

there can be no difference of opinion, all have the same interest, and all are alike concerned.

I may observe, before concluding those very unconnected remarks on the corn laws, that the inhabitants of towns when they argue that a free trade in grain would be for their advantage, in as much as it would afford them at a cheaper rate, the principal article of subsistence, are blind to their true interests. They contend, in fact, for a momentary advantage which must be purchased by their ultimate ruin. It must be obvious if the farmers are unable to procure a remunerating price for their grain that they can no longer purchase those articles which the manufacturer and merchant supply. The natural consequence of this is, that the inhabitants of towns who furnish the agriculturists with the necessaries or conveniences of life, must, in exact proportion to the diminution of the prosperity of the country, suffer in their various employments. Hence it must be evident, that if they have cheaper corn, they have less means of purchasing it. But this is not all. As a less quantity of the articles they supply is required, wages in the first place must be lowered, but the demand still decreasing, a part of the labourers—that the articles may bear a profit—are obliged to be discharged. Thus an addition is made to the poor's roll, and those who are still able to carry on business must be taxed in a proportional degree for their support. It must from this be plain, that allowing a free trade in corn to give a momentary advantage to the towns, it must in the end overwhelm them with the like ruin which it brings upon the agriculturists in the first instance. Besides, if agriculture is destroyed at home—which is a necessary consequence, on the removal of the protecting duty—the inhabitants of towns must become entirely dependent on the supply of corn from abroad as well as subject to the caprice of the dealers in that commodity, and must be content to purchase it at whatever price they choose to impose. Thus while they would have less means of purchasing it, grain would in all probability rise as high, if not higher, than it is at present. The