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*The Situation of the Poor in England, and the Manner in which they live, may be seen from the following Account. It would be very desirable to have similar Statements drawn up in different Parts of Scotland.*

*Account of the Families.*

No. 1. A Man, his Wife and 5 children, the eldest 8 years of age, the youngest an infant.

No. 2. A woman, whose Husband is run away, and 6 children, the eldest a boy 16 years of age, the next a boy aged 13, the youngest 5: 4 of the children too young to earn any thing.

No. 3. A Man, his Wife, and 4 small children, the eldest under 6 years of age, the youngest an infant.

No. 4. A Man, his Wife, and 3 small children, the eldest not quite 5 years old, the youngest an infant.

No. 5. A Man, his Wife, and 3 young children, the eldest 6 years of age, the youngest an infant.

No. 6. A Man, his Wife, and 2 young children, the eldest 7 years of age, the youngest 4.

*Expences and Earnings of 6 Families of Labourers, by the Week, and by the Year.*

NECESSARIES.	No. 1.		No. 2.		No. 3.		No. 4.		No. 5.		No. 6.		
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
Bread or flour	0	6	3	0	5	0	5	0	6	1	0	4	2
Yeast and Salt	0	0	4	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	3
Bacon or other meat	0	0	8	0	1	4	0	8	0	1	1	0	1
Tea, sugar, butter	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Cheese, ( seldom any )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beer, ( seldom any )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soap, starch, blue	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Candles	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Thread, drum, worsted	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	0	8	11	4	0	8	9	0	7	7	1	0	6
Amount per annum	23	4	9	22	15	0	19	17	7	18	0	9	18
Earnings per Week.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
The Man earns at a medium	0	8	0	5	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	
The Woman	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	6	0	8	0	6	
The Children	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	8	6	0	9	0	0	8	6	0	9	0	
Amount per annum	22	2	0	23	8	0	22	2	0	23	8	0	
To the above amount of expences per annum	23	4	9	22	15	0	19	17	7	18	0	9	
Add rent, fuel, clothes, lying-in	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	
Total expences per annum	29	4	9	28	15	0	25	17	7	24	0	9	
Total earnings per annum	22	2	0	23	8	0	22	2	0	23	8	0	
Deficiency of earnings	7	2	9	5	7	0	3	15	7	0	12	9	

*Annual Expences.*

Rent of a cottage and garden, from 1 l. 5 s. to 2 l. 2 s. say 1 l. 10 s.  
 Fuel, if bought, costs 12 s. but reckoned here at a week's wages, because a man can in a week cut turf enough on the common to serve the year, and the farmers give the carriage for the ashes.  
 Clothing. The man's wear of a suit per annum, 5 s.; wear of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s.; 2 shirts, 8 s.; 1 pair of stout shoes nailed, 7 s.; 2 pair of stockings, 4 s.; hat, handkerchief, &c. 2 s.—Sum 1 l. 10 s.—The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 4 s.; 1 shift, 3 s. 6 d.; 1 pair of strong shoes, 4 s.; 1 pair of stockings, 1 s. 6 d.; 2 aprons, 3 s.; hankchiefs, caps, &c. 4 s.—Sum 1 l.—But as few poor people can every year bestow on themselves the sums here supposed, let the children's clothing (partly made up of the parents old clothes, partly bought at second hand) be included, and the whole estimated at 2 l. 10 s.  
 Lying-in, sickness and loss of time thereby, burials and loss of time by extreme bad weather, estimated one year with another, at 1 l. 12 s.  
 Rent, fuel, clothing, lying-in, &c. are set down in the columns at 6 l. to every family alike, because it is the least sum at which those articles can well be reckoned.

Price of the half-peck loaf of wheaten bread - - - - - 0 0 11 1/2  
 — of the gallon of flour - - - - - 0 0 10  
 — of a week's labour in winter - - - - - 0 7 0  
 — of a week's labour, where the labourer is employed constantly, all weather, the year through - - - - - 0 8 0

The tea used per family, is from 1 to 1 1/2 oz. per week, at 2 d. per oz. Soft sugar, 1/2 lb. at 7 d. to 8 d. per lb.  
 Salt butter or lard, 1/2 lb. at 7 1/2 d. to 8 d. per lb.  
 Poor people reckon cheese the dearest article they can buy. Malt is so dear, they seldom brew any small beer, except against a lying-in or a christening.  
 To make our soap, they burn green fern, and knead the ashes into balls, with which they make a ley for washing.  
 In No. 5. the woman washes for one or two single labourers; for which reason 6 d. is charged for soap.  
 In No. 4. the charge for bread is considerably less than in the others; because that family, by buying a whole hog at once, has for the same money almost double the quantity of meat, which the others get who buy by retail; and that greater quantity of meat, with greens and potatoes, makes the bread go farther.  
 It appears from the preceding account, that the poor in England live in a very different stile from those of Scotland, and the earnings of the woman seem to be very inconsiderable indeed; for by spinning only, many women in Scotland gain, instead of 6 d. or even 1 s. at the rate of from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. per week.



ADDENDA.

1. What is the state of the roads and bridges in the parish? How were they originally made? How are they kept in repair? Is the statute labour exacted in kind, or commuted? Are there any turnpikes? and what is the general opinion of the advantages of turnpike roads?

2. What is in general the rent of the best arable and the best pasture or meadow grounds, *per acre*? What the rent of inferior?

3. What in general is the size and the average rent of the farms in the parish? And is the number of farms increasing or diminishing?

4. Is the parish in general inclosed, or uninclosed? And are the people convinced of the advantages of inclosures?

5. What was the situation of the parish *Anno 1782 and 1783*? Please state any curious or important circumstances connected with that era, or with any other season of scarcity.

6. Are there any curious or important facts tending to prove any great alteration in the manners, customs, dress, stile of living, &c. of the inhabitants of the parish, now, and 20 or 50 years ago?

*N. B.* If you reside in a town or city, please give an account of the history and antiquities of the place; of its buildings, age, walls, sieges, privileges, immunities, gates, streets, markets, fairs; the number of wards, guilds, companies, fraternities, clubs, &c.: How the parish is governed: if it is represented in parliament, to whom does the election belong, and what the number of electors? together with the difference between its ancient and modern state, in regard to population, shipping, fisheries, manufactures, more particularly at the following periods: about the time of the Union, since the year 1745, and at present.

It may be proper to add, that many important facts and circumstances may occur to those to whom this paper is addressed, not hinted at in the queries, which it would be particularly obliging in any gentleman to answer which he may take the trouble of drawing up.

EDINBURGH, }  
May 25, 1790. }

*W. Robertson*  
*Per Nichols.*



Sir John Sinclair's  
Circular letter to  
the Clergy of the  
Church of Scotland

For

Mr Michall.

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