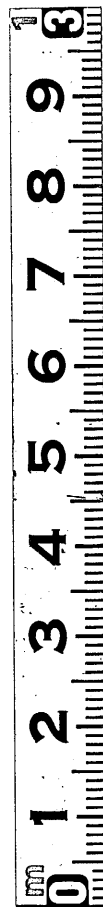


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IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS,
UPON THE
A C T
OF THE THIRTY-FIRST OF
GEORGE II.
Relative to the
Affize of Bread.

L O N D O N:

Printed for G. WOODFALL, the Corner
of *Craig's Court, Charing Cross.*

[Price One Shilling.]

M,DCC,LXVII,

IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS,

Upon the ACT of the 31st of

GEORGE II.

Relative to the

Affize of Bread.

THE affize of bread was settled by
 an act of the 8th of Queen Ann,
 Cap. 18. by which act three different
 species of bread were directed to be made,

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viz.

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viz. *White, Wheaten* and *Houshold*, and the different rates of each proportionally ascertained upon terms nearly correspondent with the ancient laws and regulations of this kingdom, from the time of King Henry the 3d. which laws and regulations long subsisted, without giving rise to murmur or complaint.

But in the 31st of George the 2d. cap. 29. the late Mr. Dickenson, an Alderman of London, misled by some interested cornfactors, mealmen, and bakers, upon pretence of improving the quality and reducing the price of bread in favour of the poor, undertook, and prevailed on parliament, to pass an act, repealing the former: by which new act, the three different species of assized bread, were reduced to two only, viz. *Wheaten* and *Houshold*; and new prices and new tables of assize, regulating the said prices introduced——Since that time the public have universally complained, (and every year more and more) as well

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of the greater dearth, as of the much worse quality of bread, tho' unacquainted with the true foundation of their complaints, for which a variety of *false* and *ridiculous causes* have been assigned, and *remedies impracticable, anti-commercial, and dangerous*, absurdly proposed,

The act was passed with little or no opposition, and the operation of it, has remained long unnoticed: but this may be accounted for in a great measure; 1st. from the nature of the subject, to which very few have turned their thoughts. 2dly, From the confusion created by *changing the species, price and quality of the bread*, which made it difficult to compare the tables of the former and the latter act: and 3dly. from the favourable reception always given by the public to any specious proposals, which pretend to promote the interest of *the consumer, the merchant, the manufacturer, the inferior orders of the people, and the poor.*

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This act, however, has been at length more attentively considered; and it is discovered (to the great surprize of all, who have taken the pains to make themselves masters of it) that the assize table in the said act of the 31st of George the 2d. is so constructed, *as to have been alone a sufficient cause to account for all the distresses of the poor*; the price of bread being actually raised thereby to the same price; since the passing of this new act, *when wheat is at 48 shillings per quarter*, (which was ever heretofore considered as a price of moderate plenty) as that at which it was formerly rated by the assize table in the act of Queen Ann, even *when wheat was at 54 shillings per quarter*, (which was always a price that threatned famine.) The said tables are calculated equally to produce the same proportional advance, let the rate of corn be what it may. *So that consequently the public are now deprived of full one eighth of the bread, which they might have bought for the same money at the same respective prices*

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prices of corn, before the passing of that act: It has likewise created other great evils, some of which will be touched upon in the course of this paper.

The cornfactor, mealman, miller and baker, have all found means to make exorbitant profits in consequence of this act. — And every art has been consequently employed to elude the effect of this discovery.

Seditious papers have been incessantly published for many months past to inflame the mob; to divert the attention of the public, by turning their resentment upon the *landholder and the farmer*; and to drown the voice of reason in confusion. But this not being found fully sufficient, another method has been lately applied, and plausible attempts have been made in some later publications, to reconcile the tables of the two acts.

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In order to this it has been asserted, " that
 " of the sorts of bread directed to be made
 " by the said act of Queen Ann, which are
 " white, wheaten and household, the wheat-
 " en or middle sort, represented the whole
 " produce of the corn, (except bran;) whereas
 " the wheaten and household, under the said
 " act of King George the 2d. each repre-
 " sents only one half, and falls in, the *first*
 " between the white and wheaten, and the
 " other between the wheaten and house-
 " hold, and that under the said act of Queen
 " Ann, the assize was set *from the highest price*
 " of wheat, in the return made of the sales
 " thereof at market; whereas under the
 " said act of King George the 2d. the assize
 " is set *from the mean or middle price*, and
 " that the difference between the highest
 " and middle price, is constantly about *one*
 " *ninth part of the highest price*, by which
 " means if the highest price be 54 shillings
 " per quarter, one ninth part thereof (6s.)
 " being deducted leaves 48s. for the middle
 price,

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" price, from which middle price the assize
 " would be set under the said act. of King
 " George the 2d. but under the said act of
 " Queen Ann, would have been set at 54
 " shillings the best price, And that as the
 " weight of a loaf of the same price is the
 " same in the table of the said act of Queen
 " Ann, when the price of wheat is 54 shil-
 " lings per quarter, as in the table of the
 " said act of King George the 2d. when
 " wheat is 48 shillings per quarter, there
 " is really, notwithstanding the apparent
 " difference in the tables, the same weight
 " of bread for the same money, under the
 " said act of King George the 2d. as there
 " would have been under the said act of
 " Queen Ann, and the bread also of a bet-
 " ter quality."

But this *laboured and fallacious* answer is by
 no means *satisfactory*: because 1st. By the
 act of the 51st of King Henry the 3d. (which
 remained in force until the said act of Queen
 Ann took place,) the assize of bread was re-
 quired to be set from the middle price of
 wheat

in wheat, and there is no directions in the said act of Queen Ann, for altering that method or to countenance the setting the assize from the highest price of wheat.—2dly. There is no particular description of the qualities of wheaten and household bread, in either of the said acts of Queen Ann, or King George the 2d. from which any thing conclusive can be drawn, to shew that the same kinds of bread were *either designed to be made of better quality, or actually are made of better quality* under the said act of King George the 2d. than they were under the said act of Queen Ann—It is highly incumbent therefore on those, who have asserted to prove these facts, and *particularly with respect to setting the assize from the highest price of wheat* (if so strange a fact should be true) *at what time or times, upon what motives, and by what authority, or upon what principles of equity any magistrate of this kingdom ever did or could have departed from a practice so deeply founded in reason, justice and law.*

It must be further observed, that it doth not appear from either of the said acts of Queen Ann, or King George the 2d. on what principles the assize tables in the said acts were formed. But it hath indeed been asserted in a *pamphlet, said to have been published by Mr. Dickenson, and lately republished, entitled, observations and examples to assist magistrates in setting the assize of bread under the said act of King George the 2d.* That the tables in that act were framed and calculated upon the following suppositions, viz.

1st. That the baker might make his wheaten and household bread respectively of such quality, that *three peck loaves of wheaten bread shall be equal in value to four peck loaves of household bread of the same weight, or that three pounds of*

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wheaten

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wheaten bread shall sell for as much as *four* pounds of *household bread*.

2dly, That taking wheat at an average, *one bushel* thereof Winchester measure (when ground and the bran taken there-out) will make *three half peck loaves of wheaten* and *three half peck loaves of household bread*, or *three peck loaves of bread*, each to weigh 17lb. 6 oz. (or in the whole three pecks 52 lb. 2 oz.) which will yield the baker the price paid for such bushel of wheat, together with the magistrates supposed allowance thereon.

All which is suggested and asserted for no other end but farther to amuse and to deceive. For, in order to form a judgment whether these suppositions were well founded or not,—*First*, an account has been procured from an eminent mealman of the produce of *flour*, &c. from a load or five quarters of *wheat*, weighing 59 pounds per bushel; (which is the known medium weight of wheat)

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wheat) and the same stands as follows, according to the *terms of art* employed by those of that profession to conceal the *mystery* of the trade, viz.

	Bushels	lb.	Pounds
Flour { Households - 20,	at 56 per bushel		1120
Seconds - 4,	at ditto	- -	224
F. midlings 5,	at ditto	- -	280
Coarse ditto 2½,	at ditto	- -	140
	31½		1764

Pollard and Bran {	Fine pollard	3 single bushels
	Coarser ditto	5 ditto
	Horfe ditto	10 ditto
	Bran	12 ditto

Which produce of 1764 pounds of flour from the five quarters of wheat, comes out at the rate of 352½ lb. per quarter, or 44½ pounds to a bushel of wheat. And,

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again,

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again, two other bushels of wheat weighing 58 pounds each, were *ground and dressed for trial* by another hand in order to check the former account of the mealman, upon which trial the flour of the like kind, produced from the said two bushels, came out on a medium, at the rate of $45\frac{1}{8}$ pounds from each bushel — Now as 14 pounds of flour will make one peck, or 17 lb. 6 oz. of bread, it appears therefore (as well from the mealman's account of five quarters, as from the said actual experiment upon the two bushels of wheat, before-mentioned) that one bushel of wheat, Winchester measure, will produce considerably more than three pecks of bread; tho' the aforesaid pamphlet means to insinuate that the quantity of three pecks only can be made from a bushel of wheat of that measure.

The five quarters of wheat ground and dressed by the mealman as before-mentioned, were stated by him to have cost 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ and

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and the market prices of flour, pollard, and bran, at the time the said wheat was bought, were also stated to have been sold at that time, as undermentioned, viz.

Flour made into bread	Houſholds	42 per ſack	Each ſack weighing 280 pounds of net flour.
	Seconds	40 ditto	
	F. midlings	33 ditto	
	Coarſe ditto	28 ditto	

Pollard and bran reſerved and fold by the baker for other uſes.	Fine pollard	2 3 per buſh.	} of 2 ſtrikes.
	Coarſer ditto	1 6 ditto	
	Horſe ditto	1 3 ditto	
	Bran	9 0 per quarter of 16 ſingle buſhels.	

At which rates the value of the ſeveral ſorts and quantities of flour, &c. produced from the aforesaid five quarters of wheat will ſtand as follows, viz.

		lb.	s.	lb.	l.	s.	d.
Flour made into bread	Houſholds	1120,	at 42 per ſack of 280	8	8	0	
	Seconds	224,	at 40 per ditto	-	1	12	0
	Fine midlings	280,	at 33 per ditto	-	1	13	0
	Coarſe ditto	140,	at 28 per ditto	-	0	14	0
		1764,					
			Carried over	12	7	0	
							ſingle

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l. s. d.
Brought over 12 7 0

Single bushel.

	s. d.	s. d.
Pollard & bran } Fine pollard 3, at 2 3 } per bush. 3 4½		
reserved and } Coarser do. 5, at 1 6 } 2 strikes 3 9		
fold by the ba- } Horse do. 10, at 1 3 } 6 3		
kerforotheruses } Bran 12, at 9 0		
pr. qr. of 16 single bushels	6 9	
	£13 7 1½	

From which deduct the cost of
the said five quarters of wheat. } 12 0 0

1 7 1½

And there remains to the *mealman* or baker for his profit, over and above the supposed allowance given to the baker by the magistrate under sanction of the assize, (and not suggesting any profit from adulteration, by bran or any other flour, which may produce an additional gain to the mealman of above 50 per cent.) 1*l.* 7*s.* 1½*d.*

The baker's allowance for his charges, labour, pains, livelihood, and profit, as supposed to be settled by the magistrates in London, is no less than 12*s.* per quarter, equal to one third of the whole value of the wheat when at 36*s.* per quarter, and consequently equal

to

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to the full of the landlord's rent, which is never computed to be more than *one third of the product in corn land; and this vast allowance is directed, (or rather mentioned or permitted) by the statute, to be added to the real price of wheat, * not to the price flour, (which is

* In those parts of England where the tenant pays the poor's rate, and the tythe is taken in kind, no tenant can live where the landlord's rent is more than a fourth of the product of the corn. How amazing then is the mealman or baker's gain (or the gain of both together) compared with the rents of the kingdom! and how infinitely and demonstrably superior are the profits of these comparatively few retailers of this commodity of corn (after so slight a manufacture of it) to those of the landed men, owners of the whole soil from which it is produced; who are subject moreover to all the uncertainty of seasons, repairs of tenements, loss of tenants, arrears and allowances of rent, great country and public charges, and besides all taxes upon consumption which they pay in common with all the rest of the people, are charged with the payment of two millions, or four shillings in the pound, out of the said rents, or their portion of the product—an additional burthen peculiar to them only.

If the baker is not considered as the sole manufacturer of wheat into bread --- and if from an imperfect knowledge of the subject, the Magistrate departs from the principles of setting the assize or price of bread from the wheat only, and instead thereof sets the assize or price of bread from the Flour; the true and wise intent and

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is very material to be observed) in order to determine the *nominal price* per bushel for setting the assize of bread; *it is therefore manifest that the statute plainly considers the baker as the sole manufacturer or as responsible for the whole charge of manufacturing the wheat until it is made into bread*, and the allowance made

design of the legislature from the time of Henry the 3d. to this day, in directing the assize to be set on wheat, (not on Flour) is eluded, and even the bakers themselves as well as the public, are wholly left to the mercy of the miller or mealman, *because there is no law to fix the price of flour proportional to the price of wheat*: and this leads to a consideration whether it would not be extremely salutary (especially for the capital of the kingdom) *if public water or barge mills were erected upon the Thames for grinding corn for the use of the bakers*) whenever they were apparently abused by the mealman) *at a fixed and reasonable price*.

By this means, perhaps alone, a radical remedy to the evils now complained of, might be obtained; at least the following advantages would most assuredly follow.—1. A very great reduction of the price of bread.—2. A clear discovery to the magistrate at what rates he ought to set the assize of bread.—3dly. a most important security to prevent the fatal consequences of a possible combination of the mealmen to distress the capital.—4thly. A more probable provision of wholesome and unadulterated bread, as the baker would be then under less temptation and could plead no pretence or excuse for making bread of any other kind.

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made by the magistrate to him *was intended to include, and ought to include* all the charges of grinding the corn and dressing the meal produced therefrom; and consequently in estimating or assizing the value or price of bread, *consideration ought to be had of the magistrate as to all parts of the produce of the corn, not only such as do, but such as do not go into the composition of the bread*, and remain with the baker to be disposed of by him for other uses, the latter being no inconsiderable portion upon the whole of each quarter.

On these grounds an estimate may be found of the due price of bread, from the flour produced out of the foregoing five quarters of wheat (supposing the same to have been bought at the average price) which will stand as follows, viz.

1 Ld. of wht. or 5 qrs. at	}	-- 12l. 0 0
48s. pr qr. or 6s. pr bush.		
D		

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The bakers allowance in London }
 at 12s. pr. qr. or 1s. 6d. pr. bush. } 3 0 0

From which deduct the value }
 of the bran and pollard, } 15 0 0
 1 0 1½
£. 13 19 10½

The whole quantity of flour (1764 pounds) produced from the said five quarters of wheat being mixed together, would, at the rate of 14 pounds of flour to a peck loaf, make 126 *peck loaves of bread all of the same sort*; and the aforesaid sum of 13l. 19s. 10½d. being what ought to be paid for the same, (according to the said additional charge for the bakers allowance now permitted in London.)

The value of the peck loaf of bread produced from 1764 pounds of flour so mixed together would be 2s. 2½d. or nearly 2s. 2¼d. And supposing the said 1764 pounds of flour to be made half into wheaten and half into

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into household bread, which is the division from which (according to the pamphlet beforementioned) the assize tables in the said act of king George the 2d. are pretended to have been framed; (and that the distribution of the flour was to be made in the manner undermentioned, by which the greatest advantage possible in value, will appear to be given to the wheaten bread,) viz.

for wheaten bread } * households flour 882lb. at 42s. pr.
 63 peck loaves, } sack of 280 lb. --- 6l. 12s. 3½d.

for household } households 238, at 42 pr. ditto 1 15 8½
 bread 63 } seconds 224, at 40 pr. ditto 1 12 0
 peck loaves } fine midlings 280, at 33 pr. ditto 1 13 0
 coarse ditto 140, at 28 pr. ditto 0 14 0

N. B. in all 126 peck 882
 loaves out of 5 qrs. of wht. £5 14 8½

* It is proper to observe, in order to prevent confusion of ideas, which might otherwise arise in the minds of those who may be curious to consider this subject, that the word *household*, when applied to *flour*, always imports the *finest* sort of flour; but when applied to *bread*, imports the *coarsest* sort of bread. Which preposterous inversion of the terms, contributes not a little to encrease the difficulty of investigating the mystery of the corn trade.

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The said sums of 6*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* and of 5*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* are the comparative values of wheaten and household bread of the same weight upon the said distribution of flour, and according thereto,

The value of one peck loaf } 2*s.* 4½*d.* or nearly 2*s.* 4¾*d.*
 wheaten, comes out at
 and the value of the } 2*s.* 0½*d.* or nearly 2*s.* 0¾*d.*
 peck loaf household at

In order to compare these prices with the affize tables in the aforesaid Acts of queen Ann and king George the 2d. it is to be observed, that when wheat is at 12*l.* pr. load or 6*s.* per bushel, the affize at London is set from 7*s.* 6*d.* pr. bushel, viz.

Wheat per bushel	- -	6 <i>s.</i>	0
Bakers allowance	- - -	1 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>
		<u>0<i>l.</i></u>	<u>7<i>s.</i> 6<i>d.</i></u>

And it appears by the said tables in the Act of king George the 2d. that when wheat with

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with the Bakers allowance thereon is at 7*s.* 6*d.* pr. bushel,

The price of the peck loaf wheaten is then rated at 2*s.* 10*d.* and the price of the peck loaf household at 2*s.* 2*d.*

In the tables in the said act of queen Ann, there is indeed no affize for peck loaves, but it appears that when the price of wheat with bakers allowance is rated at 7*s.* 6*d.* pr. bushel, the weights of the eighteen-penny loaves are set as follows, viz.

		lb.	oz.	dr.	
The eighteen penny loaf,	{	wheaten at	10	6	13
		household at	13	14	7

And from these weights and prices, the value of 17lb. 6oz. of bread (which is what the peck loaf by law ought to weigh) being computed, the prices of peck loaves under the

the said Act of queen Ann, would come out as under mentioned, viz.

the peck loaf wheaten at 2s. $5\frac{2}{3}$ d. or nearly - - 2s. 6d.
the peck loaf household at 1 $10\frac{4}{5}$ d. or nearly - - 1 $10\frac{1}{2}$ d.

And in order that the difference between the aforesaid prices of bread arising from the estimate of the 5 quarters of wheat before mentioned, and from the assize tables in both the said acts of queen Ann and king George the 2d. may be the more easily seen in one view, they are collected into the following abstract, and the *mean price* shewn, between the wheaten and household bread in the tables, and also the *mean price* of bread from a mixture of the whole produce of the wheat, according to the said estimate, admitting the same supposed baker's allowance of 12s. per quarter in all the three computations.

Price

Price of a PECK LOAF.				
Under what acts, &c.	Price of the wheat and baker's allowance per bush			According to the mean of the two sorts of bread, in the tables, and of one made of a mixture of the whole produce of the wheat, as per the estimate.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Under the act of K. George the 2d.	7 6	2 10	2 2	2 6
Under the act of the 8th of Qu. Ann.	7 6	2 6	1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	2 $2\frac{1}{4}$
By the estimate foregoing on 5 quarters of wheat, at 6s. per bushel, and bakers allowance thereon, abating the value of bran & pollard		2 $4\frac{3}{4}$	2 $0\frac{3}{4}$	2 $2\frac{3}{4}$

From whence the following observations will occur.

1st. That the *true value* (according to the foregoing estimate) of *wheaten* bread, exceeds that of household of the same weight, only about *one sixth part of the true value* of household bread, whereas by the table in the act of Queen Ann, as well as those in the act of King George the 2d. *the excess of the price* on the wheaten bread is *one third part of the price* of household.—And as the distribution of the flours produced from the five quarters of wheat, was made in order to form *the estimate* in such manner as to give the greatest advantage possible in value to the *wheaten bread*, (which according to the said estimate is wholly made of the household or finest flour) it is evident that *these two sorts of bread, according to the table, are not set in a due proportion to each other*; and therefore, that one of the suppositions on which (by the said pam-

pamphlet) the assize table in the act of King George the 2d, are said to have been framed, viz.

“ That the baker may make his wheaten
“ and household bread respectively of such
“ quality as that three peck loaves of whea-
“ ten bread, shall be equal in value to four
“ peck loaves of household bread of the
same weight,” *is not well founded, or con-*
sistent with the other.

2d. That the price of a peck loaf taken as a mean between the price of the wheaten peck loaf and the household peck loaf, as they are rated in the tables in the said act of King George the 2d, exceeds the like mean taken for the price of a peck loaf from the tables in the said act of Queen Ann, exactly by one eighth part of the price of the wheaten peck loaf under the

E said

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said act of Queen Ann. And that the like mean taken from the estimate for the price of a peck loaf, made from a mixture of the whole of the flour from the five quarters of wheat, exceeds the *mean price taken from the tables in the act of Queen Ann. only one halfpenny, but falls short of the mean price taken from the tables in the said act of King George the 2d. by three pence farthing, which is near one ninth of the mean price under the said act of King George the 2d.* From whence it appears that *the tables in the said act of Queen Ann, taking wheaten and household bread together, agree much better with the estimate made from the aforesaid five quarters of wheat, than with the table in the said act of King George 2d.*

3d. That from the disproportion between the prices in the said table for wheaten and household bread, and the prices those sorts of bread ought to bear, according to the beforementioned estimate, the *wheaten ap-*
pears

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pears to be set at too high a price with respect to the household, and a far greater profit given thereby to the baker on wheaten bread than he ought to have, or has upon the household: and that this is the case is undoubtedly confirmed by the unwillingness of most of the bakers to bake household bread, and by many of them declining absolutely to bake it at all.

4thly, That if the legislature intended to favour the poorer sort of people by making a proportional *encrease* of the bakers profit on wheaten, and a *decrease* thereof on household, upon a *supposition*, that the whole produce of the wheat would be made into bread in equal quantities of each sort, and that thereby the baker would have the same profit upon the whole, as if the prices of each sort had been set in the proportion they ought to bear to each other; this end of the legislature hath not been answered ; *for as the bakers are not obliged by this or any other act to make household bread, they*
 E 2 *have*

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have in the general gone into the making of wheaten bread, and used every means in their power to prevent the use of household, the former of them yielding so much greater profit: and although it hath been thrown out that the poorer sort of people are become too luxurious to eat household bread, yet this is an injurious aspersions upon them; for the truth is, that the disadvantage of baking the household in comparison with the wheaten bread, has been an inducement to the bakers to adulterate it, or at least by mixing with it so much of the bran, and thereby to make it so coarse and bad, (which no law prevents their doing) as to render the people justly averse to the buying thereof. Thus an evil of the most capital nature has been created—The poor of this kingdom having been insidiously flattered, but virtually compelled (contrary to all true principles of trade and policy) to eat a species of bread, one fourth less in quantity (which is the same thing as one fourth more in price) than that which they could and did buy seven years ago, and with which they were then justly and reasonably contented, before the passing the said act, and the regulations of the new assize.

5thly:

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5thly. It is apprehended that this will continue to be the case, *unless,*

1st. *The sorts of flour are particularly described, and by some means or other effectually ascertained, of which the wheaten and household breads are to be made respectively, now confounded by Technical terms unknown to any but to the trade itself, and regulated by no standard as to the quality, but as they think fit, And,*

2dly. *Unless the prices of each of the said sorts of bread, shall be set in the exact proportion to one another, which the respective flours (so reduced to a certain standard) of which the said sorts of bread are to be made, require; to the end that the mealman may not be able to impose one sort of flour for another; and that the baker may not be tempted to bake one sort of bread in preference to the other, or have it in his power by himself, or in concert with the mealman or miller to impose upon the consumer in the quality of the flour and bread, which liberty he and they now enjoy with impunity, and are believed to exert in a most outrageous manner.*

6thly. It is further apprehended that in order to make just calculations of the true value

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value of bread, * according to the different prices that wheat may bear, the following particulars are requisite, viz.

An account of the qualities of each sort of flour, &c. produced from a quarter, or any other given quantity of wheat, taken on an average.

* The necessary information can never be obtained by the modern method of examining cornfactors, mealmen, millers and bakers, or the members of great corporations, especially before an assembly who cannot administer an oath, and whose numbers must in a degree create confusion in such examinations. For in one word, it is as much for the united interest, as it is in the power of such witnesses so examined, to deceive. Our ancestors, more upon their guard, took another method; as will appear to any man who will read the act of Henry the 3d. for setting the assize of bread; where it is expressly said, that the legislature then formed their calculations upon the information of the king's bakers called upon for that purpose. How then could it have escaped the wisdom of those who undertook to settle the assize of bread in the 31st. of George the 2d. when they might have received full information from the *Viſtualling Office*, and from those alone by experiments and trials directed to be made by them. These are the king's bakers of the present age, and cannot be deficient in the knowledge of facts, or interested in any shape whatever, to conceal, deny or misrepresent the truth.

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A particular description of each sort of flour so produced, and also such a description as may clearly shew from which of the said sorts of flour, or from what mixture of the said sorts, each sort of bread is to be made.

A rule for setting the price that each sort of flour ought to bear in respect to the other, * enforced by penalties very severe.

A constant and specifick explanation and description of the several particulars of which the magistrates allowance to the bakers doth consist, that it may be clearly known from time to time and at all times
by

* The rule that is said to be observed at present in the meal trade in this respect, is, that whatever price the households or finest sort of flour bears per sack, the second sort is 2s. per sack under the same, and the third sort 2s. per sack under the second sort, and the middlings about 10d. per sack under the third sort. But one man's goods amazingly differ from those of another, tho' of the same denomination, which demonstrates that no rule of this kind can be applied for the security of the public, by any public regulation.

by the public (which at present it is not)† upon what grounds, upon what motives, by what steady rules, or in what manner the magistrates in every great city or corporation where the assize takes place, do exercise that very great discretionary power with which they are entrusted. *And great indeed it is, for it extends apparently, not only to the purses but virtually even to the lives of the people. It extends in fact to fix the value of the product of all the lands of the kingdom, To favour the manufacturing and consumers interest, at the expence of the landed interest, or vice versa, to oppress the trading interest for the benefit of the*

† This power has been exercised of late by the magistrates in a greater latitude than ever, by not having almost any regard to the market price, but allowing the baker one week a greater profit than the price of corn at market will warrant, and another week less than he may be entitled to by that price. The pretence is plausible, that by this means they keep the price of bread to the consumer at a more equal rate. But it is easy to see how this arbitrary power may operate in great corporations where the bakers and their journeymen, and the numbers of those concerned in the corn trade, have great influence by their numbers and their weight.

land

hand. *And this may be done under this discretionary power, either by ignorance or design, and may in some conjunctures, or to answer some views, be employed as an engine to raise the most dangerous tumults and to put a force even upon government itself, by necessitating the legislature for the sake of a temporary preservation of the public peace, to pass such laws as designing men could never attempt, or hope to carry but by this means.*

Upon the whole it is submitted, whether the shortest, safest, and best temporary remedy that can be applied to the present distress and clamour of the poor, would not be to repeal immediately this act of the 31st. of King George the 2d. and revert to the act of the 8th of Queen Ann, restoring the three sorts of bread therein directed to be made, and the assize and price upon each sort there fixed, adding the penalty of one hundred pounds or more upon any miller, mealman or baker, who should transgress the direction of the act. For a penalty less than this, will rarely induce the journeyman to discover the master's fraud, as daily experience fully proves. *By this means alone,*

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the poor would at once be restored to bread of the same quality with that to which they were 'till very lately accustomed, and at once recover that eighth part of their bread, of which they have been unhappily and inadvertently deprived. Besides the not being generally compelled as they have been for the last seven or eight years, (whatever might be the public scarcity or their private necessities) to eat a species of bread, one fourth part less in quantity, under a false pretence that such bread is proportionally better in quality, whereas (tho' indeed artificially rendered whiter to the eye) it is in fact infinitely worse.

And it would certainly rescue the poor from base usage, and great abuse, if a clause were added at the same time to the said act of Queen Ann, directing *all household bread to be made of the produce of the wheat, deducting thereout only * 80 pounds per quarter for the*

* N. B. Tho' wheat is of different qualities, some having a thicker coat than others (varying in some seasons) and consequently more or less bran may be necessary to be taken from it: Yet the deduction of this quantity of 80, or 82 pounds of bran, will leave the whole remainder of a very sufficient quality to be made into good household bread of the species here described.

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the bran, this being properly household bread of exceeding good quality, and such as it is reported, is now baked for the use of the ships of his majesty's navy in harbour; samples of which may undoubtedly be produced for the satisfaction of both houses of parliament, if required. But after this shall be first done, to ascertain the quantity and the quality of the bread by assize of one species for the general consumption of the poor and middling classes of the people, and to secure them who have not the means to contend with the arts, abuse, or oppression of the mealman or the baker, (to which it might be very fatal if they should be left exposed, tho' but for one week only) there could then be no danger to make experiment of a new system: and, it might be well worthy a future consideration, whether the assize should be set at all upon any other kind of bread than that of household; and whether all other kinds of bread of finer quality (which may be considered as matter of luxury only) would not much better find their proper value (as all other commodities, upon sound principles

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ples of commerce, are known, and left to do) thro' the private interest, rivalry, and competition of bakers to acquire, and keep their custom, than by direction of any positive law whatever. *For it is a most notorious and undeniable truth, that bread is sold much cheaper by the bakers in those parts of the kingdom where they lie under no restraints of this nature, than where they bake under any regulations of assize.*

AP.

APPENDIX.

SINCE the foregoing pamphlet was sent to the press, farther trials have been made upon several quarters of wheat, at the medium weight of 59lb. to the bushel, or 472lb. to the quarter, which confirm and corroborate in the strongest manner, all that hath been advanced therein, proving the advantages taken against the public in manufacturing the corn into bread under the act of the 31st. of George the 2d. in a still greater degree.

1st.

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1st. From erroneous computations in the tables and provisions for setting the assize,

2dly. From the very injurious consequences arising from the greater countenance or liberty given to, or taken by the magistrate, in setting the assize upon the *flour* instead of the *wheat*.

The millers pretend that *wheat* at the weight above-mentioned, will only produce 353lb. per quarter of such flour as is described in the said pamphlet, and that 353lb. of flour will produce but 25 peck loaves and 3lb. over.

Whereas by these latter trials (made with great exactness) it appears that wheat of the said weight of 59lb. to the bushel,
or

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or 472 pound per quarter, will turn out thus :

Waste and loss in grinding at the most	9
Bran at the most	80
Flour remaining to be made into bread	383
	<hr/>
	472
	<hr/>

Which 383lb. of flour will, instead of 25 peck loaves and 3lb. produce 27 peck loaves and 5lb.—Now the act of the 31st of George the 2d. directs the *sack of flour* to weigh only 2cwt. 2qrs. net, or 280lb. And as 20 peck loaves only (of 14lb. weight before baked, but of 17lb. 6 oz. when baked) are directed by the said act to be made out of such sack of flour.

And

And as the practice now prevails (which appeared lately in evidence before a great assembly, and the bakers all acknowledge) of regulating the assize with regard to the *flour* instead of the *corn*. And as the baker is now allowed 10 *shillings* for baking a *sack of flour*, instead of the former supposed allowance of 12 *shillings* upon the *quarter of corn*.

By comparing the quantity of 383lb. of *flour* really produced from the quarter of corn, with 280lb. the quantity fixed by the said act for the contents of the sack of flour; and by farther comparing the sum of 12 *shillings* permitted by the act to be added and allowed by the magistrate to the baker upon the *quarter of corn*, with the sum of 10 *shillings* now allowed to the baker, upon the sack of flour. It is evident

1st.

1st. That the baker *gains* (and the consumer *loses*) in the quantity of bread, 2 *peck loaves* and 2lb. of bread per quarter by the allowance given upon *flour*, thro' this *inadvertent mis-calculation of the produce of corn*, in the 31st of George the 2d. more than was *intended* by those who passed that act, or is *suspected* by the public.

2dly. That the allowance of 12 *shillings* per quarter, when the assize was set upon *corn only* (great as it appears to have been even then, by this pamphlet) is become infinitely greater since by being given at the rate above-mentioned *upon the Flour*.

For it turns out to be really more than at the rate of 14s. 3d. on the quarter of corn.

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Adding

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Adding therefore these two articles together, viz. 1st. the value of two peck loaves and 2lb. of bread, which is *no less* by the tables, (when corn is at 48 shillings per quarter, baked into wheaten bread, now by contrivance brought to be the only consumption) than 5s. 8d. upon every quarter (and even on household bread if baked at all, not less than 4s. 4d.) ol. 5s. 8d.

And 2dly. the baker's allowance (permitted only at 12s. *per quarter of corn*) now converted into 14s. 3d. by the allowance of 10s. on the sack of flour- - - - - o 14 3
The total will amount to 20s. per quarter, or more than o 19 11
now really allowed for the baker's *charges* and *profit* for *manufacturing the corn into bread*.

It may be farther necessary to inform the public how the *real charges* stood upon the latter trials before-mentioned *per quarter*, which are as follows, viz.

For

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For meterage, portorage, grinding and dressing paid no more than 3s. 6d

For salt, yeast, coal, wood, bakers wages and labourers not more than 5 6
9 0

From which deduct the bran cheaply sold at 3 0

The real cost for manufacturing one quarter of corn into bread is only 6 0

And thus it is manifest that the baker may now actually get under the present mode, regulations, and allowances of the assize (without the advantage of art, by which it is easy to make 13, 12 or even 11oz. of flour serve (instead of 14) for a peck loaf of bread of 17lb. 6oz. and exclusive of false weight, compositions and mixtures) no less than 13s. 11d. or 14s. upon every quarter of corn manufactured and baked by himself, *clear gain over and above all the real charges attending the same*; instead of the first permitted

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mitted allowance of 12s. then supposed and intended to include *all those charges*, which amounting (as above specified) to about 6s. and not more, would have afforded the baker 6s. for house rent, living, and profits of his trade.

The difference therefore now and formerly (being nearly 8s. per quarter, however divided) is the least which appears to have been superadded to the *price of bread* within these few years, arising from the causes partly explained in the foregoing pamphlet.

* This *additional price* comes out of the pocket of the consumer, and (as it was asserted in the beginning of this pamphlet) fully accounts for the distress and com-

* The reader will be still more surprised when he is informed that a good bread may be made (and better in all respects than that which is now sold by the few bakers in this capital who do sell household bread at all) out of the whole wheat, including even all the bran.—In which case, one quarter of wheat will produce 33 peck loaves of 17lb. 6oz. each.

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complaints of the present time, which are demonstrably proved to have principally proceeded from the new regulations of the assize under the act of the 31st of George 2d.—For (as it is well known to all dealers) the *scarcity*, or the *deariness of any one species of provision* will have a general influence upon the prices of all the rest : because, in the nature of things, they must ever carry with them, in some sort, a comparative value, derived, on the one hand, from the judgment of the *seller*, who weighs all circumstances in order to sell *as dear* ; on the other, from the like judgment of the *buyer*, who considers all alternatives of the necessaries of life, in order to purchase those upon which he may subsist, *as cheap* as he can. Hence it is impossible to avoid making these reflections, viz. That nothing can be more dangerous in the conduct of affairs, (where the considerations are complex) than upon temporary inconveniencies and half understood causes, or upon plausible speculations of busy, superficial and vain (the common dupes and instruments of) cunning and interested Men to indulge alterations in matters of pub-

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public Concern—And that, *Stare supra vias antiquas* is (with very rare exceptions) the *soundest* and *safest maxim of policy* which a *Statesman* or a *Nation* can pursue.

We have now done our part, in discovering the true nature and cause of the disease. It must remain with the wisdom of the *Legislature* (and it will require all their wisdom) to apply the proper Remedy, and to enforce the Cure.

F I N I S.

ADDENDA.

SINCE the publication of the first Edition of the foregoing Pamphlet, notwithstanding each of the different calculations therein made, equally tends to prove the facts advanced, it has been thought proper to add still another state of the manufacture of wheat into bread, because it affords not only a farther and additional proof of the great gain of the baker or manufacturer set forth in the pamphlet, but demonstrates that gain to be still more exorbitant.

For supposing a baker to manufacture 1000 quarters of wheat into bread in a year, that the produce from one quarter of wheat, bran excepted, will yield 27 pecks of bread, one half thereof wheaten, and the other half household bread; and that the medium price of wheat at market continues at 48 shillings per quarter: his account at the End of the year may be stated as follows.

Charges of Manufacturing Wheat.			Per Contra.		Cr.
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	By Bread sold agreeable to the affize set in London, when the medium price of wheat at market is 48s. per quarter, viz.		
To 1000 qu. of wheat at 48s. per qu.	2400	0 0			
To grind. & dref. do. at 2 6 per qu.	125	0 0	13500 pecks wh. bread at 2 10 per p.	1912	10 0
To car. & por. on do. at 8 per qu.	33	6 8	13500 do. housf. bread at 2 2 do.	1462	10 0
To 670 gal. of yeast at 1 3 per ga.	41	17 6	By 5250 single bu. of bran produced from 1000 q. of wheat, at 5 1/2 p. bu.	114	16 10 1/2
To 107 bush. of falt at 5 0 per bu.	26	15 0	By 34 bu. wood ashes produced from 4500 faggots at 7d per bushel	0	19 10
To 4500 Faggots at 18 0 per hun.	40	10 0			
To peels, rakes, &c.	2	10 0			
To 2 journeymens wages & board	80	0 0			
To his own labour, pains, livelihood and profit	704	17 6 1/2			
	<u>£.3490</u>	<u>16 8 1/2</u>			<u>3490 16 8 1/2</u>

The fore going Account reduced to a State at a Medium for one Quarter of Wheat.

Charges of Manufacturing Wheat.			Per Contra.		Cr.
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	By bread sold agreeable to the affize set in London, when the medium price of wheat at market is 48 shillings per quarter, viz.		
To one quarter of wheat	2	8 0			
To grinding and dressing ditto	0	2 6	13 1/2 pecks wh. bread at 2 10 per p.	1	18 3
To cartage and portrage on ditto	0	0 8	13 1/2 pecks housf. do. at 2 2 per p.	1	9 3
To 2/3 of a gall. of yeast at 1s. 3d. per g.	0	0 10	By 5 1/4 single bu. of bran produced from the quarter of wheat at 5 1/2 d. per bush.	0	2 3 3/4
To 6 lbs. of falt at 5s. per bushel	0	6 1/2	By one quart of ashes produced from 4 1/2 faggots at 7d. per bushel	0	0 0 1/2
To 4 1/2 faggots at 18s. per hundred	0	9 1/4			
To wear of peels, rakes, &c.	0	0 0 1/2			
To journeymens wages and board	0	1 7			
To his own pains, labour, livelihood and profit	0	14 9 1/2			
	<u>£.3</u>	<u>9 9 1/2</u>			<u>£.3 9 9 1/2</u>

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It is to be observed, that out of 1000 quarters of wheat at 6 shillings per bushel, or 48 shillings per quarter, value 2400 pounds. The profit

Is to the landlord (not more than than one fourth of the rent) when wheat is at the price it now bears *l. s. d.*
 viz. 48 shillings ——— 600 0 0
 But to the baker or manufacturers
 of the wheat ——— 740 17 6

Or upon a medium, out of one quarter of wheat
 To the landlord ——— 0 12 0
 But to the baker or manufacturer
 of the wheat ——— 0 14 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

Hence may be seen that the landlord's rent or profit out of the land which produced the wheat, is inferior by near one fourth to the profit of the baker or manufacturers on the same quantity of wheat produced therefrom. — How unjustly and injuriously therefore have the public been instigated of late, upon every casual rise,
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in the price of corn, to attribute the cause of the public distress to the landholder? it is on the contrary manifest, that the true and capital source of the disease (constantly operating in all seasons, good or bad, and which no oppressive expedient upon the landholder can relieve, but only contribute to increase) lies in the growing luxury, the thirst of gain, and the modern expectation of the dealers, from small beginnings, to make rapid fortunes, at the expence of the landed man, of the public, and the consumer in general, not excepting even those of their own degree.—Uncontrolled, indulged, and protected in this pursuit of private profit, by the overbearing and undistinguishing prejudices of the times, to the founts of trade and manufacture,

The like close examination into the gains of other dealers in provisions of all kinds (and perhaps in many greater branches of trade, foreign and domestic) would probably afford the like discovery, and it is to be hoped will become the subject of serious

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rious attention at least, if not of publick enquiry.—Which may possibly have the happy effect, to prevent the otherwise unavoidable consequences of a direct and implacable rupture between the landed, trading and monied interests, than which nothing can be more fatal to this kingdom.

If after this full detection of the abuses which have been derived from the alteration of the assize of bread under the act of 31st. of King George the 2d.—No remedy should be applied.—Nay, if no remedy should be solicited even by *magistrates* themselves, the whole world will be convinced how commerical injuries stand privileged, and how detrimental the influence of great corporations is become to the Community.

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M E M O R A N D U M.

Since the writing of the foregoing pamphlet, a baker has actually entered into contract, under security, to furnish one of the royal Hospitals (which consumes about 1100 sacks of flour per year) with bread made of the best wheaten flour, without any adulteration, at 6 shillings per sack less than the assize, that shall from time to time be settled by the court of Aldermen. Each of which sacks of flour is likewise stipulated with the said hospital to produce 360 loaves, each loaf to weigh 16 ounces, which is 12½ lbs. of bread from a sack of flour more than was supposed in the calculations in the pamphlet, or than is required by the act of the 31st. of King George the 2d.

Note, the usual allowance in London to the baker, on a sack of flour, is ten shillings.

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