembrance of agriculture in that kingdom.\* Add to this event, the interposition of the *British* parliament, who, in the year 1663, laid a *duty* upon the importation of foreign corn, which had so good an effect, as to induce them to lay on two more additional duties, until corn should rise to a certain price;—thus securing a reasonable price to the British farmer.—Does not this

\* See my *Practical Agriculture Epitomized*, where that event is further explained, than I have room to do it here.

this reflect a lustre, upon the wisdom of that period? —The measure had so good an effect, that the farmers of England were encouraged to enter with more spirit into cultivation, and in 25 years operated powerfully, not only upon the husbandry of England, but reduced the price of wheat, upon the average for 25 years, 10s. 4½d. a quarter, as will appear by the following little table.

	l.	s.	d.
From 1638 to 1662, being 25 years before the <i>duty</i> , the average price was	2	15	8
From 1663 * to 1687, being 25 years immediately following the <i>duty</i> , the average price was	2	5	3½
General effect of the duty upon foreign corn	£	0	10 4½

Here we take only the average, for 25 years immediately preceding the duty, and for the 25 years immediately following.—But I find in the table of *William Fleetwood*, Bishop of Ely, that in the year 1648, wheat was so high at Windsor, as 4l. 5s. † the quarter,

\* The year the duty commenced.

† This very high price in 1648, may in part perhaps, be attributed to the civil wars which began in 1641, and finished with Charles the 1st. in this very year of extreme dearth (1648)—Cromwell saw the importance of agriculture and encouraged it; and Walter Blythe in 1652 dedicated his work on husbandry to him.—But the reader will recollect, that the progressive rise from 1654 for the eight following years, until in 1662, it came to 3l. 14s. cannot be attributed to the same cause, as in the years 1648 and 49.—But to state these circumstances candidly to the reader, I shall in this note state the prices of a few years about that time, with the remarkable events.

quarter, in 1649, 4l. and in the year 1654, so low as 1l. 6s. after which, the price progressively rose again for eight years, until it came to 3l. 14s. per quarter.

By being thus able to lay before the reader, the prices of these years, we see most clearly, what induced the British parliament in 1663 (the year immediately following the progressive advance for eight years as just now mentioned) to lay on the duty upon foreign corn, *viz.* that the French, and perhaps other nations, were the regulators of the price of corn in England; and is a strong confirmation of the reasoning in the 13th page.

These extremes of price in such short periods, *viz.* in *six* years, from 4l. 5s. to 1l. 6s. and from 1l. 6s. to 3l. 14s. in *eight* years, also shew, in my mind, beyond all contradiction, the *unhappiness* it is to a nation, not to have some *regular*, or at least an *extensive* market for her corn; and I beg the reader may carry this

	l.	s.	d.	
1647	—	3	13	8
1648	—	4	5	0
1649	—	4	0	0
1650	—	3	16	8
1651	—	3	13	4
1665	—	2	9	4
1666	—	1	16	0

} 1648 Charles 1st. Beheaded.

} — Plague in England.

} — Fire of London,

And notwithstanding these two melancholy events, added to the idleness and dissipation which example invited in Charles the 1st's time, yet I find from 1662 exclusive, for *eleven* years following the average price to have been only 2l. 3s. 1½d. per quarter.—A period, after the commencement of the duty, as the table exhibits, and when agriculture became depressed in France, to give way for manufactures and conquest, which appears to have been the darling objects of *Lewis* the XIVth, otherwise, the plague, the fire of London, and luxury of that period, could not have afforded corn at an average for eleven years at 43s. a quarter.—Thus, things conspired to reduce the price, even in the midst of national misfortunes.



this upon his mind, as I shall have occasion to take notice of it hereafter, when I come to touch upon the unhappy state of tillage in this kingdom.

This measure of the British parliament, having had such happy effects in reducing the price to a reasonable average, and manifestly *increasing* the quantity of British corn, clearly demonstrated, that if agriculture was encouraged, the English farmers would be able to export large quantities of corn to other nations, and thereby, bring great wealth into the kingdom.

And it now became the more necessary to strike out some method which could contribute to such a desirable object, otherwise, cultivation could extend no farther, than to produce a certain quantity, for the internal consumption of the kingdom; in doing which, the British farmers would become *competitors amongst themselves*, the *weakest must give way*, and tillage must again *diminish*, if the price was suffered to sink too low; the representatives of the people seeing most clearly, that it was not an extravagant price which gave lively motion to the plough, but a quick, and ready demand; and therefore, in the year 1688, they formed the annexed law, \* to encourage the exportation of corn, with a liberality of spirit, and a clearness of judgment, which, in my mind, marks *that* as the period of *wisdom and patriotism*.

This

\* I am induced to insert the British law upon this subject, because it is clear, and because the wisdom of it is striking, from the number of objects it contributes to the aid of, and because I suppose few in Ireland have it.

A. D. 1688. Anno primo. Gulielmi & Mariae.

Forasmuch as it hath been found by *experience*, that the exportation of corn and grain into foreign parts, when the price thereof is at a low rate in this kingdom, *bath been a great advantage*, not only to the *owners of land*, but to the *trade of this kingdom in general*.

Be

This measure has now subsisted 83 years.—At this day, and for some time past, a few writers have stepped forth, and arraigned the measure, in a manner,

Be it therefore enacted by the king's and queen's most excellent majesties, and by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and of the commons, now assembled in parliament, and by the authority of the same,—That when malt or barley, Winchester measure, is, or shall be at 24 s. *per* quarter or under, rye at 32 s. *per* quarter or under, and wheat at 48 s. or under, in any port or ports of this kingdom, or dominion of Wales, every merchant or other person, who shall put on ship-board, in *English shipping*, the master and two thirds of his mariners at least being their majesties subjects, any sorts of the corn aforesaid, from any such ports, where the rates shall not then be higher than as aforesaid, with intent to export the said corn to parts beyond the seas: Every such merchant or other person shall bring a certificate in writing, under his or their hands, containing the quantity and quality of corn so shipped, to the farmers, commissioners, collectors, or other persons appointed, or to be appointed for the time being, to collect the duties and rates arising by customs within any such port, and upon proof made of any such certificate by one or more credible person or persons upon their oaths, which oaths the said commissioners or other persons are hereby authorized and required to administer, and upon bond given by every such merchant, or other person, in the sum of 200 l. at the least for every 100 tons of corn so shipped, and so proportionably, that the said corn (danger of the seas excepted) shall be exported into parts beyond the seas, and not be again landed in the kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, or town of Berwick upon Tweed.—Every such merchant so shipping off any of the aforesaid corn, and giving certificate and bond as aforesaid, shall have and receive from such farmers, commissioners, collectors, or other persons, in any port respectively, where the same corn shall be so shipped, for every quarter of barley or malt, ground or unground, 2s. 6d. for every quarter of rye, ground or unground, 3 s. 6d. for every quarter of wheat, ground or unground, 5 s. Which sum or sums, every such commissioner, farmer or other person, are hereby authorized and required, upon demand by such exporter, to make present payment of accordingly, *without taking or requiring any thing for custom, or any fee or reward for corn so laden to be exported*, or for so much grain as shall be exported in any ship wherein any other goods shall be shipped.—Any law, statute, or usage in

B any

ner, by which I conceive, they have not thoroughly considered the subject; and as their sheet-anchor, urge, "that England feeds foreigners cheaper than her own people, to run away with her trade."

These

any wise to the contrary notwithstanding. And upon certificate returned under the common seal of the chief magistrate in any place or places beyond the seas, or under the hands and seals of two known English merchants upon the place, that such corn was there landed, or upon proof by credible persons, was taken by enemies, or perished in the seas, the examination and proof thereof being left to the judgment of such commissioners, farmers, collectors or other persons, which proof being made, or certificate delivered, to such person or persons respectively, as took bond, as aforesaid, the said bond shall be delivered up to such exporter or his order, to be cancelled, without any fee for the same, and the monies by any such commissioners, farmers, collectors or other person so paid, in obedience to this act, shall be accepted of in his or their accounts, as so much paid to their majesties, and he and they shall be discharged therefore accordingly.

A. D. 1729. Anno secundo Georgii 2d. Regis. Ch. 18.

And for the better ascertaining the quantity of corn or grain to be shipped for exportation, which by an act passed in the first year of William and Mary, entitled an act for encouraging the exportation of corn, is no otherwise ascertained, than by the certificate of the exporter attested upon oath, be it enacted, that the proper officers of the customs shall be empowered to admeasure all corn and grain; whereon there is an allowance, payable for the exportation thereof; and for greater expedition therein, such admeasurement shall and may be by a tub or measure containing four Winchester bushels, and if such corn or grain intended to be exported, shall be brought to be shipped off in sacks, that then and in such case the said officers are hereby empowered and required to make *choice* of two of those sacks, out of any number not exceeding 20, and so in proportion for any greater quantity, before the same shall be shipped for exportation; and thereby compute the quantity of corn so intended to be shipped for exportation, and according to such computation, the allowance or bounty money shall be paid to the exporter for the whole quantity proportionably, upon his producing a certificate from the proper officer or officers of the customs, attesting the quantity and quality of the corn or grain so shipped for exportation.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

These arguments enflame the vulgar, and strike the imagination of Gentlemen who have not taken the trouble to examine the facts, which the subject most fortunately affords, in support of *this*, the happiest measure that England ever adopted, to improve her COMMERCE, POPULATION, HUSBANDRY, MANUFACTURES and WEALTH: A few of these facts I shall lay before the reader.

EIGHTY THREE YEARS *experience*, it might be imagined, would be a sufficient lesson to invalidate all that has been, or can be urged against the measure.—We have seen by the very preamble of the British act, that it was framed from the *wisest* reasons: viz. "It hath been found by *Ex-*  
*perience*,

that the like powers, certificates and regulations, and other matters and things above mentioned, shall be extended to the ascertaining the prices and quantity of bere alias big, oatmeal and malt made of wheat, or wheat malt, intended for exportation—provided nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall extend to alter the present practice, with respect to the manner of shipping corn from the port of London, but that the same may be measured by seven meters appointed for that purpose, by whose certificate the searchers, or other proper officers of his majesties customs, are hereby empowered and required to certify the quantity of corn shipped for exportation, on a certificate of such meters, as hath been constantly practiced, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Previous to this last clause, it is "enacted that the magistrates in each county shall at their Michaelmas sessions, settle the common market prices of *middling British corn* and grain of the respective sorts in the said acts mentioned."

"And the officers of the customs, and all other persons concerned, are to govern themselves according to the prices of corn or grain contained in the certificates of such magistrates.

5th George 2d Ch. 12. The same regulation is pursued, with this addition in the 2d sect.—"That the prices so ascertained, shall be hung up in some publick place in the custom-house belonging to every such port or haven, to be resorted to by all persons for their information."

“ *perience*, that the exportation of Corn, \* when the price is low, † hath been a *great advantage*, not only to the *Owners of Land*, but to the *Trade of this Kingdom in general*.” That *experience* taught them the wisdom of giving so large a bounty, and of limiting the price so high as 48s. in order to increase the demand, and thereby invigorate their husbandry, lower the price, by increasing the quantity, and enrich the nation: these consequences are to be proved I think, beyond all possibility of contradiction,

“ The following table, shewing the mean price of wheat at *Windsor* market at several periods, for “ 169 years” § exhibits the variation in price *before* and *since* the bounty.

\* This proves, that the duty laid upon the importation of foreign corn, for the space of 25 years preceeding this act, had enabled the English to export corn, and that they *felt* the advantage of it, as the preamble expresses.

† From these words, it is plain that they considered 48s. a quarter low, and indeed they had much reason, when we consider the enormous prices already stated, as in pages 14 and 15.

§ Farmers Letters.

From

From	Inclusive	Years.	Average.
1594	1612	19	2 2
1613	1637	25 do.	2 7
1638	1662	25 do.	2 15
1663	1687	25 do.	2 5
† 1688	1712	25 do.	2 8
1713	1737	25 do.	2 0
1738	1762	25 do.	1 18
169 years			2 8
§ 169 years.			5 ¼

“ By this table, it is evident that wheat has been progressively cheaper the last 75 years *since* the bounty commenced, than it was for 94 years *before*.”

\* The year the duty on foreign corn commenced.

† The year the bounty on *exportation* commenced.

§ I might here give the annual prices from 1551, to 1762, but brevity is necessary; and the averages *before* so far back as 1594, and since the bounty, gives sufficient information.

“ It

“ It is further observable,” by looking at the table “ that for the first 69 years, the price of wheat “ was continually rising” even so much, as to exceed the first 19 years 13s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a quarter, upon the average, for the 25 years from 1638 to 1662, which were the last 25 years *before* the *duty* on foreign corn took place.

I have already shewn, that the 25 years *preceding* the bounty, were so materially affected by the *duty*, as to have reduced the price 10s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a quarter as appears in this, and the former table.—That the average price should rise from that time for 25 years after the *bounty* commenced is not to be wondered at; the wonder would have been, had it fallen in so short a period, whilst we keep in sight how high the limitation upon the exportation was stated (48s) and that the cultivation of the kingdom was but in an indifferent state.—And indeed the average price which appears in the table for that 25 years being so high as 48s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. shews most clearly, that but little corn was exported for that time, because it exceeds the limitation, and therefore could not be exported so as to claim the bounty, except in particular years during that period.

But now the British farmer became unshackled, *foreign* corn could not come in upon him, and *his* corn was entitled to a bounty upon exportation, at a liberal price; thus circumstanced, he approached the field with joy, cultivation flourished, altogether combining to bring about a great and permanent change in the affairs of England.—Let the reader with admiration look at the table, let him look with gladness, and see how prodigiously the price sunk! From 2l. 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2l. 0s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and for the last 25 years average to 1l. 18s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ .—Let him compare

pare this change, with the preceding periods before the bounty, let him compare before the duty!

What is it we are to expect will convince mankind of the utility of this measure, if such facts as these have no influence upon them. Only look at the average from 1638 to 1662, the last 25 years *before the duty*, and for the last 25 years *since the bounty*; and we find the price reduced 17s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter!—After this, will it not be with astonishment that we hear any man reproach this wise law? But further, let any one calculate the difference this change has made in the price of bread to the people of England, for the 25 years, from 1738 to 1762, when compared with the price of corn just 100 years before; *i. e.* for the same time, 25 years, from 1638 to 1662; and he will find it amount to 126,283,355 l. 17s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. \* Reader! is it not with astonishment that you see this?—Let any casuist against this measure, lop off from this calculation, until he is tired, and then there will be enough left to strike him dumb.—Since it is manifest, that by feeding foreigners, the farmers of England have been enabled to feed the whole body of the people above an HUNDRED MILLIONS cheaper in 25 years, than they were fed before, even upon the *price* of corn, independent of the difference to the nation, be-

\* In this calculation, I estimate the people of England at only eight millions, during the period for which this calculation is made, though I have strong reason to believe them ten millions. And in the calculation, I suppose each person, one with another, to consume one pound of *corn* a day, which I believe will not be thought too small an allowance, when it shall be considered that I make no charge for the consumption of wheat in making *starch*, and in *distillation*; the latter of which was very considerable during that period; *i. e.* from 1738 to 1762. The bushel I have valued at 63 pounds, and the quarter at eight bushels, at the difference in price upon the average for that 25 years, as appears in the table, to be 17s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter.

tween using *foreign* corn, and that of her *own growth*; such an estimate would immensely swell the account. The calculation I have made, is framed upon the fairest principle, *viz.* that *all the people of England eat bread*—I hope the mother country will admit our poor to do the same, by indulging us with the same means of obtaining it.

The registers of the corn exported, were laid before the British parliament in 1765, but went no farther back than 1697. I shall state the totals.

From

Years.	Exported	Quarters. Bush.	Value.
			l. s. d.
From 1697 to 1706	9	1,668,904	1,874,994 10 6
1706 — 1726	20	8,134,196	8,429,704 14 —
1726 — 1746	20*	9,488,703	10,080,224 7 3
1746 — 1765	19	13,852,176	15,872,502 16 9
—	—	—	—
68 years.	68	33,143,980	36,257,426 8 6

To this we must add the freight of the corn, which has been carried in *British ships*, and those ships manned with *British Subjects*, and is said to amount to

— — — — — 3,000,000 — —  
 £ 39,257,426 8 6

\* During this period, I shall just remind the reader, that we had the hard frost of 1739-40, in the memory of us all, and which destroyed most of the wheat in Europe then in the ground.—And yet, will it not be with astonishment that we find in the following year, wheat rose only to 2 l. 10 s. 8 d. the quarter? Let any man compare this price with very many years before the duty and bounty, particularly 1648, when it was 4 l. 5 s. 1649, 4 l. I shall state an equal number of years in the two periods.

The average per annum, for the 68 years, amounts to 557,318 l. 1 s. 10½ d. This is surely a great acquisition to a nation, when we consider, that it is obtained without any *external* expence: But it is worthy of serious observation, the *progressive increase* of the trade, from the first *nine* years, so that the average of the last 19 years, exclusive of freight, amounts to 835,394 l. 17 s. 8 d. per annum.

Over and above this clear gain, of near forty millions sterling to the kingdom of England, let any man paint to himself, the many millions it has saved in the immediate price of bread, to the people of England, the *cultivation* it has produced, the *hands* it has *employed*, the *addition* it has made to *population*, and the *millions* it has *saved* to the nation, in *stopping the importation of corn*, &c. I have not a doubt but altogether, it has made a difference in the affairs of that kingdom, since its original commencement, of at least 500 millions sterling.—The present undertaking does not admit of such an attempt, otherwise I should be invited to aim at a calculation of this kind.

If

Years.	l.	s.	d.	Years.	l.	s.	d.
1647	3	13	8	1739	1	18	6
1648	4	5	0	1740	2	10	8
1649	4	0	0	1741	2	6	8
1650	3	16	8	1742	1	14	0
1651	3	13	4	1743	1	4	10

Let any man carry upon his mind the hard frost above mentioned, and then compare these two periods. I could state several similar ones—But this may suffice to shew, how powerfully the measure before us operated upon the husbandry of England.—Upon such an event, as almost the whole wheat crop of Europe being destroyed, might we not expect wheat as high as in 1648?—But still to strike the reader with admiration, only look at the table, where we see, notwithstanding this event, that England exported, in that period of twenty years, to the value of above ten millions sterling!

If this be the method to feed foreigners cheaper than British subjects, I can only wish, as an Englishman, that they may pursue the measure. But as a further confirmation of the great utility of this law, I shall trouble the reader with another little table.

In the year 1750, the exportation of corn ran higher than ever known before, and yet the price to the consumers in England was so low as 1 l. 12 s. 6 d. the quarter, as will appear by the following table.

Years.	Amount of Bounty.	Price of Wheat per Quarter.
1746	£ 99,355	£ 1 19 —
1748	202,637	1 17 —
1749	228,566	1 16 —
1750	325,405	1 12 6*

Here we see the price falls, in proportion as the exportation increases.—If we look at the total amount of the bounty for 1750, recollecting that 5 s. a quarter is the bounty, will it not be astonishing to see it amount to 1,301,620 quarters, and the mean price of wheat only 1 l. 12 s. 6 d. a quarter?—If the farmers of England could not have sold this corn, what must have been the consequence?—Clearly, that the price would have been much lower, and little or none would have been sown.—Famine would have been the consequence in a few years, or the ports all opened for the *importation of foreign corn*.—This is the true picture of Ireland.

\* Farmer's Letters to the people of England.—These are the letters of the ingenious Mr. Young, which I recommend to the perusal of every gentleman who is inclined to make himself master of the subject before us.

Those

Those who urge, that England feeds foreigners cheaper than her own people, appear to me to take but a slight view of the question.—In a subject of this kind, and indeed in almost all *national* ones relating to commerce, the nation *exporting a commodity*, and the nation *receiving* it, should be looked upon as *two individual* merchants.

*This distinction* being retained upon the mind of the reader, it is surely clear, that since England granted (*to her own subjects*) the bounty upon the exportation of corn, she has for 75 years fed her manufacturers, and the rest of her people, *with corn of her own growth*, and that considerably cheaper (even in the price paid by the consumers) than she did for 94 years before. \* And although one son of *Britania* pays a *nominal* price for bread-corn to another, yet the *nation feels no expence* from that; and therefore, it may be truly said, she has fed them with bread for *nothing*; whereas, had she continued to *import corn*, her expence would have been such, as to have sunk her into that languor and poverty which this kingdom feels, from that dreadful necessity of importing bread-corn, to the destruction of our tillage, and misery of the lower order of our people.—I shall elucidate the preceding idea, by stating two small accounts, as for two merchants; and those merchants shall be *England* and *France*.

England manufactures a piece of cloth	l.	s.	d.
from her <i>own</i> materials, cost	—	0	0
Whilst manufacturing, the people consume, suppose one quarter of corn, of her <i>own growth</i> , cost	—	—	0
			0
			0

\* See the Table, p. 14, and the calculation, p. 23.

England

			l.	s.	d.
England sells this piece of cloth to a foreign nation for	—	—	10	0	0

Will any man deny the purchase money being a clear gain to England?

France manufactures a piece of the like cloth, in every respect as good, from her own materials, cost	—	—	0	0	0
Whilst manufacturing, the people consume the same quantity of corn as the English manufacturers, which corn has been furnished by England, and cost			* 2	2	0

\* 2 2 0

2 2 0

France sells the piece of cloth to another nation for	—	—	10	0	0
Deduct for the first cost	—	—	2	2	0

Profit on the French account	—	—	7	18	0
------------------------------	---	---	---	----	---

England sold her piece of cloth, which cost her nothing, for	—	—	10	0	0
France, by sale of her piece of cloth, gained in profit	—	—	7	18	0

Superior profit to England	—	—	2	2	0
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

To this difference, upon the object of commerce, between these two contending merchants, clearly might be added, the price of the corn sold, to feed the French manufacturer.

\* I mention 2l. 2s. because it has been the *average* price for 75 years since the bounty. See the table, p. 21.

But

But now let us turn the tables, and look how the account stood with England, before this powerful measure took place.—And I will not take the highest price, but the average of the five years stated in the note, p. 15; *i. e.* from 1647 to 1651, both inclusive, when England imported immense quantities of corn, as I have already shewn. 3 l. 17 s. 8½ d. was the average of that five years.

	l.	s.	d.
England, at that period, manufactured a piece of cloth, from her own materials, cost	0	0	0
Whilst manufacturing, the people consumed a quarter of corn, which corn was purchased of France suppose, or any other nation, and <i>clearly cost</i>	3	17	8½
	3	17	8½
England sold this piece of cloth to another nation for	10	0	0
Deduct for the first cost	3	17	8½
Profit of English manufactures at that period	6	2	3¼

Now let us compare the two periods.

England now sells the piece of cloth for clear	10	0	0
In the former period she made a profit of only	6	2	3¼
Profit on manufactures <i>superior</i> now, over the former period, by	3	17	8½
Carried over	3	17	8½

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	3	17	8½
To shew the clear difference, we must add the present gain to the former loss, viz.	10	0	0
To this we must also add the sale of corn at this time	2	2	0
	15	19	8½
Now I shall deduct out of the profits of the present period, the profit of the former period	6	2	3¼
Present period superior to the former by	9	17	5½

Thus we see the wonderful change, which the bounty upon the exportation of corn has wrought upon the manufactures of England. \* And, upon this examination of the question, is it not clear, that the nation supplying another with bread, will ever have an *immense* advantage?—And that the assertion, that “England supplies foreigners cheaper than her own people,” is founded upon false imaginations?

The people of every nation *must* eat; and if you will not supply them for their money, they will supply themselves from their own land, or from some other wiser nation. Hence I conclude this assertion, as to Great-Britain supplying foreigners with bread, to run away with her trade, to be the flimsy senti-

\* The candid reader will not imagine that I offer these little accounts as being exact, with respect to the consumption of corn, to the given value of any manufacture.—In these kind of enquiries, the writer must be indulged with a latitude to illustrate his subject, as poets are, to gratify their ingenuity, and embellish their fancy.



ment of idle manufacturers, who do not see beyond the diameter of their looms, and who, I suppose, are totally incapable of distinguishing any difference to the nation, whether they sell their fabricks to a Turk or an Englishman.

From what has been offered in this short investigation of the subject before us, I hope the following conclusions are natural and undeniable.

I. That, from the wisdom of the English law, to encourage the exportation of corn, the *importation* of that necessary commodity, from having been immense, *before* the bounty, is now, in a manner, *unknown* in England, to the *saving many millions sterling*.

II. That this measure, has *progressively*, for 75 years, since the bounty, *reduced* the price of corn to the consumers, *very considerably lower*, than it was for 94 years before.

III. That it has brought into the kingdom of England, near 40 millions sterling of *foreign bullion*; and at the same time, that it has added *strength to the British navy*, and *honour* to her arms in every part of the world; it has given an *increasing* profit to her manufactures.

IV. And, that this very law, has been the *whole foundation*, of the present *glory* and *perfection* of the *British husbandry*: That it has been the *sole cause*  
THAT THE PLOUGH TRIUMPHS!

From the *few* arguments which I have ventured to offer, in justification of the measure before us, and  
the

the conclusions drawn; I own, it is with the most *anxious feelings* that I wish *this country* in possession of a similar law.

From reasons of a political nature, she is deprived of the general advantages of commerce.—But AGRICULTURE is the *natural claim* of every country, the *birth-right* of every people; and therefore, it is to be presumed, that upon proper application, and candid representations of the miserable state of that most useful art amongst us, that the FATHER of his people will indulge this *kingdom* with his kind concurrence in an OPERATING bounty upon the exportation of corn; which, from our *insufficient* population, *immense* tracts of *bog and mountain*, and *incapacity* of our people, both in *money* and *judgment*, can never affect the British farmer:—so little could we ever hope to do, in the fullest tide of expectation, that Ireland must ever move in the *centre* of an *extensive circle*, whilst the British farmer would be *traversing the outlines*.

And when it shall be considered, that it is the *only means* that can lead our people to bend their attention to husbandry, in preference to unprofitable manufactures; the only means that can increase population, and check the extravagant emigrations to America, and enable the kingdom to furnish men to the British army and navy; and when we add, that the *happiness*, I may say, almost the *existence* of this people depends upon it, I cannot but believe the measure will meet with a kind reception in all its necessary passages.

If we look at what has been already said, respecting the *state* of husbandry in England, prior to the *duty* and *bounty*, and at the present *condition* of Ire-  
C land,

land, we shall see an *exact similarity*:—a strong indication, that a *sameness* of events must happen from similar causes. I shall attempt to illustrate this, by laying before the reader, the *importation* of corn for seven years, which happens to afford some striking facts, demonstrative of the *misery* of the kingdom, independent of the melancholy truth it exhibits, of the vast importation, *in the gross*.

In this table, for the clearer information of the reader, I shall reduce the oat-meal and wheat-meal to quarters, as if they were in corn, and the flour to tons.

IMPORTATION

IMPORTATION OF CORN INTO IRELAND, for Seven Years past, ending the 25th of March, 1771.

Years.	Barley and Beans and Pease.		Oats.	Oatmeal.	Wheat.		Wheat Meal.		Flour.	
	Malt.	Quarters.			Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Tons.	Cwt.	Qr.
1765	48854	868	-	-	10529 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	3370	9	3	21
1766	40356 $\frac{1}{2}$	579 $\frac{1}{2}$	744	260	14130 $\frac{1}{2}$	208 $\frac{3}{4}$	4058	11	1	14
1767	30681 $\frac{3}{8}$	689	2854 $\frac{3}{8}$	370 $\frac{1}{2}$	39456 $\frac{5}{8}$	4029 $\frac{3}{4}$	2808	2	0	0
1768	5684	389 $\frac{1}{16}$	950 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1802 $\frac{1}{2}$	2675 $\frac{7}{8}$	1130	0	2	14
1769	4759	453 $\frac{9}{16}$	115	-	2199 $\frac{1}{2}$	511 $\frac{1}{2}$	775	14	2	14
1770	35514 $\frac{1}{8}$	752 $\frac{3}{4}$	44	52	43532 $\frac{7}{8}$	927	4338	16	1	21
1771	55620	2356 $\frac{3}{8}$	1820	731 $\frac{1}{2}$	53448 $\frac{7}{8}$	1843	6266	1	3	7
7	221469 $\frac{1}{4}$	6088 $\frac{1}{2}$	6527 $\frac{7}{8}$	7995 $\frac{3}{8}$	175102 $\frac{1}{2}$	10220 $\frac{1}{2}$	22757	16	3	7

C 2

This

This table of the *importation* into Ireland, exhibits, upon the *general view*, a melancholy confirmation of the miserable state of our husbandry;—but, when we enter more minutely into the enquiry, we shall see it in a much stronger light.

Let the reader cast his eye upon the columns *oats* and *oatmeal*, the importation of which are but small.—Why is it small?—Because more oats are grown in Ireland, than any other grain.—Every man who knows any thing of practical husbandry, knows, that where *oats* are the principal object of cultivation, that it not only indicates a *miserable culture*, but is a certain test of *poverty* in the people.

Look at the columns *barley*, *wheat*, *wheat meal*, and *flour*, and we see how *immensely they rise in importation*.—This importation of bread and malting corn, may, perhaps, by some, be attributed to our want of land \* for the production of such grain, and to our want of skill † in cultivation, because both barley and wheat require a more spirited preparation of the land than oats.—But happily, the table before us proves the contrary in both cases; for, if the reader looks at the table of imports, from 1765 to 1769, both inclusive, he will see the importation progressively *lessening*, and that prodigiously in the column *barley and malt*; in the column *wheat*, indeed, it is not so regular; but only observe, that the year 1769

\* I do admit, that we have immense tracts of bog and mountain, which mightily reduces the computed land of the kingdom; but we have found land enough to produce more corn than we can consume; and by a proper and judicious cultivation of it, might maintain and fatten more sheep and cattle than we do at present.

† That we want skill is most certain; but yet, we do produce both wheat and malting corn, though perhaps not *half* the quantity we might produce upon any given quantity of ground, were our people better instructed, and furnished with a market.

is remarkably small in every column.—Thus it is clear, that from Lady-day, 1768, to Lady-day, 1769, the farmers of Ireland supplied the kingdom with bread and malting corn, save the trifle that was imported, to the value only, of about 20,000l. sterling.

This corresponds with the effect in England, before the *duty* on *imported* corn, and the *bounty* on *exported* corn \*, and shews, beyond dispute, that Ireland became more and more capable of furnishing her own people with bread and malting corn, during that five years; otherwise, foreign corn would have found its way into her ports:—But why it did not, is from the plainest reason in the world—the price was low; and it will ever be found an unalterable rule in every part of the world, that where corn is cheap, little will be imported; but in proportion as the *price rises*, so will the *importation increase*: This we have *experienced* in the two past years, as appears by the table, to the draining *two thirds* of our circulating cash; and thereby, most clearly accounting for the distresses we have been under, the many bankruptcies amongst us, the high exchange, and loss of all *internal* credit and confidence among ourselves.—See the consequence! see how the farmer is affected by these wants.—And let the commercial world look with reverence and esteem upon the ploughman; and let them see how much he has them *all* in his power, how much they *all depend* upon him.

In 1768 † bread and malting corn fell so low, that the landholders most clearly saw they could not live, if they pursued the plough; and as clearly shews the

\* See page 15.—Where it appears, that in 1654, wheat was 11. 6s. the quarter, and then rose again for eight years, till it came to 3l. 14s.

† From Lady-day, 1768, to Lady-day, 1769.

poverty of this country, for the farmers could not afford to keep their corn for a better day, and pursue their cultivation; and therefore they *stopped short* for want of a more extensive demand, than our internal consumption affords.—Very little corn was imported, because the price was low.—Here we *see*, we *feel* the wisdom of other nations; they left us to eat our bread of idleness, our bread of poverty; *that was soon exhausted*, and then they poured in upon us the produce of their labour; and with our very vitals, we were under the necessity to pay *their industry*, or starve for want of food. For, from March, 1769, to March, 1771, we see the *importation* has been very high, and bread and malting corn extremely dear. This has set the plough to work again, and *now* wheat is too low for the farmer to live by its cultivation.

Thus we are *glutted* at one time, and *starved* at another, *because we have no regular market for our corn*; thus with our husbandry, we are in the same situation, as with our *inexportable* manufactures; the farmer is in a state of *uncertainty*, and therefore must ever be in *distress* and *poverty*.—Hence I think we may fairly deduce the following maxim, viz.

That the *internal* consumption of *any commodity*, can never give vigour to its production, in *any country*.

For we have seen most clearly, from the progress of England, in her cultivation, that it is not the extravagant price of grain that gives lively motion to the plough, but the *regular* and *increasing* demand which the bounty on exportation has furnished.—Cut off that consumption, and in half a century, her husbandry will fall back into that original insufficiency of

of its produce, which she *experienced before the duty and bounty*; so that the effect is similar in both cases.

Let the Gentlemen of Ireland look at the table of our importation; let the British Ministry look at the immensity of it for the two past years, and consider whether this country can possibly stand such periodical and enormous drains, and at the same time contribute her share, in support of the dignity and independence of the British Empire.—But give us a *liberal* bounty upon the exportation of corn, without embarrassment *by too narrow a limitation* in point of price; and bold as the sentiment may appear, in 20 years, I should fear no tax that Government would *ever think* of laying upon the people.—The kingdom would soon carry a new face, the plough would move in every quarter, the people in joy would run to the field, and riches would every day flow upon us.

If it shall be urged, that such a vigorous cultivation as I look at, would lessen our stock of cattle, I have only room here to insist on the contrary; a judicious and spirited cultivation would increase their number.—The present idea is, that the *land* is to maintain the cattle; but I assert, and find from *experience*, that the cattle should *maintain the land*, and thereby produce the corn besides, that being made in its culture, subservient to maintaining the stock.

Local encouragements, to supply certain markets with corn, can never be effectually advantageous to the kingdom; it furnishes plenty to one part, and *starves* another part.—There have been, I am told, repeated instances of bread in *loaves*, being carried from Dublin to the Province of Connaught.—In my memory, oatmeal has been 28s. an hundred forty and fifty miles from the capital, when in that capital only 14s.—Why this partiality?—Why should one part

part of the people be languishing in hunger, whilst another are fed?—I cannot trace the prudence or justice of such measures.—Besides, we seem to have lost all sight of the *nation* in these pursuits.—No man will tell me that the nation gains any thing by forcing an *internal* market; it is only changing the cash from the *right hand to the left*, since it makes no difference to the nation with whom the money is.—But sell 1000 barrels of corn to a Frenchman or a Dutchman, and the price paid by either is a *clear profit* of so much to the kingdom; and that gain will circulate amongst the people, to the assistance and encouragement of every pursuit.

Is it not a reproach to this country, that we receive great quantities of wheat and flour from America? where the price of labour is *six times* what we pay, with the additional burthen of freight for 3000 miles:—Their land, indeed, is much cheaper than ours; but under a spirited cultivation, and *ready market*, I should disregard rent; labour is the heavy weight; but under a languid cultivation, and uncertain market, rent *devours* the farmer—the true state of the landholders in Ireland.

The only effectual means of obtaining a ready and certain market, clearly presents itself in the experience of England—Open all our ports for the exportation of corn; give a *liberal bounty* to invite the *merchant*, and limit a *liberal price* to animate the farmer; and in seven years, every man in Ireland will eat bread, instead of living upon potatoes and salt.

This limitation of price leads me to a very important point in the present subject.—When I look at the limitation of price, capable of receiving the bounty in England, I cannot but admire the wisdom of the period 1688. For a British Parliament 83 years ago,

ago, when money was infinitely more valuable than it is now, to allow the bounty upon wheat at 48s. a quarter, and other corn in proportion, strikes me with admiration and pleasure; it is plain they saw the *importance* of agriculture, they had *experienced* the neglect of it.

From this, the British limitation, I shall endeavour to shew, at what our limitation ought to be stated. The exporting merchant at the port of London, expects the bushel of wheat which he purchases to weigh 63 pounds—Eight of these bushels make the English quarter, consequently the London quarter weighs only 36 stone: This is not established by any law that I know of, but I believe is the custom of the port.—Now, by our law, we are obliged to give 40 stone to the quarter:—This makes a difference against the *Irish* farmer, of four stone in each quarter; and I am informed, that the English quarter of barley weighs but 28 stone, whereas, by law, the Irish quarter must weigh 32 stone.—I shall not swell these papers, by entering into a particular enquiry as to this difference, except for the wheat; whatever our limitation of the quarter of that may be, should we be so happy as to obtain this law, will determine all the rest.

Five British shillings we see are given in bounty upon the exportation of 36 stone of wheat, and the limitation upon that 36 stone is 48s. British.—I shall state this for the Irish quarter.

36 stone

[ 42 ]

	l.	s.	d.
36 stone of Irish wheat exported, at 48s. limitation	—	—	—
Stones 40, or the Irish quarter.	4	—	—
By the difference in our currency and the British, upon their limitation of 48s. upon 36 stone	—	—	—
	2	8	0
	0	4	9½
	0	4	0
	2	16	9½

Thus we see, that to place the limitation of the price upon the exportation of Irish wheat, upon a par with the English, that our limitation should extend to 2l. 16s. 9½d. *our* currency, and for *our* quarter.

I shall now shew what should be our *bounty*, upon the same principles.

	l.	s.	d.
36 stone of Irish wheat exported, and entitled to an equal bounty with England	—	—	—
4 stone of Irish wheat, to make up our quarter at the same proportionable bounty, amounts to about	—	—	—
	0	5	5
	0	0	6
	0	5	11

Thus we see, that to bring a *bounty* upon the exportation of Irish corn upon a par with the exportation of English corn, that our bounty should be 5s. 11d. currency, for the Irish quarter of 40 stone.

From these two tables of examination, I can discover not even any *prudential* reasons, why the limitation for exporting Irish corn should be less in proportion

[ 43 ]

portion than the English; our quarter is clearly more, and therefore the limitation should be extended with as much reason, as if our quarter was *double* the English.—Upon these principles, our limitation should extend to 2l. 12s. 9½d. and the difference of the money most clearly raises it to 2l. 16s. 9½d.

You have, Gentlemen, in your 10th resolution, proposed a much smaller limitation; and I took the liberty to express my wishes for its being higher when the subject was before you; in part, from the preceding reasons, and because I do believe, should the law take place, that our husbandry will be very little mended by that limitation.—*Forty stone* of wheat, for forty shillings, is not a *living*, but a *starving* price to the farmer.—When I say this, I mean the kingdom at large, which I am convinced does not produce two and a half of *our* quarters per acre, upon the general average; of which, I think I have as good a right to form a tolerable judgment, as any man, because I have opportunities of conversing, perhaps, with more *observing* men in every province upon this subject, than many others in the kingdom:—And upon the fairest calculation, I find the farmers expence in his present culture of wheat to be 5l. 7s. per acre\*, independent of harvesting, threshing, and carrying to market.—How then can it be imagined, that so low a limitation as 40s. can operate so as to produce a general and spirited cultivation?—Let any gentleman consider the laborious year of preparation for, and the tedious year of the growth of wheat; that two years rent is to be paid, and all the labour, before this forty stone can be obtained, and the many times it must pass through the hand, before this poor 40s. can be received for *that*, which will give a dinner to 560 men!

\* See my Experiments for the year 1765, page 55; and the reader will please to observe, that I mean the plantation acre.

—I shall

—I shall admit, that this limitation may have effects in particular places, where land happens to be kind and prolific ; but the kingdom at large I fear, will scarcely feel the effect.

Although I think I have clearly shewn, that to bring our limitation upon a par with England, that it should extend to 56 s. 9½ d. yet I do not expect that ; but surely 52 shillings seems to be reasonable, and then leaves 4 s. 9½ d. short of the English farmer.

Perhaps it may be objected, that so high a limitation would lie heavy upon the treasury ; but then, would not the nation thereby be enabled to support the treasury ? Should we not be doing it at the expence of *other nations*, who should purchase our corn, instead of supporting it as we now do, without this assistance ; and as a tremendous mischief, and eternal drain to the nation, *importing* immense quantities of corn, to the *discouragement* of husbandry, *destruction* of population, and *poverty* of the kingdom.

But there is another way to lessen the treasury expence : lower the bounty to four British shillings per quarter, and fix the limitation at 52s.—When the merchant can have such a latitude for exporting, he will search the world for a market, and the demand will become regular ; that will invigorate cultivation, and the landholders will be eager for the instruction which experience may offer to their imitation.

For such a measure, I would renounce every manufacture in the kingdom, except the linen.—And should then wish to see a compulsive law, that all the children in our charitable seminaries should be apprenticed to farmers, instead of being made city manufacturers and footmen.—Thus England would be benefited, we should soon become an happy people, agriculture

agriculture would flourish, and population would increase.

But keep the limitation low, and the farmer will remain in the same uncertainty, inundations of corn will pour in upon us, and in proportion to that, the price will rise.—But extend the limitation, and our first relief will be, the living upon bread made of Irish corn, and our second, the importation of *money*, instead of corn.—Paradoxical as it may appear, yet there is nothing more certain, that in proportion as the limitation shall be enlarged, so will the price of Irish corn sink.—If the reader doubts this, only let him turn to the table in page 27, where he sees the price of corn in England *progressively falling*, in proportion as the exportation increased ; and that in the year 1750, corn was only 32s. 6d. although the exportation ran higher than ever known before, so that the bounty money came to 325405l. \* for that year.

Let gentlemen reflect a moment ; let the higher powers reflect : in the year 1750, 32s. 6d. a quarter in England was considered very low, and the immense exportation gave it that value, or it must have been lower.—Now let any man calculate the Irish quarter at that proportion, Irish currency, and he

\* As this was so remarkable a year, I have pleasure in having it in my power to lay the particulars before the curious reader.

The Species and Quantities of Corn exported from England in 1750.

			Quarters.	Bushels.
Wheat	—	—	947602	1
Barley	—	—	224500	7
Malt	—	—	330754	2
Oatmeal	—	=	4283	4
Rye	—	=	99049	3
Quarters	—	—	1606190	1

Beans and Pease I have no account of, because they receive no bounty, which I wonder at.

will

will find it amount to 1l. 19s 1d.—This surely proves 40s. for our limitation to be too low.

These are stubborn facts, and I think, clearly shew, that our limitation should be extended to 52s. currency. Upon what foundation it can be imagined that the Irish farmer can cultivate wheat cheaper than the English, I cannot conceive—His culture is not *so good, his land worse, his manuring less, his produce vastly inferior, his experience far shorter, and above all, his purse empty.* I hope these considerations justify my urging an higher limitation in point of price.

And might I risk another opinion, it is, that I really think it would be for the *interest* of England to give us a limitation, even so high as 3l. as I am inclined to think, I could most clearly demonstrate, but such an undertaking is incompatible with my present undertaking, abstracted from the danger of stating new opinions, not concordant with the fashion of the times; and therefore prudence obliges me to say no more upon that head, than that from such a measure, I might cry out in the words of the Psalmist.—“The folds shall be full of sheep: the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing.”

Some gentlemen have expressed a doubt, whether this measure can ever be useful to this kingdom, even though we were in full possession of it, because our corn is inferior to that of other nations.—I shall admit that in general it is so; but as we are obliged by law to sell our corn by *weight*, that circumstance brings the *produce* of flour pretty near upon an equality, between excellent corn, and that of an inferior kind. \* And when the season shall be against our harvest

\* See my experiments for 1766 page 14 and 15 —Where I compare the quality of corn by every examination.

Size

vest being saved dry, so that the grain shall be damp, we must kiln dry our corn before it is shipped. These are certainly disadvantages to us; and therefore, most clearly shew, that Ireland being let into a share of this trade, can never be injurious to the exportation of England; and as clearly prove, that upon the trifling quantity we can ever hope to export, when compared with the immensity England exports, our profit must be much less than that of the English farmer.

I did intend to have laid before the reader, the number of cultivated acres which it would have required, to produce the corn imported into this kingdom, during the two past years; but as that is more a matter of curiosity, than immediate use to the present enquiry: and that I am afraid of swelling this paper to an *unreadable* size, I omit to exhibit that additional spectacle of our inattention, to the *only source*, which can afford happiness and comfort, to this people; *Agriculture.* Some

Size and weight of the grains under two methods of culture.  
 One ounce adverdupoize, from broad-cast husbandry Grains 731  
 One ounce do. from drill husbandry - - Grains 682

Superiority upon the drilled, upon *equal ground*, by Grains 49  
 The same corn examined by weight and measure.

		lb.	oz.
A Winchester bushel of the drilled, weighed	—	65	6
—Ditto from the broad-cast weighed	—	63	4

Superiority of the drilled, upon equal measure — 2 2

Here we see, that as good corn has been raised in Ireland as the London exporter expects, and that in the common husbandry, the same corn examined as to the produce of flour, from equal weights, 70 pounds of the drilled, and 70 pounds from the common husbandry, were ground, and the produce of flour, both sifted through the same sieve, but trifling in favour of the drilled.

This clearly demonstrates, that a *measure*, containing 20 stone of good corn, would not contain the same weight of inferior corn; but at equal weights, will produce an equal quantity of flour, with one exception.—Mildewed wheat has but little flour.



[ 48 ]

Some people perhaps, measuring my feelings by their own, may imagine that I am warmed by the subject already spoken to, because I am a farmer; and therefore, in their imaginations, I may be interested in this event.—I abhor such illiberal sentiments, as much as I should disregard any one who retains them.—At the same time, I glory in the declaration, that *I am interested*; not from selfish motives, because in the little stream of my affairs, it makes no difference to me as an individual (for the short time I have to live) whether corn is this or that price.—No! I am actuated by nobler principles—the comfort and happiness of a people, amongst whom, although a stranger, I have the honour of many very respectable friends; and whose friendship I shall ever be ambitious to shew my sense of, by honest endeavours to serve the community at large.

Under the honor of your request, Gentlemen, these hints are thrown together; if they shall contribute any thing towards the completion of so great and desirable a revolution in the affairs of Ireland; I can only assure you, that it will add to the happiness I always feel in receiving your commands.

I am conscious, how feeble are my endeavours, to contribute all I wish to do, for the improvement of the kingdom; and therefore, I can only strengthen them by offering up my prayers to heaven, for the success of the measure now in contemplation.

And beg to conclude with assuring you, from the sincerity of my heart, that

I am most truly,  
your devoted,  
and most obedient  
humble Servant,

Loughlin's Town,  
Nov. 9th 1771.

JOHN WYNN BAKER.

F I N I S.