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Vol 49

Houses of the Oireachtas

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AN
A C C O U N T

Mr. Thomas Johnston's
I M P R O V E M E N T

OF THE
L I V E S T O C K,
OF THE
K I N G D O M OF I R E L A N D.

D U B L I N:
PRINTED BY M. MILLS, N^o. 133, CAPEL-STREET,
OPPOSITE ABBEY-STREET.

MDCCLXXVII.

ACCOUNT

Mr. Thomas Johnston's

IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

LIVE STOCK,

OF THE

KINGDOM OF IRELAND.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY M. WILKS, No. 10, CAPT. STREET,
OPPOSITE ABBEY STREET.

MDCCLXXXII.

A N

A C C O U N T

O F

Mr. THO. JOHNSTON'S Improvement, &c.

THE petition presented to the honourable house of commons, by Thomas Johnston, of Derry, in the county of Tipperary, contains many allegations; which, at the first view, may seem rather incredible. It is hard to conceive that the assiduity of one man, and that man in a confined situation of life, could be of such universal advantage to a whole kingdom, as this petition sets forth. If it is proved, there is no doubt but the humanity of the parliament will consider the losses Mr. Johnston has sustained, whilst he has been serving the nation;

and that they will excite others to a like exertion of a zeal, that may be called truly patriotic, by evincing to the world, that no man shall be a loser, by similar endeavours.

Indeed, in the eye of justice, when a man diminishes his own private fortune, by aiming at public utility, if even he should *not* succeed, he has some claim to be reimbursed ; but where his endeavours have been crowned with amazing benefit to the whole community, it would be a great hardship if his family alone should suffer, whilst that of every other man reaps profit and advantage from his labours.

In order to give Mr. Johnston a just plea to solicit the benevolence of parliament it should be proved, first, that he has procured a national advantage; secondly, we should calculate how far that advantage hath extended, and how far it is still capable of farther extension; and lastly, we should ascertain what his real
losses,

losses are, and shew that they had their rise, not from extravagance or imprudence, but solely from unavoidable events, the natural consequences of his undertaking.

In order to illustrate these essential points, and make every gentleman who reads this, fully master of the whole subject, I shall consider his petition, paragraph by paragraph, and adjoin to each, clear, circumstantial, and undoubted authorities.—And I am happy that in this undertaking I have no occasion to recur to any kind of sophistry, for which I have no abilities; nor to aim at a flowery display of persuasive arguments, for which I am equally incapable. No, I have need of only a plain stile, and a simple detail of facts. And I doubt not but the force of unadorned truth, will answer every intention of this address.

The first paragraph of Mr. Johnston's petition is thus expressed:

“ That

“ That your petitioner was the *first*
 “ person in this kingdom, who, impelled
 “ by a zeal for the improvement of the
 “ live flock of this, his native country,
 “ began to import from England, at great
 “ labour, hazard, and expence, numbers
 “ of sheep, horned cattle, swine, and
 “ horses ; in which employment he has
 “ spent the last twelve years of his
 “ life.”

To prove these allegations, it must
 be observed, that the petitioner resided
 for many years in England, and applied
 himself there, with the strictest attention,
 to the breeding of cattle, and the im-
 provement of agriculture, which are
 known to have a mutual dependance on
 each other. By an unremitted applica-
 tion to these useful arts, he acquired a
 very extensive knowledge of the true
 means of improving them, and carrying
 them to a degree of perfection, to which
 neither had hitherto arrived. He had
 accumulated a considerable sum of mo-
 ney

ney in England, and was desirous to end his days in his native country. On his return, a comparison between the agriculture and breeding of cattle in Ireland, and in the kingdom from whence he came, struck him very forcibly. He found that though the exportation of beef and pork formed one of the most capital branches of Irish commerce, the breed of swine and horned cattle here was infinitely inferior to that of England. The sheep were much smaller, not so well fed, and did not produce a proportionate quantity of wool. The draft horses, so necessary for the plough, and the transportation of commodities from one part of the kingdom to another, were small and weak; and in point of agriculture, the husbandmen shut the door against improvement, from their being preposterously besotted to the methods of their ancestors, from which they did not seem, in the least, inclined to depart.

Mr. Johnston then resolved to excite others, by shewing what might be done. He brought over large quantities of red
Norfolk,

Norfolk, and Kentish white wheat; numbers of the best and largest stallions and mares, boars and sows, rams, ewes, and bulls, that England produced; and spent his fortune and time in that employment, to the benefit of this kingdom.

As this undertaking could not be carried on without great expence, so it was attended with much labour and hazard. To the first cost of the animals he imported, must be added the charge of his frequent journeys to divers parts of England, and the very enhanced freight for the bringing them over, in proportion to the risque of the vessels. Mr. Johnston therefore may well mention the *bazard*, the *expence*, and the *labour* of his undertaking, which must appear to every one, on the smallest consideration, to be greater than would occur in almost any other species of trade.

The second paragraph of the petition runs thus :

“ That

" That since the year 1765, he has im-
 " ported five hundred and fifty-five rams
 " and ewes ; by which the breed has
 " been so improved, that sheep have
 " been slaughtered in the Dublin mar-
 " kets, weighing from thirty to forty-
 " four pounds per quarter ; and the addi-
 " tional weight of their wool has been
 " proportionate."

The whole number of sheep imported is, as set down in this paragraph; and the particulars are as follows:

	Rams.	Ewes.
Sold at Ballynasloe fair	84	136
at Derry, near Birr,	50	140
at Clonmell,	13	0
at Slevire,	10	0
to Charles Walfsh of Derrylahan,	9	74
in the co. Tip- perary, Esq;		
to Sir Richard St. George, Bart.	8	20
at Loughrea,	6	0
at Kilcock,	5	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total rams,	185	370
ewes,	370	<hr/>
	<hr/>	
Total	355.	

All these rams and ewes are those which were absolutely imported, and not one of those bred by him are numbered in

in the above account. From these being dispersed throughout the grazing counties, the improvement spread far and wide. The size encreased, the wool and tallow became more in quantity than what was produced from a much larger number of sheep, and the skins were larger in proportion. Those which came to Dublin markets fetched a much higher price, and on the 13th of last October, two sheep were slaughtered, of his breed, and bred by the above-named Mr. Walsh, which weighed forty four pounds per quarter, when dressed. These assertions will be farther considered when we come to calculate the general advantage from Mr. Johnston's importations of live stock.

The third paragraph is in these words.

“ That no less than one million four
 “ hundred and eighty four thousand and
 “ seventy sheep have been produced
 “ from his breed, in six years.

This allegation is proved from the following moderate calculation :

Admitting

Admitting that one ram gets thirty lambs in one year, which every breeder will allow to be rather under, than over the general increase of sheep. And admitting one third to be ram lambs, then

1st Year, one ram	}	Rams.	Ewes.
produces			
2d Year, one ram pro-	}	10	20
duces			
3d Year, eleven rams	}	110	220
produce			
4th Year, eleven rams	}	110	220
produce			
5th Year, one hundred and twenty-	}	1210	2420
one rams produce			
6th Year, one hundred and twenty one	}	1210	2420
rams produce			

Rams	2660	Ewes	5320
------	------	------	------

Total produce from	}	7980 Sheep.
one ram in six years,		

To explain this calculation to every capacity,

capacity, it is sufficient to observe, that as sheep do not breed till the third year the produce must be equal from one ram, for the two first years, that is to say, thirty each year. But in the third year, the ten rams and twenty ewes, yeaned the first year, will be added to the original one ram, and make the breeders amount to eleven rams; which by the above rate of proportion, will produce one hundred and ten rams and two hundred and twenty ewes; and in the fifth and sixth years, the breeders will be increased in each, to three thousand six hundred and thirty.

It is equally obvious, that in the above calculation, Mr. Johnston has made allowance for rams, made wethers, for deaths by disease, and for slaughter for the markets; otherwise the sum would greatly exceed his estimate, as may be proved thus:

First year, one ram	}	Rams	Ewes
produces		10	20
Second year the same			

Thus

Thus at the third year there will be the parent ram, and ten rams and twenty ewes, of two years old, with as many yearlings, the whole amount being twenty one rams and forty ewes. In this year eleven rams and twenty ewes are fit for breeding, and they produce three hundred and thirty lambs; but in the fourth year there will be an addition of ten two-year old rams, and twenty two-year old ewes, so that their produce would be six hundred and thirty lambs, and so in proportion, as the rams of the former year become of age to breed. As appears by the following table:

Years	Rams	Lambs	
		Ram	Ewes
1	1	10	20
2	1	10	20
3	11	110	220
4	21	220	440
5	131	1310	2620
6	351	3510	7020
		<hr/> 5170	<hr/> 10,340
		Total 15510	
		Of	

Of which number there are 3930 yearlings, and 10,530 lambs, by which it appears, that in the six years produce Mr. Johnston has allowed 7530, for casualties and slaughter.

If therefore by the above calculation, one ram will produce 7980 sheep in the space of six years, it is then evident that the 185 rams imported by Mr. Johnston, produced 1,476,300 sheep; and allow the produce of the 370 ewes imported, to be 7770, it will make the whole to be 1,484,070, the number alledged in the Petition. And if the above table is allowed, (which it must be, by the same proportion) then the whole amount, supposing the whole progeny of the 185 rams to be alive, will be 2,853,840; from which, deduct the 1,484,070, and the remaining will shew the allowance for casualties and slaughter of the whole breed, in six years to be 1,369,770; and if the loss by casualties is estimated at even one third, then it appears, the markets of this kingdom have slaughtered 913,180, sheep of Mr. Johnston's breed.

The

The reader will perceive that to make up the above account, 7770 sheep are estimated as the produce of 370 ewes. This shall be made clear, not to leave the least shadow of a doubt.

The sheep in the above tables, are the produce of only 185 rams, imported by Mr. Johnston; but at the first out-set it was mentioned, that he imported also 370 ewes, and their breed must be also taken into the account.

These

These ewes may be calculated to produce each one lamb in the year, which lambs will be breeders themselves in the third year. In that ratio, the produce will be as follows :

First year	-	-	370 ewes
			370 lambs
			<hr/>
			740

Second year	-	-	370 lambs
			<hr/>
			1110

Third year	-	-	740 lambs
			<hr/>
			1850

Fourth year	-	-	1110 lambs
			<hr/>
			2960

Fifth year	-	-	1850 lambs
			<hr/>
			4810

Sixth year	-	-	2960 lambs
			<hr/>

Total at the end of	}	7770.
six years,		

C

In

In this calculation, no notice is taken of the number of ram-lambs that may be produced by the ewes; nor the benefit that may accrue from them, and from the ewes bearing twins; which are set against casualties, and one supposed to allow for the other.

The fourth paragraph of the petition alledges, "That he has imported
 " *eighteen* stallions, and *eighty* mares, from
 " which the present produce amounts to
 " above ten thousand, better adapted to
 " mount the cavalry of this kingdom than
 " English horses, being lighter, more used
 " to the climate, and cheaper, by ten
 " pounds per head."

There is not one breeder of horses, who need to be informed of the truth of the produce within twelve years; and they may be now rationally allowed to be all existing; as horses are not slaughtered for food, and are less subject to mortal diseases, however they may be hurt by accidents. The horses of this breed, deriving from sires and dams of
 the

the largest and most robust kind that could be procured, have greater strength for draft, and for the road, than the breed which subsisted before this importation was attempted. But this article might be made still more useful, by a great saving to government, and a sparing of public money, in remounting the light horse, and light dragoons on this establishment.

The sending to England to purchase horses for the above purpose, is a certain drain of so much money as their first cost, and the incident charges on their importation comes to. Each of these horses stands government in *thirty nine pounds*; the freight for each is *forty shillings*, and the contingent charges, are one pound per head more. So that the expence of each horse, thus imported is *thirty-two pounds*. Now as the horses of Mr. Johnston's breed may be purchased at *twenty-two pounds* each, government might not only make a saving of *twelve pounds* a horse, but the whole purchase

money will be kept and circulated in the kingdom.

Thus, were even the English and Irish horses equally good and serviceable, the preference is surely to be given to the breed of this kingdom. But the case is widely different, for though the goodness of the Irish breed is owing to the sires and dams imported from England, yet, being bred here, they are better adapted to the climate, are not so heavy, and may be purchased in full health, without any loss of time; whereas the English horses require some time to be got together; they frequently contract sickness from the voyage (which is sometimes tedious) and the flinging, and the rolling of the vessel; from which sickness it is a long while ere they recover; and it requires also a further space to accustom them to the food of this country. All these inconveniences might be avoided by using Mr. Johnston's breed; which opinion is confirmed by that of several general officers, who are good judges.

The fifth paragraph, says, “ There
 “ are now in this kingdom above *six hun-*
 “ *dred* head of *horned cattle*, and *six thou-*
 “ *sand swine* of his breed.”

This assertion is well warranted by fundry certificates, too tedious to cite in this short account. The horned cattle of his breed are so much superior in size and goodness to those which were in this country before, that beef for exportation, hides, tallow, &c. have not only advanced in value, but have been so much encreased in quantity, as to enable this kingdom to make several capital and advantageous contracts, which otherwise it could not have done.

Pork, another capital export, hath been equally meliorated; the breed being from the largest Hampshire boars and fows, is now superior in size and flesh to any we had before.

The

The sixth paragraph, deserves a minute consideration, it sets forth, " That by
 " the superior size and quality of his
 " breed of sheep, horned cattle, swine
 " and horses, the nation hath received
 " an additional advantage, to the amount
 " *three hundred and ninety three thousand,*
 " *seven hundred and seventeen pounds, ten*
 " *shillings, sterling,* within the last twelve
 " years, which is, on an average, the
 " the sum of *thirty two thousand, eight*
 " *hundred and eighty pounds, fifteen shil-*
 " *lings and ten pence,* per annum, and the
 " benefit is every day increasing."

This assertion, amazing as it may seem, is easily proved by the following estimate.

Allow every sheep of Mr. Johnston's breed to be worth only five shillings more than the ordinary sheep. Every one of the horned cattle to fetch two pounds more than those of the original Irish breed. Each horse at the same rate, and each of the year old swine, five shillings more than the common breed; then the estimate will stand thus:

By

By 1,484,070 sheep, at	}	371,017	10	0
5s. each,				
By 600 horned cattle,	}	1200	0	0
at 2l. each,				
By 10,000 horses, at	}	20,000	0	0
2l. each,				
By 6000 swine, at 5s. each		1500	0	0
Total		393,717	10	0

All these above calculations, are not the children of fancy, nor the effects of predilection to a darling system. They are founded on the justest and most accurate enquiries, and before they were hazarded to the public were examined by competent judges, four of whom have signed the following certificate.

“ We

“ We the under-named, know Mr.
 “ Thomas Johnston, and do verily be-
 “ lieve, that the number of sheep and
 “ cattle, in the above list, was by him
 “ imported; and do think the above a
 “ moderate calculation.

“ THEOBALD BUTLER,
 “ CHARLES WALSH,
 “ WM. PERSSE,
 “ ROBT. PERSSE,
 “ M. NORTH.”

But this calculation might be carried
 much farther, by taking into the account,
 not only the present live stock now in
 the kingdom, but all that hath been
 slaughtered in the different markets.
 These have been estimated above, in re-
 gard to the article of sheep only, to
 amount to 913,180, which at 5s. per
 sheep, makes an addition of 228,295l.
 and therefore, the whole additional ad-
 vantage to the nation has been no less
 than 6220l. 10s. 10d. and therefore the
 annual encreased advantage was the
 sum of 84,643l. os. od.

In

In the seventh paragraph, the losses of Mr. Johnston are estimated as follows :

“ That the prosecution of the above national advantage, hath been so far from being profitable to your petitioner, that he hath thereby incurred a loss, since the year 1769, *of one thousand, four hundred, and sixty-two pounds, five shillings,* of his own private fortune.”

This is proved by the following estimate, which can be attested on oath.

1770.

l. s. d.

January 2. Sixty rams and
 ewes, embark-
 ed for Ireland,
 were wreck-
 ed on the
 Welch coast,
 and all perish-
 ed. These at
 the first cost,
 with the ex-
 pences of the
 journey, came
 to 13l. 13s. a
 sheep,

819 0 0

March

		l.	s.	d.
March 1.	Thirty rams and ewes, were lost at Carlingford, on account of the ship's being seized for want of a cocket, and perished for want of food. These sheep stood in 11l. 7s. 6s. each,	341	5	0

1772.
March

Lost a black stallion, by a hurt which he received on board the ship, and which cost 100 guineas in England,	113	15	0
--	-----	----	---

1774.

March 3.

Lost three rams,
which cost 22l.
15s. each,

l. s. d.

68 5 0

By bad debts, by
Messrs. Kelly,
Stephenfon,
Webster and
Howard,

120 0 0

1472 5 0

These are absolute losses, which would be greatly enhanced if we should consider only the common interest of the money; which, at six per cent. would encrease each sum as follows :

Seven

	l.	s.	d.
Seven years and nine months } interest on 819l. os. od.	371	15	10½
Seven years and seven mouths } interest on 341l. 5s.	155	12	2½
Five years and seven months } interest on 113l. 15s.	38	2	0
Three years and three months } interest on 68l. 5s.	12	16	1
	<hr/>		
	578	6	2

As the dates of the bad debts are not specified, no account of interest is made for them, thus the sum remains only.

Thus it is evident that estimating his loss at 1472l. 5s. that means only his original loss, whereas had he not sustained that deficiency of his fortune, he might have made above 578l. 6s. 2d. interest in the time, and had his capital still in his hands; therefore, justice directs that we should ascertain his losses to amount to, at least, 2050l. 11s. 2d. and if we consider the profit which might have been made on his money, had it been laid out in houses, land

land, or other merchantable commodities, we must conclude he has been a still more considerable sufferer.

Some may object that losses are incident to every kind of trade ; and that his bad debts might arise from his indiscretion, and want of proper caution who he credited. To this may be answered, first, that altho' every trader is liable to losses, Mr. Johnston would not have met with those he sustained, if he had not embarked in this undertaking. The bare interest of the capital he brought to Ireland, (a sum above four thousand pounds) might have maintained his family, and have left the principle for his children : or had he laid it out in lands or in building, his profits must have been larger and more certain than his most sanguine expectations could hope from the importation of live stock, as being attended with less hazard. Nothing, therefore, but a laudable zeal for the improvement of his country, could have impelled him to embrace a profession naturally attended with great risque, in place of a certain

tain interest, unaccompanied with personal danger, and personal fatigue.

Secondly, his giving great and long credit, was another consequence of his love for Ireland. The interest of the nation required that the improvement of the live stock should spread far and wide, which it could not do without sparing some of his prime cattle and horses, to mend the breed, to farmers and graziers. Some of these were too poor to pay ready money, and must, had he not trusted them, gone without. Hence the credit he gave was very extensive, and hence it is rather to be wondered, that in a course of eleven or twelve years, his loss by bad debts was not more than 120l. than that it was so much. Had he been hard in his dealings, and over cautious, it is certain he might not have lost any thing on that score, but it is equally certain, the country would not have had its live stock so extensively improved.

It may be again urged, that he got a good price for the stock he sold, or for
their

their covering, which might make up for his losses, but the prices of all saleable commodities must be ascertained by the number of sellers, and Mr. Johnston had it not in his power to effect a monopoly; every stallion, boar, bull or ram, which he sold, making that more and more impossible, by enabling other breeders to carry the produce of Mr. Johnston's original stock to the same markets, thereby keeping the prices moderate and equitable.

Besides, Mr. Johnston could not lay by whatever profits he might make, as his constant importation took them away. This may be easily ascertained by the following estimate of the sums really expended, for original live stock, of sheep and horses only :

555 Rams

555 Rams and ewes, valued, on an average, at 12l. each.	}	l.	s.	d.
18 Stallions, at fifty guineas each,		6660	0	0
80 Brood mares, at 30 guineas each,		1023	15	0
		2400	0	0
		<hr/>		
		10,083	15	0
		<hr/>		

Thus he has expended 10,083l. 15s. for the breed of sheep and horses only; and there is no doubt but the bulls and cows, boars and swine, came not far short; and as they could fetch very little more than their prime cost, with the charges of feeding, &c. his profit must have been so inconsiderable as to make his losses be dreadfully felt by a man, who has a large family to support—but of this hereafter.

The eighth paragraph of the petition is,
 “ That your petitioner can, if permitted, fully prove each and every of the
 “ said allegations.” And indeed he is
 E possessed

possessed of such authentic documents as must remove the greatest incredulity.

Amongst them the following is peculiarly striking, attested by so many Gentlemen of fortune and character, who are at the same time so thoroughly able to judge of the matter, and gives such an honourable testimony of Mr. Johnston's assiduity, that it would be improper to omit it.

“ We, the *Gentlemen Breeders* of the
 “ kingdom of IRELAND, CERTIFY, that
 “ Mr. Thomas Johnston, by his great
 “ skill in the choice, and unwearied assi-
 “ duity in the importation of live stock into
 “ this kingdom, for several years past, and
 “ at a vast expence, hath improved the
 “ the stock in general of Ireland, in a most
 “ extraordinary manner, to such a degree
 “ that we are well convinced of the great
 “ benefit we have received; and sincerely
 “ wish he may meet with Parliamentary
 “ encouragement.

Richard

Richard St. George

Anthony Blake

Mark Blake

Edward A. Blake

John Blake

John Fallon

John Lambert

Thomas Daly

Michael Daly

Anthony Daly

John Kelly

D. Kelly

Hugh Kelly

James Fitzpatrick

John Moore

Daniel Kilkelly

Bernard Rochfort

Edward Rochfort

James Ward

Michael Ward

James Ferrall

Martin D'Arcy

Dominick Darcy

Edmond Dowling

William Dowling

Charles Walsh
William Burke
John Burke
Edward Naghton
George Brabzon
Joseph Shadwell
William Davy
William Davys
Patrick Kilkenny
Thomas Milbank
Edward Hamilton
Andrew Hearne
Miles Keon
Patrick French
Hervey Hines
William Persse
Robert Persse
Walter Taylor
Richard Biggs
John Fermer
Thomas Bayly
J. Smith
James Galbraith.

This ample certificate, signed by so many gentlemen of character and fortune, stamp the seal of veracity on his allegations, at the same time it does him the highest honour, and gives him a well grounded hope that it will have some weight with the honourable house.

The ninth paragraph is as follow :

“ That in the sessions of 1775, he presented a petition to this honourable house, who was pleased to grant him the sum of two hundred pounds, not having it in their power (as he has been informed) from the number of other parliamentary grants, to extend their bounty farther at that time.”

This

This is a fact of such public notoriety, that it would be altogether needless to adduce any proof, I shall therefore only observe, that by giving him 200l. the house proved they thought him deserving of some relief; but it neither does, nor can prove they esteemed that small sum a full reimbursement of his losses. On the contrary, it may rather be inferred that they would have given him the whole, had not their benevolent Will been circumscribed by the number of petitioners, and by the very large sum one of them got; which did not leave it, at that time, in their power to accomplish their humane intentions.

The last paragraph concludes his petition in those words :

“ That your petitioner hath no hopes
 “ of retrieving his losses, incurred solely
 “ by his zeal for the public good, nor of
 “ continuing his endeavours for a still fur-
 “ ther exertion of it, without the aid of
 “ Parliament.”

That

That his losses were *incurred solely by his zeal for the public good*, has been proved above. That he *hath no hopes of retrieving them without the aid of Parliament*, will be easily concluded by every thinking person, who reflects that Mr. Johnston has a wife and six children, and is unable to provide for them, from the loss of above *fourteen hundred pounds*, in the manner he might have done had he still possessed that sum. But if he were reimbursed, he might do that justice to his family, they have a right to expect from him, and not only retrieve his affairs, but have a prospect of that tranquillity in his age, that twelve years labours and anxieties have, in great measure, destroyed.

This naturally leads me to consider another sentence in that paragraph, namely, that without the aid of Parliament he will not be able to *continue his endeavours for a still farther exertion of his zeal for public good*.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding his losses, his ardor is not abated, he still pants for the means of being farther serviceable, and seeks no other tranquillity than that which would arise from pursuing his aim at improvement, with prospect of success, and unembarrassed circumstances. He seeks not to sit down in idleness though he wishes to enjoy content. Notwithstanding the smallness of the sum granted him by Parliament, he took it with thankfulness, as a mark of the good will and patronage of the worthy representatives of his country, and an earnest of their future benevolence. He still went on in the road to improvement, two branches of which are still open for amendment, and those he intends to pursue, if he is enabled.

The breed of draft horses is so well improved that it requires but a few temporary importations to keep it up in full vigor, but there is one point of utility to which it may be made to tend, and which is much wanted in this kingdom.

One of the greatest conveniencies of England is the easy, safe and certain conveyance of goods, wares, merchandize and furniture, from the capital to every part of the kingdom, and from one part to another, by means of road waggons. These set out as regularly as the post; at stated hours, and from particular places, and perform their journies in a known and limited space of time. The rates for carriage are fixed, so as to prevent any imposition. The waggons carry large quantities of goods, which are defended by tilts from rain, or any injuries of weather; they afford also vehicles for the lower class of people from place to place, and their broad wheels acting as large rollers, mend the roads and press down to an even surface the deep ruts made by the cutting, narrow wheels. This advantage the traders of England have over these of Ireland, who, by being obliged to send their goods on small cars, are subject to great delays, and for want of proper shelter, have them frequently spoiled. Add to this the want

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of a certain rate which exposes them to frequent impositions, and subjects them to expences which too often eat deep into the profits of the wares. Gentlemen also experience these evils in sending their furniture to their seats, having them broken oftentimes, by the carriages being so ill adapted for the purpose; and the nation is put to heavy expences to repair the roads, torn up by these carrs, whose wheels form deep ruts and lodgements for water.

All these inconveniencies, and many more which might be enumerated. Mr. Johnston intends to prevent (if enabled) by setting up broad wheeled waggons, to go at stated times, and carry goods at stated prices from Dublin to each of the large towns and cities in the kingdom, and from one trading town to another (calling at every intermediate place on the road). The utility of this measure, needs no animadversion; and this is now more easily to be accomplished than before, from the number of strong draft horses of Mr. Johnston's breed.

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The other branch of improvement he intends to pursue (if enabled) is mending the breed of *hunters*, the only species of horses now wanting amendment, since the draft horses are sufficiently attended to, and the breed of race horses is already tolerably well considered. Hunting is a noble and an healthful diversion, and, with some few exceptions, it is well known the present kind of Irish saddle horses are but ill adapted for the purpose of hunting. If Mr. Johnston meets with the favour of Parliament, he designs to bring over hunting stallions and brood mares, of a particular breed now in Yorkshire, of sufficient strength and fleetness, so that we might have a true breed, in four years of these useful creatures.

Having thus gone thro' the whole of his petition, and proved the several allegations, I have compleated the task I had undertaken, which was solely that of making every gentleman who reads this fully master of the whole subject. I shall
only

only add that the Patriotic Dublin Society have, by three different premiums stamped the seal of their approbation on Mr. Johnston's labours; and if the Honourable House of Commons will condescend to consider, what he has done for universal good, and what he may yet do, their wonted justice and love for their country, and their wonted humanity will influence them to succour an useful subject, with a large family, who humbly begs their assistance and relief.

F I N I S.

Chart
of the
Nymph Bank or Fishing Ground
and the adjacent Coast of Ireland
from Actual Observations

*Respectfully Inscribed to the R. Hon.^{ble} the Speaker,
by his most obliged, humble Servant,*

R. Fraser.

April 2nd 1802.

