

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS,

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HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

VOL. I.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS

FOR
ENGLAND AND WALES.

WITH THE APPENDICES.



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REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL,
HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
8th August, 1835.*

MY LORD,

WE are required, by the fifth section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, to submit annually to one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State a "general Report of our Proceedings," in order that it may be laid before both Houses of Parliament. In discharging this duty for the first time, we consider that the extent and novelty of the powers created by the Legislature, and confided to us by his Majesty, and the peculiar character and importance of the interests which we have been called upon to superintend, demand from us a full exposition of the measures we have adopted; of the reasons for adopting them; and, as far as they can be ascertained, of the effects they have produced.

§ 1. On the day on which we were sworn into office we received notifications that the officers of several extensive parishes in the Metropolis had prepared to yield up their offices to new local officers, who, it was conceived, were to be immediately appointed by us for the administration of relief throughout England and Wales.

We were at the same early period informed, that in extensive districts great confusion and uncertainty prevailed, arising from an impression that not only had the administration of relief been subjected to our general superintendence and control, but that the whole of the immediate and direct management had devolved upon us, and that the churchwardens and overseers, and other local officers, were no longer authorized to act in any case, unless under our specific directions. We were also apprized that in other parishes, under the control of Select Vestries or Boards of Guardians, the danger of sudden interruptions of relief to large

numbers of paupers was incurred by the want of preparation, arising chiefly from the absence of precise and authentic information on the part of most of those bodies, to enable them to comply with the enactments contained in the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which provides that, after the passing of the Act, all relief in any such place "shall appertain and belong exclusively to such Guardians of the Poor or Select Vestry."

In a large proportion of this class of parishes, the Select Vestries and Boards of Guardians had been accustomed to meet irregularly, at intervals of a fortnight or a month, or still less frequently, the great bulk of the out-door relief being dispensed weekly, wholly in money, by the overseers. So soon as the provisions of that section of the Act became known, the overseers of these parishes found that they were prohibited from granting any relief whatever, except under the express directions of the Select Vestries or Boards of Guardians, and except also in cases of urgent necessity, in which they were limited to the administration of relief in kind. The overseers, in the instances to which we advert, were unprepared with arrangements for any extensive substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, and the Boards of Guardians and Select Vestries were unprepared to meet frequently, or to enter upon the extensive charge which suddenly devolved upon them.

Our best information at the time of our first entrance on the duties of our office led us to believe that these states of management prevailed, together or separately, in numerous districts, comprising a large portion of the country. Our first proceedings were directed to dispel these various errors promptly by all the means in our power, by verbal explanations to deputations, and direct communications to as large a portion as possible of the officers of the parishes in and near the Metropolis, and in the distant parishes by a circular address, advertised forthwith in all the daily papers*.

Our chief object was, in all these communications, to impress upon the parish officers generally, that the Legislature had not exonerated them from the performance of their duties; that they were still to continue to administer the existing laws for the relief

* Appendix A, No. 1.

of the poor of the parish or place for which they acted ; and that, subject to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the general transaction of parochial business should be continued (with strict attention to economy) in the accustomed course, until we should be enabled to take specific measures thereon.

In reference to the change of the law effected by the 54th section, we directed the immediate attention of the Select Vestries and of the Boards of Guardians throughout the country to the expediency of adopting measures, either by establishing rotas or otherwise, for securing more frequent and regular attendances for the performance of their altered duties in the ordering and superintending the administration of the necessary relief of the paupers.

§ 2. With a view to promulgate the most authentic expositions of the law, we forwarded to each parish or place in England and Wales, a copy of the Act, with an explanatory analysis of its various provisions in the form of a copious index. We at the same time transmitted with the copy of the Act the circular letter above adverted to*. In this circular to the parish officers we included a set of queries preparatory to further inquiries, with a view of ascertaining accurately the amount of workhouse room, state of pauperism, and the administration of relief in each parish†.

Notwithstanding these communications, which we believe had the effect of preventing much disorder, and of retaining in the performance of their duties a large proportion of the officers charged with the immediate distribution of relief, who were prepared to abandon them, we found that a conception had been extensively propagated amongst the overseers in the rural parishes which yet remained as constituted by the 43rd of Elizabeth—that by the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act they were entirely released from the control of the magistrates. The consequences of this error were stated to us in complaints and appeals from paupers themselves, and in statements of many of the magistrates, who also entertained the belief that in such parishes their power was at an end. These consequences were represented to be, that those dependent on parochial relief were

* Appendix A, No. 1.

† Appendix A, No. 2.

harshly treated, and subjected to privations unwarranted by the Legislature.

At the commencement of the winter, the fall in the price of agricultural produce appeared to press heavily upon the farmer, and render necessary a reduction of the wages of the labourer. In those districts where the vicious system of making up the wages of labour from the poor-rates had been established, and where the farmer commonly acts in the incompatible relations of employer of labour in confined labour markets, and of distributor of relief, any alteration of wages, which would in a natural state of things be determined as a question between purchaser and seller, is commonly contested as between paupers with indefinite claims, and a niggardly administrator of a legal fund for relief believed to be inexhaustible. The first disturbances brought to our cognizance were represented to us as arising out of the interruption of the accustomed administration of relief; but they appeared, on examination, to have originated mainly in questions as to the amount of wages, arising not from the change of the law, but from the alteration of the prices of corn.

Whatever might have been the opinion which we had entertained as to the policy of the law in continuing the power of the magistrates to regulate wages by determining the rate of allowance, we held ourselves bound to use our best exertions for the enforcement of the existing law, according to the manifest intentions of the Legislature. In this instance we felt it our duty to exert ourselves to make it known, by a circular letter*, and by other means of communication, that in all parishes in which there are no Boards of Guardians, no Select Vestries, nor other similar bodies constituted under any general or local Act, inasmuch as the Acts of the 3 Will. & Mary, c. 11, and the 9 Geo. 1 c. 7, are not repealed, those Acts still authorize Justices of the Peace to exercise a control over the overseers in the administration of relief. We endeavoured at the same time to make the conditions under which this control was required to be exercised by the existing statutes more completely known than they appeared to have been at any time since their enactment. We may observe, however, that the evidence presented to us in the course of our first experience seemed to prove, that considerable inconvenience would

* Appendix A, No. 3.

have been incurred had the control of the magistrates in such parishes been at once abrogated, previously to the transference of their duties, in the superintendence of relief, to the Boards of Guardians created under the new Act.

As a consequence of these proceedings, we were immediately led into a widely-extended correspondence, in answer to solicitations from all parts of the country for more detailed explanations of the law, and of its application to the peculiar cases of parishes, and even of individuals. Combined with these applications were others for instructions upon questions of administration. Applications of the nature of those which occasioned the circulars and correspondence adverted to, from magistrates, from parochial officers, from rate-payers, as well as from paupers, collectively or individually, have from that period continued to increase. They now form a considerable portion of the business of the department, and of the demands upon our attention. The wants thus indicated we have endeavoured to satisfy by all the means in our power. Being deeply impressed with the extent and importance of the interests affected by our answers, we have availed ourselves of the assistance of counsel upon legal questions, and have from time to time had recourse to the aid of the law officers of the Crown. On questions of administration we have resorted to the best available sources of information. This information we have extensively disseminated. The varied circumstances under which cases of the like description have been presented to us, in the information we received from all parts of the country, form an increasing body of illustrative evidence, enabling us to meet these applications, and to act with greater confidence than could under any other circumstances have been warranted. The frequent necessity of such references as those to which we have adverted, we would mention as a cause of occasional delays in our proceedings; in addition to which cause, we may also allude to the fact, that, as we had no precedent for our guidance, the department being entirely new, every arrangement was required to be made *de novo*, and on the exigency. Our earlier proceedings have also been frequently impeded by the necessity of settling new forms of procedure, and of making detailed arrangements, which rendered it difficult to act with that promptitude which we deem otherwise practicable and necessary.

§ 3. On the approach of the late winter, when large bodies of the

agricultural labourers were thrown out of employment, the applications for advice as to the course which should be taken, and for assistance in particular parishes and in districts, became numerous and pressing, and difficult to answer satisfactorily in all cases. We found that however particular were the statements of the evils requiring correction, how trustworthy soever might be the applicants, we seldom could feel assured that some material circumstances were not inadvertently overlooked and omitted in the statements transmitted to us. The existing sources of information, independently of the information obtainable by personal inquiries on the spot, we found extremely defective as a foundation for the local application of new measures.

§ 4. Although the investigations of the late Commissioners of Inquiry were more extensive than any preceding, and were fully adequate to the purposes of legislation, (as all our subsequent experience has proved,) yet those investigations did not extend directly or specifically to more than about 3,000 out of the 15,635 parishes or places separately relieving their own paupers; and we are aware that it was an opinion entertained by that Board that, for the purpose of the practical application of the new law, a renewed and more detailed inquiry was requisite. On obtaining the answers to the queries which we have mentioned as having forwarded with our first circular, we found that those answers were extremely defective; and that at the best they would only yield general indications with respect to the actual condition of any parish or district. Even where we could entertain no reasonable doubt of the completeness of the information as to the general condition of a parish, obtainable by the old means, we could seldom feel assured of the adequacy of the local agency for carrying into execution any general and complete change of system we might require.

In a large proportion of the cases, moreover, there was obviously no agency existing in the single parishes to execute any elaborate change of system. Under these circumstances, and in those cases where applications were made for instructions for an immediate and entire change, we felt that until we could re-examine the parishes or districts in question by our Assistant-Commissioners, our instructions to the local officers must of necessity be general and discretionary, and could not be safely extended to numerous details.

§ 5. The applications for directions, however, were too numerous and urgent to admit of our dealing with them separately or specifically by means of our Assistant-Commissioners. This state of things, together with the occurrence of some cases of precipitate and violent change made by some of the overseers on their own responsibility, suggested the expediency of issuing another circular, of the date of the 8th of November*, setting forth, as general recommendations, some of the chief preparatory measures which it might be necessary to adopt. In the instances of voluntary change made by the parish officers, it was stated that the most severe alterations were too frequently adopted towards the aged and infirm persons, they being the least capable of opposing a powerful resistance. In this communication, as in most others relating to the first alterations of relief, we deemed it necessary to urge caution as regarded this class of paupers, and to endeavour to extend protection to them. With reference to the able-bodied paupers, we endeavoured to enforce the adoption of a more correct principle for their employment, namely, by task-work, at such wages as would render the condition of the independent labourer the most eligible.

Another measure, which we then urged in our recommendations, as a preparative to the final adoption of the system which it was the view of the Legislature to carry into complete operation, was the gradual substitution of relief in kind, *i.e.* in bread, and other necessaries, for relief in money. We have never failed to urge the adoption of this form of relief, whether in cases in which it was necessary to give relief accompanied by the exaction of a return of labour, or in cases in which it appeared that no parish labour could be enforced.

We have found that in parishes where there are no workhouses, or where there are classes of paupers under circumstances in which it might be inexpedient to proffer the workhouse, relief in kind in some degree operated as a self-acting test of the validity of the claim for relief. Advances in money, it should be always recollected, are advances only of the means of obtaining relief, which means the pauper is under constant temptations to misapply, and in a large proportion of cases is incompetent to apply properly. Relief in kind, if well adapted, may be considered as the

relief itself; the object of the *bonâ fide* applicant being, not money, but bread, or the immediate means of sustenance. It has been a frequent source of complaint, that of relief in money only a small portion reached the wives and other members of the family for whose sustenance it was given; and that, in the rural districts, the greater portion was spent in the beer shops, and in the towns was expended in the gin shops. Relief in kind we found less liable to misapplication. If instead of giving to a pauper a weekly allowance in money, an allowance be given in food or other necessities of the same value, he can only obtain a reduced amount of his wonted description of indulgence by the misappropriation of the relief in kind. This misappropriation is necessarily attended with increased trouble, loss, and risks of detection. Under this form of relief, we find that the temptation to fraud is diminished to the extent of the additional trouble incurred in the misappropriation, and the reduction of the amount of beer, spirits, or other objects of desire obtained by it. Another advantage seldom noticed as connected with relief in kind, and which has presented itself to our consideration as a reason for bringing this form of relief as early as possible into general operation, is, that in the present condition of the country, it diminishes the fluctuations of allowances in the way of unintended and unwarranted increases.

Where money allowances had by custom remained unchanged in amount, we found the actual allowances of the paupers to be increasing in proportion to the reduction of the price of agricultural and other produce. These incidents of money payment powerfully affected the rural parishes, which, when examined, displayed an increase of pressure greatly beyond any nominal increase of the rates. The reports which we have received from a considerable number of parishes show that the recommendation of this substitution of relief in kind has been extensively acted upon, and that the effects, in every instance that has been presented to us, have been, to a greater or less extent, beneficial. The letters from the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak will illustrate the nature of the applications made to us, and the effect produced by the measures recommended*.

In some of the London parishes the adoption of this form of

* Appendix C, Nos. 1 and 2.

relief has occasioned a reduction of the burthen of the out-door pauperism to the extent of nearly one-third. In the rural parishes the change is marked by complaints on the part of the beer-shop keepers, and in towns by the diminished consumption of gin immediately following the adoption of this mode of relief.

§ 6. But in many of the single parishes it was alleged that there was scarcely the means of substituting, without preponderant inconvenience, even relief in kind for relief in money; the agency for effecting even a slight approximation to a correct system being entirely wanting. There are 6,681 parishes in which the population does not exceed 300; 1,907 parishes in which it does not exceed 100; 737 parishes in which the population does not exceed 50 persons. In such parishes, the difference between the worst management, and the best that could be expected, did not suffice to make up for the expense of an adequate system of management, that is, of engaging persons competent to the task of carrying on a better system. From these and other circumstances, in a large proportion of small parishes which were brought within our cognizance, the voluntary introduction of any extensive changes, having for their object the discontinuance of out-door relief, or relief in aid of wages, was found to be impracticable, or only practicable with an extent of trouble, and an expenditure of labour, which would not be compensated by any adequate probability of permanent benefit.

§ 7. Under these circumstances we proceeded to direct our chief attention to the general introduction of the workhouse system, with as few delays and preparatory measures as might be consistent with the best interests of those of the labouring classes who are pauperized, and with the circumstances of the districts where the changes might be first introduced.

In reference to an objection which has been urged to the general adoption of the workhouse system, and to its application to the cases of large classes of able-bodied paupers, we would here observe, that it is true that in the evidence collected by the late Commissioners of Inquiry, as well as in the course of our subsequent investigations, instances have been presented to us of parishes which have been dispauperized apparently by means of out-door employment alone, and without the direct agency of a workhouse: but in reality, the use of the workhouse has in

these instances been resorted to, though its employment was not manifested. To cite, in illustration, the well-known example of Cookham: that parish was dispauperized chiefly by offering the able-bodied paupers hard work by the piece for lower wages than they could get elsewhere. The Rev. Thomas Whately, the gentleman who conducted that change, was asked, " You have spoken of the workhouse system as the only means of producing the desired effect, and yet you appear to have dispauperized the parish without offering the able-bodied paupers the workhouse?—Yes. Although we got rid of the able-bodied paupers by giving them trenching, and without taking them into the workhouse, yet that was only a temporary expedient; and it would not have been possible to have effected this without having had the workhouse in the rear to fall back upon: nor will it be possible, as I conceive, to continue the beneficial arrangements in the parish without it. The first irruption of paupers was got rid of by specific labour; but the incidental paupers, who were continually coming as the *avant-couriers* to a tribe of others, could not have been provided with work, especially in the time of frost or snow; and these were silenced by the offer of the workhouse. When a single pauper came in, we could not provide out-door work: we could not have employed a superintendant to superintend the work of one man, nor could we have got trenching for one man, or for two men. If we had not had the workhouse to retire upon, we should have had an influx of paupers applying for work during the winter, whenever the ground was closed by frost or snow. The workhouse, we have found, is the only means of stopping gaps of this kind; and I am persuaded that it is the only means by which the same results can be effected throughout the country."

Now, although in the choice of means for accomplishing the objects of the Legislature, we did not overlook such examples of the beneficial application of out-door relief, or fail to recommend their imitation under similar circumstances, yet the cases we found to be rare where the parishes were so circumstanced as to render the application of out-door relief available in the manner described in the example, instead of the direct offer of a reception in the workhouse.

The following difficulties incidental to this mode of relief, by

setting able-bodied paupers to work during the day, and allowing them to return to their own homes during the night, were presented to us in practice.

It was reported to us, in a large proportion of the cases where we recommended the employment of labourers at task-work, that no fitting land could be obtained at a reasonable expense within the bounds of the single parish.

Where land was offered, it was frequently perceived, that in providing for this mode of relief considerable danger of jobbing was incurred. The parish farms which have come within our knowledge have all failed of their objects, and have proved to be sources of malversation.

Next we had to encounter the difficulties in procuring agents, at any expense proportionate to the gain, to superintend the enforcement of labour within the smaller parishes. To these difficulties were added others in the enforcement of the performance of labour upon sound principles; difficulties usually arising from the erroneous notions of the parish officers as to the obtainment of a profit from the labour, and the erroneous notions of the labourers as to the amount of work which they are bound to give, and of the wages they are entitled to receive from the parish. And further, the mode of relief was beset by the difficulties adverted to in the instance we have cited, in providing for the necessary interruptions of out-door labour in winter and during bad weather.

Another practical inconvenience presented to us with relation to such labour of out-door paupers applied independently of any workhouse, is the difficulty of separating and distinguishing the out-door pauper from the independent labourer. The pauper is not distinguished from other labourers when engaged at out-door work. He associates with the other labourers under circumstances to familiarize them with pauper feelings and habits. Out-door labour without the workhouse has also this great and generally insuperable disadvantage, that it is a form of relief which is peculiarly liable to be made subservient to plans for pauperizing the independent labourer, inasmuch as it is a form of relief presenting in some degree the aspect of his regular employment, to which he can least object when offered or suggested to him by any employer, who intends to obtain from the parish a contribution of rates in lieu of the wages he would otherwise be compelled to give. These and other circumstances often render this mode of

relief the most dangerous in its consequences of any which it is our duty to control.

§ 8. These obstacles to the use of out-door labour as a preparative or as an auxiliary to the workhouse, we found generally precluded the consideration of the expediency of providing the means of such labour as a substitute for the workhouse. Without therefore omitting to sanction or enforce the application of out-door labour in aid of, or as preparatory to, the use of the workhouse, wherever preponderant obstacles and inconveniences did not occur to prevent it, we have been led to the conclusion, that in the greater proportion of cases the public time and means are best economized by immediate proceedings for the earliest and most direct adoption of the workhouse system.

§ 9. It was not until the 1st of December that we were enabled to complete the appointment of the nine Assistant-Commissioners, whom we were authorized to appoint in the first instance on our own authority. The considerations which mainly influenced our choice were the possession of sound practical knowledge and experience of the subject matter of this commission, or the possession of acknowledged talent and general aptitude for the dispatch of public business. Subsequently, as the need of further assistance grew with our labours, the consent of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury has successively been obtained to the appointment of an additional number of Assistant-Commissioners. The whole number of persons at this time acting in that capacity is fifteen.

§ 10. The principle which we have adopted for the selection of the districts for our proceedings in the formation of unions, has been to commence with those in which vicious modes of administration had become the most deeply rooted, and where the pauperized classes were the most demoralized, and the burthens of the rate-payers were the heaviest. It was, however, soon perceived in practice that the amount of the pecuniary burthen beyond the general average of the amount of rates per head on the population of England and Wales, formed the most correct index of the relative amount of disorder arising in a district from mal-administration.

The deviations which we have allowed ourselves to make from the strict order of the relative pecuniary burthen of the districts proceeded with, have been chiefly occasioned by special applica-

tions or by the occurrence of particular exigencies. The selection of the part of Berks first visited was occasioned by a special application for the formation of a union. Our Assistant-Commissioner first visited West Sussex upon an application of the local authorities, in consequence of a commotion which had arisen, apparently on the approach of the change of system in the administration of relief, but really in consequence of the reduction of the ordinary wages of labour. Our first proceedings which led to the formation of the Wycombe and other unions, in the county of Buckingham, were taken in consequence of a forcible appeal to us for the exercise of our functions from the pauper labourers of the parish of Bledlow. Our early intervention in Wiltshire was occasioned by a demand for assistance, in consequence of acts of incendiarism and threatened disturbances, arising from the continuance of abusive modes of administration near Calne; and by an appeal from Colonel Napier and other gentlemen, for the protection of some aged paupers from cruelties or neglect, in the parish of Freshford, now included in the Bradford union. The proceedings which led to the formation of the first union of parishes in the county of Middlesex (the Hendon union) were occasioned by an appeal from the magistrates of the Hendon division, to correct the mismanagement of paupers in the Harrow workhouse; for the abatement of which evils the powers of the magistrates under the old law were deemed inadequate. Our first direct intervention by the appointment of a Board of Guardians in a metropolitan parish, was called for by a large proportion of the rate-payers, to restore peace, and to ensure good management in the parish, which was torn by dissensions. The applications of a similar description have been numerous beyond our power of immediate compliance.

In several instances, however, where we have so far complied with them that we have caused an Assistant-Commissioner to visit the district, it having been found, upon examination, that although evils of the kind complained of did exist, yet that in amount they were greatly below the evils in action elsewhere, we directed a suspension of proceedings in favour of the most heavily burdened districts.

§ 11. Having put our Assistant-Commissioners in possession of our views, and of the general information contained in the Reports of the late Commissioners of Inquiry, and all the local informa-

tion and statistics which our office could furnish relating to the parishes and districts assigned to them, they proceeded to re-examine every parish; 1st, with relation to the description and pressure of any existing evils in the administration of relief in the parish; 2ndly, as to the means existing within the parish of remedying such evils; 3rdly, as to the remedies available by means of a union with other parishes, and as to the extent of the union requisite and practicable for the most efficient and economical administration on sound principles. Upon this examination, the Assistant-Commissioner is required to prepare a written Report to the Board, setting forth the measures which he recommends for adoption, and referring to the evidence on which the recommendation of each measure is founded*. Where the formation of a union is recommended, a considerable portion of the data collected is reduced to a tabular form†. In many instances, we find it necessary to hold a personal conference with the Assistant-Commissioner before determining on the measures proposed, and as to his general course of proceedings.

It has been a general practice with each Assistant-Commissioner, before finally determining upon his recommendations with relation to any district, to convene a meeting of the parties the most deeply interested in the proposed arrangements, namely, the principal owners, and rate-payers, and parish officers. At this meeting, he has explained the measures which it was his intention to recommend to the Board for adoption, and has invited the exposition of any objections, and the suggestion of any additions, to those measures.

It is satisfactory to us to be enabled to state, that in scarcely any instance have the measures thus submitted for a change of system in any district failed of obtaining the concurrence of a large majority of the meeting. In the greater proportion of cases the measures proposed have met with almost unanimous approbation.

Where dissent has been expressed in regard to the measures finally recommended by the Assistant-Commissioner (and such cases which have hitherto occurred in some single parish dissenting

* An example of the Report, and the kind of information required by us from the Assistant-Commissioners, previous to the declaration of any union, is given in Appendix C, No. 3 and 4.

† Appendix C, No. 4.

from a union with adjacent parishes), we have made it a practice to hear the statements of the dissentient parties, and to weigh any evidence which they have adduced upon the arrangement in question.

In the course of the subsequent proceedings, we have admitted of modifications as to the time and mode of making the proposed changes; but in endeavouring to decide solely upon the evidence of the permanent good to be accomplished, and not upon the predilections and conclusions of individuals, commonly deduced from the narrow field of observation, their own parish, and warped by private interests, we have not as yet felt ourselves called upon, in consequence of such appeals, to reverse the main recommendations of any of our Assistant-Commissioners.

§ 12. We have already stated, that in a considerable number of parishes we found the agency inadequate for the correct administration of even preparatory measures of relief. We have also stated, that we generally found it bad economy of the public means and time to attempt to enforce the introduction of the outdoor employment of able-bodied paupers at task-work, as a substitute to the adoption of the workhouse system. As the examinations for the advancement of that system proceeded, we perceived that, even in the cases of parishes possessing workhouses, or poorhouses capable of being converted into workhouses, it was almost an equally bad economy of the public time and means to re-organize separately the arrangements for the administration of relief in the single parishes. Only in three instances, and those under very peculiar circumstances, have we deemed it advisable to place single parishes under the control of Boards of Guardians (under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act), in preference to uniting them with other parishes.

As the Statute under which we act leaves to our option various modes of proceeding with any parish, and allows us either to permit the parish to remain as at present constituted, or to place it under a Board of Guardians, or to unite it with other parishes for the use of a common workhouse, or for other purposes, we consider it our duty to set forth to your Lordship an outline of the reasons on which we found it necessary, immediately after the first investigations of the Assistant-Commissioners, to direct our exertions, almost exclusively, to the extension of the area or

district of management, by the formation of unions of a greater or less number of parishes.

We have already intimated, that in the smaller parishes the attainment of the separate means of administering relief upon a correct system of administration was impracticable, except at an expense greater than any probable saving that would accrue. Even in the largest of the parishes which have been examined by the Assistant-Commissioners, it is found that the means of an efficient administration are obtainable at a cheaper rate by the union of parishes. It has been proved, that by the union arrangements these, as well as the smaller class of parishes, may be provided with the permanent advantage of a well-regulated workhouse, at a ratio of expense which, if the workhouse were to continue empty, would, in our belief, be more than compensated by the saving which would be effected during the first few years, or by its effects upon the character and condition of the labouring population.

It has also been proved that the expense and loss of time in building new workhouses may, in many cases, be saved, by a union of parishes and the combination of their existing workhouses and poorhouses, by assigning one or two classes of the paupers to one of the separate workhouses within the district, which house would be unsuitable to the more extended classification of paupers required even for a single parish.

The next circumstance by which we have been influenced in the general formation of unions, is the evidence of the superior economy in providing the necessary establishment of paid officers, and in the purchase of the supplies of provisions. In several of the unions, the expense of management by paid officers, giving the whole of their services to the parishes united, is found to be less than the personal expenses heretofore charged to the rate-payers by the unpaid annual officers. With relation to those parishes where paid officers are already engaged, we need not specify the means of reduction in a union of twenty parishes, by the substitution of one complete establishment of paid officers, for the twenty incomplete establishments for the separate parishes.

The extension of the area of management has proportionately increased the facilities for obtaining fitting officers, inasmuch as it is proportionately easier to find one fitting man than twenty;

or to find one fitting officer for a union of twenty parishes, than to find twenty fitting officers for twenty single parishes. The peculiar qualifications required, and the difficulties so frequently experienced in finding proper officers at the outset, even in the new unions, have, to our minds, increased the importance of the extension of management for this purpose. An object of still greater importance at the commencement of a change of system is attained by this extension; namely, the increased facility of collecting and enlisting the services of gentlemen who are peculiarly qualified to superintend an improved administration of relief.

It results from the union of parishes, that by substituting for the purchase of goods in the separate parishes, at the instance of the parish officers or of the vestry, purchases of goods for the whole union, almost as many sources of inducement to mismanagement are abated as there are parishes united. The pecuniary saving in the purchase of provisions, when the purchases are made by contract for the whole union, on open tender, we have found to bear almost a direct proportion to the extent of the contract.

Another advantage of extended management has been manifested in the course of our proceedings, namely, the abatement of the influence of local jealousies and animosities.

In the course of some of our earlier proceedings under this Commission, it was found that parishes which entertained strong objections to a union with the parishes immediately adjacent, expressed to our Assistant-Commissioners a preference for a union with distant parishes; and on perceiving that, from the increased size of the union, the parishes objected to would not constitute a majority, the dissentient parishes withdrew all objection, and expressed a zealous acquiescence in the change of system. The extension of the field of management was not only viewed as a resource for abating the animosities generated by the old system, when parish was at war with parish; but as a resource also against pernicious animosities between class and class, and as a protection to individuals against the imposition of undue burthens. In the single parish, and especially in the small parish, the whole management was frequently warped to serve individual or sinister purposes. The administration of relief and the collection of rates were often so managed as to charge or

exempt unduly some particular individual or class. It was soon perceived that the new Boards of Guardians, comprehending the magistrates of a district and the leading proprietors, would constitute a tribunal which could not be swayed by the petty interests or feelings which were dominant in the smaller district.

In another part of the field of administration, of equal importance, so long as it may be expedient that out-door relief should be continued, the extension of the district of management is found to be equally efficient in abating the mischievous influence of local interests.

§ 13. Where the districts are small, the dispensers of relief act more closely within the sphere of their own connexions; proprietors are more frequently called upon to decide upon applications from their smaller tenants or dependents, or from the connexions of their dependents; occupiers who serve parochial offices are exposed to solicitations from their own labourers; and all retail shopkeepers have too frequently to decide upon claims to relief preferred or supported by their own customers. Those officers who would not deviate from the strict path of duty are exposed to serious sacrifices, from giving offence to one or the other class of applicants by the rejection of their claims, whilst strong temptations are held out to other officers to obtain popularity or further their private interests at the expense of the great body of rate-payers. In the larger districts we have generally found a majority free from the undue interests prevalent in narrow localities. We may cite the following passages from the evidence of the Rev. Charles Turner, of Wendover, a county magistrate and a member of the Board of Guardians of the Wycombe union, as illustrative of the general testimony in favour of the extension of the districts for poor-law administration* :—

“ Have you felt any inconvenience, or derived any benefit, from the circumstance of the Wycombe union being so large as to consist of thirty-three parishes, and to be sixty miles in circumference?—I think we have derived great benefit: there being so many guardians from distant parishes acting on so large a scale, the possibility of intimidation and of favouritism is entirely destroyed. The paupers of the several parishes, finding that all around them are treated alike, more readily submit to the law than they did under the vestry system, where they could make comparisons between theirs and other parishes where they

* Mr. Gilbert's Report, Appendix B, No. 6.

received more. It was a common thing to have complaints made to me that they were ill-treated, because in some adjoining parish more money and less work were found. I also find this consequence, that from the extent of district great experience and knowledge are brought together, and concentrated in one operation; so that if one parish is in error as to any point of management or fact, it is corrected by the superior intelligence and information of some other parish. There is much more intelligence in a Board of Guardians than in a vestry, the Board being composed of the gentry and most respectable inhabitants of this large district, whose attendance is regular and as close as can be expected. Besides, the Board of Guardians will be a continuing body, gathering information and storing it up as they go on, whereas the management by overseers was one of continual apprenticeship, each year having a new man; and although one overseer might introduce a good system, the next appointed might entirely destroy it."

"Shall you find any inconvenience from the workhouse of the union being distant from your parish?—No other inconvenience than in sending the pauper to it. To counterbalance that, I think the distance will operate as a superior check upon application for relief from this distant part of the union; for though a pauper of idle habits may make an experiment and try the workhouse, if in his own parish, he will I think have great reluctance to be sent to such a distance. I think, in fact, the very distance will act as an incitement to industry. This is one of the reasons why I prefer the Wycombe union, although our parish is far distant from the workhouse."

It is unnecessary to enumerate or describe all the considerations which have influenced us in determining the extent of unions. The limits of unions which we have found most convenient are those of a circle, taking a market town as a centre, and comprehending those surrounding parishes whose inhabitants are accustomed to resort to the same market. This arrangement has been found highly convenient for the weekly attendances of the parish officers, and some portion of the guardians. Some auxiliaries to good management were derived from the town itself.

§ 14. A further cause of limitation regarded by us at the outset was, that the field of management should not be so large as to prevent the members of Boards of Guardians embracing the whole of the details, for the control of which they should be responsible. As the business becomes methodized, the smaller unions may admit of further extension. As a proof of the increasing perception of the value of the extension of the scale of management, we may mention the fact of the readiness with which Boards of Guardians,

constituted under Gilbert's Act or different local Acts, have consented to the dissolution of the unions over which they presided, the consent of a majority of two-thirds of the whole body of guardians being made necessary in such cases. For examples, we may refer to the statements relating to the dissolution of incorporations in the Hundreds of Suffolk, given in Mr. Mott's Report, and also to the statements with relation to the dissolution of the incorporations in Kent, given in Sir Francis Head's Report*.

§ 15. The new unions established having been frequently supposed to be analogous in their principles to the older incorporations, we would here observe that the principles of poor law administration which are sanctioned by Gilbert's Act, and by most of the local Acts of incorporation of the same period, have been so mischievous in their operation, and are so much at variance with the principles established under the Poor Law Amendment Act, that we have invariably felt it our duty, as an indispensable preliminary to any beneficial change of system, to advise the immediate dissolution of the unions formed under the authority of those Acts.

By the 29th section of Gilbert's Act the use of the workhouse was confined to children, and "such as are become indigent by old age, sickness, or infirmities, and are unable to acquire a maintenance by their labour;" thus it excluded from the operation of the workhouse system the chief class to whom it can be beneficially applied. Although by the 31st section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, this section, or so much of Gilbert's Act as "limits the class or description of persons who shall be sent to such poorhouse or workhouse," is repealed, the 32d section of that Act yet remains in force.

By this last-mentioned section it is provided, that if in "any parish, township, or place, any poor person or persons who shall be able and willing to work," (which may properly be read, who shall "profess" himself willing to work, for there are no means provided of testing his willingness where he makes a fraudulent application in the prospect of no work being to be found for him,) "but who cannot get employment," (which can rarely in practice under this Act be ascertained,) "it shall and may be lawful for the Guardian of the Poor of such parish, township, or place, and he is hereby required, on application made to him by or on behalf

of such poor person, to agree for the labour of such poor person or persons at any work or employment suited to his or her strength and capacity," not in the workhouse, but "in any parish, township, or place near the place of his or her residence." Thus the person, in a natural state of things the most interested in finding work, and who is the best able to do so, and to judge of what is suited to his own strength and capacity, is exonerated from the necessity of seeking work, which is imposed upon a person less interested and usually possessed of the least means of finding it. In one case of a threatened tumult of able-bodied paupers, who were dissatisfied with the amount of wages which they received from the parish, our Assistant-Commissioner communicated to them offers of regular employment for themselves and families in a manufacturing district, at wages at least double the amount of those which they had at any time been accustomed to receive when in work; but they refused these offers, and determined to remain in the parish (which was one under Gilbert's Act), and demanded that employment near their residences should be found for them by the Guardians, in compliance with the section we have recited. But where, in the view of the provision in question, labour cannot be found "near the residence" of the pauper, and the Guardian is called upon "to agree for the labour of such poor person" (and it is to be presumed the ordinary employer of labourers is intended as the person with whom the agreement is to be made), the agreement can only be made upon the terms of giving to him the labour at such a rate below the market price as shall serve as an inducement to take that of which he is not at the time in need. Under these circumstances, the employer of labourers is furnished with the most mischievous inducement to throw them upon the parish, in order that, as paupers, their labour may again be offered to him at a low rate. The provision requiring that the labour shall be found near the residence of the pauper, has a further tendency to ensure to the employers of labour within the bounds of that vicinity the command of the labour market. The Guardian (himself often an employer of labourers) being subjected by the 35th section to a penalty if he neglect or refuse to provide the labour, or, in the words of the 32d section, "agree for the labour of such poor person or persons," has usually no adequate inducement, and but little means, to exert himself against such proceedings, the pecuniary consequences of which are divided amongst the great body of the rate-

payers. The discontent of the pauperized labourer is averted by the following words of the 32d section, by which the Guardian is bound "to maintain or cause such person or persons to be properly maintained, lodged, and provided for, until such work can be procured" (no definition being given of what the proper maintenance, lodging, and provision are); "and, during the time of such work, to receive the money to be earned for such work or labour, and make up the deficiency, if any; and if the same shall happen to exceed the money expended in such maintenance, to account for the surplus, which shall afterwards, within one calendar month, be given to such poor person or persons who shall have earned such money, if no further expenses shall be then incurred on his or her account to exhaust the same."

No period is defined during which the Guardian shall be compelled to do all these things for all the persons who, professing their willingness to work, and alleging their inability to procure it, may require them to be done. The incorporations under this Act and the other incorporations formed under Acts embodying the same principles, we have generally found amongst the most deeply pauperized of the districts which our Assistant-Commissioners have examined. The provision of the nature of a tariff, or, as it is termed in the rural districts, the "make up," is followed by the deterioration and discontent of the pauperized labourers, by the increased burthens of the rate-payers, and the train of disorders which have already been submitted to the consideration of the Legislature.

The intervention of some fortunate circumstances, and especially of the provisions we have adverted to not being so well understood as the law in general operation, have averted in some incorporated districts, and mitigated in others, the consequences of the principles embodied in Gilbert's Act; but we feel it our duty to endeavour to arrest the vicious tendencies of those principles, by using our influence to accelerate, as much as possible, the dissolution of all such unions or incorporations*.

§ 16. As a proof of the increasing perception of the value of the extension of the scale of management, we may state that the cases are numerous in which single parishes have remonstrated against being excluded, or have expressed dissatisfaction

* See the opinion of his Majesty's Attorney-General on the provisions of Gilbert's Act, Appendix C, No. 11.

at the unavoidable delays in uniting them with others, and extending to them what they perceived to be the benefits of the Act. In the few instances in which any persevering opposition has been evinced to the arrangements on the part of any individual parishes, we have reason to believe that this opposition has resulted chiefly from misapprehension of the provisions of the Act, and of the object of the proceedings which were taken under the authority of this Commission.

It may be a point of importance here to state, as regards our future proceedings, that although in the districts comprehended in the new unions, we have met with several parishes where the general management is greatly in advance of any management which we could expect to enforce at once in the other parishes included within the same union, yet we have in no instance found adequate reason to omit the best-managed parish from a union, on account of its management being relatively superior to that of any parishes remaining under the old system.

In the first place, we have found, as was stated in the Report of the late Commissioners of Inquiry, that the continuance of good management in such parishes is generally dependent on the continuance of the life or services of some one individual by whom the beneficial management was introduced. By uniting such parishes, and subjecting them to the improved rules, administered by efficient establishments of paid officers, we consider that we ensured comparative permanency to the good management already introduced. We were also assured, from the evidence presented to us, that the economical results and other benefits of that management might be extended, either by a reduction of expenditure for management, a smaller amount being paid as a contribution for the more efficient union establishment, or by the cheaper supplies of the workhouses consequent upon contracts upon a larger scale.

To these considerations were added the inducements arising from the probability that the influence of those individuals who had effected improvements would continue to be exercised in carrying into effect the like improvements in the other parishes united. Within the unions already formed are included the parishes of Cookham, White Waltham, and Swallowfield, in Berks; Hatfield, Sandridge, Welwyn, Berkhamstead, in Herts; and other parishes honourably distinguished for the lead which they have taken in improving poor law administration.

The advantages for the sake of which the best-managed parishes in the districts examined have been included in unions do not comprehend other and more remote advantages which may be anticipated as derivable from the attainment of uniformity of system, namely, as a means of preventing the discontents which arise on the part of the paupers from a comparison of their own with other districts more profusely managed, or of diminishing the motives for shifting from places less profusely managed to places where the profusion is greater; neither do the advantages, on account of which the assent to unions has been given in such cases, include those advantages derivable from uniformity in bringing the whole management more completely within the control of the Legislature.

We have great satisfaction in being able to state, that from the perception of the immediate advantages of the union to the parishes which were found to be the best managed, our determination to unite them has generally obtained the acquiescence and support of the individuals to whom the parishes in question, and the public at large, are so deeply indebted for originating and conducting the beneficial changes of system which served as guarantees of the correctness of the remedial measures adopted by the Legislature.

That the immediate advantages to such parishes resulting from the formation of unions should be so generally perceived, and that the measure should be supported by individuals who have given the highest proof of practical acquaintance with sound principles of administration, we submit as evidence justificatory of the confidence we feel in our present course of proceeding, which aims at the general extension of the field of management under the control of Boards of Guardians. The soundness of the decision which includes in unions parishes standing the highest in point of management, and where the progress in amendment is the most rapid and complete, we submit decides *à fortiori* against the claims to exemption of any other parishes on the grounds of the voluntary adoption of the principles of management sanctioned by the Legislature, and prescribed in detail under our rules and regulations.

§ 17. Concurrently with the extension of the districts of management, we were called upon to fill up the outlines of the constitution of the Board of Guardians, and of their powers and duties as traced by the Legislature.

The first subject of consideration presented to us, in connexion with these functionaries created by the Poor Law Amendment Act, related to their mode of election.

Under the old law, as it is in force in most of the un-united parishes, a large proportion of the mismanagement, the profusion, and the proceedings at variance with the interests and feelings of the majority of rate-payers, is traceable to the difficulties thrown, by the mode of election, in the way of the control of the majority of persons the most deeply interested.

In the largest parishes, with the most numerous constituents, and with the greatest facilities hitherto offered to the rate-payers to exercise a general control over the management, we usually find that the greatest number of voters by whom any election is determined constitute only a minority, and usually a small minority, of the whole body of rate-payers; and in the rural parishes, where the population is widely scattered, we frequently found the management in the hands of a very small knot of individuals, whose residences enabled them to attend without inconvenience the place for the transaction of parochial business. The larger rate-payers and the persons the most deeply interested, those engaged in trade or otherwise occupied, could not abandon their occupations to attend to their interests in parochial management, without greater prejudice to their more immediate interests in the pursuit of their ordinary occupations. The results of these circumstances are too frequently found to be, that the most wanton profusion and jobbing were maintained in a state of notoriety to the whole of the rate-payers; and this profusion was accompanied by proportionate mismanagement of the paupers, and a prejudicial influence exercised upon the condition of the labouring classes.

Unless some remedy had been provided for this defect, it appeared clear that the parochial management must have continued subject to the evils to which we have adverted. We assume that it was with a view to abate them that the Legislature provided that "the votes shall be given or taken in writing, collected and returned in such manner as the said Commissioners shall direct."

The principle upon which we have endeavoured to follow up this important enactment has been, that it was our duty to extend to all on whom the Legislature conferred the right of voting the greatest facility for the exercise of that right; and as one of the first regulations, with this view, we prescribed the means of

taking the sense of the rate-payers and owners of property, set forth in the form of declaration of a union*, under a Board of Guardians, which we have given in the Appendix. By these regulations it is provided that voting-papers, in the form thereto annexed† (also given in the Appendix), shall be left by parochial officers at the house of each rate-payer. This paper must be left with him one clear day. He must set forth in his own handwriting the name of the person or persons for whom he votes, and the vote thus certified is called for, after the lapse of a day, by the collecting officer.

We must observe upon the preceding statement, that by leaving the vote to be certified at the house of the voter, he is enabled to perform the act with more calmness and deliberation than we believe is obtainable by any mode of voting in ordinary practice. As the progress of the votes is unknown, so are the motives to use undue means to affect the result diminished, and the voter is proportionately shielded from the use of those means. Though the process required additional officers for the collection of the votes, we should nevertheless consider the arrangement economical; for, supposing one officer should be capable of collecting within the prescribed time three hundred votes, we deem it the best economy of the public time that one officer should be required to go to three hundred persons and collect their votes, in a form which at the same time serves for the formation of the most perfect register, than that three hundred persons should, in order to exercise their franchise, be taken from their business and to a distant place of election, and lose their time amidst tumult and the liability to insult in attending to have their votes registered by one officer.

In a great majority of instances in which the new Boards of Guardians have been formed, the elections have been made unanimously. In the instances where contests have taken place, this mode of voting has been tried, and on trial has justified the anticipations with relation to it. We may cite as an example of a trial under somewhat adverse circumstances, a recent contested election of a Board of Guardians for the parish of St. Martin in the Fields. The number of rate-payers qualified to vote at that election was 1500. The greatest number of persons who had voted at any previous contested election, when the most strenuous exertions were used, was 750. The number of persons

* Appendix A, No. 5.

† Ibid., No. 5.

whose voting-papers were collected at the recent election was 1522, including, however, 149 owners who voted for the first time under the authority of the Act.

Experience has suggested some additional facilities, which we trust will render this method of election still more complete for its purposes. A very large proportion of the votes collected in the instance above mentioned was declared to be invalid for various other causes, in no way affecting the merits of the arrangement as affording the greatest facilities to the largest number of inhabitants to record their votes.

We trust that by the other election arrangements we have adopted, the inducements to pack meetings for the purpose of carrying elections will be prevented. By means of a nomination-paper, any rate-payer may nominate a candidate without the necessity of attending the meeting, and without the possibility of the nomination being defeated by a show of hands at a packed meeting. If there be no more candidates than the requisite number to fill the vacancies, the candidates thus nominated will, under the regulations, be elected as matter of course. If there be more than the required number, no show of hands is taken, but the sense of the rate-payers is ascertained by the means above stated.

From the mode of election thus enabling us to ascertain in the most rapid, peaceful, and certain manner the sense of the great majority of the owners and rate-payers of any district, as indicated in the choice of Guardians, or on other occasions, we derive satisfactory assurances of extensive local concurrence in the proceedings under the Act.

§ 18. The regulations which we have made for settling the manner of proceeding by the Boards of Guardians in conducting their business, and the provisions for determining the powers and duties of the paid officers first appointed, together with the rules for administering relief first prescribed in the new unions, are set forth in the Appendix*.

The provision of proper workhouse accommodation, and where accommodation was available, the enforcement of proper workhouse regulations, were generally found to require extensive arrangements. The first regulations for the administration of

relief by the Boards of Guardians were therefore confined to the gradual substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, and to a few simple rules for the regulation of out-door relief, which had been extensively tried and had operated beneficially; but which would not involve a sudden or violent transition from the usual practices in the parishes united.

We shall subsequently advert to these rules when we shall have to state the results of the new unions.

To make the transition still more easy, a distant day has usually been fixed for the peremptory operation of the rules, leaving an interval for their gradual enforcement, according to the discretion of the Guardians. In some cases this period has been further extended at the request of the Boards. In many cases modifications of the rules, either as to their matter, or as to the time of their enforcement, appeared necessary to adapt them to the wants of the district; and as yet these regulations have not been promulgated as general rules. In districts where the administration of relief is in advance of the pauperized districts, the rules have been modified to promote a further advance. In the Cookham union we have ordered that all out-door relief to the able-bodied shall be discontinued. We have established that in the parish of Sandridge no out-door relief whatsoever should be allowed.

The whole of these arrangements we contemplate as the subject-matter of revision, for the purpose of making the most speedy advance to a sound system that the circumstances of each district will allow.

§ 19. Immediately after our arrangements respecting the preparative alterations of the out-door relief were completed, the provision of workhouse accommodation was presented for our consideration.

We are aware of the objections frequently made to the erection of new workhouses, and have carefully resorted to the means which have occurred to us as alternatives; we are also aware of the danger of unnecessary expenditures in providing for the accommodation of out-door paupers, the extent of whose acceptance of relief in a workhouse could at the best only be conjectured.

It will be seen, on reference to the tabular forms for exhibiting the results of the Assistant-Commissioners' inquiries, that we

directed them, in every parish containing a workhouse, or poor-house, or cottages, to examine to what extent those houses were applicable. If they could not be considered useful for all classes of inmates, whether they might not be made useful for only one class of paupers, and to what extent? Whether they could be rendered useful by alterations at any reasonable expense? If there were no workhouses in the parish or district, we next directed their inquiries as to the practicability of hiring and adapting some convenient building, or of purchasing one, if none could be hired? In general, it is only in the absence of these several means of accommodation that we entertain the question of building a new workhouse.

We found it necessary, for the purposes of the Act, to obtain, with professional aid, plans for the construction of workhouses of different sizes, capable of holding from one to five hundred paupers. These plans were adapted to the attainment of the classification and the enforcement of the principles of management which we deemed essential: we have not, however, prescribed the general adoption of these plans, believing that deviations from them might be necessary to meet local circumstances, as to the extent of ground and description of materials available; and that, although they had been prepared with great care, we could not assume that in any point they were incapable of further improvement. We have therefore left to the Boards of Guardians the adoption of these, or the preference of any other plan which contains the requisite provisions for the classification of the workhouse inmates, and for the enforcement of what we deemed essential regulations.

We have given in the Appendix copies of the plans which differ in arrangement, together with a copy of a plan devised by Sir Francis Head, which has been adopted by several of the unions in Kent*.

We have great satisfaction in being able to report, that in several extensive districts we have been able to direct the change of system without incurring any considerable expense in the erection of new buildings. In the whole of West Sussex only one new workhouse has been found necessary. In the county of Berks three new workhouses have been found requisite. In

* Appendix A, No. 10.

Hampshire seven; in East Kent ten. In upwards of 2000 parishes which we have formed into 112 unions, the total number of new workhouses at this time in preparation is thirty-seven.

Before we conclude this subject, we beg to advert to one addition to the Act which we consider it important should be asked of the Legislature during the present Session. In the course of our proceedings great inconvenience has been experienced from the terms of the 26th section of the Act, in which it is enacted, "that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, by order, under their hands and seal, to declare so many parishes as they may think fit to be united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor; and such parishes shall thereupon be deemed a union for such purpose, and thereupon the workhouse or workhouses of such parishes shall be for their common use."

The parishes where expense has been incurred in the erection of a workhouse, not unreasonably consider that in the union arrangements they are entitled to an allowance proportioned to their greater contribution of the means of advancement. In unions where it is found necessary to build additional workhouses, the parishes whose workhouses have been appropriated to the use of the union have still stronger claims to be exempted from contributing to the expense of new workhouses. Legal doubts are entertained whether in such cases we have the means of adjusting those claims, or of allowing the parishes so situated any remuneration in consideration of the use of the workhouses.

We beg to state to your Lordship that it would greatly facilitate our future proceedings in the existing unions, and the formation of new unions, if before the close of the present Session of Parliament an enactment were passed to remove the existing doubts, and enable us to settle equitably the terms of the union to the satisfaction of the parishes in question.

We must not, however, omit to observe, that the claims in question are not correctly admissible as claims for exemption from increased charges: they are more properly claims for increased proportions of benefit. We are aware of no case in which it would not have been of advantage to the parish possessing a workhouse to have given up its workhouse, without any compensation whatever, rather than that it should be excluded from the union. The principle of the proposed adjustment is, that those who, by the erection of workhouses, have made the

greatest exertions to abate the evils of pauperism, are entitled to a proportionate share of the advantages of the change, as compared with those who had made less exertions, or no exertions whatever. At the time of the passing of the Act, the apparent difficulties of prescribing the terms and procedure for settling the claims in question were supposed to more than counterbalance the claims themselves. We are assured, from our subsequent experience, that, with the additional powers sought for, the claims may be readily determined to the satisfaction of all parties without litigation.

§ 20. In addition to the preparatory rules for the administration of the out-door relief in the new unions, we have found it necessary to prescribe for those unions possessing workhouses regulations comprehending what appeared to us to be the essentials of workhouse management and classification*. We have not, however, in the present state of our proceedings, thought it expedient to promulgate these regulations as general rules and regulations. We have only applied them in particular cases, with local modifications suggested by local inquiries.

One of the regulations which we have introduced, as an essential to good workhouse management, is the separation of the sexes in distinct apartments, usually of the same house. The enforcement of this regulation having occupied in some degree the public attention, and it having been contended that an exemption from the general rule should be made in favour of the married paupers, we beg to state the grounds upon which we deem the strict enforcement of the rule to be essential.

The first point to which we claim your Lordship's notice on this subject is the fact, that in nearly all the workhouses in the larger metropolitan parishes, and in all the well-regulated and efficient workhouses throughout the country, the rule which we propose to continue has been acted upon for many years. In all those examples, which have illustrated and developed the success of an efficient workhouse system, whether those examples have existed previously or subsequently to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the rule has been enforced strictly, and without reservation, and in every instance with the best results.

Where all the labourers of a parish or of a district receive relief

from the rates, and where large proportions of them are wholly dependent upon the parish during long periods, to those who, not having become acquainted with all the operations of the allowance system, and who believe relief in aid of wages to be absolutely necessary, the practicability of enforcing a measure for abolishing out-door relief, which is presented to their minds as one for separating man and wife, and placing the whole, or the greater part, of the population in a workhouse, will be as strongly doubted as its justice and policy. An examination of the proceedings under the Commission would display the grounds of the error, to which we can here only advert. In the Report to us from Mr. Power will be found a full and distinct statement of the circumstances under which he found, within the districts assigned to him, that the apparent surplus was unreal and factitious. In the same Report, and also in the Reports from Mr. Hall, Mr. Gulson, and Mr. Gilbert, will be found statements of the modes in which, under improved management, the apparent surplus is absorbed or dissipated.

All the past experience of well-managed workhouses proves that the continued residence in the workhouse of any considerable proportion of the usual out-door paupers would be but temporary.

In none of the new unions where the workhouse system has been applied have any considerable number of married couples, who were out-door paupers, accepted relief within the workhouse. The instances of the reception of married couples, even temporarily, into the workhouse, where the separation of the sexes is enforced, are extremely rare; we can only therefore contemplate the necessity of submitting to the rule as likely to occur in a small proportion of the cases of the out-door paupers, and in those cases only as occurring for a short time. Permanent domiciliation in a workhouse is the result we least of all contemplate as arising from the proposed arrangement. Should that result occur in any peculiar localities, we should consider that the cases called for the application of other remedies, and amongst them of a migration to a field where the demand for labour is more extensive and certain. We therefore apprehend that it would be a most dangerous experiment were we to authorize such a new and extensive qualification of the recognized workhouse system as might have the effect of domiciliating and reconciling to a habitation in

a workhouse a class which, experience clearly proves, would not otherwise be induced to accept of this mode of relief.

All the efficient existing workhouses throughout the country are built with large sleeping wards, which are separately appropriated to inmates of each sex. An alteration of this arrangement, and a relaxation of the rule, could not, therefore, be complied with, without permitting, and even compelling, on the parts of married couples, the violation of all decency, without making extensive alterations in the construction of the whole of the existing workhouses throughout the kingdom, and without subjecting the inmates to more severe restrictions, in order to secure the observance of common decency and order. The details of the facts which have come to our knowledge respecting those places in which the ordinary rule has been violated, and the indulgence contended for has been granted, are such as it would be impossible to allow to appear in any public document. The consequences which followed, even in those instances where separate apartments have been provided for each couple, are such as to prove that the rules could not be relaxed in the manner proposed without making each establishment an asylum for the encouragement of improper intercourse between the sexes. Under these circumstances, we cannot admit that the charge of undue severity attaches to the continued and more complete enforcement of the rule for the separation of the sexes during the temporary residence in the workhouse, as a condition of being relieved from the danger of perishing for want. The temporary separation of married persons, it must be recollected, is an inconvenience which many thousands of the married in every rank in society undergo, not as the condition of an escape from any imminent evil, but for the purpose of sustaining or advancing their condition in society. Neither can we admit that a separation which has ever been endured, without complaint of peculiar hardship, by all who have served in the army or in the navy, can be justly regarded as too great a sacrifice for those who, as paupers, are relieved from the pressure of destitution.

It will be seen from the foreign communications to the late Commissioners of Inquiry, that the rule is adopted in the most efficient workhouses in the United States, and generally in every civilized country in Europe where a system of relief analogous to relief in a workhouse prevails.

The observations we have submitted apply to the cases of able-

bodied married couples. The grounds for the application of the rule to the aged and infirm are, that such separation is requisite for their comfort and appropriate treatment. The detailed grounds in favour of the rule are similar to the grounds for the practice which has ever prevailed in the hospitals, of placing the sexes in separate wards. Some of these grounds are set forth in the following examination of the master of the workhouse at Aylesbury, from Mr. Gilbert's Report :—

Evidence of Benjamin Quartermain Simons.

“ I am master of the workhouse at Aylesbury, and have been ever since the house was built, five years last November. The rule of the house is to classify the inmates, and we always keep men and wives separate. In the old house the men and their wives used to live together. Amongst these there were John Evitt and his wife, James Hearn and his wife—the only married couples who were removed into this new house. After being in the new house, living together as they had done in the old house, for about six months, (the other married couples who had newly come into the new house being separated,) Evitt and his wife, and Hearn and his wife, requested that they might be permitted also to live separate ; and Hearn's wife also requested that she and her husband might live separate. The reason they gave was, that, being old and afflicted people, they disturbed one another at night, and could not be so well attended upon as if they were separate. The vestry consented to let Evitt and his wife live separate ; but having no nurse that could wait upon Hearn, we were obliged to refuse their request. Evitt and his wife lived separate all the time they were in the house, up to the time of the wife's death, and Hearn and his wife continued together till the husband died. The wife of Hearn made many and frequent applications to the parish to be permitted to live separate, but we had no one that could attend upon him. She stated that her husband's infirmities soured his temper, and made them quarrel and disagree. Neither Evitt nor his wife ever requested, after they were separated, to be allowed to live together again.

“ Another case of the same sort is a man and his wife belonging to our parish, who had been living in St. Margaret's parish, the man in the infirmary and the woman in the workhouse. Their names were Ironmonger : they are still in our workhouse. They requested to live separate, and still do so, with their own desire. The wife is bed-ridden, and requires nursing like a child. It is necessary to have a woman to nurse such a person. If her husband was with her, no woman could, in his presence, nurse ; and she must either remain in a state of filth and neglect, or she must live separate from her husband.

"Do you conceive it possible, without separation of the sexes, to manage a workhouse consistently with the comfort of the aged and control of the able-bodied?—No, I am sure you cannot, Sir. If a man and his wife are together, they must have a separate room to themselves, or there would be the gross indecency of many men and many women sleeping, undressing, and doing the necessary offices of a bed-room in the presence of each other. The effect of a joint room, too, would be, that the paupers, men and women together, being reduced to a state of total want of decency, would soon have common and promiscuous intercourse.

"If one room was had for each man and his wife, it would be impossible to find room for them in the large parishes. We always find that paupers in separate rooms are dirty in the extreme, and a set of servants would be necessary to keep the house clean. I am clearly of opinion that all who try to manage a large workhouse without the division of the sexes will fail in making the aged comfortable, the disorderly obedient, or keeping the house in a state of healthy cleanliness."

This evidence sets forth the common opinion of all other practical witnesses who have communicated upon the subject with the Board.

We cite the following passage from a Report of Mr. Hawley, as illustrative of the scenes not unfrequently presented to our Assistant-Commissioners. These scenes exhibit the cruelties and various evils which would be incurred and maintained by yielding to the opinions of those ill-informed persons, who, without inquiring, declaim against that separation of paupers in different houses or in different apartments, required in the workhouse regulations, which forms the only means of preventing such evils:—

"My time during the week has been engaged in visiting the workhouses of the proposed union, and it would afford me a pleasurable feeling could I send even a partially satisfactory report of their condition and management. Every visit paid to workhouses, as they are now constituted, confirms the necessity of interference by the powerful arm of the new law to work a reformation in systems and habits which are a disgrace to civilization and humanity; and I would adduce the workhouse at Ewhurst as a sad example of the evil and misery which flow from neglect, self-interestedness, and want of feeling in those to whose hands the control of parish affairs has hitherto been confided. In the day-room I found a group of children sitting in listless idleness, uninstructed in either moral or useful duties. One of the bed-rooms was appropriated to the reception of an aged man and woman and three girls; a third room was the sleeping place of a young woman affected with a certain loathsome disease, and in company with her were several boys and girls;

in another a violent female maniac, fastened with cords to a chair, was disturbing all the inmates of the house by loud and obscene exclamations. In a low, dark garret, hot to suffocation, I discovered eight beds closely packed together, on one of which was sitting a lame pauper, inhaling as much air as an aperture intended for a window would admit; on another was stretched a poor wretched being in the last stage of consumption, emaciated and exhausted by disease, but having his sufferings aggravated tenfold by the hot and pestiferous atmosphere which filled the apartment in which he was immured. An instant order for his removal to a more airy apartment was complied with, with evident reluctance on the part of the governor, who seemed totally reckless as to the comparative state of comfort in which vice and misfortune should have been placed in this ill-conducted receptacle of paupers.

“A system founded on a more humane attention to the wants of the really distressed, and a stricter discipline towards the idle and dissolute, will forthwith be established in this union, and the conduct of the Guardians to-day gave every assurance of a ready co-operation in carrying it into effect.”

§ 21. In the course of the earlier proceedings for the enforcement of the measures preparatory to the discontinuance of the allowance system, our attention was directed to the expediency of facilitating the migration of families of labourers from the southern agricultural, to the northern manufacturing counties.

Shortly after our appointments, letters were submitted to us from some eminent manufacturers in Lancashire*, representing that in that district there was an increasing demand for hands, and suggesting the expediency of our promoting a supply from the heavily-burdened rural parishes of the southern counties.

We need only advert to the fact, that in the rural districts where the allowance system prevails it is common to represent the whole of those who are for any considerable period thrown upon the rates as a surplus population. Until the system of making allowances in aid of wages, or of making the parish the labour mart is completely eradicated; until relief is given only under circumstances rendering the acceptance of it conclusive evidence of entire destitution; until the acceptor is taken completely upon the parish, and this change of system has been made, not only in the single parish but throughout the district, and has been for some time in operation, we should, as at present advised, scarcely feel warranted in pronouncing on the reality of the strongest cases of an apparent surplus of population which have

* Appendix C, No. 5.

at any time been presented to us. We have had instances of parishes which appeared, *primâ facie*, to be burthened with a surplus population of more than one-third, which surplus has been absorbed almost entirely within the parish itself, by the operation of the workhouse system.

Admitting, however, that there are parishes containing a real surplus of able-bodied paupers, which could not be wholly absorbed within the parish as a consequence of the change of system of administering relief, our present information leads us to hope, that the greater proportion, if not the whole, of this surplus will be absorbed when the district as well as the parish is dispauperized. Nevertheless, in most districts are found large families of children, widows with young families capable of labour, but for whom there appears to be no immediate employment within the rural districts.

In considering the communications made to us by the manufacturers, the fact was presented to us as established by most extensive inquiries made under the late Commission of Poor Law Inquiry in the rural districts, and the Factory Commission in the manufacturing districts, of the striking difference of the rates of wages received by the labouring population within the two districts. The rate of wages for families comprehending three or four working hands in the manufacturing districts is at least double the amount of the best wages obtained by families of the same description within the agricultural districts; and, moreover, the demand for labour at such wages is steadily increasing. So far as any proceedings for influencing the direction of the circulation of labour come within our province, which we conceive they do only under the very peculiar circumstances of the change of system which we are charged to conduct, we feel it our duty to the pauperized labourers themselves to direct them to the sources of the highest wages; and we believe that this course of proceeding will be conducive to the most enlarged public interests.

On these grounds we directed a circular letter, of the date of 2d of March*, to be sent to certain of the manufacturers in Lancashire and other districts, where we were informed that there existed the greatest demand for labourers. In this letter we offered to those who had a demand for labourers to make the circumstance known in rural parishes containing families willing to

migrate, from whom such a selection could be made as might meet the wishes of the employer. We also offered, as the manufacturer might prefer, either to supply him with such information as would serve to direct his own inquiries, or direct inquiries to be made from the minister and the respectable inhabitants of the parish, on such points respecting the past conduct of the persons willing to migrate, as would serve to satisfy him as to their general character and trustworthiness as workpeople.

The first trial of the measure was made in the parish of Bledlow, Bucks, where it had been represented to us that numerous families were subsisting in extreme distress, and where it was threatened that the lands would be thrown out of cultivation in consequence of the increasing burthen of the rates.

We found greater reluctance on the parts of the labourers to accept offers of employment than we anticipated. It had been previously made known within the district that our proceedings were preparatory to the gradual abolition of all out-door relief to the able-bodied, and the introduction of the workhouse system; but we were desirous that the migration should be voluntary on the parts of the pauperized labourers. We had not sanctioned the withdrawal of their accustomed allowance, or countenanced any intimation of such a reduction as being likely to follow their refusal. That this might not be done, we directed the Assistant-Commissioner to communicate the offers personally to the families who were dependent on the rates. He went from house to house of the labourers' families of that parish who had stated that they were the most deeply distressed, who had, in their public memorial addressed to the Board, declared that they were then living only on 7s. per week wages obtained by families consisting of several individuals. To these he successively offered engagements for constant employment on terms ensuring about 24s. per week per family of four working hands, for the first year of their service, and 30s. for the second; but not one family could in the first instance be induced to accept the offer. The majority intimated that they would in preference, in the coming spring, renounce their "parish pay" rather than remove. After this general refusal, one family was persuaded to accept; before their departure another family accepted employment on the terms proposed. After these had departed, and had tried their new situations, a number of others accepted the offers, making in all 83 individuals who migrated from that parish. Subsequently, a

large migration took place from the parish of Princes Risborough, and the example was followed in other places without our intervention.

The results of this experimental measure are stated in detail in the letters* of Henry Ashworth, Esq., R. H. Greg, Esq. (our first correspondents), in a letter from Rev. R. Beard, and also in a Report from Dr. Kay, our Assistant-Commissioner†, to which we would direct your Lordship's special attention for the information it contains relating to the Lancashire cotton district.

These results are in substance, that nearly the whole of the individuals who have migrated are now in constant employment in Lancashire, and earning collectively as families three times the amount of wages which they had at any time earned in the districts which they had quitted. They have been provided with superior cottages, which they have been enabled to furnish by means of advances of money from their employers, to be repaid by instalments from their wages. They have abundant supplies of fuel, at such low rates as to be enabled to enjoy the luxury of a fire to an extent unknown to the labourers of the southern counties. The head of the first family who migrated, declared that not all the horses in Buckinghamshire should draw himself and family back to his parish. Similar expressions of satisfaction at the change were made by others of the heads of families to Dr. Kay. The employers of the work-people have expressed themselves well satisfied with the conduct of these southern families, and have declared their intention of seeking families from the same districts in the event of their requiring additional hands. On the other hand, the migrants have been cordially received by the established manufacturing operatives. This circumstance is accounted for partly by their natural preference for their own countrymen, and partly from the fact that the adult operatives participate in the advantages of a supply of young working hands, as the increase is requisite for the advancement of their own more skilled labour. It has been reported to us, that so sensible have been the adult operatives of those districts of the necessity of an increased supply of hands, that although they have sometimes been guilty of acts of riot to prevent the introduction of new machinery, scarcely any instances are on record where they have taken steps to resist with violence the influx of new hands.

* Appendix C, No. 5.

† Appendix B, No. 11.

The effect of the migration upon the parishes has been a proportionate reduction of the rates. It has been reported to us that in the parish of Bledlow, where the experiment was first tried, the rates were reduced one-half, mainly in consequence of the migration.

It appears from the inquiries of Dr. Kay, that new mills are in the course of erection; that old mills are about to be extended and completed during the next two years, requiring altogether 7000 horse-powers of steam-engines to put them in action. For the service of these mills many thousand additional hands will be required during that period. Some portion of this prospective demand for labour will no doubt be supplied from within the county; the hand-loom weavers it is hoped will be induced to avail themselves of the new markets for their labour; but from the best information which we can collect, it appears that this increased demand can be completely supplied only by migration from some other parts of the country. The success of the experiments which we have just related leads to the expectation that further supplies of labour will be sought by the manufacturers from the southern counties. In the instances stated, the channel of communication being opened, a further migration has taken place without our intervention. The manufacturer to whom the first families were sent states, for example, in a subsequent communication, "I can now, without any trouble, supply myself from Bledlow, by mentioning to my Bledlow hands that I am ready to take more."

Such a course of spontaneous migration, without the intervention of this Board, or of any public authority whatsoever, is the course which we are most desirous of seeing in action. But the pernicious habits engendered under the old law, which confined the labourers and their families to their parishes, will require in other districts some care and exertions to overcome. We do not perceive how, in the instances we have mentioned, the reluctance manifested by the labourers to quit their parishes could without our intervention have been overcome. The same beneficial course will probably be found requisite in other pauperized districts, where the advantages of migration are yet unknown.

To whatever extent it may be found expedient to promote further migration, we should in no case promote a removal of any labourers to the manufacturing districts where there was not a clear and specific demand for the labourers to be removed; and in

all cases we deem the gradual absorption, family by family, preferable to the removal of considerable numbers. The expenses of these removals have, in the first instance, mostly been defrayed by the parishes from which the families have been removed. These expenses have been considered as relief. The expense of removal of 113 persons from Princes Risborough was 1*l.* per head.

§ 22. At the time of framing the regulations for the new unions, and of considering the subject of migration, we also considered the measures requisite for the diminishing any possible surplus of pauper labourers, by facilitating foreign or colonial emigration. To this end we prepared the instructions set forth in the Appendix*, and we pointed out the mode in which parishes ought to proceed, under the authority of the 62nd section of the Act, to procure loans either from the Commissioners of Exchequer Bills, or from private individuals.

The following Table displays the very small extent to which parishes have resorted to this provision.

NAME OF PARISH.	COUNTY.	Amount raised or borrowed, either from the Exchequer Loan Office, or from Private Individuals.	Number of Persons who have emigrated.	To what part emigrated.
Hambledon.....	Hants.....	£300	28	Upper Canada.
Ingoldesthorpe.....	Norfolk.....	32	4	ditto.
Great Kingstead.....	ditto.....	200	27	ditto.
Pewsey.....	Wilts.....	130	21	ditto.
Stalbridge.....	Dorset.....	100	23	United States.
Sandcroft Southelmham	Suffolk.....	35	9	Prince Edward's Island.
Wimbish.....	Essex.....	80	22	Upper Canada.
Great Hallingbury.....	ditto.....	50	5	ditto.
Stansted Mountfichet	ditto.....	30	4	ditto.
Renwick.....	Cumberland	25	9	ditto.
Aldington.....	Kent.....	65	9	ditto.
Chawton.....	Southampton	100	6	ditto.
Stanton St. John.....	Oxford.....	40	4	ditto.
Yapton.....	Sussex.....	140	12	ditto.
Wisborough Green.....	ditto.....	85	9	ditto.
Heene.....	ditto.....	100	10	ditto.
Shipley.....	ditto.....	600	63	{ 36 to Upper Canada.
Felpham.....	ditto.....	250	42	{ 27 to United States.
Bepton.....	ditto.....	111	13	Upper Canada.
TOTAL.....		£2473	320	
Number of applications from parishes, 80.				

It is a remarkable fact, that hitherto no demands for the sanction to emigration have been made to us from any of the parishes which have been wholly or partially dispauperized ; nor have we at present any reason to expect that this cautionary provision of the Legislature will be extensively used.

§ 23. We have now to report that at this period the total number of parishes which have been united by us since the 6th December last, the date of the first union, and subjected to the progressive introduction of the new Act, is 2066, constituting 112 unions. The population of the parishes united and placed under Boards of Guardians forms one-tenth of the population of England and Wales ; but in consequence of the most heavily-burdened districts being selected for our earliest proceedings, the proportion of the rates affected by the change is one-sixth of the total amount of rates in England and Wales.

In the county of Kent, eight old incorporations have been dissolved by consent ; 211 parishes have been formed into thirteen unions, which include the whole of East Kent.

In the county of Sussex, five old incorporations have been dissolved, and 242 parishes, comprising nearly the whole of the county, have been formed into sixteen unions.

Nearly the whole of Hants has been re-organized into twenty-one unions, comprising 275 parishes.

The whole of the county of Berks has now been united in eleven unions, comprising 176 parishes.

In the county of Oxford, 185 parishes have been formed into five unions.

The greater proportion of the county of Bucks has been included in seven unions, comprising 162 parishes.

In the county of Suffolk, three of the old incorporations have been dissolved, and 129 parishes have been united in four unions.

In the county of Northampton, 153 parishes have been formed into seven unions.

In the county of Cambridge, sixty-one parishes have been united into three unions.

In the county of Essex, ninety-one parishes have been united into three unions.

Nearly the whole of the parishes in the county of Bedford have been united in four unions.

The whole of the parishes of the county of Hertford have been formed into twelve unions.

In the county of Norfolk, where proceedings have been recently commenced, sixty-three parishes have been included in two unions.

In Wilts, two unions, comprising forty-five parishes, have been formed.

In Middlesex, one union has been formed.

In the county of Gloucester, thirty-seven parishes have been formed into one union.

The following Return shows our progress in the number of parishes united during each month up to this period :—

MONTHS.					Number of Unions formed.	Number of Parishes united.
1834, December	.	.	.	.	1	14
1835, January	.	.	.	.	2	44
„ February	.	.	.	.	17	268
„ March	.	.	.	.	24	443
„ April	.	.	.	.	13	217
„ May	.	.	.	.	18	319
„ June	.	.	.	.	19	423
„ July	.	.	.	.	18	338
					112	2,066
Sutton Courtney placed under a Board of Guardians, 10 December, 1834.						
St. Martin-in-the-Fields	.	.	.	ditto	.	29 April, 1835.
Battersea	.	.	.	ditto	.	15 May, 1835.

The complete statement of the pecuniary results fairly ascribable to the new Act, or to our proceedings under its authority, could scarcely be made within the time in which it is desirable to present our Report. A considerable number of the present parish officers being unlettered men, their Returns are, as might be expected, extensively defective. In requiring any Return from the 15,635 places at present managing their own poor, a considerable proportion of errors must be anticipated.

For the completion of the Return relative to the condition of the several parishes, which we first called for from the parish officers, several thousand letters were required to obtain more correct answers than were first sent. The time occupied, including the additional letters required to correct mistakes and remedy neglect, in obtaining the Annual Return of Poors'-Rates printed by the House of Commons, has been seldom less than twelve

months, and the extra expense of clerks has generally been about 450*l.* for every Return. It will perhaps be deemed important by the Legislature that correct information of the condition of the country, as to this department of expenditure, should be more readily available.

To the statement of our reasons for the formation of unions, we might have added, that we consider that the difficulty, in point of time, in obtaining correct information relative to the progress of the system, constitutes of itself a strong reason for the formation of unions for the administration of relief. When thirty or forty parishes are united, and the administration placed in the hands of an establishment of paid and responsible officers, acting upon a correct system of accounts, it will be much less difficult to obtain one correct Return for the whole union than Returns for the thirty or forty separate parishes. In proportion as the country is formed into unions, it will therefore become less difficult to obtain for the Legislature information respecting the progress of the administration of relief, and also, for the use of this Commission, such accounts of the past occurrences as will serve for their future guidance.

The very recent formation of a large proportion of these unions, and the circumstance that in another large proportion the measures adopted are chiefly preparatory, preclude us from stating more than the results of those unions of earlier formation, and in which the machinery for conducting the change of system was the most advanced. We have given in the Appendix the General Reports made by the Assistant-Commissioners of their proceedings, and of the operation of the Act within the field of their operations, up to the time of the consideration of this Report. We have also added a variety of communications received from magistrates and the officers of unions, containing statements of the operation of the Act within their respective localities.

The following is a tabular Abstract of the statements of the pecuniary results in the early-formed unions which have been brought into partial operation: the periods compared are corresponding periods.

NAME OF THE UNION.	PERIODS COMPARED.	Number of Parishes from which Returns have been obtained.	EXPENDITURE.						DIFFERENCE.			
			1834.			1835.			Increase.	Decrease.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.				
Abingdon.....	Six weeks in May and June, 1834 and 1835	14	502	14	4½	334	10	2	—	168	4	2½
Faringdon	ditto, ditto	29	760	6	2½	367	2	8	—	393	3	6½
Bradfield	The years ending 25th March, 1834 and 1835 ...	Township	3679	17	5½	2487	14	9½	—	592	3	7½
Cable	Midsummer quarter, 1834 and 1835	11	1623	3	8½	1030	—	—	—	593	3	5½
Eastbourne	{The month of May and first week in June, 1834 and 1835	6	800	6	—	438	11	5	—	361	14	7
Westbourne.....	One week in May, 1834 and 1835	10	111	2	5	51	14	11	—	59	7	6
Milton	May, 1834 and 1835	5	347	13	2½	250	15	7½	—	96	17	7
Bradford	Seven weeks in May and June, 1834 and 1835...	8	1609	18	1½	1096	16	8	—	513	1	5½
Romsey	Midsummer quarter, 1834 and 1835	2	793	3	11	567	19	—	—	225	4	11
Uckfield	One week in 1834 and 1835	9	71	18	9	34	17	6	—	37	1	3
South Stoneham	Ten weeks, from 25th March, 1834 and 1835 ..	3	195	9	3	102	16	1	—	92	11	2
Doxford	Weekly expense in May and June, 1834 and 1835	11	119	1	10½	67	15	6½	—	51	6	3½
Alresford	One month in 1834 and 1835	14	248	9	9	173	16	8	—	74	13	1
Alton	Four weeks of May, 1834 and 1835	15	475	1	9	186	14	9½	—	288	6	11½
Harley	Six weeks before and after April, 1835	3	161	4	10½	98	15	5½	—	62	9	5½
Harley Witney	The first four weeks in May, 1834 and 1835	13	410	4	4½	185	2	10½	—	225	1	6
Hailsham	One quarter, to 25th June, 1834 and 1835 ..	5	1506	18	7	1450	14	10½	—	56	3	8½
Woburn	Two weeks in May and June, 1834 and 1835 ..	6	179	7	6	108	17	3	—	70	10	3
Penhurst	May, 1834 and 1835	5	265	13	—	49	10	4	—	216	2	8
Ware	12th May to 24th June, 1834 and 1835	10	560	6	4½	407	11	0½	—	152	15	4
Hendon	Weekly expenditure	8	47	—	—	20	—	—	—	27	—	—
		187	13,859	1	5½	9511	19	8	—	4377	1	9½

In the populous and well-managed parishes of St. George, Hanover Square, and St. Giles in the Fields and St. George, Bloomsbury, very considerable improvements in the administration of relief had been effected before the passing of the Act. These and several other parishes were in a progressive state of improvement at the time we sent out our first circulars. In the Returns from 172 parishes, the great majority state that they have to a considerable extent complied with the recommendations contained in the circular of the 8th of November. The pecuniary results of the measures recommended, and chiefly of the substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, appear to be that the poor-rates have in the 172 parishes been reduced from the sum of 506,645*l.* in 1834, to 431,253*l.* in 1835. But the amount of weekly relief dispensed in these parishes in the last week of March, 1834, was 8280*l.*, whilst in the last week in March, 1835, it was 6214*l.*, showing an increasing ratio of reduction. It is observable that the greatest reductions have been made in the largest parishes. Whilst in 159 of the smallest parishes the reduction was only 9 per cent. upon the previous amount of rates, the reduction in thirteen of the largest parishes, comprehending a population of 787,000 persons, was 20 per cent. We believe that similar results will be found to have taken place in other districts.

So far as the change has proceeded in those districts which have workhouses, the reduction of the out-door relief has been accompanied, not by an increase, but by a decided diminution of the number of the in-door paupers.

§ 24. We have directed our most anxious attention to the general effects produced by the change upon the condition of the able-bodied paupers, whose allowances in aid of wages have been discontinued. Careful inquiries have been made as to the subsequent condition of those who had refused to accept relief in a workhouse. In the Faringdon union, for example, all out-door relief was discontinued, and relief in the workhouse was offered to 240 able-bodied labourers. Of these, not more than about twenty entered the workhouse, and not one-half remained there more than a few days; the diet in the workhouse being at the same time high as compared with the diet of large classes of independent labourers. Mr. Gulson found, at the time of his inquiry, that the whole of these labourers had got into independent employment. On inquiry of some of the

farmers who had previously represented to him that they had then no means of employing any additional labourers, he received for answer, that the additional employment was now given in consequence of the improved character of the labourer.

In these, as in other instances, the general results have in practice been presented to us generally in the following order:—

When the allowance in aid of wages has been discontinued, and reception in a workhouse has been offered to the able-bodied labourers, the employer who had acquiesced in the system, or who still conceived that it was conducive to his narrow interests, perceives that all efforts to maintain it must be attended with the inconvenience of parting with labourers, some of whom probably are valuable to him for their skill, and others the most eligible as understanding his business and habits. He is frequently placed in a condition of uncertainty whether the chief part of his establishment may not be broken up. The hiring of strangers is the alternative presented to him. For illustrations of this first consequence to the employer, we beg to refer your Lordship to the Report of Mr. Hall*.

On the other hand, the pauperized labourer finds that parochial relief is no longer eligible to him, except in case of absolute destitution. He finds that the discontinuance of the allowance severs the tie which bound him to his parish; and that at the same time the alteration of the law of settlement has diminished the probability of his being excluded as a foreigner from the disposal of his labour in the adjacent parishes, or in any part of the kingdom. But the distant employment is uncertain, and he finds it to his interest to make it worth the while of the employer to retain him in employment; not by offering his labour for reduced wages, but usually by offering to earn, by increased diligence, an increase of wages proportionate to the discontinued allowance. We refer your Lordship, for illustrations of these effects, to the examinations of farmers and other employers of labour, given in Mr. Gilbert's Report, and also to the Reports of Mr. Gulson, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Power†. Some of the more liberal farmers have expressed, in their own way, their opinion of the change, by declaring that "it will make better masters as well as better men‡."

* Appendix B, No. 4.

† Appendix B, Nos. 6, 3, 4, 5.

‡ Mr. Stevens's Letter, Appendix C, No. 10.

The connexion of mutual interest between the employer and the labourer is thus restored and strengthened. The employer finds upon trial that the labourer considers him alone, and no longer the parish, as the superior employer. So soon as the labourer ceases to be dependent on the parish he labours more steadily and diligently, and this increased value of his labour enables his employer to use more labour profitably, and increase the return for it in wages. In all our more recent reports from the dispauperized parishes, it is stated that the wages are improved, and that the amount paid is greater than in the adjacent pauperized parishes. As an exemplification of the tenor of our information relating to the circumstances under which wages are affected by the change, we give the following portion of an examination of Mr. John Clark*, a farmer of Bledlow, a parish in the Wycombe union, Bucks :—

“ If I have the free use on Saturday night of 5*l.*, instead of paying it to the overseer, I shall be able to lay this out in labour on my land in the next week. Whilst the labourer was half pauper and half labourer, he was like a man with two masters, and could do justice to neither; but now he feels that he is only a labourer he works hard and willingly. My 8*s.* wages will purchase for me labour sufficient to produce 10*s.* worth of crop; but with a pauper, my 5*s.* paid will be a loss; for all the labour such a man will do would not be worth half-a-crown. With independent labourers, the more I have in moderation the more I make; but for the paupers, the more I have the more I lose. I will employ as many of the former and as few of the latter as I can. Ten independent labourers would do me more good than five; whilst of paupers, five would be more desirable than ten†.”

While the indolence generated by the old system of parochial employment has been thus superseded by habits of industry, the train of vices generated by indolence are found to be gradually diminishing. The increase of sobriety is frequently denoted to us, in the progress of the change, by the complaints of the beer-shop keepers that the consumption of beer has diminished, and by their activity in opposing the progress of a further change. In the parish of Iver, it was found that the change of system was marked by the almost immediate discontinuance of the poaching and pilfering, which had before that time prevailed to an unusual extent. Now that an external appearance of misery will no

* Mr. Gilbert's Report; Appendix B, No. 6.

† Appendix C, No. 10.

longer avail in the dispauperized parishes as means of obtaining increased allowances, and that the bounties on filth and improvidence offered by the old system of out-door relief are removed, it is reported to us that an increased attention to cleanliness, neatness, and comfort is beginning to be observable in the cottages of the labourers.

A further moral result which is reported to us as being conspicuous in the dispauperized districts, is, that the venal and improvident marriages, which were consequent upon the allowance system, have immediately been diminished*.

We have reason to believe that the advantages of the change are becoming more extensively perceptible to the pauperized labourers. On the part of many of the smaller farmers (excepting, too frequently, those who are tenants from year to year), who, as parish-officers, commonly governed the fund applied in aid of wages, an opinion appears to be advancing that their supposed immediate interests in making others contribute to the payment of their wages, and also in making a portion of their own payments quarterly as rates instead of weekly as wages, are now more than counterbalanced by the comparative worthlessness of the labour which they obtain, and the harassing contests and the vexations to which they are subject.

Considering how largely the return for any investments of capital in agricultural labour is dependent on the steadiness and general character of the labour applied, we are not surprised at the extent of the absorption of the apparent surplus of a pauperized parish in profitable employment, and we trust that we may anticipate the general diffusion of the advantages of the change amongst all who are connected with the agriculture of the dispauperized districts.

We are informed that many of those tradesmen who profited largely by the old system of parochial management have found that by the change of system their interests have not been injured to the extent which they anticipated, inasmuch as the purchases of the independent labourers have, to a considerable extent, made up for the diminished consumption of goods by the parish.

By one of the regulations of the new unions, it was provided

* See Mr. Gilbert's and Mr. Gulson's, and Mr. Adley's Reports; Appendix B Nos. 6, 3, and 7.

that all goods for the use of the union should be purchased by contract, or open tender. From the following Return from the Uckfield union, showing the difference in the amounts of the tenders when made for the whole union, as compared with the supplies for the single parishes separately, an estimate may be made of the apparent amount of these interests affected by the change:—

	Tender for a single Parish.		Tender for the whole Union.
Flat Dutch cheese, per cwt.	51/4	51/4	44/
Round ditto	51/4	51/4	45/
Best London yellow soap	46/	56/	42/
Brown country ditto	42/	..	41/
Good moist sugar	56/	56/	49/
Ditto	..	..	52/6
Rice	32/	21/	14/6
Best store candles, per dozen lbs.	5/3	5/6	4/10
Salt, per bushel	2/6	2/	1/4
Tenders for Flour at per Bag of Four Bushels.			
Small Millers and Tradesmen, Tenders from.	For a single Parish.	Millers and Cornfactors.	Tenders for the whole Union.
1st	25/4	1st	23/
2nd	25/4	2nd	23/11
3rd	26/	3rd	23/11
4th	27/6	4th	24/
5th	27/6	5th	25/4

George Tattam, Esq., the chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Wycombe union, in the course of an examination as to the operation of that union, states, in answer to an inquiry, as to the effects of making contracts for provisions in the union,—

“I learn that all the little tradesmen are violent in their opposition to the contract. It is clear that under the old system they had an advantage in the number of paupers which they have not now. The more money there was paid to the paupers, the more there was to be spent amongst the tradesmen, but the reverse is now the case. And under the old system paupers were often encouraged to get into debt, in order that an increased price might be charged upon the several articles they bought, and their custom ensured for the future.

“Is there a saving effected to the union by the system of contract?—Decidedly there is. We give one-half in kind (subject of course to exception under particular circumstances). The price of bread by con-

tract being 4*d.* for the loaf, and the charge of the little tradesmen being generally 6*d.*, there is a saving of one-third upon the quantity we give in kind; that is, a saving of one-sixth upon the whole relief. The average cost of relief of all the parishes before the union was about 30,000*l.* a-year; therefore, by this contract alone 5000*l.* a-year will be saved,—a sum more than sufficient to pay all the expenses of management of the whole union for eleven years to come, and a reduction alone of one-sixth of all the rates upon every parish in the union*.”

We cite another instance of the further effects of the change, as stated in the evidence of an overseer of a parish in the same union:—

“Do you find any other result from the payment in kind?—Yes; I do find that the little tradesmen, who had formerly an interest in the increase of pauperism, now persuade the paupers to find work. Formerly, the more paupers, the more money the little tradesmen made; but now that a contractor supplies the bread, the less pauperism and the more independent labour, the more money to the shopkeeper. One of these shopkeepers called and remonstrated with me that all the men were not employed, and I know that he and others do all they can to prevent the men being paupers, and encourage their becoming independent labourers.”

We trust that these advantages will be extended by an imitation of the example set by the Guardians of the unions in East Kent, who have under their consideration the supply of the whole of the unions already formed in that county with one article, for the use of the several union workhouses, by means of a single contract.

§ 25. Amongst the evils we found ourselves called upon to remedy, were a large class connected with the administration of medical relief. In our present Report we deem it necessary only to advert to some of the chief evils of this class, and to the measures we have adopted with relation to them.

We found it a practice, in the great majority of instances, for a medical man to contract with the parish for the supply to the settled paupers of the parish with medical attendance for a small fixed sum, on the expressed or implied condition that he should be allowed to make whatever charges he pleased for his attendance and treatment of non-parishioners, under suspended orders of removal, or an order of medical relief by the overseer. When the patient has recovered, he is sent home to a parish with a bill

* Mr. Gilbert's Report; Appendix B, No. 6.

for medical attendance, including charges for medicines at the highest rates. Against these charges the distant parish to which the pauper belonged had no adequate protection. The pauper was exposed to the danger of being supplied with medicines considerably beyond what was required for his proper treatment. Instances have come to our knowledge where, in large populous parishes, the profits of attendance upon paupers, under such circumstances, have been upwards of 300*l.* per annum. The inferior officers have been feed by the medical officer to search out and give him information of the cases of this description. As a further evil of this system, we may mention that paupers with their families have been removed from their parishes at a great expense, when each head of a family would otherwise have preferred remaining and seeking employment in the parish where his sickness occurred. By countenancing these practices parishes were in the habit of creating burdens for each other. As a check to this system and to the general expense of medical relief, we have generally required that medical services should be retained by contract and open tender, including as a condition, that the medical officers should attend at the same charge all patients on the order of the overseer, whether the patients were parishioners or non-parishioners.

In regulating the appointments of medical officers within the new unions, we have acted on the presumption that by the words of the Act (that the medical officer shall be "a person duly licensed to practise as a medical man,") it was intended to include equally physicians, surgeons or apothecaries duly licensed to practise as such. Applications have been made to us to prescribe, as the qualification of the medical officer of any union, that he should be a member of the College of Surgeons as well as of the Apothecaries' Company; but as at present informed, we do not think that the public interests would be advanced by confining the qualification within narrower limits than those traced by the words of the Act, and which conform to the general practice. With respect to the general professional qualifications of the medical men who come within the words of the Act, we have relied on the diplomas of those who are charged by the Legislature with the duty of examining the qualifications of the candidates for practice, being assured that the recent improvements in medical practice and education are such as in general to render the later diplomas

certificates of a degree of competency, equivalent to much practice on the parts of those who have had an earlier education. Under these circumstances we have considered that the interests of the public and of the profession itself were the best served by keeping the situations of medical officers in the new unions open to the competition of the whole body of medical practitioners. Instead of attempting to fix the price of the services of the medical practitioners for the union, we deemed it the most advantageous that each practitioner should fix the price of his own services, under competition. Amongst the inducements to accept these appointments, are the credit of the appointment of medical officer to an union by a Board of Guardians, the wider fields these appointments offer for the display of care and skill, and for obtaining reputation leading to more profitable practice; inducements differing in degree, but similar in kind to those upon which men of the most eminent skill find it to their interest to give their services to the chief medical institutions of the country. We may be sure that the medical practitioner will, in fixing upon his terms, do nothing which he considers will not on the whole be advantageous to himself; and next, that he will consider the interests and advantage of his own profession. We have found it necessary, as a security against undue charges even under competition, to adopt as a rule that the aggregate charges for medical relief within the new unions shall not exceed the aggregate of the former expenditure for medical relief in the separate parishes now included in the unions. Instances have occurred where the local medical practitioners have combined to prevent a competition. The course taken in these instances for the protection of the rate-payers, and to secure the best treatment to the paupers, has been to suspend our sanction to the appointments, and to cause advertisements to be made to throw open the office to the competition of practitioners from a distance, or of the profession at large.

In some unions, as in the Wycombe union, it has been provided that the terms of the contract should be a remuneration, at a given sum per head, on the number who receive medical relief; but with the proviso, that the gross charge should not exceed a given amount. It is stated to us in evidence, that this mode of proceeding, though adopted reluctantly by the medical profession, has operated very beneficially. The surgeon of the Amersham union states, in the course of an examination,

"I approve of the system ; but the amount in the present contract is inadequate ; I think I shall lose a guinea a week by it. In some of the parishes it is at present only one-third of what I have received in former years for the same time. But I approve of the system, for these reasons : it is a self-acting check upon the relieving officer in giving improper orders, or withholding proper orders ; upon the applicant for medical relief, in making him feel that in receiving it he is a pauper, and causing the parish a specific charge for him ; and upon the medical man, by causing an inquiry into each case, so that none can escape attention ; and by that means, also secures proper attendance to the patient. Indeed, the mode of contract forms a complete system of check and security in cases of pauper medical relief, the want of which was so much felt under the old system.

"Has it tended to curtail the evil of sending all parties to the parish doctor for medical relief, which was so prevalent under the cases of contract in gross ?—Yes, it has ; I have many cases now that I am attending as independent patients, who used always before to come to me as paupers. One case is that of a woman of Penn ; her son is a master bricklayer, with whom she resides, the cottage and garden their own. She has a daughter about thirty, a sempstress, who gets a very good living. This woman was, with her daughter, always attended by the parish. On my telling this woman that the parish paid a specific sum for her, she refused to be attended, and now pays for herself. There are many cases which evidence this effect of the system.

"Of course, the new independent patients pay you ?—Yes, they do ; they pay us at the time they have the medicine.

"Now, although you do not receive so much from the parish contract, will not the amount by these new independent patients more than make up the difference ?—No, I think not ; but it will go towards it."

We anticipate that the introduction of a better system will be beneficial for the destitute sick, as well as beneficial to the labouring classes generally ; and that it will be found conducive to all proper interests of the respectable portion of the medical profession.

It will, however, be observed, that the change in the system has not, in many instances, been so long in operation as to develop the whole of the effects which may be anticipated from it, in promoting voluntary and independent associations to provide for the casualties of sickness and mortality.

But even now the reports made to us of the very satisfactory effects of the operation of the rule are becoming daily apparent. We cite the following passage from a recent Report made to us by

our Assistant-Commissioner, Mr. Hall, as illustrative of the tenor of other incidental communications on the subject:—

“The good effects of your arrangements as respects medical relief are showing themselves in the shape of medical clubs among the labourers. One of the surgeons of the Wallingford union told me that several were in process of formation in his district; and I have heard that elsewhere the labouring class has evinced the same degree of foresight and providence; has given the same proof that, when thrown upon his own resources, and taught to rely upon his own exertions, the independent labourer can and will adopt measures answering to the necessity of the case.”

Mr. Gulson states, in a recent Report from Oxfordshire,

“Medical clubs are starting up in all directions. The proceedings of the Board, as regards the medical department, have already been productive of the best results. Highly respectable medical men are undertaking to attend all cases for an annual subscription of 2s. for a single person; and for 4s. 4d. they engage to attend a whole family, however large, so that it does not include children above 16 years of age. At Witney, Benson, and other places, the labourers are subscribing in considerable numbers to independent medical clubs.”

Mr. Gilbert reports to us, that in several parts of Buckinghamshire similar effects, resulting directly from the change of medical relief, have been developed in a striking manner.

§ 26. The increase of provident institutions, as arising from the general influence of the change of system, was confidently anticipated from the marked increase of deposits in the savings banks; deposits by labourers who had previously been paupers, observed in several of the parishes which were the earliest dispauperized. The anticipation has been justified by the fact of the increase of the prosperity of the existing provident institutions, and by the increase of new institutions coincidently with the change of the law. Mr. Tidd Pratt, the Barrister appointed to certify the rules of Savings Banks and Benefit Societies, states to us—

“That the increase in the number of Friendly Societies since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, has been very considerable as compared with the year previous thereto. From the month of August, 1833, to August, 1834, the number certified by me was 360; but from August, 1834, to the present time, I have certified nearly 750, being an increase of 390, or more than double the number certified in the previous year. Independently of which, I am happy to say that these Societies

appear to be founded on calculations more likely to enable them to fulfil their engagements with the members, than those which were heretofore in existence; and this I attribute, in a great measure, to the rules and tables which have been printed by order of the Lords of the Treasury, and gratuitously distributed.

“ With respect to depositors in Savings Banks, the increase during the last year has been very considerable. The accounts are made up annually to the 20th of November; and although from November, 1831, to November, 1833, (being a period of two years,) the number of depositors increased during that period 44,750, yet from November, 1833, to November, 1834, the increase in the number of depositors has been nearly 33,000, and in the money deposited, nearly a million: and in each of the following counties, viz., Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bucks, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Sussex, a marked increase has taken place in the number of the small depositors.”

§ 27. It is stated to us, that the effect of the general practice of sending to the workhouse for twenty-one days paupers who require to be removed, has been greatly to diminish the number of cases of removal. The general testimony as to the operation of the provision requiring that, previously to any removal being made, the grounds upon which the order is granted should be stated to the parish to which the pauper is removed, has been, that it has, to a considerable extent, diminished the amount of litigation; and we are informed that, in some districts, it has nearly extinguished that branch of business at the sessions.

§ 28. From the Reports of our Assistant-Commissioners, as well as from the communications made to us from all parts of the country, we can state that the testimony as to the operation of the clauses of the Act which relate to cases of bastardy, strongly preponderates in favour of the principles adopted on that subject by the Legislature. For some time after the passing of the Act, a popular impression appeared to be extensively prevalent that the law had been changed in the mode proposed by the late Commissioners of Inquiry, and that the mother of a bastard child requiring relief was placed in the same condition as if no father of the child was in existence; but that she was entitled, nevertheless, to relief as for herself, in case of her inability, from destitution, to maintain the child. The evidence as to the effect of this impression leads us to believe that the enactment itself would have produced all the beneficial effects wished and intended by the promoters of the measure. The operation of the modified clauses

of the Act, as they now stand, is reported to us to be proportionately beneficial.

The following extracts from the Report of Mr. Gulson* display the general tenor of the incidental information which we receive on this subject:—

“The assistant-overseer of St. Giles’, Oxford, is sure that there are not so many unmarried women pregnant in the parish now, as was usual heretofore. He knows no other cause for this but the ‘fear of the new law,’ which makes the girls cautious.

“Mr. Clarke, master of the union workhouse, Oxford, states that previously to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the average number of the orders of affiliation made in the united parishes annually was fourteen, and there were usually eight or nine cases on the book for relief, without an order. Up to the present date, August 5, there have been three orders made, and five cases are relieved without order.

“Andrew Richardson, assistant-overseer of St. Clement’s, Oxford, feels certain that there are not now so many unmarried women pregnant in that parish as has been usual hitherto. He constantly hears the females of the lower order complaining of the new law, and proving that they understand its intention.

“The assistant-overseer of St. Mary’s, Reading, says he is certain the new law has had considerable effect in that town in stopping the progress of bastardy. Fewer cases of pregnant single women have come under his notice than at any former period.”

Information is constantly brought to us, that in the more populous parishes the number of new cases of claims for relief on account of bastardy are greatly diminishing; whilst from the rural districts we receive similar testimony, accompanied by statements showing that as incontinency is a less certain passport to marriage, and the virtuous females of the labouring classes are no longer placed at the same disadvantage as they were previously to the passing of the law, the improvement of morality amongst this class of females is daily becoming more perceptible.

The following is an instance of the testimony as to the operation of the Act, given in a letter from the overseer of Llanasa, in the county of Flint, in answer to an inquiry from the Board, “Why the bastards in the parish are now so few?”

“I can only observe, that, in the first place, we never force the putative father to marry the mother, and we compel the mother as well as the father to pay her quota towards the maintenance of the child. This was our simple mode of treating the business.

“ One thing I must observe, and it tells well for the new Poor Law Act : That in our parish we have from fifteen to twenty weddings in the year, and it seldom happened that at the ceremony the bride did not think it decent and requisite—I am now speaking of the lower order of persons—to conceal her shape under a cloak. But in the eighteen marriages which we have had since last August, all the ladies, except one, retained their virgin shape, and appeared without their mantle.”

In several of the more populous parishes the reduction of the cases of bastardy has been to the extent of one order made now, where ten were made before the passing of the Act.

Serious objections, however, to which we feel it our duty to advert, have been made to the operation of this part of the Act.

It is to be presumed, that in sending the cases of bastardy from the petty to the quarter sessions, it was foreseen that the proceedings against the putative father would be expensive, and that they were intended to be so ; that in giving full costs to the person charged and none against him ; in requiring evidence corroborative of the testimony of the mother ; in providing that fourteen days' notice of proceedings should be given to the putative father, who might during that time abscond ; and in exempting the putative father from imprisonment, and confining the security for the repayment of the charges to the attachment of wages, or goods where he has any ; it was foreseen that the process would be uncertain as well as expensive, and was intended that it should be so, in order to discourage, as much as possible, proceedings against the putative father, which could not otherwise be divested of the evils inherent to any such proceedings on the part of the parish.

It has been made matter of extensive complaint to us, that the remedy is expensive and uncertain. In numerous communications made to us by parish officers, they have declared, in complaining of the process, that as they were convinced the parish could only lose by it, they intended to abandon the pursuit of the father. Since the passing of the Act, a considerable number of cases have been brought before the quarter sessions ; but we have not been able to ascertain in time for insertion in this Report the progress of these cases, or the extent of the indications that the presumed intentions of the Legislature will be accomplished, and the remedy against the father fall into desuetude.

In the statement transmitted to us by your Lordship*, with a

* Appendix C, No. 6.

request that we would report upon it, with a view to determining upon the propriety of calling upon the Legislature to interfere, a serious complaint was made against the provisions of the Act as they now stand, on the ground of the disgusting nature of the details of the cases developed before crowded courts of the quarter sessions, in consequence of that court being now the only tribunal of appeal. If this objection were urged with a view to the return to the provisions of the old law, in respect of the proof required, we should submit that, in considering the admitted evil of such an investigation, the evil must not be overlooked which was formerly so prevalent, of the perjury committed when the oath of the mother was conclusive evidence of the fact of paternity.

But whilst stating our impressions, as derived from the evidence presented to us, of the great improvement which the provisions of the existing Act have produced, we must state our apprehensions that they are in some respect open to objection, as not being entirely divested of the evils of the old law, in offering a means (though much diminished) of intimidation, by the threat of lengthened proceedings if compliance be not made. The process, we are apprehensive, is still in some degree available against the putative father who may have goods or wages liable to attachment.

As unions are extensively formed, and the administration of relief is gradually placed in the hands of paid and responsible officers; as the ignorance which prevails upon this subject is dispelled by the evidence which daily arises of the beneficial effects of the alteration of the old system, we consider it highly probable that the number of cases brought to the sessions will be diminished. But the pursuit of the father is still considered a matter of duty by the parish officers, and there are so many interests in support of the continual practice, (amongst which must be noticed the interests in encouraging litigation,) that we must expect that it will to a considerable extent be continued. As an illustration of the force of habit, we may mention that, although the law requires that the order upon the father should be made with relation to the actual cost of the necessities for the maintenance of the child, we find that the magistrates at various quarter sessions still continue the old practice of making the order, not with reference to the proper and actual cost, which varies little, but with reference to the condition of the father; thus giving bounties for the maintenance of the abuses of the old system.

Whenever it shall be deemed requisite that application be made to the Legislature on this subject, we should venture to submit that the most effectual course of abating the remaining evils would be by an entire repeal of the statutory provisions under which proceedings can be taken by the parish against the putative father.

We would observe that, by the existing law, the whole of the money recovered from the father must be given to the parish, and the mother is entitled to no part of it. She cannot, therefore, by the proposed repeal, become a loser of anything but the power of causing the putative father to be proceeded against by the parish. It is acknowledged that, considered with reference to a class of cases, the remedy is of no value as a means of obtaining indemnification to the parish. The ground most strongly urged for the process against the father, is founded on the notion that it may serve as a means of punishing the seducer. We participate in the feelings of detestation of the crime of seduction; but the principle, that poor law administration should be the administration of relief alone, cannot be departed from by the introduction of anything having a view to punishment, without at the same time creating far greater evils than those which it is intended to repress. Neither can any existing authority for the dispensation of relief be safely considered as properly constituted as a judicatory for the award of private satisfaction for wrongs, or for the infliction of punishment. It appears to be commonly overlooked in the complaints on this subject, that for the injury of seduction the courts of law afford a remedy; and to any objection which might be made that this remedy is too costly, or is otherwise out of the reach of the poor, we submit that the proper remedial course of legislation would be to render justice, dispensed by proper judicial functionaries, accessible to the poorest classes of the community.

The evidence of the benefits now daily becoming manifest from the approximation to a sound principle in the administration of relief in this class of cases, has not been accompanied by any countervailing statements of evils or injuries traceable as consequences of the alteration of the law. Cases of hardship might have been expected to occur; cases of the desertion of children and of infanticide always formed a large class of cases in the returns of the statistics of crime during the existence of the old law; but we have seen no evidence of the increase of

such cases subsequently to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, nor amidst all the complaints unreservedly made to us, with claims for our aid to provide remedies for any real or supposed evil or inconvenience, have we received any authenticated cases of hardship. Some alleged cases of this description have been displayed before the public, but on investigation, in every instance which came to our knowledge, they were found to be fraudulent.

§ 29. Amongst the preparatory regulations prescribed to the Boards of Guardians, was one ordering the discontinuance of relief to all able-bodied paupers between the ages of 16 and 60, who are not resident within their own parishes.

The reasons for the early adoption of this rule were, that, whilst the paupers remain in distant parishes, the grounds on which they found their claim to continued relief are generally out of the reach of adequate investigation, and of the constant revision which is necessary to stem the influx of fraudulent claims. In such cases, moreover, there always appears to be some weighty advantage to the pauper, either in the constancy of employment, or the local aid of relatives or friends, which constitutes the motive to non-residence.

A further inducement to the application of the rule to these cases was created by the circumstance that the change would not affect considerable numbers living together, but would come into operation with separate individuals, with relation to whom separate arrangements might commonly be made.

The operation of this rule has fully justified our anticipations. In the cases where it has been carried into effect, the instances are extremely rare of a non-resident parishioner returning from any distant parish in consequence of the discontinuance of relief. By some employers of labour, indeed, the continuance of this mode of relief has been defended as an outpost of the allowance system, as it was perceived that if in these instances it was proved that the allowance might be safely discontinued, the success of the discontinuance would afford a strong presumption of the practicability of the immediate discontinuance of the out-door allowance in aid of wages to the resident able-bodied paupers. The rule has been promptly acquiesced in, in all parts except Sussex.

Urgent applications have been made to us from some parts of that county for the relaxation of the rule, and the applications

have been supported by statements of the strong claims of the non-resident paupers, and of the hardships which would be inflicted upon them by the change. These statements have, on examination, been found to be greatly exaggerated. We therefore refused to relax the rule, and the hardships and inconveniences so confidently anticipated have not occurred.

§ 30. The first operation of the rules and orders for the administration of relief in the new unions was met in several unions by riotous proceedings on the part of bodies of paupers.

An opinion of the character of these riots, and of the state of the paupers in the districts where the riots occurred, may be formed from the fact, that in nearly the whole of the cases the riots were occasioned by the rule which requires that one-half of the relief should be in bread or other necessaries.

Money is applied for as a means of obtaining bread. Bread the families require as a primary article of necessity. The supplies of bread given in the new unions were always as good as those obtainable from the shopkeepers, and were frequently declared to be much better. There could not, therefore, be any reasonable pretext for objection on the part of the paupers, even on the ground of inconvenience, if inconvenience were admissible as a ground of objection.

It is to be observed, that the introduction of these changes, and especially of the regulations for the substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, were preceded by complaints, not from the labourers, whom alone the change could legitimately affect, but from the shopkeepers and others engaged in furnishing supplies of goods for the use of parishes. As instances of the character of the complaints which have come to our knowledge, we refer to the memorials from certain rate-payers in the town and parish of Sittingbourne, and also to the memorials of the parishes of Doddington and Newnham, in the county of Kent, and from the town and parish of Potton in Bedfordshire*. We have not the slightest reason to suppose that these particular memorialists were concerned in any of the breaches of the peace which subsequently occurred. We cite the documents as authentic expositions of the feelings prevalent amongst the classes who consider their interests affected by the change. In the course of the subsequent inquiries into the causes of these disturbances, the connexion with them of persons of these classes has been manifest, although it is difficult to establish the fact by technical proof. In most instances, the

means of incitement have been violent expressions of hostility to the measure, denunciations of its principles, always incorrectly stated, and expressions, couched in the form of predictions, suggesting the probable occurrence of riotous proceedings, and how the acts of violence might or would happen.

In East Kent the riots were promptly suppressed by the civil authorities, with the aid of two serjeants of police, and the presence of a party of military. Some disturbances were threatened at Eastbourne, but were prevented by the energy and vigilance of the magistrates. A riot occurred in the Ampthill union, but was quelled by the active aid of a party of 20 of the Metropolitan Police, the yeomanry being ready to act, if required. One riot which occurred at Chesham, Bucks, was suppressed by the energy of the local authorities, who were afterwards aided in apprehending some of the ringleaders, and in maintaining the peace, by a body of the same number of the Metropolitan Police and a party of yeomanry. In a few other instances the relieving officers have been assaulted in the execution of their duty.

When we recollect the extent of erroneous impressions respecting the principles and provisions of the Act which have prevailed, even amongst the educated and better-informed classes, and the persevering misrepresentations with which the public mind has to the last been assailed on this subject, we cannot but consider that the obstructions which have been attempted to be created on the part of the labouring classes are, on the whole, much less than might have been expected.

We have great satisfaction in being able to state that we have received information that a considerable proportion of the labouring classes in some of the agricultural districts are not adverse to the change. We have learned that a few weeks since several persons, in the character of delegates from some trades' unions in the manufacturing districts, went amongst the agricultural labourers of Sussex, using violent language, and representing to them that the Act was intended to depress their condition, urged them to join the other unions, and take measures for resisting the law. In consequence of these proceedings, conferences were held amongst the agricultural labourers, who ultimately declined connecting themselves in any way with the alleged delegates, and stated, "that although they were apprehensive that they should have to endure much suffering in making the change, yet that

they were satisfied it would be the best for them at last to be freed from the parish."

Mr. Pilkington also states, with reference to another district of the same county, that "at the time of the formation of the Thakeham union, which is situated in one of the worst regulated parts of West Sussex, the greatest efforts were made by interested persons to get up disturbances, without effect*. A gentleman, resident in a parish in Sussex, who was a great sufferer in the riots of 1830, stated to me that the same men, four of whom he knew and had marked, who were the ringleaders in the disturbances at that time, had again been attempting to excite the labourers to acts of insubordination, but without effect. They even," the gentleman further stated, "passed through his parish, well-known as one of the worst parishes in the union, with a few deluded persons whom they had collected together, and actually hissed the labourers as cowards and slaves because they would not join them. In the Rogate and Harting districts, well known as amongst the most pauperized in Sussex, delegates from the Eastbourne rioters have been doing their utmost to excite the labourers to acts of violence, but hitherto, except in the instance of a few women and children, without effect."

The persons engaged in the riots have been generally found to be the worst characters within the district, and commonly distinguishable from the general body of the labouring population by their conduct.

We feel bound to bear testimony to the excellent conduct and discipline of the Metropolitan Police, on every occasion where their services have been required for the suppression of the riots to which we have adverted. Having no local interests or connexions, their intervention excited the least possible degree of hostility. They invariably acted with perfect coolness, and under the best discipline, and left impressions highly favourable to them.

§ 31. Before we close our Report, we feel it our duty to represent to your Lordship, that from the magistrates of the several counties with which we have hitherto been chiefly engaged, we have received highly valuable assistance in carrying the Act into operation. As *ex-officio* Guardians, they have attended sedulously to their new and highly important duties, and have given cordial and efficient assistance in carrying the Act into execution. As conservators of the peace they have, in every instance where re-

* Appendix B, No. 9.

sistance has been attempted, enforced the law with vigour, and brought the offenders to justice.

Out of the 2000 parishes united we have had a very small number of instances of parishes omitting to make due elections of Guardians. In most of these cases the parish officers, who had incurred the suspicion of negligence or contumacy, anticipated any proceedings against them, by pleading ignorance, and requesting to be permitted, under a new order of election, to supply the omission; and the permission has generally been granted. These irregularities could not have interrupted the proceedings for the execution of the Act.

§ 32. At the Boards of Guardians there has been a constant attendance of the members, who have generally been exceedingly laborious in the performance of their duties. In many of the new unions, the Guardians, after having travelled several miles to the place of meeting, have frequently been engaged from ten or eleven in the morning until eight or nine in the evening, in the performance of their gratuitous services. As the business of the unions becomes more systematized, and further advances are made in the execution of the Act, we trust that less frequent attendances and less severe exertions will be found necessary; and as the paid officers are tried and found competent, a greater proportion of the labour and responsibility of the executive duties may devolve upon them, and the Guardians be relieved from the labour of the performance of more severe duties than those of superintendence and control.

§ 33. From many of the magistrates and members of the Boards of Guardians we have received valuable communications.

It also gives us great pleasure to be enabled to state, that by a considerable number of overseers and parish-officers great exertions have been made to carry into execution whatever regulations we have suggested. In cases where formal orders might have been required, they have acted promptly upon our recommendations. To this circumstance the extensive substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, which has taken place in conformity to our circular of the 8th of November, is to be attributed.

§ 34. We see nothing in the present situation of the unvisited counties which will be likely to induce us to deviate materially from the course of proceeding we have hitherto adopted. The system which it has been found advantageous to apply to the best-managed parishes included in the new unions, will, for similar

reasons, and under certain modifications, be found equally advantageous in its application to the least burthened of the counties that are yet unvisited. We shall from time to time revise our past orders and arrangements, with a view to a closer, and ultimately to a complete adoption of the workhouse system, and the extinction of all out-door relief to the able-bodied.

We cannot, under the varied circumstances of the different districts, and the certainty that in many of the new unions a considerable expenditure of the time of our Assistant-Commissioners will be required in superintending their initiatory proceedings, form an accurate estimate of the future rate of progress in our labours; but we trust that with the advantages of increased experience and improved arrangements, together with the aid derivable in each district from an increasing perception, on the part of the inhabitants, of the real character of the measure, we shall be enabled to proceed in the formation of unions at least as rapidly as hitherto.

§ 35. We have prepared for the new unions, and the parishes comprehended within them, one uniform system of accounts, with instructions for keeping and auditing them*. We propose also to prescribe a general form of accounts for the ununited parishes, together with such general rules for the administration of relief within them, as have on trial proved successful, or as may prove applicable, until the time shall arrive for including each parish in a union.

§ 36. In concluding this, our First Annual Report, we beg to assure your Lordship that our labours are sustained by an entire conviction that the Act, in every main provision, will fulfil the beneficent intentions of the Legislature, and will conduce to elevate the moral and social condition of the labouring classes, and promote the welfare of all.

We have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servants,

T. FRANKLAND LEWIS.

(L. S.)

JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE.

GEORGE NICHOLLS.

* Appendix A, No. 11.

APPENDIX (A.)

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL BOARD.

— No. 1. —

CIRCULAR LETTER sent to the Parish Officers of every Parish or Place separately maintaining its own Poor in England and Wales.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers, and the other Officers charged with the Relief of the Poor.

*Office of the Poor Law Commissioners,
4th September, 1834.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Board of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales to transmit to you a copy of the Act of the 4th and 5th William 4, c. 76, for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in England and Wales; and his Majesty's Commissioners request your immediate and careful attention to its provisions.

The attention of the Board having been particularly directed to the operation of the 52d and 54th clauses of the Act, the Commissioners feel themselves called upon to point out that the boards of guardians, select vestries, and other district or parochial officers acting in the administration of parochial affairs under any general or local Act, and also the churchwardens and overseers charged with the relief of the poor in any place where there is no board of guardians, select vestry, or other similar body, constituted under any general or local Act, are to continue to administer the existing laws for the relief of the poor of the parish or place for which they act; and that, subject to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the general transaction of parochial business should (with strict attention to economy, and as far as the same is authorized by law) be continued in the accustomed course until the rules, orders, and regulations which the Commissioners are authorized to make shall have been duly prepared and promulgated.

In reference to the change in the law which is effected by the 54th clause, the Commissioners are desirous that the boards of guardians, select vestries, and other similar bodies, should take into their immediate consideration the expediency of adopting such measures (either by establishing rotas, or otherwise) as may appear to them best adapted for securing frequent and regular attendances for the ordering and directing of the necessary relief to the poor.

I am further directed to recommend to your especial notice the enactments with relation to contracts for supplies of goods for the use of the poor; and to suggest to you, for the avoidance of future inconvenience and pecuniary loss, to which you might otherwise become liable, that,

in the case of the renewal of any contract on behalf of your parish now about to cease, you should cause to be inserted a clause to the following effect:—"That the said contract or agreement shall be liable to be altered or amended in case any alteration or amendment be rendered necessary by any rule, order, or regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales which may come into effect during the period that such contract or agreement would otherwise remain in force."

I am directed also to request your attention to the clause respecting the appointment of paid officers; and to inform you that, although any appointments which are now about to cease may be renewed, and any new appointments may be made by the usual authorities, and, for the present, in the customary manner, still, that the officers, when appointed, must consider themselves as liable to be placed under such regulations as the Central Board may hereafter provide for the more uniform, correct, and efficient performance of the public service.

The Board consider it to be desirable that you should submit this letter to a vestry meeting, or a meeting of the board of guardians, or such body as may be charged with the administration of relief in your parish, and state to them,—

That the Commissioners are desirous of receiving from them, or from yourselves, full information of the existence in your parish of any evils, for the removal of which it is considered that the powers intrusted to the Board may be rendered available; and likewise of any improvement which may have been adopted in the mode of administering relief in your parish.

And as it is highly important that the Commissioners should be immediately made acquainted with the present state of your parish, in common with that of other parishes throughout the country, you are requested to prepare, as speedily as possible, answers to the questions herewith transmitted.

I have, &c.,

EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.

— No. 2. —

QUERIES sent with the foregoing Circular, dated 4th September, 1834.

*Office of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales,
4th September, 1834.*

You are requested to forward, with the least possible delay, to the Board of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, answers to the following preliminary queries.

QUESTIONS.

1. Have you any local Act for the management of the poor in your parish? If so, transmit a copy of it to the Board.

2. Is your parish united or incorporated with others for the management of its poor? If so, name the others.

3. Have you a board of guardians or an elected

vestry established under Mr. Sturges Bourne's or any other Act, and how often are their meetings held for the transaction of business relating to the poor?

4. Have you a poorhouse or workhouse, or any other houses belonging to or held by the parish, for the reception of paupers?

5. State for what number of persons there is room in such poorhouse, or workhouse, or other houses, and also the greatest number which have been in the workhouse, poorhouse, or other houses at any one time.

6. Have you any rules or regulations for the management of your poorhouse or workhouse? If so, transmit a copy of them to the Board.

7. State whether your in-door paupers are farmed by contract, or how otherwise supplied.

8. What is the gross cost per head weekly of the paupers in your poorhouse or workhouse, including clothes, fuel, and medicine; and what is the total amount of the monies expended for the relief of your in-door paupers, for the year ended Lady Day, 1834?

9. Do you give any relief or allowance to the able-bodied poor; in employment; in money, without employment; in payment of rent; or how otherwise?

If in employment, state the kind of work provided for the able-bodied as accurately as you can, whether on the roads, or as roundsmen, or otherwise.

If in money, state the rate of relief or allowance per head weekly given to the individual and his family.

10. State in the annexed columns the number of persons relieved in your parish during the year ended Lady Day, 1834.

MALES above 16.			FEMALES above 16.			CHILDREN under 9.	CHILDREN under 16, and above 9.	
Able-bodied.	Infirm, being partially disabled.	Totally disabled.	Able-bodied.	Infirm, being partially disabled.	Totally disabled.		Able to work.	Unable to work.

11. Have you any paid officer employed in the management of the poor in your parish? If you have, specify whether Vestry clerk - - - Permanent or assistant overseer - - Schoolmaster or mistress - - - - - Master or matron - Or what others - -	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 132 709 200">NAME.</th> <th data-bbox="709 132 944 200">How long in Office.</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 200 709 469"></td> <td data-bbox="709 200 944 469"></td> </tr> </table>		NAME.	How long in Office.				
NAME.	How long in Office.							
12. Name the unpaid overseers and churchwardens now in office in your parish.	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 469 627 539">NAMES.</th> <th data-bbox="627 469 791 539">Trades or Occupations.</th> <th data-bbox="791 469 944 539">Years during which each has served Office.</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 539 627 754"></td> <td data-bbox="627 539 791 754"></td> <td data-bbox="791 539 944 754"></td> </tr> </table>		NAMES.	Trades or Occupations.	Years during which each has served Office.			
NAMES.	Trades or Occupations.	Years during which each has served Office.						

Name, Residence, and Office of the }
 Person signing this Return. }

County of
 Riding, Lathe, Rape, or Division of
 Hundred, Wapentake, Soke, or Liberty of
 City, Borough, Town, or County Corporate of
 Parish, Township, &c. of

— No. 3. —

CIRCULAR issued to Magistrates, &c., dated 6th October, 1834.

*Office of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales,
 6th October, 1834.*

THE Commissioners of Poor Laws for England and Wales, on the 4th of September last, directed a letter to be addressed to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor throughout England and Wales, in which letter the Commissioners pointed out to the parish officers that it was their duty "to continue to administer the existing laws for the relief of the poor of the parish or place for which they act; and that, subject to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the general transaction of parochial business should (with strict attention to economy, and as far as the same is authorized by law) be continued in the accustomed course until the rules, orders and regulations which the Commissioners are authorized to make shall have been duly prepared and promulgated."

The Commissioners have been informed, that in many parts of the

country erroneous opinions prevail with respect to the actual state of the existing laws, particularly in relation to the powers which magistrates may still exercise in ordering parochial relief.

The Commissioners think it expedient therefore to point out, that the Acts of 3 William and Mary, c. 11, and 9 Geo. 1, c. 7, are not repealed, and that these Acts still authorize justices of the peace to exercise a control over the overseers in the administration of relief to the poor. But this control can now be exercised only in parishes in which there is no board of guardians, no select vestry, or other similar body, constituted under any local or general Act.

By the 3d and 4th William and Mary, c. 11, one magistrate has the power of ordering a pauper's name to be placed on the book which contains the list of those who are to be relieved by the parish, as directed by the statute 43 Eliz. c. 2. It is to be observed, however, that the power thus granted to the magistrate is modified by the 1st section of the 9th Geo. 1, c. 7, in which it is enacted,

"That no justice of the peace shall order relief to any poor person dwelling in any parish—

1.—"until oath be made before such justice of the peace of some matter which he shall judge to be reasonable cause or ground for having such relief;

2. —————"and that the same person had by himself, herself, or some other, applied for relief to the parishioners, or to two of the overseers of the poor of such parish;

3. —————"and was by them refused to be relieved;

4.—"And until such justice hath summoned two of the overseers of the poor to show cause why such relief should not be given;

5. —————"and the person so summoned hath been heard or made default to appear before such justice."

And it is further provided, in the 2d section of the same Act, "that the person whom any such justice shall think fit to order to be relieved, shall receive relief as long as the cause for such relief continues, and no longer."

By the 4th section of the same Act, it is enacted, that in any parish in which a workhouse shall have been provided, if any poor person of such parish shall refuse to be lodged, maintained and employed in such house, such person so refusing shall be put out of the Collection Book, "and shall not be entitled to ask or receive any collection or relief from the churchwardens or overseers of the poor of the same parish, township or place."

By the 36th Geo. 3, c. 23, the enactments of which were extended and modified by the 55th Geo. 3, c. 137, s. 3, and the 59th Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 5, magistrates were empowered to order relief to poor persons at their homes, notwithstanding a workhouse had been provided and contracts entered into for lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing the poor. But this statute (36 Geo. 3, c. 23), as well as the above-mentioned sections, by which it was so extended and modified, have been repealed by the Poor Law Amendment Act, and consequently the powers which the justices derived therefrom have terminated.

With reference to the parishes in which there is no board of guardians, select vestry, or other similar body constituted under any local or general Act, the parish officers may, until the Commissioners shall issue their rules or orders, adopt all those modes of relieving the poor which they might lawfully have adopted before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

With respect, however, to those parishes or unions in which a board of guardians, select vestry, or other similar body, constituted under any local or general Act, does exist, it is sufficient to refer to the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which, for the sake of convenience, is hereto annexed.

By order of the Board,
EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.

The 54th section of 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76.

“ And be it further Enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the ordering, giving, and directing of all relief to the poor of any parish which, according to the provisions of any of the said recited Acts, or of an Act passed in the first and second years of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, ‘ An Act for the better regulating of Vestries, and for the appointment of Auditors of Accounts in certain Parishes in England and Wales,’ or of this Act, or of any local Acts, shall be under the government and control of any guardians of the poor, or of any select vestry, and whether forming any part of any union or incorporation or not, (but subject in all cases to, and saving and excepting the powers of, the said Commissioners appointed under this Act,) shall appertain and belong exclusively to such guardians of the poor or select vestry, according to the respective provisions of the Acts under which such guardians or select vestry may have been, or shall be appointed.

“ And it shall not be lawful for any overseer of the poor to give any further or other relief, or allowance from the poor-rate, than such as shall be ordered by such guardians or select vestry, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; in which cases he is hereby required to give such temporary relief as each case shall require, in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money, and whether the applicant for relief be settled in the parish where he shall apply for relief, or not.

“ Provided always, That in case such overseer shall refuse or neglect to give such necessary relief in any such case of necessity to poor persons not settled, nor usually residing in the parish to which such overseer belongs, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace to order the said overseer, by writing under his hand and seal, to give such temporary relief, in articles of absolute necessity, as the case shall require, but not in money; and in case such overseer shall disobey such order, he shall, on conviction before two justices, forfeit any sum, not exceeding 5*l.*, which such justices shall order.

“ Provided always, That any justice of the peace shall be empowered to give a similar order for medical relief (only) to any parishioner, as well as out-parishioner, where any case of sudden and dangerous illness may require it; and any overseer shall be liable to the same penalties as aforesaid, for disobeying such order; but it shall not be lawful for any justice or justices to order relief to any person or persons from the poor-rates of any such parish, except as hereinbefore provided.”

— No. 4. —

CIRCULAR, sent to Parish Officers in some Counties, dated 8th November, 1834.

Office of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, 8th November, 1834.

To the Overseers of the Poor.

THE POOR LAW Commissioners for England and Wales have received information which leads them to believe that, notwithstanding the directions conveyed to the overseers in the circular letter of the 4th September, the Poor Law Amendment Act is still imperfectly understood; and that the overseers in many parishes, which have no select vestries or boards of guardians, are under misapprehension as to the duties which they are, by the existing laws, required to perform.

The Commissioners, therefore, think it necessary to inform you that, as overseers, you still remain responsible for the due relief of the poor; and that you may furnish such relief in any of the different ways in which, by law, you might have furnished it, before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act: bearing in mind always, the necessity of vigilance and strict economy in its distribution.

The Poor Law Amendment Act was passed, not for the purpose of abolishing the necessary relief to the indigent, but for preventing various illegal and injurious practices, which had by degrees grown up in the administration of such relief. The Commissioners will gradually introduce proper regulations for preventing these practices, which, although highly objectionable, cannot altogether and immediately be stopped. In the mean time, the Commissioners wish to draw your attention to the following suggestions; many parishes having derived great advantage from adopting the measures which are here pointed out:—

1. With regard to able-bodied paupers who are unable to procure employment, you should, if possible, set them to work; and, in all cases where circumstances permit its adoption, task-work should be preferred.

2. The allowance to be given to the pauper in return for parish work, whether the same be day-work or task-work, should be considerably less than the ordinary wages paid for similar work to an independent labourer.

3. If it be found impracticable to set the able-bodied paupers to work, one-half at least of the relief given to them should be in food, or in the other necessities of life: and, if this rule be applicable to your parish, the Commissioners recommend you to consider, whether arrangements cannot be made for carrying it into effect without delay.

4. If it is the practice in your parish to make an allowance to labourers in respect of the number of their children, you should not suddenly or altogether discontinue these allowances, but you should make them in kind, rather than in money.

5. With respect to the paupers (if any) belonging to your parish, but resident elsewhere, who have been accustomed to receive from your parish weekly or other payments, such payments, especially as

regards aged and infirm persons, should not be hastily withdrawn : but the list of cases of this nature should be carefully revised, with the view to detect frauds and impositions.

6. If your parish possesses a workhouse, which is already in such a state as to admit of able-bodied paupers being lodged, maintained, and set to work therein, you may make the offer of relief within the house, to any such pauper who shall apply for parochial aid ; and such offer will exonerate you from the necessity of offering other relief.

The Commissioners wish you to observe, that the foregoing suggestions are for your information and assistance only, and are not to be mistaken for rules or orders issued by them, under the authority of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

By Order of the Board,

EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.

— No. 5. —

FORM of ORDER for the Declaration of an UNION and the Election of a Board of Guardians.

(The words printed in *Italics* vary for each Union).

WINDSOR UNION.

KNOW all men, by these presents, that We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in pursuance of the provisions of an Act passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of his present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," do hereby order and declare, that the parishes and places which are named in the margin of these presents, together with all hamlets, tythings, liberties, or other subdivisions, situate within or belonging and adjacent to any of the said parishes or places, the same being situate in the counties of *Berks* and *Surrey*, shall, on the *seventh day of September next*, be, and thenceforth remain united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>New Windsor</i> | } <i>In the</i>
<i>County of</i>
<i>Berks.</i> |
| <i>with Dedworth.</i> | |
| 2. <i>Old Windsor.</i> | |
| 3. <i>Clewer.</i> | } <i>In the</i>
<i>County of</i>
<i>Surrey.</i> |
| 4. <i>Sunninghill.</i> | |
| 5. <i>Egham.</i> | |
| 6. <i>Thorpe.</i> | |

And we do hereby order and declare, that (subject to the proviso contained in the 38th section of the said Poor Law Amendment Act, enabling the same person to be elected for more than one parish), *five* guardians of the said Union, hereby declared, shall be elected for the parish of *New Windsor with Dedworth* ; *four* guardians for the parish of *Egham* ; *three* guardians for the parish of *Clewer* ; and *two* guardians for each of the parishes of *Old Windsor*, *Sunninghill*, and *Thorpe*.

And we do hereby further order and declare, that any person not disqualified as hereinafter is mentioned, shall be eligible as guardian of any

of the said parishes or places, who shall be rated on the poor-rate in some parish or place in the said Union, if the hereditaments for which he is so rated be of the annual value or rental of not less than *twenty-five pounds*.

And we do hereby further order and declare, that no person shall at any time be eligible as a guardian for the said Union, who within two years next previous to the day of election shall have been dismissed from any parochial office by order of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

And we do hereby further order and declare, that the election of guardians for the several parishes or places herein directed to be united, shall be made in the manner, and according to the rules hereinafter set forth, that is to say:—

1. Any rate-payer, or owner of property in any parish, being entitled to vote, may propose, as a guardian or guardians for such parish, any person or persons having the qualification hereinbefore prescribed for that office.

2. Any person having such qualification, may propose himself for that office.

3. In any of the above-mentioned cases, the proposer shall, at least six whole days before the day of election, deliver, or cause to be delivered to one of the churchwardens or overseers, a notice in writing, according to the annexed Form (A):

4. The following shall be the days for the election of guardians:—

For the first election of guardians of the said Union, the day of election shall be the *eighth day of September next*.

For the annual election of guardians, the day of election shall be the first *Thursday* after the 25th day of March in each year.

5. The day hereinbefore fixed for the first election, shall be publicly declared by the churchwardens and overseers; and such declaration shall be made by means of a notice in writing, affixed on or before the *twenty-ninth day of this instant August*, on the principal door of each church and chapel within the parish, or on such other place as is ordinarily made use of for affixing notices of parochial business; and such notice shall state the day of election, the place of election, the last day upon which the names of persons proposed as candidates can be delivered in, and likewise the qualification hereinbefore prescribed for the office of guardian.

6. The churchwardens and overseers shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, a sufficient number of voting papers, according to the annexed Form (B).

7. Two days, at least, before the day of election, the churchwardens and overseers shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, such voting papers at the houses of those persons, and proxies, who are entitled to vote, and are resident within the parish; and the churchwardens and overseers, on the day of election, shall call for and collect, or cause to be called for and collected, the said voting papers, which have been so delivered.

8. All persons and proxies who are entitled to vote, but are not resident within the parish, and all persons who entitle themselves to vote within four days previous to the day of election thereby, giving such notice to the overseers as is required by the 40th section of the said Poor Law Amendment Act, or by paying up arrears of rate or otherwise, shall, on the day of election, apply personally for voting papers to one of the churchwardens or overseers (who are hereby required to furnish the same), and having filled up such voting papers, shall deliver them to such churchwarden or overseer, before noon on that day.

9. The votes shall be added up by the churchwardens and overseers, who are hereby required not to include amongst such votes any which are not given in the manner pointed out and required in the annexed Form (B.), and the candidate or candidates (as the case may be) having the majority of votes, shall be declared duly elected.

10. The election shall be notified to the candidate or candidates thus elected, by the churchwardens and overseers, by a notice in the annexed Form (C.); and they shall affix a notice in the annexed Form (D.), on the door of every church or chapel within the parish, or on such other place as hereinbefore is mentioned.

11. Provided always, that in case at any election of guardians, the number of candidates so proposed as aforesaid for any parish, shall not exceed the number to be then elected, the churchwardens and overseers in such case shall not prepare, deliver, or collect such voting papers as aforesaid, but the candidates so proposed shall be declared duly elected; and the same shall be notified as is directed in the preceding 10th rule.

Given under our hands and seal, this day of .
in the year 183 .

Form (A.)

NOMINATION Paper for the Parish of

NAME of the Person proposed as a Guardian.	Quality and Calling of the Person pro- posed.	Qualification of Person proposed.		Name of Proposer.
		Description of qualifying Premises.	Amount of Assessment.	

Form (B.)

VOTING PAPER for the Parish of

NAMES of Persons proposed as Guardians.	Quality and Calling of the Persons proposed.	Qualifications of Persons proposed.		Names of Proposers.
		Description of qualifying Premises.	Amount of Assessment.	

[Hereunder the Voter must insert in his own handwriting* the Name or Names of such of the above candidates as he votes for.]

I vote for

Signature of Voter or Proxy,

entitled to votes.

* If the voter cannot write, his mark must be attested by a witness, and the name or names of the parties for whom he votes must be inserted in his presence by the attesting witness.

If the proxy votes, he should sign his name, and add for whom he is proxy, thus
—M. N. proxy for P. Q.

Form (C.)

_____ Union.

SIR,

day of 183 .

We, the undersigned, being churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of _____, do hereby give you notice and declare that on the _____ day of _____ you were duly elected a guardian of the Poor of the said parish of

To

(signed)

} Churchwardens.
} Overseers.

Form (D.)

Union.

day of 183 .

We, the undersigned, being churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of _____, do hereby give notice and declare that _____ resident at _____

_____ was on the _____ day of _____ duly elected a guardian of the poor of the said parish of _____ for the ensuing year.

(signed)

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

— No. 6. —

ORDERS and REGULATIONS issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for *England and Wales*, for the Guidance and Government of the Boards of Guardians of Unions.

WINDSOR UNION.

To all to whom these presents shall come, We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, send Greeting.

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the powers given to us in and by an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, appointed under the said Act, did, by an order under our hands and seal, bearing date the _____ day of this instant *August*, order and declare that the parishes and places named in the margin of the said order, which are situated in the counties of *Berks* and *Surrey*, being the same which are now named in the margin at the foot of this page*, should, on the *seventh day of September next*, be, and thenceforth should remain united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor; and further, that on the *eighth day of September next*, and in the manner therein mentioned, the said parishes and places should respectively elect a guardian or guardians for the said Union.

And whereas by the said Act it is provided, that the Poor Law Commissioners shall prescribe the duties of guardians, and shall also, as and when they shall see fit, direct the guardians of any Union to appoint such paid officers, with such qualifications as the said Commissioners shall think necessary, for superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor, either within or out of a workhouse, and for the examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts in such Union, and otherwise carrying the provisions of the said Act into execution. And the said Commissioners are thereby empowered to define and specify and direct the execution of the respective duties, and determine the continuance in office or dismissal of such paid

* New Windsor with Dedworth, Old Windsor, Clewer, Sunninghill, all in the county of Berks; Egham, Thorpe, both in the county of Surrey.

officers, and the amount and nature of the security to be given by, and regulate the amount of salaries payable to, such officers respectively, and the time and mode of payment thereof.

Now know ye that, in pursuance of the said provisions of the said Act, We, the said Poor Law Commissioners, do hereby order, direct and declare, that—

1. Upon and from and after the said *seventh day of September*, the ordering and directing of all relief to the poor of the several parishes and places comprised in the Union constituted by the order hereinbefore recited, and the building, hiring, and providing of any workhouse, poor-house, or other premises for the reception and maintenance of paupers therein, and the altering, improving or enlarging the same, or any other existing workhouse or poorhouse within the said Union, and the regulation and management thereof, and the hiring or purchasing of land for such workhouse or workhouses, or for the employment of paupers therein, shall appertain and belong exclusively to the guardians of the said Union; subject however in all cases to the powers of the Poor Law Commissioners for the time being, and such orders, regulations, rules and directions as are herein contained, or as may hereafter be issued by the said Commissioners, and saving and excepting such powers and authorities as in the aforesaid Act are given or reserved to justices of the peace and overseers of the poor.

2. No guardian shall have power to act in virtue of such office, except as a member and at a meeting of the said board of guardians, and except as hereinafter is provided with reference to summoning extraordinary meetings of the guardians, and except also as in the aforesaid Act is excepted.

3. All the powers and authorities hereby or by the said Act granted to or vested in such guardians, shall and may from time to time be exercised by the major part of the guardians who shall attend at any meeting to be holden as is herein directed. But no act of any such meeting, except for the purpose of adjoining the same, shall be valid, unless three guardians at least shall be present and concur therein.

4. The guardians shall, at their first meeting, elect out of the whole number of guardians a chairman and a vice-chairman, who shall continue to act as such until the next annual election of guardians shall take place; and at every meeting during the year the chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall preside; and if at any meeting the chairman and vice-chairman shall be absent, the guardians present shall elect a chairman of that meeting; and when there shall be an equal number of votes upon any question, including the vote of the presiding chairman, he shall have a casting vote.

Meetings of the Board of Guardians.

5. The first meeting of the guardians shall be held at the *Poorhouse at New Windsor*, on the *ninth day of September*, 1835, and shall commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon; at which meeting every guardian is hereby required to attend; but if three guardians be present at such first meeting, the non-attendance of the remainder shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meeting.

6. The guardians shall meet once at the least in every week for the execution of their duties, and shall, at their first meeting, determine upon some fixed day of the week, and some fixed hour between eight

o'clock in the forenoon and two o'clock in the afternoon, for holding such weekly meetings, and also on some convenient place for holding the same.

7. Notice of the first of the said weekly meetings, and of the place, day and hour fixed for holding the same, shall be given in manner hereinafter directed; but it shall not be necessary to give notice of any other than the first of such weekly meetings.

8. If three guardians be not present at any weekly or other meeting, the guardian or guardians who shall be present shall adjourn the same to the next day of weekly meeting, or to such other day previous to the next weekly meeting as he or they shall think fit; and thereupon the clerk shall make an entry in the minute-book of the adjournment, and of the cause thereof; and in case no guardian shall attend, the clerk shall make an entry of such failure of attendance; provided that, in either case, one hour and no more shall be allowed to elapse from the time fixed for the commencement of the meeting before any such entry be made as is above directed.

9. The majority of the guardians present at any weekly meeting may, if necessary, adjourn the same to the day of the next weekly meeting, or to such other day previous to the next weekly meeting, as they may think fit.

10. Any two guardians, by a notice in writing, according to the Form (A.) hereto annexed, may direct the clerk to the board of guardians to summon an extraordinary meeting of the board at any time by such notice as hereinafter is mentioned.

11. Notice of the first weekly meeting of the guardians, and notice of adjournment of a weekly or other meeting, and notice of an extraordinary meeting, shall be given in writing according to the Forms (B.), (C.), and (D.) hereto annexed, and signed by the clerk to the board of guardians; and two days at least before the day upon which the meeting to which such notice relates is to take place, the clerk to the board of guardians shall give or cause to be given to each guardian resident within the Union, or cause to be left at his place of abode, a copy of such notice.

12. If any case of emergency shall arise, requiring that a meeting of the guardians should immediately take place, they or any three of them may meet, and act as if a regular notice had been given; and may take such case into consideration, and give order therein, provided always that such order shall only be valid and have effect until the next weekly meeting of the board of guardians.

Proceedings of the Board.

13. At each weekly meeting of the board of guardians the business shall be conducted in the following order:—

Firstly. They shall read over the minutes of the preceding weekly meeting, and of any extraordinary meeting which shall have been held during the preceding week, and cause an entry of the same having been so read to be made in the minutes.

Secondly. They shall dispose of such business as may have arisen out of the minutes so read, and give the necessary directions thereon.

Thirdly. They shall consider and decide upon, and give the necessary directions respecting all applications which shall have been made

since the last meeting, and also respecting the amount and nature of relief to be given or continued to the paupers upon the books of the parishes or places in the said Union, or within any of the workhouses thereof, until the next weekly meeting, or during such other time as such relief may be deemed to be necessary.

Fourthly. They shall hear and consider applications of any paupers which may be made at the existing meeting; but no such application shall be heard unless such paupers shall have previously applied to the relieving officer for the parish from which such paupers claim relief.

Fifthly. They shall determine the kind of work to be performed by the paupers, either in or out of the workhouse.

Sixthly. They shall examine the books and accounts of the several relieving officers, receive reports on the state of the workhouse or workhouses of the Union, and give all needful directions thereon.

Seventhly. They shall give the necessary directions to the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes in the Union, for providing such sums as may be requisite for the relief of the poor of such parishes, and for defraying such proportion of the general expenses of the Union as shall be lawfully chargeable on such parishes respectively.

Eighthly. The guardians present, or the presiding chairman in their behalf, shall sign the minutes of the proceedings.

Appointment of Clerk, Treasurer, and Relieving Officers.

14. At the first meeting of the guardians, or within one month after the same, the guardians shall appoint a fit and proper person to be clerk to the board of guardians, and a fit and proper person to be treasurer to the said Union, and shall take such security for the proper discharge of the said office of treasurer as shall seem to them necessary and fitting; and shall also appoint such and so many competent person or persons as the said board of guardians shall think fit, to be a relieving officer or relieving officers of the said Union, and shall likewise determine the parishes or places for which each such relieving officer shall act; and in case and so often as any person so appointed shall die, or resign, or be removed, the said board of guardians shall, as soon as conveniently may be after such death, resignation or removal, proceed in like manner to a new appointment: and the salaries of such clerk, treasurer, or relieving officers, shall be such as the said Poor Law Commissioners shall from time to time direct*.

15. If any such clerk or relieving officer shall be at any time prevented by sickness or accident from the performance of his duties, the board of guardians may appoint a competent person to act as his temporary substitute.

16. If the board of guardians shall, in the event of any vacancy in the office of relieving officer or clerk, delay to make a new appointment, or to appoint a substitute in case of sickness or accident as aforesaid, the duties hereby required to be performed by such relieving officer shall, in the cases aforesaid, and also in the mean time, and until the

* This clause is in the cases of some Unions varied, so as to fix the number of officers to be appointed, and the salaries to be respectively paid to them.

first relieving officer shall be appointed as herein directed, be performed by the overseers of the poor of the several parishes and places in the Union respectively ; and the duties of clerk to the board of guardians shall in the like cases be performed by the vice-chairman, or in his absence by some guardian to be appointed by the chairman.

17. No person shall be chosen as such relieving officer, unless he will undertake to reside in one of the parishes for which he may be appointed to act, and to devote his whole time to the employment, not following any other trade or profession whatsoever, nor unless he can read and write and keep accounts.

Duties of the Clerk.

18. The following shall be the duties of the clerk :—

Firstly. To attend all meetings of the guardians, and to enter punctually into a book at every meeting the minutes of all the proceedings thereat ; which minutes shall be submitted to the presiding chairman of the same for his signature.

Secondly. To keep all such accounts, books of account, minute-books, and other memoranda, as the board of guardians may think necessary, and as the Poor Law Commissioners may require.

Thirdly. To conduct the correspondence of the board of guardians according to their directions ; and to make all necessary copies thereof, and preserve the same, and all letters and documents belonging to the Union.

Fourthly. To give such notices of adjourned and other meetings of the guardians as hereinbefore are mentioned.

Fifthly. Generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the board of guardians ; and likewise the rules, orders, and regulations already, or to be hereafter issued by the Poor Law Commissioners.

Duties of the Relieving Officers.

19. The following shall be the duties of each relieving officer :—

Firstly. To attend all weekly meetings of the guardians, and all other meetings when summoned for that purpose.

Secondly. To receive all applications for relief, and to examine into the merits and circumstances of each case, and report the same to the board at their next weekly meeting.

Thirdly. In cases of sudden and urgent necessity, to give such temporary relief as each case shall require, either by placing the pauper in the workhouse, or affording relief out of the house, in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money ; whether the applicant for relief be settled in any parish or place comprised in the Union or not.

Fourthly. As soon as he shall have had notice of the sickness of, or of any injury received by, any pauper in any of the parishes or places for which he may be appointed to act, he shall notify the fact to the medical officer, and in the mean time furnish such relief as the emergency of the case may call for ; and shall also furnish such further relief in or out of the workhouse as the case, upon the certificate of the medical officer, may appear to require.

Fifthly. To keep a separate, full, and true account of all monies received and disbursed by him, for or on account of the relief of the poor of each parish for which he shall be appointed to act, and also of all

- articles received and given out by him for the relief of the out-door poor, and to balance such account weekly, and present the same for inspection and approval at the meeting of the guardians.
- Sixthly. To report to the board of guardians, at their weekly meeting, all cases in which relief shall have been given by the churchwardens or overseers of the poor of any parish or place for which he shall be appointed to act.
- Seventhly. To keep a book in which he shall enter the name of, and other particulars relating to, the paupers relieved out of the workhouse, and the amount of relief afforded to them respectively; and to produce such book for the inspection of the guardians at every weekly meeting of the board.
- Eighthly. Once in every quarter of a year, as soon as conveniently may be after the respective days following; namely, Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and Christmas-day, he shall make out a list, according to Form (E), for each of the parishes or places for which he may be appointed to act, of the paupers who have received relief during the previous quarter, and of the relief afforded them in or out of the workhouse, and shall affix copies of such lists respectively upon the principal doors of the parish churches of the parishes or places for which such lists are made; which copies shall remain so affixed for three successive Sundays.
- Ninthly. Generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the board of guardians, and likewise the rules, orders, and regulations already, or to be hereafter, issued by the Poor Law Commissioners.

20. Duties of Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor.

- Firstly. The churchwardens and overseers of the poor of every parish or place in the Union shall make, assess, and collect all rates which shall be necessary for the relief of the poor, and for defraying all other charges and expenses which by law now are, or hereafter may be, chargeable on the same; and shall duly and properly satisfy all such charges and expenses; and shall, at the end of each quarter, submit to the auditor of the Union a distinct account and balance-sheet, exhibiting the amount so collected and the amount so disbursed.
- Secondly. They shall, from time to time, pay over from the rates so collected all such sums as by the authority of the board of guardians, expressed to them in writing, according to the Form (F) hereunto annexed, signed by the presiding chairman of any meeting and two other guardians present at the same, and countersigned by the clerk, shall be directed to be provided from the poor-rates of their respective parishes for the necessary relief of the poor thereof, and for defraying such proportion of the general expenses of the Union as shall be lawfully chargeable on such parishes respectively; and shall pay over such sums to such person or persons, at such times and places, as by the same authority shall be directed, and shall take such person's receipt for the same; and shall produce such authority and such receipt as their vouchers for those payments before the auditor of the Union in passing their quarterly accounts.
- Thirdly. They shall provide, at the expense of the parish or place, a rate-book, according to the Form (G) hereunto annexed; and shall duly and punctually make the entries therein of the several matters

mentioned in the headings of the several columns of the said form ; and every rate for the relief of the poor in such parish or place, and the allowance of such rate by the justices, shall be recorded in the said rate-book.

Fourthly. If any churchwarden or overseer of the poor of any parish or place in this Union shall, in any case of sudden and urgent necessity, deem it right that temporary relief to any pauper in articles of necessity should be given out of the workhouse, such churchwarden or overseer shall, if possible, cause the same to be given by the relieving officer for such parish or place ; but if such churchwarden or overseer shall give such relief himself, he shall forthwith report the same in writing to such relieving officer.

Fifthly. If any churchwarden or overseer of the poor of any parish or place in this Union shall be ordered, under the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, to give temporary relief in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money, to any poor person not settled nor usually residing in the parish, and shall give such temporary relief accordingly, he shall forthwith report the same in writing to the relieving officer for such parish or place.

Sixthly. If any churchwarden or overseer of the poor of any parish or place in this Union shall receive an order directing relief to be given to any person (duly certified under the hand and seal of one of the signing justices, to be of his own knowledge wholly unable to work), without requiring that such person shall reside in any workhouse, he shall forthwith transmit the same to the relieving officer for his parish, to be laid before the board of guardians at their next meeting, that the board of guardians may be enabled without delay to give to the relieving officer the necessary directions as to the amount and nature of the relief to be given.

Seventhly. The churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several parishes or places in this Union are hereby enjoined in all things, where their aid may be necessary or required by the said guardians, or by any relieving officer acting under the directions of the said guardians, to give their aid in carrying the orders of the said guardians into effect, and generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the board of guardians, and likewise the rules, orders, and regulations already, or to be hereafter, issued by the Poor Law Commissioners.

Relief.

21. Immediately from and after the first meeting of the board of guardians above directed, the guardians of the Union, and the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes and places comprised therein, and the relieving officers for the said Union, immediately from and after the time of their appointment shall, to such extent as in the convenient and proper discharge of their several duties they may be enabled, observe and conform to, and carry into effect the following Rules and Regulations, relating to the relief of the poor in the said Union ; and from and after the *third day of October, 1835*, the said rules and regulations shall become peremptory and binding upon the parties above mentioned, and shall not be departed from in any case, nor shall any relief be thereafter given from the poor-rates of any parish or place in the said Union contrary thereto.

Firstly. No relief shall be given in money (except in cases of sickness or accident) to any able-bodied male pauper who is in employment (the same not being parish work), and in the receipt of earnings; nor to any part of his family who shall be dependent on him, or for whose relief and maintenance he shall be liable.

Secondly. If any able-bodied male pauper shall apply to be set to work by the parish, one-half at least of the relief which may be afforded to him or to his family shall be in kind.

Thirdly. One-half at least of the relief which may be afforded to widows or single women, not being aged or infirm, shall be in kind.

Fourthly. No relief shall be given to any able-bodied male pauper by payment or payments of, for, or on account of the rent for his house or lodging, or for the house or lodging of any part of his family who shall be dependent upon him, and for whose relief and maintenance he shall be liable, or by allowance towards such rent.

Fifthly. Except in case of accident, sickness, or other urgent necessity, no relief shall be afforded from the poor-rates of any parish or place comprised in the said Union, to any pauper between the ages of 16 and 60, belonging to any such parish or place comprised in the said Union, who shall not be resident therein: provided always that this regulation shall not extend to any person, not being an able-bodied male pauper, between the ages of 16 and 60, who shall, on the day herein appointed for the first meeting of the guardians, be in the receipt of relief from any parish or place comprised in the said Union, although not resident in such parish or place, and although such person shall continue a non-resident; but in every such case due inquiry shall be made as to the propriety of such relief being continued.

Medical Relief.

22. The guardians shall, from such period as they may think proper, contract with some competent person or persons duly licensed to practise as a medical man or medical men, to be the medical officer or officers of the said Union, and to attend duly and punctually upon all paupers falling sick within the limits of the Union, either in the workhouse or otherwise, and to supply such sick paupers with all necessary medicines and appliances whatsoever; but such contract may, if the guardians think proper, contain a clause, by which the said medical officer shall engage to attend, at a fair and reasonable charge per head, to be named in such contract, on all persons not belonging to any parish or place comprised in the said Union, whom by law any such parish or place may be bound to relieve, under suspended orders of removal.

23. The medical officer shall in every case, when required by the guardians, or the relieving officer, or by the pauper on whom he is attending, give a certificate under his hand of the sickness of such pauper, or other cause of the attendance of such medical officer, the extent and nature of such sickness at the time of giving such certificate, and its probable duration, and such other particulars as may show how far the applicant is prevented from attending to his usual calling.

24. The medical officer shall make a weekly return to the board of guardians, according to the Form (H) hereunto annexed, and shall also attend the board of guardians when summoned by them.

Relief by way of Loan.

25. Any relief, or the cost price thereof, which the board of guardians shall, after due consideration of the circumstances of the case, think fit to give by way of loan, to or on account of any able-bodied male pauper, between the ages of 21 and 60, or to or on account of his wife, or any part of his family under the age of 16, shall be considered as a loan to such pauper, and shall be recoverable as such under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Purchase of Provisions and other Articles.

26. The board of guardians shall order and direct the purchasing of the supplies of bread, flour, and meat, and other articles required for use in the workhouse, or for the relief of the paupers out of the workhouse, in such manner as may appear to such guardians best calculated to prevent imposition, and to promote economical management; and that, with such view, such purchases shall, so far as circumstances will allow, be made upon tenders after public advertisement in one county newspaper at least.

Accounts.

27. The guardians shall at their first weekly meeting, or within one month of the same, appoint a competent person to be auditor of the accounts, and immediately report such appointment to the Poor Law Commissioners; and such auditor shall, four times in every year, that is to say, within 30 days of each of the following days, namely, Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and Christmas-day, examine and audit, allow or disallow, the accounts of the said Union and of the several parishes comprised therein, according to the laws in force for the time being for the administration of the relief of the poor; and the said auditor, having audited the quarterly account, shall with his own hand write a certificate of such audit at the foot of such account, according to the Form (I.) hereunto annexed; and such accounts so audited, allowed, and certified, shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of the rate-payers of the parish or place to which such accounts relate.

28. That such auditor shall receive for the performance of such duty, such sum as the board of guardians, with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners, shall determine; and the auditor so appointed shall remain in office (unless he shall previously die or resign) until he be removed therefrom by the said Commissioners, or by the said board of guardians, with the consent in writing of the said Commissioners; and in either of such cases another auditor shall be in like manner appointed.

Given under our hands and seal, this day of in
the year 183 .

To the Overseers of the Poor and Churchwardens of the several
Parishes and Places comprised within the *Windsor* Union, and
to the Board of Guardians of the said Union, when constituted.

Form (A.)

Requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of Guardians.

To the Clerk to the Guardians }
of the Union. }

Sir,

WE, the undersigned, being two of the Guardians of the Poor of the Union, do hereby require and direct you to summon an Extraordinary Meeting of the Guardians of the said Union, to be holden at on the day of 183, at o'clock in the forenoon, to take into consideration [set out the motion.]

_____ } Guardians.

Form (B.)

Notice of First Weekly Meeting of Guardians.

To A. B.

Guardian of the Poor of the

Union.

Sir,

You are hereby informed that the First Weekly Meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Union, will take place at on the day of 183, at o'clock in the forenoon, for the transaction of business; and that meetings of the said board will henceforth be held at the same place on in every week, at the same hour of in the forenoon.

_____, Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Union

Form (C.)

Notice of an Adjourned Meeting of Guardians.

Sir,

THIS is to give you notice that an Adjourned Meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the Union will be held at on the day of 183, to take into consideration [set out the motion]; which meeting you are hereby requested to attend.

_____, Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Union.

Form (D.)

Notice of Extraordinary Meeting of Guardians.

To A. B.

Sir,

I AM directed by C. D. and E. F., two of the Guardians of the Poor of the Union, to summon an Extraordinary Meeting of the Guardians of the said Union at on

Forms of Accounts.

the day of 183 , at o'clock in the forenoon, to take into consideration [*set out the motion*]; which meeting you are hereby requested to attend.

_____, Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Union.

Form (E.)

_____ UNION.

LIST of PAUPERS relieved during the Quarter ending
by order of the Board of Guardians, and in conformity to 4 and 5
Will. IV. c. 76.

NAME.	Age.	Calling.	Resi- dence.	Cause of requiring Relief.	Amount of Relief out of the Workhouse given during the last Quarter.			If in the Work- house.
					In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								Number of Days.

Form (F.)

_____ UNION.

To A. B. and C. D., Churchwardens and Overseers [*or Overseers, as the case may be*], of the Parish [*or Township, as the case may be*].

You are hereby authorized and directed to pay F. G. of

on the day of at
the sum of pounds shillings and pence, from
the poor-rates of the said parish [*or township, as the case may be*],
towards the relief of the poor thereof, and towards defraying such pro-
portion of the general expenses of the Union as is lawfully chargeable
on the said parish [*or township, as the case may be*], and you shall take
the receipt of the said F. G. for the said sum of

Given under our hands, at a meeting of the guardians of the said
Union, held on the day of 183 .

(signed) X. Y., Presiding Chairman.

W. Z. }
U. V. } Guardians.

(Countersigned)

R. S. Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Union.

Form (G.)

Rate Book.

*See New Form.**A1*

Form (H.)

NAME.	Age.	Occu- pation.	Nature of Disease.	Days when attended.							Observa- tions.
				S.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	F.	Sat.	

Form (I.)

Certificate of Auditor.

I HAVE examined all the items in this account, and compared them with the vouchers, and I do hereby certify and declare that every entry allowed by me is correct, and in strict conformity with the rules, orders, and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, and the provisions of 4 and 5 Will. IV., c. 76.

_____, Auditor of the Accounts
of _____ Union.

— No. 7. —

CIRCULAR LETTER to Manufacturers relative to the **MIGRATION** of **LABOURERS.***Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset-house,
2nd March, 1835.*

SIR,

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have received information that there are frequent demands for the labour of whole families, comprehending children of the legal age and strength for employment, in the district in which you reside.

The Commissioners are also informed, that in several of the southern counties the demand for the labour of such families is at the present time comparatively inadequate; and that many families of industrious habits, and of good character and dispositions, are there in danger of becoming permanently burthensome to their parishes, and that they are therefore willing to remove to any places where regular employment may be obtained for adequate wages.

In the belief that such removal will be highly beneficial to the community, the Poor Law Commissioners are desirous of facilitating it by every means in their power, and they therefore wish to acquaint you, that in case of your wanting the labour of even a single family, the Commissioners proffer the use of the means at their disposal, for facilitating the supply of your wants in this respect.

For this purpose, in pursuance of the course already adopted by the Commissioners, it is requisite that they should be furnished with a description of the persons whom you may be willing to employ; a proximate statement of the wages you are prepared to give; and of the probable duration of the employment, whether permanent or temporary, or whether you would prefer making an engagement by contract, for any, and what period.

The Commissioners would thereupon cause the circumstance to be made known in rural parishes, containing families willing to migrate; from whom such a selection might be made as would probably meet your wishes; and they would, as you might prefer, either supply you with such information as might serve to direct your own inquiries, or the inquiries of your agent; or they would direct inquiries to be made from the minister and respectable inhabitants of the parish, as to such points of the present and past conduct of the persons willing to migrate, as may serve to satisfy you as to their general character, and of their trustworthiness, as workpeople.

By direction of the Board,

EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.

— No. 8. —

CIRCULAR of **INSTRUCTIONS** for facilitating **Emigration.***Office of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales,
Somerset-house, London, 10th May, 1835.*

THE following memorandum has been prepared under the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, for the information of rate-payers and owners of property in parishes, who are desirous of raising money to assist the emigration of poor persons from such parishes.

Under the 62nd section of the Poor Law Amendment Act it is provided as follows :—

"That it shall and may be lawful for the rate-payers in any parish, and such of the owners of property therein, as shall, in manner hereinbefore mentioned,* have required their names to be entered in the rate-books of such parishes respectively, as entitled to vote as owners, assembled at a meeting to be duly convened and held for the purpose, after public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting, and the purpose for which the same is intended to be held, shall have been given in like manner as notices of vestry-meetings are published and given, to direct that such sum or sums of money, not exceeding half the average yearly rate for the three preceding years, as the said owners and rate-payers so assembled at such meeting may think proper, shall be raised or borrowed as a fund, or in aid of any fund or contribution for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons having settlements in such parish, and willing to emigrate, to be paid out of, or charged upon the rates raised or to be raised for the relief of the poor in such parish, and to be applied under and according to such rules, orders, and regulations as the said Commissioners shall in that behalf direct: Provided always, that no such direction for raising money for such purpose as aforesaid shall have any force or effect unless and until confirmed by the said Commissioners; and that the time to be limited for the re-payment of any sum so charged on such rates as aforesaid, shall in no case exceed the period of five years from the time of borrowing the same: Provided also, that all sums of money so raised, as last hereinbefore mentioned, and advanced by way of loan, for the purposes of emigration, or such proportion thereof as the said Commissioners shall by any rule, order, or regulation from time to time direct, shall be recoverable against any such person, being above the age of 21 years, who, or whose family, or any part thereof, having consented to emigrate, shall refuse to emigrate after such expenses shall have been so incurred, or having emigrated shall return, in such and the like manner as is hereinbefore provided with respect to relief, or the cost price of relief, given or considered to be given by way of loan to any person, his wife, or family."

In conformity with the above-mentioned enactment, the Board recommend the following form of notice of a meeting for the above purpose, and of a resolution directing the raising of sums of money for emigration purposes :—

Form of Notice.

County of
Parish of

NOTICE is hereby given, that a meeting of the rate-payers of this parish and of such of the owners of property therein as shall have required their names to be entered in the rate-books of this parish as entitled to vote as owners, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," will be held at the
in the said parish, on the day of
next, at in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering whether any and what sum or sums of money, not exceeding half the average yearly poor-rate for three years now last past, shall be

* See Section 40.

raised or borrowed as a fund for defraying the expenses of emigration of poor persons having settlements in this parish, and being willing to emigrate, and of giving directions for raising or borrowing such sum or sums to be paid out of or charged upon the rates raised or to be raised for the relief of the poor in this parish, and to be applied under and according to such rules, orders, and regulations as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct.

Form of Resolution.

County of
Parish of

At a meeting of rate-payers and owners of property whose claims to be entitled to vote have been duly registered in the rate-books of the said parish, held at _____ in the said parish, pursuant to notice duly published and given, on _____ the _____ day of _____, 183 _____, Chairman.

It was resolved, that the sum of £ _____ be forthwith raised [*or borrowed*] by the churchwardens and overseers, as a fund or contribution for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons having settlements in this parish, and being willing to emigrate, to be paid out of [*or charged upon*] the rates raised, or to be raised, for the relief of the poor in this parish, and to be applied, under such rules, orders, and regulations, as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct. And the said churchwardens and overseers were directed by the said meeting to raise [*or borrow*] such sum of £ _____ accordingly, [*to be repaid by _____ equal annual instalments of £ _____ each, with interest not exceeding £5 per cent. per annum.*]*

The notice and resolution must be duly entered in the vestry-book, and transcripts of such notice and resolution, in the forms marked (A) and (B), with a certificate in the form marked (C), signed by the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the same having been passed at such meeting as above described, should be forwarded to the Board; and with such transcripts and certificate should be transmitted a list and description of the parties desirous of emigrating, stating what relief they have received from the parish during the last year, and also the place to which it is proposed that they should emigrate. The Board will then take into consideration the propriety of confirming the same, and, in case they feel themselves enabled to do so, they will send such further forms as may be necessary, and prescribe the regulations under which the money shall be applied.

These regulations will be to the following effect:—

- 1st. The parties emigrating shall go to some British colony.
- 2nd. A contract shall be entered into for conveying them to such place in the way to their destination as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, or the Agent-General for Emigration,† shall approve.
- 3rd. Such contract shall be sanctioned by the Agent General for Emigration, or by one of the Government Emigration Agents at the out-ports, and shall include the maintenance and medical

* If the money is to be immediately paid out of the rates, take the form as it stands: if borrowed, or to be charged on future rates, take the form as altered by the words in italics.

† J. D. Pinnock, Esq., who is to be addressed (under cover) "To the Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office, London."

attendance of the emigrants during the passage, and also a provision that on arrival at the place to which the parties are contracted to be conveyed, the sum of 2*l.* at least be paid to each head of a family emigrating, and 1*l.* at least to each single man or single woman, not being part of a family.

In case the money is to be borrowed, it may be borrowed of individuals, or of the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners appointed under the statute 57 Geo. III. c. 34. Should the churchwardens and overseers determine on applying to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, a letter in the Form marked (D) must be sent by them to the Poor Law Commissioners, who will forward it to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, with the requisite consent subjoined, and with a certificate of the provisions of the Act having been complied with, under the hands and seal of the Commissioners. This last-mentioned certificate, with office-copies of the papers submitted to the Poor-Law Commissioners, will be the evidence of a compliance with the Poor Law Amendment Act, on which the lender will be expected to rely, if the money be borrowed of an individual.

(A).

Copy of Notice of Meeting.

County of
Parish of

NOTICE is hereby given, that a meeting of the rate-payers of this parish, and of such of the owners of property therein as shall have required their names to be entered in the rate-books of this parish, as entitled to vote as owners, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," will be held at the

in the said parish, on the day of
next, at in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering whether any and what sum or sums of money, not exceeding half the average yearly poor-rate for three years now last past, shall be raised or borrowed as a fund for defraying the expenses of emigration of poor persons having settlements in this parish, and being willing to emigrate; and of giving directions for raising or borrowing such sum or sums to be paid out of or charged upon the rates raised or to be raised for the relief of the poor in this parish, and to be applied under and according to such rules, orders, and regulations as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct.

The above is a true copy of the notice referred to in the annexed certificate.*

Minister.

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Witness,

Vestry Clerk.

(B.)

Copy of Resolution for raising [*or borrowing*] Money.

County of

Parish of

At a meeting of rate-payers and owners of property, whose claims to be entitled to vote have been duly registered in the rate-books of the said parish, held pursuant to notice duly published and given, at _____, in the said parish, on _____ the _____ day of _____ 183 .

Chairman.

It was Resolved,

THAT the sum of _____ be forthwith raised [*or borrowed*] by the churchwardens and overseers, as a fund or contribution for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons having settlements in this parish, and being willing to emigrate, to be paid out of [*or charged upon*] the rates raised or to be raised for the relief of the poor in this parish, and to be applied, under such rules, orders, and regulations, as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct. And the said churchwardens and overseers were directed by the said meeting to raise [*or borrow*] such sum of _____ accordingly [*to be repaid by _____ equal annual instalments of _____ each, with interest not exceeding 5l. per cent. per annum*.*]

The above is a true extract from the vestry-book of the parish, referred to in the annexed certificate†.

Minister.

} Churchwardens.
} Overseers.

Witness,

Vestry Clerk.

(C.)

Copy of Certificate to Poor Law Commissioners.

County of

Parish of

To the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

WE, the Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish, do hereby certify and declare, that at a meeting of the rate-payers and owners of property, whose claims to be entitled to vote have been duly registered in the rate-books of the said parish, held at _____ in the said parish, on _____ the _____ day of _____ the resolution, of which a true copy is hereunto annexed, was duly passed. And we do further certify and declare, that such meeting was duly convened and held for the purpose expressed in such resolution,

* If the money is to be immediately paid out of the rates, take the form as it stands; if borrowed, or a charge on future rates, take the form as altered by the words in italics.

† Form (C.)

after public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting, and the purpose for which the same was intended to be held, had been given in like manner as notices of vestry meetings are published and given in the said parish.

And we do further certify and declare, that the paper marked (A.) hereunto annexed, and signed by us, is a true copy of the notice of such meeting, and that such notice was published or given in the church of the said parish, on the day of last; and that the paper hereto annexed, and marked (B.) and signed by us, is a true extract from the vestry-books of the said parish.

And we do further certify and declare, that the aggregate amount of rates raised for the relief of the poor, for the three years last past is, £

Given under our hands this day of 183 .

Minister.
} Churchwardens.
} Overseers.

Witness,

Vestry Clerk.

(D.)

Application to Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners.

To the Commissioners for the Issue of Exchequer Bills, under the 57th Geo. III., c. 34, and other subsequent Acts.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It having been resolved, at a meeting of the rate-payers and owners of property of the parish of in the county of duly convened and held on the day of 183 , under the provisions of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish should borrow the sum of to be charged on the poor-rates of the parish, as a fund for defraying the expenses of emigration of several poor persons having settlements in such parish and being willing to emigrate, to be repaid by equal annual instalments, with interest not exceeding five per cent. per annum, within years from the time of borrowing the same:

We, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the said parish of do hereby, in pursuance of such direction, and of the provisions of the said Act in that behalf enabling us thereto, make application for the advance in Exchequer Bills of such sum of for the purpose of defraying the expenses of Emigration, according to the tenor of such resolution.

And we do certify that such sum of does not exceed half the average yearly rate for the three years preceding the date of such resolution, and that the same will be applied under and according to such rules, orders and regulations, as the said Poor Law Commissioners shall in that behalf direct.

And we propose to secure the re-payment of such advance by annual instalments of £ each, with the interest which may from time to time accrue thereon, by a charge on the poor-rates of the said parish.

(signed)

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Dated at
in the county of
this day of 183 . }

We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, do confirm the resolution above referred to, and do hereby testify our consent to the above application, and to the above-named Churchwardens and Overseers executing a charge upon the poor-rates of the said parish for repayment of the said sum of and interest, by the instalments, and in manner above mentioned; and to their signing an order for the delivery of the Exchequer Bill Certificate to such person or persons as they may in such order direct.

Given under our hand and seal this day of 183 .
(L. S.)

— No. 9. —

ORDERS and REGULATIONS to be observed in the Workhouse of the
— Union.

Admission of Paupers.

I. PAUPERS are to be admitted into the workhouse in any one of the following modes, and in no other; viz.—

By an order of the board of guardians, signified in writing by their clerk.

By a provisional order in writing, signed by an overseer, churchwarden or relieving officer.

By the master of the workhouse, without any such order, in case of any sudden or urgent necessity.

II. No pauper shall be admitted under any written order as above-mentioned, if the same bear date more than six days before the pauper presents it, and claims to be admitted.

III. If a pauper be admitted by the provisional order of an overseer, churchwarden or relieving officer, or by the master of the workhouse, in a case of sudden and urgent necessity, the admission of such pauper shall be brought before the board of guardians at their next weekly meeting, who shall decide on the propriety of the pauper's continuing in the workhouse or otherwise, and order accordingly.

IV. As soon as a pauper is admitted, he or she shall be placed in the probationary ward, and shall there remain until examined by the medical officer of the workhouse.

V. If the medical officer, upon such examination, pronounces the pauper to be labouring under any disease of body or mind, the pauper shall be placed either in the sick ward, or the ward for lunatics and idiots not dangerous, as the medical officer shall direct.

VI. If the medical officer pronounces the pauper to be free from disease, the pauper shall be placed in that part of the workhouse assigned to the class to which he or she may belong, and shall thereafter be treated according to the regulations hereinafter contained.

VII. Before removal from the probationary ward, the pauper shall be thoroughly cleansed, and shall be clothed in the workhouse dress; and the clothes which he or she wore upon admission shall be purified, and deposited in a place to be appropriated for that purpose, to be restored to the pauper on leaving the workhouse, or else to be used by the pauper as the Board of Guardians shall direct.

VIII. The clothing of the paupers shall be made of such materials as the board of guardians shall determine, and shall, so far as possible, be made by the paupers in the workhouse.

Classification of Paupers.

IX. The in-door paupers shall be classed as follows:—

1. Aged or infirm men.
2. Able-bodied men, and youths above 13.
3. Youths and boys above seven years old and under 13.
4. Aged or infirm women.
5. Able-bodied women, and girls above 16.
6. Girls above seven years of age and under 16.
7. Children under seven years of age.

X. To each class shall be assigned by the board of guardians that apartment or separate building which may be best fitted for the reception of such class, and in which they shall respectively remain, without communication, unless as is hereinafter provided.

XI. Provided,

Firstly. If the workhouse shall not be of such capacity and arrangement as to admit all the classes above specified, it shall, so far as it is capable, and as it may thereafter be rendered capable, be applied for the reception of the several classes in the following order:—Firstly, for paupers of the second and fifth classes; secondly, for paupers of the third, sixth, and seventh classes; and lastly, for paupers of the first and fourth classes.

Secondly, if for any special reason it shall at any time appear to the majority of the board of guardians, to be desirable to suspend the above rule, on behalf of any married couple, being paupers of the first and fourth classes, the guardians shall be at liberty to agree to a resolution to that effect. Such resolution, and the special reasons for which they deem the suspension of the order to be desirable, shall be duly entered in the minute book, and a copy of the same shall be transmitted to the Poor Law Commissioners for their consent and approval; without which, the said resolution shall be of no effect.

Thirdly, any paupers of the fifth or sixth class may be taken out of their respective classes, and employed as assistants to the nurses in any of the sick wards, or in the care of infants, or as assistants in the household-work for any of the classes, except the second and third classes, and may be so employed, either constantly or occasionally.

Fourthly any pauper of the fourth class, whom the master may deem fit to perform any of the duties of nurse or of assistant to the matron, may be so employed in the wards of the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh classes; and any pauper of the first class, who may by the master be deemed fit,

may be placed in the ward of the third class to aid in their management, and superintend their behaviour.

Fifthly, the children of the seventh class shall be placed either in a ward by themselves, or in such of the wards appropriated to the female paupers as the board of guardians shall direct. The mothers of such children to be permitted to have access to them at all reasonable times. With the foregoing exceptions, no pauper of one class shall be allowed to enter the wards or yards appropriated to any other class.

XII. The paupers of the several establishments comprised in the Union shall be employed in any work which may be needed, and of which they may be capable, for the use of any or all of the establishments within the Union, or in any other way the board of guardians may direct.

Discipline and Diet.

XIII. All the paupers in the workhouse, except the sick, the aged and infirm, and the young children, shall rise, be set to work, leave off work, and go to bed, at the times mentioned in the accompanying table, Form (A.), and shall be allowed such intervals for their meals as therein are stated; and these several times shall be notified by ringing a bell; and during the time of meals, silence, order and decorum shall be maintained.

XIV. Half an hour after the bell shall have been rung for rising, the names shall be called over in the several wards provided for the second, third, fifth, and sixth classes, when every pauper belonging to the ward must be present, to answer to his or her name, and to be inspected by the master or matron.

XV. No pauper of the second, third, fifth, or sixth classes shall be allowed to go or to remain in his or her sleeping-room, either in the time hereby allotted for work, or in the intervals allowed for meals, except by permission of the master.

XVI. As regards aged and infirm persons and children, the master and matron of the workhouse shall (subject to the directions of the board of guardians) fix such hours of rising and going to bed, and such occupation and employment, as may be suitable to their respective ages and conditions.

XVII. The meals for the aged and infirm, the sick, and children, shall be provided at such times and in such manner as the board of guardians may direct.

XVIII. The boys and girls who are inmates of the workhouse shall, for three of the working hours at least, every day, be respectively instructed in reading, writing, and in the principles of the Christian religion; and such other instructions shall be imparted to them as are calculated to train them to habits of usefulness, industry and virtue.

XIX. The diet of the paupers shall be so regulated as in no case to exceed, in quantity and quality of food, the ordinary diet of the able-bodied labourers living within the same district.

XX. No pauper shall be allowed to have or use any wine, beer, or other spirituous or fermented liquors, unless by the direction in writing of the medical officer, who may also order for any individual pauper such change of diet as he shall deem necessary; and the master shall report such allowance or changes of diet so made to the next meeting of guardians, who may sanction, alter or disallow the same at their discretion.

XXI. No pauper shall be allowed to work on his own account whilst an inmate of the workhouse; the Union which supports him being entitled to the full produce of his labour.

XXII. Any pauper may quit the workhouse, upon giving the master three hours' previous notice of his wish to do so; but no able-bodied pauper having a family shall so quit the house without taking the whole of such family with him or her, unless the board of guardians shall otherwise direct; nor shall any pauper, after so quitting the house, be again received into the house, unless in one of the modes prescribed in Rule I. for the admission of paupers.

XXIII. No person shall be allowed to visit any pauper in the workhouse, except by permission of the master, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as the board of guardians may direct; provided that the interview shall always take place in the presence of the master or matron, and in a room separate from the other inmates of the workhouse, unless in case of sickness; provided also, that any licensed minister of the religious persuasion of any inmate of such workhouse, at all times in the day, on the request of such inmate, may visit such workhouse for the purpose of affording religious assistance to such inmate, and also at all reasonable times for the purpose of instructing his child or children in the principles of their religion; such religious assistance, and such instruction being strictly confined to inmates who are of the religious persuasion of such licensed minister, and to the children of such inmates; and not so given as to interfere with the good order and discipline of the other inmates of the establishment.

XXIV. No work, except the usual household work and cooking, shall be performed by the paupers on Sunday.

XXV. Divine service shall be performed every Sunday in the workhouse, at which all the paupers shall attend, except the sick and the young children, and such as are too infirm to do so, and except also those paupers who may object so to attend, on account of their professing religious principles differing from those of the Church of England.

XXVI. Any pauper, who shall neglect to observe such of the foregoing rules as are applicable to him or her;

Or who shall make any noise when silence is ordered;

Or use obscene or profane language;

Or by word or deed insult or revile any other pauper in the workhouse;

Or who shall not duly cleanse his or her person;

Or neglect or refuse to work;

Or pretend sickness;

Or who shall wilfully waste or spoil any provisions, or stock, or tools, or materials for work;

Or wilfully damage any property whatsoever belonging to the Union;

Or disobey any of the legal orders of the master or matron, or other superintendent;

shall be deemed disorderly, and shall be placed in apartments provided for such offenders, or shall otherwise be distinguished in dress, and placed upon such diet as the board of guardians shall prescribe.

XXVII. Any pauper who shall, within seven days, repeat one of the offences specified in Rule XXVI.;

Or commit a second of the offences specified in Rule XXVI.;

Or who shall by word or deed insult or revile the master or matron, or any officer of the Union;

Or who shall be guilty of any act of drunkenness or indecency; shall be deemed to be refractory, and shall be punished by such confinement and alteration of diet as the board of guardians shall direct, by any regulation for that purpose; but no pauper shall be confined under this rule for any misbehaviour or offence, for a longer period than 24 hours, or for such further space of time as may be necessary, in order to have such pauper carried before a justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to law.

Visiting Committee.

XXVIII. The guardians shall appoint a visiting committee from their own body, whose duty it shall be to examine the workhouse or workhouses of the Union once every week at the least, and, after a careful inspection, to write such answers as the facts may warrant to the following queries, which are to be printed in a book, entitled the "Visitor's Book," to be kept for that purpose, and submitted regularly to the board of guardians at their weekly meeting:—

1. Is the house clean and well ventilated in every part?—if not, state particulars of every defect or omission.
2. Are the inmates generally healthy, or is there any sickness prevalent among them?—if so, state particulars, and especially if any dangerous or highly infectious case of illness exists in the house.
3. Are the able-bodied male inmates kept at work as directed by the board of guardians?—if not, and if any improvement in the mode or description of their employment can be suggested, state the same.
4. Are the able-bodied females properly employed in household work, and in such other manner as is fitting, and as the board of guardians have directed?—if not, and if any improvement can be suggested, state the same.
5. Are the aged and infirm of both sexes kept in employment, as far as they are severally able? are they all properly attended to, according to their respective conditions?—if anything objectionable is noticed, or any useful suggestion occurs, record the same.
6. Are the schools regularly attended to by the master and mistress? are the youths, boys, and girls, properly instructed, and set to work, and is due care taken to fit them for becoming useful and respectable members of the community?
7. Are the children kept clean in their persons, and does their general conduct and behaviour appear to be properly attended to and regulated?
8. Do the inmates of the workhouse, of all classes, appear clean in their persons, and decent and orderly in their language and demeanour?—if not, state the exceptions, and the names of the parties failing in this respect.
9. Is the separation of all the various classes within the house strictly enforced at all times?—state particulars of every instance of deviation from the rules in this respect, if such shall have occurred; and the particular attention of the visitors is directed to this very important point of discipline.
10. Is the established dietary duly observed? and are the hours of meals regularly adhered to?

11. Is Divine Service regularly performed in the house? are prayers regularly read?—Inspect the chaplain's last report.
12. Is regular attendance given by the medical officer?—Inspect his last report.
13. Are the provisions and other supplies of the qualities contracted for?—Examine the stores. Inquire whether any complaint has been made thereon, and if so, examine the complainants.

XXIX. For the performance of the duties and ensuring the observance of the rules herein set forth, the board of guardians shall appoint any or all of the following officers and servants, with such assistants as may be deemed necessary; all such appointments to be subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales; and in case the guardians shall deem it necessary to appoint a chaplain, such chaplain must be licensed and approved by the diocesan:—

The Master of the Workhouse,	The Chaplain,
The Matron of the Workhouse,	The Medical Officer,
The Schoolmaster,	The Porter,
The Schoolmistress,	The Nurses,

who shall severally perform such duties as are herein set forth, together with all such other duties as the said board of guardians shall lawfully require them to execute.

XXX. The board of guardians shall allow to the several officers and servants of the workhouse, so to be appointed, such amounts of salary or remuneration as the board may think fit, and as the Poor Law Commissioners shall sanction.

XXXI. The board of guardians shall, at their discretion, and when they think necessary, suspend from the discharge of their duties the master, matron, schoolmaster, chaplain, or medical officer of the workhouse, and forthwith report the same, together with the cause of such suspension, to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, for their decision thereon.

XXXII. The board of guardians shall, from time to time as they shall think necessary, dismiss any of the other officers or servants of the workhouses not enumerated in the preceding Rule XXXI., and appoint others in their room, without prejudice, nevertheless, to the powers given to the Commissioners by the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Master.

XXXIII. The following shall be the duties of the master of the workhouse:—

1. To admit paupers into the workhouse, and to cause them to be examined by the medical officer, and to cleanse, clothe, and place them in the proper wards, according to the regulations herein established.
2. To enforce industry, order, punctuality, and cleanliness, and the observance of the several rules herein contained, by the paupers in the workhouse, and by the several officers, servants, and other persons therein employed.
3. To read prayers to the paupers before breakfast and after supper every day, or cause them to be read, at which all the inmates must attend; but if any of the paupers shall profess religious principles indisposing them to unite in such service, they are to be permitted to sit apart, and not to be compelled to join in the same.
4. To inspect and call over the names of all the paupers immediately

after morning prayers every day, and see that each individual is clean, and in a proper state.

5. To provide for and enforce the employment of the able-bodied adult paupers during the whole of the hours of labour; to train the youth in such employment as will best fit them for service; to keep the partially disabled paupers occupied to the extent of their ability; and to leave none who are capable of employment idle at any time.

6. To visit the sleeping wards of the first, second, and third classes at 11 o'clock every day, to see that they have been all duly cleaned and properly ventilated.

7. To see that the meals of the paupers are properly dressed and served, and to superintend the distribution thereof.

8. To say or cause to be said grace before and after meals.

9. To see that the dining halls, tables, and seats, are cleaned after each meal.

10. To visit all the wards of the male paupers at nine o'clock every night, and see that all the male paupers are in bed, and that all fires and lights are extinguished.

11. To receive from the gatekeeper the keys of the workhouse at nine o'clock every night, and to deliver them to him again at six o'clock every morning.

12. To send for the medical officer in case of an

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16. At each weekly meeting of the board of guardians, to submit to the board an estimate of such provisions and other articles as will be required for the use of the workhouse, and to receive and execute the directions of the board thereupon.

17. To receive all provisions and other articles purchased or procured for the use of the workhouse, and before placing them in store, to weigh, examine, and compare the same with the bills of parcels severally relating thereto; and after having proved the accuracy of such bills in all respects, to authenticate the same with his signature, and submit them to the board of guardians at their next meeting.

18. To receive and take charge of all provisions, clothing, linen, and other articles belonging to the workhouse, or confided to his care by the board of guardians of the said Union.

19. Not to purchase or procure any articles for the use of the workhouse, nor to order any alterations or repairs of any part of the premises, or of the furniture, or other articles belonging thereto, nor to pay any monies on account of the workhouse, or of the Union, without the order, in writing, of the board of guardians, being first duly entered in the Order Book provided for that purpose.

20. To take care that the wards, rooms, larder, kitchen, and all offices of the workhouse, and all the utensils and furniture thereof, be kept clean and in good order, and that all the rooms and wards in the workhouse be lime-washed twice in each year.

21. To read over to the paupers the regulations herein contained, at such times as the board of guardians shall direct.

22. To report to the board of guardians, from time to time, the names of such children, or boys and girls, as it may be desirable to put out to service, or as apprentices, and take the necessary steps for effecting the same under the direction of the board of guardians.

23. To report all matters of interest or importance, as the same shall occur, to the guardians, and to keep them informed of the state of the workhouse in every department, as well as of the condition of the Union generally, as far as he may be able to learn the same; and to offer suggestions to the guardians for the correction of abuses, and the introduction of improvements in the management of the workhouse; and generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the board of guardians, and likewise the rules, orders and regulations already, or to be hereafter issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Matron.

XXXIV. The following shall be the duties of the matron of the workhouse:—

1. To see that the in-door work of the establishment is, as far as possible, performed by the female paupers maintained therein.

2. To provide for and enforce the employment of the able-bodied female paupers during the whole of the hours of labour; and to keep the partially disabled paupers occupied to the extent of their ability.

3. To visit all the wards of the females and children every night, and to ascertain that all the paupers in such wards are in bed, and the fires and lights duly extinguished.

4. To pay particular attention to the moral conduct and orderly behaviour of the female paupers and children; to see that they are clean

and decent in their dress and persons, and to train them up in such employments as will best fit them for service.

5. To superintend and give the necessary directions for making and mending the clothing supplied to the female paupers and pauper children; and also the linen supplied to the male paupers of the Union; and to take care that all such clothing or linen be marked with the name of the Union.

6. To see that every pauper in the workhouse has clean linen and stockings once a week, and that all the beds be supplied with clean sheets once a month.

7. To take charge of the linen and stockings for the use of the paupers, and any other linen in use in the house, and to superintend and give the necessary directions concerning the washing, drying, and getting up the same, and not to permit any to be dried in the sleeping wards, or in the sick or lunatic wards.

8. To take care, with the assistance of the nurses, of the sick paupers and young children in the workhouse; to see that they are clean in their persons, and to provide such diet for the sick paupers and the young children as the medical officer shall direct, and to furnish them with such changes of clothes and linen as may be necessary.

9. To assist the master in the general management and superintendence of the workhouse, and especially in

Enforcing the observance of good order, cleanliness, punctuality, industry, and decency of demeanour among the paupers.

The cleansing and clothing of female paupers on their admission.

The cleansing and ventilating the sleeping wards and the dining halls, and all parts of the premises.

The placing in store and taking charge of the provisions, clothing and linen belonging to the Union.

10. And generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the board of guardians, and the rules, orders and regulations issued by the Poor Law Commissioners.

Chaplain.

XXXV. In any case in which it shall have been deemed necessary to appoint a chaplain, the following shall be his duties:—

1. To read prayers, and preach a sermon to the paupers, every Sunday.

2. To administer the Sacrament to such of the paupers as may be desirous of receiving the same, at least once every three months.

3. To examine and catechise the children, at least once every month, and after each of such examinations, to record the same, and state the general progress and condition of the children, and the moral and religious state of the inmates generally, in a book to be kept for that purpose, to be laid before the board of guardians at their next meeting. In which book also the chaplain shall insert the date of each of his attendances at the workhouse.

4. To visit the sick paupers in the workhouse, when especially applied to for that purpose by the master or matron, and generally to watch over the moral and religious conduct of all the individuals of the establishment.

Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress.

XXXVI. The following shall be the duties of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress of the workhouse:—

To instruct the boys and girls in the house, as directed in Rule XVIII., and to assist the master and the matron in the performance of their several duties, and in the maintenance of order and due subordination in the workhouse.

Medical Officer.

XXXVII. The following shall be the duties of the medical officer:—

1. To attend at the workhouse at such stated times as may be directed by the board of guardians, and also when sent for by the master or matron of the workhouse, in cases of sudden illness, accident or other emergency; and at all such other times as the state of the sick or lunatic patients within the workhouse may render necessary.

2. To examine into the state of the patients in the sick and lunatic wards; and also into the state of those sick paupers who have not yet been removed there, and also to examine into the state of the paupers on their admission into the workhouse.

3. To ascertain and report to the board of guardians, the cause and circumstances of every death which may take place in the workhouse.

4. To give all necessary directions as to the diet, classification and treatment of sick and lunatic paupers, and to provide the requisite medicines, and to make up in writing, in the form and according to the instructions in schedule (H.), a register of the sickness and mortality which may have obtained amongst the paupers in the workhouse, together with such remarks on their general health and state as he may deem fitting, to be laid before the guardians at each weekly meeting of the board. In which book also the medical officer shall insert the date of every attendance at the workhouse.

Porter.

XXXVIII. The following shall be the duties of the porter of the workhouse:—

1. To keep the gate, and not to suffer any person, except the officers of the workhouse, or of the Union, or such person or persons as may be duly authorized by the Commissioners, or any Assistant Commissioner, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, to enter into, or go out of the house, without the leave of the master or matron.

2. To examine all parcels and goods before they are received into the premises, and prevent the admission of any spirituous or fermented liquors or other articles contrary to law or to the regulations herein provided.

3. To search any pauper or other person whom he may suspect to have possession of any spirits or prohibited articles.

4. To examine all parcels taken out of the house, and prevent the undue removal of any goods from the premises.

5. To lock all outer-doors, and take the keys to the master at nine o'clock every night, and to receive them back from him every morning at seven, or at such hours as shall be directed.

6. To assist in preserving order, and in enforcing obedience and due subordination in the workhouse.

7. To keep the master informed of all things affecting the security, order and interests of the establishment, and to obey all legal directions of the board of guardians, and the master.

Given under our hands and seal, this

day of in

the year 183 .

[illegible]

Form (D.)

DAILY CONSUMPTION OF CLOTHING IN THE WORKHOUSE OF

Date.	Folio in Weekly Check Book.	Day of the Week.	Names of Paupers to whom Clothing is furnished.	Men's Clothing.	Women's Clothing.	Boys' Clothing.	Girls' Clothing.
				Coats.	Gowns.	Coats.	Frocks.
				Waistcoats.	Under Petticoats.	Waistcoats.	Under Petticoats.
				Trowsers.	Upper Petticoats.	Trowsers.	Upper Petticoats.
				Shirts.	Shirts.	Shirts.	Shirts.
				Stockings.	Shoes.	Shoes.	Shoes.
				Shoes.	Handkerchiefs.	Shoes.	Shoes.
				Hats.	Aprons.	Hats.	Shirts.
				Handkerchiefs.	Shirts.	Handkerchiefs.	Stockings.
					Upper Petticoats.		Stockings.
					Shoes.		Shoes.
					Stockings.		Stockings.
					Stays.		Stays.
					Bonnets.		Bonnets.
							Other Articles.

(F.)—REGISTER OF BIRTHS IN

WORKHOUSE.

(F.)—REGISTER OF BIRTHS IN WORKHOUSE.							
Date of Birth.	Whether Male or Female.	Names of Parents.	To what Parish belonging.	Whether Legitimate or Illegitimate.	When Baptized.	In what name Baptized.	Remarks.

(G.)—REGISTER OF DEATHS IN

WORKHOUSE.

Date of Death.	Name.	Age.	To what Parish belonging.	Reference to Sur- geon's Book.	BURIED.		
					When.	Where.	By whom, or at whose Expense,

(H.)—REGISTER OF SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

[illegible]

No. 10.—WORKHOUSE PLANS—(placed at the end of the Appendix.)

— No. 11. —

— UNION. —

ORDER for the Keeping, Examining, and Auditing of the Accounts of the above Union, and of the several Parishes of which it is composed.

IN pursuance of the powers given to us in and by an Act passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of His present Majesty, entitled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, do hereby order, as follows:—

I. In reference to the separate Parochial Accounts of the several Parishes in the above-mentioned Union:—

1. From and after the churchwardens and overseers, and the assistant overseer (all of whom we shall hereinafter designate and include under the name of parish officers) of every parish and place comprised in the above-mentioned Union, or some or one of them, shall, at the expense of such parish or place, provide, and shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (A.) hereunto annexed, punctually enter up and accurately keep the following books of account, namely,—

The Rate Book, Schedule (A.) Form 1, wherein shall be inserted particulars of the assessment, amount, payment or non-payment of the poor-rate of such parish or place; the form of which book we have also given at the foot of the rules and regulations made by us on the formation of the Union.

The Rate Receipt Check-book, Schedule (A.) Form 2, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts for rates, and counterparts of such receipts, to be filled up and signed by two of the churchwardens or overseers of the poor of such parish or place, such receipts to be detached from the said book, and issued to the respective rate-payers of such parish or place, as and when they shall pay such rates, and such counterparts to be retained by such parish officers in the said book.

The General Receipt Check-book, Schedule (A.) Form 3, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts and counterparts of receipts, to be filled up and signed in like manner, for any payments made for the use of such parish or place other than rates; such receipts to be detached and issued to the persons who shall make such payments, and such counterparts to be retained as above mentioned.

A Book of Receipts and Payments, on the pages of one side of which shall be entered, in separate items, in order of time, and under the true dates, an account of all monies received by such parish officers in respect of the poor-rate; or in respect of the rents or profits of any lands or tenements belonging to such parish or place, and applicable to the use of the poor; or from the natural relations of paupers under the provisions of the law in that behalf; or from the fathers or mothers of bastard children; or in repayment or recovery of money lent to poor per-

sons; or in repayments under orders of removal, or in respect of fines or payments made under the orders of magistrates; or in respect of payments made by claimants to vote, or purchasers of lists of voters; or of any other matter whatever having reference to the rates for the relief of the poor of such parish or place. And on the opposite pages of such book shall be entered, in like manner, an account of all monies paid, under the written authority of the board of guardians as directed in our rules and regulations above referred to; or in respect of the county or hundred rate; or in respect of relief in kind, administered by such parish officers, in cases of necessity; or in respect of costs of any proceedings at law, or before magistrates, or in equity, on account of such parish or place; or in respect of the voters or jury lists; or any charges required or authorized by any statute or local Act, to be paid out of the poor-rates; or in respect of the repairs or outgoings affecting the lands or tenements belonging to such parish or place; or in respect of other expenses which may lawfully be defrayed out of the poor-rates by such parish officers.

2. And we do further order, that the officers of every such parish or place shall duly make out a Quarterly Balance Sheet, according to the Form numbered 4, in the said Schedule (A.), exhibiting the sums collected and received, and the sums disbursed and paid by them, as is required by the 20th section of our rules and regulations above referred to.

3. And shall, at the end of the Michaelmas quarter of every year, accurately and truly make out a terrier and inventory of the lands, tenements, stock, monies, goods, and effects belonging to such parish or place, or given or applicable to the use of the poor thereof, according to the Form numbered 5, in the said Schedule (A.)

II. And, in reference to the General Accounts of the Union above mentioned, we do hereby order, as follows:

1. From the day aforesaid, the clerk to the board of guardians shall, at the common charge of the parishes comprised therein, provide, and shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (B.) hereunto annexed, punctually enter up and accurately keep the following books of account; namely,—

The Minute Book, which, by our rules and regulations above referred to, we have ordered to be kept, and in which shall be entered minutes of all monies received and paid, all orders and cheques given, all accounts examined and allowed, all salaries ordered to be paid, as well as all other business, proceedings, and transactions of the board of guardians at any of their meetings.

A Ledger, in which shall be entered and posted up, under proper heads of account, duly arranged, the various items of money transactions contained in the Minute Book.

The Order Check-book, Schedule (B.) Form 6, on one part or margin of the leaves of which shall be written all orders given by the board of guardians for provisions, stores, repairs, and on other accounts; and on the other part or margin of such leaves shall be written counterparts or minutes of such orders, such orders to be detached from the said book, and issued to the tradesmen or other persons dealt with or employed, and such counterparts or minutes to be retained in the same.

The Provisions' Check-book, Schedule (B.) Form 7, which shall con-

tain an account of provisions, stores, and fuel, to be debited for every article received, and credited from the accounts in the Provision and Clothing Expenditure Books of every master of a workhouse, and every relieving officer in the said Union, for every article expended, and shall from those accounts be balanced weekly.

The Clothing Check-book, Schedule (B.) Form 8, in which shall be inserted an account of the quantity and description of clothing which shall be received into every workhouse of the Union, and when and in what manner such clothing shall be disposed of, and which book shall be balanced weekly from the Clothing Expenditure Book to be kept by every master of a workhouse in such Union.

The Inventory Book, Schedule (B.) Form 9, in which shall be inserted the particulars of all the furniture, fixtures, and utensils of the workhouses in such Union, and the stock and other like property belonging to such Union, not included in the Provisions' and Clothing Expenditure Books, and every particular as to the use, sale, working up, or disposal thereof.

The Estimate Book, Schedule (B.) Form 10, in which shall be entered from time to time the estimates to be made quarterly, according to the Form numbered 10 in the said Schedule (B.), of the amount of money which may be deemed necessary for the relief of the poor and the general purposes of the Union, and the proportions in which such amount is to be divided among the several parishes comprised in the Union, and to be submitted to the board of guardians, at the meeting next before the quarter for which supplies of money shall be required, and to be by them examined, and the proportion ascertained and determined.

2. And we do further order, that the clerk to the board of guardians in every such Union shall make up and balance the accounts of such Union at the end of every quarter, and shall, under the direction of the board of guardians, prepare therefrom, and from the Pauper Description and Relief Books hereinafter mentioned, a quarterly abstract of the Union accounts, according to the form and instructions in the said Schedule (B.), numbered 11, showing the then present number of paupers of all classes actually receiving relief, and the account of receipt and expenditure for the last quarter, and which abstract shall be signed by the chairman at the last meeting of the board of guardians in such quarter, and shall be submitted to the auditor appointed for such Union.

3. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, as soon as he shall receive notice of the day appointed for the auditing of the quarterly accounts of such Union, cause a notice of such audit, in the Form numbered 12, in the said Schedule (B.), to be affixed on the external gate or door of every workhouse in such Union, and continue the same so affixed, until such audit shall take place. And the said clerk shall, three clear days before the day appointed for auditing the accounts of such Union, deposit the said quarterly abstract, together with the vouchers with which the same is to be verified, in the board-room of the guardians of such Union, and shall permit the same abstract and vouchers, and any and every of them, to be inspected, examined, and copied by any rate-payer in such Union at any reasonable hour of any day, between that on which they shall be so deposited, and the day appointed for the auditing thereof.

4. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, within 14 days after each quarterly audit, furnish to the officers of every parish or place comprised in such Union, a statement showing the contribution and expenditure for each parish in such Union for the preceding quarter, according to the Form in the said Schedule (B.), numbered 13.

5. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, under the direction of the auditor appointed for the Union, make up from the quarterly balance sheets of the several parishes and places in the said Union, such balance sheets to be furnished to the clerk by the auditor, an abstract of the parochial accounts, according to the Form in the said Schedule (B.), numbered 14, and shall submit the same, when made, to the auditor; and when such accounts are allowed by the auditor, the clerk shall transmit a copy to us the Poor Law Commissioners.

III. And, in reference to the Workhouse Accounts in such Union, we do hereby order as follows:—

From the time aforesaid, the master of every workhouse or poor-house (both of which we shall hereinafter include and designate under the name of workhouse), situate in or belonging to the said Union, shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (C.) hereunto annexed, punctually enter up, and accurately keep the following books of account, to be provided at the common charge of the parishes in such Union, namely,—

The Admission and Discharge Book, Schedule (C.) Form 15, in which an account of all persons admitted into and discharged from such workhouse shall be kept.

The Provisions' Expenditure Book, Schedule (C.) Form 16, in which an account of all provisions and fuel actually consumed from the stores of such workhouse, either in or out of the house, shall be kept.

The Clothing Expenditure Book, Schedule (C.) Form 17, in which a similar account shall be kept of the disposal of every article of clothing or bedding furnished to such workhouse.

The Register of Births, Schedule (C.) Form 18, in which a minute of every birth which shall from time to time take place in such workhouse shall be inserted.

The Register of Deaths, Schedule (C.) Form 19, in which a minute of every death which shall from time to time take place in such workhouse shall be inserted.

The In-door Labour Book, Schedule (C.) Form 20, in which shall be inserted the quantity and description of work, if any, performed by each pauper daily, and in what manner the proceeds are accounted for, with such other particulars as may exhibit the state and mode of employment in such workhouse.

IV. And, in reference to the Out-door Relief Accounts of such Union, we do hereby order as follows:—

1. From the time aforesaid, every relieving officer of every district in such Union shall punctually enter up and accurately keep, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule

marked (D) hereunto annexed, the following books of account, to be provided for that purpose at the common charge of the parishes in such Union, namely,—

The Out-Relief Book, Schedule (D.) Form 21, in which such relieving officer shall enter the applications from time to time made for relief, and the particulars which, on making the examination into the merits of the case, required by our former orders and regulations, he shall collect, as well as the relief actually given.

The Pauper Description Book, Schedule (D.) Form 22, which shall contain the names and description of all the out-door paupers in the district of such officer, and which said book shall be indexed alphabetically.

The General Weekly Abstract of Out-door Relief, Schedule (D.) Form 23, in which shall be inserted the total amount of out-door relief distributed by such relieving officer, on account of each pauper of the several parishes of his district.

The Out-door Receipt and Expenditure Book, Schedule (D.) Form 24, in which an account shall be inserted of all the monies, provisions, and other articles received by such relieving officer, and the parishes to the paupers of which the same were distributed.

The Out-door Labour Book, Schedule (D.) Form 25, in which shall be inserted the particulars of the work performed by out-door paupers, and the earnings received on account of such work, and the parishes to which such paupers belong.

2. And to the end that, whenever application may be made for relief to the board of guardians of any such Union, the circumstances of the party applying may be fully known, we do further order that such relieving officer shall regularly attend the meetings of the board of guardians, and shall lay before them the several books hereinbefore required to be kept by him.

V. And in reference to the Settlement and Examination of Accounts, Bills, and Demands in the said Union, we do hereby order as follows:—

1. No bill or demand, exceeding 1*l*. brought against the said Union, shall be payable out of the poor-rates, unless and until it shall have been allowed either by the board of guardians, or by some committee or person specially authorized by them for that purpose.

2. Every payment exceeding 3*l*. shall be made through a cheque drawn upon the treasurer of the Union, and signed by the chairman and two guardians present at a meeting of the board.

3. Cheques which shall not be presented to the treasurer of the Union previous to the termination of the quarter in which they were given, shall become void, without prejudice, however, to the right of the creditor to demand from the board of guardians a new cheque, upon satisfactorily explaining the reason why the former cheque was not presented.

4. All bills and demands shall be brought in before the expiration of the quarter in which they were incurred, and shall be examined and paid within that quarter.

5. If among the bills and demands against the said Union there shall

be any which, from some unavoidable circumstance, could not be sent in, examined, ordered for payment, or paid within the quarter in which they were incurred, the same shall only be paid afterwards, in virtue of a special resolution of the board of guardians, to be signified to the treasurer of the Union.

6. The clerk to the board of guardians shall procure every week, from the treasurer of the Union, a statement of the sums of money and cheques which the treasurer shall have received and paid during the past week, and shall lay the same statement before the board at their weekly meeting.

7. Every person whose bill or demand shall be paid or settled by cheque or otherwise, shall give a written receipt on a proper stamp (if the amount should require a stamp), for the money or cheque received by him; and if any cheque should not be paid when duly presented, the demand of the creditor to whom it was given shall remain in full force, notwithstanding any receipt given by him.

8. The board of guardians, in the examination and passing of bills, shall refer to the counterparts in the Order Check-book of the orders sanctioning the expenditure, and shall, if they think fit, require the party to whom the order was issued to produce it.

9. And we do further order, that no bill or demand exceeding in amount 40s., brought against any parish or place in the above-mentioned Union, for any charge payable out of the poor-rate, shall be paid, unless and until it has been allowed by two overseers, or one churchwarden and one overseer, of such parish or place.

10. And we do further order, that all bills and demands against any parish or place shall be brought in, examined, and paid within the parochial year, and, as far as possible, within the quarter in which they were incurred.

11. And we do further order, that the officers of every parish and place within the said Union shall attend at the time and place appointed for the audit of the quarterly accounts, and shall produce all books and vouchers containing or relating to their accounts for the inspection of the auditor, the board of guardians, the clerk to the board of guardians, and any rate-payer and owner of property in their parish.

12. And we do further order, that the officers of every parish and place comprised in the said Union shall, when they shall have received the quarterly statement of contribution and expenditure, hereinbefore ordered to be furnished to them by the clerk to the board of guardians, submit the same to the next vestry or parochial meeting in such parish or place, and permit such statement to be inspected, copied, or examined by any rate-payer of such parish or place, at any reasonable hour of the day-time for 14 days after the receipt of such statement.

13. And we do further order, that the quarterly abstracts of Union and parish accounts hereinbefore required to be made out by the clerk to the board of guardians, shall be presented to the said board at their last meeting in the quarter, or when they shall appoint, and shall be examined by them, with the books of account of the said Union and

parishes, and if approved, shall be signed by the chairman of such meeting.

VI. And in reference to the Auditing of Accounts, Bills, and Demands in the said Union and Parishes, we do hereby order as follows:—

1. The auditor appointed for the said Union shall give to the clerk to the board of guardians, and to the officers of the several parishes and places in the said Union, six clear days' notice in writing of the day, hour, and place on and at which he intends to audit the said accounts; and that he shall for that purpose fix some day, within the time mentioned in our rules and regulations above referred to, namely, within 30 days of Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and Christmas-day respectively.

2. In auditing the said accounts the said auditor shall see that they are presented in proper form, and that the particular items of receipt and expenditure are stated in detail, and are supported by adequate vouchers and authority, and shall ascertain that all sums received, or which ought to have been received, are brought into the account, and shall examine whether the expenditure in all cases is such as might be lawfully made, and shall strike out such payments and charges as are not authorized by some provision of the law, or by virtue of our orders, rules, or regulations, or under legal process.

3. The said auditor shall cast up and compute the said accounts, so as to ascertain the accuracy thereof, and shall strike a general balance, in order to show the sum due to or from the officer, rendering the same at the time of audit.

4. That the said auditor shall receive the objections in writing of any rate-payer in the said Union to the said accounts, or any item or charge therein, or any vouchers or authority for the same, and shall examine into the merits of such objections, and make a decision respecting the same.

5. If the said auditor should doubt the correctness of any account, or any charge in an account, he shall require the officer rendering the account, or any other officer of the said Union or parishes, or (if the doubt shall have arisen respecting any goods stated to have been supplied for the use of the said Union) the persons represented to have supplied the goods, and any other person who, in the judgment of the said auditor, shall be able to give information thereof, to appear before him, and to produce any accounts, books, or papers in their possession relating thereto, which he may require, and shall examine such officers or other persons respecting such account, item, or charge, and shall require them to subscribe a declaration in writing as to the correctness thereof, first forewarning them of the penalties incurred under the Poor Law Amendment Act, by persons subscribing a false declaration. And any paid officer who shall fail to comply with the requisition of the said auditor to appear before him, and to produce documents of which he may be in the possession, shall, on report thereof to us made, be liable to be dismissed from his office.

6. If the said auditor should be of opinion that any money, goods, or chattels belonging to such Union, or any parish therein, have been purloined, embezzled, or wilfully wasted or misapplied by any officer or person accounting, he shall collect such evidence as he may think neces-

sary to ascertain the amount or value of such money, goods, or chattels, and shall surcharge such officer or person with such amount or value in his account, and shall direct and require the board of guardians to proceed against any paid officer so offending, under the provision in that behalf contained in the Poor Law Amendment Act.

7. And the said auditor shall examine and correct and sign the quarterly abstracts of the Union and parish accounts, hereinbefore required to be made by the clerk to the board of guardians, and shall transmit the same, when so corrected, to us, the said Poor Law Commissioners.

Given under our hands and seal this day of
in the year 183 .

Form 2.—The RATE RECEIPT CHECK-BOOK.

183 . No.	8	No.	Parish of
Poor's Rate for		Received the	day of 183 ,
Parish, made the		of Mr. ,	pound shilling
day of 183 ,		and pence, of the Poor's Rate for	
at pence in the		Parish, made the	day of
pound.		183 , at	pence in the pound.
Mr.			A. B. } Overseers or
Assessment			C. D. } Churchwardens.
£.		£.	

Note.—This part is
to be retained by the
Parish Officer.

Form 3.—The GENERAL RECEIPT CHECK-BOOK.

Parish of		Parish of
Estate or Cha-		: Estate or Charity.
rity.		
No.		No.
Received of Mr.		Received the
the		day of 183 ,
day of ,		of Mr. ,
pound shilling		pound shilling
pence, on be-		and pence, being One Quarter's
half of said Estate.		Rent to due to the Churchwar-
		dens and Overseers of the said Parish,
		as Trustees of the said Estate.
£.		£.
} Churchwarden.		} Churchwarden.
} Overseer.		} Overseer.

Parish of		Parish of
No.		No.
Received the		Received the
day of 183 ,		day of 183 ,
of Mr. ,		of Mr. ,
pound shilling		pound
and pence		shilling and pence, on account
One Week's Mainte-		of One Week's Maintenance of
nance of		bastard Child of
bastard Child.		£.
£.		£.
Overseer.		} Churchwarden.
		} Overseer.

Form 4.—Parish of _____ Union of _____
 of the Churchwardens and Overseers, from _____ to _____
 QUARTERLY BALANCE SHEET

RECEIVED.		£.	s.	d.	DISBURSED.		£.	s.	d.
From Rate, allowed by Magistrates on					To the Treasurer of the Union, by Order of the				
" The Rents or Profits of Land or Tenements					Board of Guardians				
" The income of other Property belonging					County Rate				
" to the Parish					To cost of Relief in kind, administered out of the				
" The natural Relations of Paupers					Workhouse to cases of necessity, as per annexed				
" Fathers and Mothers of Bastard Children					List				
In Repayment of Loans					Expenses before Magistrates, or other Pro-				
In Repayments under Order of Removal					ceedings at Law				
From fines paid over by Order of Magistrates					For printing List of Voters				
Shillings paid by Claimants to vote, and Proceeds					Ditto Jury List				
of Sale of Lists of Voters					For Repairs of Parish Tenement at —				
From other Sources					Other Expenses				
					To Balance				
CLAIMS OF THE PARISH.		£.	s.	d.	LIABILITIES OF THE PARISH.		£.	s.	d.
Amount of First Rate uncollected					Bill delivered by Mr., Attorney, for				
Ditto of Second ditto					Expenses at Sessions				
					Bill delivered by J. H., Carpenter, for Repairs of				
					Parish Tenement at N.				

Note.—Other sources of Income and Outlets of Expenditure, Claims and Liabilities, must in like manner be specified.

FORM 5.—TERRIER OF LANDS.

Names of the Estates.	Tenure of Estates.	Names of the Parishes or Places where situate.	Names of the Tenants or Occupiers.	Yearly Amount of Rent or Profits received.	Present Application of Rents.	Date of Original Gift or Conveyance, and Trusts thereof.	Names of the present Trustees.	Incumbrances on the Estate.	Remarks.
1.									
2.									

INVENTORY OF FUNDS, SECURITIES AND MONEY.

Amount of Principal Fund.	Nature of Security in which invested.	Amount of Yearly Income.	Present Application of Income.	Date of Original Gift or Conveyance, and Trusts thereof.	Trustees in whose names standing.	Remarks.
1.						
2.						


INVENTORY OF GOODS.

The usual Form.

SCHEDULE (B.)

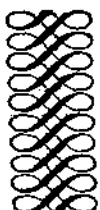
Containing the FORMS of the GENERAL ACCOUNTS of the Union to be kept by the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

Form 6 a.—The ORDER CHECK-BOOK.

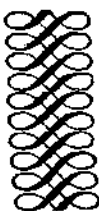
Folio in Minute Book.	No.	183		No.	183
	Mr.			Mr.	
	Goods ordered, } with the price }				Please to supply for the use of Workhouse [or please to do Work, and find Materials for the Union of]
	Work ordered				Signature of the Officer } who signs the Order }
	Signature of the Officer } who signs the Order }				
	_____				N.B. This Order must be preserved by the party to whom it is issued, as no ac- count will be passed unless it be produced.
	N. B. This check is to be retained.				

Form 6 b.—CHECK-BOOK of ADMISSIONS and DISCHARGES into and from the WORKHOUSE.

_____ Union.

No.		No.	To	Master of the Workhouse
To admit		at		
Age		Admit	aged wife and children,	
Parish		belonging to the Parish of		in this
Date		Union [here state cause of admission].		
A. B., Chairman.		By the Board of Guardians, this	day	
		of	183	
		(signed)		Chairman.

_____ Union.

No.		No.	To	Master of the Workhouse
Discharge		at		
Parish		Discharge	aged wife and chil-	
Date		dren, belonging to the Parish of		in
A. B., Chairman.		this Union [here state cause of discharge].		
		By the Board of Guardians, this		
		day of	183	
		(signed)		Chairman.

The MINUTE BOOK and LEDGER.

The forms and modes of keeping these books are exhibited in detail and example in the circular letter of the Board accompanying this order.

Form 7.—The Provisions' Check-Book.

When Received.	Of whom Received.	No. of Invoice.	Folio in Ledger.	Provisions received.													Provisions consumed.													How consumed.	Folio in Expenditure Book.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
		Bread.	lbs.	Meat.	lbs.	Butter.	lbs.	Cheese.	lbs.	Potatoes.	lbs.	Peas.	qtrs.	Oatmeal.	lbs.	Candles.	lbs.	Soap.	lbs.	Coals.	lbs.	Flour.	lbs.	Other Provisions.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					

The Receipt side of this Book is to be filled up from the Invoices of Provisions supplied to the Workhouse, and the opposite side from the Master's Provision Expenditure Book. It is to be balanced weekly.

Form 9.—THE INVENTORY BOOK.

Page 1.

House.	Fixtures.	Furniture.	Utensils.	Other Effects.
Board Room - -				
Day Rooms - -				
Sleeping Rooms - -				
Kitchen - -				
Brewhouse, &c. - -				

Page 2.

Laundry - - -	Linen, &c.
---------------	------------

Page 3.

Work Rooms - -	Stock, Implements, &c.
:	

Page 4.

Yard - - - -	
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Page 5.

Garden - - -	
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Form 10.—ESTIMATE of Receipt and Expenditure for the Maintenance and Relief of the Poor and the Support of the Establishment in the Union, for the Quarter ending 183 .

ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT.				ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.			
To Parish of	Average Amount of Rates.		Proportion of the Charges for supporting the Union Establishment.	Total Assessment for the Quarter.	PROVISIONS FOR WORKHOUSE.		
	£.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.	s.	d.
—					Bread		
—					Meat		
—					Cheese, &c.		
—					Meal, Peas, &c.		
—					Potatoes		
—					Coals		
—					Candles, Soap, Starch ..		
—					Clothes		
—					Out-Relief		
—					ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.		
					Master £. per ann.		
					Matron		
					Schoolmaster ..		
					Schoolmistress ..		
					Porter		
					Clerk of Union ..		
					Relieving Officer ..		
					Chaplain		
					Auditor		
					Medical Attendance ..		
					Furniture, Repairs and Alterations		
					Insurance		
					Stationery, Stamps		
					Balance	£.	

We, the undersigned Guardians of the Poor of the Union, having ascertained that the sum of £. will be required, agreeably to the above Estimate, for the maintenance of the Poor in the Workhouse [or Workhouses], the Relief of the 'Out-door Poor, and the support of the Establishment of the said Union, for the quarter ending do hereby order and direct that the Parishes composing the Union be severally assessed in the proportions herein stated, and that warrants be forthwith issued to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said Parishes, authorizing and requiring them to pay over to the Treasurer of the Union, or to such other person as we may appoint, the sums hereby assessed upon them, within 183 .

A. B. Presiding Chairman.
C. D. } Guardians.
E. F. }

QUARTERLY ABSTRACT, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY

during the Quarter ending the

day of

183

PARISHES.	NUMBER OF PAUPERS RELIEVED.																			
	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.		Orphan and Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons and Lunatics.		Idiots.		Able-bodied.									
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.
Total - -																				
Increase* -																				
Diminution*																				
																				TOTAL.

* The Increase and Diminution to be stated on a comparison of the corresponding Quarter of last Year.

Average Weekly Cost per Head of the In-door Paupers.				Workhouses now in Use.							
	Adults.	Children.	Insane Persons.	Houses where situate.	Classes of Paupers.	Number in each.	Number of In-door Paupers of all Classes at Commence- ment of the Quarter.	Total Number of all Classes admitted during the Quarter.	Total Number Dis- charged.	Number of Deaths in the Quarter.	Present Number of In-door Paupers.
Food . . .											
Clothing . . .											
General Charges											
Total .											

OFFICERS ON SERVICE IN THE UNION.

Name.	Office.	Salary.

Form 13.

Union, for the Quarter ending 183 .

STATEMENT showing the CONTRIBUTIONS and EXPENDITURE for each Parish in the

PARISHES.	In-maintenance and Out-relief of Paupers.				Total of particular Expenses.	Proportion of Establishment Charges, calculated on the Averages of each Parish.	Total Charge for each Parish for Maintenance, Out-relief, and towards Establishment.	Amount of Assessment on each Parish, as per Quarterly Estimate Book.	Amount of Surplus Payments in Treasurer's Hands.	Amount of Deficient Payments due to the Treasurer.
	No. of In-door Paupers.	Cost.	No. of Out-door Paupers.	Cost.						
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
TOTALS...										

This Statement has been made under the direction of the Board of Guardians, the day of 183 .
 (signed) A. B., Chairman.

A Statement in this Form, filled up, should be furnished to each Parish of the Union by the Clerk, and under the direction of the Board of Guardians.
 D. C., Board of Guardians.

Form 14.

QUARTERLY ABSTRACT of the Separate Accounts of each Parish of Union.

Parishes.	RECEIPTS IN EACH PARISH.										SEPARATE EXPENDITURE OF EACH PARISH.									
	From Rate.	From the Parents of Bastards.	From the Relations of Paupers.	Repayments under Orders of Removal.	Repayments of Loans.	From Parish Estates.	Fines by Order of Magistrates.	Registration Receipts.	Other Receipts.	Total Receipts.	Relief in Kind in Cases of Necessity.	County Rate.	Expenses before Magistrates.	Printing.	Salaries.	Repairs of Parish Houses.	Contribution to Union.	Other Expenses.	Total Disbursed.	

A true Abstract from the Quarterly Balance Sheets of the several Parishes in the Union, made this day of 183 .

(signed)

A. B., Chairman.

D. C., Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

This Abstract has been made under my direction; I have compared it with the Quarterly Balance Sheets of the several Parishes in the Union, and I hereby certify that it is correct. Dated day of 183 .

(signed) B. A., Auditor.

Form 17.—CLOTHING EXPENDITURE BOOK.

DAILY CONSUMPTION OF CLOTHING IN THE WORKHOUSE OF

Date.	Folio in Weekly Check Book.	Day of the Week.	Names of Paupers to whom Clothing is furnished.	Men's Clothing.	Women's Clothing.	Boys' Clothing.	Girls' Clothing.
				Coats.			
				Waistcoats.			
				Trousers.			
				Shirts.			
				Stockings.			
				Shoes.			
				Hats.			
				Handkerchiefs.			
				Gowns.			
				Under Petticoats.			
				Upper Petticoats.			
				Shirts.			
				Aprons.			
				Handkerchiefs.			
				Shoes.			
				Stockings.			
				Stays.			
				Bonnets.			
				Coats.			
				Waistcoats.			
				Trousers.			
				Shirts.			
				Shoes.			
				Stockings.			
				Hats.			
				Handkerchiefs.			
				Under Petticoats.			
				Upper Petticoats.			
				Shirts.			
				Shoes.			
				Stockings.			
				Handkerchiefs.			
				Bonnets.			
				Other Articles.			

Form 18.—REGISTER of BIRTHS in

Form 18.—REGISTER OF BIRTHS in WORKHOUSE.							
Date of Birth.	Whether Male or Female.	Names of Parents.	To what Parish belonging.	Whether Legitimate or Illegitimate.	When Baptized.	In what Name Baptized.	Remarks.

Form 19.—REGISTER OF DEATHS IN

[illegible]

Form 20.—IN-Door LABOUR BOOK.

[illegible]

Form 22.—THE PAUPER DESCRIPTION BOOK.

No.	Names of Paupers, and of each Child belonging to each Pauper.	Present Residence.	When Born.	Parish to which be- longing.	Calling.	If Able-bodied.	If partially or wholly Disabled, Descrip- tion of Disabling.	If Adult, whether Sin- gle, Married, Widow, or Orphan, De- serted Child, or Bas- tard.	Date when first Chargeable.	Present cause of re- quiring Relief.	Observations, includ- ing Names of Rela- tions liable under the 43rd of Elizabeth, and able to support the Applicant, and his Earnings or other Means, if any.	Death, Removal, or Change of Condition.
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This Book is to be Indexed Alphabetically.

Instructions for the Relieving Officer to fill up the Pauper Description List.

1. No name of any applicant for relief, or of any member of the family dependent on the applicant, must be inserted, unless he or she is seen by the Relieving Officer.

2. The names of individuals are to be inserted in the list as nearly as possible in succession, as thus:

Jacob Smith, Grandfather,
Jacob Smith, his Wife,
John Smith, Father,
Rebecca Smith, his Wife,
John, Anne, and Jane Smith,—their Children,
William Smith, second Son of Jacob,
— his Wife,
— Children.

with the requisite particulars of each member of each family, describing, as in the case of an adult, any persons dependent on a child, in case it is crippled or rendered more burthensome.

3. If the date of birth of a child is not exactly known, it must be given as correctly as may be.

4. In setting out the calling of the claimant for relief, the name of the particular branch of labour which the claimant has exercised must be inserted thus—instead of "Agriculturist," you will insert as his calling, "Ploughman," "Fletcher," &c., as the case may be.

5. In the case of a woman, you will name the particular employment which he has exercised, as "Wheelwright," "Millwright," &c. You will, in like manner, state the callings of the natural relations of the claimant who may be able to contribute to his relief.

6. You will take especial care to inquire closely into the causes of the claims for relief, and to insert correct descriptions of them.

7. In specifying the alleged causes of the loss of work, name the particular sort of work: as, in the case of an Agricultural Labourer, "Farm given up;" "Conversion of arable into pasture;" "Failure," or "Shutting up of manufactory." Where you can ascer-

tain the cause of the loss of work, name the particular sort of work: as, in the case of an Agricultural Labourer, "Farm given up;" "Conversion of arable into pasture;" "Failure," or "Shutting up of manufactory." Where you can ascer-

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tain from parties well acquainted with the claimants, you will add your conclusion as to the real cause, whenever it differs from the alleged cause, as "Indolence, habitual vagrant," "Indolence, habitual pauper;" so in the cases of Discharged Domestic Servants, you will state the cause of discharge, as "Discharged for misconduct, or indolence, or negligence, or on disagreement simply."

7. In specifying the causes of the claims for relief of Children who become burthensome from the crippling or infirmity of their parents to provide for themselves, or for more than themselves, you will specify the nature of the infirmity or other cause: as, "Father's insanity;" "Father's imbecility or idioty;" "Mother's insanity;" "Mother's imbecility, or sailor, or mariner;" "Father absent from home;" "Mother absent from home;" "Father fled from debt;" "Father fled for delinquency—imprisoned for swagging."

8. In cases arising from Infirmity of Mind, you will designate the extent of the Infirmity: as, in the case of Lunatics, "Lunatic, slightly;" "Lunatic, maliciously mischievous;" "Lunatic, raving;" "Lunatic, melancholy;" so in the case of Idiots, insert, "Weak in Mind;" "Absolute idiot."

9. In designating the causes arising from Infirmity of Body, you will specify them in the manner following: as, "Deaf and dumb;" "Deaf, totally;" "In the case of Cripples, the loss, or the loss of the use of "one hand," of "both hands," of "one leg." In cases of Helplessness or Feebleness, you will designate the description of the helplessness or feebleness; as, "Helpless, old age;" "Helpless, epilepsy."

10. Amongst the Observations in the last column should be inserted a description of any Pensions for past services, Superannuation allowances, &c.; any allowances from clubs or other similar bodies; any contributions, whether permanent or occasional, from Charitable Institutions; and the amount of each.

Form 28. UNION.

GENERAL WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF Out-Door Relief in the

Parish to which belonging.	1st Week ending 7 March.		2d Week ending 14 March.		3d Week ending 21 March.		4th Week ending 28 March.		5th Week ending 4 April.		6th Week ending 11 April.		7th Week ending 18 April.		8th Week ending 25 April.		9th Week ending 2 May.		10th Week ending 9 May.		11th Week ending 16 May.		12th Week ending 23 May.		13th Week ending 30 May.		Amount in Money.		Amount in Kind.		Total of Amount of Money and Value of Relief in Kind, given during the Quarter to the several Paupers named in the first Column, inserted under the Names of the several Parishes to which they belong.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Amount in Money.	Amount in Kind.	Parish A.	Parish B.	Parish C.	Parish D.		Parish E.	Parish F.	Parish G.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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This Book is intended to show the Amount of Relief given each week to the several Paupers, and at the end of the Quarter the adding up of the last columns, headed with the names of the Parishes, will show the Total amount of Out-door Relief distributed on account of each Parish.

Form 25.—Out-door Labour Book.

NAMES.	Upon what Work, or for whom and how Employed.	To what Parish belonging.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Quantity of Work per Week.	Price of Work.	Value of Work per Week.	—	REMARKS.
											£. s. d.	£. s. d.	

All the Books to be kept by the Relieving Officer must be laid before the Board of Guardians at their Weekly or other Meetings.

To the BOARD of GUARDIANS for the ——— UNION.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset-house,
September, 1835.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, having issued an order for the keeping of the accounts of your Union, and of the several parishes comprised in it, request your attention to the following explanatory statement, which they trust will render more easy the duty of carrying that order into effect. They deem it unnecessary to enlarge upon the advantage which the parishes, the Union, and the public will derive from the establishment of a correct and uniform system of accounts, and they feel confident that, to secure this advantage, you will use your utmost endeavours to overcome the difficulties which the introduction of such a system may present.

You will observe, by the order, that the Forms of Account are divided into four classes, and placed in four schedules. This division corresponds with the number of officers by whom, respectively, the accounts are to be kept or made. Thus Schedule (A.) contains the parish accounts to be kept by the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes in the Union. Schedule (B.) contains the Union cash accounts to be kept by the clerk to the board of guardians. Schedule (C.) the accounts of the workhouse to be kept by the master of the workhouse; and Schedule (D.) the accounts of out-door relief and out-paupers, to be kept by the relieving officer.

In conformity with the arrangement of the order, the present communication will also be divided into—I. Instructions to the Officers of Parishes in the Union; II. Instructions to the Clerk to the Board of Guardians; III. Instructions to the Master of the Workhouse; and, IV. Instructions to the Relieving Officer. In order to enable you to furnish each officer with a copy of his instructions, they are extracted, printed separately, and enclosed herewith.

The penalties for neglect of orders attach to the several officers by whom the accounts are directed to be kept: but as it forms a part of your duties to superintend the execution of such orders, the instructions to the several officers for carrying them into effect are now placed before you, in order that you may be fully informed of the intentions of the Board.

The increase of the number of books and forms may appear to increase proportionately the labour of the several officers charged with the duty of keeping them, and to render the business of administering relief more complex. But you will find that by the more distinct division of labour effected amongst the officers by means of these books and forms, the business will be simplified and facilitated, and the labour of the officers will be ultimately diminished. The quantity of matter to be entered or recorded being given, no addition is made to the labour of entering by any addition made to the number of books. It will be found, with relation to the greater part of the matter to be inserted, that the multiplication of the books is but a simplification of the contents, by reducing them to more simple classes.

The Commissioners have made an arrangement, by which the Union and the separate parishes may be supplied with books of accounts, prepared in the authorized forms, and also with the other documents, through Mr. Charles Knight, the publisher, Ludgate-street, London,

at a considerably cheaper rate than they have been hitherto furnished to the public. But if any of the books or forms of the same, or of a better quality, can be obtained from any other sources, at as low or at lower rates than those stated in the list of prices which will be transmitted to you, they may be procured elsewhere.

I. Instructions to the Officers of each of the several Parishes in the Union.

The parish officers, that is, the churchwardens and overseers, assistant-overseer, and collector of rates, will observe—

1. On referring to the former rules and regulations of the Commissioners, that they are required to keep a "Rate Book" of which the use is there explained and the form appended. The chief object of this book is to enable them to equalize the assessments charged upon individual occupiers in the parish. On the occasion of a new valuation for the purpose of rating in the parish, this book may be filled up by the surveyor or other person appointed to value; and if no such occasion offer, it is desirable that a committee should be appointed at a parish meeting, to fill up, and from time to time to correct or amend it, so as always to preserve the assessment on the several rate-payers as fair and equal as possible.

2. "The Rate Receipt Cheque-Book" is designed to prevent error or malversation on the part of the person employed to collect the rates. It should be in the form of a common bank cheque-book, each leaf containing, on the outer or right-hand side of the cheque-mark, a printed or engraved blank form of receipt for poor-rate, and on the other side of the cheque-mark, in the inner margin, a counterpart or minute in blank corresponding to such receipt. When a rate is allowed by the magistrates, a set of these blank receipts and their counterparts (one for each rate-payer) should be filled up and signed by two of the overseers and churchwardens. The object of obtaining their signatures is to guarantee to the rate-payer that the sums charged are correct. The book should, after it has been duly signed, be delivered to the person who is to collect the rate, and his account in the book next mentioned should be debited or charged with the number of receipts so given him. On receiving the payments from the respective rate-payers, the person collecting is to tear off through the cheque-mark, and give to them their respective receipts, and to keep the counterparts.

On accounting for the rates, the person collecting should produce this rate receipt cheque-book, and hand over the amount of the rates, which by a reference to the number of receipts which have been detached and issued it will be seen that he has received. His account should then be credited with the amount so paid, and the receipts remaining unissued should either be delivered back to him for collection, or they should be cancelled, and his account be credited for so much rate uncollected. It will be proper for the parish officers to give notice that no other than these receipts will be valid discharges for money paid to the use of their parish.

3. "The General Receipt Cheque-Book" so nearly corresponds with the foregoing as not to need separate explanation.

4. "The Receipt and Payment Book" is the cash account of the parish. By the order of the Commissioners it is required to be kept on the simplest plan of debtor and creditor, one page for receipts and the

opposite for disbursements, in respect of the parish and poor; and all the entries are to be set down in order of time.

The extent of the account may render necessary some arrangement of the various items of receipt and payment under proper heads. The following heads may be named: Contribution Rate, Private Rate, Collector, Parish Property, Loans and Repayments, Registration, Bastardy, and others may be added as occasion may require. Adequate portions of the book may be assigned to these several accounts, or each page of the book may be divided into columns, containing some of the principal accounts, and a general column for the others. Each of these accounts should be kept as debtor and creditor, on the plan of single entry, either in opposite pages, or in two divisions of the same page.

The "Contribution Rate" account should be debited with the amount of all the sums ordered by the board of guardians to be levied for the contribution of the parish to the Union, and credited with all the payments made on behalf of the parish to the treasurer of the Union.

The "Private Rate" account should be debited with the excess or difference of the rate allowed by the magistrates, and the contributions required to the Union, and credited with the county rate payments, and the balances on the other accounts against the parish for charges authorized by law to be paid out of the poor-rate.

The "Collector's Account" should be debited with all the signed receipts entrusted to him, and credited with all the money which he pays in, and with all the receipts which he returns unissued.

The "Parish Property" account should be debited with all rents and monies received, and credited by all repairs, and the balance must be carried to the private rate account.

The "Loans and Repayments" account should consist, on the debtor side, of the advances made to poor persons, and on the creditor side, of the money received or recovered in repayment.

The "Registration" account should be debited, with all the shillings and payments received from voters and purchasers of lists of voters, and credited with the expenses attending the registration.

The "Bastardy" account should be debited with monies received from the fathers or mothers of bastard children, and credited with monies paid on account of bastards.

5. "The Quarterly Balance Sheet" is required to be made and exhibited to the auditor by the rules and regulations of the Commissioners. With reference to this account it is only necessary to say, in addition to what the Commissioners have already directed in their previous rules, that the parish officers must insert the particulars of the whole of their receipts and disbursements on behalf of the parish, under the titles of account used in the receipt and payment book. And at the foot of the sheet, but separate from it, they must enter, on the one side, an account of so much of the rates and other monies due to their parish as remains uncollected, and all other claims of the parish; and on the opposite side, an account of all the liabilities and contingent claims against the parish not yet paid.

And this latter provision, it will be proper for them to know, is intended as much for their own benefit as for that of the rate-payers, as the officers, by leaving unnoticed accounts which belong to their year of office, may render themselves liable to pay them.

6. The "Terrier and Inventory of Parish Property" is an account

of all the estates, property, funds and chattels belonging to the parish, and applicable to the benefit of the poor thereof. This is required to be rendered every year, in order to include all the property or articles which may be newly acquired on behalf of the poor in the course of the year, as well as to show what has been disposed of.

II. Instructions to the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

The accounts to be kept by this officer are the general accounts of the Union. The cash accounts, which are the most complex and important, are to be contained in the minute book and the ledger; and with a view to illustrate the directions here given, and to furnish a detailed example of the mode in which these books are required to be kept, a specimen of the cash accounts of a small Union of 10 parishes is hereto subjoined.

1. The "Minute Book" is required to be kept, by the former rules and regulations of the Commissioners, as a record of the proceedings of the board of guardians.

In this will therefore be recorded, in the way of narrative or statement, all the orders, payments, and other money matters transacted at the weekly or other meetings of the board, in the order of time in which those meetings were held. These entries must afterwards be posted to the ledger, and a note of reference made in the margin of the page to the folio in the ledger, to which they are so carried.

As this book is the authority and original, from which all the items of the ledger are taken, the clerk must be careful that nothing be omitted which was transacted at the meeting of the board, and nothing inserted which was not.

There may possibly be some danger of misplacing or omitting items in the ledger, but the order in which the minute book is kept (namely, that of time) will serve as a corrective; and if the entries are here faithfully made, and a reference is given to the folios in the ledger to which those entries are carried, the chances of error will be greatly diminished; and correction is always attainable, if it should occur.

The minutes of the meetings are directed to be signed by the chairman before he quits the chair, and nothing should be added after they are so signed; the entries should be in plain language, as full as they conveniently can be made, completed at once, and the memory should not be trusted to supply deficiencies or to correct errors.

2. The "Ledger." The titles or heads of account in the ledger have been selected in reference to the sources of income, the depository, and the several distinct outlets of the expenditure of the Union, and with the intention of cross or doubly entering under these heads all its receipts and payments.

The chief and usual source of income consists of the contributions from the several parishes in the Union. The "Parochial Contribution" is therefore the first head of account.

The contributions are paid by the parishes to the treasurer, who is the banker or depository of the Union; upon whom, also, cheques for all payments made by the guardians of the Union are given. The "Treasurer of the Union" is therefore another head of account.

The expenditure heads of account are, "In-Maintenance Charges," "Out-Relief Charges," and "Union Establishment or Common Charges," which are distinguished from each other, as well by their

nature, as by the different principles on which the contributions raised to meet them are calculated. Thus the contributions to the "In-Maintenance Charges" are estimated upon the number of paupers which the several parishes will send to be maintained in the workhouse of the Union; and under this head of account will be included the expense of provisions, clothing, fuel, soap, candles, burials, extra medical relief, and apprenticeships of paupers in the workhouse.

The "Out-Relief Charges" are the amount of money or value of articles which are actually distributed among the out-door paupers of the several parishes.

The contributions to the "Establishment or Union Charges" are to be calculated upon the average of the assessments of several parishes; and, under this head of account, will be included the rent of any workhouse, or the interest of any incumbrances thereon, the amount of salaries, costs of repairs, insurance, furniture and utensils, stamps, taxes, school and account books, printing, stationery, advertisements, law charges, the journeys of the master of the workhouse, and other miscellaneous expenses affecting the parishes in common and the Union generally.

To the foregoing heads of account is also to be added another, namely, the "Labour Account," which is sometimes one of profit and income, and sometimes one of loss and expense.

The gross total of expenditure is, at the end of every quarter, to be divided among the several parishes, in an account called the "Appropriation Account," opposite to that of "Contribution."

The general heads of account may therefore be thus enumerated:—
1. Parochial Account of Contribution and Appropriation. 2. Treasurer of the Union. 3. In-Maintenance Charges. 4. Out-Relief Charges. 5. Establishment Charges. 6. Labour Account.

The whole of these heads of accounts are to be sub-divided into minor titles, under which the various items may be distributed.

Thus the "Contribution and Appropriation Account" is so sub-divided as to specify the various parishes of the Union, and to exhibit at one view the whole of their respective payments and charges.

The "Out-Relief Charges" may be divided, and be made to correspond with the several parishes whose paupers were relieved, and may be classed according to the receipts of the several officers who relieved them.

The "In-Maintenance Charges Account" may be classed into the accounts for the different kinds of provisions, clothing, &c., supplied to the workhouse.

The "Establishment Charges Account" may be classed as salaries, repairs, stationery, &c.

This subdivision may be conveniently effected by assigning parts of each page of the ledger, containing the principal account, to the several minor titles, which may be printed or written beforehand: an expedient which will prevent any doubt or perplexity as to the place which any item ought to occupy.

It will not be necessary to enter in the ledger, separately, the accounts of the several tradesmen, salaried officers, &c. employed, as all the details will be exhibited under the principal account; and if the names of the tradesmen, &c., are inserted in the index to the ledger, the reference will be easily made. Such private accounts may however be

kept, and if so, they would be the same as those under the principal heads, except that the debtor items would be transferred to the creditor side, and *vice versa*.

The entries should be detailed so that they may be readily understood by any guardian or auditor who consults the book, and not entered under general names or in total sums.

With a view to enable the guardians to understand the entries without making inquiries, it will be requisite, and will save trouble, to make every entry in detail, or with a detailed specimen of each charge. Thus, such entries as

Flour	. . . . .	£216
Shoes	. . . . .	£ 13

must not be made, but

120 sacks of thirds flour, at 36s. per sack . . . £216

100 pairs of shoes	{ 50 Men's, at 3s. 6d. 20 Boys', at 2s. 30 Women's, at 1s. 6d. }	. . . £ 13
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In making these detailed entries, the terms used by the tradesmen in their bills of parcels must be copied; and where the items are not thus described in detail in the bills of parcels, the full detailed description must be required to be given: so also in filling up the quarterly abstract of accounts, the terms denoting the qualities of the articles used should be inserted in the statement of the average contract prices of the chief articles consumed during the quarter.

Every fact of receipt or payment, or cheque for payment, must be exhibited under its appropriate date or title, and it is not to be considered sufficient to represent the result of two different though counter-vailing facts, by stating the quotient, or difference between the two.

If, on actual payment of any bill or demand ordered to be paid, discount should be allowed, or any deduction or abatement made, or any error admitted, so as to affect the amount with which the Union has been previously charged, such discount, &c., should be entered on the opposite side of the account.

All cheques drawn for payments on account of the Union should, on the face of them, contain a notice of the Order V. sec. 3, or the cheque should be drawn "payable only during the current quarter."

The accounts of the Union are to be balanced quarterly, and new pages are then to be opened in the ledger for the next quarter.

The subjoined specimen, though on a small scale, may be easily extended to a larger Union. If a Union contain several workhouses, it will be proper to keep distinct heads of account for maintenance in each. The simplest and most satisfactory mode of computing the cost of maintenance against each parish is, to take the number of days their paupers collectively have been kept in the house, and so to charge them with a relative proportion of the expense at so much per head per day.

3. The "Order Cheque-Book," the "Provisions and Clothing Cheque-Books," and the "Inventory Book," and the "Estimate Book." The use and mode of keeping these books are so apparent as to render explanation unnecessary.

The "Quarterly Abstracts" must be prepared with the greatest care; the Union Abstract will be examined by the board of guardians, and be left open to public inspection; and both must be submitted to the

auditor, who will compare them with the books of accounts, certify their accuracy in the form directed, and forward them under cover, addressed to the "Poor Law Commissioners, London."

The part of the quarterly abstract of the Union accounts, setting forth the number and description of the paupers relieved, must be filled up from the "Pauper Description List;" and no pauper must be enumerated more than once, however often he may have been relieved during the quarter. In the form are given three blank columns, in which must be inserted the names and numbers of any classes of paupers not designated by any of the headings of the preceding columns. Where there are more than three classes of paupers, not already designated in the preceding columns, the names of the next of the largest classes not designated should be inserted in the blank spaces. When, however, charges occur for cases of vagrancy within the Union, one of the blank columns should be appropriated to cases of that class, however small the number. In the statement of the average weekly cost per head of paupers, the term "General Charges" will include all charges whatsoever, which are not for food or clothing.

The "Statement of Receipt and Expenditure" is to be prepared and given to the officers of the several parishes in the Union. In large Unions it will be proper to print this and the quarterly abstracts for distribution among the rate-payers. If the quarterly abstracts should be printed, a printed copy, signed by the auditor, should be forwarded to the Commissioners instead of a written statement.

Besides the accounts before enumerated, such minor books as may be convenient, or as the board of guardians may direct, may be kept; for instance, a "Cheque-Book for Admissions and Discharges into and from the Workhouse;" a "Pass Book, with the Treasurer;" the "Register of Parish Apprentices," required to be kept by the Act of 42nd Geo. III., and any other of obvious utility.

III. *Instructions to the Master of the Workhouse.*

On referring to the workhouse regulations issued on the formation of the Union, the master of the workhouse will observe that he is required to keep an "Admission and Discharge Book," and a "Store Account Book," of which books forms are appended to those regulations similar to those numbered in the schedules of the present order; and that, by the same regulations, he is also required to keep "Registers of Births and Deaths," and a "Work Book," of which books forms are now for the first time given.

In the book first mentioned, children born and persons dying must be entered as admitted or discharged; and on the removal of a pauper to another parish the time and other particulars of the removal should be stated.

The "Provisions Expenditure Book" is intended to show the quantity of provisions consumed in the house, or given out of the house to the relieving officer. The bills of parcels of the tradesmen who supply the house with the several commodities so consumed, must be indorsed with the date of the receipt, and handed over every week to the clerk, either as they are received, or at the end of the week, as the guardians may direct.

The "Clothing Expenditure Book." The object of this book, and the mode of keeping it, correspond with the foregoing.

The "In-door Labour Book." In workhouses, in which any manufactory is carried on, a separate book should be kept for that branch of labour.

The whole of these books must be constantly open to the inspection of the guardians and their clerk, and must be laid before the board at their weekly or other meetings.

IV. Instructions to the Relieving Officer.

The relieving officer's books are intended to exhibit the state of out-paupers in the district for which they are appointed.

The "Pauper Description Book." So many minute though most important details are required to be entered in this book, that it must be made and kept with the greatest care. The instructions attached to the book must be strictly attended to.

The "Out-Relief Book." It is intended for the officer to carry this book with him on going his rounds; and in it he should insert all applications for relief, and such particulars respecting the party applying as he may learn on personally making the examination into the case, which is required to be made by the regulations of the Commissioners. If no relief should be allowed by the board, the columns assigned for that purpose will be suffered to remain blank. If such relief be allowed, the chairman, or some other of the members of the board, will sign his initials opposite the name in the column set apart for that purpose. In the column for remarks, the others may insert such other observations respecting the persons applying for, and the paupers receiving relief, as to emigration, employment, habits, &c., and whether any relief is obtained from other funds, as may tend to exhibit their true situation and character.

Where the case upon which the board of guardians have made an order for relief has become so changed as to render it probable that, had they been aware of the altered circumstances, they would have made an order for a less amount of relief, or no relief whatsoever; as, where the pauper obtains unexpected aid or employment, where imposture is discovered, it will be the duty of the relieving officer to give, according to circumstances, a less amount of relief than the amount ordered, or withhold it altogether. The amount of relief given, as compared with the amount ordered, will, in these and other cases, be specified in this book.

From this book the officer will be enabled to make up the "Pauper Description Book," and will fill up the proper column with the amount of relief allowed; and when paid will make, opposite to it, some note of reference to indicate that fact.

A page or more of the book should be assigned to each parish in the district, so as to keep the names of the paupers belonging to each parish together.

The clerk to the board of guardians should preserve a copy, in a book kept for the purpose, of the different allowance of out-relief granted by the board of guardians.

At the end of the week the officer should extract from the relief book the sums paid to the paupers of each parish, and enter the amount in the "Receipt and Expenditure Book," and the "Weekly Abstract of Out-relief," which is to be placed before the board of Guardians at their weekly meetings, to enable them to charge the several parishes with the amounts disbursed to their respective paupers.

The "Receipt and Expenditure Book." In this book will be inserted the amount of all the cash, and the value and quantity of other stores which the relieving officer receives from the treasurer, the contractor, the master of the workhouse, &c., and at the end of the week he is to extract the amount or value dispensed on behalf of each parish.

The "Weekly Abstract of Out-door Relief" is the account of every pauper relieved, to be exhibited weekly at the board of guardians; and at the end of the quarter the amount of relief given to each individual is inserted in the column assigned to the parish to which he belongs, and the amount of each column, when added up, shows the total demand for out-relief charges against each parish.

The "Out-door Labour Book" is similar in its use and character to the "In-door Labour Book," required to be kept by the master of the workhouse.

As in the case of the master of the workhouse, the whole of these books must be open to the inspection of the guardians and their clerk, and be submitted to the board at their weekly or other meetings.

Signed, by order of the Board,

EDWIN CHADWICK,

Secretary to the Poor Law Commission.

The following is a Specimen of One Quarter's Accounts of a small Union kept on the proposed Plan.

MINUTE BOOK.

——— Union, 25th March, 1835.

Folio 1.

Monthly Meeting.—Present, &c.

The guardians assessed the several parishes of the Union at the sums set opposite their respective names in the columns here underwritten. The sums in the second column for the estimated expenses of in-maintenance and out-relief to their paupers for the ensuing quarter, and the sums in the third column as their proportions (calculated in their assessments stated in the first column) of the estimated charges of the establishment.

	Assessment.	In-Maintenance and Out-Relief.	Establishment.	TOTALS.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bedminster .	400	75 17 8	14 2 4	90 0 0
Clifton . .	180	33 13 0	6 7 0	40 0 0
St. George .	600	128 16 6	21 3 6	150 0 0
Horfield . .	340	68 0 0	12 0 0	80 0 0
St. James . .	200	37 18 10	7 1 2	45 0 0
St. Jacob . .	380	76 11 9	13 8 3	90 0 0
St. Philip . .	320	68 14 1	11 5 11	80 0 0
Stapleton . .	160	29 7 0	5 13 0	35 0 0
Westbury . .	700	135 5 10	24 14 2	160 0 0
Whitchurch .	800	151 15 4	28 4 8	180 0 0

Lodger, fo. 1.
Lodger, fo. 4.

Orders for payment to the treasurer, on or before the 6th of April next, of the contributions of their total estimated expenses, were accordingly made upon the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes, and signed by the chairman, *A. B.*, and Messrs. *C. D.* and *E. F.*; and it was directed that such orders should be entered short in the Parochial Contribution Account in the ledger.

A cheque upon the treasurer for 25*l.* was drawn in favour of *J. Williams*, the relieving officer, for current charges, and the Out-Relief Charges Account was directed to be credited therewith.

The guardians ordered out-relief to be given to divers paupers, as per Relief Book, signed with the chairman's initials.

24th of April, 1835.

Lodger, fo. 1 and 2.

Folio 2.

It appearing by the Treasurer's Book, that the following parishes had paid, on the 6th of April, their contributions called for on the 25th of March, it was directed that the entries then made in the Parochial Contribution Account in the ledger, be now filled up with dates and sums, and the Treasurer's Account be debited accordingly:—

Bedminster.	St. Jacob.
Clifton.	Stapleton.
Horfield.	Westbury.
St. James.	Whitchurch.

The Treasurer's Account to be credited with the cheque cashed to *J. Williams*, the relieving officer.

The clerk was directed to apply to the overseers of *St. George* and *St. Philip* for the immediate payment to the treasurer of their contributions.

Lodger, fo. 4.

The Relieving Officer's Book was examined, and found correct; and it appearing thereby that the relieving officer had paid the following sums to paupers as out-relief, under the orders of the board of guardians, the account of "Out-Relief Charges" in the ledger against the parishes to which the paupers severally belong, was directed to be debited therewith:—

	£.	s.	d.
Bedminster	2	3	6
Clifton	1	15	0
St. George	4	0	0
Horfield	0	18	6
St. Philip	1	2	6
Westbury	3	9	0
Whitchurch	2	18	6
	<u>£16</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>

Folio 3.

Mr. White, the clerk, was directed to purchase proper account books, pens, and other stationery, and printed forms, and to insert advertisements for the supply of the workhouse, by contract, in the county, and two London newspapers.

Ledger, fo. 3. The master of the workhouse was authorized to purchase out of the proceeds certain implements and materials for the use of the labouring paupers, as per In-Door Labour Book.

The following bills were laid before the board, and having been examined and found correct, the amounts were ordered to be carried to the debit of the In-Maintenance Charges in the ledger:

	£.	s.	d.
J. Gordon, bread	106	0	0
J. Wastie, meat	60	0	0
H. Harben, cheese, &c.	12	10	0
T. Wood, meal, &c.	20	0	0

28th of May, 1835.

Folio 4.

Ledger, fo. 1 and 2. It appearing by the Treasurer's Book that the parishes of St. George and St. Philip had paid their contributions on the 26th of April, it was directed that the same be entered as paid in the Parochial Contribution Account, and that the Treasurer's Account be debited therewith.

Ledger, fo. 4. The Relief Book was examined and found correct, and the amount distributed was ordered to be carried to the debit of the Out-Relief Charges Account in the ledger, opposite the parishes to which the paupers severally belong:—

	£.	s.	d.
Bedminster	2	15	0
Clifton	0	18	0
St. George	2	1	0
St. James	1	5	0
St. Jacob	2	8	0
St. Philip	5	0	0
Stapleton	0	7	6
Westbury	1	3	0
	£15	17	6

Folio 5.

Ledger, fo. 3. The following tradesmen's bills were examined, and the amounts ordered to be carried to the debit of the In-Maintenance Charges Account in the ledger:—

	£.	s.	d.
J. Gordon, bread, &c.	96	8	0
J. Wastie, meat	56	0	0
S. Jones, potatoes	38	0	0
E. Webb, soap and candles	18	0	0
E. Hancorn, coals	34	0	0

Ledge, fo. 3. Led. fo. 4. Led. fo. 5.

Cheques on the Treasurer were given for the accounts of Jones, Hancorn, and Webb. The In-Maintenance Charges Account to be credited therewith.

A cheque was also given for 25*l.* in favour of the relieving officer, for current charges. The Out-Relief Charges Account to be credited therewith.

A cheque was also given for the sum of 10*l.* due to the Sun Fire Office, for insurance of the workhouse and stores; and it was directed that the Establishment Charges Account should be debited with the demand, and credited with the payment.

The following bills for the account books, pens, stationery, and printed forms purchased, and the advertisements inserted by the clerk, pursuant to the orders of the last meeting :—

	£.	s.	d.
C. Knight, account books	5	0	0
T. Dean, printing	15	0	0
W. Cox, advertisements	1	15	0

They were examined, and found correct.

The account of the Establishment Charges to be debited therewith.

24th June, 1835.

Folio 6.

By the Relieving Officer's Book, it appeared that he had distributed to out-door paupers, in the several parishes of the Union, the sums set opposite their names :—

	£.	s.	d.
Bedminster	1	16	0
Clifton	2	5	0
St. George	3	4	0
Horfield	2	17	0
St. James	3	7	0
St. Jacob	4	6	0
St. Philip	2	8	0
Stapleton	1	4	0
Westbury	3	2	0
Whitchurch	2	14	0
	£. 27	3	0

Ledge, fo. 4.

The account of Out-relief Charges in the ledger was directed to be debited therewith accordingly.

Folio 7.

The following tradesmen's bills for the month having been examined, and found correct, the In-Maintenance Account was ordered to be debited therewith :—

	£.	s.	d.
J. Wastie, meat	72	0	0
J. Gordon, bread	123	5	0
H. Harben, cheese	7	5	0

Ledge, fo. 3.

	£.	s.	d.
T. Wood, meal	41	8	0
C. Blythe, cloth	50	0	0
A. Gardner, grocery	40	0	0

were also examined, and found correct.

Cheques were signed for payment of the under-mentioned bills:—

	£.	s.	d.
J. Wastie	188	0	0
J. Gordon	325	13	0
T. Wood	61	8	0
H. Harben	19	15	0
A. Gardner	40	0	0
C. Blythe	50	0	0

and the payments were directed to be carried to the credit of the In-Maintenance Account.

Cheques were also signed for the payment of the under-mentioned salaries, for the quarter ending 24th June.

	£.	s.	d.
J. Wilson, master, one quarter, at 80 <i>l.</i> per year	20	0	0
E. Wilson, matron, — 24 <i>l.</i>	—	6	0
J. Crick, schoolmaster, — 32 <i>l.</i>	—	8	0
Jane Crick, schoolmistress — 20 <i>l.</i>	—	5	0
T. Smith, porter, — 20 <i>l.</i>	—	5	0
J. White, clerk, — 80 <i>l.</i>	—	20	0
J. Williams, relieving officer— 80 <i>l.</i>	—	20	0
Rev. E. Scott, chaplain, — 40 <i>l.</i>	—	10	0
W. Blount, auditor, — 20 <i>l.</i>	—	5	0
E. Bryant, surgeon, — 100 <i>l.</i>	—	25	0

Cheques for the following sums were also given:—

C. Heath, bricklayer	12	0	0
M. Evans, carpenter	8	0	0
H. Cooper, for utensils	5	10	0
J. Rawlings, for furniture	20	0	0
W. Black, ironmonger	10	0	0
C. Knight, for account books	5	0	0
T. Dean, for printing	15	0	0
W. Cox, for advertisements	1	15	0

and the Establishment Charges Account in the ledger was ordered to be credited with the payments.

Folio 8.

The accounts of the Clerk's Bills of Disbursements on account of the Union were as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Stamps	4	0	0
Magistrates' fees	3	0	0
Law expenses	13	0	0
Pens, ink, and paper	0	5	0

£20 5 0

These bills were examined and found correct, and a cheque was given for the amount. The Establishment Charges Account to be debited with the bills, and credited with the payment.

Ledge, fol. 1 and 2.

The relieving officer received a cheque on the treasurer for 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, being the amount of money he had disbursed in out-relief above what he had received. The account of Out-relief Charges to be credited therewith.

It appearing by the Labour Books for the quarter, that the net returns upon in-door and out-door labour amount to 87*l.* 10*s.*, ordered that this sum be paid to the treasurer, and the amount carried to the debit of the Parochial Contribution Account, to countervail the Establishment Charges.

Folio 9.

The common charges for the Establishment of the Union amounted to 231*l.* 10*s.*, which being reduced by the above balance on the Labour Account, left 144*l.*, the sum assessed upon and paid by the several parishes of the Union on the estimate.

The number of paupers maintained in the house, for the quarter ending the 24th instant, as per book, was 408, and the cost of maintenance, clothing, fuel, &c., was 774*l.* 16*s.* Of these paupers the number belonging to the several parishes are set opposite their names in the first column below. According to this number the above amount was assessed upon the several parishes, and ordered to be carried to the credit of the Appropriation Account against them in the ledger, as in the second column below.

It also appeared that the out-relief given during the quarter to the paupers of the several parishes amounted to the sums set opposite the names of those parishes in the third column.

And it appeared that the contributions of the several parishes of the Union (except St. George) fell short of the expenses incurred for in-maintenance and out-relief on their behalf, by the following sums set opposite their names in the fourth column:—

	Number of Poor.	In-Maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Deficiency.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bedminster . . .	40	75 19 3	6 14 6	6 16 1
Clifton	18	34 3 8	4 18 0	5 8 8
St. George . . .	60	113 19 10	9 5 0	0 0 0
Horfield	34	64 11 4	3 15 6	0 6 10
St. James	20	37 19 7	4 12 0	4 12 9
St. Jacob	38	72 3 3	6 14 0	2 5 6
St. Philip	32	60 15 4	8 10 6	0 11 9
Stapleton	16	80 7 8	1 11 6	2 12 2
Westbury	70	132 18 8	7 14 0	5 6 10
Whitchurch . . .	80	151 18 5	5 12 6	5 15 7
		£ 774 16 0	59 7 6	—

Ledger, fol. 1.

Supplemental orders upon the churchwardens and overseers of those parishes were therefore signed by the chairman, *A.B.*, and Messrs. *C.D.* and *E.F.*, for payment to the treasurer of the several sums deficient on or before the 26th instant, and directed to be entered short in the Parochial Contribution Account.

And it appearing that there remained a balance in excess, due to the parish of St. George, of 5*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, it was directed to be carried to the Contribution Account of that parish for the next quarter.

28th of June, 1835.

Ledger, fol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Folio 10.

The quarterly accounts in the books were finally examined. The Contribution and Treasurer Account was ordered to be debited with the several sums ordered supplementally at the last meeting, and since received by the treasurer, and the Treasurer's, and In-maintenance, Out-relief and Establishment Charges Account, to be credited with the cheques paid in discharge of the several accounts ordered to be paid at the last meeting.

LEDGER.

THE PAROCHIAL ACCOUNT.

Fo. 1. Dr. Contribution.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
	1835.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1	April 6	Bedminster.	To contribution, ordered March 25	90 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	6 16 1
				96 16 1
1	April 6	Clifton.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	40 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	5 8 8
				45 8 8
1	April 6	St. George.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	150 0 0
1	April 6	Horfield.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	80 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	0 6 10
				80 6 10
1	April 6	St. James.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	45 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	4 12 9
				49 12 9
1	April 6	St. Jacob.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	90 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	2 5 6
				92 5 6
1	April 6	St. Philip.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	80 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	0 11 9
				80 11 9
1	April 6	Staple-ton.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	35 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	2 12 2
				37 12 2
1	April 6	West-bury.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	160 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	5 6 10
				165 6 10
1	April 6	Whit-church.	To Contribution, ordered March 25	180 0 0
9	June 26		To ditto, ordered June 24	5 15 7
				185 15 7
		Union.	To Net Returns on Labour	87 10 0

LEDGER.
THE PAROCHIAL ACCOUNT.
 Appropriation. C^t. Fo. 1.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
9	1835. June 24	..	By In-Maintenance, 40 Paupers	£. s. d. £. s. d.
		..	By Out-Relief	75 19 3
		..	Towards Establishment	6 14 6
		..	By In-Maintenance, 18 Paupers	14 2 4
		..	By Out-Relief	96 16 1
		..	Towards Establishment	34 3 8
		..	By In-Maintenance, 60 Paupers	4 18 0
		..	By Out-Relief	6 7 0
		..	Towards Establishment	45 8 8
		..	By Balance with Treasurer	113 18 10
		..	By In-Maintenance, 34 Paupers	9 5 0
		..	By Out-Relief	21 3 6
		..	Towards Establishment	144 7 4
		..	By In-Maintenance, 34 Paupers	5 12 8
		..	By Out-Relief	150 0 0
		..	Towards Establishment	64 11 4
		..	By In-Maintenance, 20 Paupers	3 15 6
		..	By Out-Relief	12 0 0
		..	Towards Establishment	80 6 10
		..	By In-Maintenance, 38 Paupers	37 19 7
		..	By Out-Relief	4 12 0
		..	Towards Establishment	7 1 2
		..	By In-Maintenance, 38 Paupers	49 12 9
		..	By Out-Relief	72 3 3
		..	Towards Establishment	6 14 0
		..	By In-Maintenance, 32 Paupers	13 8 3
		..	By Out-Relief	92 5 6
		..	Towards Establishment	60 15 4
		..	By In-Maintenance, 16 Paupers	8 10 6
		..	By Out-Relief	11 5 11
		..	Towards Establishment	80 11 9
		..	By In-Maintenance, 70 Paupers	30 7 8
		..	By Out-Relief	1 11 6
		..	Towards Establishment	5 13 0
		..	By In-Maintenance, 80 Paupers	37 12 2
		..	By Out-Relief	132 18 8
		..	Towards Establishment	7 14 0
		..	By In-Maintenance, 80 Paupers	24 14 2
		..	By Out-Relief	165 6 10
		..	Towards Establishment	151 18 5
		..	By In-Maintenance, 80 Paupers	5 12 6
		..	By Out-Relief	28 4 8
		..	Towards Establishment	185 15 7
		..	By Residue of Establishment Charges	87 10 0

Fo. 2. Dr.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
	1835:			
2	April 6	Bedminster.	To Payment £. s. d. 96 0 0	£. s. d. 96 16 1
10	June 26		To ditto 6 16 1	
2	April 6	Clifton.	To Payment 40 0 0	45 8 8
10	June 26		To ditto 5 8 8	
2	April 6	St. George.	To Payment 150 0 0	150 0 0
2	April 6	Horfield.	To Payment 80 0 0	80 6 10
10	June 26		To ditto 0 6 10	
2	April 6	St. James.	To Payment 45 0 0	49 12 9
10	June 26		To ditto 4 12 9	
2	April 6	St. Jacob.	To Payment 90 0 0	92 5 6
10	June 26		To ditto 2 5 6	
2	April 6	St. Philip.	To Payment 80 0 0	80 11 9
10	June 26		To ditto 0 11 9	
2	April 6	Staple-ton.	To Payment 35 0 0	37 12 2
10	June 26		To ditto 2 12 2	
2	April 6	West-bury.	To Payment 160 0 0	165 6 10
10	June 26		To ditto 5 6 10	
2	April 6	Whit-church.	To Payment 180 0 0	185 15 7
10	June 26		To ditto 5 15 7	
8	June 26	Union.	To Payment on Labour Account	87 10 0
			£.	1071 6 2

THE TREASURER OF THE UNION.
Contra.

Fo. 2.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
7	1835 : June 24	In-Maintenance Charges.	Check to J. Gordon, paid £. s. d.	£. s. d.
	"		" J. Wastie " 188 0 0	
	"		" H. Harben " 19 15 0	
5	" May 28		" T. Wood " 61 8 0	
7	June 24		" T. Jones " 38 0 0	
5	May 28		" A. Gardner " 40 0 0	
7	June 24		" E. Webb " 18 0 0	
5	May 28		" C. Blythe " 50 0 0	
			" E. Hancorn " 34 0 0	
				774 16 0
7	June 24	Establishment Charges.	" J. & E. Wilson " 26 0 0	
	"		" J. & E. Crick " 13 0 0	
	"		" T. Smith " 5 0 0	
	"		" J. White " 20 0 0	
	"		" J. Williams " 20 0 0	
	"		" E. Scott " 10 0 0	
	"		" E. Bryant " 25 0 0	
	"		" W. Blount " 5 0 0	
	"		" C. Evans " 8 0 0	
5	May 28		" C. Heath " 12 0 0	
7	June 24	Out-Relief Charges.	" Sun Fire-office " 10 0 0	
	"		" C. Knight " 5 0 0	
	"		" T. Deau " 15 0 0	
8	June 24		" W. Cox " 1 15 0	
			" Clerk to Guardians " 20 5 0	
7	"		" J. Rawlings " 20 0 0	
	"		" H. Cooper " 5 10 0	
	"		" W. Black " 10 0 0	
				231 10 0
1	Mar. 24	Out-Relief Charges.	" J. Williams, Relieving Officer " 25 0 0	
5	May 28		" Ditto " 25 0 0	
8	June 24		" Ditto " 9 7 6	
				59 7 6
			Balance in hand	5 12 8
			£.	1071 6 2

IN-MAINTENANCE CHARGES.

Fo. 3. D^r.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
	1835		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
3	April 24	Bread, J. Gordon.	To Bill allowed . . . 106 0 0	
5	May 28		To ditto . . . 96 8 0	
7	June 24		To ditto . . . 123 5 0	325 13 0
3	April 24	Meat J. Waslie.	To Bill allowed . . . 60 0 0	
5	May 28		To ditto . . . 56 0 0	
7	June 24		To ditto . . . 72 0 0	188 0 0
3	April 24.	Cheese, &c. H. Harben.	To Bill allowed . . . 12 10 0	
7	June 24.		To ditto . . . 7 5 0	19 15 0
3	April 24	Meal, &c., T. Wood.	To Bill allowed . . . 20 0 0	
7	June 24		To ditto . . . 41 8 0	61 8 0
5	May 28	Potatoes, T. Jones.	To Bill allowed	38 0 0
7	June 24	Grocery, A. Gardner.	To Bill allowed	40 0 0
5	May 28	Soap and Candles, T. Webb.	To Bill allowed	18 0 0
7	June 24	Cloth, &c., T. Bythe.	To Bill allowed	50 0 0
5	May 28.	Coal, E. Hancorn.	To Bill allowed	34 0 0
			£.	774 16 0

IN-MAINTENANCE CHARGES.

Contra.

Ct.

FO. 3.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
7	1835: June 24.	..	By Check on Treasurer to J. Gordon	£. s. d. 325 13 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to J. Wastie	188 0 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to H. Harben	19 15 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to T. Wood	61 3 0
5	May 28	..	By Check on Treasurer to T. Jones	38 0 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to A. Garduer	40 0 0
5	May 28	..	By Check on Treasurer to E. Webb	18 0 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to C. Blythe	50 0 0
5	May 28	..	By Check on Treasurer to E. Hancorn	34 0 0
				£. 774 16 0

OUT-RELIEF CHARGES.

Fo. 4. D.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	£. s. d.	Totals. £. s. d.
2	1835 : April 24	Bedminster.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	2 3 6	6 14 6
4	May 28		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 15 0	
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	1 16 0	
2	April 24	Clifton.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	1 15 0	4 18 0
4	May 28		To ditto, per ditto . . .	0 18 0	
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 5 0	
2	April 24	St. George.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	4 0 0	9 5 0
4	May 28		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 1 0	
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	3 4 0	
2	April 24	Harfield.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	0 18 6	3 15 6
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 17 0	
4	May 28	St. James.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	1 5 0	4 12 0
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	3 7 0	
4	May 28	St. Jacob.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	2 8 0	6 14 0
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	4 6 0	
2	April 24	St. Philip.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	1 2 6	8 10 6
4	May 28		To ditto, per ditto . . .	5 0 0	
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 8 0	
4	May 28	Staple-ton.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	0 7 6	1 11 6
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	1 4 0	
2	April 24	Westbury.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	3 9 0	7 14 0
4	May 28		To ditto, per ditto . . .	1 3 0	
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	3 2 0	
2	April 24	Whitechurch.	To paid Out-Paupers, per J. Williams . . .	2 18 6	5 12 6
6	June 24		To ditto, per ditto . . .	2 14 0	
				£	59 7 6

ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

Fol. 5.

Dr.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account, or what Service.	Items.	Totals.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.
7	1835: June 24	Salaries: One Quarter.	To J. Wilson (Master)	20 0 0
"	"		To E. Wilson (Matron)	6 0 0
"	"		To J. Crick (School-master)	8 0 0
"	"		To E. Crick (School-mistress)	5 0 0
"	"		To T. Smith (Porter)	5 0 0
"	"		To J. White (Clerk)	20 0 0
"	"		To J. Williams (Relieving Officer)	20 0 0
"	"		To E. Scott (Chaplain)	10 0 0
"	"		To E. Bryant (Surgeon)	25 0 0
"	"		To W. Blount (Auditor)	5 0 0
				124 0 0
5	" May 28	Repairs.	To C. Evans (Carpenter)	8 0 0
			To C. Heath (Bricklayer)	12 0 0
			To Sun Fire-Office Insurance	10 0 0
				30 0 0
5	May 28	Stationery and Printing.	To C. Knight (Account Books)	5 0 0
"	"		To T. Dean (Printing)	15 0 0
"	"		To W. Cox (Advertisements)	1 15 0
8	June 24		Pens, Ink, and Paper, bought by Clerk	0 5 0
				22 0 0
7	June 24	Furniture.	To J. Rawlings (Furniture)	20 0 0
"	"		To H. Cooper (Brewing Utensils)	5 10 0
"	"		To W. Black (Ironmongery)	10 0 0
				35 10 0
8	June 24	Stamps and Law.	Stamps received from Clerk	4 0 0
"	"		Magistrates' Fees paid by Clerk	3 0 0
"	"		Law Expenses paid by Clerk	13 0 0
				20 0 0
				£. 231 10 0

ESTABLISHED CHARGES.

Contra.

Cr.

Fol. 5.

Folio in Minute Book.	Date.	On whose Account or what Service.	Items.	£. s. d.	Totals. £. s. d.
7	1835: June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to J. Wilson . . .	20 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to E. Wilson . . .	6 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to J. Crick . . .	8 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to E. Crick . . .	5 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to T. Smith . . .	5 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to J. White . . .	20 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to J. Williams . . .	20 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to E. Scott . . .	10 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to E. Bryant . . .	25 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to W. Blount . . .	5 0 0	
					124 0 0
	"	..	By ditto to C. Evans . . .	8 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to C. Heath . . .	12 0 0	
5	May 28	..	By ditto to Sun Fire-Office . . .	10 0 0	
					30 0 0
7	June 24	..	By ditto to C. Knight . . .	5 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to T. Dean . . .	15 0 0	
	"	..	By ditto to W. Cox . . .	1 15 0	
8	June 24	..	By Check to Clerk, for petty Stationery . . .	0 5 0	
					22 0 0
7	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to J. Rawlings . . .	20 0 0	
			By ditto to H. Cooper . . .	5 10 0	
			By ditto to W. Black . . .	10 0 0	
					35 10 0
8	June 24	..	By Check on Treasurer to Clerk, for Stamps, Magistrates' Fees, and Law Expenses . . .	20 0 0	
					20 0 0
				£.	231 10 0

APPENDIX (B.)

REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

— No. 1. —

REPORT from Sir FRANCIS BOND HEAD to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

Dover, 1st Aug. 1835.

Gentlemen,

HAVING now, under your directions, concluded my operations in East Kent, I will endeavour, in a very few lines, to submit to you a sketch of the state of this part of England, as it at present exists under the Poor-Law Amendment Act.

With the exception of Romney Marsh, the whole of East Kent, comprehending an area of 590 square miles, is now grouped into compact unions of parishes; these unions are all very nearly of the same size—all contain very nearly the same population—all have voluntarily adopted for their workhouse the same low, cheap, homely building—all have agreed on placing it in the centre of their respective unions—all have reduced their medical expenses very materially—and all have determined to procure bread and provisions for the poor by open contract.

As there has been very great competition, the unions have been enabled to select as their clerks and relieving officers, individuals of very great respectability; and I can truly assure you, that the guardians themselves are not only some of the largest farmers and proprietors in this part of the country, but many are men of business, possessing, besides zeal, great practical knowledge and experience.

As all these boards of guardians have one and the same object in view, it is evident that the experience each collects is forming a fund, hive or receptacle of parochial knowledge, of inestimable value to this county; and I am happy to add that a communication has spontaneously been made by two of the chairmen, to arrange some mode by which all the boards may occasionally impart to each other the results of their weekly experience, in order that a uniform system of relief may eventually pervade the whole of East Kent.

Firmly resting on the law of the land, directed, as these boards will be, by your orders and regulations; shielded from all odium; and resolutely supported, as they believe they will be, by the Government of the country, it will, I hope, be evident to you, that the poor-rates of East Kent are now guarded by powers fully competent efficiently to control their expenditure.

The pecuniary result of this new powerful arrangement is a harvest which we cannot yet hope to reap; its abundant produce, however, may not unfairly be anticipated from the clamour and opposition now raised against our unions by the little shop-keepers, by the owners as well as

by the frequenters of beer-shops, and by a variety of other classes, which it would be very painful to designate; for I can faithfully assure you, that I am daily astonished at discovering, not only how many individuals, but how many classes of people have, directly or indirectly, been abstracting profit as well as popularity from that vast and hitherto unprotected mass of money, which has been collected nominally for the support of the poor.

When first under your directions I began gradually to place the rate-receivers below the rate-payers, and below the independent labourers, it did not appear to be understood that the industry of all classes of society would be healthily excited by so honest an adjustment; the truth, however, of the theory soon became evident, even to several of the best labourers, and nothing has tended to make it more practically apparent to the good sense of the whole county, than the mutinous resistance which was fortunately offered to the operations of the earliest unions I formed.

The complaint first urged against your orders, "that relief should be given to able-bodied paupers and their families, half in bread and half in money," actually was, that by such an arrangement they (the paupers) *would receive more bread than they could possibly eat*; in fact, that they would be weaned from the beer-shops; and when not contented with uttering so unreasonable an objection, they assembled in great numbers to attack not only the relieving officers, but to insult and assault their own magistrates; when armed with clubs they dragged the independent labourers from their work, forcibly obliging them to join their gang; when they grossly insulted women who earnestly desired, for the sake of their children, to accept the bread; when they declared to one or two of the Kentish yeomen, that if they dared to interfere "they would hang them up by the heels to their own trees;" when, going a step further, they cruelly beat two gentlemen of great worth and respectability; and when, finally, they proceeded to the very brink of committing murder; such conduct explained most clearly the miserable progress of unrestrained pauperism, and advocated much more strongly than I could humbly do the necessity as well as the beneficence of the *Poor Law Amendment Act*.

Until our workhouses be completed, we have no fulcrum for elevating the independent labourer above the condition of the improvident pauper; and, consequently, as no extensive pecuniary saving can yet be effected, it might reasonably be inferred that no moral reformation could yet have been produced; the contrary, however, is indisputably the fact; and not only from many of the guardians, but from a very great number of parish-officers as well as farmers, totally unconnected with each other, I have been informed, that since the riots have been suppressed, as extraordinary, and to them an unaccountable, change is taking place in the conduct of their labourers, who appear, of their own accord, to be becoming more civil, and apparently more anxious to secure constant employment than they have ever been.

One very large proprietor lately declared to me, that this change was quite incomprehensible; and when I endeavoured to explain to him that it was because the old premium on indolence and improvidence was evidently about to be removed, he very truly observed, "*If even the shadow of the Bill can produce for us such an effect, surely what benefit we shall derive from its substance!*"

If affords me great satisfaction to be enabled to inform you, that although when I first entered this county considerable prejudice existed, yet in no instance have I had recourse to any one of the powers of the Poor Law Amendment Act. In every petty sessional division I commenced by publicly consulting the magistrates, parish-officers, and principal rate-payers; 705 of whom, out of 710, approved of, and deliberately supported me in, the arrangements I proposed. The guardians of nine extensive unions, which we had no power to divorce, gave me their consent in writing to a dissolution of their respective unions; and although we had no authority whatever to erect workhouses, yet in every one of the new unions the guardians, after mature reflection, signed a formal application for permission to build one. With respect to the important alteration I have made in the dietary of the paupers, (which, compared with that of the labourer of this county, has now ceased to be attractive,) I have great satisfaction in stating to you, that I did not substitute four bread and cheese dinners per week for meat ones, until this proposed reduction had been considered and approved of by a meeting I especially convened for the purpose, of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the eleven new unions in East Kent; indeed, in all the alterations I have made, I have freely consulted these boards of guardians, who have most gladly availed themselves of the liberty of the new Act to break the fetters of the old law; and I most deliberately declare to you, that the advantages of the change are now so self-evident to this half of the county, that it would be utterly impracticable to persuade it to return to the errors of the obsolete law; indeed I humbly submit, that nothing can be more creditable to any country, than the manly determination with which all respectable individuals cheerfully and voluntarily have thrown aside popularity and profit, the moment they clearly saw that, by doing so, they could annihilate a horrid system which they had long practically lamented and condemned.

I have, &c.

F. B. HEAD, Assist. Comm. of Poor Laws.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

—No. 2.—

REPORT from CHARLES MOTT, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

26th June, 1835.

Gentlemen,

AGREEABLY to the desire of the Board that I would report any facts which may have occurred illustrative of the results of the proceedings already taken under the authority of the Commissioners, and any other observations which I may think it important to communicate with reference to the execution of their important task; I beg to state that the results can hardly be expected to show themselves sufficiently clearly or satisfactorily to the Legislature, until the new measure has been in operation the first parochial year, that is to say, from Easter, 1835, to Easter, 1836. Nevertheless, the effects in some districts, and the facts brought to light, are already so important and striking as to encourage

a belief that the benefits likely to result, not only to the rate-payers, but to the poor themselves, will equal the most sanguine expectations of the advocates of the new law.

The power given to the Assistant Commissioners of examining all parochial books and accounts has enabled me to speak with a degree of certainty as to the ultimate effects in some districts; but as the particulars of mismanagement that have come under my notice, and from which I have been enabled to form this conclusion, have been obtained principally from examinations in many parishes and in several counties, my report will necessarily consist of a simple relation of unconnected facts.

The heavy amount of poor-rates raised and distributed in some parishes, (agricultural parishes particularly,) as compared with others of equal size in population and acreage, may be traced to speculation and bad management, almost exclusively.

In Gloucestershire, the poor-rates for the county average 8s. 11d. per head on the population; and here the office of overseer is generally filled by a respectable farmer, and amongst the whole number of parish accounts which I examined, I do not recollect seeing a charge of a single shilling having the appearance of speculation, or that might not have been fairly passed under the strictest audit. In Wiltshire, the average cost per head is 16s. 7d., and here speculation and bad management show themselves; whilst in Suffolk, where the poor-rates are enormously heavy, (in some parishes 40s. per head, and in whole districts averaging near 30s. per head on the population,) every species of trickery is developed by an examination; charges the most barefaced and inconsistent are submitted to by the farmers and other rate-payers, and the office of overseer is generally filled by a much less respectable class of persons.

In some of the hundreds of Suffolk, the entire Poor-Law management is based in fraud and supported by perjury and deception. In the incorporated hundred of Blything, for example, the mode adopted of distributing the poor-rates is confused and ruinous in the extreme.

The board is aware that the general charges for the management of the hundred is apportioned by an average, regulated by the amount of the whole cost of the poor as passed by each parish through the corporation books, so that if any parish or parishes conceal the just amount of their expenditure from the corporation, it operates as an injustice to other parishes from which correct returns are made. It has long been notorious that false returns are made by some parishes, but no person has had the least idea that the deceptive practice had prevailed to such an extent as has been found to exist.

The sums passed through the corporation books as the whole cost of the poor for the 46 parishes, amounted to 11,295*l.* per year, whilst in the accounts of the separate parishes, which came under my examination, the amount expended for the poor, exclusive of county-rates, overseers' salaries, and other charges, has for three years averaged 20,288*l.*

A practice has arisen in many parishes, and has been carried to such a dangerous and ruinous extent, that if it is not immediately put a stop to, will lead to incalculable mischief.

I allude to the surveyors' rates. Knowing the objections that have been made to labour-rates for the employment of the able-bodied poor, and encouraged perhaps by the benefit to be derived from lessening th

average by keeping the actual amount of the expenditure of the poor-rate from the corporation-books, a custom has prevailed of transferring the charge of maintaining the abled-bodied labourer from the poor-rate to the surveyor's rate. The surveyor's rate can only be obtained by the parties making affidavit that the money is wanted for repairing the roads, bridges, &c. in the parish; and after having expended in this way on the poor the utmost amount they can raise, (the surveyor's rate being limited to 2s. 6d. in the pound per year,) the balance is charged to the poor-rate; and it is no uncommon thing to find 40*l.* or 50*l.* in a parish book as balance of surveyors' accounts, and it is only where those amounts are charged that I could detect the practice, for when the amount raised by the surveyor's rate is sufficient to meet the extra charge for the able-bodied labourers, the account does not appear in the books at all.

In one parish I found that several acres of ground had been hired, and a man engaged at a salary of 40*l.* per year to look after the pauper labourers employed, by the money raised by the surveyor's rate. And I have reason to believe that the amount I have stated, namely, 20,288*l.* falls far short of the actual cost of the poor of the hundred.

Notwithstanding the hundred of Blything has an establishment certainly equal to any place in England, capable of holding above 1000 paupers, with seldom more than a fourth part of that number in it, some of the parishes have hired cottages at a great expense for their poor; and indeed this practice prevails in most of the other incorporated hundreds, so that the impositions and mal-practices, attended by all their frightful consequences, exist in Suffolk in a sort of compound ratio. An extraordinary custom prevails in this district of paying the assessors and collectors of the King's taxes for their journeys and expenses. There is scarcely a parish in Blything hundred where charges of this description are not made five or six times each year: "Paid surveyor, journey to Halesworth," or "Yoxford," 5*s.* or 10*s.* each time; and the overseer of one parish, who is also collector and assessor for the King's taxes, and constable as well as assistant overseer, not only charges to the poor-rate his journeys and attendances as assessor, but for his journeys as collector to pay the taxes into the hands of the receiver; so that the rate-payers are not only subject to be surcharged by their assessors and collectors of the King's taxes, but they quietly submit to pay them for the trouble they have in surcharging them.

In the parish of Southwold, in this hundred, the misapplication of the poor-rate is gross and extensive. The corporation, having wasted their funds in litigation and law-charges, have for some years had a considerable portion of their corporate expenses paid out of the poor-rate. There is a man employed, and an expense of about 100*l.* a year incurred for his salary and the labourers employed on the corporation lands. The constables' expenses, and the gaoi charges, and the expenses of the coroner, are also charged to the poor-rate.

It is true that I did not find any white-bait dinners or tavern-bills of any large individual amount, but there are few parishes where public-house expenses are not incurred to a considerable extent, which in the aggregate would rival in amount the champagne and rose-water dinners of the mismanaged London parishes; and from a fair estimate of these charges in a great number of parishes, the amount thus incurred for this county of Suffolk only, is not less than 3000*l.* per annum.

I was enabled to select about 900*l.* paid yearly to the assistant overseers, as salaries, journeys, &c. for the hundred of Blything alone; and from the confused way in which some of the accounts were kept, there is little doubt but these charges collectively exceed 1000*l.*; the surgeons are not paid less than 700*l.*; so that in these two items alone there will certainly be a saving of 1000*l.* per year.

In fact, this boasted hundred management of Blything, so perfect in theory, is, in practice, the most disgraceful and deceptive that can be conceived; every possible degree of petty fraud has crept into the individual parish accounts, varying in mode and amount in each parish according to the degree of ability of those by whom they were introduced, until the whole system is a jumble of different modes and practices, which no individual exertions, however well intended, could remedy or alter.

From this teally painful description of the mismanagement in the hundred of Blything, it is a great relief to be enabled to report on the adjoining well-conducted hundred of Mutford and Lothingland. In this hundred, like that of Blything, the twenty-five parishes of which the hundred is composed are incorporated for the relief of the poor, having one common workhouse, and managed by a similar constitution of directors and guardians; but the results are so different, (the cost of Blything being 20*s.* per head on the population, whilst the Mutford and Lothingland is only 5*s.* per head,) that it is difficult to believe they were designed for the same purpose: indeed, the whole system of management in the Mutford and Lothingland hundred, as compared with the confused modes adopted in the other hundreds of Suffolk, is so creditable to the directors and guardians of the poor, that I have great pleasure in stating some of their regulations to the Board.

There is a remarkable jealousy shown in some of the other hundreds when the management of Mutford and Lothingland is alluded to. Some of the guardians of the other hundreds will not admit that the parochial affairs are better managed in Mutford and Lothingland, and attribute the small amount of poor's rate in that hundred to the possession of some supposed local advantages; but the source from which the benefits spring is too plain to be mistaken by those who have paid the least attention to it.

The entire management and control of the expenditure of the poor's rate is vested in the board of directors and guardians, in place of being left, as in the other hundreds, to the discretion and caprice of individual officers of each parish. No speculation can exist; no unnecessary outlay or expenditure, even through ignorance, can be made by the officers of the different parishes; any sum paid contrary to the direction of the board, for the first time, is deducted from the officer's accounts; if repeated, for the second offence, the officer is fined for neglect of his orders.

The directors here follow up completely the intentions of the act of incorporation, and such precautions are taken as insure the perfect working of the system.

When a vacancy occurs for a director, it is filled up by ballot at the quarterly meeting. No influence is allowed to prevail; no matter what rank or station he may hold in society, the person to be chosen must have qualified himself for a director by having first served twelve

months as an acting guardian. The appointment of guardian is not merely nominal; the guardian must have his regular drilling at the weekly meetings. Five are named as a rota, and three must always be present when any business is transacted—one director and two guardians. Non-attendance subjects the directors to a fine of 20s., and the guardians to 10s.; if three are not present, the whole five are fined, and the fines are strictly enforced. No relief is allowed to paupers on their own application to the board; the application must be made in the presence of the overseer. The overseers are not compelled to pay attention to any application, (except in case of urgent necessity,) unless it is made some time on or before the day previous to the weekly meeting of guardians; they are thus enabled to make inquiry into every case, in order to answer any questions the guardians may put to them. If a pauper applies to an overseer, and the overseer neglects to attend the committee to explain the case, the magistrates fine the overseer 5*l.* under the local Act.

Such overseers as attend are called in one at a time, their separate books of relief are severely scrutinized, and the expenditure of each shilling having undergone the strictest investigation, receives approval by the signatures of the guardians present. These sums, and these sums only, are allowed in their quarterly accounts.

The guardians never allow any pensions or arrears of relief to be paid; it must be allowed and received weekly. No incidental charges are suffered unless sanctioned by the meeting, and approved and certified by the signature of the chairman. Two small bills, amounting together to 10*s.* 2*d.*, one of them for repairing the wooden leg of one of the paupers of a parish in the hundred, were presented at a meeting which I attended, and after undergoing the customary scrutiny, were ordered to be paid.

An overseer was severely censured for having passed, on his way to the workhouse, the residence of the employer of a man who was represented as ill, without making inquiry. The relief was disallowed in the officer's accounts until the guardians had proof that the man was ill and required it. If a man is out of employment in any parish of the hundred in which he may reside who belongs to another parish in the hundred, he is bound to present himself in his own parish to see if he can get employment there. If he cannot, he obtains a note, from the overseer of the parish to which he belongs, to the overseer of the parish in which he resides, requesting his case may be considered by the Board.

There were 83 applications, from 14 parishes out of the 25. Ten were ordered into the house, not one of whom was expected to accept the offer. Six were rejected and struck out of the overseer's book, and the others, principally persons with large families, amounting, adults and children, to 366 persons, were, after the greatest attention, relieved in trifling sums, the whole amount of the out-door relief for the 14 parishes being only 8*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, or about 12*s.* 6*d.* to each parish for the week. The other 11 parishes did not require any out-door relief that week, and it was remarked that even this amount was much larger than their average weekly relief. The surgeon attends the weekly meeting, and is appealed to as to the health of those who are represented as sick. The clerk attends regularly, and keeps the whole affair under one

uniform regular system ; indeed, it is impossible to speak too highly of Mr. Norton's attention to the interests of the hundred. The following comparative statement will contrast the economy of the two hundreds:—

	BLYTHING. 46 Parishes, Population, 24,177.			MUTFORD and LOTHINGLAND. 25 Parishes, Population, 15,255.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Clerk	140	0	0	25	0	0
Surgeons	700	0	0	60	0	0
Assistant Overseers	850	0	0	180	0	0
Master and Matron	100	0	0	40	0	0
Treasurer and Foreman	0	0	0	16	0	0
Schoolmistress, &c.	40	0	0	5	0	0
£	1830	0	0	326	0	0

So that if Blything hundred was managed with as much economy as Mutford and Lothingland, calculated by the population, there would be a saving of 1322*l.* per year, and if by the number of parishes, a saving of 1200*l.* per year.

The system being well established, and the enforcement of it secured by the practical knowledge of it by all the directors and guardians, it is not likely to fall into disuse, and as no distinction is allowed at the Board, the suggestion of the humblest member being respectfully and properly attended to, the members feel a strong interest in supporting their excellent measures with a degree of unanimity, and with that attention to economy, which causes general satisfaction in the hundred, and exhibits a striking contrast to the lavish, disjointed and ruinous practices followed in the Blything and other hundreds.

I must now content myself with submitting desultory illustrations of the state of management in the districts which I have examined.

In the house of industry at Bulcamp, belonging to the Blything hundred, the most strange customs have obtained, and the paupers are indulged in a manner that renders their situations far superior to that of the honest independent labourer.

A regularly licensed shop has for years been fitted up and allowed to be kept by a female pauper in the house of industry, for the convenience of the other paupers. The exciseman attends periodically to "take stock," the same as at any tradesman's shop or warehouse ; and the last time I visited the house, application was made to me, on behalf of this old pauper shopkeeper, as to the future prospects of her trade. The season had arrived at which it was customary to renew the licenses for the sale of her tobacco, tea, &c. I recommended, however, at the risk of lessening the revenue, that the old lady should relinquish business and retire, as her trade was not likely to be so good under the new arrangements.

The house is surrounded by a small farm belonging to the hundred.

There are ten milch cows kept, and the paupers are supplied with the milk and best fresh butter: and I was informed that the guardians had repeatedly declared that they could not get such butter at their own tables as the paupers were supplied with in the Bulcamp house of industry.

The want of classification and separation of the sexes is here exhibited in a frightful degree. Mr. Wilson, the governor, who is a respectable man, complained much of it, and related some disgusting effects of the system.

The following facts will serve to illustrate the encouragement held out to married couples who are disposed to become paupers:—Many years since, two men of the names of Munn and Girling, with their wives and families, were admitted into this establishment. Several of their children were born and reared up in the workhouse until they attained the age of thirteen years, when they were apprenticed by the corporation. After serving their time, the sons married, and in their turn came with their wives to the workhouse. They were soon encircled by a rising family, who, having attained the proper age, were, as their parents had been before them, apprenticed by the directors and guardians of the corporation. These children, at the expiration of their apprenticeship, likewise married, again became paupers, claimed their right of admission into their former asylum the workhouse, were received, and are now living together, by the usage of the establishment.

Thus there are at this time three generations of these paupers in the house of industry, and the same results are expected from the recently-married couples as from their ancestors, namely, a perpetuation of the stock of pauper families.

I received much information upon the subject of early marriages from various officers of this incorporation. I was informed that early marriages are very frequent, and that parties have been known to go directly from church to the workhouse, where, having gained admission, they are placed just in the society which suits them, the male paupers and their wives being allowed to mix indiscriminately together in the day-time, and at night a separate sleeping apartment allotted to each couple—a degree of luxury and comfort is enjoyed to which the honest and industrious labourer is a total stranger. This custom, however, is not confined to Suffolk, for on visiting one of the large incorporated hundred houses in Norfolk, I observed several of the doors of the rooms appropriated for married couples were nailed up; and on inquiring of the governor, I found that they had been occupied by able-bodied men and their wives and families, who had gone out harvesting, and that they had nailed the doors of their rooms up in order that no other persons should inhabit them during their absence.

To such an extent was this marriage system at one time carried in the hundred of Blything, that ten or twelve cases of pauper young men marrying young women, also paupers, and directly claiming their right to relief, occurred close upon the heels of each other. The visiting guardian took upon himself the responsibility of publishing to the inmates, that if any more marriages occurred among the paupers, they would be prohibited from sleeping together. This had the desired effect of checking the practice as long as the prohibition was enforced.

The malpractices existing in the individual parishes in the hundred

were quite unknown to the directors and guardians; and on calling a meeting of the general body of the guardians under the local Act, and on making a statement of these facts, a dissolution of the incorporation was unanimously resolved on, and the new measures are now in operation under a new board of guardians, elected by the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners, assisted by the Earl of Stradbroke, Sir Thomas Gooch and other gentlemen of the hundred, with every prospect of success.

The manner in which the accounts of most rural parishes are kept is in general very loose and unsatisfactory. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, considering the ignorance and inexperience of the parties to whom such matters are generally intrusted; but it is certainly an inconvenience which, for the interests of all parties concerned, requires an effectual remedy. From the parish books of Chertsey, Surrey, I copied verbatim the following weekly account of the charge of John Layton, late assistant overseer, for relief given by him to the paupers of that parish, it being his usual mode of charging his disbursements:—

“ 1832: March 16.

2	Paupers, at 1s. 6d.	8s. ; 21, at 2s.	2l. 2s.
34	„ at 2s. 6d.	4l. 5s. ; 16, at 3s.	2l. 8s.
5	„ at 3s. 6d.	17s. 6d. ; 9, at 4s.	1l. 16s.
1	„ at 4s. 3d. ; 1, at 4s. 6d. ; 4, at 5s.	20s.	
1	„ at 4s. 3d. ; 9, at 6s.	54s. ; 2, at 7s.	14s.
2	„ at 7s. 6d.	15s. ; 2, at 8s.	16s. ; 1, at 8s. 6d.
			£18. 6. 9.”

This man defrauded the parish of nearly 1000*l.*, and absconded, having first destroyed or taken away the bond given to the parish by his sureties.

The following entry, which I extracted from the parish books of Bedminster, Somerset, will also demonstrate the necessity of some general effective plan of auditing and checking accounts:—

“ We, the undersigned members of the vestry of the parish of Bedminster, have examined the foregoing accounts of the overseers, from 26th March, 1816, to 25th day of March, 1827. There *appears* a balance of 37*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* due from Mr. Pownall to this parish, and also a balance of 39*l.* 8*s.* from Mr. Williams, the assistant overseer, due to this parish; and subject to such balance being paid, we do audit, pass and allow the said accounts.

“ Signed by 10 Vestrymen.”

This balance I was told was never paid; and it thus appears that this parish was 11 years without having had an account rendered, and even then there were 16 months unaccounted for. This allowance is dated 7th Aug. 1828, whereas the account is only audited to March, 1827.

To the scale allowance may be attributed a large portion of the evil existing in some districts. The following extraordinary fact, related by Mr. Gooday, of Sudbury, is sufficient of itself to prove the demoralizing influence of this shocking system:—

In the year 1825, Mr. Gooday had undertaken to lower a hill to improve a road, for which he required many additional labourers. As there were no able-bodied labourers out of employment in Sudbury, he went to some neighbouring agricultural parish and hired several labour-

ers, selecting those with families, to whom he let a certain portion of work at a price by which they were enabled to earn 2s. 6d. per day, and he paid the men 15s. each on the Saturday, the amount of their week's work. One man afterwards asked Mr. Gooday if he had any objection to allow another man to work in his place the next week. Mr. Gooday told him that he could have no objection, but asked him why he wished to give up the employment, as he had selected him because he had a family to maintain. "Why" (said the man) "I have been working hard all the week, and have only earned *eighteen pence*!" "Eighteen pence (said Mr. Gooday), why I have just paid you 15s. for your week's work." "Yes, Sir, (replied he) but I was entitled to 13s. 6d. for my *scale allowance*." As might have been expected, this man actually left the work at 15s. per week, and returned to his parish for his scale allowance.

In a parish in the hundred of Bosmere and Claydon, the officers, being desirous to check the applications for parochial relief, determined to employ some of the poor in spade husbandry. They had a field dug over by the paupers, and planted two successive seasons with potatoes, but the potatoes never grew, and the only way it could be accounted for was that the paupers had taken the eyes out of the potatoes to prevent their growing.

A remarkable fact was stated to me by Mr. Barlee and Mr. Owen, two of the resident magistrates in the same hundred, viz., that it seldom occurred that a man on the scale allowance ever surrendered himself to prison if fined for any offence, but that, on the contrary, he always found means to pay the fine and expenses. Mr. Owen, in confirmation of this, stated that he had lately fined three paupers, (all of whom were on the scale allowance,) the one 5*l.*, one 40*s.*, the other 10*s.*, with costs, and that all of them paid the fine.

The ignorance of some of the parochial officers, and the cunning of the paupers, have often been put to the test, and not unfrequently at the cost of the rate-payers.

I saw several charges for *licenses* for marrying paupers, and in one of the large metropolitan parishes, a charge of this description and of nearly like amount has often been repeated—"Fees towards necessary marriages, 24*l.* 16*s.*;" but the following fact is amongst the most curious of that kind which has come within my knowledge. A parish in Bosmere and Claydon hundred had a female pauper, a widow with a family, who was very troublesome, and who, by the promise of a marriage portion of 6*l.*, induced a man belonging to a parish in the town of Ipswich to marry her, thereby thinking to get rid of the burden. The overseer, desirous of making all sure, actually attended the wedding himself, and dined with the married couple, and after the ceremony presented the husband with 6*l.* as agreed upon. This couple lived together two years, and have had two more children. The first was born in the parish to which the mother belonged; the last child was born in Ipswich, since the passing of the new Poor Law Amendment Act. It now turns out that the man had tricked the officer, that he had a former wife living at the time he married this pauper, that the marriage being illegal, the children are bastards, and that consequently the woman has been returned to her parish with the two additional children, and the loss to them of the 6*l.* It is not only in distributing out-door relief by the "scale" that paupers have a demoralizing advantage over the honest

independent labourer ; but in most workhouses, the idle and refractory pauper has the same allowance and indulgence as the aged and deserving poor.

The introduction of an uniform system of management in the houses of industry or workhouses will therefore confer the greatest comfort on the deserving inmates.

In the quantities of food given to the paupers, the allowances differ according to the local habits or opinions of those who have from time to time settled the dietaries. They differ in some instances nearly 100 per cent. ; but I have not found one single parish where there is a workhouse, in which the allowances of food to the indoor paupers are not from 25 to 100 per cent. better than the honest independent agricultural labourers are enabled to obtain for themselves and families by their own exertions.

The following fact has recently come under my notice :—

In the incorporated hundred of Wangford, Suffolk, at Shipmeadow, there is an excellent house of industry ; and the directors and guardians of the hundred, with a praiseworthy desire to adopt the new measures, prepared a quantity of bricks for the alteration of the premises.

Having good brick earth, they contracted with a man to complete the mechanical part of making the bricks, such as the moulding, clamping and burning, at 10s. per 1000, and agreed to find men to do the rough work in preparing the earth, &c., from the workhouse, by which the land is surrounded. There were no men in the immediate neighbourhood capable of moulding the bricks, so that the contractor was obliged to hire men for that purpose at some four miles from the brick-fields. Those hardworking honest men walked four miles to their work each morning, worked hard all day, lived upon very coarse fare, actually drinking water at their meals and during the day, and cheerfully returned four miles to their families in the evening, whilst the able-bodied lazy paupers from the house were supplied, on the spot, with (all extra quantities) good hot meat dinners, and other profuse allowances of food ; five pints of strong beer each daily, and 1s. per week each on Saturdays to spend.

Although as regards food and other indulgences for the paupers in most of the workhouses, profuse provision is made ; and in some places, as at Bristol or at Tattingstone house of industry, in the Sanford hundred, Suffolk, the greatest cleanliness and order are preserved ; there are some of the parochial establishments for the reception of the poor that are positively a disgrace to our common nature ; and I shall not easily forget the visit I paid to the workhouse of St. Philip and St. Jacob, one of the out-parishes at Bristol.

Having been much accustomed, at one period, to visit the abodes of the poor and the destitute, in the thickly populated suburbs of the metropolis, I have not unfrequently witnessed the most appalling scenes of poverty and wretchedness ; but I will confess that I was ill prepared to find in a parish containing nearly 17,000 inhabitants, expending 6000*l.* annually for the support of the poor, and immediately adjoining one of the most cleanly and well-regulated establishments in England. (St. Peter's hospital, Bristol,) such a disgraceful instance of neglect and mismanagement.

The state of the workhouse was filthy in the extreme, the appearance:

of the inmates dirty and wretched. There was no classification whatever, men, women and children being promiscuously huddled together.

In one corner of the building I discovered a most dismal filthy looking room, which altogether presented such a sombre wretched appearance, that curiosity prompted me to explore it. I entered it, and the scene which I witnessed in it is almost impossible to forget. Judging from the appearance of the room, I should think that water must have been excluded from it for years. In short, it reminded me of a coal cellar, or any place, rather than the residence of a human being. The sole tenant of this miserable abode was a poor distressed lunatic. His appearance was pitiable in the extreme; his clothing was extremely ragged; his flesh literally as dirty as the floor; his head and face were much bruised, apparently from repeated falls. Shoes he had been furnished with at some time or other, but they had done their duty, and his feet protruded through them. He sat listless and alone, without any human being to attend upon or to take care of him, staring vacantly around, insensible even to the calls of nature, and apparently unmindful of anything which was passing in the room. He was endeavouring to avail himself of the only comfort allowed him from the few embers which were yet burning in the grate, for he had thrust his arms through an iron grating which was placed before the fire, intended doubtless to prevent the poor creature from burning himself; but as it was, his hands just reached the embers.

I endeavoured to arouse this poor pitiable fellow-creature, but the attempt was useless, all sensibility had forsaken him. To the very great shame of the parish officers, I found he had been in this disgusting state for years.

Understanding that a meeting of the magistrates would be held two days afterwards at the prison, I attended and explained to them the filthy state of the workhouse, and described to them the miserable condition of this poor lunatic. Two of them promptly consented to accompany me to the workhouse. An endeavour had been made to cleanse the place, in consequence of my previous complaints, but it was still disgusting, and the appearance of its inmate extremely pitiable. The magistrates were astounded at the sight, thanked me for calling their attention to this distressed object, and, in my hearing, directed the parish officers to be summoned before them, and promised that a strict investigation of the case should take place.

In another room in the same building, not equally deplorable with the one I have just described, but still a wretched tenement, I found another poor lunatic aged 17 years, who I was informed had been in this miserable situation nearly four years. He was almost in a state of nudity, having nothing on but a coarse shirt. Upon my asking why the parish officers allowed him to be in this deplorable condition; the answer was, "Because he tears his clothes."

Of those new unions with which I am more immediately connected, the Bradford Union, Wiltshire, presents the most striking proof of the immediate and almost magical effect of the new measures. The complaints of the ill-treatment of the poor of Freshford induced the board to order that an union should be formed of Bradford with Freshford and other surrounding parishes. Guardians were elected under the new

Poor Law Amendment Act. Sir Thomas Fellowes was chosen president, and Mr. John Spackman vice-president of the board. The case of each pauper has been examined separately, and the greatest impositions detected and prevented for the future. Upwards of 250 cases, many of whom had been relieved for years, never applied, and entirely relinquished their relief rather than submit to an examination into their cases; others returned their tickets with thanks for the relief they had received, and stated that they could do without relief in future; others were detected in having been in constant receipt of good wages, who did not stand in need of relief; and so effective did the inquiries prove, that in about two months from the commencement of the union, a saving was effected averaging 3,000*l.* per year, and it is confidently anticipated, that when workhouse accommodation is provided, and the rules and regulations properly enforced, an additional saving will be made of 4,000*l.*; so that, in round numbers, 7,000*l.* out of 10,000*l.* (the average expenditure of the parishes of the union for the three previous years) will be saved to the rate-payers of this small district.

The comforts of the aged and infirm and deserving poor have nevertheless been strictly attended to, and I believe the whole management of the Bradford Union reflects the greatest credit on the president, vice-president, and guardians generally.

The small union of Hendon, in Middlesex, comprising the parishes in the hundred of Gore, exhibits, also, every chance of complete success; doubts were expressed by the guardians as to the sufficiency of workhouse accommodation; and it was thought the constant attention of two or three relieving officers would be required for the district, on account of the number of paupers. There is not an able-bodied pauper now receiving relief in the whole union. The time of one relieving officer is now not half occupied in attending to the whole of the paupers relieved in the union; and the keys of two out of the four workhouses are now in possession of the guardians, there not being paupers to occupy them.

This union has the advantage of the assistance of the respectable and active magistrates of the district.

The general effect of the new law, as far as it can at present be ascertained, shows itself forcibly in the town parishes in the settlements, orders of removal, &c. Removals are now comparatively rare in town parishes, and I am justified in saying that three-fourths of the expense and litigation consequent on them have already ceased.

The decrease in the consumption of spirits is represented to be remarkable. It is known that the landlords of gin shops and public houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the London workhouses, in all cases where the money payments to the poor have been stopped or curtailed, complain generally that their trade has considerably decreased; and Mr. Dix, a respectable owner of a large gin shop near Lambeth workhouse, openly confesses that the alteration is very great in that district; he further states, that many of his former customers who were in the habit of indulging to excess with the money received from the parish, having been driven on their own resources, have procured work for themselves, and have discontinued the use of spirituous liquors. Mr. Garland, a highly respectable tradesman, the high constable of Brixton hundred, Surrey, comprising Lambeth, Newington, Camberwell, and other large parishes, stated to me that the difference in the amount

of money taken at the public-houses is a subject of general remark, and that it is attributed to the stoppage of out-door money relief to the paupers.

Next to the gin shops, the payment of weekly rents has been the great source of expenditure from the poor-rate. This practice has been carried to such an extent at Ipswich, that cottage property is represented as returning 14 per cent. to the owners; and in one parish the rates excused and the rents paid to the occupiers of this description of houses amount to 1,200*l.* per year. The landlords of weekly tenements in and about London were quite aware that a large portion of their rents were paid by money received from the parishes, and they were fearful that a discontinuance of money payments would cause a falling off in their receipt of rents. This, however, has not been the case. Mr. Roffey, a large owner of these small tenements in Lambeth, assured me that his tenants continue to pay him as punctually as formerly, and moreover, that those paupers whose allowances are not yet discontinued, but are expecting they will be, express neither surprise nor regret, and say they must do as well as they can without parish pay. Not the least remarkable fact is, that notwithstanding the reduction in the money payments, the numbers in the workhouses have decreased also. I do not know a workhouse in or about London where the inmates are not less in numbers than they were before the passing of the new Poor Law Amendment Act.

Great credit is due to the officers of the metropolitan parishes for the extent to which they have carried out the provisions of the new Poor Law Act. There is scarcely a London parish in which there has not been a considerable reduction in the amount of the poor-rate; and it is asserted generally, that a vast improvement in the conduct of the applicants is perceptible; the quiet respectful demeanour of the paupers in their applications for relief, now forming a remarkable contrast to the insolent threatenings of the paupers under the old system.

In Bristol, when additional workhouse accommodation was provided, out of 1,400 persons to whom the house was offered, not above six per cent. accepted it. In a parish in London, of 127 illegitimate children to whom the workhouse was offered, only six were allowed by their friends to go into the house. In another, of 22 illegitimate children so ordered into the house, only one was received; and the children are known to be comfortably provided for by their parents and friends, who are well able to maintain them. In the hundred of Samford, since the passing the Poor Law Amendment Act, 140 able-bodied paupers have been offered the accommodation of the Tattingstone house of industry, but not one has remained. In Lambeth, Newington, Camberwell, St. George's, Hanover-square, in short, in all the parishes where the discontinuance of money payments has been adopted, not only has a vast diminution in the amount of the rates been effected, but a great moral improvement in the conduct of the poor has followed.

The Bastardy clause, against which so much has been said, exhibits a curious result in the London parishes. In the very large parish of St. Pancras only three orders of affiliation have been obtained since the passing of the Act, and not one-third the number of the young women now apply to be confined in the workhouse. In the workhouse of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, the number of young women put to bed with bastard children averaged about two per month or 25 per year.

Not a single case has occurred in that house since the Act passed. In St. Martin's, St. George's, Hanover-square, indeed in nearly all the metropolitan parishes, the decrease in the number is in the same proportion.

The complaints of the agricultural districts being overburdened with labourers are not borne out by facts. I have made inquiries in several agricultural parishes where this has been represented to be the case, and the result has been that there are not more labourers than would be required for the land under a healthy state of management. At Stradbroke, Suffolk, one of the most pauperized parishes perhaps in England, the land would average 25 acres to each agricultural labourer, and it is admitted that arable land, to be well cultivated, would require one man for every 25 acres, or three men and two boys for every 100 acres.

Extensive and beneficial as the alterations will prove to be, and notwithstanding the power possessed by the board under the new Poor Law Amendment Act, it will be found necessary to give the guardians of the different unions a more extensive control over the parochial funds than the Poor Law Commissioners can now grant them. The guardians, at present, only have the distribution of the relief to the paupers: the errors and impositions under this head will be remedied; but the raising the money and payment of county rates, and many other incidental charges, are still left with the overseers. Respectable men, inexperienced in these matters, will hardly credit the description of persons into whose hands the parochial matters fall in some country parishes. In a parish in Suffolk complaint was made to me that, notwithstanding there were at least 30 competent persons in the parish, the magistrates had actually appointed an old woman as overseer, and on inquiry I found it to be the case, and this woman is now acting as overseer of one of the badly managed parishes. It is not uncommon to find overseers appointed who can neither read nor write, and in a parish in Somersetshire, out of a population of 390 persons, only three persons, besides the clergyman, can read or write; one of these three persons is a respectable farmer, who about three years since went to reside in the parish, and finding the parochial matters, to which he was the principal contributor, managed so grossly bad, he undertook the task of investigating the affairs himself; the usual result followed; in less than two years he reduced the rates in that parish from 400*l.* per year to 100*l.* per year.

The payment of the extra charges, the prolific source indeed of the most extensive parochial peculations, being still left in the hands of ignorant and incompetent overseers in each parish, leaves an open field for fraud and deception. In one small parish I found 54*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* had been charged to the poor-rate in three years for killing sparrows: they are paid for at the rate of 3*d.* per dozen, and consequently there must have been 52,600 sparrows, which, allowing 12 sparrows to weigh one pound, would make the weight of the whole 4,383 pounds, or three good horse-loads of 1,461 pounds each: by the same process of calculation the sparrows would have served, instead of meat, 55 paupers for 12 months, allowing each pauper half a pound of sparrows per day for three days each week. Such charges will continue to be made without detection, for, as in Suffolk, if they cannot get the money from the poor-rate they will have recourse to the surveyor's rate and to the churchwarden's account, and thereby cloak charges the most extravagant and ridiculous.

I therefore beg to offer an opinion, formed long since and confirmed by recent experience, that the new measures will not be perfect, neither can the parochial expenditure be properly checked, or justice be done to the rate-payers, until every description of parochial receipts and expenditure be placed under the management and control of the boards of guardians.

In conclusion, I have to express to the Board the obligations I feel to the noblemen, magistrates, and gentlemen in the districts which I have visited, for their assistance in carrying out the wishes and intention of the Poor Law Commissioners. Instances are very rare of any respectable person opposing the introduction of the new law, and even these I have found to arise from praiseworthy and conscientious scruples which have always yielded to proper explanation; and I have never yet found any discontent or dissatisfaction amongst the poor in any parish that could not be clearly traced, upon inquiry, to the excitement created by the small shopkeepers, paid officers, or other persons interested in supporting the old demoralizing ruinous system of poor law management.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

CHARLES MOTT,
Assistant Poor Law Com.

— No. 3. —

REPORT from EDWARD GULSON, Esq., to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.—With a SUPPLEMENT.

GENTLEMEN,

3rd July, 1835.

In obedience to your instructions, that I should state to you any facts which have occurred to me in the course of my investigations, illustrative of the results of the proceedings already taken under the authority of the Commission, and any observations I may think right to communicate; I beg leave to transmit to your Board the following Report, in which is embodied some striking examples of the evils of the old administration, together with effects produced by the remedies applied by the Board for the cure of those evils.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

EDWARD GULSON,
Assistant Poor Law Com.

The Poor Law Amendment Act was passed for the purpose of relieving the paupers from the evils of pauperism, and property from the pressure of poor-rates.

Has it turned out, on investigation, that the evils were less than they were represented to be, either to the property or to the pauper?

I have now minutely investigated 355 parishes, giving them my best attention and consideration, and all my experience fully proves, that the pressure upon property, and particularly landed property, is even greater than was represented, amounting, in some instances, to the full rental; and it is most clearly shown by the applications made to me on every side for my immediate presence and interference.

The language of the farmers in many parishes, and I would espe-

cially particularize those of Long Crendon, Crawley, Middleton Cheney, and Handborough, was, "Can you take us into this union? if not, when will you come amongst us? If you delay doing so until the autumn, then you must build your houses large enough to take in farmers as well as paupers; for the land is eaten up by the poor, and they are better off than we and our children." On other occasions they have said, "Never mind explanation, we cannot be in a worse state than we are now; and we most gladly put ourselves into the hands of the Commissioners."

To illustrate the subject still further, I will mention the following instances:—

In the parish of Ramsden, Oxfordshire, I found the poor-rate exceeding 25s. per acre upon all the cultivated land in the parish; and at Aston and Cote it amounted to 24s. per acre.

The parish of Northmoor has 360 inhabitants, and 1,960 acres of land whereupon to employ its labourers; the average expenditure for the last three years amounts, nevertheless, to nearly 1,200*l.* per annum.

At Thame, with a population of 2,800, mostly residing in a neat and affluent little market-town, the metropolis of the district, the rates have lately amounted to 6,000*l.* per annum. At the time that I visited this place 127 able-bodied labourers were out of employ, many of whom I observed playing at the old game of "pitch and hustle" with halfpence (doubtless parish money) upon the roads where they were professedly at work.

In the adjoining parish of Sydenham, which belongs exclusively to the Baroness Wenman, her ladyship pointed out to my notice one property which is let for 645*l.* per annum, free of poor-rate, and informed me that last year she paid back to the overseer the sum of 427*l.*

Several large farmers at Caversham, after hearing the detail of the measure explained, with the effects which were likely to ensue, were asked by myself, how far they thought the parish of Caversham would be benefitted by being included in an union? when they replied, in open vestry, "Sir, it is the only thing that can save us." "I would myself," said one, "give 50*l.*, rather than have it delayed three months." "I should weep," said another, "for the consequences if you omitted immediately to deal with the parish of Caversham."

Such an universal pressure on property must necessarily cripple the resources of the farmer, by which the land is imperfectly cultivated, and its productive powers are only partially developed. "We cannot afford," say the farmers, "to employ the labourer; all our means are eaten up and absorbed by poor-rate. We could advantageously employ more hands, but we have nothing wherewith to pay them." The paupers, on their part, seeing that the farmers have work, and not choosing to perceive that their own bad conduct keeps them out of employment, are exasperated against the farmers, who they maintain are illiberal and oppressive towards them. The evils thus resulting upon the lower classes can scarcely be described. Demoralization and disorganization have gone far to destroy that perfect trust and confidence which ought to exist between the labourer and his employer, and have engendered feelings of insolence and insubordination on the one hand, and of harshness on the other. The servants, no longer under the necessity of relying for subsistence on their employers, are deprived of all inducement to gain situations, or to keep them when obtained, and

the master, compelled by no better feeling than that of his own interest to give employment, is anxious to be quit as soon as possible of a troublesome and discontented servant.

Daily observation proves that the idle and worthless pauper lives a life of ease and luxury when compared with the honest and industrious labourer, who supports his family by his daily exertions: and in those parishes where the administration of poor-rate has been most negligent and profuse, the labourers are in no way dependent on their own providence; on the contrary, they are tempted to improvidence and idleness, by seeing the lot of the undeserving made as easy as their own; to use their own terms, "the industrious man is broken down by the profligate." In the parish of Garsington, Oxon, the able-bodied paupers are employed in digging stone for the roads; their number sometimes amounts to 50 or 60, and upon examining the pay-book, I observed frequent marks against the names of each. The overseer, in answer to my inquiries, told me that these marks denoted days upon which the men had absented themselves from work. On a late occasion, four of these marks occurred successively against the name of each pauper throughout a long list, of which I received the following explanation. There was a great bull-baiting in the neighbourhood, which these men all attended during the four days, and in reply to the remonstrances of the overseer, they declared their intention of having a holiday whenever they pleased. These rate receivers were living better than many of the rate payers who were contributing to their subsistence.

A woman, able-bodied, with two children, applied to the board of guardians at Faringdon for relief. Lord Barrington elicited, on inquiry, that she earned 3s. 6d. a week, and one of the children, aged 12, earned 3s. also; the other child was seven years old. Under these circumstances relief was refused. On hearing this decision she exclaimed, "It is a hard case for we poor mothers to have to work for our children."

The system of relief is found, in many instances, to be provocative of demoralization.

In the books of Hampton Poyle are the following items:*

	£.	s.	d.
Paid for men and boys standing in the pound, 6 days	6	7	0
And in every week's payments a list of these labourers, thus:—			
W. Wheeler, standing in the pound 6 days	0	8	0
J. Cartwright, standing in the pound 4 days	0	6	0

In many parishes, as at North Leigh, no single man was employed; each had 2s. 6d. given him on Monday morning, with which he was "to do the best he could for himself" for the week; that is to say, eke out his means by stealing or poaching.

A pauper at Mapledurham had been for eight or nine months in the employ of the rector, Lord Augustus Fitz-Clarence, who himself related the circumstance to me in the presence of the overseer, earning 10s. per

* The explanation was this. The overseer obliged the paupers to stand regularly in the parish pound, like cattle. If they absented themselves they were not paid, and the reason assigned in such case was, that they might not cheat the parish by going to work when they said they could get no employment. The same plan has been carried into execution in a parish in Warwickshire.

week. At last harvest time he left his situation, saying that he could better himself, with two suits of clothes in his possession, and more than 2*l.* in money, being a single man. Immediately after harvest he was an applicant for parochial relief, and has never been off the book since. A short time ago he repaired to the house of the overseer by night, when he and his wife were gone to bed, and declared he would have "*money or blood.*" The parish officer and his wife parleyed from their bed-room window with this outrageous claimant, and endeavoured to prevail on him to depart in peace, without granting his demand, but in vain; he vowed he would fire the premises, unless they gave him some money; terrified at his threats, they threw him out half a crown. The coin fell on the ground, and it being dark, the man could not readily find it; upon this he renewed his protestations that he would burn the house and all in it, unless either the money were found or more given. At last the overseer's wife actually came down in her night dress, searched with a candle for the money till she found it, and so was allowed by the pauper to return unmolested to bed. This circumstance occurred last January.

About three weeks ago this pauper, Thomas Pocock, applied to the guardian of Mapledurham, Mr. Hutchins, for work, and said he should be very glad if he could set him on. He gave him a job of turnip hoeing. Pocock worked very well at it, and was steady; so Mr. Hutchins set him on reaping. The other day Pocock said, "I should like to keep on working for you, sir, if you please; I should like to have a winter's job, sir, if you please; to go threshing, or any thing." "Well, Tom," said Mr. Hutchins, "this is a change; what's the reason of all this? how comes this?" He laughed. "Come," said Mr. Hutchins, "tell us the truth, Tom." "Why, sir, 'tis that great house up there that's now building. I have now made up my mind to keep to regular work." And Mr. Hutchins says now he is very civil, and works remarkably well.

Whilst I was at Wantage, eight or ten young men collected one rainy morning under the market house, and amused themselves by *playing at marbles* till the weather was fine enough to admit of their going to work. Five or six came to the place *with umbrellas*.

In Haddenham parish seventy or eighty able-bodied labourers are employed from the poor-rate, and when I visited it these men were set to work in forming a new road, about half a mile in extent. The degree of supervision exercised over them may be imagined when I state that I passed twenty-seven of them all fast asleep, on a fine sunny afternoon, by the road side.

The severing the natural ties of affection is by no means one of the least evils attendant on the facility of obtaining parish pay for the performance of the commonest duties of our nature.

At Yattendon, in the parish accounts, an item frequently repeated, was:—

	£.	s.	d.
To Elizabeth W., a present for her kindness to her father	0	5	0
Lucy A., for looking after her mother when ill	0	3	6
Mary B., for sitting up at nights with her father	0	2	0
The overseer's wife, herself a mother, saw nothing wrong in this; as, for children to be dutiful to their old and sick parents was a great hindrance."			

In Worminghall books is the following item :—	£.	s.	d.
Richard Shilton, five days, looking after his family	0	5	0
A. Gibbs, looking after his wife *	0	6	0

The urgent necessity of a powerful controlling influence is apparent in a high degree throughout both the counties in which I have pursued my inquiries. But few parishes exhibit any thing approaching to a due care and judicious management in the administration of poor-rate, and these solitary instances must be mainly attributed to the intelligence, firmness, and diligence of a few individuals, who may at any time be lost to their parish by removal or death.

Examples of abuses consequent upon the absence of this controlling influence present themselves too numerous for detail. A few striking instances will suffice.

At Watlington the charge in one year's account :—	£.	s.	d.
For labour done by the paupers is	531	0	0
The return for it is stated to be	19	3	6

At Britwell Salome :—			
March 23, 1833, bird keeping, moles and sparrows	19	18	6
Six months afterwards :—			
September 29, 1833, paid the beadle, bird-keeping, powder and shot	9	8	5

In the parish books of Garsington, which had just been passed and verified on oath before the magistrates, I found that scarcely a column in the whole account was added up correctly. The errors varied from 2s. to 6l. a column; and unless a private account was kept, no true balance within 50l. could be struck between the overseer and the parish.

In Caversham books is the following item :—	£.	s.	d.
June, 1834, paid William Dormer, ill (<i>through drink</i>)	0	5	0

In the parish of Ardington the curate may literally be termed a pauper, his only remuneration for clerical duties being a salary of 60l. per annum, paid out of the poor-rate.

At Horley every boy above nine years of age is paid 1d. per diem out of the poor-rate, whether in necessitous circumstances or otherwise.

The expense of a pauper's marriage at Compton was as follows :—

Putting the horse and cart up at the public house, waiting for Mr. Bent, the clergyman, to come home	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Bent, for a licence	0	1	2
W. Baker, for his horse and cart	3	3	0
Clergyman not at home; expenses at the Swan Inn, Compton; keeping Rumbold (the male pauper) in Holt; paid for dinner the day that he was married	0	6	2
J. Cox, constable	1	19	4½
For gold ring for Wm. Rumbold to be married with	0	3	6
Parson's and clerk's expenses	0	8	0
	0	15	0

At Northmoor I discovered a considerable sum was annually expended in the purchase of flax for the employment of the pauper women and children; an additional charge was also made for the spinning of this

* This item is continued every week during a year's account.

flax, but I could find *no return* for it. On inquiring from the overseer what became of this material, he told me that a *few* of the parishioners had a meeting at a public house in the village twice a year, at which they expended five pounds each time in a feast.* They charged this to the parish account, and *dividing the flax amongst them*, went home.

At East Ilsley there is a charge for tolling the bell at the death of every pauper. The overseer told me, with a rueful countenance, that the clerk was a *dreadful man*, and threatened to fight him whenever he intimated his intention of stopping this charge.

In Banbury poor house lives a woman who makes over to the parish an annuity which she has of 5s. a week, on condition that they will keep her in the poor-house, knowing, as she says, that she could not be so comfortable elsewhere. The inmates are allowed as much meat as they please; the labourers in the vicinity only getting it once a week.

A pauper in Ashbury, being lame, bought a horse and rode daily to the stone-pit.

On inquiring from the superintendent of Wokefield and Mortimer poor-house whether the inmates were subjected to any sort of discipline, he replied, that he once shut the door of the house at nine o'clock, but the paupers returning home to bed from their daily haunts, the beer shops, broke into the poor-house and abused him roundly for daring to exclude them *from their own apartments*.

At Pangbourne, the *payment* for illegitimate children was 38l., the receipt 1l.

I will here introduce one more example of the lamentable want of a controlling authority in parish administration, which the Commissioners are aware came under my notice early in my present official career, and which I am induced to include in my Report, to show the salutary effects which have accrued from the introduction and exercise of a judicious code of rules for its parochial government by the central board.

The parish of Sutton Courtney, in the county of Berks, was, at the end of last year, notorious in that district for the abuses there prevalent in the administration of its poor-laws. On inquiry, I found that the parish contained 2,000 acres, that the poor-rates amounted to 1,300l. per annum, with only 830 inhabitants, making the cost 1l. 11s. 6d. per head on the whole population; and together with this expenditure, a state of feeling and habits of life were engendered fully bearing out the assertion, that the morality of a parish may be measured by the amount of its expenditure in pauper relief as compared with its population. Four men had been hung, and nine transported for life or fourteen years in this parish during the last five years, and the number of convictions in it had trebled that in any of the contiguous parishes, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants.

The parish of Sutton Courtney was managed by a select vestry, who had allowed a system of parochial mal-administration to be carried on for years, equally ruinous to the purses of the rate-payers and the morals of the rate-receivers.

The legal and usual form of making a rate had been entirely dispensed with, and in lieu of it a notification was stuck on the church

* This is termed in the books, "*An extraordinary meeting*, 51."

door by the overseer when out of cash, to the following effect, "A rate wanted," upon which a rate was granted.

Upon inquiring into the mode of administering the rate thus raised at the vestry meeting, I elicited, that the paupers had been in the habit of receiving their relief entirely in articles of food and clothing. Bread, bacon, meat, grocery, and drapery were distributed at an enormous profit to the shopkeeper, and this shopkeeper proved to be the assistant overseer himself; the pauper paying 4s. for the same articles which he could procure for 2s. 6d. elsewhere. He was also allowed to run in debt in some cases to the extent of half a year's pay, by which means he was kept at the same market without any opportunity of extricating himself; thus were the rate-payers plundered for the benefit of individuals, the profits by this mode of relief being estimated at not less than 400*l.* per annum.

At the vestry, I demanded a sight of the books, which were reluctantly produced, and on examination I found that no entry had been made either of receipt or expenditure since the preceding September, though more than 200*l.* had passed through the overseer's hands during the intervening time.

The lavish expenditure of relief had totally extinguished among the lower classes that proper spirit and sense of independence which keep a man industrious and consequently moral, and the manner of its distribution had given rise to a strong feeling of injustice and oppression, and thus was produced a numerous class ready to revenge their real or supposed injuries, without restraint and without discrimination, whenever the opportunity occurred of doing so with impunity.

It may not be irrelevant here to give an instance or two of the manner in which this ill-feeling was engendered, and the extent to which it was carried.

A Member of Parliament and a magistrate informed me that a poor man, a parishioner of Sutton Courtney, applied to him for an order for relief under the following circumstances:—He had been working for five years for the overseer (not on the parish account) and earning 10s. per week. Never having seen the colour of his master's money during this period, he at last ventured on a Saturday night when receiving his wages at the parish counter as usual, to ask for 2s. instead of goods to that amount, his request was granted, but he was immediately discharged, and all parochial relief was denied him.

The following is the only other case that I would adduce:—A man with his family, consisting of a wife and four children, solicited permission to live in a wretched hovel belonging to the parish with an understanding that he should pay no rent and should support himself by his own exertions; this was complied with; his family increased, and he provided for them without parochial aid until the birth of his ninth child, an idiot, when a small sum was allowed him for its maintenance. He put his cottage into a state of tenantable repair, and lived unmolested, without any demand for rent for 18 years, receiving the amount of his earnings at the parish counter. At length, finding that by purchasing the necessaries of life at Abingdon instead of at Sutton Courtney he could make 2s. 6d. go as far as 4s., he determined to procure employment at that place, and thus, by earning his money at Abingdon, acquire the right to spend it there; he gave his master fair notice of his

intentions, and being a good workman, got into an engagement there on his first application; but no sooner was this arrangement completed, and the stream of his hard-earned pittance diverted from its former channel, than he was marked out for oppression. A sheriff's officer, without any previous notice, was sent to him with a demand on the part of the parish for 4*l.*, for 40 weeks' rent in arrear, and upon his inability to pay, the very bed was threatened to be sold from under him to satisfy his pitiless creditor.

I will now briefly glance over the results which have ensued from the introduction of a controlling and systematic power for the government of the parochial administration of Sutton Courtney.

At the request of the surrounding district not to be united with this parish, at all events in its present demoralized and disorderly condition, it was not included in the Abingdon Union, but the rules and regulations of the Board were ordered to be immediately adopted and enforced.

In accordance, therefore, with my instructions, I dissolved the vestry, sealed up the books and dismissed the overseer from the duties of his office. The parish administration was then placed under the direction of a board of guardians, and the judicious exercise of their authority has been already sensibly and advantageously felt throughout the parish, although only seven months have elapsed since the change was effected.

It is, however, necessary to remark, that in this new constitution of the parish they are still without that essential, a workhouse. The savings effected are at the rate of 400*l.* per annum, solely by vigilance and care in the distribution of relief; but the change in the moral conduct of the lower orders is improved in a still greater degree. This moral change is most strongly indicated by the different feeling evinced towards a connexion with Sutton Courtney by the parishes adjacent, which before were most averse to an union with so disorderly a neighbour; whereas now the guardians of the several parishes of Abingdon Union have willingly given their consent in writing, according to the provisions of the 32nd section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, for the incorporation of that parish into the bonds of brotherhood and good-fellowship, by which Sutton Courtney will be enabled to avail themselves of the use of a well-regulated workhouse, to the advantage of all, and to none more than to the poor themselves.

Has it turned out that the remedy is applicable, and that it is likely to effect its object?

The Board of Poor Law Commissioners, having to contend with abuses of such rapid growth and vast magnitude, most wisely have determined gradually and cautiously to introduce this important change; some time must, therefore, necessarily elapse before *great* and *general* results can be shown. In addition to this (I speak as regards the two counties in which I have been employed), *the workhouse system*, excepting in one instance, has not at present been brought into operation; and until the period has arrived when we can apply this *certain test* of necessity, it is not possible that the savings can be effected, or the diminution of pauperism can be shown, to the same degree as will doubtless be the result when the whole machinery is in activity.

However, in the single instance where I have promulgated your rules and regulations, *with the support of a workhouse*, the effects have been all that could have been hoped for; I mean, in the union of Faringdon.

I found there a large workhouse, already erected, capable of holding three hundred persons; it belonged exclusively to Faringdon, and was used by that parish alone. At the time of my visiting the place, it contained sixty-three inmates. Order and regularity were kept up to a high degree in this workhouse; the classification of the inmates, and the separation of the sexes, have been rigidly enforced; and the able-bodied paupers were employed in digging stone out of a pit, which was situated on a piece of land attached to the workhouse. The parish was, notwithstanding, most heavily burdened with poor-rate.

I united twenty-nine parishes to Faringdon, under order of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners, dated February 2nd, 1835, many of which were highly pauperized. They have all derived benefit from that which, under the feeble administration of the parish vestry, had been useless to Faringdon alone.

Although the interior arrangements of the workhouse were not such as to render the management so efficient as it will be when the alterations now in progress, and which are estimated to cost 900*l.*, are completed, yet they were sufficient to make it immediately available for the reception of the paupers of the whole union. The board of guardians have therefore, with the able, energetic, and *most valuable* co-operation of their chairman, Viscount Barrington, carried out the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act to a greater extent than in any union within my district, and the results have been satisfactory in the highest degree.

All out-door relief to *able-bodied* labourers is discontinued. The workhouse now contains seventy-four inmates from the whole union, being only eleven more than from the parish of Faringdon alone, under the old system.

Of the first eighty-seven labourers with families, to whom out-door relief was refused in the months of February and March, and most of whom had been constant hangers on the parish fund, and to all of whom an order for the workhouse was given for themselves and their families, not one-half availed themselves of the offer, but immediately found means of providing themselves.

Of the rest who successively accepted the proffered assistance, some staid one day, some two, some three, and, excepting two, none remained more than four days. Being anxious to ascertain whether the application of this principle had inflicted hardship upon these men and their families, and whether the denial of out-door relief had driven them from their own villages to seek an uncertain subsistence elsewhere, I devoted several days, in the parishes to which they belonged, to the purpose of ascertaining their real situations, by visiting them at their own homes, I found that, of the 85 men, 78 were at work in their respective parishes, and two others in the immediate vicinity, and not one of them had his dwelling broken up.

Thus were 85 men with their families at once relieved from the degradation of pauperism, and by being thrown upon their own resources, taught that they could honestly and independently support themselves and their families by their industry; most of them had at that season been upon the parish books for three years.

I then extended my inquiries to the farmers. They had, when I formerly visited them during the formation of the union, expressed themselves willing and anxious to avail themselves of any change, assuring me

that the pressure from poor-rate and the consequent demoralization among the lower classes were such that they could not continue any longer as they were; but at the same time they plainly told me they were doubtful of the result when the principle came to be applied to their particular district, because they could not foresee what was to become of the number of able-bodied labourers who were out of employment, for whom no apparent source of labour existed, and who must therefore necessarily be supported in the workhouse. On inquiring from these farmers how it happened that labour was now found for them when no opening before seemed to present itself; the reply was this—"Why, sir, they were not worth a shilling a week before, and I would rather have had them off my ground than on; they were always dissatisfied and idle, corrupting the few good labourers that remained; whereas, now they come to me with a totally different bearing, saying the times are altered and they have nothing but the workhouse to fall back upon in case of necessity. They promise that if work can be found for them they will exert themselves to merit employment, and as I know the truth of their statement I have consented to give them a trial and they are becoming as good labourers as their more independent comrades." The farmers are, in fact, all willing to employ them now that the quality of their work is not deteriorated by the easy compliance of the parish with the demands of the idle and careless, and the parochial fund is devoted solely to the relief of those whose real necessity (*tested by the workhouse*) gives them a lawful claim upon its resources.

Thus far then the result was satisfactory in the extreme, not only as regarded the reduction of poor-rate, but as affording a striking example of the moral improvement effected by the system among the labouring population. Since this time the same rule has been applied to upwards of 300 labourers, all of whom are now supporting themselves without parochial aid.

The following Table, giving the comparative expenditure and number of paupers, for six weeks, ending May 30th, 1834, and the same period of 1835, will best show the savings effected :—

ACCOUNT of EXPENDITURE for the Relief of the Poor in the several Parishes of *Faringdon Union*, for Six Weeks, commencing May, in the Years 1834 and 1835.

PARISHES.	Out of the Workhouse.			In the Workhouse.			Total Expenditure, 1834.	Total Expenditure, 1835.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Ashbury	22	0	7	0	0	0	25 14 6	22 0 7
Balking	8	13	4	1	8	0	20 5 5	10 1 5
Bourton	10	2	0	0	12	0	16 17 1	10 14 0
Buckland	34	10	0	7	5	9	106 16 0	41 15 9
Buscot	21	3	8	1	2	3	53 4 3	22 5 11
Charney	15	3	7	0	0	0	22 12 9	15 3 7
Coleshill	9	10	4	0	12	0	19 1 4	10 2 4
Compton	6	6	0	0	0	0	14 7 2	6 6 0
Coxwell, Great	11	13	0	0	0	0	16 2 2	11 13 0
Coxwell, Little	12	3	8	0	0	7	18 9 8	12 4 3
Eaton Hastings	5	11	2	0	0	0	13 19 3	5 11 2
Faringdon, Great* . . .								
Faringdon, Little . . .	8	5	0	0	0	0	7 16 4	8 5 0
Fernham	12	14	6	0	0	0	18 13 1	12 14 6
Grafton	1	10	0	0	0	0	9 4 10	1 10 0
Hatford	3	2	6	0	0	0	6 4 6	3 2 6
Hinton	9	12	10	0	0	0	35 3 7	9 12 10
Kelmscot	6	0	0	0	0	0	9 0 8	6 0 0
Kingston Lisle	10	18	6	0	4	0	39 18 8	11 2 6
Langford	6	7	5	1	3	5	17 10 6	7 10 10
Longcot	17	13	1	4	16	0	32 13 2	22 9 1
Longworth	13	15	2	1	16	10	28 11 1	15 12 0
Pusey	1	7	6	0	0	0	1 7 6	1 7 6
Radcot	0	18	0	0	0	0	0 9 0	0 18 0
Shellingford	8	16	11	0	12	0	11 3 0	9 8 11
Shrivenham	21	14	5	1	4	0	38 12 2	22 18 5
Stanford	24	11	1	0	18	11	101 17 10	25 10 0
Uffington	15	17	9	1	1	10	37 13 3	16 19 7
Watchfield	14	19	10	0	17	9	22 5 9	15 17 7
Woolstone	8	3	9	0	1	6	14 1 8	8 5 3
	£						759 16 2	367 2 4

* This parish was contracted for in 1834, and no monthly return can be had.

Comparative Number of Paupers in the several Parishes of the Faringdon Union, for Six Weeks, commencing May, in the Years 1834 and 1835.

PARISHES.	Able-bodied. 1834.	Children 1834.	Infirm. 1834.	Able-bodied. 1835.	Children 1835.	Infirm. 1835.
Ashbury	1	27	23	1	21	14
Balking	10	25	8	1	8	8
Bourton	7	31	10	0	10	11
Buckland	47	124	42	6	30	37
Buscot	25	61	31	3	17	25
Charney	8	31	12	2	10	14
Coleshill	3	17	13	0	8	10
Compton	5	19	8	0	0	8
Coxwell, Great	2	12	13	1	12	11
Coxwell, Little	4	22	11	4	11	22
Eaton Hastings	3	18	9	2	10	4
Faringdon, Great						
Faringdon, Little						
Fernham	14	25	6	0	13	13
Grafton	11	9	2	0	0	2
Hatford	1	9	5	0	3	3
Hinton	16	68	10	1	10	8
Kelmscot	2	12	7	0	2	7
Kingston Lisle	24	43	10	2	13	8
Langford	10	18	13	2	13	7
Longcot	7	71	13	1	32	13
Longworth	9	65	21	0	19	14
Pusey	0	0	2	0	0	2
Radcot	0	0	1	0	0	2
Shellingford	2	3	11	0	3	9
Shrivenham	3	38	21	0	20	25
Stanford	55	101	30	7	34	19
Uffington	12	9	1	0	1	0
Watchfield	2	18	18	0	15	15
Woolstone	5	11	10	0	5	10
TOTAL	288	887	361	33	320	321

This union was the second formed in the kingdom under the Poor Laws Amendment Act, and has been in operation five months.

The union of Abingdon was the first declared, and here the work-house is in rapid progress; the machinery of this union has hitherto worked most satisfactorily, and no part of the rules issued by the Board of Poor Law Commissioners has been productive of greater benefit to the rate payer and rate receiver than the substitution of relief in kind for relief in money. The savings effected in this union, chiefly by this means and by the employment of paid, responsible and competent servants, in lieu of the hitherto irresponsible parish officer, may be esti-

mated by the following statement of expenditure during three months of 1834, and the corresponding months of 1835 :—

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE of Parishes in Abingdon Union, for February, March, and April, 1834, and February, March, and April, 1835.

PARISHES.	1834. Expenditure.			1835. Expenditure.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Abingdon	648	9	5	380	12	0
Drayton	54	0	5	39	13	0
Garford	33	2	4½	19	11	6
Sunningwell	81	4	11	45	18	10
Wootton	58	18	11	47	2	8
Besselsleigh	19	11	0	19	0	6
Radley	115	9	10	80	3	2
Marcham	91	12	10	51	10	7
Sutton Wick	75	5	3	52	3	10
North Hinksey	27	6	2	21	14	0
South Hinksey	27	11	0	19	3	3
	£ 1232	12	1½	776	13	4

showing a saving of 455*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* in three months, or nearly 50 per cent.

I am not aware that the fact has yet been noticed, but the result of my observations, made during local investigation into the condition of the parishes in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, is, that where a parish is highly pauperized there *bread is dearest*, and that the price of bread and the state of the poor are both, in such cases, influenced by the same cause—lavish expenditure of money.

In the Bradfield union the savings for the time the union system has been in operation are equally satisfactory. In the parish of Bradfield alone the payments are very little more than half what they were last year, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.
From April 21st, 1834, for the following seven weeks	153	4	0½
1835.—April 21st, the date the relieving officer commenced his duty, for seven weeks	81	2	7½

By this reduction one farmer in the parish, who rents rather under 200 acres, will effect a saving of 28*l.* for the year in his poor rates.*

In the Witney union it appears also that the rates will be lowered in as great proportion as in any of the before-mentioned districts. As an instance I would adduce the parish of Northmoor, already quoted as one labouring under excessive pressure.

The weekly payments are already reduced from 16*l.* to 6*l.*, and the

* In all these instances of comparison between 1834 and 1835, it must be borne in mind that great reductions in parish expenditure were made in 1834, as compared with preceding years; compare 1835 with 1830, and the result will be more striking.

labourers are stated to be more comfortable and contented than when deriving their subsistence from the parish fund.

I think, therefore, that I may, without being accused of assuming false grounds for my opinion, confidently assert my belief that the results of the new measure will be highly beneficial to the community, both in lightening the burden of poor rate to the landowner and permanently improving the moral condition of the poor. I do not find one instance in the whole of my experience where I consider its introduction either unnecessary or unimportant; on the contrary, wherever, in my district, it has been brought into active operation, the immediate effect has been the reduction of poor rate and the conversion of the idle pauper into a hard-working labourer. *It does not depress the honest and industrious, but corrects the vicious and worthless.* I find also that the fears and prejudices and the groundless opposition that at first exhibit themselves against the introduction of the new measure, gradually give way before an exposition of the detail of the system, and especially before even a short experience of its practicability and its beneficial effects.

I cannot conclude this report of my proceedings without bearing my humble testimony to the *kind and cordial co-operation* I have met with *from the whole body of magistrates* throughout the two counties of Oxford and Berks. To them and to their able assistance in introducing and carrying into effect the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act, I owe all the success with which my endeavours have been hitherto rewarded. At their hands I have experienced the most generous support, and by their widely extended influence I have been enabled to sow seed from which we may hope to reap permanent benefits to all classes. They have entered with me deeply into the subject in all its bearings, and whilst assisted by so able and influential a portion of the community, I cannot but anticipate that the most successful and happy results will eventually crown our endeavours.

It will be highly satisfactory to the Board to know that, in the unions formed throughout these two counties, the boards of guardians are composed of highly respectable and intelligent individuals, who willingly and assiduously devote their attention to a subject with which their interests, and the interests of the country at large, are so closely allied. Noblemen and gentlemen of distinguished ability have consented to take the duties of chairmen and vice-chairmen of these Boards, and by their unremitting attention have given the best earnest of success.

The attendance of the guardians at the meetings of business has been regular and persevering, at once proving the interest they take in the subject, and their zealous desire to lend a cordial assistance in the correction of evils which have hitherto pressed upon their best interests, and of which they have had such just reason to complain.

For the information of the Board, I beg leave to transmit the answers of the guardians of Faringdon union to a few questions that I submitted to them, many of which will evince their intelligent consideration of the subject, after five months' zealous application to their duties.*

Among others, I would call the attention of the Board to the replies of the Rev. Mr. Cleaver. He remarks, "I think the alteration of the Poor Law has removed one cause of immorality, namely, the encouragement given by the Poor Law to the mothers of illegitimate children;

* See Supplement to this Report, p. 18.

and I hope and believe that it will diminish the habit, hitherto very general, especially amongst the single men, of spending their surplus wages in the summer at the alehouses, and depending on the parish for maintenance in winter."

Also to the letter of the Rev. Mr. Hawkins, in which he says, "The impartiality with which all alike are treated, insuring a greater respect for the change, which *has very much checked that hateful feeling of envy*, one of the commonest consequences of the old system."

And to the answer of Mr. William Edmonds, the guardian for Kelmescot: "It is my opinion that great good has been effected by throwing the able-bodied labourer on his own resources, thereby making it his interest to be employed; whereas, under the old system, a premium was held out to vice and idleness, inasmuch as the pauper who had acquired a notoriously bad character, so that no farmer could be induced to have him on his farm, would, by casual employment and relief from the parish, receive more money at the week's end than the honest, steady, and good labourer. Situate as I am in a parish, with only about half sufficient labourers for the cultivation of the land, I have a good opportunity of observing the operations of this measure; and I can with confidence assert, that already I perceive a much greater willingness on the part of the labourers to be employed from those parishes which are thrown into union under the new law, than from those which continue to make up allowance as before. I have likewise remarked, that, notwithstanding the great depression under which agriculture suffers, and the consequent want of means and disposition to employ, the labourer can and does, in most instances, get employment. It is yet early days to expect much reformation in their moral character, but I have reason to believe that the profits of the beer-shops are considerably lessened by the change."

The Rev. Mr. Hughes, J. P., says, "Certainly it (the great saving) has been effected without hardship to the poor, speaking practically, with regard to our own district, where I think the farmers are considerate and humane men, and know the value of a good workman. In spite of the present depression of agricultural produce, I think they feel themselves more at liberty to give wages proportionate to the value received in industry and trustworthiness."

In reply to the following query: What effect, if any, has it had on the moral condition of the labouring class in your parish? he again says, "A decidedly good one: in one respect inferred from the last query. The mutual and permanent relation between a good master and a good workman is more distinctly felt, and very good effects I think will follow in course of time, from the judicious alteration of the laws of settlement, which formerly tended to destroy this relation."

Query: Are they as well or better satisfied?—"Much dissatisfaction is naturally felt by the idle and improvident; but this is of less account, as the public opinion of a parish is influenced by the superior class of labourers. These seem convinced of the necessity of husbanding the joint stock by which farmer and labourer must live, and of preserving their own independent station."

Mr. Thomas Stevens, an active and intelligent magistrate, says, as regards the savings, "Of course the difference made at first will not be so striking as it will be next quarter and afterwards, for the relieving officers have had to become acquainted with the circumstances of the

poor in their districts, before detecting many instances of relief improperly given. It has been the endeavour of our Board to proceed *carefully* rather than *rapidly*. We have considered that the change from profuse to very limited relief should not be made too suddenly, and this particularly in cases of infirm or partially disabled people. At the same time we have endeavoured to *keep close to the principle, and to advance.*"

"All allowance on account of large families has been discontinued, and the poor have been paid in a great measure *by kind* instead of money. There is nothing like a symptom of disturbance in Bradfield."

"In one or two parishes the measure is not a popular one. In Bucklebury, one of the largest parishes, the farmers are greatly opposed, and have certainly endeavoured to impede our progress, by turning off many of their labourers. We apprehend, however, little or no inconvenience from this misconduct. The men are daily becoming more and more aware that they will shortly have nothing but the workhouse to depend upon, and are proportionably more alive to the necessity of exerting themselves; and I feel confident that very shortly the Bucklebury farmers will discover that they have been preparing a rod for their own backs, and that they will have to purchase the labour they have lately trifled with at a higher price than they now expect; for as the men become more independent, labour will become more scarce. If the men cannot find work in Bucklebury, they will find it farther afield."

"I would beg leave also to call the attention of the Board to the evidence given by the Rev. Mr. Dodson, a magistrate of the petty sessional division of Abingdon, and to the statement of the Rev. Mr. Hughes, a magistrate of the Faringdon division, upon the subject of improvident marriages.

Mr. Dodson is the vicar of the large and populous parish of St. Helen, Abingdon, and highly estimated for the energy and zeal with which he fulfils his arduous parochial duties. He assures me that at no time during the eight years he has had the care of the parish has he been called upon to solemnize so few marriages among the labouring classes as during the last five months. The change is so striking in this respect, that his attention has been naturally called to the subject, and he has consequently carefully examined his register. He finds that not only is the number of those marriages diminished, but that they do not bear a proportion of one-half, as compared with those of any former period. He attributes the reduction solely to the operation of the new law as regards the treatment of able-bodied paupers; and I know no person upon whose judgment we could more safely rely, in tracing to its true cause a change at once so important and beneficial.

The evidence of the Rev. Mr. Hughes, a highly respectable magistrate, and one who has long paid much attention to the subject of the Poor Law system, I consider highly important.

This gentleman says, in his replies to my queries—

"I think the number of improvident marriages has certainly diminished, and the idea of emigration has been more seriously entertained."

Both these gentlemen also speak most satisfactorily of the effects produced as regards the mothers of illegitimate children; and from all the evidence I can collect, I am assured that a material change is effected by the alteration of the law in this respect, although still in a degree defective.

As a specimen of the evidence I continually receive on this subject, I would beg to adduce the following:—

The assistant-overseer of St. Giles', Oxford, is sure that there are not so many unmarried women pregnant in the parish now, as was usual heretofore. He knows no other cause for this but the "fear of the new law," which makes the girls cautious.

Mr. Clarke, master of the union workhouse, Oxford, states, that previously to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the average number of the orders of affiliation made in the united parishes annually was fourteen, and there were usually eight or nine cases on the book for relief, without an order. Up to the present date, August 5, there have been three orders made, and five cases are relieved without order.

Andrew Richardson, assistant-overseer of St. Clement's, Oxford, feels certain that there are not now so many unmarried women pregnant in that parish as has been usual hitherto. He constantly hears the females of the lower order complaining of the new law, and proving that they understand its intention.

The assistant-overseer of St. Mary's, Reading, says he is certain the new law has had considerable effect in that town in stopping the progress of bastardy. Fewer cases of pregnant single women have come under his notice than at any former period.

The Rev. Mr. Hughes states:—"In other respects the moral effect has been more immediate still. The number of illegitimate connexions is, I think, diminishing; the parents seem more cautious, and more aware of the value of domestic discipline, for the sake of themselves and daughters."

The Rev. Mr. Cleaver, also a most active and intelligent magistrate of the Faringdon division, gives his testimony entirely concurring with the above. In reply to the inquiries as to the moral effects, he states:—"I think it has removed one cause of great immorality, namely, the encouragement given by the old law to the mothers of illegitimate children."

These opinions I consider highly valuable, as coming from gentlemen who generously devote their time and energies to the amelioration and improvement of the labouring population in their several districts.

Edward Gulson,

Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

SUPPLEMENT to *Mr. Gulson's Report.*

ANSWERS to QUERIES from Parishes in the *Faringdon Union.*

A Return has been forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners, showing a great diminution of pauperism, and a considerable pecuniary saving in most of the parishes in your Union:

1. Is it your opinion that this saving has been effected without hardship to the poor themselves, and peculiarly to the deserving poor?
2. What effect, if any, has it had upon the moral condition of the labouring class in your parish?
3. Are they as well or better satisfied?
4. Are they as well or better behaved, and as well ordered?
5. What has been the effect upon the able-bodied labourers?

Uffington, near Faringdon.

1. Certainly it has been effected without hardship to the poor, speaking practically with regard to our own district, where I think the farmers are considerate and humane men, and know the value of a good workman. In spite of the present depression of agricultural produce, I think they feel themselves more at liberty to give wages proportionate to the value received in industry and trustworthiness.

2. A decidedly good one, in one respect, inferred from the last query.

The mutual and permanent relation between a good master and a good workman is more distinctly felt, and very good effects, I think, will follow in course of time from the judicious alteration of the laws of settlement, which formerly tended to destroy this relation. In other respects the moral effect has been more immediate still. The number of illegitimate connexions is, I think, diminishing; the parents seem more cautious, and more aware of the value of domestic discipline for the sake of themselves and their daughters.

3. Much dissatisfaction is naturally felt by the idle and improvident; but this is of less account, as the public opinion of a parish is influenced by the superior class of labourers. These seem convinced of the necessity of husbanding the joint stock by which farmer and labourer must live, and of their own independent station.

4. Certainly as well behaved, and better ordered than before.

5. I think the number of imprudent marriages has diminished, and the idea of emigration has been more seriously entertained, and in one or two instances acted on, with the assistance of the parish. The effect on the able man, with a large family born under the old system, has certainly been somewhat stringent; and private charity, as well as judicious encouragement, is necessary to reconcile him to a situation which he did not foresee. In our parish the allotment system has rendered the labour of wives and children available, and I think it will be followed more extensively. Much good might be done by granting small lifeholds or leaseholds to the superior class of labourers (as was done formerly in the parish), as a mark of the landlord's good opinion. The families of these men generally had a higher sense of decorum and independence, made the best servants, and frequently raised themselves by their own exertions above their original rank of life. By these means, too, a sort of link was established between the condition of the labourer and the farmer; at present a hopeless gulf exists, which the best man cannot overleap; in fact it is the only situation of life in which the operative has no hope of becoming the master-man, at least in this country. It may not be irrelevant to remark, that the best and most punctual tenants whom I have are persons on the borders of Wales, occupying small farms from 10*l.* to 25*l.* per annum, and the charge for farm repairs on their tenements is slighter in proportion to the gross rental than if they were consolidated into larger farms. I have frequently regretted that this class of men has nearly disappeared in the neighbourhood where I mostly live. Much might be hoped from their restoration, which would not be incompatible with the maintenance of larger farms.

J. Hughes, Acting Magistrate in the Faringdon Division.

Kelmscott.

1. It is my opinion that the savings under the Poor Law Amend-

ment Act have been effected without hardship or cruelty towards the poor, particularly the deserving poor.

2. Our parish being small, and the rate-payers unanimous in their opinions respecting parish business, we flatter ourselves that the poor of this parish, previous to the passing of the late Act, were more moral, orderly, and better labourers than the generality of this neighbourhood. We have therefore felt but little difference as to their general conduct.

3. I am proud to remark that we have not had one case of complaint from our parish before the board of guardians since the formation of the union.

4. They are as well behaved and as orderly.

5. It is my opinion that great good has been effected by throwing the able-bodied labourer on his own resources, thereby making it his interest to be employed; whereas, under the old system, a premium was held out to vice and idleness, inasmuch as the pauper who has acquired a notoriously bad character, so that no farmer could be induced to have him on his farm, would, by casual employment and relief from the parish, receive more money at the week's end, than the honest, steady, and good labourer.

Situate as I am in a parish with only about half sufficient labourers for the cultivation of the land, I have a good opportunity of observing the operation of this measure, and I can with confidence assert, that already I perceive a much greater willingness on the part of the labourers to be employed from those parishes which are thrown into union under the new law, than from those which continue to make up allowance as before. I have likewise remarked, that notwithstanding the great depression under which agriculture suffers, and the consequent want of means and disposition to employ, that the labourer can and does in most instances get employment, at least much more than he used to do. It is yet early days to expect much reformation in their moral character, but I have reason to believe that the profits of the beer-shop are considerably lessened by the change.

Wm. Edmonds.

Shrivenham.

1. It is.

2. So far as I am yet able to form an opinion, I think it has had the effect of rendering them more provident.

3. Having obtained full employment, or nearly so, they certainly are better satisfied.

4. I think an improvement may be observed.

5. That when in employment they have endeavoured by a more orderly behaviour to keep so, knowing that it is now their only dependence.

John Fairthorne.

Compton Beauchamp.

1. Up to the present period I think it has, and especially to the deserving poor; but the time of year has been signally favourable to our plans, inasmuch as there has been constant employment for all the labouring class and their children, and a greater disposition to offer it than I have observed in some former years.

2. The only observation that I have made is, that the impartiality with which all alike are treated insures a greater respect for the change,

which has very much checked the hateful feeling of envy, one of the commonest consequences of the old system.

3. In this parish all are well satisfied; we have not, indeed, a single case of dissatisfaction.

4. The conduct of the labourers here has always been good, and they continue well behaved, and extremely well ordered.

5. When cautioning them on the necessity of frugality, and laying up against winter some of their summer surplus, I have found them willing to listen to my advice; but when I have urged that should their winter wages be insufficient for their support, the probable result would be that some of their family must be separated from them, there has been no great willingness to express any opinion of the measure; but my own feeling is, that those who cannot earn a sufficient subsistence, will very willingly, after a time, fall into any arrangement that the Board of Guardians may find it necessary to adopt.

J. Hawkins, Guardian and Curate of the Parish.

Shillingford.

1. I believe the deserving poor are not, and I hope never will be, in any way injured by the operation of the new Poor Laws.

2. I am not aware of any as yet beyond that of sending one man to work who for many years has been a burden to the parish, and I believe would still have been so had he not been fearful of going to the house.

3. Much the same.

4. Quite as well.

5. I believe the effect will be to make them more thoughtful.

J. Coster.

Faringdon Workhouse.

1. It is my opinion that the condition of the deserving poor, both in and out of the workhouse, is bettered materially.

2. It makes them more submissive to their masters, and consequently better labourers.

3. The poor in the workhouse are quite as well satisfied as before.

4. I find the poor in the workhouse better behaved, always attentive to orders, according to rules and regulations of the house.

5. The worst of characters, whom I was particularly guarded against, I found, from strict discipline, were the most attentive to the hours of their work, and of an evening were found reading their bible, and quitted the house in a most orderly manner, thankful for the benefits they had received, and hoped to return no more.

William Nicholls, Governor of the Workhouse.

Faringdon Union.

1. It is my opinion that the saving has been effected without hardship to the poor, and most certainly without hardship to the deserving poor.

2. I think the moral condition of the labouring class generally is improved, but there has not yet been sufficient time to form a very correct opinion.

3. I think they are generally as well satisfied.

4. They are better behaved, and better ordered.

5. The able-bodied labourers have been much more anxious to get employment, knowing that if they did not try to do so they would be

ordered to the workhouse, instead of having money allowed them as heretofore.

John Haines, Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

Great Coxwell.

1. Decidedly so.
2. I think it has not been long enough in operation to enable me to form a correct opinion.
3. I have not heard of any dissatisfaction in our parish.
4. Much more so; more industrious and anxious to keep in constant work.
5. It has made them look for work for their children, in lieu of depending on the overseer for their support.

N.B.—We have families, who had been constantly on our poor-books for the last ten years, from whom we have had no application for the last five months.

J. Fereman.

Faringdon.

1. This parish was contracted for, though three years previous, at a high rate; a considerable saving has been effected without hardship to the poor.

2. —

3. There never was any dissatisfaction.

4. —

5. I am of opinion the present system has not had time sufficient to judge of its effects.

Ed. Peaple.

Little Coxwell.

1. I am not aware of any case of hardship in this parish, and consider the condition of the deserving poor rather improved than otherwise.

2. I am not able to state that any improvement has taken place, but I am of opinion it will.

3. At present not so well satisfied.

4. I have not perceived as yet any alteration.

5. Improvement.

Thomas Jones, Guardian.

Buscot.

1. Without hardship to any.

2. None.

3. Quite as well satisfied.

4. Much better.

5. It has made them seek and get employment, instead of throwing themselves on the parish at a time when work is scarce. I consider this to have been the greatest saving of expenditure in this parish.

Daniel Carr, Guardian.

Shellingford.

1. The saving has been effected most decidedly without hardship to the poor, and with benefit to the deserving poor.

2. Not being infested with any beer-houses, I consider the moral condition of the poor to have been good before the passing of the Act.

3. Quite as well satisfied.
4. They are.
5. It has caused the idle to seek employment in preference to going to the workhouse.

Thomas Bennett.

Hatford.

1. It has.
2. It has made them more obedient.
3. Satisfied.
4. Better.
5. It has made them more industrious.

John Brooks, Guardian.

Buckland.

1. I am of opinion it decidedly has been so effected.
2. I consider it has caused many to think well for themselves who never appeared to do so under the old Poor Laws, and consequently provide better for their families, both morally and temporally.
3. Not so, of course, at first; but decidedly so at present.
4. Much better behaved than before the new Act came into operation, and keep better time at work.
5. The able-bodied labourers in our district, such as are of good character, are more happy than before. Those of a different character I consider are improving.

John Williams.

Watchfield.

1. Without any hardship, or without injuring the deserving.
2. A good effect.
3. Quite as well satisfied.
4. We consider them already better behaved.
5. More industrious and more obliging.

Richard Richards.

Longworth.

1. I think it has.
2. If any, an improvement.
3. I have not heard of any dissatisfaction being expressed lately.
4. Better.
5. It appears to have produced a desire for employment, and consequently an exertion to attain it.

Chas. Jno. Smith, Guardian.

Coteskill.

1. Without any hardship, except in two cases. Those are able-bodied men, with large families of small children, and unable to work. These difficulties, I consider, are of short duration, as the children will soon be able to work.
2. I do not perceive any particular effect it has had, as the time has been so very short that the law has been in operation; but my expectations are very great in this particular.
3. Not so well satisfied; but, in my opinion, this dissatisfaction is caused principally by the clamour of others, such as the little shop-

keeper, the beer-shop keeper, and the proprietors of small cottages, who deservedly feel the effects of the new system.

4. I begin to perceive a disposition to be more orderly and obedient to their employers.

5. I have not witnessed any particular effect; but I have no doubt it will make others more provident and better labourers, when the system has been brought into full operation.

George Dyke, Guardian.

Little Faringdon.

1. This parish having been well managed, no saving whatever has been effected.

2. None.

3. Quite as well.

4. Better.

5. They endeavour to keep in work when they have it.

Lancelot Myers.

Langford.

1. Most certainly.

2. During the six weeks ending 19th June all have been employed, and when employment can be found all goes on well.

3. Not so well.

4. I see very little or no difference.

5. It has induced them to get situations, and endeavour to keep them.

J. D. Myers, Guardian.

Hinton.

1. Some hardship was experienced when the head-money was first discontinued; but at this time the poor appear as well satisfied as under the old Poor Law. As regards the deserving poor, they felt the change, because their allowance per head was the same as the immoral class.

2. I have not seen any particular change in the moral condition of the paupers.

3 & 4. They are decidedly better behaved than formerly; more civil to their employers and more diligent in their labour.

5. They are more anxious to get labour, and more willing to take it at a fair rate than formerly, because, if they fail in getting labour, they have no other resource but the workhouse, which is much objected to.

John Kent, Guardian.

Longcot.

1. Yes.

2. A good one.

3. At this time, work being plenty, they are; but some weeks back not very well satisfied.

4. Yes.

5. A very good one, where they can obtain work.

Wm. Bowles.

Fernham.

1. Yes.

2. Much better management.

3. Better satisfied than before.

4. Much better behaved than before.
5. Much more industrious.

Robert Muttingly, Guardian.

Grafton.

1. It is.
2. Not any.
3. Quite as well.
4. Quite as well.
5. They are willing to do any work that is offered them.

William May, Guardian.

Faringdon.

1. I am of opinion that the poor are properly treated.
2. I think a very great one for the better.
3. Quite as well, if not better.
4. Most certainly they are.
5. A very great one for the better.

Richard Smith.

Radcot.

1. Without hardship to the deserving poor.
2. There is certainly a shade of improvement, but the trial, as yet, is too short to form a just opinion.
3. In some instances they are satisfied, and would be more so if they all had a plot of land allotted them at a cheap rate.
4. Quite as well.
5. There is a greater disposition to seek after labour, and they are more willing to remain in their situations when obtained. I believe the above observations will apply to nearly all the parishes in this union.

John Fidel, Guardian.

Kingston Lisle.

1. I think it a hardship to the large families.
2. I think their morals are better.
3. The old are better satisfied, and the others not.
4. Yes.
5. They are more obliging to their masters, and look out more for work.

William Smith, Guardian.

Pusey.

1. It is.
2. I think it has a good effect as respects the labouring class generally.
3. As well satisfied.
4. Better.
5. The able-bodied are generally more desirous of getting employment, and more careful in keeping it.

R. Barnard, Guardian.

Ashbury.

1. It has not, except to the elderly people, whose pay is increased one-third.
2. I do not perceive any difference.
3. The respectable labourers, with large families, are certainly not; but the aged are.

4. I do not observe any difference.

5. Those with large families complained of the hardship of the case, and should the bread increase in price, it will be impossible for them to live without assistance.

Robert Whitfield, Guardian.

Bourton.

1. It is.

2. So far as I am able to form an opinion, it has had the effect of rendering them more provident.

3. Having found full employment, or nearly so, they are better satisfied.

4. I think an improvement may be observed.

5. When in employment they have endeavoured, by more orderly behaviour, to keep so, knowing that it is now their only dependence.

John Kent, Guardian.

Stanford.

1. I think it has, except where the deserving labourer has a large family.

2. I think an improvement.

3. All, except the idle, are as well satisfied.

4. Quite as well.

5. It has made them better labourers, and more studious of the interests of their masters.

Wm. Farrant.

Buckland.

1. Without hardship to the deserving poor.

2. Not able to distinguish much difference in that respect.

3. Not more dissatisfied than they were formerly.

4. Certainly better behaved.

5. Give themselves more trouble to seek for work, and more care to keep it when obtained.

William Chare.

—No. 4.—

REPORT from RICHARD HALL, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

GENTLEMEN,

Henley-on-Thames, 10th July, 1835.

THE following sketch of my proceedings while acting under your instructions in the capacity of Assistant Commissioner, is drawn up in the hope that it will tend to prove that the measures devised by you in the spirit of the Poor Law Amendment Act, are such as must, when fully and fairly brought into operation, remedy the evils they are designed to correct.

Conceiving that to dwell upon the malignant features of the old system, to expatiate on its various deformities, to urge, in short, its speedy destruction, is now useless; I shall only mention incidentally such of its abuses as have come before my notice in the sphere of my own peculiar operations, and that, not as novelties with which you are to be surprised, or cases hitherto unprovided for, against which you are required to take fresh precautions, but as illustrative of the state of things in which it was my duty to act, and as rendering intelligible the various rules and orders, which, as accessories of a new and better

administration, you have required me to promulgate. That things could not go on as they were, is, I am bold to say, universally admitted; the public mind, astonished by the sudden light of information let in upon it by the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry, compelled to view the critical position to which a vast mass of property has been brought by the unobserved workings of a system fraught with mischief and ruin, is anxiously looking for something to allay its apprehensions; that something *must* be done, is an undisputed truth; the remedial measures of the Report gave encouragement that something *could* be done; the Poor Law Amendment Act announced, that something *should* be done; it remains to show that something *has* been done.

In accordance with your first directions to me, namely, to act in concert with Mr. Gulson in the counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, I commenced my official investigation at Newbury and its vicinity. No place is more famous in the annals of pauperism than Newbury; for there, or, to speak more accurately, at Speenhamland, on the 6th of May, 1795, was framed the original Bread Table, by which the parish allowance was systematically substituted for the wages of labour; the industrious man was brought down to the same level with him that was content to eat the bread of idleness; independence was discouraged, improvidence rewarded, and the labouring class was proclaimed free of those moral restraints, which act so beneficially on all other orders of the community. I have obtained a sight of one of the original tables, it is headed as follows: "This shows at one view what should be the weekly income of the *industrious poor*, as settled by the magistrates for the county of Berks, at a meeting held at Speenhamland, May 6th, 1795;" and the following is the Report of the proceedings at the meeting, published in the Reading Mercury, of the 11th May, 1795:—

"Reading Mercury, May the 11th, 1795.

"At a general meeting of the justices of this county, together with several discreet persons, assembled by public advertisement, on Wednesday, the 6th day of May, 1795, at the Pelican Inn, in Speenhamland, (in pursuance of an order of the last court of general quarter sessions) for the purpose of rating husbandry wages by the day or week, if then approved of: Present—

"Charles Dundas, Esq. in the Chair, &c. &c.

"Resolved unanimously,—That the present state of the poor does require further assistance than has been generally given them.

"Resolved,—That it is not expedient for the magistrates to grant that assistance by regulating the wages of day labourers, according to the directions of the statutes of the fifth Elizabeth, and first James, but the magistrates very earnestly recommend to the farmers and others throughout the county to increase the pay of their labourers in proportion to the present price of provisions; and agreeable thereto the magistrates now present have unanimously resolved, that they will in their several divisions, make the following calculations and allowances for the relief of all poor and industrious men and their families, who, to the satisfaction of the justices of their parish, shall endeavour (as far as they can) for their own support and maintenance; that is to say, when the gallon loaf of second flour, weighing 8lbs. 11oz. shall cost 1s. then every poor and industrious man shall have for his own support 3s. weekly, either procured by his own or his family's labour, or an allowance from

the poor rates; and for the support of his wife and every other of his family, 1s. 6d.

"When the gallon loaf shall cost 1s. 6d. then every poor and industrious man shall have 4s. weekly, for his own support, and 1s. 10d. for the support of every other of his family.

"And so in proportion as the price of bread rises or falls (that is to say) 3d. to the man, and 1d. to every other of his family on every penny which the loaf rises above 1s.

"By order of the meeting,
(signed) "W. Budd, Deputy Clerk of the Peace."

The following is an extract from the same paper :—

"It was the sense of a respectable meeting at Basingstoke, on Wednesday last, that the most eligible method of regulating the rate of wages is by reference to the price of wheat; but that in no case an able-bodied labourer ought to have less than 8s. per week." The report of this meeting also is given in the same paper. It is presumed that all information must be interesting that explains the origin or history of abuses which will make, and are making the most strenuous struggles for existence against the hand of reform now raised for their destruction; it is in this member that the vitality of the ancient system will be most difficult to extinguish.

It is singular that the provisions of the Speenhamland Act of Parliament, as the Berkshire table is called, as well as the deliberations of the "discreet persons" who passed it, contemplate only the case of the *industrious* poor; taking advantage of the ambiguity of the term "poor," and qualifying it by an adjunct which must practically be found altogether useless; (for who can measure a man's industry?) They open wide the hospitable portals of the parish to all who claim admittance; as if their very object had been to remove every doubt, that this alma mater was bound to secure to all who could prove themselves her legitimate offspring, and would urge their right, a comfortable and permanent income, payable at stated periods, nicely adjusted to the wants of the receiver, and not liable to diminution through misconduct, improvidence, prodigality, or any of those vicissitudes by which, through a happy constitution of nature, the condition of mankind under ordinary circumstances is affected.

I believe, however, that we of the present day must not judge too harshly of this act of the Berkshire magistrates, it would I am sure be unfair to charge upon them, exclusively, the consequences of the bread scale. As far as I can learn, the custom of paying labourers off the book existed for some time previously to the meeting at Speenhamland; the farmer acquiesced readily in a practice which relieved him from the disagreeable measure of raising wages to what the exigencies of the time made necessary for the support of the labourer, which enabled him to throw part of the burden of his support on the rate-payer who did not employ him, and which, by swelling the amount of outgoings from his farm, furnished him with a plea against a rise in his rent; in short, the farmer then sided with the magistrates; the latter, in whose compassionate and humane feelings the applicant in distress found a powerful advocate (how powerful those only can say who have felt it their painful duty to resist the importunate appeals of poverty and wretchedness,) dealing with a fund, provided by persons at that time in great and increasing prosperity, and who were reckless of its expenditure, ordered

that relief which was sought. In doing this, some standard was necessary; and what so proper as the number of mouths to feed, and the price of that by which they were to be fed? But here a difficulty arises: the quantity requisite might be very differently estimated, and hence a considerable variation in the amount of relief ordered by different justices; this was inconvenient. It subjected one to the charge of extravagance, another to that of stinginess. One justice was supposed by his profuseness to encourage idleness and fraud; another, by his niggardliness, to bear hard on meritorious and suffering industry. Hence also good and bad parishes, according to the disposition of the magistrate, who resided over their affairs; and hence popularity and unpopularity of the gentry with the lower orders. To remedy, as was believed, these evils, to introduce a desirable uniformity of practice, and not to procure the recognition of any abstract principle, was the broad scale concocted.

It should be remembered also, that at that time the axioms of political economy were not fixed. It was not seen that wages were influenced, like prices, by supply and demand; on the contrary, the amount of remuneration for labour was considered a proper subject of statutable regulation.

In the House of Commons, during the very week in which the Speenhamland meeting was held, the low rate of wages as compared with prices was repeatedly mentioned; and on the question being put to the Secretary of State, whether the Government was preparing any measure for the relief of the labouring classes, a simple negative was given in reply, without the addition of anything, from which it might be inferred that the Government considered the matter as lying without the pale of legislation.

I dwell on this longer than the nature of this communication would appear to demand, from a desire, as far as my humble endeavours may avail, to relieve the magistracy from that load of unmerited obloquy which it has been the fashion to heap on them. Nothing is more easy than to charge all the mischief of the administration of the Poor Laws on the magistrates, as I have constantly heard it done; and the accusation is made with this singular advantage, that it is made where it cannot be answered. I have hardly ever held conversation on this subject with a farmer for five minutes, without hearing him assign as the cause of the evils in his own parish, the selfishness of his neighbours and the interference of the magistrates. No public functionary has had a more perplexing part to perform than the justice of the peace; required to act on imperfect evidence, to adjudicate points on which professionally educated men might well doubt, the sphere of his duties being always in the very centre of local interests and prejudices, what had he to guide him in this difficult path of his duty?—Acts of Parliament! From which of them could he learn sound principles for the administration of the Poor Laws? Decisions in courts of law! Let any one examine the conflicting opinions, the uncertain reasonings, and the grounds of the judgments recorded in our law reports, and he will estimate justly the assistance they can furnish. The custom of the country! this was his only resource. In the mean time, that which was formerly popular with the farmers, and in unison with the opinions and feelings of the day, has ceased to be so. New notions, more correct ones, doubtless, are entertained; the burdens upon agriculture, and especially those connected with pauperism, increase. The farmer now turns round

upon the magistrate, blames him as the cause of most of the distress and difficulty in which he is involved, and requires of him that he should, by a sudden change of maxims and measures, incur the odium and expose himself to the resentment of a body of men, grown formidable from their numbers, and the feelings of acrimony and discontent which a vicious system has cherished. With these difficulties a legislative enactment alone could cope; that enactment has been made; you are occupied in the application of its provisions to every part of this kingdom; and what is now the feeling of the magistracy? They hail with satisfaction their emancipation from the trammels which have hitherto bound them. As members of boards of guardians, and as private gentlemen, they are prepared to throw the whole weight of their intelligence, their rank, and property into the scale of pauper reformation. And I should be ungrateful, did I miss an opportunity of vindicating from unmerited aspersions, individuals who have rendered me most valuable service in the prosecution of my inquiries, and will, I am persuaded, sedulously promote the success of a measure, having for its primary object the welfare of the labouring classes.

To return from this digression: though the authority of the Bread Table appeared to me, on the whole, weakened in the neighbourhood of Newbury, yet it evidently retained vigour enough to require the intervention of some extraneous power for its complete subversion; no voice less peremptory than that of the legislature could pronounce its abrogation. The phraseology of the vestry, and I may also add of the board of guardians, shows how difficult it is to turn the current of men's notions on parochial relief from the channel in which they have been so long flowing; the language there is commonly, "making up this man's money," "such an one has no right to more than so much;" the applicants demand their money, and occasionally present themselves merely to inquire, "what their money is;" so firmly implanted is the principle, not only that the pauper has a legal claim upon the parish for the supply of his necessities, but that he has a right to a certain amount of relief, for which he can qualify himself at pleasure. In almost all the parishes I have visited, I have remarked the influence of this principle on their dealings with their labouring population. The question on their part is, not, "what are you bound to do for yourself," but "what are we to do for you?" And the applicant's own statement is accepted as the answer.

Various are the modes in which the parish has endeavoured to discharge its obligation; of these, payment off the book, (*i. e.* from the poor rate) in aid of wages, is the most general, as being the one specially enjoined by the Berkshire magistrates. Its tendency to deteriorate the quality of work, and to increase pauperism, has been, though imperfectly, perceived, and the allowance to a man on account of his family, when in employment, is neither so regularly nor so liberally made in Berkshire as it has been, and as it still is in adjoining counties. I found that in some parishes, as Newbury, Kintbury, and Thatcham, considerable progress had been made towards the abolition of this practice, but in none had it been entirely discontinued; I was always told on inquiry, "we pay so much for the third, fourth, or fifth child," as the case might be; no where did I hear, "we require the parent to maintain his children by his own industry." In parishes which I subsequently visited in Oxfordshire, I found this mode of relief adopted without miti-

gation or qualification ; to mention one instance out of many : at North Aston a man had been working for a farmer for nine pence a week, while the parish paid him 5s., at which rate, he cleared, that is weeded, 126 acres of land, besides working in the hay-field ; I should add that the employer was brother-in-law to the overseer. The parish of Auld-bourn, in Wiltshire (included in the Hungerford union), afforded me a curious instance of the minuteness and punctuality with which the parish accounted to its claimants, and the regularity with which their claims were preferred, as if the right would be lost if not insisted on : a pauper for a long period applied for, and received, the sum of three halfpence a week, as the amount to which he was legally entitled ; and several would come a distance of two miles, for the weekly pay of fourpence.

In many parishes, especially in Oxfordshire, I have seen the Roundsmen and Ticket system adopted, as the best means of conveying to the pauper that amount of income which the parish had determined to be his due. In the parish of Launton the amount paid by the overseer for tickets in one year, was shown by the books to exceed 500*l.*, the whole annual expenditure being 880*l.* This scheme recommends itself peculiarly to the selfishness and shortsighted jealousy of the farmers ; amongst whom every man's eye is on his neighbour, lest by any means his portion of the parochial burden should have been unduly lightened, many a farmer has dismissed labourers from *profitable* employment, in order, as he imagined, to make others assist in maintaining them. This false view of things, these illusory notions of a forced equality, attested by the prevalent desire of the farmers for a labour-rate, have been a most potent cause of evil, and have given rise to the apparent redundancy of population in many places ; I say *apparent*, because I am sure that I have very rarely met with surplus labourers, in the true acceptance of the term ; that is to say, more men than can be employed on the land, so as to develop to the utmost its productive powers ; when a farmer speaks of surplus labourers, he means invariably " more men than I can afford to pay for ;" and just in those places where the number of men on the round, or in the gravel pit, is largest, is the land worse tilled, a symptom of an inadequate application, rather than a superfluity of labour. I am inclined to say generally, that the evils resulting from a principle which destroys the connexion between work and wages, flourish more vigorously in Oxfordshire than in that district of Berkshire where it was first formally avowed and sanctioned. No where have I seen the relation between employer and employed so much disturbed as in the vicinity of Bicester : the usual form of parochial management is this ; the parish, in the first instance, settles the proper amount of income for every labourer within it, according to the number of his family and the price of bread ; the farmers, at a general meeting, held once a year, bid against each other for the men, and that master receives any labourer as his servant, who will undertake to pay the largest portion of the sum which the parish has decreed that he is to receive ; so that good character is no advantage to the labourer, but the parish gains by it ; his industry does not increase his means, or add to his respectability and comfort ; it only diminishes the expenditure of the parish. In some places a slight deviation from this custom has been made ; the terms of this sale by auction are varied ; the parish will not allow the men to go for less than the full price ; and all that are not thus disposed of are sent round with tickets. The tendency of this plan will appear from

the following conversation between the overseer of Boarstall, in Buckinghamshire, and myself: "Do you employ many regular men?"—"Yes, sir, several." "And many roundsmen?"—"Too many by half, sir." "Do you pay all alike?"—"Yes, sir, I give every man his right price." "How many hours a day do the regular labourers work?"—"I have a large dairy, and they must be at their milking soon after five in the morning and again at six in the evening, so that they remain at this time of year about 13 hours." "And the roundsmen, when do they come and go?"—"I cannot get them before eight or nine in the morning, and they are all off in the afternoon, between three and four; their work is worth nothing while they are with me." "And they are paid like the rest?"—"Just the same, sir, according to their price." "Does the number of men on the round increase or diminish?"—"There are more and more every year, sir." "Then, I suppose, the labourers of your parish do not improve?"—"Improve, sir! they keep on getting worse and worse, and unless you do something for us, I expect they will soon give up work altogether." And such is the substance of every conversation I have ever held on the same subject.

In most parishes attempts have been made, with various success, to find work for those able-bodied paupers, whose alleged inability to procure employment for themselves brings them to the overseer. It is said, you shall not have your money for nothing. Sometimes land is rented which the paupers are set to dig; sometimes they grub roots or work in a stonepit, according to local circumstances; but as all parishes have roads which they are bound to keep in repair, the most usual way of employing the paupers is to put them on the roads; and in all the books of account that I have seen, a large portion of expenditure is referable to this head. The average number of able-bodied paupers thus disposed of in the parish of Lambourne is 90; to what purpose, may be inferred from the following replies of a pauper similarly placed in the parish of Brightwell. I passed six or seven men professedly working on a road, about 10 o'clock in the morning: returning about four in the afternoon, I found them reposing in various attitudes near the spot where I had seen them before. After some introductory observations, I asked, "Do you think you earn your money at this work?"—"If I do, said one, it is by walking here and back morning and evening." "Why, do you do the road no good?"—"Not a morsel, sir, I think we rather do it harm." "Then what do you think you are put here for?"—"Oh, sir, we know the overseer only puts us here to *suffer* (*i. e.* punish) us, and I have often told him he had better give us our money for nothing." "But why not get employment from the farmers?"—"The farmers will not give us any just at present, they keep us here like potatoes in a pit, and only take us out for use when they can no longer do without us." Such is the effect produced by a system which has broken the bond of mutual dependance between the master and his servant; the baneful interference of the parish, sanctioned and guided by the Bread Table, has given rise to, and cherished a sullen and discontented spirit on the part of the labourers, and on that of the farmers a corresponding feeling of harshness and dislike. In and round Hungerford, this ill-will has been heightened by the occurrences of 1830, when the violence of the peasantry required force for its suppression; on that occasion concessions were extorted, which, as such concessions always must, widened instead of closing the breach between the oppo-

nents. To this I am inclined to attribute much of the ardour with which the farmers in that neighbourhood entered into the scheme I proposed to them, and also a certain diffidence of its success expressed by several gentlemen who at the same time afforded me every assistance, and will I am sure, aid the operation of the new measure by every effort which their intelligence and good feeling will suggest; the former saw in the measure a means of making the labourer dependant on his employer; the latter doubted whether it would possess strength to secure it the victory over the turbulent opposition of those whose evil habits and propensities it must correct and coerce. Abundant evidence of the existence of such a disposition as I have been speaking of is given in the frequent occurrence of acts of aggression on the property and even the persons of obnoxious individuals. At Deddington, while I was there, the overseer's windows were broken, and I was told that hardly a night passes without some injury to the property of the unfortunate person on whom this unpopular office has devolved; such must be the case as long as the poor man is taught to rely not on his own industry, but on his talent for cajoling and intimidating, not on his proper employer, but on the parish officer, for the support of himself and his family.

In describing the universal prevalence of the allowance system through the district in which I have acted, I must not leave my statements unqualified. I have occasionally had the pleasure of communicating with gentlemen, who, with intelligence to perceive, have combined spirit to combat its evils. Lord Chetwynd, in the township of Bicester Market-end, Mr. Cherry, in the parish of Kintbury, and Mr. Mount, in that of Thatcham, have shown that it was not necessary to succumb to them in hopeless despondency; but the effect of their exertions has been confined to their own parishes; the contrast between them and their neighbours only proves that mere example will do nothing for them, and that a powerful hand must interpose to rescue them from the destruction into which they are quietly sinking.

Such, Gentlemen, have appeared to me to be the effects of those principles which the Bread Table of the Berkshire magistrates recognized and sanctioned; by the system now in the course of establishment under your directions, those principles will be exploded, and the table itself consigned to oblivion, or only suffered to exist in memory, as a curious specimen of well-meant, misjudged legislation.

But I have found that abuses originating in other sources were neither small nor few. Want of uniformity in the mode of managing different parishes has been a great obstacle to improvement. Hitherto, in the variety of plans devised by persons of different habits and characters for the regulation of their respective parishes, and I may add from the absence of all plan in many, no measure could be relied upon. For instance, in the parish of Newbury, very few men were receiving parochial relief as well as regular wages; in the adjoining parish of Speen there were numbers; why should this difference exist? What had been done in the one place might have been done in the other; the bad consequence of the discrepancy was this; the lower orders in Newbury were kept in a constant state of irritation and turbulence by the paupers of Speen, and the parochial authorities of the latter place have been deterred by witnessing the unsettled condition of the former from attempting to curtail emoluments, the loss of which might lead to similar expressions of bad feeling in their own community.

The accounts of the parish of Newbury exhibit a curious instance of the mischievous effects of committing the control of its affairs to annually changing unpaid officers. I observed that for some weeks the cost of maintaining the inmates of the poor house very much exceeded what it amounted to for others, and that, without any increase in the number of the paupers or alteration in the diet; and I moreover saw that the fluctuation recurred at regular periods. The problem was solved thus: The number of overseers annually appointed is four; they have the management of the parish a fortnight each in succession, without any settled rule for their observance; each follows that course which his good sense, or fancy, or interest points out; one purchases flour and bakes in the poor-house; the next, wishing to serve his friend or relative, the baker, refuses to do so, and orders bread to be bought; hence a fluctuation in the amount of weekly expenditure to the extent of 6*l.* was observable. I would mention one more instance of evil resulting from the same cause in the same parish. Under the superintendence of the present master of the poor-house, an attempt was once made to establish therein a certain degree of classification and discipline; as a means to this end, a wall was, by order of the overseers, built, dividing the front court-yard. Their immediate successors disapproved of this, and during the master's absence for forty-eight hours in London the wall was demolished. "I left it standing," said he to me; "when I came back it was clean gone."

It is well known that, as the office of overseer is a thankless and laborious task, it is usual to impose the burden on any new comer into a parish, without the slightest regard to his inclination or qualifications. I had an interview with the overseer of the parish of Brill, in Bucks, appointed under these circumstances; I found him in his hay field, about two miles from the village, from which his residence was a good mile distant. On entering into conversation with him, it appeared that he was hardly acquainted with any of his fellow rate-payers; he believed that there were a good many poor people, because it took so much money to pay them; but he did not know how many, how much each received, why he received it, nor had he ever seen a pauper. He did not keep the books; he did not know whether there was a work-house in the parish or not; and he never attended the vestry. All he did was to collect the rate, which he said was very difficult, and to send up by a boy such a sum of money as they (meaning the vestry) sent for; sometimes it was 10*l.* per week, sometimes 15*l.* I found the books in the custody of the parish clerk, who also paid the poor, having done so for thirty-two years; under such management, the annual expenditure averaged 1300*l.*, the population of the parish being 1260, its extent 2600 acres.

The annual audit of accounts by the magistrates, enjoined by law, has confessedly failed to effect its object; it has at length become a merely ministerial act on their part, and their signature only showed that no rate-payer had appeared at the audit to object to the accounts; the verification on oath was only understood to prove that the sums stated to have been received and expended had been so, and that the balance exhibited was correct; as to the legality of the mode in which the money had been disbursed, nothing or almost nothing was secured by this provision; hence the various and often ludicrous items contained in parish books; hence the infinite number of proofs afforded by them of the universally-prevalent notion, that the parish was bound to furnish

whatever the means of the applicant would not enable him to procure ; in them the reward for the destruction of sparrows, hedgehogs, moles, and pole-cats, was mixed up with charges for stone-breaking, clothing young women on going out to service, thatching parish cottages, salaries of overseers, beadles, and surgeons ; casual and permanent relief to men, women, and children ; washing the clergyman's surplice, and in a few instances the stipend of the clergyman ; in a confusion which almost defied investigation. In short, the necessity of a regularly-periodical audit, at which every item of expenditure should be allowed or disallowed, as it had or had not the sanction of an express law, was forcibly felt by all persons conversant with parochial matters.

In most parishes relief has been administered, and wages for parish labour paid, solely in money ; of this relief and wages by far the greater part was spent at the beer shop, where idleness found amusement and opportunity for planning schemes of nocturnal depredation. The boast of a pauper that he was placed beyond the necessity of work, that 1s. 6d. and a *hare* per week were quite sufficient for his maintenance, speaks intelligibly as to the tendency of this mode of relief. Payments in bread, while they effect a considerable saving to the parishes (as the bread is supplied at a contract price), so they act most beneficially, in making relief to the dissolute and idle pauper not worth applying for, and besides insure a larger portion of what is afforded finding its way to the wife and children of the applicant. This has been already perceived by the small publicans and keepers of beer houses ; and the discontent that has in some places been caused by giving relief in bread can be traced to their instigation. How powerful the attraction of the beer shop, how completely it extinguishes all natural feeling in the heart of the pauper, is shown by the following occurrence. While I was at Hungerford, a widower, the father of two children, who in a long course of debauchery had fallen from respectability and affluence into the lowest degradation of pauperism, and was then receiving 4d. per day for himself, and two loaves per week for his children, attempted at a beer shop to purchase a pint of beer with half a loaf, being half the sustenance allowed by the parish for one week for his own child.

The parish of Wootton, which includes Old Woodstock, furnished me with the first instance I had met with of a place where the poor were farmed, at a gross sum for the whole ; nothing can denote more clearly the hopeless state of a parish, far gone in pauperism, than the rate-payers having recourse to this desperate expedient ; perfectly futile it must be, or rather it must greatly aggravate the evils it is meant to palliate ; the contractor has a direct inducement, first, to increase the number of paupers, so as to procure better terms when the period arrives for the renewal of the contract ; secondly, to give the paupers as little as possible so as to make the most of the existing bargain. Thus it was at Wootton ; the first year the stipulated sum was 1000*l.* ; the second year, though a large fall had taken place in the price of provisions, an increase of 100*l.* was demanded and obtained ; and the contractor told me that had not the anticipated union caused the discontinuance of the plan at Lady-day last, he should have applied for a still higher amount, so rapidly had the number of paupers increased ; at the same time discontent and demoralization were proportionally prevalent.

In the township of Bicester Market-end, a similar plan was adopted about four years since ; and in the opinion of Lord Chetwynd, whose

competence to judge has been proved by what he has subsequently effected in the same place, more mischief was caused by it in twelve months than by five years of ordinary mismanagement.

It has been usual with those who either felt, or affected to feel, apprehensive that the new measure would not succeed, to point to the signal failure of unions formed long since under "Gilbert's," or local Acts, and to argue that the board of guardians and the workhouse were then and there tried and found worse than useless; therefore little is to be hoped now from a repetition of the experiment.

The most prominent circumstance that occurred to me during the formation of the Wallingford Union, declared by your order, bearing date the 18th May, was the dissolution of a small union which had existed there since the year 1807. At that period three parishes, within the borough of Wallingford, availed themselves of Gilbert's Act, and built a common workhouse; they of course substituted the administration of relief by visitors and guardians for that by the overseers; and what were the results?—a steady increase of their expenses, a gradual, and finally, a total departure from the provisions of the Act under which the union was formed. I found that the guardians were annually appointed, and did nothing;—in fact, they were ignorant that they had any official duty to perform beyond keeping the workhouse in repair; the overseers paid the poor, and all the abuses consequent upon that method of giving relief, flourished in the union just as out of it. The workhouse was divided into apartments, each furnished and tenanted by a family, by whom it was evidently regarded as their freehold; one woman had resided there for eleven years, and brought up a family of nine children; a shoemaker who had been an inmate seven years, told me that he earned his own living, and indignantly asserted, that he was entirely independent of the parish; in some rooms were young people just beginning life, having been lately married; in others three or four unmarried mothers, or those who were on the point of becoming so; in some were the sick, or those whose age and infirmities showed that they were on the verge of dissolution; 47 children were variously deposited throughout the building; one room only was vacant; on my asking the cause of this, I was informed that it was reserved for some preachers of the Methodist persuasion, who attended twice a week to hold a preaching, and a prayer meeting; those of the inmates who desired it were made members of the congregation, upon the weekly payment of one penny. There was not the slightest attempt at classification; old and young, male and female, sick and sound, were left to mingle at will; the discipline that could be maintained amounted to nothing; a man (who was parish beadle) and his wife, themselves just removed above pauperism, were dignified with the titles of governor and matron; or, as the woman more properly described their situation, they were paid 12s. per week "to set things straight, and keep all quiet:" the means resorted to, in order to effect the latter of these desirable objects, were novel and summary; when a pauper, in consequence of indulgence during the day at the beer shop (for be it remembered, by day there was not the slightest infringement on their liberty), was noisy and troublesome at night, the governor left his bed and turned him out of doors! It appeared that on a vacancy occurring in this parochial lodging-house, a sort of scramble ensued between the united parishes, each being anxious to secure a rent-free tenement to some pauper who

was a burden to it. Such an establishment could not possibly answer any one good end: it only served to enhance and disseminate mischief. I am persuaded that a more powerful argument in favour of the means recently provided by the Legislature for the reformation of the Poor Law administration, cannot be adduced, than the failure of such unions as this at Wallingford; we find in them the necessity of alteration allowed; the principle of combination among parishes recognised; the expediency of removing the distribution of the parish funds from the control of the overseer acknowledged; and finally, the workhouse established; and yet they fail. I do not hesitate to say they have failed, and that they must fail, because the Act creating them not only neglects to provide a test of pauperism, but by its enactments compelling the guardians to find employment suited to their capacity and *near their residence*, for all who profess themselves able and willing to work, expressly precludes the application of the workhouse as such test; it is in spirit as in letter diametrically opposed to the Poor Law Amendment Act, by virtue of which you direct the formation and regulate the conduct of unions. Furthermore the advantages anticipated from such unions have been lost, for want of that over-ruling, independent authority now exercised by the Central Board. Practice has utterly falsified the generally-assumed axiom, that those who raise money are best qualified to spend it; that a man's own interest is his best instructor in this matter; almost every parish I have examined affords proof that in the administration of the poor rate this principle must not be relied on: some power, extraneous, responsible only to the Government, removed from local prejudice and unassailable by intimidation, is indispensable to force men so to speak, to their own interest, against their will. Nothing less than the vigorous exercise of the power most properly vested in the Central Board, could break down the barriers raised by ignorance and self-interest against the progress of improvement.

But it is time that I should notice the steps taken under your directions towards the introduction of a better administration of the Poor Laws in the district I have visited.

In the first place, five unions, comprehending 136 parishes, in the counties of Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Wiltshire, have been declared by you, on my investigation and reports, having for their centres respectively, Newbury, Hungerford, Wallingford, Woodstock, and Bicester; 2dly, a set of rules and regulations, so framed as to be applicable to the present condition and circumstances of every parish, has been promulgated in each union; 3dly, for the due and discreet execution of those rules, a new administrative body has been set over each union, in the form of a board of guardians, composed of the magistrates and most substantial rate-payers in each parish; 4thly, a provision is made against improper disbursement of the parochial funds in the appointment of relieving officers, adequately paid, and therefore thoroughly responsible; 5thly, a security is given against illegal expenditure by the appointment of a competent auditor for each union; 6thly, a means of immediately and permanently reducing their expenditure has been enjoined; the giving relief partially or wholly in kind; 7thly, each parish so united, is put into a way of obtaining the command, at the least possible expense, of that most powerful antagonist of pauperism, the workhouse. In short, you have put these 136 parishes in possession of all the instruments, which reason and experience teach you to employ, in effecting

those grand objects—the lessening of parochial burdens, and the moral regeneration of the working class.

It is highly interesting to watch the development of the different links in the chain which connects these results with their cause ; as my proceedings only commenced late in March last, I cannot lay before you that proof of the success of the new measure where I have been instrumental in its introduction, which is afforded by financial statements and statistical tables ; but I have seen indisputably that the abrogation of the Bread Table, with its concomitant maxims and bye-laws, sets in motion a train of reasoning and consequent action, which tends to make relief in aid of wages unnecessary, wherever it is declared to be illegal. Hitherto the employer knowing that however scanty his remuneration to the labourer, the parish would support him, and keep him from roaming in quest of work on more liberal terms, has given in wages as little as possible, and employed the men the least possible portion of time ; but when it is settled that a man must be either a pauper maintained by the parish, or a labourer maintaining himself, wholly the one or wholly the other, and when the parish maintenance is given in kind and not in money, so that there is nothing to be got but a simple, though sufficient, supply of the necessaries of life, and when the conditions on which this maintenance is bestowed are a punctual compliance with such rules of conduct, a quiet submission to such restraint, and a regular performance of such task, as the party furnishing the maintenance thinks fit to impose on the recipient, it becomes incumbent on the employer to retain his servant ; he is obliged to make it worth the labourer's while to serve him ; no longer "*adscriptus glebæ*," by the settlement law, nor induced to remain on one spot by the certainty that the parish will make up all deficiencies in his wages, and will, in fact, prove a more indulgent and easy master than any other could possibly be ; the labourer makes terms with the employer on an equal footing ; he carries his commodity, that is his labour, to the best market wherever it is to be found ; he demands its full value in exchange for it, and he obtains it.

A principal rate-payer, and the present overseer, of the parish of Launton, in describing to me an attempt recently made to discontinue payments off the books to men in employment, stated, that the farmers had found it necessary, as a preliminary step, to make an advance of 1s. a-week in the wages of their regular labourers ; and thus it is that the farmers themselves, with nothing but their own interest in view, assist in rendering the transition from a lax to a vigorous administration less abrupt ; one discovers that it will never do to allow a man with a large family to go into the workhouse, on account of the expense of keeping them there ; better give him rather more wages than that. Another finds out that a man will not submit to be consigned to the workhouse for three days in the week, because, perhaps, the farmer can only employ him the other three, and that if the stout and willing labourer is drawn away from the neighbourhood, he (the employer) will be the sufferer in the end ; something like permanent work must be found him. A third suggests, that some trifling job can always be given to a boy taken from a heavily-burdened father ; add to this, that as you relieve the farmer from the burden of the poor-rate, in the same proportion you enable him to furnish employment ; and just as employment is found, do the bitter feelings and depraved habits, generated by idleness, disappear. The restoration of liberty to the bargain struck between employers and

employed, obviates both the physical and moral obstacles to the establishment of the new system.

I have, since my appointment as Assistant-Commissioner, bestowed my best powers of investigation upon more than 140 parishes; and the impression produced on my own mind is this, that the evils of pauperism have by no means been exaggerated by previous inquirers; that the pressure upon property is (or may I not say, was?) ruinous, and the deterioration of morals in the lower ranks of the community alarming; that the measures recently devised are universally applicable, and their beneficial effects certain. I may mention here with propriety, the independent testimony everywhere borne to the inherent good of the system whose establishment my humble endeavours have been intended to aid, as shown by its indirect operation in places where no steps have been yet taken towards its introduction. The industrious have been quickened to new exertions by the prospect of something which would secure to industry its due reward; the indolent have been awakened from their carelessness by the apprehension of something that was to make slothfulness no longer agreeable or profitable, but irksome; servants have become attentive and obliging, from the dread of losing situations which preserved them from the anticipated severities of the parish; and masters have been made kind and conciliating by the altered demeanour of their servants. In short, even in the brief period that has elapsed since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, a vast change has taken place, a change by which opposition has been disarmed, the favour of waverers secured, and the success of that great measure placed beyond doubt, provided it is vigorously and judiciously followed up. Nothing would put it in such jeopardy as hesitation; the tide of circumstances now sets in its favour; seize the moment for getting the vessel through the surf and clear of shoals, and she will pursue in peace and safety her prosperous voyage.

I would venture on a few remarks on the subject of workhouses. Much obloquy has been cast on the new system, on account of its essential feature, the workhouse; it has been said, "you make poverty a crime, and you are about to furnish the country with gaols, to which your criminals are to be consigned; bread and water, and a dungeon, must henceforth be the lot of him, whose industrious efforts have been frustrated by sickness or other unavoidable calamity." These things have been said; but as we are assailed less frequently now by such unfounded charges, we may charitably hope that ignorant zeal, and not deliberate malice, suggested the accusation; in which case, it is not impossible that our present accusers may learn to regard the workhouse with complacency, as an instrument of beneficence. A large building, constructed with the utmost possible regard to economy, cannot be an intrinsically beautiful object; an hospital or a manufactory excites an interest of a pleasing nature, be its external aspect never so ungainly; it derives beauty from moral association; and why not a workhouse? there, while the idle and profligate are reclaimed, and diligence and sobriety are gradually disseminated, the old may find an asylum from the aggravated distresses of sickness, poverty, and age, and the young may imbibe religious and moral principles to last them through life. It is the intention, as it is the duty, of the Commissioners, to provide adequate instructors for the children who may be inmates of the workhouse, and full opportunity and means of religious advancement for all who are

thus specially brought under their charge. There can hardly be a more humiliating spectacle than an aged pauper, awaiting in a state of almost brutish apathy, the only summons that can call him from the parish poor-house, the summons of death; as painful is it to see the neglected, squalid state of the children, who generally crowd these abodes of dirt and degradation. To remove them into well-regulated establishments, to bring the old within reach of regular religious instruction and admonition, and to put the young into a course of training as morally responsible creatures, is no small blessing consequent upon the universal application of the workhouse system.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

RICHARD HALL,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 5. —

REPORT from ALFRED POWER, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

GENTLEMEN,

London, 20th July, 1835.

The ten unions of parishes which have been declared on my suggestion and recommendation as an Assistant-Commissioner, form a district of 222 parishes, 65 whereof are situated in Cambridgeshire, 68 in Hertfordshire, and 89 in the county of Essex.

This district is bounded on the west by the series of unions formed by Mr. Adey in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire; on every other side it is open for further extension.

The market towns and petty sessions, places fixed upon as the centres of these several unions, are Bishop Stortford, Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Ware, Hertford, Buntingford, Royston, Linton, Caxton, and Chelmsford; and I believe that with scarcely any exception every parish in the district has been attached to that centre, to which, from its position or other local circumstances, it ought naturally to belong.

The following table exhibits a view of the respective dimensions of these unions, and of their present annual expenditure on the maintenance of the poor. An attempt has also been made to obtain some account of the existing state of pauperism in each union, classifying, as far as could be done, the objects of relief, and their several causes of indigence and dependence on the parish. Being aware of the extreme difficulty of obtaining through the medium of written parochial returns accurate intelligence of this nature, I determined to simplify the inquiry as far as possible, by confining it to one point of time, namely, the last pay-day before making the return, and to insist upon the name of each person thus relieved being registered in certain tables provided for that purpose, with a few headings appropriated to description. This kind of return, which left no excuse for omission or failure, and which it was nearly as easy to fill up accurately as inaccurately, although it gave no account of the fluctuating pauperism of an extended period, was likely to present a tolerably-correct view of that branch of pauperism which may be described as the regular standing list; also a fair estimate of the average amount of occasional pauperism existing at any one time; the inquiry having been carried on from December to May, the worst period of the year as regards agricultural employment.

NAME of UNION.	Number of Parishes in- cluded.	Acres.	Population in 1831.	Average Expense of Poor.	OUT-DOOR POOR AT THE PERIOD OF INQUIRY.											
					Regular Poor.						Occasional Poor.					
					Infirm Per- sons.	Able-bodied Widows.	Their Children under 14.	Orphans under 14.	Bastards under 14.	Idiots.	Able-bodied Males.	Their Wives.	Their Children under 14.	Temporarily In- firm.	Their Wives.	Their Children under 14.
Bishop Stortford . . .	20	49,140	17,912	17,426	520	116	427	40	100	24	279	181	415	102	62	215
Dunmow . . .	26	76,890	19,193	20,306	609	124	803	22	74	28	363	188	470	226	150	522
Saffron Walden . . .	24	67,030	17,977	16,373	495	94	412	35	67	14	395	221	796	96	43	105
Ware . . .	15	35,380	14,654	12,131	319	105	277	22	83	12	129	62	114	54	29	96
Hertford . . .	18	33,830	12,155	8,202	221	56	149	32	34	4	48	37	60	30	18	31
Linton . . .	22	47,214	11,597	10,546	403	82	369	37	55	8	287	174	353	76	37	93
Carlton and Arrington . .	26	44,392	8,993	6,027	270	64	187	19	54	6	100	74	176	55	24	52
Royston . . .	29	59,926	15,671	10,232	419	97	294	27	71	7	230	140	344	45	24	42
Buntingford . . .	16	29,040	6,327	4,625	164	26	104	15	17	3	61	33	74	12	7	20
Chelmsford . . .	26	68,880	24,212	17,239	474	120	441	50	103	16	155	110	283	117	83	148

NAME of UNION.	INMATES OF THE WORK- HOUSE.						Persons not referable to any class.	Total Poor relieved at one time.	Total regular out-door Poor.	Total Able-bodied Males and Families.	Total temporarily Infirm and Families.	Total Inmates of Workhouse.	No. the Workhouse being available for Union will hold.	Greatest No. of able-bodied out of work at one time since Michaelmas.
	Infirm Persons.	Able-bodied Males above 14.	Able-bodied Females above 14.	Idiots.	Bastards under 14.	Other Children under 14.								
Bishop Stortford	67	29	21	8	12	25	220	2,824	1,391	875	395	182	353	264
Dunmow	63	26	12	7	8	12	378	4,085	2,047	1,020	897	121	340	363
Saffron Walden	34	36	21	9	9	33	303	2,894	1,375	1,138	245	137	210	395
Ware	69	17	14	7	3	23	131	1,569	915	304	179	135	220	129
Hertford	51	16	16	1	6	19	91	924	573	155	77	110	260	138
Linton	3	—	4	—	5	1	199	2,184	1,159	812	200	13	50	364
Caxton and Arrington . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	103	1,151	669	340	132	—	—	227
Royston	23	3	3	—	2	6	171	1,945	1,083	714	111	37	80	361
Buntingford	12	5	1	—	2	2	79	641	413	168	40	20	70	126
Chelmsford	93	36	19	6	12	36	251	2,554	1,370	548	438	197	360	313

The returns in the preceding pages have been carefully abstracted into tables for the several unions, from which the accompanying table has been again abstracted. The great majority of the returns appear to have been made with sufficient accuracy, but there are cases in which some misapprehension is apparent, and in which some of the descriptions have been left imperfect. As the object was to obtain as accurately as possible the proportion which the several classes of indigent bore to each other, the source of inaccuracy above mentioned has been disposed of by opening a column for individuals not distinctly referable to any class mentioned in the table. By this method of accumulating and refining the materials, a safer approximation is made to the proportions of the several classes of rural pauperism as now existing. The returns of the total number of poor there is no reason to distrust.

By a careful calculation and comparison of the materials presented in the preceding table, the following result has been obtained.

Out of 1000 poor of definite description, there are—

REGULAR POOR.			
Infirm	225		
Able-bodied Widows	46		
Children of the above	181		
Orphans and destitute Children .	24		
Bastards	38		
Idiots	8		
			522
OCCASIONAL POOR.			
Able-bodied Males, single . . .	52		
Ditto . ditto, married	64		
Their Wives	64		
Children of the above	161		
		341	
Temporarily infirm	43		
Their Wives	25		
Their Children	69		
		137	
			478
			1000

That branch of the occasional pauperism which arises from failure of employment, or time lost (as it is termed), by the earners of wages, and which in the above calculation is represented by the number 341, being about one-third of the whole poor, may be taken to be averaged with tolerable correctness, for about eight months in the year; during the remaining four months, including hay-time and harvest, it may be considered as nearly, if not altogether, disappearing in the district investigated by me.

The other branch of occasional pauperism, arising from accident or sickness in the earners of wages, and the whole class denominated "regular poor," may be taken as averaged correctly throughout the whole year.

It will be observed, that of able-bodied female paupers, able-bodied

widows, and the wives of able-bodied men alone are classed in the above calculation. This is explained by the circumstance that able-bodied single female paupers so seldom occur in the original returns as to make this class scarcely worthy of a separate consideration. From the circumstance of this class going out to service more frequently than the single men, a comparatively smaller number are found living in the cottages, and the practice almost invariably pursued by the parishes with reference to these, is to consider them, when above the age of 14, neither as members of the families to be maintained by the allowance, nor entitled to relief as distinct claimants on the ground of lost time, as is the case with boys of the same age.

Accordingly the class of able-bodied single women, where returned as paupers, may be considered as merged in the column entitled "Persons not referable to any class," excepting only such as are included under the head "Able-bodied females," being "inmates of the workhouse." The latter class, again, has been suppressed in the above calculation, not so much from its inconsiderable amount, as from the want of proper description in the tables prepared for the original returns. This defect causes the proportion of able-bodied widows, as given in the above calculation, to fall a little short of its actual amount.

The unequal dimensions of some of these unions, as regards expenditure and population, has arisen in great measure from the inconvenient position of some of the central places, the different densities of the population in different parts, and the different size and numbers of the parishes to be included, the economical advantages to be expected from large unions being controlled by considerations of distance from the central point, and the assemblage of a convenient number of guardians for the despatch of business, as well as by the magnitude of the details to be brought under one management.

For example, it was originally proposed that the Royston and Buntingford unions should be one union of 45 parishes, comprising a population and expenditure not greater than in some other unions already established, but the great number of *ex-officio* and elected guardians, and the great distance which some of the latter would have to travel to the place of weekly meeting, made it appear desirable to form a separate union around Buntingford, in accordance with the earnest wishes of many of the most respectable residents in that neighbourhood, expressed in a memorial to your Board. The comparatively small amount of population and expenditure included in the Hertford and Caxton unions, respectively, arose partly from considerations of the same nature, and partly from the proximity of some of the neighbouring centres.

In the earliest formed of these unions, namely, those of Bishop Stortford, Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, and Ware, it appeared to me that there existed already a sufficient quantity of workhouse accommodation within the limits of each to authorize my recommending the guardians to make use of a combination of workhouses in the manner pointed out by the Commissioners of Inquiry, in page 306 of their Report.

For this purpose it was deemed necessary that the principal workhouse of each union should undergo considerable alteration and repair, which in each case has been undertaken with alacrity by the guardians, who have also in three of the above cases proceeded to the erection of a large hand-mill for the employment of the able-bodied inmates. The necessity of making these preliminary preparations has prevented the work-

house system coming into operation until very recently in any of these unions. Again, with regard to a change in the system of out-door relief, the guardians of these unions have, from the magnitude of the details submitted to their management, found some difficulty in carrying into full effect the Union Regulations issued by your Board; I have, therefore, at their request in each case, obtained from your Board a suspension of the peremptory operation of those rules down to the 24th June now past; at this time I am happy to say that the dispensation of relief in kind, in accordance with those rules, has been fully introduced by the relieving officers in these unions without any serious opposition from the labouring class.

The guardians of the Saffron Walden union, besides placing their chief workhouse in a state of repair for immediate and temporary purposes, have proceeded, under your sanction, to the purchase of a piece of ground for the erection of a workhouse calculated to contain 300 inmates. This step, which appeared to be rendered desirable by the absence of a sufficient quantity of subsidiary workhouse room, available for the uses of the union, emanated from the board of guardians themselves. With reference to the five unions more recently declared in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, I have the satisfaction to report that the greatest possible degree of alacrity and zeal exists on the part of the guardians, to carry fully and firmly into effect the rules and regulations issued by your Board for their guidance. In these unions, which are of smaller dimensions, and have the further advantage of taking example by the practice of the unions earlier formed around them, I feel no doubt that a better system of out-door relief will be introduced immediately. With the exception, however, of the Hertford union (which is well provided with three or four workhouses proposed to be used in combination), these unions are without the advantages of any available workhouse room, and will be under the necessity of erecting some buildings of this description. I have not recommended in any of these cases the outlay of more than one-half the amount of the average annual expenditure on this object. In each case the guardians have addressed themselves at once to the task of selecting a proper piece of ground, and are preparing to commence immediately, under your sanction, the erection of a sufficient building on a well-arranged and authorized plan.

In the case of the Chelmsford union, the last formed under my superintendence, there are four or five workhouses within its limits, which appear to me in combination sufficient for the purposes of this large union.

With regard to such prospect of a successful result from these operations as may present itself at this time, it will be important to state in the first place that the boards of guardians themselves, although contending with great and various difficulties at some personal sacrifice of time and attention, express their confidence of being enabled speedily to triumph over the more flagrant evils of the Poor Laws as hitherto administered; the excellent effects experienced from giving relief in kind, both as regards economy and the proper destination of the relief given, have impressed them with increased confidence in the value of the change of system, and they already feel in the partial application of the workhouse system what a powerful engine they have in their hands for the repression of imposture and improvidence.

In witnessing the administration of relief by these boards of guar-

dians, I have been much struck by the rapid and universal progress which the principles of improved management laid down in the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry have made in the minds of all those gentlemen who, by being called upon to fulfil this duty, have given their attention to the subject. If the unions now formed were suddenly dissolved, and each parish restored to its own individual management, a great advantage would have been gained to each by its possessing at least one person of respectability and influence, imbued with sounder principles of management than those heretofore generally practised. But the most effective and beneficial feature of the system introduced, is the substitution of the combined management of the board of guardians for the management of the individual parish. In deciding on the particular applications for relief, all those motives and influences which operate locally, either in squandering the rates or making the poorer classes dissatisfied, are wholly without effect upon the decisions of the board of guardians, there being always a majority of persons deciding on each application, who are not interested in the affairs of the particular parish whose funds they are administering, otherwise than by the desire to sustain a uniform and sound practice throughout the whole district submitted to their control. Again, with regard to the quantity of information which can be brought to bear upon the merits and circumstances of the individual application, it is practically found that the means of intelligence upon all points which should influence the decision, are, through the services of the relieving officer, and the assistance of the parish guardian, much greater with the board of guardians than with the individual parish. This administration of outdoor relief by the general board of guardians appears to me the chief advantage which the unions framed under the recent Act possess over the unions framed under Gilbert's Act, where the acting guardian for each parish separately exercises the entire control of the relief, by which means a great discrepancy of management is found to prevail in different parishes of the same union. The faulty principle of the workhouse system established under Gilbert's Act, as exhibited in sections 28 and 32 of that Act, the latter of which is still unrepealed, is well known to your Board: it is only adverted to here as obviating the conclusions which have been derived from the ill success of some of Gilbert's unions, against the probable success of the unions framed under the recent Act.

Next in importance among the immediate signs of success, is the remarkable effect which the proceedings now in progress appear to have produced upon the minds of the able-bodied class in this pauperized district. In every quarter where my recent inquiries and operations have been carrying on, I have heard this account from the employers of labour, that the behaviour of the men has changed in a wonderful manner, that they are no longer so indifferent to service with the private employer as they used to be, and that they are more disposed to trust to their own exertions in finding work, rather than to resort to the parish as formerly. This effect has been produced by the mere anticipation of a change of system, the wind as it were of the coming reform; and to this circumstance, as well as to the publicity given to your rules and regulations issued for the government of unions already established, I attribute the much greater willingness which I have latterly found existing on the part of the rural parishes to be included in unions.

I will next mention to the Board, as one of the grounds of my confident expectations of success, some of those examples of the surprising effects of a well-regulated workhouse system which have occurred to my observation during my recent inquiries; examples which have, with one exception, arisen subsequently to the inquiry instituted by the previous Poor Law Commission, but independently of any interference under the authority of the new Act. Since one of the chief advantages of a combination of the funds of parishes is to give every parish the means of resort to a well-regulated workhouse system, the following instances of the success of the workhouse may not be out of place here.

The parish of Brickendon, in the liberty of the borough of Hertford, having a population of 765 in 1831, and being at that time overgrown with pauperism, determined on a struggle to emancipate itself, some time before the labours of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry had drawn public attention to the peculiar means of effecting such an object. They built a workhouse capable of holding 70 inmates, divided, both as to building and yard, into two compartments, and began their new system in 1833. At that time I found, by reference to the books, that the amount of relief given to persons on the pension list for one quarter short of a week, was 67*l.*, the number of individuals relieved being 45 and upwards. At the present time, and taking the corresponding quarter of the year, the quarterly pension amounts to 17*l.* 11*s.*, and the number of recipients of out-door relief is only 12. The above relates only to what are called the regular or permanent poor of the pension list. With regard to the able-bodied, as much as 107*l.* appears to have been spent in one year in finding employment for men out of work; last year the expense incurred on this account was not more than 28*l.*

In a printed abstract of the parish accounts made up last Easter, the saving is stated as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Average expenditure during the preceding four years	655	15	8½
Expenditure for the past year	380	6	4½
Saving during the past year	£275	9	4

It is important to remark, that the greatest number of inmates in the house at one time during the progress of this change, was only 19; and that at the time of my inquiry there were no inmates, except one girl of about 20 years of age, and four or five small children.

The parish of All Saints, Hertford, has scarcely had more than one year's experience of a workhouse, newly built, precisely on the same model as that of Brickendon parish, and the reduction in this case has been still more sudden and surprising, as will appear by the following comparison of their expenditure of the last year with that of previous years:—

one pauper of that description in the house. Linton is now the head quarters of a union of 22 parishes, of which many are in the same condition now as Linton was in the year 1833, and from the energy and promptitude evinced by the board of guardians, I have no doubt of the benefit of an improved administration of the Poor Laws being extended to the whole of that union in a very short time.

I will now venture to state to the Board another ground of my confident expectation of success from the operations carrying on under the authority of the Commission, which is derived from as close an observation of the able-bodied pauperism of the district investigated by myself as I was enabled to combine with my other inquiries and proceedings. It may be right to dwell on this subject at some length, since there are many persons who, admitting the perfect success of the workhouse system in isolated cases, doubt the efficacy of its operation on an extended scale. This distrust is founded, for the most part, on an exaggerated belief of the amount of surplus agricultural labour existing in some of the southern counties of England; and it is to an examination of the real nature of this apparent surplus that my attention has been directed.

It appeared to me that much light would be thrown on this subject by obtaining, in some of the parishes worst pauperized, a view of the extent to which the able-bodied paupers were relieved (on the plea of not being able to get work) during some considerable period of the year. Accordingly I prepared some tables which, in cases where reliance could be placed on the attention of the overseers to this task, have been filled up so as to show the number of days in each week, from last harvest up to the time of inquiry, which each man had lost, or, to speak more accurately, the number of days he had worked for the parish, or at least received parochial wages.

The following Table, returned by a parish in Hertfordshire, will best illustrate the nature of the information thus obtained in some cases :—

PARISH OF BARKWAY.

T of Able-bodied Males who have applied to the Parish for Work or Relief since last Harvest.

The Number of Days during which each Man has been on the Parish.

(The first Column is for the first Week in September, the next for the next Week, and so on up to the present time.)

NAME.	Age.	Wife living.	No. of Children in each Family.	Allowances for a whole Week.	Month of September.	Month of October.	Month of November.	Month of December.	Month of January.	Month of February.	Month of March.	Month of April.
Philip Jackson	80	yes	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
John Watson	65	yes	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Joseph Sharp	60	yes	4	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
William Johnson	45	yes	5	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
William Searle	50	no	3	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
William Edwards	70	yes	1	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Edward Dockrill	18	.	3	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Thomas Nunn	45	yes	3	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Thomas Nunn	18	.	3	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
John Wright	35	yes	5	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Robert Guiver	50	yes	2	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
John Dradge	60	.	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
James Dale	22	yes	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Thomas Head	18	.	3	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
John Pitty	40	yes	1	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
James Edwards	50	yes	4	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
James Searle	25	yes	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
John Bunyan	22	yes	3	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

The facts exhibited by this Table are,—

1. That 45 able-bodied paupers have applied to the parish for relief during the period of 32 weeks or 192 working days.

2. That these 45 men have, during that period, lost in the whole 1,843 days, or, at least, have been dependent on the parish for maintenance to that extent only.

3. That, with the exception of four or five out of the whole number, every man's services appear to have been required in the parish during a large proportion of the whole period.

4. That, supposing every man's earnings when in employment to have been properly applied to his maintenance, there would appear to be nine persons out of the whole 45 not able to maintain themselves on the private employment afforded during this period of 32 weeks.

The question to be raised upon these facts is, out of 45 able-bodied paupers are there nine surplus men, or is there any surplus whatever indicated by this return?

When we consider that nearly the whole of the remaining portion of the year presents a state of lucrative and almost constant employment to the whole number, and when we consider the probable amount of earnings squandered by the 45 in anticipation of out-door relief in money, we could not be safe in asserting the existence of any surplus labour whatever in this pauperized parish.

The preceding Table has been selected as a peculiar sample from a number of the same description of returns, which more or less exhibit results of a similar nature. That which appears most prominently on the face of all these returns is the very occasional and irregular manner in which the employers of labour appear to use the services of a great proportion of the labourers in any pauperized parish. Thus we find a man one week with the employer and the next with the parish; in another week we find him one or more days in private employment and the rest with the parish; very frequently one day, and sometimes half a day, makes its appearance on these tables as the amount of time lost by a man in one week, and therefore to be paid for by the parish.

Some valuable information has been supplied on this subject by the assistant overseers of large rural parishes. One of these assured me that the farmers in his parish frequently turned off their men in the middle of the day with encouragement to seek wages from the parish for the remainder of that day. In several instances, he said, he had detected the discharged labourer doing jobs after parish hours on the farm of the same employer he had just left. Another assistant overseer says—

“The farmers frequently attempt to get me to let the men work on their farms, doing jobs for them, cleaning ditches, &c. The men we have are all farming labourers, not the best of workmen; there are some good ones; they begin to drop in about Michaelmas. At ploughing, seed-time, &c., there are more men employed. If there comes a frost they discharge them; when the season opens they come to me, and take 'em back again. The farmers make my house what we call in our trade a house of call. If they would take the men more regularly they could always find something for them to do.”

The same kind of information has occasionally dropped from unpaid overseers: as, for example,—

“We have three men on the parish at this time. They came on last

week, in consequence of the wet weather: they will be out again now it's got fine. There is plenty of employment for all our men."

Again: "Twenty-one able-bodied men came to me for work this morning, all fresh applications; they came on account of the rain. They are to come to-night, when I shall pay them for the two last rainy days. To-morrow some of them will go to work again, if fine."

A memorial addressed to your Board by the proprietors and occupiers of lands and tenements in the parish of Sawbridgeworth, Herts, deprecating a union of that parish with Bishop Stortford and others, states the following, among other grounds, in support of that petition:—

"We contemplate a very serious inconvenience would arise by our able labourers being five miles distant from us (*i. e.* in Stortford work-house); for we have found by experience that in this variable climate, at certain seasons of the year, the lands are rendered fit to be worked in a very short period, and it would be very troublesome to travel so far after labourers."

In plain words these memorialists mean to say, we wish our able-bodied labourers to be relieved in such a manner that they may never be out of reach when we want them. Sentiments similar to the above have been repeatedly expressed to me in conversation.

If a mode of relief should become established which might make it doubtful whether the services of a man dismissed, or of one as good, could be reclaimed at the convenient moment, it is probable, from the above view, that labourers would be kept more regularly in employment than they are. Certain it is that the present parochial practice of maintaining able-bodied men in the interval of non-employment gives an undue facility to the employers for the hiring and dismissal of labour; that is, a facility extending beyond the mere freedom of negotiation with the labour in the market, and provided at the expense of the parish, since the labourer may be dismissed at any time without the risk of his being driven out of reach by the necessity of meeting with another employer, finding as he does upon the spot an involuntary paymaster in the parish, who is always willing to render him back at the most convenient season to the private employer.

As to the extent to which this facility of reclaiming services dismissed is taken advantage of by the employers of agricultural labour at the expense of the parish, I have derived some light from another means of information; by obtaining, namely, in a great number of parishes, a return of the number of acres of arable, pasture, and wood land farmed by each occupier, with an account of the number of men, lads, and boys employed by each at the time of the inquiry. In parishes very badly pauperized, and at periods when a large number of men are working for the parish, these returns exhibit the appearance of a very defective state of cultivation on the part of many of the farmers of the parish, the number of men employed by them being so small, that unless they were continually drawing on this heap of supposed surplus labour for short and occasional services, the farms would be as so much waste land. Verbal information, also, descriptive of the prevalence of this state of farming practice, coming generally in the shape of complaint from the resident gentry and more substantial occupiers, is presented in almost every pauperized district.

Take the following samples, which are given from a great number of similar statements:—

"We have had as many as thirty-one men and seven boys out at once last winter—not more men than we can employ if the land was properly cultivated."

"There are three farms in this parish, at this time making together 849 acres, employing only sixteen men and seven boys in the whole. I myself occupy 413 acres, and employ seventeen men and three boys. In my remembrance the poor-rates were 45*l.* per annum for this parish, which now spends 458*l.* per annum! A kilderkin per week was the whole amount of beer at that time consumed in the parish; at this time we consume 18 kilderkins a-week!"

"We have no able-bodied out of work, nor have had for several years. At one time, several years ago, we had from 25 to 30 out of work, from disagreement among the occupiers partly."

"The whole number of able-bodied males now out of work is about 31. There are no more able-bodied men than are necessary to do the work in the parish."

"We have 321 agricultural labourers, of whom 132 have been thrown on the parish for work since last Michaelmas. We have no more than are wanted, or than could be sufficient properly to cultivate the land, Saturday night payments being more inconvenient than the poor-rates is the explanation."

"We used to raise a surveyor's rate for the employment of the surplus men. We have had 40 men and boys at one time out of work. The last year they have been paid out of the poor-rate. The object of the change was to induce the farmers, if possible, to employ the men, and no more were taken on the road than were wanted. The object has failed; the farmers do not agree among themselves. The circumstance of one man turning away labourers induces another to do the same."

So far as this irregularity in the engagements of employer and labourer is occasioned or increased by the system of parochial employment, the effect may be simply and correctly described as the payment of wages of labour out of the poor-rate; and the question which forcibly presses itself on the attention is by what process the most considerable class of rate-payers in a rural parish, namely, the occupiers of land, can bring themselves to recognise, by almost common consent, the payment of unproductive wages out of a fund to which they themselves are the chief contributors, instead of employing the same labour and capital, with the certainty of some remuneration, upon land for which they pay a certain rent to the proprietor. The great number of parishes in which this state of things exists arises, no doubt, in great measure, from the general depression of agricultural interests; but the practice itself is less referable to that circumstance than to the peculiar nature of the struggle to relieve himself from that depression which is suggested to the farmer by the system of parochial employment. In a parish where some of the occupiers are substantial capitalists, and others impoverished and reduced in their means, the latter commence the practice of turning off their labourers from positive inability to meet the Saturday night's payments; others, who would not voluntarily have entered upon this system, find themselves in the situation of paying towards the maintenance of their neighbour's men, and are fain to avail themselves of the same advantage as the only mode of dealing upon equal terms; and, finally, the substantial farmer, who is desirous to make the best of bad times, by

cultivating to the utmost of his power, is embarrassed by the inevitable dilemma of taking upon him the employment of a disproportionate number of labourers, including the refuse of the parish, or of contributing enormous sums towards the unprofitable maintenance of those whom his fellow-occupiers have for a convenient season turned adrift upon the parish. In some parishes, this system is carried on with considerable jealousy and bitterness of feeling between the several employers of labour; and dissensions of a personal, political, and even, as I have been assured, of a religious nature, are referred to as causing able-bodied men to be thrown out of employment, contrary to the interest of the employer, because it was known that they would instantly fall upon the poor-rates, to the injury of other rate-payers.

Another mode in which the natural resources of the independent labouring man are liable to be reduced in amount, and frittered away by the operation of the system itself, is the necessity under which every parish is placed of finding employment for the able-bodied pauper as the nominal ground of his maintenance while out of work. Nearly all such work as is actually found for his employment, and which is not wholly without object or value, is so much work withdrawn from the competition of the independent labouring man. Thus there are few pauperized parishes in which the road labour is not altogether withdrawn from the independent labourer, in order to satisfy the claims of the pauper to have employment found for him; and in some parishes the proportion of paupers created by this circumstance alone is found to be very considerable. Again, in aggravated cases of pauperism, there is an unceasing tendency to make the parish the medium of negotiation for the performance of private work, the contract being usually made on lower terms than it would be between the employer and labourer, the parish losing the difference. The employer does not always act from motives of self-interest in this arrangement; frequently he exerts himself to find work rather than allow the parish men to remain wholly idle; but in doing this he must continually anticipate work which his own interest would in the course of time force him upon having done on the ordinary terms. Whether, therefore, the employer acts from interested or disinterested motives in this arrangement, the resources of the independent labourer are equally forestalled and plundered.

Another way in which the system itself operates to reduce the means of self-maintenance is the inevitable tendency to a lower rate of wages, arising from the ready supply of hands which the pauperized parish presents for the occasional use of the employer.

But chiefly connected with this subject of low wages is that most important, because most active and fatal, element of able-bodied pauperism, the corruption of the energies and motives of the labourer himself, and the consequent depreciation of the actual specific value of his labour. His only property, generally speaking, is his labour; and this, perhaps, is the point in which the natural resources of the labourer have suffered the most destructive attacks from the operation of this system.

To a certain proportion of the labourers of a pauperized parish, namely, the family-men, it is almost a matter of indifference, in point of income, whether they receive their wages from the public or private fund; the only circumstance which is left to bind them to a preference of private employment being the abstract love of work. In the case of

many of the older labourers, confirmed in habits of industry, this single motive has been sufficient to preserve their energies from corruption; and yet it frequently happens that men of this stamp, in the possession of full bodily vigour, are driven, without a pretext of complaint, from services of long standing with masters to whom they had become attached, the ground alleged being usually of this nature: "So-and-so has turned off two of his men; if I am to pay to their wages, he shall pay to your's; you must go."

On the other hand, the younger class of labourers in pauperized parishes are showing symptoms of rapid degeneracy as workmen; and many of them are growing up wholly unskilled in the different departments of agricultural work. Some of them are wholly unused to any sort of work, excepting such as requires neither skill nor practice; in fact, the mere removal of earth. This, and this only, they have learnt upon the roads, together with such habits as make them unfit to be trusted about a homestead. The result is, that while the farmer is paying wages for road-work which is not wanted, and therefore not superintended, and therefore not done, he is obliged to go far and near for labourers fit for the better sort of farm-work. He is thus suffering from surplus labour and a dearth of hands at one and the same time.

The above mentioned have seemed to me the most prominent causes of the failure of the means of self-maintenance, which flow from no other source than the operation of the present system of out-door relief to the able-bodied; it remains to advert merely to the degree in which the resources actually realized, the wages really earned, are perverted from their proper application by the prospect which that system holds out to the labouring man. It is inconceivable that the result should be different with regard to any higher class of society, except so far as shame might operate at first; but when a less educated person finds himself in the position of having nearly the amount of his regular income supplied on the condition of the failure of other resources, the ordinary temptations to squander his actual earnings when in employment must become irresistible under this prospect; and if any motive were still wanting to drive him on such a course, the examples around him, and the levelling of all consequences to the provident and improvident, seem almost to take away a free choice of conduct. We need not, therefore, resort to statistical information regarding the consumption of pauper-money in beer-houses to assure ourselves that in any parish, when the prospect of out-door relief in money on the failure of employment has become thoroughly established, a very considerable proportion of the actual earnings of labour are otherwise bestowed than on the necessities of life. The case already mentioned, of a parish in which, since the introduction of able-bodied pauperism, the consumption of beer had increased eighteenfold, shows the extent to which a misapplication of the actual resources of the labouring man is sometimes carried, in consequence of the system of out-door payments in money.

In addition therefore to the real amount of surplus labour which may exist in any parish suffering from able-bodied pauperism, we may feel assured that the apparent surplus contains the following classes of applicants, in greater or less proportions, as the case may be.

1. Those whom the employer of labour would be keeping in employment, were it not for the facilities and inducements which the parochial

system affords for the frequent dissolution and renewal of the contract of service.

2. Those who would be employed in performing that work which is now withdrawn from the independent labourer's competition, in order to satisfy the parochial engagement of finding employment for the unemployed.

3. Those whom a higher rate of wages and a more strenuous disposition to exert themselves than are usually found to co-exist with pauperism, would enable, so far as other circumstances are concerned, to make earnings sufficient for their maintenance.

4. Those who actually make earnings sufficient for their entire maintenance, but are induced to misapply those resources, and come upon the parish solely in consequence of such misapplication.

To each of the classes above enumerated, the substitution of employment in a well-regulated workhouse, in place of the present system of money payments, appears likely to apply itself with such force as to dissipate at once nearly the whole of that false and unreal appearance of surplus labour which arises from the combined numbers of these several classes.

The above considerations are those which chiefly explain to my mind the extraordinary effects which have heretofore resulted from the application of a well-regulated workhouse system, and which confirm me in the assurance that the same success may be expected from its application wheresoever it may hereafter be applied.

In the preceding observations upon able-bodied pauperism, I have adverted solely to that aggravated form which it assumes where a considerable portion of the able-bodied labourers of a parish are found from time to time dependent on the rates for their whole maintenance. It is observable that the larger class of rural parishes are those which are found most exposed to this aggravated state of the evil; the instances in which parishes of smaller population and extent exhibit the same alarming appearance being comparatively rare. One very operative cause of this difference of circumstances is the better understanding which usually prevails among the occupiers of a small parish, being few in number, as to the employment of what they are in the habit of calling their fair proportion of the labourers of the parish.

This better state of understanding is much promoted by the immediate and direct effect with which an increase of the poor-rates falls upon the resources of the rated occupiers when few in number; whence it happens that in the very smallest class of rural parishes, where, for example, there is only one occupier of land, we invariably find that apparently happy state of things in which no man is seldom or ever found working for the parish. A parish in such a situation has many advantages over its pauperized neighbour: the poor-rates are comparatively light, the labour for which wages are paid is bestowed upon the land, and the younger generation of labourers are not allowed to grow up in idleness, mutually corrupting each other, and wholly unskilled in the several departments of agricultural work. These comparative advantages are precisely those which the advocates of a compulsory labour-rate expected to ensue from the adoption of that measure in larger parishes; and, on the other hand, the disadvantages and drawbacks attending this state of things in small parishes are precisely those which form the ground of opposition to the labour-rate, as a measure of

remedial tendency; leaving out of view that gross injustice which, under certain forms of compulsory labour-rate, may be inflicted on some classes of rate-payers.

I have paid some attention to the condition of these small parishes, and the state of things to which I am alluding appears to me very closely to resemble a voluntary labour-rate in its nature and effects.

The following fragments of verbal information relating to very small parishes may throw some light on the above view, and point out some of those disadvantages to which small parishes are liable, when unprotected by the means of resort to a well-regulated workhouse.

The following is from a gentleman, the sole occupier and rate-payer of a parish of about 500 acres; poor-rates average about 40*l.* per annum :—

"My men sometimes show that they feel their power over me: the only way I can deal with them for disobedience or bad conduct is to put them on the road at lower wages. That punishes me more than it does them. One chap, with four children, is quite my master. He is a very bad one—neglects his children. It does not signify to him much whether he is on the road or on the farm, as no difference can well be made in his wages. As I pay all the poor-rates and surveyor's charges, it is not in my power to discharge such a man altogether."

"Our poor-rates are low in consequence of our agreeing to take the men into the yards, which is almost as burthensome as paying them out of the rates. I look on the men I employ involuntarily on my farm as the greatest burthen I suffer."

"The surplus men are all employed by me as being the largest occupier. When employed on the roads, I pay the greater share of their wages, and therefore I prefer employing them on the farm."

"We have few out of work now, having lately come to an agreement to employ them all. We have had as many as twenty-two out of work at once, and are now employing more than we want."

"There are forty-two labouring men and boys in this parish for whom we are obliged to find employment. We find that obligation difficult, having only 340 acres, all open field, excepting a small portion in grass. We employ other parishioners to the amount of five, because some of our own are not such as we would wish to employ."

"Never have any men out of work: always allot them out. We do that to save the parish expense, and to avoid the system of roundsmen. We do not inconvenience ourselves: we want all our men. If we did not agree to this voluntary allotment we should have roundsmen. Some of the farmers would turn off their men, and we should be making shift with less men than we want. I could do with less men. I should turn off some of mine if my neighbours did. The truth is, that in these times a farmer will not, without some compulsion of the sort, employ the number it is his interest to employ."

"No men out of work now: sometimes six or seven. We set them to gravel-digging. The surveyor pays them. There would be six or seven now if it was not for the squire."

"We have an old man and his wife that have been dependant on the parish for more than twenty years. They have a son, footman to the King, paying 20*l.* for house-rent at Windsor; another son doing well in service, and two daughters married, and yet we are obliged to support the old couple."

"None out of work now. We have had some to employ on road-work; six or seven at one time. We employ them in getting stones for the trust-road: they can do better at that work than on the farms. We have not too many men. The character of the labourers not very good in some cases; two or three bad ones; want a good deal looking after; quite indifferent to private employment. One came to me, as overseer, for relief yesterday, having thrown up his employment voluntarily; he has five children, and feels independent from that circumstance."

"We are without poor-rate or overseers in our hamlet, but have two paupers; population ten persons. We wish to belong to the union. There is a widow and four children now threatening us from a distance. Our labourers are indifferent in character. We turn them on the roads sometimes at lower wages; we do it as a sort of punishment. They know we cannot turn them away altogether, so they treat us as they please. I occupy 236 acres out of the whole 334; there are three other rate-payers; one only an occupier of land. I think it will be an advantage to me to have the means of offering a workhouse."

"We have some men we cannot make work at all; one is quite our master; we have no workhouse. We exert ourselves to keep them in employment; not too many, if all would employ their share of men."

"We never have any men out of employment; we are compelled, by agreement with the landlord, to employ our share of the men. Not more men at present than we can employ with advantage. Can speak little as to the industry and character of the men; none particularly bad: there are bad in all parishes. We are obliged to keep them when they behave ill, or change them with those who have also bad ones. The only punishment we can fix on them is to change. Very little trouble from that cause at present."

"The principal burden of this parish is a man named Gray, a tinker and gipsy, living at Cambridge: he is an old man with a numerous offspring, all deriving their settlement through him. We pay his son's rent, 5*l.* 4*s.*, and the old man's rent, 3*l.* per annum. The young man has five children; they both have troubled us frequently for relief. We are obliged to buy them off; they come and pitch their tent by the roadside, and say they are come to settle. The stock springing from the old man, and therefore settled with us, is 40 individuals. He was an illegitimate child himself, and got his settlement here by being born in my long meadow."

The above matters of complaint, selected from many of the same nature, appear to me all cases in which a well-regulated workhouse, or rather the prospect of a workhouse, would effect a cure, and which should recommend to a small parish the policy of belonging to a union for the purpose of obtaining that resort. The peculiar evil to which we find the small parish exposed, is, that the employer of labour is usually without the power of exercising any discretion or choice as to the employment of particular individuals, or particular numbers of individuals, on his farm. If he wishes to turn off a labourer because he has behaved unsatisfactorily or because he is no longer in need of his services (a freedom which appears essential to all successful speculation with capital), he is restrained from exercising his own will in this respect by the undertaking imposed on him, as a rate-payer, to find the man some

employment at all events. There are few parishes at this time in which some of the labourers do not occasionally show that they feel the advantage which the law has thus given them over their employers; the motives to industry, obedience, and general good conduct becoming insensibly relaxed by this independence of the approval of those who employ them. Against these pernicious influences, on the other hand, the farmer is compelled to maintain a struggle of an equally pernicious nature, by beating down in every possible way the legitimate sources of independence of the labourers he employs. It is in this spirit that he is sometimes found to grudge the additional comforts which are insured to the inmates of the cottage by the occupation of a small allotment of garden ground; and in a similar spirit of self-defence he sometimes acquires a habit of viewing, with watchful jealousy, the saving of any portion of those earnings upon which he prefers to keep the labouring man dependent from day to day. It is difficult to decide, where both complain, which of the two parties, the labourer or the employer, suffers the greatest injury from this unnatural warfare; but we may confidently say, that wherever this disturbance of the mutual relation has begun to be felt, there exists a tendency which time cannot fail to increase to that state of things in which the criminal law will be the only bond of union between the labouring man and his employer. It is impossible, therefore, to view without apprehension a tendency of this nature, even in those parishes the condition of which appears still tolerable as compared with the circumstances of their pauperized neighbours; and as there appears no reason to doubt that those measures which will remedy the evil in one case will tend to prevent its occurrence in the other, the application of such measures has always appeared to me of nearly equal importance in each. It has been already observed, that a well-regulated workhouse exerts a prospective influence on the mind of the able-bodied labourer, which usually obviates the necessity of his actual experience of the system; and although in the class of parishes last mentioned there will very seldom arise occasion for the actual use of the workhouse, there cannot be any doubt but the dread of its application in lieu of that kind of employment which every parish without a workhouse finds itself compelled to supply, will have the most salutary effect upon the industry and motives of the labouring man, and restore betwixt him and the employer those natural ties, and those sentiments of mutual good feeling, without which the engagement cannot long be carried on to the advantage of either.

The union arrangements as provided for and settled in the Poor Law Amendment Act, will have the effect of furnishing the smaller classes of parishes with the permanent advantage of this resort to a well-regulated workhouse, at a ratio of expense which, if the workhouse were never used, would, in my belief, be far more than compensated by its operation, during the first few years, upon the industry, character, and condition of the labouring man. Of this I feel confident, that neither with regard to this class of parishes, nor those in which the existence of pauperism is more clearly marked by a large amount of poor-rate, will justice be done to the workhouse system, if the value of its effects be measured only by reference to the actual saving in expenditure effected. In the improved industry and character of those to whom they have to look, as the principal means of conducting their

speculations with success, will be found an advantage beyond estimate resulting to the agriculturists from that improved administration of the Poor Laws which it is the object of our proceedings to introduce.

I have, &c.

ALFRED POWER,
Assistant Poor Law Comm^r.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

— No. 6. —

REPORT from WILLIAM JOHN GILBERT, Esq., to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.—With a SUPPLEMENT.

Gentlemen,

Aylesbury, June 15th, 1835.

IN giving, according to your request, an outline of the benefits resulting from the introduction of the new system into this county, and the practical operation of the new unions, I do not think I can adopt a more satisfactory course than to state briefly the general features of the condition of the county as regards the habits and conduct of the labouring population, and the situation of master and servant, on my first arrival and at the present time. It is true that a short time only has elapsed since the first introduction of the measure into this county, but that very circumstance furnishes a subject of remark when such results are observed.

In most of the parishes of this county the condition of the pauper was more eligible than that of the independent labourer; the former obtaining the same amount of maintenance without being required to give labour in return.

The effect of this on the labourer was to make him avoid independent employment, want of labour being the foundation of his claim upon the parish. The pauper having rendered himself useless, went to the parish for relief, stating what was really the truth, that he could not get work. Non-employment with him became a state to be envied, and to be employed was deemed an affliction. The labourer too often showed himself unworthy of his hire, as the means by which to obtain his discharge from independent labour, and to afford him an opportunity of returning to the poor-rate. Neglect of work and abusive language were a common practice with him, and where these failed recourse was had to a regularly-organized system of annoyance practised upon the employer. Thus the man obtained his discharge, went back to his favourite resort, the rate of the parish, obtained "his money," "his right," as he called it, not only without labour, but even without civility.

The common ties of master and servant were destroyed under the working of such a system, and the only relative situations left were those of pauper and rate-payer. The proof of these statements is to be found in the concurrent testimony of the farmers, parish officers, and landed proprietors of the parishes I have visited, instances of which I beg leave to subjoin to this Report.

On my arrival in this county, it was a common subject of alarm and of complaint, made in the bitterest terms, that all subordination was lost, and that against neglect of work, insolence, and dishonesty there was no check. To all control the poor-rate was a barrier, within which the labourer when censured always threatened to fall back. All agree that

the labourer would neither come to his work in the morning nor stay at it after two or three o'clock in the afternoon, quitting it to cultivate his own garden. To any remonstrance the only answer was insolent and abusive language, and that the parish would pay as much without the return of labour.

I find that the labourers now feel support from the poor-rate to be less eligible than independent labour, and strive to find work; that idleness to a great degree is replaced by industry, and insolence by civility; and, in short, that the proper relations of master and servant are in some measure restored. There are many who have before been permanent paupers now in work, and the pauper that would never even leave his parish has gone to Manchester and the north of England, and is now at work at high wages, maintaining himself and family in respectable independence.

In the parish of Risborough, at this season last year, there were one hundred and forty able-bodied men, with their families, supported as paupers by the poor-rate; this year there is not one single able-bodied man that is not maintaining himself by his own industry. The same results are effected in many and are in progress throughout all of the parishes in this district.

Nor has the measure been without a beneficial effect in another way, namely, in insuring to the labourer more permanent employment than heretofore. When they found that the men were willing to be maintained as paupers, the farmers in many instances engaged them only by the day; and I have known some cases of farmers discharging the whole of their men in the midst of hay-making because the weather changed, telling them that during the rain they must go to the poor-rate, to "the book," as they called it, to be paid, and that when the weather cleared they could return to their work again.

This evil has begun to diminish, for I find that the farmers already talk of the possibility of being short of labourers, and of the necessity that they will be under to keep them as permanent men, for they feel that the change will make the men leave their parish for work and go to a distance, and in cases of emergency they may not have sufficient men to do their work.

I have observed great benefit to arise from the rule, ordering relief to be given in kind; the wish to have money instead of bread furnishing to the idle man another inducement to find work.

It also operates upon the tradesman, the more immediate adviser of the pauper. The little shopkeeper in a parish exercises great influence amongst the paupers; it is to him they resort for credit, and sometimes advice, which is generally given according to the bent of his interest. These small shopkeepers, where a pauper deals with them, will tell him that the parish should allow him more money, and will encourage him to make another application, which they themselves will support at the vestry. It is a well-known fact, that in vestries each little shopkeeper will advocate the claims upon the parish of his own customers. Hitherto a high amount of poor-rates has been consistent with the interest of the little shopkeeper, now it is opposed; the poor-rate was all spent in the parish, and the baker got 6d. for his loaf; the more paupers the more profit: now the reverse is the case; the more poor-rate the less profit, for the less poor-rate the more independent labour. The wages of independent labour are spent in the village, the relief from the

poor-rate goes to the contractor; the shopkeeper now dissuades the labourer from pauperism, whereas before his interest induced him to encourage him.

Great benefits may be expected in the change of the executive from the overseers to the board of guardians; the more extensive knowledge, impartiality, and uniformity of proceeding, the superiority of the class of persons forming the board, and the system and regularity of business, all tend to afford a better superintendence of the poor, a more efficient means of detecting imposition, and at the same time of administering justice equally and fairly, and with less danger of partiality. In the unions formed in this county I am happy to say that the boards of guardians are composed of highly respectable and intelligent individuals, whose attendance is unremitting, and their conduct in the performance of their duties zealous and active. I have observed that the large unions, however, from the circumstance alone of their extent, are preferable to the smaller, being both more economical and farther removed from the evils of the old vestry system.

With reference to effecting classification in the workhouses, and to the objection as to separating man and wife, I have the pleasure to say that in the workhouses of the several parishes of these unions, the proportion of married people and of children having parents is very small. In the Amersham union, where the classification has been effected, the guardians have found so few married people and so few children with parents, that no separation of parent and child or husband and wife has been necessary. From my inquiries I find that in the other unions the same is the case, and in effecting classification in this county I do not conceive it will in any union be found that many married people, or parents and children, are in the workhouses. Those who have not yet seen a well-regulated workhouse feel a great dread of separation; but at Aylesbury, which is in an improved state of management, the paupers (some old people) have themselves requested that they may live separate, and I expect similar results in the other unions, so that the necessary separation will be in accordance with, rather than against the wishes of the paupers.

That clause in the Act which compels a husband to maintain the former offspring of his wife, and the new alterations with respect to the law of bastardy, have already, by preventing imprudent marriages and immorality of conduct, produced some striking and beneficial results. I have thought it important to subjoin to this Report evidence I have collected, that encourages a hope for the most satisfactory changes in those systems and habits that have so grievously and generally tended to demoralize the labouring classes.

The effect of the old law was to make all widows marry that could support their children, as they had then their answer to the overseer's objection that they ought not to have relief. Wherever relief to a widow's children was refused, the marriage of the widow was very shortly afterwards announced to the overseer, and in almost all the parishes I found that all the widows were receiving relief, and no other reason assigned than that they were widows. In looking over a list of paupers I find widow B. and child; I inquire her age; 22. Is she healthy?—O yes. Does she work?—Yes; she is a washerwoman. Why do you relieve her then?—Oh! sir, she is a widow, with a child. Do you relieve all widows that have a child?—Yes. If they have no

child?—No; not if they are without children. The father-in-law is now responsible for the maintenance of the children, and the widow's list in most of the parishes is undergoing revision.

As much misrepresentation has gone abroad on the subject of the late disturbance at Chesham, I have thought it prudent to add to this Report the evidence of some gentlemen resident in that town, rather than make any statement on the facts myself. I think it however proper to state, that on my being apprized on the Saturday of the disturbance, I immediately went from Aylesbury, where I was residing, to London, to see that proper assistance was sent down, and travelling all night, arrived at the scene of the disturbance by daybreak the next morning, and put myself immediately in communication with the magistrates and civil authority, and remained to afford any assistance in my power for several days, till tranquillity was altogether restored.

In reference to the power conferred on the Commissioners by the Bill of uniting parishes without, and even against their consent, I have taken some evidence from the parish of Stoke Pogis, as strongly demonstrative of the necessity of such a power, and of the judicious exercise of it in the case of that parish. It will not be forgotten that the strongest resistance was offered by the parish to the union, petitions signed by very nearly the whole of the rate-payers were presented to the Commissioners, the Home Secretary, and both Houses of Parliament, stating the peculiar circumstances of the parish, and praying that it might be left out of the union. After the greatest attention given to the allegations in these petitions, and most minute inquiries into all the circumstances of the parish, the Commissioners feeling that a union was necessary for the welfare of this parish, as well as those surrounding it, decided that it should be united, and be one of the parishes in the Eton union. It will be found that although scarcely three months have elapsed since all parties were opposed, the benefits of the union are already so apparent that the opponents have become approvers of the union, and confirm, by their approbation, the judicious exercise of that power conferred upon the Commissioners.

I am very happy in being able to say, that the Honourable Mr. Osborne, the rector of the parish, and Mr. Granville Penn, of Stokehouse, the two *ex officio* guardians of the parish, are most regular and active members of the board of guardians, and Mr. Granville Penn has accepted the office of vice-chairman of the board.

Although the evidence which I annex shows that the parish was, previous to the union, heavily burthened with poor-rate, and that the rates were increasing during the years 1834 and 1835, that is up to March, 1835, that although the clergyman was unremitting in his attention to his parish, and the resident gentlemen were at all times willing to give him their assistance, yet the rates went on still increasing; and I am informed by some of the parishioners, that but for the vigilance and attention of Mr. Osborne, the rates would most probably have been, instead of 1,000*l.*, nearly 2,000*l.* in the year.

The well-meant liberality of the resident gentlemen, and the charities that exist in the parish, it is felt rather contributed to increase than diminish pauperism. The labourer feeling that by a pitiful story he could get soup or money at the houses of the gentlemen, did not fail to make himself appear as miserable as possible. Habits of degrading dependence were the consequence, and pauperism of course the result.

As connected with this parish, I beg leave to add a copy of a leaf out of its Book of Expenditure for the year 1835, showing that the overseers were so remunerated for their trouble, that the office became desirable, and even profitable. The overseer of the present year, who attended me a few days back, told me there was one thing that made him dislike the union, which was, that he would have a great deal of trouble and not be paid for it. The charges in the following bill are more like an attorney's bill than the disbursements of an overseer.

PARISH OF STOKE POGIS. DISBURSEMENTS, Class 7th.

1834: Money paid for Law Expenses, in Removal of Paupers, &c.

		£.	s.	d.
1834.	Expenses in attending at Windsor and Eton	0	5	0
April 2.	Mr. Long's Bill (old)	7	1	3
23.	Expenses in attending at Eton, &c. with paupers	0	5	0
	Annual account-book	0	6	6
	Coroner on J. S. Clark, killed in Mr. Cooper's gravel pits	0	7	0
May 5.	Expenses in going to Windsor, &c. on Thomas Green's case	0	7	0
	Hire for chaise and horse to Heighton for ditto	2	0	0
	Backing warrant at Brighton	0	2	0
	Expenses with ditto	3	2	0
	Expense in attending at Eton twice on parochial business	0	10	0
	Making out annual accounts	2	0	0
	Amy Spicer	0	1	1
9.	Mr. Long's bill	1	12	0
23.	Letter, 10d. stationery, 10d.	0	1	8
	Expenses in attending at Mr. Long's, &c. on Thomas Green's account	0	5	0
	Coach hire to Harlington Corner and back	0	4	0
30.	Mr. Sharp for an inquisition on J. Clark	2	3	6
	Mr. Robinson for a magistrates' meeting held on John Devonshire's case (an idiot)	0	7	6
April 2.	Expenses in attending meeting	0	3	6
	Expenses in going to Mr. Long's, &c. on John Devonshire's case (an idiot)	0	3	6
7.	Expenses in going to Boveney on widow Treadaway's account	0	2	6
	Expenses in going to London with J. Devonshire to the Lunatic Asylum	0	5	0
31.	Expenses in going to St. Leonard's Hill on Thomas Green's account	0	3	6
June 9.	Expenses in going to Eton with Mrs. Saunders	0	2	6
16.	Mr. Long's bill	1	6	6
	Examination of William Burch and expenses with ditto	0	8	0
27.	Expenses in going to Burnham and Eton	0	2	0
July 1.	Letter 1d., expenses in going to Chelsea after J. Hollis	0	3	6
	Ditto after H. Carter	0	3	6

1834: Money paid for Law Expenses, in Removal of Paupers, &c.—
continued.

		£.	s.	d.
July	1. Stamp for ditto 3d., letter 2d.	0	0	5
	Schooling books for Amy Spicer	0	0	10
	Three letters	0	1	3
	16. Journey to Eton to pay a county rate	0	3	6
May	7. Journey to Uxbridge	0	1	0
Aug.	13. Signing rate-book and expenses	0	3	6
Sept.	3. Attending on W. Burch's case	0	3	6
	Taking out warrants for ditto	0	2	6
	12. Giving information on Burch's case	0	3	6
	Mr. Long for ditto	0	9	6
	Journey to Windsor and Eton on ditto	0	5	0
	Mr. Long's bill	0	10	6
	Journey to Penn Common near Missenden, to apprehend W. Burch	0	7	6
	Lunatic List	0	7	0
	Attending with ditto	0	5	0
	19. Sending Ware's money to London	0	1	0
	Journey to Windsor on Burch's case	0	2	0
	Ditto with Lunatic List	0	3	6
	Mr. Oxley's bill for printing	4	8	8
	Jury List	0	6	0
	Churchwardens and overseers attending with ditto	1	0	0
	Making Jury List out, &c.	0	2	6
	29. Letter 10d., ditto 8d.	0	1	6
Oct.	10. Coroner on the inquisition of H. Mayner	0	7	0
	Journey to Windsor, Cavalry Book for Corporal Brown	0	0	6
	Journey and Expenses at Eton	0	3	6
	Examination of J. Lowman, &c.	0	3	6
	18. Sending widow Johnson's money	0	1	0
	15. Sending widow Burch home	0	7	0
	Letter	0	0	1
	25. Expenses in attending Barristers at Beaconsfield	0	15	0
	Paid man for going to Beaconsfield for Coroner	0	1	6
	29. Letter	0	0	10
	Mr. Robinson's bill for an inquisition on Mayner	2	2	0
Nov.	14. Attending with an information against Goswell	0	5	0
	Two letters 1s. 6d., signing rate-book, &c.	0	3	6
Dec.	10. Mr. Whitney attending at Eton with J. Day	0	3	6
	Three bench cards	0	1	6
	Expenses in conveying J. Day to Feltham, &c.	0	4	6
	26. Pauper 1s., attending at Mr. Long's on Geere's case 5s.	0	6	0
	Going to Boveney for Mrs. Treadaway's money	0	2	6
1835.	Letter	0	0	10
Jan.	2. Expenses at Horton Lunatic Asylum, and with H. Carter	0	5	0
	16. Mr. Whitney attending at Eton	0	3	6
	20. Mr. Thompson for transferring Geere's money	0	7	0
	Two journeys to Chalvey 5s., and letter 8d.	0	5	8
	Man going to Burnham for Mr. Roberts	0	1	0

1835: Money paid for Law Expenses, in Removal of Paupers, &c.—
continued. £. s. d.

Jan. 20.	Attending Commissioners with horse and cart, by order of vestry	0	10	6
30.	Attending on Ellis and Hughes at Chalvey when sick	0	2	6
	Mr. Cordery for removing J. Lowmas's goods	0	7	6
	Water-tub for workhouse 8s., letter 9d.	0	8	9
	Expenses to Harfield	0	7	6
Feb. 13.	Ditto on attending at Eton	0	3	6
20.	Mr. Whitney going to Windsor with J. Langley to be examined	0	3	0
March 6.	Four letters	0	2	2
	Paid Parker for getting notices signed, and putting ditto on church door	0	1	0
	Three men sweeping snow, &c.	0	2	3
	Stationery	0	5	0
	Mr. Ingaltan's bill for printing, &c.	2	10	3
	Letter	0	0	8
		<hr/>		
		£45 10 0		

In the year 1832 this same item of charge is . . . £61 3 3

In the year 1833 . . . 38 1 0

In the year 1834 . . . 72 7 4

Mr. Osborne informs me that he remonstrated against these payments; but it appears they were still continued, and these and other abuses would no doubt have continued, had not the parish been included in the union.

The sums expended for the relief of the poor in this parish are as under:—

In the year 1832	779
In the year 1833	756
In the year 1834	1007
In the year 1835	821

Showing an increase of expenses in the last two years.

The Bastardy charges are:—

In 1832	£. s. d.
	28 13 6
In 1833	26 0 6
In 1834	23 1 6
In 1835	20 17 6

The provision and arrangements you have made for the employment of the southern labourers in the northern counties, as connected with the proceedings of this measure, have been most wisely and judiciously chosen. Many of the parishes in this county have already availed themselves of the advantage, and others are now following their example. It will be found that the parish of Bledlow, which before the passing of this Bill was so overburdened with poor-rate that the farmers were giving up their land, and all looking forward to the total desertion of the farms, has almost dispauperized itself of all the able-bodied, by means of the facilities afforded through the Commissioners for employment in the north.

The petition from the paupers of this parish, stating their distresses,

was received by the Commissioners late in the evening; and on my arrival in the parish the next morning at nine, I found the whole management in a state of the greatest disorder. The men lying about the roads or poaching in the woods; several robberies had been committed. The overseer's ploughs and agricultural implements had been frequently damaged in the night, and a bullet had been fired into his son's bed-room. The vestry was paralyzed and hopeless, and the labourers, all more or less paupers, had completely the control of the parish. The parish had tried all means to get them to work, without effect. At the rail-road at Tring, fifteen miles distant, work had been provided for them, but not one man could be prevailed upon to go. On the Saturday night they would go to the overseer and obtain their relief: most of these men were living in cottages, with their own furniture, and some of them keeping pigs and fowls. They came to me in the village, and told me they hoped I should be able to do something for them. To my question of what they wanted, they replied that they wished the overseer to pay them more weekly money, and hoped I should order 2s. or 3s. a man more. I inquired if they were willing to work; they replied they were, that they had already *worked* upon the roads. The *work* on the roads I found was lying under the hedge. They all said they should not like to go out of the parish, but offered to work *in* the parish; they conceived that no work could be found. I immediately put myself in communication with the parish officers, and advised them to find some land for spade husbandry, and get the men to work by the piece, which I found they did. The officers informed me that the paupers disliked this work, and grumbled much at being paid half in kind. Having heard from the Board of Commissioners that situations were ready for these men in the north at 30s. a week for three years, I went round the parish to see the men and their wives, and ascertain if they would accept the offer. At first there was not a single pauper that would consent to take the situations; the spade husbandry was still continued. I again visited the parish several times; and after many visits I at last succeeded in *persuading one* family to go. Their next neighbour then consented to accompany them. The parish provided conveyance by the canal for them, and their families and furniture, and one of the officers went with them. Their employers engaged them for three years; for the first year at 30s. a week; the second year at 35s.; and the third year at 40s. This family, in Bledlow, was earning, or rather receiving from the poor-rates, 7s. a week only. These parties shortly afterwards wrote to the other paupers in the parish, speaking in the highest terms of the benefits of the change, and the other paupers immediately applied to the parish to be sent. Situations were found for 83 individuals, who are now all engaged at good wages in the different manufactories, and the parish relieved from the burdens under which several of the farmers had sunk, and many were fast sinking, into pauperism.

The parish of Risborough, and several adjoining parishes, have considerably relieved their burdens by this channel of labour. The statements made to me by the parish officers and others, which I annex, respecting the migration of these paupers, are most satisfactory, and give reason to hope that at the same time that the parishes are relieved from their burdens, the welfare and independence of a great portion of the southern labourers of the over-populated parishes will be secured by this means of

employment. I find, from the best inquiries I have been able to make, that the southern labourers are well received by those in the north. The men from Bledlow write, that they were received by the labourers with the greatest kindness.

Wendover and several other parishes in the county are now making arrangements for the migration of their paupers to the north.

Before I close this letter, it may not be improper to call attention to the examinations I annex, as to the result of the system of medical contract adopted in the two unions of Wycombe and Amersham. It is not unknown to you, that many who are quite competent to provide themselves with medical and surgical attendance, have hitherto always received relief from the parish doctor, under the impression that, by so doing, they did not add to the parish burdens or render themselves paupers, for their argument was, that a certain sum being paid to the doctor, it mattered not whether he attended 10 or 100 patients. The overseers feeling also that the burdens of the parish were not affected, were regardless as to how many or what class of persons received parochial medical relief. To remove these evils the two unions to which I have alluded have agreed to pay the medical man so much for each case of illness, decreasing in a given ratio as the number of patients increases, and with a limit that the aggregate amount of the several sums shall not exceed a given amount. Thus, by the means of payment alone, producing a system of checks so much wanted, which operates upon the medical officer so as to remove any inducement to lengthen illness, at the same time that it secures for the pauper the strongest inducement on the medical man to effect a cure as soon as possible; upon the relieving officer, so as to make him see that at the same time that no improper persons are admitted as pauper patients, no person really necessitous shall be neglected. It brings each case distinctly before the guardians each week for their vigilance and superintendence, and by the limit in the amount prevents the several parishes being burdened with heavy medical charges. The effect of this system has been to reduce that particular class of pauperism, and to make many subscribe to self-supporting dispensaries, and others to provide themselves with attendance, who before have always in that respect been paupers.

In the unions in this county, where the mode of payment is by a sum certain, I do not find the same results, but the state of medical pauperism remains much less diminished than in those where the system of payment per case is adopted.

The introduction of any new system calculated to remove corruption is attended with many difficulties, and seldom till after the lapse of some considerable time can it be got even into operation. I have therefore great reason to congratulate the Board that this measure, the one of all others that had corruption and personal interest to contend against, and where prejudices both of the higher and lower classes united to impede its progress, has not only got into operation, but has so far cleared its way, as in the short space of a few months to produce beneficial results sufficiently powerful to convince the doubtful, convert the hostile, and to unite them in endeavouring to carry its principles more extensively into effect.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

W. J. GILBERT,
Assist. Poor Law Commr.

SUPPLEMENT to Mr. Gilbert's Report.

EVIDENCE of the REV. CHARLES TURNER of Wendover, J. P., and one of the members of the Board of Guardians of the Wycombe Union.

As a guardian of the Wycombe union, and as a county magistrate, can you state to me whether any benefits within your own knowledge have arisen from the New Poor Law Amendment Act and the unions formed in this county?

Since the establishment of the Wycombe union, in which this parish is included, I have had scarcely any applications, comparing this with the same season in prior years, for parish relief, and I attribute this principally, and I may say entirely, to the operation of the new system; the terrors, as they consider them, of the workhouse, have induced the men to find work, and the employment of a greater number of men by some of the farmers has been the consequence of their fears, that the men would leave the parish in search of work, and that the money for their support would go out of the parish.

Then, Sir, are you of opinion that the old system of paupers spending the money paid out of the rate amongst the several tradesmen in the parish tended to make such tradesmen rather encourage the increase of paupers than otherwise?

Why, in the very nature of the thing it must do so. The more paupers there were, the more money there was paid amongst the tradesmen. I do not think this applies particularly to this place, but equally so to all others, from the nature of the thing. At Chesham the disturbance arose, I am told, from the same cause, and at Chalfont St. Peter's the same; but I am inclined to think that the tradesmen are in error, for this reason, that the new measure, when it has its full effect, will induce many to become labourers and obtain their own living—in fact, will convert many who have hitherto been paupers into industrious, sober, and provident labourers, who, instead of spending their money at beer-shops and in spirit-drinking, and in other improvident ways, will, in fact, have more money to spend with the tradesmen dealing in the necessities of life, and the labourers will be a class of customers more respectable than the paupers have been hitherto, and I think the tradesmen will have fewer bad debts, and upon the whole will be benefited by the change.

Then, Sir, as you are of opinion that under the old system the tradesmen had an interest in the increase of pauperism, what is your opinion as to whether the new system of paying in kind on contract gives the tradesmen an interest in the diminution of pauperism?

Yes, I am inclined to think so: for as under the old system the amount received from the poor-rate went to the village tradesmen, they clearly had an interest in pauperism; but as under the new system the amount expended for the maintenance of paupers goes not to the tradesmen but to the contractor, whilst the wages earned in the parish will be spent with the tradesmen, they have, under the new system, just an opposite interest, namely, an interest in the increase of independent labourers.

Have you observed whether the effect of this change of interest has produced any diminution of pauperism?

Under the operation of the present system, which has been in action

only a month or two, I certainly do find that a difference has taken place; the general behaviour of the labouring population is improved. They are driven to the necessity of finding work; they are more industrious; as far as I can learn, I find more of the men are employed in the parish, and several of them are gone away, and have, as I understand, found work: but I cannot say whether the exact cause of it is from the system of contract or not, but I attribute it to the general operation of the measure, and the introduction of the workhouse system; but I will add, that although I have the greatest hopes of the present measure, that it will increase the independent labour of the locality as one of the results of the moral improvement of the labourer, yet in this parish the population is so great, that I do not think labour upon the spot can be found sufficient for the employment of all; but by emigration and migration to our colonies or to different parishes, I have little doubt that in a few years able-bodied pauperism may be eradicated. Under the old system, idleness, indolence, and improvidence were the portion of the pauper, and acted as so strong an inducement to keep him in his own parish, that the certainty of good wages, if work was to be the condition, was not sufficient to induce him to move. He would therefore not emigrate, but continued to burthen and add other burthens to the parish. Paupers in our own parish could never be prevailed on to move, but since the union was formed, they have expressed a wish to emigrate.

Have you considered the expenses of your parish as a single parish, and whether they will be diminished or increased by the union of Wycombe?

Oh! we expect great diminution. The first is a year of outlay, but notwithstanding such outlay, I feel that at the end of the year the parish will be a gainer. But I have no doubt that in future years a great saving will be effected. There are thirty-three parishes I believe in our union. To this union there will be a workhouse, consisting of two wards, one at Marlow and one at Bledlow, sufficient for the whole union. There were few parishes that had not some sort of poorhouse, and in the larger parishes, a master and a matron to superintend them. Take them altogether, I should think they would average a little more than twenty paupers to each house. The management being now limited to two houses, these results I conceive will follow. The aged and infant poor will be much better looked after and taken care of, whilst the able-bodied and idly-disposed pauper will be kept under good control and in due subordination, and the whole expense be diminished considerably. Say that there are in this union twenty houses, which I believe is about correct; the management of each house cannot cost the parish less than 25*l.* a year, taking it at the lowest scale. This would be upon the union a charge of 500*l.* a year, whilst the management of the two houses will be only 200*l.*

Have you felt any inconvenience or derived any benefit from the circumstance of the Wycombe union being so large as to consist of 33 parishes, and to be 60 miles in circumference?

I think we have derived great benefit; there being so many guardians from distant parishes acting on so large a scale, the possibility of intimidation and of favouritism is entirely destroyed. The paupers of the several parishes, finding that all around them are treated alike, more readily submit to the law than they did under the vestry system, where

they could make comparisons between theirs and other parishes, where they received more. It was a common thing to have complaints made to me that they were ill treated, because in some adjoining parish more money and less work were found.

I also find this consequence, that from the extent of district great experience and knowledge are brought together and concentrated in one operation; so that if one parish is in error as to any point of management or fact, it is corrected by the superior intelligence and information of some other parish. There is much more intelligence in a board of guardians than in a vestry, the board being composed of the gentry and the most respectable inhabitants of this large district, whose attendance is regular and as close as can be expected; besides, the board of guardians will be a continuing body, gathering information and storing it up as they go on, whereas the management by overseers was one of endless apprenticeship, each year having a new man, and although one overseer might introduce a good system, the next appointed might entirely destroy it.

Shall you find any inconvenience from the workhouse of the union being distant from your parish?

No other inconvenience than in sending the pauper: to counterbalance that, I think the distance will operate as a superior check upon application for relief from this distant part of the union; for though a pauper of idle habits may make an experiment and try the workhouse, if in his own parish, he will, I think, have great reluctance to be sent to such a distance. I think, in fact, the very distance will act as an incitement to industry. This is one of the reasons why I prefer the Wycombe union, that our parish is distant from the workhouse.

I shall be happy to hear from you, Sir, any general observations on the results likely to follow from the formation of Wycombe union, and the measure generally, in this district?

I should say my opinion is, that when the system has been some time in operation, the poor will find the beneficial influence upon their minds, first, by inducing habits of industry, order, and economy, and by consequence their natural results, contentment and happiness; and the system, which at present may appear to be one of rigour and severity, will be found by experience to be satisfactory and beneficial, advantageous alike to the labourer and the public.

EVIDENCE of JAMES GEORGE TATEM, of Wycombe, Esquire, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Wycombe Union.

HAVING been chairman of the Wycombe union, which was formed the 25th of March last, can you give me information of any results from the operation of the union?

The union consists of 33 parishes, and comprises an area of 60 miles circumference, and is managed by a board of 38 elected and 16 *ex officio* guardians. There are five relieving officers, each appointed to a district, receiving each a salary of 80*l.*; there is a clerk at 100*l.*; an auditor and treasurer whose salaries are not yet fixed. There are 13 medical men to attend upon the paupers, each having a fixed district; the mode of payment is by a sum per head for each illness of each pauper. The mode of relief has been, by orders for the workhouse and for outdoor paupers, partly in money and partly in bread, the bread being supplied at about 1*d.* per pound by contract, to be delivered by

the contractor at the place of giving relief. The relieving officers devote the whole of their time to the duties of their offices, and are constantly engaged attending and looking after the paupers. There are existing among the parishes of this union 15 workhouses, with an average number of 26 paupers to each workhouse. They have been all mingled together and kept without work. The union has selected two workhouses from this number, one at Great Marlow and one at Bledlow, which at present are considered sufficient for the poor in all the parishes, and the remaining workhouses will either be sold or let, as may be determined, as soon as the alterations and repairs of the selected workhouses are completed, and the poor removed into them.

These repairs are contracted for at the sum of about 284*l.* A master has been appointed for each of the workhouses at a salary of 100*l.* each.

Advertisements for contracts to supply the workhouses are about to be issued. Work is to be found for the in-door adults, and the children are to be instructed in a manner that may be thought best calculated to make them useful members of society.

On May 15th the contracts for bread were completed, and, as regards out-door relief, the operations of the union may be considered to have commenced. The houses not being completed, the relief by workhouse has not yet been in full operation, but to a certain degree only.

What effect have you observed to arise from the board of guardians ordering relief instead of the overseers, as formerly?

I think there is a benefit from concentration of information, so that evils arising from error are not so likely to occur. It destroys the system of jobbing: a man too who will make up a story and go privately to the overseer, will not face a board of guardians with a false statement. A great benefit is the uniformity of the system resulting from the board of guardians; the management in all the parishes is alike, and that comparison which used to be made by the paupers of the relief in their parish and those adjoining is done away with.

Have you observed that the new mode of management and the change in the executive from the overseer to the board of guardians have effected any improvement in the labouring population?

The labourers strive more to find work, but as I live in a town I have not much opportunity of judging of this. The loan clause in the Act has already proved very beneficial; the board has made about fifteen loans of from five to ten shillings to men for a month: the men are now supporting themselves, whereas at the same season last year they were on the parish.

Have you observed that the employers of labour give more wages or hire more men than formerly?

I have not had an opportunity of observing the fact, but the withdrawal of money relief in aid of wages, and the workhouse system, will, I doubt not, induce the employer to have a greater number of constant men and give higher wages, because as the men, unless they are hired for a time, cannot under the new system be had in an emergency, and as the parish will not contribute to their support, except in kind, the employer must pay sufficient for their necessities.

Are you of opinion that any benefits have resulted or will result from the relief in bread, and of what kind?

These two; that the wife and family will now obtain food, which for-

merly they were often deprived of, her profligate husband in many cases spending the whole of the relief at the beer-shop; and also this benefit, that the relief in kind is less desirable to the profligate pauper than money, and will act on him as an inducement to find labour. I learn that all the little tradesmen are violent in their opposition to the contract. It is clear that under the old system they had an advantage in the number of paupers, which they have not now; the more money there was paid to the paupers, the more there was to be spent amongst the tradesmen: but the reverse is now the case. Under the old system paupers were often encouraged to get into debt in order that an increased price might be charged upon the several articles they bought, and their custom insured for the future.

Is there a saving effected to the union by the system of contract?

Decidedly there is: we give one-half in kind (subject of course to exception under particular circumstances); the price of the bread by contract being 4d. for the loaf, and the charge of the little tradesmen being generally 6d., there is a saving of one-third upon the quantity we give in kind, that is, a saving of one-sixth upon the whole relief. The average cost of relief of all the parishes before the union was about 30,000*l.* a year, therefore by this contract alone 5,000*l.* a year will be saved, a sum more than sufficient to pay all the expenses of management of the whole union for eleven years to come, and is a reduction alone of one-sixth of all the rates upon every parish in the union.

Have you yet attempted to offer relief by means of the workhouse?

Yes, we have; we have given orders for about 83 for the workhouse.

How many of these have gone in?

Not one; we considered them all cases of imposition, and ordered the workhouse as a test.

Could you, without a workhouse, have tried whether these applicants were really necessitous or not?

No, we could not; without a house we must have given them money or bread.

Then you are of opinion that, had you not adopted the workhouse system, the parish to which they belonged would have been burthened with the maintenance of those 83 persons?

Yes, certainly.

What arrangements has the union made respecting relief in cases of bastardy?

They have come to a resolution not to pay to the mother the amount ordered to be paid by the father, but in the cases that have come before us we have ordered 6d. and one loaf of bread.

What has been the effect of this management?

Great dissatisfaction on the part of the mothers: they told us that they came for their money, meaning the money ordered to be paid by the father, and seemed to think it was their right.*

The union having been so short a time in operation, it is doubtless difficult for you to give me any exact cases; but have the goodness to tell me what is your opinion, looking at what has taken place, as to the general results to be expected?

* See Mr. Fleet's evidence as to effects in bastardy cases.

I think it will make the poor-rate less desirable than it has been; rendering independent labour preferable: will, therefore, make many depend upon their own exertions who would otherwise have lived upon the parish; and will, in fact, by increasing and improving the character and conduct of the labouring classes, lead to the employer taking more men and giving better wages than hitherto, at the same time that the parochial expenditure will be diminished more than one-half.*

EVIDENCE of Mr. SAMUEL CLARKE, of Chenies, Overseer:

SAYS, The new Bill and union will be the means of effecting a considerable saving in our parish.

The industry and moral character of our labouring population is evidently improved.

Last year (1834) we had several able-bodied men upon the parish; in the same time of this year we had none. Some of them have found work in the parish; they have looked out more for themselves. The relief of part in kind to bastards I find has induced many to discontinue their applications for relief, and they support them themselves. All our widows' children, whether the mother was able to support them or not, have had relief, for we knew that under the old law if we had refused she would have got married, and told us that her earnings were her husband's, and that he was not bound to maintain them.

I have observed since the passing of the new Act that although we have refused relief to the children, who are now supported by their parents, they (the parents) have not got married. Under the old law we dared not refuse relief, as the mothers before this would have been married, and a pauper family have been the consequence.

I have, since the contract for bread in the union, observed an activity amongst the little tradesmen to discourage the men from being paupers; they do not now get the money paid to the paupers.

I approve of the contract for medical relief by payment per case.

* A comparison between the expenditure of the Wycombe union for seven weeks, beginning the 25th of March, 1835, and the expenditure of the parishes of which it is composed for the maintenance of the poor for seven weeks, commencing the 25th March, 1834, showing that the expenses during the time these parishes have been in union are upwards of one-third less than in the corresponding week of the preceding year.

The union is divided into five districts.

	Seven Weeks' Expenditure in 1834.			Seven Weeks' Expenditure in 1835.			Difference in favour of the Union.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
First District . . .	382	2	0½	228	5	0	153	17	0½
Second „ . . .	314	9	7	270	1	10½	44	7	8½
Third „ . . .	377	9	9½	213	10	6¼	163	19	1½
Fourth „ . . .	397	11	3	235	7	11½	162	3	3½
Fifth „ . . .	361	18	7½	245	14	5	116	4	2
	1,833	11	3½	1,192	19	11	640	11	4½

Making a saving of 640*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*, being nearly 100*l.* a week, and upwards of one-third of the whole expenditure of the union for the time stated.

The whole of the expense to be incurred by this large union for the completion of the workhouses is by the contract 284*l.*, which the saving effected in the three first weeks is nearly sufficient to defray.

It will prevent the old evil of having all applicants sent to the doctor, and shut that door to pauperism.

The workhouse of our parish is appropriated to the children of the union; there are 35 in; I visit them often, two or three times a day. There is a good ground for them to take exercise in, and a man and woman to look after them; they are all clean and taken good care of. They are taught to read and work; they tell me they like it better than they did the workhouse they were in before, and are more comfortable and better taken care of than when they were with the other paupers. I understand there is not any child there that has been separated from the parent; they are all either bastards, orphans, or deserted children. Many of the ladies of the neighbourhood have been to see them, amongst others, Lady Russell, our rector's lady, and some ladies from Rickmansworth. I saw these ladies; they said that they found these children most comfortable, and warmly approved of the care and attention paid to them; they were glad to see them so clean and comfortable. These children all go to the church on Sunday, and behave themselves in a most orderly and proper manner.

EVIDENCE of Mr. JAMES EDMONDS, Overseer of Chalfont St. Peter's Parish.

SAYS, Up to the passing of the present Poor Law Amendment Bill we had in our parish nine bastards born within the last five years; no year passed without one or two coming upon the parish. The new Bill, and particularly the bastardy clauses, were talked of before it passed. In the last year we have not had one bastard, and I have not heard that any of our poor people, single women, are pregnant.

I attribute the change to the effect of the new Bill, which has put a stop to the trade, for it was a perfect trade, of bastardy.

In point of expense I have no doubt we shall save money by being in the union.

I had one man in my parish; I offered him a place of 9s. a week, he refused it, and told me he could get as much from the overseer for doing nothing; since the union this man has found work in the parish at 10s. as a constant man!

EVIDENCE of Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Farmer, of Bledlow.

HAVE the goodness to state to me the condition of your parish up to the 14th August last?

The last year, that is the year before the new Act, there were eight eighteen-penny rates, amounting altogether to nearly 2,000*L*. There was at this time a great surplus of labour, and a great number of men, fifty I suppose, doing nothing except lying on the roads. Their general habits were very dissipated, arising from a long system of mismanagement in the weekly pay being given without labour; in fact, the relief from the poor-rate was more desirable than independent labour. The men were very insolent and disorderly; we had no control over them. I have known many instances, many have come under my own knowledge, where the labourer has acted ill for the very purpose of getting discharged. He would then come to the overseer and say he had no work; the overseer then relieved him. The reason why he preferred parish relief is simply this, that he received as much money from the parish in a state of idleness, as for work when with a master. My

labourers had to work from six o'clock in the morning till four in the evening, whilst the pauper had nothing to do but go to the road at any hour he pleased, employing his time principally in his own garden, and many of them getting fuel from the adjoining wood and selling it, thereby obtaining a larger weekly income than the independent labourer.

How is it that, with such a state of things, you could obtain any labourers?

There were some very few old labourers, aged people, who had passed their youth under a different system, and still felt a shame in being paupers. These old men would do more work than the generality of the young men, and always were employed; we were obliged to pick out of the others those who were the best characters, and do the best we could with this labour. It was a very common thing for the men, if we found any fault, to tell us that they did not care whether we kept them or not, for they could get as much on the parish and not work for it, and a burthen of wood in addition. It was a common expression among the farmers, when the men behaved ill, to say that he only wanted his discharge to get upon the parish; and one farmer, a Mr. Billing, being angry with his man, refused to turn him away, as a punishment, to prevent him going on the parish. We could find no remedy for this evil; we could find no work, and the ultimate effects of the whole system would have been, in a very short time, to have driven every farmer from the parish, and have left it, like Cholesbury, perfectly pauperized. The land in a very few years would not have maintained the paupers, and must have been given up; indeed some land had been given up, the farmer not being able to bear the burthen of the poor-rate. We had a poor-house in our parish into which the aged and infirm were put, but none of the able-bodied. We did not know how to manage it; we found that the smallness of the parish would not warrant any expense, and the magistrates constantly gave orders for relief out of the house, and always objected to able-bodied men being sent there; so that the house, instead of being a benefit, has been an injury.

Have the evils of which you complain been removed or lessened; are the industry and conduct of the labourers improved?

Yes, they are very materially; we have much lessened the numbers of the paupers. Shortly after the new Bill, several of the paupers who had applied to the magistrates, finding that the power to order relief was taken away, applied to the Commissioners, when the very next day Mr. Gilbert came into the parish, to inquire into the state and condition of the parish, and to advise us generally how to act. We told him that nothing could induce the paupers to leave the parish to find work, and that even at the rail-road at Tring, about fifteen miles distant, where work was to be had, none could be prevailed on to go. In accordance with Mr. Gilbert's advice, who told us that the first course to be adopted was some system that would make independent labour more desirable than the pauper relief, and that he advised spade husbandry as the employment, and payment should be partly in kind, we immediately set aside several pieces of ground to employ the men on. We gave them the land to dig by the pole, and paid half in kind and half in money. The men grumbled, and were very discontented; but Mr. Gilbert constantly visited the parish, and advised us to proceed, which we did, and soon found that the men became more civil, and did all they could to

find work. They applied to us at the vestry to give them work; several came to our houses; and having ascertained that the men were really anxious to be employed, the Commissioners offered them work in the north of England, near Manchester. Several large families, who had never gone out of their parish before, and whom we could never prevail on to go out and look for work, even at the railway, immediately offered to go; and the result has been, that eighty-three persons, including children, who had before been all supported by the parish, went down into comfortable situations, and, with the exception of five or six of the worst characters, who have returned, all remain in full work. Most of these families were engaged for three years certain, some of them at 30s. a week for the first year, 35s. for the second year, and 40s. for the third year.

Many letters have been received from the paupers who have gone, conveying the most satisfactory reports. One of the men, John Stevens, whom I saw at his house at Quarry Bank, pointing to his house and furniture, expressed his strongest thanks for the change he had experienced, and made use of this extraordinary expression, "That all the horses in Buckinghamshire should not draw him back again."

Four hundred and fifty-five pounds, after paying the expense of the men to Manchester, will have been saved in this parish since the month of November last, and in the whole year will be one half less than before.

Many who remained are now maintaining themselves, and the amount now paid weekly in the parish is so much reduced, and the reduction continuing to increase to such an extent, the character and conduct of the labourers are so much improved, that all apprehension of pauperism is removed, and great confidence felt, that as regards the able-bodied the parish will be totally dispauperized.

The paupers that remain upon the parish being relieved partly in kind is productive of much good, one of the most beneficial parts of the system. The wives and families, that before were left almost in a state of starvation, while the husband spent the money at the beer-shop, obtain now a fair subsistence. The custom of the beer-shops diminishes, and the good order and sobriety consequent upon the new system are apparent. The men cannot sell their bread, because every one has a supply; and the mode of payment prevents the possibility of the family being left, as they often previously were, without sustenance. The bread payment is disliked by the disorderly pauper, and acts also as an inducement on him to find work.

Do you find any other effect from the payment in kind?

Yes; I do find that the little tradesmen, who had formerly an interest in the increase of pauperism, now persuade the paupers to find work; formerly the more paupers, the more money the little tradesman made; but now that a contractor supplies the bread, the less pauperism and the more independent labour, the more money to the shopkeepers. One of these shopkeepers called and remonstrated with me, that all the men were not employed; and I know that he and others do all they can to prevent the men being paupers, and encourage their becoming independent labourers.

What is your opinion, as a farmer and employer, of the effect of granting no relief in aid of wages, except in kind?

My opinion is, that the relief in kind is judiciously substituted for money. If all relief in aid of wages were withdrawn, I have no doubt

but the farmers would give higher wages; for instance, I have thrashing to do, or hay to cut, or any other work, I must have men, and if the parish would pay part I should feel it unnecessary to give out of my pocket so large a sum; but if the parish gives nothing, I must pay the man full wages, and get from him a good full day's work; and as the men get independent, and the rates get lower, the wages will get higher.

If I have the free use on Saturday night of 5*l.*, instead of paying it to the overseer, I shall be able to lay this out in labour on my land in the next week; whilst the labourer was half pauper and half labourer, he was like a man with two masters, and could do justice to neither; but now he feels that he is wholly a labourer, he works hard and willingly. My 8*s.* wages will purchase for me labour sufficient to produce 10*s.* worth of crop; but with a pauper my 5*s.* paid will be a loss; for all the labour such a man will do won't be worth half-a-crown. With independent labourers, the more I have in moderation, the more I make; but for the paupers, the more I have the more I lose: I will employ as many of the former and as few of the latter as I can. Ten independent labourers would do me more good than five; while of paupers, five would be more desirable than ten.

EVIDENCE of JAMES GILBERT, of Richborough, Victualler and Millwright, and Overseer of last year; and of JAMES STRATTON, of Risborough, Farmer, and Overseer for the present year.

Will you state to me the state and condition in which your parish was, during the months of March, April, and May, 1834?

There were, in these months, upwards of one hundred able-bodied men in the parish.

In the same months of 1835 there were no able-bodied men on the parish, and at the present time, June, we are in want of men.

What are the causes of your parish being, in the year 1834, in such a heavily pauperized state, Mr. James Stratton?

It was because the labourers were lying on the parish without any work; they liked that better than going to work. There is a man who has worked upon my farm all his life, from the time he began labour until he was 40 years old; he had a wife and nine children. I found him a little dishonest; he took some of my corn, and I discharged him. He then, the same day, went to the overseer. The overseer did relieve him, sent him on the road with the other men. This man told some of my men afterwards that he was never so well off in all his life; he got more money, and could get wood, three or four bundles a day, to take home to his family and sell. A farmer, Mr. Bennell, went to the overseer, requesting that this pauper might come to work for him; the pauper refused to leave the parish, unless the overseer would make up "his money" as much as he got from the rate. The overseer, however, refused him relief, and he went to the work. This man was always one of the best workmen till he went on the parish, and afterwards would work for no one. He soon after left Mr. Bennell, and came to the overseer, and so remained up to the new Bill. He and his wife would come and abuse the overseer, and threaten the vestry, and they could do nothing with them. When the new Bill came in, this man immediately left the parish and found work, and has been off the parish ever since, except six days, and since the union has not

once applied. The paupers used to stand in the market-place. I have often seen those men slink behind and get away, on seeing a farmer or any person coming who they thought was going to employ them. These paupers were such an annoyance to the people of the town, insulting all who passed, we could do nothing with them. They are all now most orderly and civil, and receive their relief with expressions of gratitude. I attended the relieving officer on the last pay-day; part of the relief was in bread, which the poor received in a most contented and orderly manner.

What is your opinion upon the effect of paying in kind?

I think it protects the wives and families against the extravagance of the husbands, and I find that it induces the men to find work, as they get all money for their work. No one would believe the difference there is in the men, they are now so orderly, so willing and glad to do any thing; we never have any words with them.

What effects have you observed from the system of making contracts for provisions?

The bread is obtained much cheaper; the loaf, that cost sixpence before is now purchased for fourpence, and of quite as good quality; so that there is a saving of one-third. Supposing, then, that the whole of the relief were given in bread, as the rates of the whole union amount to above 30,000*l.*, there would by this means alone be a saving of nearly 10,000*l.* a year, but if only half, which is what is at present given, there will be a saving of 5,000*l.*, which would more than pay all the expenses of the union, and I should think the expenses for the whole county into the bargain.

Has it appeared to you that since the goods were supplied by contract, the tradesmen interest themselves to get the men into independent work and discourage their being paupers?

I do not know how it is that the men have all found work in such plenty, but they have all found it.

Have you sent any families to Manchester?

Yes, several families; chiefly children and women, altogether 102 persons. Shortly after the new Bill these parties came and requested that they might be sent. I am sure they would not have left the parish before the new Bill.

Mr. Gilbert, the late overseer of the parish, says, That he went to Manchester, having communicated with the Commissioners and found places for them all in the townships round Manchester. Eight families went to Messrs. Harrison and Sons, of Staley Bridge; one of these families, named Bailey, consists of the father, mother, and eight children, two of them under the age of work; this family is paid 2*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* a week until they learn the business, and as soon as they do that they are then to have 4*l.* 19*s.* a week. There were very comfortable cottages for them to go into, cottages that to those in this parish may be called little palaces. The children under the age were to go to a school; there is a small weekly sum paid by the family to a medical fund, for which, when ill, they have the benefit of the best medical advice. Mr. Gilbert continues: I went to see the Bledlow families; they were all very comfortable; expressed themselves highly satisfied, and that they would on no account come back again. The families of Stevens, Howlet and Verey, all expressed themselves highly pleased and well off. "One of the children of the name of Brooks came to me,"

says Mr. Gilbert, "and said how kind her employers, and all persons were to her," and gave me 2s. to bring to her mother, and told me she would send her some more as soon as possible. This little girl gets 7s. a week wages; she pays 4s. 6d. a week for her board and lodging, 1s. for washing, and has remaining 1s. 6d. for clothes. I never saw such cottages for poor people as those the Bledlow people had; they had every convenience, with a nice garden before and behind. There was a school-room at the end of the row of cottages, to which school the children went every day."

Will the effect of drawing relief in aid of wages, in your opinion, affect the price of wages?

I think it will raise the price; the men must be had and kept, and if the parish will not pay, the farmer must, and I have no doubt will. When we in our parish agreed to pay out of the rate, the wages went down immediately and pauperism increased greatly. The wages have, in fact, already been raised; a gentleman in a neighbouring parish has sent here to-day to say, that he will give 12s. a week for good men, and some are at work for that sum; one of them is a single man; before, we have paid only 7s. wages as the highest sum.

In this union you are aware that all the workhouses are to be given up excepting two; do you conceive any economy or other benefit will arise from that arrangement?

Yes, I think it will be a great saving. We have a workhouse with only 20 in, a number that will not allow of good management. We are obliged to put them all together, to the discomfort of the old and the demoralization of the young; it is bringing up the young as badly as can be; it is ruining the boys. The classing the poor will conduce to the comfort of the old and the instruction and improvement of the young. The economy in bringing all the workhouses of the 33 parishes into this union will make as great a difference in expense as there is, speaking comparatively, between 33 individuals keeping 33 houses and all occupying two.

I have attended a great deal to parish matters and looked at the expenditure of this union. If all the parishes are affected by the new measure, as ours has been, all able-bodied pauperism will cease, and I think that instead of the rates being 30,000*l.* that they will in a few years be less than 10,000*l.*

EVIDENCE of DANIEL SMITH, relieving Officer of the Amersham Union.

How long have you resided in the parish of Amersham?

Nine years and eight months; I have been for nine years up to the 6th of October last contractor for the parish, to maintain the in-door and out-door poor; and one year I had the hamlet of Coleshill. Since the 5th of October last, and up to the time of the union, I was master of the workhouse, and am now there till another master is appointed; I also, for about five years, contracted to keep all the roads in repair, and have, during the nine years and eight months, been well acquainted with the state of the labouring population of this and the surrounding parishes.

What parishes are under your management as relieving officer?

Amersham, Chalfont St. Giles, Sear Green, Beaconsfield, Penn and Coleshill.

Can you say what was the state of pauperism, as regards the able-bodied class, in those parishes, or any of them, last year at this season?

At Amersham, we had 56 paupers in the house; our parish was one of the improved parishes, where the workhouse system was introduced. At Chalfont St. Giles, there were about 30 in the house; at Sear Green, there was no house; at Beaconsfield, there were 14; at Penn, nine; no house at Coleshill; at Chalfont St. Peters, there were, I think, six or seven and twenty paupers; at Chenies, there were 11; at Chesham, there were upwards of 40; but I speak only with certainty as to my own district.

State to me the numbers in the poor-houses retained for the union.

The poor-houses retained are Chesham, Amersham, and Chenies; all the other workhouses are empty. In Amersham, there are 34; 28 men, four women to nurse, cook, and clean, and two children under medical care. The men are all old and infirm people; there is not one able-bodied man in the workhouses. At Chenies, all are children; there are 37, and a man and woman to look after them. At Chesham, there are five men with their wives, very aged, and about 30 women. In the whole of these workhouses there are no married couples, except the five at Chesham; and we have not had occasion to separate man and wife, there being so few married couples. Neither were there any children, except two, who had parents that had not deserted them. All the children, excepting these two, were without any sort of parental connexion. The parent of one of these children is subject to occasional insanity, so as to be incapable of taking care of her children. The other is a servant in the workhouse at Amersham, and not only consented, but was very anxious that her children, who were illegitimate, should go to Chenies.

How is the state of able-bodied pauperism out of the house, in your district?

I have not had one to pay the last week; all have work.

In what state are the children at Chenies?

Very comfortable indeed. They all seem very much pleased. They were all clean, much more comfortable than when I have seen them mixed up with other classes.

How do you find the aged and infirm at Amersham; are they more comfortable by themselves than when mixed as formerly?

I have asked the people how they are; they all say very comfortable. I am enabled to manage them much better now they are classed, much better than when they were all together. I am enabled to manage much better for the sick and ill; when the children were with them, they were subject to annoyance; and I should say that they are far more comfortable. When they were all together, young people would sometimes come into the house, and I have known bastards born in the house. All I could do could not prevent the intercourse.

What effect do you think will be produced by the men going to a distant workhouse?

I think it will have the effect of making many of them find work.

What, in your opinion, will be the effect of giving relief partly in kind?

I think it will have a very great effect upon the able-bodied; they like

to have the money. I know that the money is, a great part, sometimes spent, and the wife and family left in destitution, whilst, when bread is given, the wife and family get support. The wife of a bricklayer, who earned 10s. a week, came to my wife and complained that her husband did not bring home one-half of the money; and paupers, who receive relief in money, are known not to take home enough to give bread to their families. The pauper cannot go and sell the bread, because all having bread there are no purchasers; tickets might be sold, but bread could not.*

EVIDENCE of Mr. THOMAS BRICKWELL, Surgeon of the Amersham Union.

As you have been medical officer under the contract framed on the system of payment per case, have the goodness to tell me whether you approve of the system of contract, and whether any beneficial results have followed its adoption?

I approve of the system, but the amount in the present contract is inadequate; I think I shall lose a guinea a week by it; in some of the

* In some of the parishes the workhouses were used as comfortable boarding-houses for the paupers. They went to bed and got up as they pleased, and either went out to work, or amused themselves according to their wishes. Some of these men were employed by the farmers at low wages, which they were permitted to spend in any way they pleased, the same relief nevertheless being afforded in the workhouse. The paupers came home to their meals, and lounged out or disposed of their time in any way suitable to their several inclinations.

Bledlow workhouse is an instance of this kind of management. The master, I conceive, had some hopes that he would be appointed under the union, and he was therefore very loquacious in his endeavours to convince me how well he was adapted for the office. He never, he said, put any restraint upon the men; they worked for whom they liked, came home to their meals, and had the best of fare, and went out and in, just as if they were their own masters. He said they were very fond of him, and would rather be in his house than at work for the farmers.

I add the answers of a few questions I put to this man, showing the system of management and the effect of the change, as also the saving to be effected by management in numbers.

The Deposition of *James Stevens*, Master of Bledlow Workhouse.

SAYS, I have had the contracts for the workhouse at Bledlow for the last three years; I am paid 3s. a head.

How do you provide for the paupers?

They have as much to eat as they please, good porridge for breakfast; plenty of meat—pig meat, with potatoes and greens, except Tuesday and Saturday, when they have bread and cheese. Pudding on Sunday, and good beer every day, a pint with their dinner, and some for their supper.

Did they live as well as any labourer could with his earnings?

Yes; they lived much better than most of our labourers; the labourers often complained and said they wished they were in the house; they would go to the overseer and ask him to let them go into the house; we have no work in the house, the men go out and do as they please; there is no restraint, the door is always open, and they go out as they like. Some of them get work. One man, William Heyburn, who was in the house, always got constant employ out, and used to come to his meals and to sleep. Since the new Bill has passed, an order was given to me by the direction of the guardians that no man should go out of the house to work. On this order being given, Wm. Heyburn immediately left the house, and is keeping himself in his old place of work. The master told him that as he could not get the support of the parish, he, the master, would raise his wages, which I understand he has done to an amount sufficient to maintain the man. We have 13 paupers in, paying 3s. a week; the house would hold 100, and is to be one of the houses for Wycombe union, when the whole system is to be changed.

What would you keep 100 people per head for?

I hardly know that; I could do it for 1s. 6d. a head; for 1s. 9d. or 2s. it could be done well; I think I may venture to say 1s. 9d.

parishes it is at present only one-third of what I have received in former years for the same time. But I approve of the system for these reasons: it is a self-acting check upon the relieving officer, in giving improper orders or withholding proper orders upon the applicant for medical relief, in making him feel that in receiving it he is a pauper, and causing the parish a specific charge for him, and upon the medical man by causing an inquiry into each case, so that none can escape attention, and by that means also secures proper attendance to the patient. Indeed the mode of contract forms a complete system of check and security, in cases of pauper medical relief, the want of which was so much felt under the old system.

Has it tended to curtail the evil of sending all parties to the parish doctor for medical relief, which was so prevalent under the cases of contract in gross?

Yes, it has; I have many cases now that I am attending as independent patients, who used always before to come to me as paupers. I of course would rather decline mentioning names; one case is a woman of Penn, her son is a muster bricklayer, with whom she resides, the cottage and garden their own. She has a daughter about 30, a sempstress, who gets a very good living: this woman was with her daughter always attended by the parish; on my telling this woman that the parish paid a specific sum for her, she refused to be attended, and now pays for herself; she said she would rather pay for herself than that. There are many cases which evidence this effect of the system; one is a young man of Amersham, who was always attended by the parish. He was frequently ill, and has since the new system of contract never received medical relief at the expense of the parish, but has paid me himself generally 5s. a week; he said he would rather pay for it than the parish know his disease. There are numbers of other cases evidencing all the effects I have mentioned, but I have not them before me at this moment.

Do the new independent patients pay you?

Yes, they do; they pay us at the time they have the medicine.

Now although you do not receive so much from the parish contract, will not the amount by these new independent patients more than make up the difference?

No, I think not; but will go towards it.

EVIDENCE OF BENJAMIN QUARTERMAIN SIMONS:

SAYS, I am master of the workhouse at Aylesbury, and have been ever since the house was built, five years last November. The rule of the house is to classify the inmates, and we always keep men and wives separate; in the old house the men and their wives used to live together; amongst these, there were John Evitt and his wife, James Hearn and his wife, the only married couples who are removed into this new house. After being in the new house, living together as they had done in the old house for about six months (the other married couples who had newly come into the new house being separated), Evitt and his wife, and Hearn and his wife requested that they might be permitted also to live separate, and Hearn's wife also requested that she and her husband might live separate. The reason they gave was that, being old and afflicted people, they disturbed one another at nights, and could not be so well attended upon as if they were separate. The vestry consented

to let Evitt and his wife live separate, but having no nurse that could wait upon Hearn we were obliged to refuse their request. Evitt and his wife lived separate all the time they were in the house, up to the time of the wife's death; and Hearn and his wife continued together till the husband died. The wife of Hearn made many and frequent applications to the parish to be permitted to live separate, but we had no one that could attend upon him; she stated that her husband's infirmities soured his temper, and made them quarrel and disagree; neither Evitt nor his wife ever requested after they were separated to be allowed to live together again.

Another case of the same sort is, a man and his wife belonging to our parish who had been living in St. Margaret's parish, the man in the infirmary and the woman in the workhouse: their names were Iron-monger, they are still in our workhouse. They requested to live separate, and still do so with their own desire; the wife is bedridden, and requires nursing like a child. It is necessary to have a woman to nurse such a person; if her husband was with her no woman could in his presence nurse, and she must either remain in a state of filth and neglect, or she must live separate from her husband.

Do you conceive it possible, without separation of the sexes, to manage a workhouse consistently with the comfort of the aged, and control of the able-bodied?

No, I am sure you cannot, Sir; if a man and his wife are together they must have a separate room to themselves, or there would be the gross indecency of many men and many women sleeping, undressing, and doing the necessary offices of a bedroom in the presence of each other. The effect of joint-room too would be that the paupers, men and women together, being reduced to a state of total want of decency, would soon have common and promiscuous intercourse.

If one room was had for each man and his wife, it would be impossible to find room for them in the large parishes?

We always find that paupers in separate rooms are dirty in the extreme, and a set of servants would be necessary to keep the house clean. I am clearly of opinion that all who try to manage a large workhouse, without the division of the sexes, will fail in making the aged comfortable, the disorderly obedient, or keeping the house in a state of healthy cleanliness.

EVIDENCE OF MR. JOSEPH FLEET, Vestry Clerk of the Parish of Iver.

HAVE you observed, or do you know any instances showing benefits derived by your parish from the operation of the new Bill, or the union in which it is included?

Yes, I consider the whole of the benefits received by our parish to be the effects of the new Bill, which enabled us to introduce a mode of management different from the preceding. The improvement in the point of expense is stated in the table annexed to this as prepared by Mr. Boswell, the guardian of the parish, from the parish books.

Is the economy the only benefit to which you allude?

No, I think that is the least benefit, in fact it is only the consequence of the great benefit, the moral improvement of the labourer. The new system has had the effect of making the men look to their own good character and industry as the means of support, and both have been much improved, to the advantage of themselves and the parish. We

observe that the men are more civil and orderly, and endeavour to give satisfaction to their employers more than formerly. The farmers generally have stated to me that they have employed more men in consequence of the diminution of the parish expenditure, which enables them to do so. We give no relief in aid of wages, and none is paid by the relieving officer. Indeed the new system has left us no pauper labourers; all the working men support themselves without even asking relief of the parish. Last year we had at this time (June 29) upwards of 20 able-bodied men upon the parish, whose usual occupation was pitch and toss, and the then assistant overseer told the vestry that he could not make them work. As soon as the new Bill passed, we told the men they must work for the parish the same number of hours as for a farmer, and we should get gravel and other work for them, which they must perform, or they would be discharged. The men seemed quite surprised at the idea of such a thing as discharge from parish work, and at first refused to work. We then discharged a few and refused relief. We found that they went to the magistrates immediately, but learning that the magistrates power was taken away, they found employment for themselves, and have not since been on the parish. We kept the remaining paupers at work, and found that they soon found employment. When the whole of these out-door labourers had found work, the vestry came to a resolution to give no further able-bodied relief out of the house, except in some particular cases of accidental misfortune and good character. There were a great number, upwards of 100 applications for relief from able-bodied paupers during last winter. At the commencement, we ordered the greater number into the house; men of the best character with families we put to work out of the house.

In the whole of the winter there were about twelve only out of the number that accepted the house, and the greatest number at out-door work was ten; whereas in the corresponding weeks of the preceding year there were upwards of 50.

Those who accepted the workhouse were at first very turbulent, and refused to conform to the rules of the workhouse, or to work; we took them before a magistrate, who committed them. When they came out of prison they applied to the parish again, and they appeared to expect to be set to work. We gave orders for the workhouse; some then said if we could keep their wives and families for a week, they would seek for work. In some cases we consented, in others refused. In a short time they all applied to have their wives and families. Those who went out had found work, not only for themselves but for those who remained in the house. They all left, and are now maintaining themselves at work for farmers in the parish.

We had an old pauper who had been on the parish as a permanent pauper for 20 years; he had the largest and most dissolute and idle family in the parish. Within the last three weeks this man, for the first time, went off the parish, and is now supporting himself and family independently.

The employment in the house was breaking oyster-shells for manure.

Do you know of any instances tending to prove the effect of the change in making husbands maintain the children of their wives by former husbands, and also their bastards?

It prevents improvident marriages. I can mention several instances.

One is that of a young girl of 18 who was confined in the parish with an illegitimate child. The parents had encouraged the intercourse between their daughter and the father, in the expectation of getting her married. The man, or rather lad, was about 19. This intended marriage was broken off on the new Bill passing, or otherwise I have no doubt the marriage would have taken place, and the very same day the parties would have applied to the parish. The child born since the Act has been supported by the mother. There are several others living in the same row of cottages with this woman whose conduct is more orderly and decent than it has ever been before.

Another case is this. A woman of our parish, a widow with four children, who received relief from the parish, I understood was about to be married to a drunken, dissolute shoemaker in Langley. I met this woman one day and spoke to her on the subject of her intended marriage. I asked her if she was aware that her husband would have to maintain her children. She said no, she never thought of such a thing, as the parish had always kept them, she expected they would still do so. I told her they certainly would not, and added, "As you are in your present state" (she was then pregnant), "I shall not grant any further relief, unless you come before the vestry." She immediately replied, "O, then I shall not marry him. I am sure he would not have me unless you allow me the 4s. 6d. a week," and the marriage scheme was fortunately given up.

We had another widow 35 years old, with four children, who was pregnant of a bastard child. It was well known that she and the father of the bastard, a lad of about 20, intended to marry, expecting to have the allowance or annuity, as they seem to think it, from the parish. I saw this woman and told her the same as the last. She afterwards, that is after the union, applied to the vestry, who said no out-door relief would be allowed to her, it would be a premium on bastardy, but that she and her family could have an order for the workhouse. She said she was quite sure she should not come into the workhouse; she would send her children. The vestry told her she would be punished for deserting her children.

This the vestry thought a case in which separation would be very beneficial to the children. She had one girl of ten, a son about twelve, and two younger children living in the same house where she was cohabiting with the father of the bastard child.

She left the vestry and has since supported her family. She has not married.

Do you think it possible, without classification of the sexes, to manage a workhouse consistently with principles of economy, morality, and decency?

No; it would cause a great increase in the expense: we could not, consistently with any economy or cleanliness, have a separate room for each married couple; and it would not be by any means decent for several married people to sleep together in the same room, so I conceive it impossible to manage a workhouse properly without a separation of the sexes and classification.

Do you think (generally speaking) that the management by union will be beneficial to your parish?

I think it will reduce expense, produce an uniformity of management, and by the extension of knowledge and power in the board of

guardians, will remove many of the errors of the old management, and entirely get rid of the system of favouritism and terrorism practised under the vestry system.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS of the Parish of Iver in the Years ending
Midsummer, 1834, and Midsummer, 1835, on account of

	In-door Paupers.		Pauper Labourers.		Occasional Paupers.	
	1833-4.		1834-5.		1833-4.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
June 21 to July 19	11 7 0	16 19 10	36 13 1	24 19 4	4 4 6	4 14 0
July 19 to Aug. 16	11 6 4	14 0 10	15 11 8	4 18 0	4 4 0	3 15 0
Aug. 16 to Sept. 13	9 16 5	15 8 6	25 19 1	2 17 6	5 19 0	7 14 1
Sept. 13 to Oct. 11	11 5 2	21 8 3	37 3 5	3 10 2	5 10 6	3 10 8
Oct. 11 to Nov. 8	14 19 6	29 2 8	42 10 8	10 18 6	8 7 6	5 1 4
Nov. 8 to Dec. 6	14 10 10	35 3 7	46 17 8	8 14 8	10 11 8	3 19 0
Dec. 6 to Jan. 3	18 13 4	33 14 1	81 12 8	14 0 4	14 9 2	3 7 6
Jan. 3 to Jan. 31	19 14 1	35 19 6	87 13 6	18 6 7	25 13 6	2 9 6
Jan. 31 to Feb. 28	22 10 0	27 0 10	84 19 10	10 8 3	14 17 4	2 3 0
Feb. 28 to Mar. 28	22 4 5	25 13 10	59 3 8	12 15 8	8 12 0	2 1 6
March 28 to Apr. 25	18 8 10	22 1 6	68 3 5	5 6 5	5 1 0	2 10 6
April 25 to May 23	17 10 8	17 17 4	51 18 0	2 1 8	6 17 0	2 3 0
May 23 to June 20	17 12 3	17 14 10	20 0 6	1 10 0	4 4 0	2 3 0
£	209 18 10	318 5 7	658 7 2	120 7 1	118 12 8	45 12 1

* £14. 2s. since paid for beer consumed in the workhouse in the year ending Midsummer 1834, is added to this amount in the following Abstract.

A COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT for the Years ending Midsummer, 1834 and Midsummer, 1835, showing the increase and decrease of the several heads of Expenditure.

	1833-4.		1834-5.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
In-door Paupers . .	224	0 10	318	5 7	94	4 9	—	—
Pauper Labourers . .	658	7 2	120	7 1	.	.	538	0 1
Occasional Paupers . .	118	12 8	45	12 1	.	.	73	0 7
* Pensioners (including Bastards) . .	429	8 0	294	5 2	.	.	135	2 10
	1,430	8 8	778	9 11	94	4 9	746	3 6
	778	9 11	.	.	.	.	94	4 9
Decrease on the year .	651	18 9	.	.	.	.	651	18 9

* The weekly payment on account of pensions is now only 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, at which rate the annual expenditure under that head will be 188*l.* 10*s.*

At the board of the Wycombe guardians, a decent-looking woman, a widow, applied for a loan of a few shillings to assist her in getting some forms, as part of the furniture of an infant school she thought of opening, which she said would enable her to maintain herself and children.

It appeared that before the last Act this woman received relief for three children she had, and was on the point of marriage; but when the intended husband found that instead of receiving an allowance from

the parish he would have to maintain the children, the marriage was given up, and the woman, I understand, is maintaining her children without aid from the parish.

The marriage was got up on some intimation from the parish that the relief to the children would be disallowed on the ground that the mother could support them; in order that to such an objection to grant relief the mother might plead her marriage, and that any thing she earned was her husband's, and that as he was not bound to maintain them, the parish must.

EVIDENCE of JOHN MILLER, relieving Officer of the Amersham Union :

SAYS, in Chesham last year, in five weeks, as assistant overseer, I paid 280*l*. This year, the same corresponding weeks, for four parishes, viz. Chesham, Chesham Bolls, Chenies, and Chalfont St. Peter's, I have paid less than 230*l*.

There is a great reduction as to bastardy. In Chesham, in former years, there have been on an average four or five bastards a year; in the last six months there has been only one application. I find that the women hold out less inducements to the men than they did before.

Our streets at night used to be in a state of great disorder. As a constable, for two years I was constantly three or four times a week called out of bed to quell disturbances. Decent people could scarcely pass through the streets after dark.

There are not now any thing like the number of women there used to be, and the town after dark is now as quiet as other towns. I know that the new Bill has been decidedly the means of effecting this change. I have seen the present constables, and they tell me they are seldom now called out for any disturbances.

Since the new Bill, the beer-shops are much less frequented; they complain much of the want of money, and tell our overseers that they cannot pay the rate. I have gone out with the overseer to collect the rate several times. The beer-shop men invariably speak thus:—"We have no money; how are we to get money when the men can't spend it; all the money is spent in bread." There was constant quarrelling and fighting in the beer-shops; I was often called up at night to quell disturbances at beer-shops; and the present constables, as I hear from them, have been seldom or never called up.

EVIDENCE of Mr. EDMUND MASON, of Slough, in the parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey.

Do you hold land in the parish of Stoke Pogis?

Yes.

In the parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey?

Yes, I do.

Do you hold land in other parishes in the neighbourhood?

No, I do not. I am the freeholder of land in Burnham, Hitcham and Dorney, which was formerly occupied by me, but now I let it to tenants.

Was the poor rate in Stoke Pogis before the union less than in those parishes?

No, more. Stoke Pogis is the heaviest poor-rate of any parish I have lived in. My land in Stoke Pogis is on one side of the road, and that in Upton-cum-Chalvey on the other, and I always pay more in

Stoke Pogis, generally about 1s. 6d. for every acre more than in Upton-cum-Chalvey, that is, 1s. rate more; and the church-rate of Stoke Pogis is the heaviest of any parish I ever lived in, and the parish is still in debt.

Were you, as a rate-payer in Stoke Pogis, of opinion that it should be included in the union?

Yes, I was, and I am confirmed in my opinion that the union will be beneficial to it. I have seen several farmers who signed the petition praying that the parish might be left out of union, and they tell me, that from the improvement the union has already effected in the parish, they are very glad that it was placed in the union, and that they are much indebted to me for not having signed the petition. The rates in our parish of Stoke were unequally collected; for instance, when the overseer called upon me the last time before the union, I requested to look at the book, and found many arrears, and one of a Mr. Depree, a private gentleman, living at Langley Broom. The assistant overseer told me it was Mr. Depree's practice to pay one rate under another; that is, always to have one rate in arrear. This evil is corrected, and they now clear up a whole rate before another is called for.

Are you then of opinion that many of the rate-payers of Stoke, although they prayed to be left out of the union, now are glad to find their request was not complied with?

I not only think but I know the fact, and could name many who have told me they are glad to be in the union.

You think, then, that the power given to the Commissioners to unite parishes without their consent, was well exercised in this instance?

Yes, certainly I do, and I consider that such a power was absolutely necessary for the welfare of the parish; for had the rate-payers the power to refuse, we should have gone on in our old way, and much of the land in the parish would not have been worth the amount of the poor-rate.

What benefits do you conceive the union will produce for Stoke?

I consider, first, the rates will be very much lowered; next I think, what is of much greater consequence, the morals of the labouring people will be improved, and the deserving poor will be better off than they have been. It will afford a good check upon the loose, disorderly and improvident paupers, and the board of guardians will be able to act without fear.

In the parish of Stoke, the system of terrorism was carried on to a great extent. Some time ago, one of the overseers came to me; he wished me to see the poor that were out of work; they were in the gravel-pit, a great number of them doing next to nothing; I went up, and saw them idling about; some gentlemen spoke to them, and wanted to put them to work by the piece; they showed great objection to this, behaved to all parties in an insolent and threatening manner; the men were not put to the piece work. It certainly appeared to me that the overseers were afraid of them. This was about two years since.

Have you not some charities in the parish; and do not Colonel

Vyse and some other gentlemen give sums of money and other things to the poor?

Yes, there are some charities; 200 acres land for firing, a charity for a school, I believe, and some charities of bread.

I never heard of Colonel Vyse giving money, but I have of his giving soup and other things to the poor when sick.

Do you think the charities have tended to improve the poor, or otherwise?

I think certainly not to improve them; they have rather tended to lower the independent spirit of the poor, and bring them to the overseers for relief. It is very difficult to distribute private charity without falling into that error, and in Stoke I think they have not escaped it.

Have you any charity in Upton?

Only some clothing and apprenticing charity; less than in Stoke.

Then you seem to think the charities in Stoke not beneficial?

No; I think it is proved by the rates being higher than in the other parishes.

What is your opinion of the bread relief in Stoke?

I think there, as elsewhere, it is very judiciously substituted for money.

EVIDENCE of WILLIAM LOWNDES, of Chesham, in the county of Bucks, Esquire, Justice of the Peace, and Guardian *ex-officio* of the Amersham, Union.

Did you aid and assist, or were you present at the removal of the paupers from the poor-house at Chesham, on Saturday the 23d day of May last?

I was present; I attended as a guardian to meet Mr. Drouet, who came to superintend the removal of the male paupers from Chesham to Amersham workhouse.

State what occurred on the removal of or attempt to remove the paupers?

I left my house and proceeded direct to the workhouse; the town appeared to me to be quite quiet, no people were assembled round the house, and I did not observe any indications of any disturbance or disposition to resist the intended removal; I found my brother magistrate, Mr. Fuller, at the workhouse, and shortly after I arrived, Mr. Rose, the overseer, and Mr. Weedon, the elected guardian, with other gentlemen, inhabitants of the town, came. The relieving officer had been paying some of the paupers, and I rendered him some assistance by writing down their names; I saw numbers of these paupers who were paid, and went round the house with Mr. Drouet, who had arrived in the mean time; I did not find any discontent among the paupers whom the relieving officer paid. I went to all the men who were to be removed; I told them they would have to go to Amersham workhouse; they were all willing and content to go excepting one man, who said he would not be parted from his wife. This man is a gardener by trade; his wife has for nearly two years been in the workhouse at Chesham, and he living out in the town. During this time the master informs me that this man never came to see his wife, but just at this time he happened to be in the workhouse in consequence of having a bad leg, and during the time of his stay the husband and wife have never in the house slept together. We considered that his objection was made merely to give trouble, but being very anxious to avoid doing any thing that could be misconstrued into harshness, this man was permitted to stay at Chesham with his wife. This man, finding that his desire to remain gave us no trouble, himself on the following day, I understand, was brought over in the van with the other men. After I had so seen the paupers on the Saturday and they had been visited by their friends, and all that were to be re-

moved expressed themselves willing to go, I observed a waggon drive into the workhouse yard; this was about a quarter to eleven o'clock in the morning; after the waggon had entered, the workhouse gates were again closed; I was at this time in the yard, I could see over the gates to the bridge, and observed a number of people coming towards the house. Shortly after this several large stones were thrown into the yard, and I heard the noise of a crowd outside the gates; I immediately went into the street in the direction from which the stones came, and went amongst the crowd and remonstrated with them; several of the women told me they would not permit them to be moved. After talking to the crowd for some time, I went back to the workhouse yard; I told Catlin, the waggoner, and John Gomm, the master of the house, if the cart was ready they were to start. The paupers, ten old men and one boy, then got into the cart; I then attempted to open the gates, but the crowd resisted; after a short time I opened the gates, the waggon with the paupers was then driven out, and I closed the gates. I remained at the workhouse till about a quarter before twelve, and the crowd had left the workhouse door, and all appeared to me quiet and I went home. I had not been home two minutes before a letter was brought to me from Mr. Ford, of Chesham, who was valuing the goods at the workhouse, saying, that there was a riot on the hill, that is, a hill about half a mile from the workhouse; that the mob had thrown stones, broken Mr. Fuller's head, and that Mr. Heath had been struck and some of the paupers were returned. Upon this I went down to the house; I found two or three of the paupers standing outside the door, whom I told to come in, and I went into the workhouse yard. Looking over the gates I saw Col. Drake, the chairman of the board of guardians, and Mr. Joseph Heath, clerk to the magistrates, and Henry Heath, clerk, and Mr. Marshall, the clerk to the board of guardians, riding over the town bridge in the direction of my house; I sent to them to say I was at the workhouse; they came to me and told me the mob had attacked and pelted them. Mr. John Drake shortly afterwards came to us, and we deliberated on what should be done, and determined to send to town for police, and to apprise the Home Department and the Poor Law Commissioners; and we also sent off notice to the Assistant Commissioners at Aylesbury. We stayed at the workhouse all day till eight o'clock at night, and issued precepts for special constables and swore in some. The mob increased to about 500 at this time. By one o'clock the paupers were all in the house again, and at eight o'clock I left the paupers remaining under the care of the master, as before. Finding that the mob had succeeded, we determined not to remove the paupers till the police force should arrive. The police arrived about half-past one o'clock on the morning of Sunday; I got up and found beds for them, Mr. Fuller, my co-magistrate, being too ill from the wounds he had received to get up. During the Sunday the town appeared to be in a state of excitement, but there were no mobs in the streets. It being determined on to apprehend the rioters on Monday, we sent a message to Lord Chandos for the yeomanry, as we expected a rescue, and thought the police force would not be sufficient, as it was reported that messengers had been sent from the mob at Chesham to the neighbouring parishes and to the railroad to get men to come and resist the intended apprehension of the rioters on the morrow. On Monday morning at about nine o'clock I proceeded to the town-hall to meet the

other magistrates, Mr. Drake, Mr. Mason, and Captain Arnold; other magistrates shortly after arrived. We proceeded to take informations and issue warrants. The yeomanry, I understood, consisting of the Chesham and Wycombe troop and the Aylesbury troop, which had got in readiness, remained out of the town, and the police, 21 in number, in the market-place. The crowd soon began to increase, and parties came in from the surrounding parishes and men from the railroad with sticks; I should suppose there were upwards of 500 persons collected. We continued our examinations till six o'clock at night, and signed commitments for the prisoners, who were sent to Aylesbury gaol, escorted by the Aylesbury troop of yeomanry and some of the police. It was reported to me during the day, that the mob had said, "they are too strong for us, or we would have had a row."

Is it your opinion, that if you had not had the force you mentioned a riot or rescue would have taken place on the Monday?

If we had not had the force there would have been a riot, and I have no doubt a rescue; I think the force was necessary to prevent riot, which was the object of our requesting it.

Were the paupers from Chesham removed on the Monday?

No, they were removed on the Tuesday following; I, with the other guardians, gave directions that they should be removed. The town all day on the Monday remained disturbed, and I thought it better that the Chesham troop of yeomanry should not be discharged until the neighbourhood was quite tranquil and the paupers removed, and I gave directions as a magistrate that the Chesham troop should be in the town when the paupers were removed to-morrow.

As the paupers themselves were willing to be removed, tell me why did the persons out of the house resist their removal?

From a factious opposition; I rather conceive gross errors had been circulated amongst the crowd, and they were excited by interested persons to get up a riot.

Have you seen any of the paupers since they were removed?

Yes, I have; they make no complaints.

In the removal from Chesham, had you occasion to separate man and wife?

No; two or three old married people still remain at Chesham together.

Did you have occasion to separate child from parent?

No, for they were all orphans that we removed; there were two or three children within the age of nurture that remained with their parents.

THE DEPOSITION of BENJAMIN FULLER, of Chesham, Esquire, a County Magistrate, and Member of the Board of Guardians of the Amersham Union.

I am a magistrate of the county of Bucks. On Saturday, the 23d May last, I attended at the workhouse of Chesham, to superintend the removal of some of the old male paupers from thence to Amersham workhouse, in pursuance of an order made by the board of guardians of the Amersham union, in which Chesham is situate. I was at the workhouse at ten o'clock in the forenoon. At about a quarter before eleven, the arrangement for removing the paupers being nearly completed, I left the workhouse for a few minutes, and went into the office

of Messrs. Marshall and Heath, to transact some magisterial business. As I came out of the workhouse, I found a few people collected round the gates. I returned to the workhouse before eleven, and found the crowd round the gates considerably increased. I was received with hootings and groanings. In a few moments I returned from the workhouse yard into the crowd, with Mr. Lowndes and Mr. William Weedon, and endeavoured to reason with them on the folly of resistance, but without effect. Finding the irritation and determination of the crowd increasing as the proceedings for bringing out the waggon in which the paupers were, went on, I sent for the Riot Act. Mr. Lowndes and Mr. Weedon had returned into the workhouse yard. An attempt was then made to open the gates and bring out the waggon, which the crowd resisted, and they succeeded for a time. I again remonstrated with the crowd; but finding persuasions and threats unavailing, I read the proclamation required by the Riot Act. After the Riot Act had been read the crowd gave way for a while; the gates were opened, and the waggon came out and proceeded at a slow pace along Amy-lane, towards Amersham. I followed the waggon, and the crowd followed me. Much violent language was used, especially by the women, who excited the men by branding them as cowards. As soon as I got into Amy-lane the crowd began throwing stones, and the waggon proceeded some distance forwards, whilst I staid back to discover who were the aggressors. When I overtook the waggon again, it was stopped by the crowd at Amy Mill, in Chesham Bois parish. When I came up, the waggon again proceeded, surrounded and followed by the crowd, who threw stones. As the waggon proceeded up the hill it was frequently obstructed, and once the wheel was locked. The crowd increased in numbers and in violence, and stones were thrown in showers. From time to time they endeavoured to pull the paupers out of the waggon. When I got to Ware's farm, which is at the top of the hill in Chesham Bois parish, I stopped back a little while, and then the crowd rushed on with greater violence to empty the waggon. When I came to Chesham Bois common, I found one of the paupers lying on the road, with his hand cut as by a stone: I found other paupers further on. The waggon was some distance in advance, and I stood on the hill watching its progress until I saw it completely emptied, and the crowd returning with some of the paupers in triumph. I then retreated into one corner of the common, the crowd in the meantime pelting me from the road. Presently one man came out from the crowd, and said he came to ask me some questions, as no one else would. More than 30 of the crowd followed him, and began asking me questions. Some asked for beer, as the condition of letting me go; others abused and called me a tyrant. They then began hustling me, and afterwards pelted me with dirt and stones. At length some one behind me struck me on the head with a stone, and knocked me down; and whilst down, there were several cries in the crowd of "Kill him, smash his head," &c. When I got up I retreated to Ware's farm, and afterwards returned by the fields to Chesham. After my return, I for several hours saw a crowd assembled round the workhouse.

I saw all the paupers in the workhouse before we started; they all appeared willing to go to Amersham.

On the road near to Amy-hill I saw one of the paupers defending himself against the attempts made by the mob to pull him out of the

waggon, with a knife, which he swung backwards and forwards, to prevent them taking out the tail-board of the waggon, which they were attempting to do. I came up to the same man on the common, after he had been forcibly pulled out of the waggon by the mob. I said to him, "These people call themselves your friends." He said, "I call them devils; see how they have used me," pointing to his hand, which was very much cut with a stone.

During the progress of the waggon the paupers several times called out to me to protect them from the mob; several were much hurt by the stones that were thrown.

Then it appears that when the mob found that the paupers consented to be removed they attacked them?

Yes, they did; the mob cried out, "Why don't you get out of the waggon." The paupers refused, and many of them were struck with stones.

What appears to you to have been the cause of these disturbances?

I think the mob were excited by gross misrepresentations; they were led to believe that all the labourers' children, whether paupers or not, were to be taken from them, or at least all who had received at any time relief. This I discovered since the riot.

Do you conceive that the dissatisfaction amongst the bakers at the contract for bread being made with other than tradesmen of Chesham, conducted at all to the riot?

Yes, I do.

EVIDENCE OF WILLIAM WEEDON, of Chesham, Yeoman, Guardian for Chesham:

Says, I was present on Saturday, the 23d day of May, 1835.

Have you seen Mr Lowndes' statement?

Yes, I have. It is correct as regards the transactions and proceedings of the mob of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

Have you any thing to add to that?

I went down to the workhouse on the Sunday named. I asked five of the paupers whether they were willing to walk to Amersham, and they said yes. I told them I would give them a shilling a piece for refreshments on the road, and they went directly, and I gave them the shilling. About eleven o'clock, as I was on my road to Amersham, I met two of the men coming back. I inquired the reason; they told me that they went into the Boot and Slipper, and some people there told them if they went to Amersham they would get killed, for there were above one hundred at the top of the hill, waiting for them.

When I got to Amersham I inquired, and found the other three had come, and were in the Amersham house. I have seen the paupers since, and asked them how they were; they said they were very comfortable, but had not quite so much room to walk about as they had had at Chesham.

EVIDENCE OF JOHN GOMM, Master of Chesham Workhouse:

Says, James Poulton's wife has been in the workhouse ever since I have had the management of it, and was there when I came; I believe she has been in three or four years. Her husband lived out of the

house about ten months, and during the whole of that time did not once, to my knowledge, come to see his wife.

I saw the paupers before they were removed; I saw them on the Friday before; they were all willing to be removed; they would rather have stopped at Chesham, but if wished they would go willingly. There was no objection whatever. There was not any separation of man and wife, or child and parent: all the children were orphans excepting one infant or two, who remained with the parent.

— No. 7. —

REPORT from DANIEL GOODSON ADEY, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

Gentlemen,

18th June, 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and regret that other engagements have prevented me attending to it sooner.

None of the unions formed under my superintendence, have been sufficiently long in existence, to allow the adoption of a system of "workhouse management," directed to the enforcement of the principle "that the condition of the able-bodied pauper should be made less eligible than that of the independent labourer of the lowest class." But in forming those unions, several parishes have come under my notice where that principle has been the guide of the parish officers; and in no one instance where it has been adopted and enforced, has it failed in producing the desired effect; viz. the reduction of pauperism, and the consequent improvement of the general condition of the labourers, and the diminution of the burthens of the rate-payers.

It is unnecessary that I should remark on the case of the parish of Hatfield, as it has been long before you, or on that of Welwyn, both of which still continue to prosper under a system they were early in commencing; but the following instances of successful parochial management under the system alluded to, are more recent, and as some of them have succeeded even with the most inefficient workhouses, that is with common poor-houses having every facility of ingress and egress, it illustrates still more strongly the beneficial effect of the system, not only in a pecuniary, but a moral point of view.

To the statements of these instances, I beg leave to add several letters I have received, containing information in regard to the effects already observable, as produced by the change of system.

The first parish I shall mention is Sandridge in this county:

Population . . 810 . . . Area . . 5,000.

Up to the year ending Lady-day 1833, the accounts were so kept that little information can be derived from them beyond ascertaining the total expenditure, which for that year, was . . £941. 17s. 7d.

In the middle of 1834, the parish commenced a new system, described in their minute book as follows:

"The principle which guides the vestry in the administering parish relief is, to limit that relief as far as possible to the workhouse, which operates as the surest test of real want on the part of the applicants,

detecting imposition on the one hand, while on the other it applies the most efficient means of relieving actual distress."

The effect of adopting this principle was almost immediately apparent; for the cost of relief to paupers fell from 941 17 7 In the year ending Lady-day 1833, to . . . 553 16 3 In the year ending Lady-day 1834, and in the year ending Lady-day 1835, able-bodied pauperism was extinct, the expense for the poor being only . . . 391 17 4

The annexed comparative Table will show the result in the most detailed form:—

PARISH OF SANDRIDGE.—POPULATION, 810.

A comparison of the Year ending 25th March, 1833, with that ending 25th March, 1835, (the Workhouse System having been introduced during the intermediate year) with respect to OUT-DOOR RELIEF, IN-DOOR RELIEF, and TOTAL EXPENSE OF POOR.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF; comprising

1. WEEKLY PENSIONS.—2. RELIEF TO ABLE-BODIED MEN, ROUNDSMEN, AND OTHERS.

1. WEEKLY PENSIONS :	£.	s.	d.
From 25 March, 1832, to } 56 Pensions amounting to	356	11	6
25 March, 1833 . . . }			
From 25 March, 1834, to } 20 Ditto . . ditto . .	82	18	0
25 March, 1835 . . . }			
Decrease . . . 36	£273	13	6

2. RELIEF TO ABLE-BODIED MEN, ROUNDSMEN, AND OTHERS :

	£.	s.	d.
From 25 March, 1832, to 25 March, 1833, from 40 to 50 { including casual relief, and hire of land for digging (£25. 14s. 8d.) . . . }	265	9	0
From 25 March, 1834, to 25th March, 1835, { Able-bodied none Casual relief (viz. 3 suspended orders) . . . Given in provisions on account of sickness . . }	6	10	6
	14	13	4
	21	3	10
Decrease . . .	£244	5	2

IN-DOOR RELIEF.

1. EXPENSE :	£.	s.	d.
From 25 March, 1832, to 25 March, 1833, (Poor were farmed at 4s. per head, and their labour) . . . }	176	10	0
From 25 March, 1834, to 25 March, 1835, (including clothing and current expenses of establishment) . . }	187	4	0
Increase . . .	£10	14	0

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2. NUMBERS IN WORKHOUSE :

From Lady-day 1832 to March 25, 1833, no account kept; average number, 17 or 18.

	<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Remaining March 25, 1834.</i>
From March 25, 1833,	{ 25 Men.	10 Men.
to March 25, 1834 .	{ 16 Women.	7 Women.
	{ 22 Children.	7 Children.
	<hr/> 63	<hr/> 24

	<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Remaining March 25, 1835.</i>
From March 25, 1834,	{ 10 Men.	9 Men.
to March 25, 1835 .	{ 8 Women.	6 Women.
	{ 5 Children.	-
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 15

GENERAL EXPENSE OF POOR.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From March 25, 1832, to March 25, 1833	941	7	7
From March 25, 1834, to March 25, 1835	391	17	4
	<hr/>		
Decrease	£549	10	3

The following is a copy of a Letter, which I received from the Rev. *W. D. Ryland*, Vicar of Sandridge, in answer to my inquiries relative to the operation of the new measure :

Dear Sir,

Sandridge Vicarage, 1st July 1835.

I am happy to be able to return what I hope will be considered a satisfactory answer to your inquiries relative to the working of the New Poor Law in this parish. I have no hesitation in stating, that a great alteration has already taken place in the general conduct of the labouring poor since the introduction of the workhouse system. They do show a greater anxiety to retain their places than formerly, and their attention to their duties is consequently greater; and this, I beg leave to state, not only as the result of my own observations, but as the opinion of the farmers who employ them.

As to those men who a year or two ago were on the poor's books, they have all of them got work; most of them I believe in the parish, the few who have not got work in the parish having always been strollers; so that it does not seem to be the effect of the new system to drive men out of their parishes, but to compel them to labour. As to *depre-dations*, they have certainly not been more numerous than formerly; I think the reverse; and this result it was but natural to expect, since the more men are compelled to labour, the less time they will have to lounge and idle about. Your last question, touching the *morality* of my parishioners, whether *that* has improved or otherwise since the introduction of the new system, I find it more difficult to answer. I have not, I think, any scales which will enable me to weigh so delicate a substance; but as it is a common saying, that idleness is the mother of vice, and, as I have stated them to be more industrious, I *hope* they are also more moral.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your's, very truly,

W. D. Ryland.

D. G. Adey, Esq.

The parish of Sandridge was, I believe, led to the adoption of this system, from the example set by Berkhamstead, also in this county, about twelve miles distant from it.

Population . . 2,369 . . . Area . . 4,250.

In the year 1830, a Mr. Nugent left, by will, to the parish of Berkhamstead, 1,000*l.* to build a workhouse with, which, with the aid of subscriptions, amounting to nearly as much more, enabled the parish to erect a most efficient building.

Their expenditure had been as follows:—

	£.
1826	1,846
1827	2,041
1828	1,933
1829	2,063
1830	1,582
1831	1,496

6) 10,961 (1,826, average
1,826

In 1831, the workhouse was erected, and the system described in the Sandridge minutes gradually brought into operation.

The expenditure of the following year (1832), and the year 1835, is shown in detail in the following Table:—

ABSTRACT of the YEARLY EXPENDITURE, from March 25, 1830, to March 25, 1835.

Accounts.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1. Pensions to resident aged and infirm	234 1 6	220 3 3	166 7 6	163 3 0	135 16 0
2. Pensions to non-resident ditto	47 19 0	11 14 3	20 1 0	10 2 0	12 7 0
3. Allowances for children	159 17 0	138 5 9	140 7 0	132 17 10	120 8 6
4. Allowances to bastards	38 19 0	31 0 0	23 13 0	11 0 0	10 6 0
5. Allowances to sick	89 11 10	117 8 3½	75 17 11	107 19 6	68 13 7
6. Allowances for labour	210 5 11	209 2 6	59 15 8	.	.
7. Maintenance of paupers in workhouse	191 18 1½	232 2 8½	226 9 4½	232 9 6½	157 9 7½
8. Materials and tools for work	6 13 9½	8 18 1½	17 0 11½	6 16 8	1 17 11
9. Clothing, furniture, and repairs	26 1 7	231 8 11½	123 17 5½	18 18 8½	12 17 7
10. Funeral expenses	7 11 11	19 2 8	21 11 4	14 11 5	17 9 9
11. Law expenses	3 0 6	13 3 2	43 0 5	13 1 4	4 15 10
12. Incidental expenses	84 4 7	96 7 5½	124 17 9	39 11 5	38 1 8
13. Salaries	106 7 3	102 15 3	89 12 6	87 9 6	90 6 0
14. Constable's expenses	16 15 4	17 9 3	9 13 6	8 15 6	8 1 6
15. Lunatics	31 0 0	.	.	.	.
16. County Rates	79 9 4	88 15 4½	92 2 5	92 2 6	92 2 8
	1,338 15 7½	1,527 17 0½	1,253 7 10½	988 18 11	770 8 5½
New Valuation	163 0 0			Receipts	886 6 3½
	£1,496 15 7½			Balance in hand	£115 17 9½

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ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS for the Past Year.

	Account of Rates.			
	Total Sum Assessed	Uncollected.	Excused.	Collected.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Rates returned as uncollected last year	67 19 6½	1 15 3	21 4 7	44 19 8½
Rate of 2s. granted May 19th	415 15 1½	5 13 8	21 3 4½	388 18 6
Rate of 2s. granted November 3d	415 11 7½	72 15 1½		342 16 6
	£999 6 3½	80 3 7½	42 7 11½	776 14 8½
Incidental Receipts				35 12 10
Balance in hand last year				73 18 9
Total Receipts				£886 6 3½

NUMBER of Paupers Relieved.					
Class.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
No. 1	40	36	31	29	27
2	8	6	4	3	3
3	17	19	15	18	22
4	15	14	9	5	4
5	51	49	20	nil.	nil.
6	34	63	64	52	32
	165	183	142	106	88

EXPENDITURE of Former Years.

Years.	£.
1826	1,846
1827	2,041
1828	1,933
1829	2,063
1830	1,532

John Hyde,
Noah Newman. } Overseers.

The total in the first year (1833) being . . . £. s. d. 1,537 17 0
 „ in the second (1835) „ . . . 770 8 5

A diminution of one half. A corresponding result taking place on all classes of paupers, and able-bodied pauperism becoming extinct.

The workhouse at Berkhamstead was soon found larger than requisite for that parish, and the adjoining parish of Northchurch, with a population of 1,156

An area of 3,890 acres, sought to participate in its benefits.

They were allowed it on paying 6d. a week for the lodging of the paupers sent there, their support being the same.

The expenditure of this parish had been as follows :

	£.		£.
1823	1,314	1830	1,529
1829	1,146	1831	1,281

In the next year, 1832, it partly participated in the workhouse management, and its expenditure in detail in that year, and in the years 1833, 1834, and 1835, is shown in the following Table :

ABSTRACT of YEARLY EXPENDITURE from March 25, 1832, to March 25, 1835.

Accounts.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
1. Pensions to resident aged and infirm	£. s. d. 196 19 9	£. s. d. 176 8 6	£. s. d. 146 4 0	£. s. d. 139 14 6
2. Pensions to non-resident ditto	96 0 0	19 19 0	16 15 6	13 18 0
3. Allowances for children	73 16 6	77 1 0	62 9 6	31 2 0
4. Allowances for bastards	25 2 6	11 3 0	5 11 0	6 17 0
5. Allowances for sick	96 6 9	124 14 7	91 4 6	60 4 2½
6. Allowances for labour	176 15 6½	156 18 9½	81 0 3	11 3 11
7. Maintenance of paupers in workhouse	242 5 8½	171 3 7½	128 16 9½	115 3 9½
8. Tools and materials for work	11 6 6	8 19 4	1 1 6	
9. Clothing, furniture, and repairs	76 10 3	21 12 8½	25 2 5	23 7 9½
10. Funeral expenses	10 14 11	24 9 11	12 14 3	11 8 3
11. Law expenses	4 15 8	1 19 6	2 5 0	1 4 0
12. Incidental expenses	133 5 3	85 14 8	18 19 8½	29 18 6
13. Salaries	65 12 6	66 8 0½	68 15 6	72 8 6½
14. Constable's expenses		5 12 2½	3 6 2	2 10 6
15. Lunatics		0 10 6	4 2 0	4 10 0
16. County rates	77 4 1½	77 3 1½	77 3 1½	77 3 1½
	£ 1,217 15 11½	1,039 18 6	745 1 2½	590 14 0½
Paid in Discharge of Valuation Debt*		139 7 0	81 0 0	52 10 0
Total	£ 1,179 5 6		826 1 2½	643 4 0½
Receipts		£ 827 16 3		714 16 10½
* N.B. This debt is now extinct.		Balance in hand	£ 1 15 0½	71 12 10½

ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS of the past Year.

	Account of Rates.			
	Total Sum Assessed	Uncollected.	Excused.	Collected.
Rates returned as uncollected last year	£. s. d. 79 13 8	£. s. d. 2 17 4	£. s. d. 67 16 4	£. s. d. 331 5 3
Rate of 2s. granted May 19th	351 5 0	17 13 9	2 6 0	299 3 9
Rate of 2s. granted November 3d	350 14 6	48 19 3	2 11 5	698 5 4
	£ 772 13 2	66 13 0	7 14 10	14 16 6
Incidental Receipts				1 15 0½
Balance in hand last year				714 16 10½
Total Receipts			£	

NUMBER of Paupers Relieved.

Class.	1832.	1833.	1834	1835
No. 1	31	39	No acount.	22
2	5	3		3
3	10	12		10
4	9	6		3
5	41	35		9
6	60	43		18
	156	129		65

EXPENDITURE of former Years.

Years.	£.
1825	1,314
1829	1,146
1830	1,529
1831	1,281

Augustus Smith, }
Thomas Friend, } Overseers.

282 *Instances of the Operation of the Workhouse System.*

From this Table it appears that,—

Its expenditure for 1832 was . . . £1,217 15 11
 „ for 1835 . . . 590 only.

Its expenses and its pauperism decreasing almost exactly in the same proportion as in Berkhamstead.

Another instance, though still more recent, is that of Redbourn in Herts, Area—4,260—Population,—2,047, which soon followed its neighbour, Sandridge, from which it is only three miles distant.

I am well acquainted with this parish, and a worse one (for this county), both in the number and character of its paupers, cannot be selected.

The poor-house is a wretched place, and little more has been done to it than to divide it, and form a couple of courts, in one of which the able-bodied paupers are daily (they sleep at home) set to work breaking granite, instead of allowing them to do the same work on the adjoining common, as they had done for several years past, but with little effect for a good reason, the men employed on the turnpike-roads did the same work, and therefore there was nothing but the price to object to, but the moment they were shut in a yard the feeling changed.

I annex a Table of the Expenditure of this parish since 1830; in 1834-5 the system was changed, and the result shows at once the effect of employing paupers in a way they feel degrading, or, more properly speaking, of giving them work which is harder or more disagreeable than what a labourer ordinarily performs:

EXPENDITURE.	To Lady-Day, 1830.	To Lady-Day, 1831.	To Lady-Day, 1832.	To Lady-Day, 1833.	To Lady-Day, 1834.	To Lady-Day, 1835.
Disbursed during the year for the maintenance of the poor, and for other purposes relating to the poor.	£. s. d. 1,733 11 0½	£. s. d. 1,337 16 3	£. s. d. 1,464 4 4½	£. s. d. 1,634 3 5	£. s. d. 1,558 4 3½	£. s. d. 962 2 9

In short from paying, half in idleness, half in a sort of employment, between 20 and 30 dissolute and riotous vagabonds, who are coming in bodies and complaining to the magistrates for four or five months during the winter, the number has been reduced to four or five, and even those anxious to get away the moment they had the opportunity.

I subjoin a letter from the clergyman of the parish, upon the effect of the improved system of management in Redbourn.

My dear Sir,

Redbourn, June 27, 1835.

In answer to your inquiries respecting the degree of moral improvement to be observed in the lower orders in this parish, since the adoption of a better system in the management of the poor, it is my decided opinion that a very great improvement has taken place in their general conduct, and in the performance of their social and moral duties. The labourers endeavour to keep their places more than they formerly did, and are now almost always found, on having finished a job, to go round to the farmers seeking a fresh one (a thing unknown almost before); as one of the principal farmers in the parish informed me, that formerly when he wanted labourers he was obliged to seek for them, or to apply to the overseers, now on the contrary they are anxious to be employed; depredations have very much decreased, and I believe no commitments, except for poaching, have taken place from the parish within the last

year. The average of pauper marriages is nearly the same as before, but one case has occurred in which an improvident marriage did not take place, after the banns had been published, owing to the alteration in the mode of giving relief to the unemployed paupers. I am confirmed in these opinions by all the farmers to whom I have spoken on the subject.

I am &c.

D. G. Adey, Esq.

W. Serocold Wade.

The foregoing are examples of the effect of reducing the pauper below the level of the independent labourer, through the confinement and discipline of a workhouse.

The following instances will show that the principle followed up even in a much less strict manner, has a proportionate effect.

The poor house of St. Stephen's (area 8,000, population, 3,000), and that of Abbott's Langley (area, 5,100, population, 1,980) (both in Herts) are most inefficient buildings, and able-bodied pauperism was extensive in both parishes, there being generally 25 to 30 paupers of this class at a time for most of the winter months. These parishes adjoin each other, and the parochial authorities almost simultaneously adopted the plan of purchasing large quantities of roots, carting them to the workhouse, and causing the paupers to come every morning (they slept at their homes) to split them for firewood. By thus *confining them* to a spot under the eye of a master, and by taking care that the work done was both harder and worse paid for than could be obtained by the independent labourer, both these parishes have become nearly dispauperized of able-bodied paupers. When I examined them a few months ago, St. Stephen's had but eight, Abbot's Langley, none.

The third instance was at Ivinghoe in Bucks, area, 5,260 acres, population, 1,648.

Here they had no workhouse or poorhouse, and generally about 30 able-bodied paupers for many months at a time on their books. When the Poor Law Amendment Act passed, the parish came to a resolution not to relieve any able-bodied person, and the Birmingham Rail-road commencing about the same time, they stuck to this resolution, directing the paupers to get work there.

Though higher paid than ordinary labour, the work is much harder, and only three or four of the best men actually went. The others, seeing they had no longer an excuse, dispersed.

In fact, hard work, that is, work at which the idle workman cannot obtain the same wages as the industrious, will have nearly a similar effect. At Leighton in Bedfordshire, a few miles from Ivinghoe, though the able-bodied paupers there were assisted by being provided with barrows, spades, &c., and work obtained for them at the rail-road by the parish officers, yet, after trying it a day or two, they refused to stay, made a bonfire of their barrows and tools, insisted on being found work in their own parish, and the overseers becoming alarmed at their threats, gave way to them, and they have continued to receive relief on their own terms, viz. doing little or nothing for it.

Had the parish officers, or rather the vestry (for they interfered) been as firm as the parish officers of Ivinghoe, can any reasonable doubt be entertained but that the result would have been similar?

I may close these instances with another, where the system of keeping the pauper below the labourer, either by the offer of the workhouse or by more severe work and less pay, has been long acted on; I refer

to Ampthill, Bedfordshire, (area 1,900, population 1,780). I could only get at the result by comparing the relative effect of a different system in the adjoining parishes. These parishes are not only in the lowest state of pauperism, but they differ from the cited parishes in Hertfordshire by forming a district, where it may be fairly said there is a redundancy of population; but how does Ampthill stand among them with respect to its expenditure? why, in this parish the average rate levied on each head of population is 12s. 3d.; in the twenty adjoining parishes it is 21s., one of them being as high as 35s. and another as 31s: thus having Ampthill as a sort of oasis in the desert of pauperism of this district.

I shall close this Report with two letters which I have received, the first from the vice chairman of the Ampthill union, showing the operation of the Act in that union; the second letter is from a gentleman, a large land renter and owner, who has acted as overseer of the parish of Flammstead Bury for three years, and illustrates the effects of similar principles to those upon which the Poor Law Amendment Act is founded.

Respected Friend,

Ampthill, 6 mo. 25, 1835.

A week or two ago the Central Board of Poor Law Commissioners requested to be informed if we had proceeded so far in our arrangements in this union, as to be able to furnish any facts relating to the operation of the new Poor Law, that would enable us to form a comparison with the former state of things.

From the short time that has elapsed since the formation of the union, a large proportion of which has been necessarily expended in making the numerous arrangements requisite to carrying on the affairs properly, it was felt impossible to make any satisfactory digest of facts that would be intelligible to persons not acquainted with the peculiar situation of this union, which is, I believe, one of the worst pauperized in the kingdom, the population of the 19 parishes being under 15,000, and the expenditure for the poor in the last three years averaging about 20s. 4d. per head. Although we cannot as yet give in a regular statistical account that shall enable the Commissioners to draw a comparison with former years, it will, I am sure, be very satisfactory to them to learn, that already a very great change has been wrought in the general feeling and habits of the labouring poor, as is manifest to every one who has occasion to employ many hands, a change which is exemplified by a remark made to me last week by Mr. Welch, a builder, who is employed extensively by the Duke of Bedford; he says, "the men are not like the same they were last year, for they then used to come and ask for work, and were generally better pleased with being refused than having it given them, but now they come begging for it and are glad to keep their places." I have heard a similar observation from many other persons, and can fully confirm it by my own experience, which is not a little. I consider this as a striking feature on the effect of the new law, and one which augurs well for the future success of the measure; in a neighbouring parish (Houghton Conquest), by the mere adoption of giving relief in bread instead of money, and which plan was acted upon before passing the Act, a surprising alteration has taken place, as the labourers have been induced to look out for work at a distance, which they have almost invariably found, and no part of which would they have had, if the plan of paying in money had continued, as in that case they would never stir from home. Another important feature in the new law is the strict investigation that takes place into the merits of each case of

alleged distress; impositions are detected and dealt with in a manner that the officers under the old law dared not enforce.

I have heard many complaints from the beer shop-keepers of the falling off in their trade, which I take to be good proof of the well working of this system; indeed, from a good deal of observation, I am inclined to think that no other provision than the right execution of the Poor Law is required to abate the bulk of the nuisance occasioned by these establishments, and no one can have lived in the country with his eyes open, without acknowledging that they are an abominable nuisance, and nurseries of vice and immorality of all kinds. Notwithstanding these good effects, I would not advocate the new law if I believed it was oppressive to the poor. I have taken considerable pains to ascertain this point, and have had complaints brought to me by influential persons, all of which have turned out to be grossly exaggerated and sometimes totally false, and I have no hesitation in stating my firm belief, that the sum of human suffering has already diminished, and will continue diminishing in an increased ratio as the arrangements for perfecting the plan are brought into operation; and it appears perfectly clear to me, that the real improvement of the condition of the poor will be very much in proportion to the reduction of the rates nominally for their relief, but virtually, under the old mal-administration, for their degradation. At some future time I may be able to enter more fully into the matter with increased experience; I may, however, remark, that in my own acquaintance many who were prejudiced against the law are now of a different opinion, and I believe the time is not very distant when it will meet with the approbation of nearly all those who now oppose it. I have met with several who have inveighed loudly and vehemently against it, but upon coming to close quarters in argument, not one of those have had even a tolerable knowledge of the provisions of the Act.

I remain, thine respectfully,

Charles May,

Vice-Chairman of the Ampthill Union.

D. G. Adey, Esq. Assist. Commr.

Dear Sir,

Flamstead Bury, 29th June, 1835.

Respecting the queries submitted to me, I must, in the first place, observe that it is not in my power to answer them with reference to the new Poor Bill, as it has not yet come into operation in this parish, but as the system introduced here nearly three years very much resembled that measure in many of its principal features, perhaps the following observations may not be altogether irrelevant.

In a pecuniary point of view the effect has been very great, the reduction in the annual expenditure being nearly 60 per cent.; but by far the most gratifying result is the very perceptible improvement in the general conduct of the labouring class; they undoubtedly evince much greater anxiety to retain their places; the farmers have repeatedly expressed their astonishment at this change, they "could hardly have supposed it possible."

As a decided proof of their general improvement, I will merely mention, that during the first year of my overseership, scarcely a week passed without my being summoned, or my having to summon a considerable number of the parishoners; in fact the parish was, as several magistrates have assured me, proverbial for the turbulent beha-

viour of the men ; during the last year (I have served three), I have not appeared before the Bench but once.

Depredations are decidedly upon the decrease.

Improvident marriages are less frequent.

Bastards receiving relief in 1832—7 ; in 1835—1.

There exists, so far as I can rely on my own observation and on that of the principal farmers, a general spirit of contentment in the parish ; this must not however be wholly ascribed to " the system ;" it is undoubtedly in a great degree occasioned by the present very low prices of provisions and clothing, which enables them to enjoy many comforts they had long been strangers to.

When the new Poor Bill shall have come into full operation, I confidently anticipate a still further improvement, particularly in the moral and social qualities of the poor, a natural result, as I conceive, of that excellent measure.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

D. G. Adey, Esq.

Alex. Fraser.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

D. G. ADEY,
Assist. Poor Law Commr.

— No. 8. —

REPORT from Colonel CHARLES ASHE à COURT to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.—With Three Enclosures.

Gentlemen,

Southampton, June 2d, 1825.

IN reply to your communication of the 28th ultimo, I beg to state, that as the organization of the county of Hants is still incomplete, none of the unions within its limits having been in operation more than two months, some of them scarcely as many weeks, it is quite impossible that I can submit to the Board any accurate opinion as to the general working of the new system of Poor Law administration. So incessant, indeed, have been my occupations in chalking out the different unions in various and distant parts of the county, that I have rarely had it in my power to do more in those unions which are already declared, than to attend the first meetings of the Board of guardians, and to furnish such information and instructions as I judged necessary to enable the guardians to perform their very responsible duties without any further immediate assistance from me.

In the seven unions of Lymington, Droxford, Petersfield, New Alresford, Basingstoke, Fareham, and Hartley Wintney, all very lately established, workhouses are still to be erected ; and until these buildings are completed, no very sensible difference can be expected in the management of the poor.

Romsey, South Stoneham, and Alton are fortunate in possessing workhouse accommodations sufficient for the probable wants of the parishes united to them ; and here alone I have been enabled to note the immense advantages which have resulted from the operation of the unions. I again transmit the statements which I have received from these places ; than which, nothing can be more cheering, nothing more satisfactory.

Although at New Alresford the foundations of the union workhouse

are only just marked out, and the relieving officers have scarcely had time to make themselves sufficiently acquainted with their duties, I am authorized in stating, that in the parish of Ropley, the decrease in the expenditure has been very considerable; and at Kilmiston, not only has it been reduced nearly, if not full, 50 per cent., but the proprietors and occupiers here, as at Holybourne and Chawton, have, without solicitation, increased the wages of their independent labourers from 8s. and 9s. to 10s. a week, which has afforded them the means of living decently and comfortably by their own honest exertions, without that parochial aid which had hitherto been supplied to them, as well as to all others with large families, not with reference to their actual wants, nor according to their merits, but simply on the calculation of the number of their children, many of whom, perhaps, were of an age to provide entirely for themselves, and some actually in the receipt of weekly wages.

My verbal reports from Catherington are equally gratifying; but I have requested a detailed account of the effects of the new system in each separate parish of this union, at the chairman's earliest convenience.

I have also written to the very zealous and intelligent chairman of the Droxford union, for a report of his proceedings since my last interview with him. I am given to understand, that at Hambledon the operation of the union has been strikingly beneficial.

In the Southampton union, at the commencement of the present year, nearly 1,700*l.* were due to the public from the parents of illegitimate children. On the 20th of February, fifty-one of these children, under the age of fourteen, were struck off the poor books, and ordered into the workhouse, provided the parents were unable to maintain them. Of this number, five only were sent into the house, and one of them was withdrawn immediately afterwards.

Twenty-six bastards, above the age of thirteen, were at the same time discontinued on the pay lists, as being able to provide for themselves. One only, an orphan under peculiar circumstances, has found it necessary to apply for admission into the workhouse.

In a former Report, I have made you acquainted with the pauperized and degraded state of the labouring classes in this county, as I found them at the latter end of last year. In the course of a few months I indulge the hope of being able to convey to you infinitely more satisfactory information on this subject, information derived not only from my own personal observation, but resting also upon the authority of those who are now anxiously and most zealously engaged in carrying out the new system.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

C. A. A COURT,
Assist. Poor Law Commr.

(Copy.)

Enclosure, No. 1.

LETTER from Mr. RICHARD BLUNDEN to Colonel CHARLES ASHE A COURT, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Honoured Sir,

Alton, May 20th, 1835.

I should have replied to your's on Monday, but have waited for the returns from the other districts, which I desired the relieving officers

to send me, as I had no doubt you would be gratified at the results of your labour in forming the union, and in the success of the system of relief. I have not at present the return either from Binsted or Bentworth districts; but as soon as I get them, will immediately forward them. You can only draw a comparison to show a saving in the Alton town expenditure by previous years, the system of the Poor Law Amendment Act being wholly acted on previous to the union. In Neatham, to which you particularly allude, you will find the expenditure 5*l.* 16*s.* for the month previous to my appointment, and 1*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* subsequent, being, as I stated, a reduction of two-thirds. The parish which approaches nearest to that parish in decrease of expenditure, is Hartly, in the Silbourne district.

You revert to my statement with regard to the increase of wages in Holybourne and Chawton. I am happy to be able to confirm it in both places. The amount given in Chawton previous was 8*s.* a week, the amount now 10*s.*; in Holybourne, divers amounts previous, but now 10*s.*; but in both places, the employers of labourers give as much task-work as possible, which is far preferable to raising the wages, as it tends to create a feeling of industry among them, and the amount they earn does not require the assistance of that accursed system of head-money:—

Chawton :		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Month previous to union		17	16	0			
Month subsequent		8	17	0			
		<hr/>			8	19	0
Holybourne :							
Month previous		11	9	6			
Month subsequent.		5	2	10			
		<hr/>			6	6	8
Neatham :							
Month previous		5	16	0			
Month subsequent.		1	18	9			
		<hr/>			3	17	3
Farringdon :							
Month previous.		18	13	0			
Month subsequent.		8	18	2½			
		<hr/>			9	14	10½
Selborne :							
Month previous.		28	5	0			
Month subsequent.		15	11	0			
		<hr/>			13	14	0
East Worldham :							
Month previous.		7	5	10			
Month subsequent.		3	4	9			
		<hr/>			4	1	1
West Worldham :							
Month previous.		3	10	6			
Month subsequent.		1	9	2			
		<hr/>			2	1	4
Hartley :							
Month previous.		10	4	0			
Month subsequent.		3	19	3			
		<hr/>			6	4	8

Newton :	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Month previous.	14	2	8			
Month subsequent.	6	5	8½			
				7	16	11½

East Tisted :						
Month previous.	12	6	2			
Month subsequent	8	4	2			
				4	2	0

I trust you will excuse the rough manner in which I send this, it being now half-past ten, and I have not received the returns but above an hour. I will take the liberty of addressing you again to-morrow, as I have a good many details to send you.

I am, honoured Sir, your obedient servant,
Rd. Blunden.

(Copy.)

Enclosure, No. 2.

RETURN showing the Decrease in the Amount of PAYMENTS made to the Poor in the following Parishes in the *South Stoneham Union*, since the appointment of the relieving Officers.

		St. Mary's Extra.	Hound.	Hamble.	Bursledon.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
March	27	5 14 3	5 19 6	—	—
April	4	4 17 0	4 1 6	2 7 6	2 6 0
"	11	4 7 6	3 18 6	2 1 6	2 1 6
"	18	4 5 4	4 5 6	2 8 6	2 10 6
"	25	4 4 0	4 2 0	2 4 2	2 5 0
May	2	4 3 0	4 7 0	2 2 9	1 17 0
"	9	2 15 5	3 6 0	1 15 0	1 7 6
"	15	2 14 6	2 9 6	1 15 0	1 6 0
"	22	2 15 5	1 15 6	1 15 0	1 5 0

(Copy.)

Enclosure, No. 3.

RETURN showing the Decrease in the Amount of PAYMENTS made to the Poor in the Parishes of *Romsey Extra* and *Romsey Infra*, since the appointment of a relieving Officer:—

	ROMSEY EXTRA.	£.	s.	d.
1834 : Five Weeks Expenditure for the relief of the Poor	209	5	0	
Amount of Rents	37	10	0	
Total	246	15	0	
1835 : Five Weeks Expenditure for the relief of the Poor	186	8	4	
Difference in the Expenditure of the two years	60	6	8	

ROMSEY INFRA.

The decrease in expenditure for the relief of the poor since the union came into operation is 25 per cent., including rents.

— No. 9. —

REPORT from HENRY PILKINGTON, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

Gentlemen,

Worthing, 10th July, 1835.

1. THE two points to which my attention is directed by your letters of the 28th May and the 6th of June, which I had the honour duly to receive, are,—1st. “As to any striking facts which have occurred to me illustrative of the proceedings already taken under the authority of the Commission, and any other observations which I may think it important to communicate with reference thereto;” and, 2ndly. “As to the beneficial effects produced in any parish or union by the adoption of a system of workhouse management, which has been directed to the enforcement of the following principle: namely, that the condition of the able-bodied pauper should be made less eligible than that of the independent labourer of the same class.”

2. Before submitting to the Board such observations on these two topics as I have been enabled to make, I should observe that many things conduce to make them very imperfect and incomplete; the very short time in which the Commission has been at work, so at least as that the rules and regulations which have emanated from it could have had any very material influence by direct means upon the administration of pauper relief; the fact that most of the unions formed can hardly be said yet to have come into operation; the time of the guardians having been hitherto employed rather in making preparations for a more economical distribution of the parish funds than in actually saving money,—in building and preparing their workhouses by alteration of their buildings, appointing their officers, issuing their advertisements for tenders, and in much other business which must be regarded as preliminary steps towards the introduction of a system which shall be the means of effecting beneficial alterations in future, rather than as any alteration from which benefit to any extent can be expected to have arisen at present; the circumstance that both guardians and officers are all of them strange to the system altogether, rather learning it themselves than able to make the most advantage of it by a full and practised knowledge of the subject;—all these are strong reasons why the frequent occurrence of any striking facts illustrative of the beneficial effects resulting from the adoption of an improved system of management is hardly as yet to be expected; or that where they do occur, they should be sufficiently marked to allow of their being distinguished from accidental occurrences.

3. With these allowances, it appears to me that the following conclusions, as regards the district of West Sussex, are very strongly warranted by the statements which I shall hereafter have the honour of laying before you.

1st. That the Commission has been the means of lessening the general expenditure for the support of the poor, and consequently that one great cause of the depression of the farmer, and of the fall in the value of landed property, may be expected at no distant period to be considerably mitigated.

2dly. That the expenditure has not been lessened at the expense of or deprivation of the comforts of the aged and infirm, or of those classes really deserving of the assistance of the charitable.

3dly. That the condition of the industrious labourer has really improved, and that his independence is in quick progress of establishment; his liberation from the unjust and enslaving effects of rates in aid of wages having already commenced.

4thly. That the system of head-money to children, without reference to the real necessities of the parents, has been nearly abolished in a very large district.

5thly. That the disposition to riot and turbulence has very much decreased among the labourers.

6thly. That the moral habits of the poor are in a state of improvement, and that beneficial effects have followed and are likely to follow the principle of making the condition of the able-bodied labourer less eligible than the independent labourer of the same class.

7thly and lastly. That the Bill advances in popularity and in the good liking not only of the rate-payers but of the independent labourer, and those of the poor whose real necessities have made them dependent upon parish relief.

4. In support of these propositions, I beg to append a comparative statement of the expenditures of the last three years, previous to their union, of the parishes, composing five unions, which I have had the honour of recommending to the Board, viz. Westbourn, West Hampnett, Midhurst, Thakeham, and Steyning. The expenditure of the first three of these Unions, is up to March 25, 1834; of the two last, to March 25, 1835. In Westbourn, the expenditure is 1,012*l.* less in the last of the three years than in the first. In West Hampnett, 1,607*l.* In Midhurst, 212*l.* In Thakeham, 2,439*l.*; and in Steyning, 897*l.*; making a decrease in the poor expenditure in three years in the five unions, comprehending 112 parishes, of no less a sum than 6,167*l.* It may be said that as this decrease is antecedent, rather than subsequent, to the formation of the respective parishes into unions, therefore it is not attributable to the alteration of the laws for the relief of the poor; but it would be almost an absurdity to suppose that so large and simultaneous a decrease, a decrease, too, which, more or less, I believe, has extended to every parish in the kingdom, could be accounted for in any other way than by the supposition that either the fear of the consequences of the expected audit, or the knowledge of better principles of management, more generally diffused by the publication of the Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, had introduced, among the parochial authorities, a more economical distribution of the parish funds.

EXPENDITURE of the POOR for the United Parishes of Westbourn, West Hampnett, and Midhurst Unions.

	FOR THE YEARS			Difference between the first and the last years.
	1832.	1833.	1834.	
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Westbourn . . .	8,614	8,070	7,602	1,012
West Hampnett .	17,526	15,918	15,919	1,607
Midhurst . . .	17,429	17,986	17,217	212

EXPENDITURE of the POOR for the United Parishes of Thakeham and Steyning Unions.

	FOR THE YEARS			Difference between the first and the last years.
	1833.	1834.	1835.	
Thakeham . . .	£. 11,103	£. 9,634	£. 8,664	£. 2,439
Steyning . . .	9,529	9,068	8,632	897

Among many instances in which the promulgation of the new system has operated to sharpen the inquiries of overseers to the detection of imposition, and the consequent lessening of the amount of pauper relief, my memorandums enable me to adduce the following cases:—Edmund Etherington, of Lurgashall, was on the pauper list of Lurgashall parish for 16 years, receiving relief in rent and head-money for his children during the whole of that time. From successful inquiries made by the parish officers, as to his ability to maintain himself, it was determined that his pay should be stopped. This, however, was not done without frequent applications on his part to the bench; being, however, at length convinced that he had no chance of any thing more from the parish, he produced money sufficient to stock a small farm, for which he is now rated in the parish books in the sum of 12*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; and since this he has applied for another farm, for which he is to pay a rent of 35*l.* per annum.

Thomas Copeland, of the same parish, had been receiving relief for 20 years. A more accurate investigation as to his circumstances being made, it was discovered that he possessed ample means of keeping himself, and his pay was, in consequence, at length stopped. He has since bought two houses, with half an acre of ground, worth from 120*l.* to 130*l.* and has maintained himself respectably ever since.

John Smith, of Woolbeding, has been a pauper on the parish books during the greatest part of his life. He received relief as such up to the 11th of April, 1834. His "allowance" was then 10*s.* per month. It being discovered, however, that he possessed a house, and a field of four acres of land, with two cows and a horse and cart, and a right of pasturage on the common, his pay was also stopped. After many ineffectual efforts to get himself again placed on the list, on the 18th of last January, he came to the overseer's house, bringing with him his two boys, stating, that 11 months pay was due to him, and that if he was not paid his "right," he would leave his children at the overseer's house. It was with difficulty that the overseer got him out of the house, and when he did, he told him that he might depend upon it he should suffer for it. "You shall be picked out for this," said he.

These statements I make on the authority of the overseers of the respective parishes, who all of them expressed themselves well pleased with the new Poor Law, and confidently anticipated the most beneficial results from it.

5. That this decrease has not been effected at the expense of the aged and infirm, the weekly relief books of the five unions, if inspected, will amply testify; many paupers of this description being now actually better off than they were under the old system; none having been

brought into the workhouse against their inclination, and very few struck off the list, and those only on the clearest evidence being adduced, that either in their own persons, or through their immediate relatives, they had sufficient means of maintaining themselves.

As much misrepresentation has gone abroad respecting the provision for medical attendance on the poor under the new administration of the Poor Laws, and complaints even to the getting up of petitions for the alteration of the system, provided in that respect by the Commissioners, have been carried to the Commons House of Parliament, I have much pleasure in being able to lay before your honourable Board the following case, as it will show that so far from inattention having been manifested in that most material part of the relief to the poor, under the new system, the commission has been necessarily called in to correct, most beneficially for them, the abuses which had prevailed under the old system; and that it has been the means of allaying considerable agitation which had been occasioned by the neglect of the medical officers appointed under it.

During my first operations in this county, and while I was particularly engaged in endeavouring to allay the disturbances which then prevailed, and on account of which I had been suddenly sent for from London, word was brought to me that the labouring population were in a state of very considerable excitement in the town of Arundel, and that the local authorities were very apprehensive that unpleasant consequences would arise from it. On investigation of the causes of it, I found that it proceeded from a belief on the part of the populace that an old woman had died in the workhouse, in consequence of neglect on the part of the medical man, whose business it was to have attended her. On investigation of the case, I found that there was great room to suppose that this idea was too true. It appeared that the neglect of the medical officer had been gross; indeed, so very gross, that I deemed it right to direct that a coroner's inquest should be empanelled to sit in judgment upon it; and eventually that the medical man should be discharged from the establishment, it appearing by evidence on oath of the matron and several other persons connected with the establishment, that he had suffered the old woman to remain 14 days in a constipated state, without applying any remedies for her relief. In no case could the value of a superintendence over parochial affairs by a power unconnected with the place, or unswayed by local considerations, be shown more strongly than in this; for, had the matter been left to the private authorities, the poor would have been unredressed, and the guilty have escaped punishment altogether; for so strong was party spirit, that the jury not only found the medical man guiltless of any neglect, but actually praised his humanity and attention. As this happened in the district where but a very short time before a considerable rising had taken place among the people, I consider that my decision tended much to allay the angry feelings which were then manifesting themselves; the populace being highly satisfied with what I had done, and well convinced that the case arose entirely from the faulty administration of the old system, the new having not then been brought into operation.

That the moral as well as the bodily health of the paupers will not be likely to be worse taken care of under the new system than under the old, the following facts, which I noted down at the time, will amply testify:—Mr. John Hunt, who is surgeon to one of the districts of the

Westbourne union, stated to the Board that on visiting the Bôsham workhouse, a house which had not then been altered from the system in which it had been left by the overseers acting under the old administration, he one day found a married man standing up in his bed in the middle of the day, with nothing on but his shirt; while two young women, one of whom was daughter to the governor of the house, were making a bed immediately adjoining the one on which he was standing. The old governor, who was totally unfit for his situation, has been discharged by the board of guardians, acting under the new administration, and these indecencies have been prevented by a proper separation of the sexes. When Mr. Weale, now one of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners, visited the workhouse at Horsham, at my request, he found several couples of able-bodied married persons regularly sleeping without any partition or screen between them, in the same room; while several young females were also sleeping in a corner of it. He also found a highly dangerous lunatic in chains, in the common sleeping-room. When I visited the house a few weeks ago myself, I found that these improprieties had been done away with; the lunatic had been sent to a proper asylum for such unfortunates, and the male and female paupers removed to different divisions of the building.

6. That giving any but occasional relief to the able-bodied labourer is robbing him of his just due and thereby destroying his independence, and is, in fact, giving relief to his employer instead of to himself, is a truth now becoming generally acknowledged and acted upon, to the great improvement in the condition of the industrious labourer, the following facts, which I with much pleasure noticed at the time, very strongly testify. At one of the meetings of the Midhurst union, the father of a boy 12 years of age, who was receiving 9*d.* per week from his employer, presented himself for relief, on the plea that the wages received by his son were insufficient for his maintenance; this was immediately refused, the guardians, who are most of them farmers, unanimously observing that this would be giving relief, not to the boy but to his employer. From the last inquiries which I made on the subject, the boy was still with his employer at an advance of wages, thus becoming an independent instead of a pauperized labourer, and in an improved condition.

7. In the parish of Storrington in the Thakeham union, a number of able-bodied men and boys were employed by farmers and others in the parish at very low wages, they living in the workhouse and receiving considerable relief all the while from the parish, under the plea that their wages were insufficient for their maintenance. This relief has now been taken away, and the men have been sent out of the house by the guardians of the Thakeham union, on the principle that such relief is given to the farmer and not to the men. They have all since found work at an advance of wages, and work now as independent instead of pauper labourers.

8. It has been the practice, more or less, in almost every parish, for mistresses of families to bargain with the parish officers to take females as servants, on condition of their receiving from the parish a weekly sum towards their maintenance; this the parish has been in the habit of doing on the erroneous idea that they are thus saving the parish funds, by keeping paupers in part, whom they would otherwise have to keep wholly, forgetting that by thus making it the interest of mistresses of

families to take none but pauper servants, they are stopping up one great source of their own relief, viz. the demand for servants, who would be kept altogether by their mistresses but for such a mischievous interference in their favour by the parochial authorities. Nowhere was this bad practice more prevalent than in the Thakeham union. Since the formation of the union these allowances have in all cases been struck off, without any instance of a girl's being in consequence discharged by her mistress, the girls being now independent instead of pauperized labourers.

In a communication which I have received from the Westbourn union, the guardian of West Thorney makes the following observation: "Our pauper expenditure is lessening; this arises from giving employment and good wages to the labourer, and thus rendering him independent, and also from carrying the spirit of the new Poor Law Amendment Act into operation as much as possible."

The Rev. John Austin, of Pulborough, has lately raised the wages of the whole of his labourers (with an understanding from them that they will apply for no more relief from the parish), on the principle that an industrious labourer is entitled to such wages as will enable him, on a fair calculation, to maintain his family, and that relief given to him is in fact given to his master.

9. Head money to children, as a system, has been entirely abolished in the Midhurst and Thakeham unions, and has been considerably abated in those of West Hampnett and Westbourn. I have no doubt but that it will be very soon put an end to in these unions also.

10. It is very remarkable that at the time of the formation of the Thakeham union, which is situated in one of the worst regulated parts of West Sussex, the greatest efforts were made by interested persons to get up disturbances without effect. The Rev. John Austin, the rector of Pulborough, who was a great sufferer in the riots of 1830, stated to me that the same men, four of whom he knew and had marked, who were the ringleaders in the disturbances at that time, had again been attempting to excite the labourers to acts of insubordination and riot without effect; they even, the reverend gentleman further stated, passed through Pulborough, well known as one of the worst parishes in the union, with a few deluded persons whom they had collected together, and actually hissed the labourers as cowards and slaves, because they would not join them. In the Rogate and Harting districts, too, well known as among the worst in Sussex, delegates from the Eastbourne rioters have been doing their utmost to excite the labourers to acts of violence, but hitherto, except in the instance of a few women and children, without effect.

I might here observe, that the disturbances which prevailed among the labourers at the time of my first arrival in Sussex, and which I was then more particularly sent down to examine into, and which were at that time very frequent, were seldom raised in the first instance by persons actually in want, or, as in the case at Arundel, by persons under excitation from improper treatment; but rather by those who, having no honest plea for asking relief, hoped to get that by imposition or intimidation, which they despaired of gaining by other means. Head-money to children, as a regular system; idleness and short hours for the parish labourer; every thing was gained by imposition or intimidation. My chief course of proceeding was to convince the labourers

that the new law was their friend, rather than their enemy; that so far from unjustly invading their rights, it tended to discourage encroachment upon their proper independence; that while it protected the honest and industrious, it showed the idle and profligate that good conduct could alone gain them assistance in the hour of need; that the regulation of the laws for their relief was no longer in the hands of private individuals, upon whose fears they could operate, but in those of a public body, whose regulations it was impossible for them to bias, and against whom the weapons of intimidation were pointless. By these means I have never yet failed of putting down any disposition to riot or disturbance which I have yet met with.

When I visited the parishes of Yapton and Felpham, in the West Hampnett union, last year, I saw daily near a score of able-bodied labourers going to their parish work in the gravel-hole, between eight and nine in the morning, and returning from it at three in the afternoon. The overseers, too, were continually complaining that they not only did nothing when they were there, but were insolent and violent whenever they were remonstrated with. The same persons informed me, the last time I was at the West Hampnett union, that now that a better system of discipline has been introduced into the workhouse, and work provided within the walls at the corn-mill, instead of out of doors in the gravel-hole, labourers sufficient cannot be found within the house to keep the mill going. When the labourers at Bosham workhouse, one of the workhouses in the Westbourn union, which, under the old system, had long been notorious for the laxity of its discipline, were told, that for the future they would receive no relief but in the Westbourn workhouse, a house which had been put under a better system of management, they all refused to enter it, and all found work for themselves, and have supported themselves ever since. The same thing happened in the West Hampnett union, at the removal, or intended removal, of the paupers from the Sidlesham house to that of West Hampnett. Few of them chose to leave an ill-regulated house, where they were suffered to live a life of lazy idleness, for one where labour only was to be the price of their maintenance; and of those who did go, all who were able to work have since left it, and are now getting their bread by their own industry, to the great advantage of their own moral habits and the relief of the rate-payers; affording good proof of the advantage of making the condition of the able-bodied pauper less eligible than that of the independent labourer.

The following is a copy of a letter which I have received from the clerk to the board of guardians of the West Hampnett union, the largest union I have formed, consisting of 37 parishes, in a hitherto very pauperized district, and the scene of the principal disturbances which prevailed at the time of my first arrival in Sussex:—

“ My dear Sir,

“ Chichester, July 22d, 1835.

“ As I know how anxious you are about the success of the West Hampnett union, I trouble you with a letter, merely to say (which I do with considerable pleasure), that we are going on very smoothly and satisfactorily.

“ We have but few applications for relief. On Monday we had but seven, and those were cases of trifling importance. We have given many orders for the workhouse, but only few have been delivered or acted upon.

"We have no complaints from the inmates of the houses respecting the dietaries, though there is much misrepresentation afloat *abroad*, and they form the subject of frequent conversations amongst the opponents of the new law.

"On Monday we examined the paupers on this point, and they all expressed themselves perfectly satisfied and contented.

"Believe me, dear Sir, faithfully yours,

"Henry Pilkington, Esq."

"*R. Raper.*"

11. I every day see stronger reasons for inferring that the Act is gradually improving in the good opinion of all classes. Women are continually representing to the relieving officers how much more real benefit they derive from receiving their relief in kind, than they should do if the same amount of relief were paid to their husbands in money; and the aged and infirm frequently express their satisfaction with those rules and regulations which they had been led to suppose would operate cruelly and oppressively towards them. The higher ranks, as they begin to see the manner in which the alterations in the mode of relief operate among the different classes of paupers, and to understand the principle upon which the rules and regulations of the Commissioners have been framed, are proportionably more favourably inclined towards them.

I conclude my imperfect report with the narration of a case under the Bastardy Law, which cannot be too much known or too generally circulated, and which, though it does not belong to the district concerning which I am now reporting, yet as it happened immediately under my own eye, and just at the alteration of the law, and as it will tend materially to disabuse the public mind of the false accusations which have been thrown against a very important section of the Act, I beg leave to insert it here.

At Pinxton, a small village in the south of Derbyshire, a poor but respectable couple had an only daughter, whom they had long looked up to as the pride and comfort of their declining years. It was her misfortune to get connected with a villain, the son of a neighbouring cottager, who, taking advantage of the confidence which a many times repeated promise of marriage had given him, seduced and deserted her. While I was sitting at home one day, I was told, that an old man wanted to see me; he came in, seemingly broken down with grief, and his object was to ask me, whether by the new law the Act which rendered an unmarried woman with child liable to be removed or summoned to a court of justice to swear her child was repealed? Having answered in the affirmative, he said, "I am very glad to hear of it, Sir; it is an excellent alteration; it will save me, and all who think with me, from a great deal of shame and trouble. I have had the misfortune to have my daughter seduced by the son of a neighbour; she is with child, and the parish officers have sent to tell her, that she must get ready to go before the magistrates at the next petty sessions, to swear to the father of it; and this, Sir, is what gives me more grief, almost, than the misfortune itself. Exposing a young woman in this manner, in an open court, before all the gentlemen of the county and all her neighbours, is only hardening her in guilt. When she once gets over that shame, she very seldom fears any other. Her poor old mother and myself feel sorrow enough at the disgrace she has already brought upon us; but,

poor thing ! she was always a good and affectionate child till this happened, and this never would have happened, had not unfair arts been used against her ; we console ourselves therefore in the idea, that though she has made a temporary deviation from the path of virtue, she is not hardened in vice, and we hope that she may be restored to respectability, if the sense of shame, which we trust yet exists in her, is not destroyed by the recklessness which a public exposure almost invariably produces." I said, that the provisions of the old law, as regarded bastardy cases, were supposed to be enacted in a spirit of kindness to and consideration for the woman, as they compelled the author of her disgrace to support her when, through his misconduct, she was unable to support herself, and gave her the power of making him participate in the punishment of both. " To those who think that money or revenge can compensate for the loss of a good name," replied the old man, " the enactments contained in the old law may be kind, but inasmuch as the means which must be taken to put them in force cannot be applied, except at the expense of a still greater loss of modesty on the part of the female, and without materially lessening the chances of her return to virtue, they are productive of evil rather than of good to her. Though I am old and poor, I would rather work, for my part, to the end of my days for my daughter, if by so doing I could hope to restore her in time to respectability again, than receive double the amount which the old law would give me at the expense of her further disgrace and degradation." The ideas of the old man, and the view which he had taken of the true operation of the old law upon female modesty, and consequently upon female happiness, appeared to me so correct, that I cannot think but that a more general promulgation of them would have a very beneficial effect in altering the opinion which many worthy persons entertain of the provisions which the new law has made for meeting this very difficult question. It may be very true, that under the new law the tempter may oftentimes escape punishment, while the tempted only suffers ; but if he cannot be punished without greater degradation on the part of one who has lost too much by her intercourse with him already, as far as her good is concerned, it is better that he should go unpunished altogether. In the instance before us, so beneficial was the operation of the new law, that neither did the betrayer escape punishment, nor his victim suffer further degradation in the attempt at punishing him ; for so greatly was the sympathy of his neighbours excited in favour of the old man by his good conduct and honourable ideas, that their indignation alone against the man who had acted so dishonourably towards him, compelled him voluntarily to make a better provision for his child than the old law would have forced from him.

I have, &c.

HENRY PILKINGTON,
Assist^t Poor Law Commr.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

— No. 10. —

REPORT from RICHARD EARLE, Esq. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

Gentlemen,

Northampton, June 9th, 1835.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chadwick's letters of the 28th of May and the 5th of June, conveying your request that I should

forward to you any striking facts that have come under my notice, illustrative of the results of the proceedings taken by the authority of the commission, or of the beneficial effect resulting from the introduction of the workhouse system, with a view to the enforcement of the principle, that the condition of the able-bodied pauper should be made less eligible than that of the independent labourer of the same class.

I need not remind you that in this county the interference of the Board with those parishes which have been united by its authority is so recent, as to preclude me from attributing to it any improvement which may be perceptible in them, but it is important for me to state, that out of 100 parishes which I have already visited, I have found few in which the expenditure on the poor, for the last year, has not been materially less than for many years past. In every quarter attention appears to have been awakened by the evidence on which the Poor Law Amendment Act was framed, to the extent of pauperism existing in the several parishes. The means by which it is to be lessened are understood by many, and although those means are not at present within the power of all, some approach has, in most instances, been made to an improved system of management, and consequently some check given to the evils of pauperism.

The recommendations of the Commissioners have been acted on by several parishes with the greatest success. Relief in kind has been substituted for payment in money; task-work in lieu of day-work, and *relief in lieu of wages* for that work. Every effort has been directed to enforce the principle, that the condition of the able-bodied pauper should be less eligible than that of the independent labourer. The determination no longer to confound relief with wages is observable in many parishes, and has operated most beneficially on the pauper labourers, and has created in them (the most gratifying result) an increasing anxiety to obtain a subsistence without any parochial assistance.

I am able to declare, in the most positive manner, that wherever any improvement has been effected either by individuals previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, or subsequently by the parochial authorities acting in its spirit, or guided by the advice of the Board, it has been produced by a determined and not unfrequently a very sudden adoption of this principle.

These general remarks, originating as they do in personal inquiries, are of course intended to apply to those parishes only which I have visited in this county, being about 100, or nearly one-third of the whole. Of these, few have the advantage of an efficient workhouse, indeed I have not met with one in which it would be possible to set any number of able-bodied paupers to work. Few and inefficient as they are in this respect, they have, nevertheless, in more than one parish, been the means of annihilating pauperism.

I shall enter into the particulars of two parishes, in one of which a sudden improvement has been effected by means of a workhouse, and in the other a gradual but complete extinction of pauperism, has been the result of a long and steady adherence to sound principles, rendered however more difficult by the want of a workhouse.

The parish of Hardingstone has a population of more than 1,000, and extends over about 3,000 acres. The expenditure on the poor, for the last three years, was as follows:—

Ending 25th March, 1833	£802
" " 1834	618
" " 1835	438

A workhouse capable of receiving from 60 to 70 persons was completed in October, 1833; after harvest in that year, the first step was taken, and the usual allowances, called head-money, to able-bodied labourers having large families were withheld. To such men an offer was made to take one or two of their children into the workhouse; that such an offer would be accepted by many could not have been expected, but the only instance in which it was accepted, serves to illustrate the injurious tendency of the practice of giving head-money. The father of a large family sent two children, a boy and a girl, into the house; they were there for a few months; the boy worked daily at a pin-manufactory; the girl was taught lace-making. So soon as the parents found that the former could earn 1s. 6d. a week, and the latter 6d., they withdrew them. Is it not fair to presume, that the possibility of these children contributing to the support of the family would never have been considered, or their small earnings appreciated, if the parents had continued to receive parochial aid?

The roundsmen system was then abandoned, many able-bodied labourers were refused either relief or employment, except in the workhouse. Some, however (principally inferior workmen), were employed for short periods by the parish, but received relief in kind only. The plan of giving to labourers, who are visited by temporary illness, everything they require in kind is now adopted, and is found to be a complete check to frauds on the parish through feigned sickness. The able-bodied single women and widows have been dealt with in the same way, and one only of this class receives out-door relief.

The inmates of the workhouse are 24, principally children, and it is scarcely possible to say that there is among them an able-bodied pauper, male or female.

On the one hand there has been no understanding on the part of the farmers to divide the labourers among the occupiers, or any control exercised over the latter by their landlord, to induce them to give more employment than usual; and on the other hand no able-bodied men are now habitually out of employment. Some of the men belonging to the parish are at work from home, but an equal number of strangers seem to have supplied their places.

In addition to the reduction of the poor rates to one-half, the parish is now deriving the still more important advantages, which necessarily flow from the mutual good-will of the employers and employed, from the improved habits and morals of the men, from their increasing sobriety, industry, and respectability.

The parish of Sywell has a population of only 214, and it contains about 1,600 acres of arable and pasture land. Small as the population was in proportion to the extent of the parish, the sums spent on the poor some years since showed an enormous amount of pauperism.

In 1821 the expenditure was	£367
1822	379
1823	296
1824	223

About the year 1823, the attention of a gentleman who resides in the parish, was awakened to the demoralizing effect of the careless manner

in which the poor rate was expended, and his endeavour ever since that period has been to make the condition of the pauper inferior to that of the independent labourer; to prove to the former that in his parish at least there was employment for all, and to convince all classes that they were to look to their own industry and prudence, not to the parish funds, for the means of ameliorating their condition. He frequently attended the magistrates when the overseer was summoned before them, at the instance of able-bodied paupers who had been refused relief, and induced them not to sign the usual orders. By this course, and by presenting every obstacle in his power to the continuance of the practice of relieving able-bodied paupers, he gradually drove them to their own resources, and his success, though unassisted by the test which a workhouse so readily supplies, has ultimately been complete.

The expenditure in 1832-3 was	£138
„ 1833-4	140
„ 1834-5	77

Three able-bodied paupers (females) are all that are now on the weekly list; all the men in the parish are usually employed, the improvement in the social condition of the village is acknowledged by all, and I have the testimony of the bench of magistrates in the neighbourhood in favour of this parish, who report to me that while 10 or 12 years since, small as it then was, the complaints of labourers against the overseers were most numerous, no parish within their district has, for the last few years, called for less of their interference than Sywell.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

RICHARD EARLE,
Assist. Poor Law Commr.

— No. 11. —

REPORT from JAMES PHILLIPS KAY, Esq., M. D. to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales.

On the MIGRATION of LABOURERS from the Southern Rural Counties of England, to the Cotton District of Lancashire.

Gentlemen, St. Peter's-square, Manchester, 22d July, 1835.

ACCORDING to your instructions I have been engaged, during the past week, in making inquiries, by which, perhaps, the Commissioners may judge how far it would be prudent to comply with the request of many of the manufacturers of the cotton district of Lancashire and Cheshire, and furnish them with a supply of such well-disposed, honest, and industrious labourers from the south of England, as may hitherto have been restrained by the bondage of the late Poor Law, from disposing of their own labour and of that of their families in those districts where it would meet the most ample reward.

2. The Commissioners are deeply sensible of the great importance of a question, which, in the actual circumstances of the times, becomes one, the extensive relations of which require minute research, a careful examination and collection of facts, and then the gravest consideration, lest any error should be committed either in the principles on which the proposed migration is to be conducted, or in the details of an operation of such importance.

3. The Commissioners will, therefore, I hope, pardon an enumeration of facts which, as they relate to one of the most extraordinary districts in the world, and to a crisis of the history of that district more remarkable than that of any previous period, even were they not, as they are, intimately connected with the important subject which awaits the Commissioners' decision, might well claim a few moments attention.

4. The proposed migration, if it be acceded to, would differ from, only in character (but could scarcely exceed in extent) many previous internal changes to which this district has been subjected during the rapid progress of its manufactures. Avoiding all minute details, it will certainly be desirable to show to what extent the unregulated, and (if I may so speak) fortuitous immigration into Lancashire has, for many years past, proceeded. The population of Lancashire, in 1700, was 166,200; and in 1750 it had increased to 297,400. In 1801, a further augmentation to 672,731 had taken place, and the population in the succeeding cycles of 10 years successively, amounted in 1811, to 828,309; in 1821, to 1,052,859; and in 1831, to 1,336,854. In these last three cycles of 10 years, the rate of increase per cent. had been successively from 1801 to 1811, 23.13 per cent; from 1811 to 1821, 27.10 per cent; and from 1821 to 1831, 26.97 per cent.

5. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, also a manufacturing district, containing both woollen, flax, and cotton manufactures, the rate of increase per cent. succeeds to that of Lancashire in its amount, which last is greater than that of any other county. But the West Riding of Yorkshire succeeds at a remote distance; for whilst in the cycle between 1700 and 1831, the population of Lancashire had increased 800 per cent., that of the West Riding, the next in order, had increased only 417 per cent., and the rate per cent. of its increase, in the successive cycles of 10 years before enumerated, was, between 1801 and 1811, 16 per cent.; between 1811 and 1821, 22 per cent.; and between 1821 and 1831, also 22 per cent. For the sake of contrast I subjoin a table, in which the rate of increase and the actual population at these successive periods, in manufacturing, and mining, and metropolitan districts is shown, and from which it will appear that the rate of increase in Lancashire since 1700, has been very nearly double that of any other county; and, while the actual increase of this county has always been greater than that of any other, the rate, in these last enumerated cycles of 10 years, since 1801, has also been greater than in any other, with one exception. It will afterwards appear to how great an extent this increase must be attributed to a continual migration into Lancashire; the sources of that migration will be pointed out, and the evils which have arisen, from the want of a guiding and controlling power, will be shown. At present I am only concerned with the proof of the foregoing facts.

TABLE, showing the Population of Manufacturing, Mining, and Metropolitan Counties at various periods, with Rates per Cent. of the Increase of that Population.

COUNTIES. Arranged in the order of their Rate of Increase since 1700.	TOTAL Population at Six Periods.						Rate of Increase per Cent.					
	1700.	1750.	1801.	1811.	1831.	1831.	1801 to 1811.	1811 to 1831.	1831 to 1831.	1831 to 1831.	1831 to 1831.	1831 to 1831.
1. Lancashire	166,200	297,400	672,731	838,309	1,032,859	1,335,860	23	27	27	27	27	27
2. York, West Riding	236,700	361,500	563,533	553,315	799,359	976,401	16	22	22	22	22	22
3. Warwick	96,600	140,000	208,190	238,735	274,392	357,600	20	20	20	20	20	20
4. Stafford	117,200	160,000	239,153	295,153	311,040	410,400	21	15	20	20	20	20
5. Nottingham	65,200	140,350	140,350	162,900	166,873	235,400	16	15	20	24	24	24
6. Chester	107,000	131,600	160,350	227,031	270,498	334,314	18	19	24	212	212	212
7. Durham	95,500	135,000	160,350	177,635	207,673	253,700	11	17	22	166	166	166
8. Monmouth	39,700	40,600	45,350	62,127	71,853	98,200	35	15	36	147	147	147
9. Worcester	88,200	104,900	135,333	160,546	184,424	211,400	15	15	15	15	15	15
10. Salop	101,600	130,300	167,639	194,898	206,153	222,600	16	6	8	119	119	119
11. Surrey	154,900	297,100	569,543	523,651	598,638	485,700	20	23	22	214	214	214
12. Kent	153,800	190,000	307,624	372,095	426,016	478,400	21	14	12	211	211	211
13. Sussex	91,400	107,400	159,311	196,063	233,019	272,800	20	23	22	290	290	290
14. Cornwall	105,800	135,000	188,303	216,667	257,447	301,000	15	19	17	194	194	194
15. Cumberland	62,300	86,900	117,830	138,744	156,184	171,700	14	17	10	175	175	175
16. Southampton	118,700	137,500	219,656	245,060	283,298	314,700	12	15	11	165	165	165
17. Gloucester	93,200	109,800	161,142	235,514	335,843	386,700	12	18	15	11	11	11
18. Derby	82,000	109,800	161,142	235,514	335,843	386,700	12	18	15	11	11	11
19. Leicester	64,200	81,500	130,951	186,419	213,353	256,900	15	16	13	145	145	145
20. Middlesex	90,200	109,800	161,142	235,514	335,843	386,700	12	18	15	11	11	11
21. York, East Riding	130,500	224,500	413,123	503,276	580,449	604,261	17	20	19	107	107	107
22. Somerset	130,500	224,500	413,123	503,276	580,449	604,261	17	20	19	107	107	107
23. Hertford	70,500	86,500	97,577	111,454	125,714	145,300	14	16	17	13	13	13
TOTALS.												
Agricultural.	Metropolitan.						England.					
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
	164	154	151	147	146	146	174	16	154	13	174	12
	94	154	164	84								
Manufacturing.	Wales.						Scotland.					
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
	184	204	224	205			1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
Great Britain.	1700-1831.						1700-1831.					
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.
	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1801-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.	1831-1831.

This table sufficiently demonstrates how far the increase of the population of Lancashire has exceeded even that of those counties and districts into which, from similar causes affecting the demand for labour, it is well known that an extensive immigration has continually taken place.

I have not at hand data, by which to show what the actual increase by immigration in Lancashire was previously to 1800, but since that period, the total increase exceeding the excess of baptisms over burials must be attributed solely to immigration, without taking into account

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any additions to the population, which were immediately consequent upon that immigration by the mode of natural increase. For the sake of comparison, this increase may properly be shown in a few of those counties in which it is most remarkable.

Counties.*	Total Increase exceeding the Excess of Baptisms over Deaths, from 1800 to 1810.	From 1810 to 1820.	From 1821 to 1830.
Lancaster	45,284	88,167	169,169
York, West Riding . .	11,158	42,644	75,326
Middlesex.	155,640	132,717	182,561
Surrey	36,467	51,070	59,866

In the first cycle of 10 years the immigration into Lancashire was therefore 45,284; in the second, 88,167 or 8,800 annually; and in the third, 169,169, or nearly 17,000 annually.

It would, indeed, have been wonderful if so extensive a change had occurred without some attendant evils, when left to the guidance of circumstances only, with little or no external control; and it will be my duty to show the Commissioners what evils have arisen from this defect.

6. From 1750 to 1801, I imagine, from an estimate upon the only data before me in the country, that the immigration had amounted to at least an average of 4,000 annually; when the average rose for the next ten years to 4,500; thence to 8,800 in the following cycle of 10 years; and in the last, from 1821 to 1831, to 17,000 per annum.

A great portion of this immigrating population has been derived from the adjacent northern counties, which, though they have themselves in certain portions of their area, been subjected to similar changes, owing to the extension of the cotton, woollen, or flax manufactures in such districts, yet have, from various other portions, sent forth a population which had become too great for the resources of the soil as then cultivated. Thus, on the failure of the mining speculations in Derbyshire, an extensive migration of miners proceeded from the valleys and moorlands of the Peak, to the valleys of the north of Lancashire, and to the plain of Cheshire, over the borders of which the tide of manufactures flowed. This migration has now, however, proceeded to such an extent, that no further considerable supply can be expected from this quarter, especially as one or two very rich mines have recently been discovered, and come into active operation, and as the introduction of machinery will enable miners to work veins lying at greater depths beneath the toadstone, and which, from the expense of keeping them dry, were formerly valueless. If these circumstances, together with the actual recent extension of steam power, employed in manufacturing purposes in Derbyshire, be duly considered, it will be apparent that no great supply can (after the extensive migration which has already occurred) be now expected from that county. The north-west of Yorkshire has, likewise, at former periods, supplied the flannel district of Rochdale, and the cotton districts of Todmorden, Bacup, and Burnley, &c. with many workmen. The recently increased activity of the worsted, woollen, and flax manufactures will, however, dry up this

* See Parish Register Abstract for 1831, pages 159, 197, and 334.

source. Cheshire and Wales have also both been the sources of a more partial migration, as well as the more distant northern counties, and Scotland (whence a considerable number have come), but few or none have removed from any counties south of Derbyshire or Staffordshire.

7. One source of a vast supply of workmen to this district yet remains to be mentioned; viz. Ireland. I am not aware that any accurate estimate of the Irish population of Lancashire has yet been made, though I know that inquiries are proceeding under the direction of the Statistical Society of Manchester, which will soon determine that question, as far as the principal towns of the county are concerned. In Manchester alone, the Irish and their immediate descendants amount to about 60,000, and in Liverpool to about 50,000; and it may be correct to add at least 30,000 or 40,000 for the rest of the county. Irish labour has certainly (under the circumstances of the extraordinary extension of the trade, and the deficiency of a supply from the English counties,) been absolutely necessary to maintain the commercial position of the cotton manufacture of England amongst its foreign rivals, but it has not been an unmingled benefit.

8. With the deepest and most sincere commiseration of the sufferings of that gallant but degraded race, I cannot but consider the extent to which the immigration of Irish has proceeded in the cotton district, an evil, as far as the manners, habits, and domestic comfort of the people are concerned, all which would, I think, have been less liable to deterioration, had an early migration from the southern counties of England supplied the place of the ten thousands of Irish who now people the great towns of the cotton trade.

9. I have had frequent opportunities of ascertaining the opinions of the most intelligent manufacturers of Lancashire, on this subject. They all unite in lamenting the evils necessarily attendant on this immigration; and with reference to the skill required in the various processes of the trade, together with that steady perseverance which factory employment peculiarly requires, they agree (without exception, as far as I can discover), that they prefer English labourers from a purely agricultural district, to Irish from a similar source.

10. The English are more steady, cleanly, skillful labourers, and are more faithful in the fulfilment of contracts made between master and servant.

11. In Ashton, Stayley Bridge, and Hyde, I was informed that few, if any, Irish (though there are several thousands* in the district) are ever employed in the superior processes in the cotton factories; they are almost all to be found in the blowing-rooms, an employment requiring little or no skill, and receiving, therefore, the least reward. A certain number are also employed in the card-rooms, which is the next gradation of employment; but several most intelligent manufacturers informed me, that though they had retained Irish, at least 25 years in their employment, none had ever been preferred by them to offices of trust, and few, if any, ever attained the rank of spinners. Mr. Taylor, of Preston, and Mr. Edmund Ashworth, of Turton, likewise told me, that they did not believe there were 100 Irish spinners in the county.

12. Mr. Taylor, of Preston, when connected with the firm of Messrs. Horrocks, Miller, and Co., (having to make an inquiry, in pre-

* Various estimated as from 6,000 to 8,000, and many hundreds more are expected to arrive there during the summer.

paration for giving evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons) about ten years ago, discovered that the preference of English labour had been so decided in their firm, that though they had received numerous applications, they had not a single Irishman in their employ, among 1,300 workmen. They have now 1,600 workmen, but since the date of the inquiry alluded to, they have seen no reason to change their system, and they have still no Irish in their factory.

13. I was informed by the same gentleman, that Messrs. Swainson, Birley and Co., having about ten years ago erected an immense establishment, requiring not less than 1,500 "hands," encouraged a large immigration of Irish. Since that period they have found it much to their interest to reduce the number of Irish, and to supply their place with English.

14. Messrs. M * * * having observed a great portion of the population in the neighbourhood of W * * *, in the south of Ireland, to be unemployed, were tempted, by the cheapness of labour in the district, to erect a mill near that city. The population were begging bread at the gates of their factory, in idleness and destitution; yet very few accepted employment within its walls, and they were obliged to advertise for workmen in the adjoining counties. Even then, the supply was inadequate, and they had to repeat their advertisements from time to time, because they found they could not retain the native population in the mill. Though the labour was nominally much cheaper than in England, yet, the products of the labour were so much smaller, that they doubted whether they gained any advantage by the nominal rate. They found a great difference between the Irish who had never removed from the vicinity, and those who had spent one or two years in the cotton districts of England. Such men were exceedingly more valuable labourers than the surrounding population.

15. Among the workmen employed in the building trades of Lancashire are an immense number of Irish, but I am informed that very few indeed are contractors or overlookers, and that they are chiefly employed as "hodmen" and labourers, *i. e.* in the inferior and worst paid occupations. For skilled labour, the English are universally preferred, and after them the Scotch.

16. This preference is justified in a great degree by that apathy of character, which is a characteristic of those who feel few of the wants of civilized life, and who, therefore, being contented with meagre fare, and narrow dwellings, acknowledge but slightly the stimulus of emulation or of hope; in whose apprehension the brutal sloth of the savage resembles the placid contentment of the instructed artisan.

17. Nevertheless, but one alternative remains if a further supply of population to the cotton district be necessary. Immigrants must either be obtained from the English counties, or from Ireland; the neighbouring counties have exhausted their resources, and the supply must proceed from other sources if it be needed.

18. It was therefore of great importance that exact statistical data should be obtained, by which the Commissioners might be enabled to judge whether any such extension of manufacturing establishments in this district was about to occur, as would render expedient the migration of additional workmen into the district.

19. To determine this question, I visited all the chief towns of Lancashire, and communicating with the chief civil engineers and most intelligent manufacturers, obtained as extensive information as possible con-

cerning the probable increase of steam power in the districts surrounding each town. Having obtained these facts, it is easy to calculate the number of "mill hands" required, and thence to make an approximation to the total accession of population demanded.

20. I shall first enumerate the steam power (which has either recently been erected, but is not yet supplied with hands, or which will be erected in the next year and a half or two years,) arranged according to the districts in which it will be erected, and afterwards I shall supply the Commissioners with an account of each particular engine, the name of the firm to which it either is, or will be supplied, and the situation of the mill where it will be in operation.

22. QUANTITY of STEAM POWER either recently erected but not supplied with "Hands;" or, which is ordered, and will be in operation in a Year and a half or Two Years, in the Cotton District of Lancashire and its immediate vicinity.*

Miles distant from Manchester to Town, &c.	Name of Town, Township or Parish which forms the centre of the District so called.	Number of Firms to which the Power is to be supplied.	Number of Horse Power.
6	Township of Hyde.....	9	486
8	Ashton and Dukingfield ..	8	640
7	Stayley Bridge.....	9	606
20	Saddleworth (Greenfield) ..	1	60
5	Stockport.....	17	936
11	Rochdale (district).....	16	660
8	Heywood.....	3	78
12	Spotland.....	1	50
14	Baglsate.....	1	60
6	Birch.....	1	101
18	Accrington.....	1	50
10	Bolton (district).....	19	755
12	Leigh.....	2	50
13	Horwich.....	2	175
20	Wigan.....	6	325
9	Bury.....	4	120
17	Haslingden.....	2	70
25	Burnley.....	7	241
26	Bacup (district)....	8	196
20	Todmorden.....	7	285
30	Colne.....	3	100
30	Preston.....	10	422
12	Longdendale, near Mottram	4	70
20	Blackburn.....	4	280
20	Chorley.....	1	60
20	Bollington, near Macclesfield	1	80
17	Glossop-dale.....	7	187
	Manchester.....	12	395
	Oldham.....	3	60

Total Horse Power.... 7,507

* A further statement, comprising every engine, its power, the name of the firm

24. From the preceding table it appears that 7,507 horse power will be erected, and, if possible, brought into operation in the cotton district of Lancashire in the course of the next two years. One only doubt affects the limit of the period when this power will be in full operation, and this arises from the difficulty of supplying, in that time, even with the utmost exertion of every mechanist in the trade, the machinery which this prodigious force is intended to move. The impossibility of accomplishing this will, in the opinion of some of the most experienced manufacturers, delay the period when this vast accession to the trade will be in full employ.

25. Within whatever period this power is brought into complete activity (calculating on an extensive average of mills in different departments of the trade), six "mill hands" at least will be required for every horse-power, or the introduction of this power presupposes the employment of 45,042 "mill hands;" and if we take into account the unemployed members of the families of "mill hands," as well as mechanics, labourers, handicraftsmen, warehousemen, dyers, calenderers, finishers, shopkeepers, &c. &c. &c., in fact the whole population necessary to complete the social fabric, of which these 45,042 "mill hands" will form a part, we must add an equal number.

26. This steam power will, therefore, place in immediate relation with itself a population of 90,084.

27. The outlay in buildings and machinery necessary to bring this horse-power into operation may be safely estimated at 500*l.* per horse-power, without taking into account the capital necessarily employed in trading transactions in connexion with the power; or, in other words, the erection of this power presupposes an outlay of 3,753,500*l.* in buildings and machinery, and which outlay we have shown will occur in the cotton districts of Lancashire within two years.

28. Whence must the population required by the manufacturers be derived?

29. It is first desirable to inquire what unexhausted resources the district itself contains. The chief, if not the only source of supply within the district, will arise from the hand-loom weavers, whose numbers are still great in the neighbourhood of Colne, Burnley, Padiham, Leigh, and Bolton and Blackburn. It is to be hoped that many of the hand-loom weavers of these districts will embrace this opportunity of deserting an occupation by which they earn, even now*, comparatively meagre wages, and which threatens, gradually, and perhaps at no distant period, to become extinct.

30. The unwillingness of hand-loom weavers to enter the mills and manufactories is known to the whole trade. This arises from their having acquired habits which render the occupation in mills disgusting to them, on account of its uniformity, and of the strictness of its discipline. They are unwilling to surrender their imaginary independ-

to which it either has been or will be supplied, the situation of the mill, the manufacturing process in which this moving force is to be employed, and the authority (generally a civil engineer resident in the cotton district) whence this information was derived, were all furnished to the Commissioners. This information was, however, for obvious reasons, confidentially communicated, and cannot therefore be published in this Report. I may however add, that this power is almost entirely intended for spinning, or for spinning and weaving.

* The demand for handloom cloth has of late years occasioned an improvement in the wages of the hand-loom weavers.

ence, and prefer being enslaved by poverty, to the confinement and unvarying routine of factory employment.

31. Yet there have been periods when many of these men (having large families subsisting on the most miserable pittance) might have procured other occupation, but have neglected or refused to do so. Considerable numbers have, however, more recently migrated from Colne and Burnley into the more southern districts of Lancashire, and found employment in the mills, an example which I earnestly hope will be followed at this crisis by many more.

32. Nevertheless the tendency among the hand-loom weavers to change their occupation was, at no period between 1811 and 1821, so strong as to prevent the immigration of 8,800 persons annually into Lancashire; and the tendency to migrate to Lancashire from other counties, and from Ireland, has been stronger in 17,000 persons in every year of the period intervening between the years 1821 and 1831, than the tendency among the hand-loom weavers to accept factory occupation within the same period. And as the wages of the hand-loom weavers are better now than they were during any part of this last-mentioned period, and the wages of "mill hands" have not advanced, it is apparent that, as far as the incentive of wages is concerned, the inducement among the weavers to change their employment, is now less than it has been. These circumstances afford no reason for anticipating an increased inclination to enter the factories on the part of the weaving population, so as materially to disturb the relation of the numbers consenting to such a change with the numbers migrating to the county in the future, as compared with the past.

33. At all events there is no reason to expect, from the history of the past, that from this source, numbers by any means adequate to the extraordinary demand for labour which will be created by the extension of steam power, will be procured. If 35,000 hand-loom weavers could, in the present state of the trade, be induced to relinquish their occupation, no internal change would produce an equal amount of comfort in the families of the poor of the county of Lancaster. A hand-loom weaver can, however, at this moment, procure wages not greatly inferior to those earned at the power-loom, and his present inducements to change are therefore less cogent than they have heretofore been.

The natural increase of the population is obviously insufficient to supply so great a number of labourers as will be required in the period assigned, and I therefore proceed with the course of my inquiry.

34. Since the internal resources of the county are likely to prove inadequate to the supply of the demand for labour which will speedily ensue, it remains to be considered whether any, and what, means are desirable to regulate that supply which must be obtained *ab extra*.

35. It is evident from what we have before stated, that similar deficiencies have been, at former periods, to a large extent filled up by a supply of Irish labour.

36. The manufacturers of the district are generally unwilling to encounter (excepting in emergencies) the personal responsibility of making efforts to procure a supply of labourers, concerning whose condition and character they could offer no positive guarantee. They would, therefore (with some signal exceptions), too generally be disposed to leave the nature and extent of that supply rather to the influence of circum-

stances, than attempt to control it by any marked personal interference. Nevertheless, their preference of English labour is most decided, and they would rejoice if arrangements could be effected by which they could, when necessary, be ensured such a supply from the southern counties of England.

37. Unless some arrangements are made, the Irish, availing themselves of the intelligence which they constantly receive, and of the assistance of their fellow-countrymen and kinsmen who have already settled in the county, will come over in crowds; will offer themselves at the mills to work for nothing until they have learned the occupation; depending meanwhile on the ever ready and generous assistance of their own countrymen and friends, and as soon as the occupation is acquired (which being generally an inferior process, may be accomplished in a short time) they will leave the mill and seek a situation elsewhere. From that moment they may be considered as settled in the district.

38. On the other hand, the passage of the south country labourer hither must be paid by his parish. On his arrival, his master will readily make a contract with him for a stipulated period, paying him somewhat inferior wages until he has acquired the requisite skill. Moreover, the master will provide him with a cottage, and with money to purchase furniture, for the payment of which a small sum will be taken every week from his wages. After a certain period, he may be in a situation of comparative comfort and perfect independence.

39. Though, however, I think a supply of labour from the southern counties of England the only alternative for an extensive immigration of Irish, I am of opinion that this migration must be conducted with great caution, lest at any moment the supply overstep that legitimate demand, which, taking every circumstance into consideration, the state of the trade and of the county may require.

40. In order to enable the Commissioners to exercise a constant salutary control over the extent and nature of this migration, I recommend that a suitable agent be selected in Manchester, who may form a medium of communication between the mill-owners, seeking a supply of labour, and the Commissioners, who, by means of their Assistant Commissioners in the south, may make a proper selection of the workmen, and transmit them directly to the mills for which they are required.

41. The appointment of an agent in Manchester will occasion little expense, as a person may be selected, holding some other office, the duties of which are compatible with the exercise of this function. By this means the Commissioner will obtain the services of a man of superior intelligence, and I doubt not some gentleman might be found to superintend the operations of a person of this character. The manufacturers of this district would find neither trouble nor responsibility in calling upon the agent in Manchester, when they visit that town, the heart of the cotton trade, as is their custom from all parts of the county, at least once every week.

42. The information which the Commissioners might constantly receive through that agent, would enable them to check abuses and remedy defects in the system of migration, which they may adopt, of which errors they would otherwise have no knowledge, but he would be chiefly useful in exactly regulating the supply of labour to the demand

existing in the cotton district, and providing against the possibility of that supply being improperly used, or overstepping at any moment the legitimate demand.

43. Agreeably with the instructions of the Board, I have visited the manufacturing establishments to which a migration of families of English labourers has recently taken place from the southern counties of England; a more gratifying tour I never performed, as nothing could be more cheering than the gratitude which the immigrants universally expressed for the change which the Commissioners had accomplished in their condition. Happily, these families have chiefly settled in country establishments; and none have been brought to the largest seats of the cotton manufacture. The Board will discover, by consulting the schedule of mills, in which additional horse-power will be brought into operation in the course of the next year and a half or two years, that this increase will occur almost entirely in the small towns and country districts, a removal to which may be accomplished with far less alteration in the habits and associations of the southern labourer, than if he were carried to the centre of a dense mass of city population, where a total change of employment, combined with the sudden transition from agricultural life to become the dweller in the back street of a large town, would be a far greater trial to the mind and to the body than when the change is made to the smaller country towns of the cotton district. Many of the scattered mills are possessed by some of the most enlightened manufacturers in the trade. In these situations minute and systematic attention is often paid to the habits and comforts of the workmen employed in the mills. Schools are established, in which the children are instructed on the Sundays, and on certain of the week evenings, and the masters exercise a legitimate and benevolent influence over the manners and morals of their people. Even where the system is less enlightened, a more direct and frequent intercourse between the master and servant occurs than in the cities; the cottages are not huddled together in dense masses, and the population is not exposed, therefore, to the depressing influence which might in large towns impair the health of the southern labourer. The cottages are well built throughout the whole rural cotton district, but as they are more frequently the property of the mill-owner in the country and in the smaller towns than in the largest seats of the trade, they are more generally there provided with those decent comforts and conveniences which have so powerful an influence on the manners, morals, and happiness of the working population. It is, therefore, a fortunate circumstance that the present extraordinary extension of the cotton manufacture in Lancashire will chiefly occur in country districts, and in the smaller towns, where, besides the great boon of abundant wages, there may be offered to the pauperised population of the southern counties, excellent cottages in the country, provided with every convenience, and where the immigrants will be placed immediately beneath the observation and moral influence of their master, instead of being at once mingled with the mass of a city population, and thus not only separated from the influence of the superior classes, but subjected to all the deleterious moral and physical agencies which unhappily affect the character of workmen in large towns.

44. The country cottages generally contain four rooms (two above and two below). Some masters have recently contrived cottages with

three bed-rooms, in order that the children of both sexes may not sleep promiscuously in the same room. The growth of sentiments of delicacy and propriety will thus be encouraged, which may tend to establish a higher standard of virtue among the working classes. The cottages both in town and country are generally substantially built, and in the country establishments have each an oven and boiler, and a good kitchen grate, which, combined with the low price of fuel, enable the artisan, if he pleases, to provide comfortable meals at a slight expense. The labourers need not extinguish their fires as soon as the meal is cooked, which I am informed is the practice in the south, but the fire is usually maintained during the whole day among the 'mill hands' of Lancashire.

These advantages are duly appreciated by the families which have migrated from the southern counties into Lancashire; they speak with marked satisfaction of the superior accommodation which they enjoy in their present cottages, and some of them with disgust of the wretched hovels built upon the waste, where they had starved before.

45. The debasing influence of the southern methods of administering, or rather perverting, the influence of the late Poor Laws, is peculiarly evident in the character of the labourers who have migrated into Lancashire, when contrasted with the population, long trained to industry by the manufacturers of this county. Truly, the improvidence and ingratitude of the manufacturing population is only too remarkable, but they have acquired habits of independence and self-reliance, which stand in the most striking contrast with that tendency to depend for support at every moment on some extraneous aid, which long custom has made part of the character of those examples of the southern population that I have seen in Lancashire. The energies of the older people whom I have seen appear to be impaired; the internal force which ought to be summoned to meet misfortune is exhausted; they are, compared with the population of Lancashire, a more obtuse, an enervated and less intelligent race.

46. The transmission of families of an inferior moral character is exceedingly to be deprecated, and might, in the early stage of the migration which is now proceeding, occasion serious impediments. The best families which I have seen are those settled at Mellor, in Derbyshire. They are most fortunately placed in a beautiful country district, in excellent cottages, under a benevolent and enlightened master. As they have less of the character of the southern pauper than any other of the immigrants whom I have seen, so they are the most delighted with the change in their condition. They appear to rejoice with the greatest sincerity at being emancipated from a state of idleness, dependence, and starvation, and placed where they can earn a comparative abundance by their own exertions. Some, doubtless, will be sent from the south, to whom the labour of this district will be an insupportable burden, because their energies and their morals have alike been exhausted by a long course of cunning and servile dependence; and my observation leads me to expect that the contentment of the various families of immigrants in their new position in the manufacturing districts, will be a good test of their moral state before their removal. The migration ought to be offered as a boon to the population of the south, and the offer should be made only to those who have deserved to be extricated from the manifold miseries of their present situation, by the

exhibition of superior moral qualities, and by proofs of superior energy. The migration of such families to this district will be not less a relief to the overburthened parishes of the south, than it will prove a positive and substantial benefit to the population and trade of this district.

47. Widows with large families of children, or handicraftsmen, such as shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, &c. &c., with large families, will be the most successful immigrants. Adult men could not acquire the requisite skill for the superior processes of the factories, and if employed in the mills at all, would not rise beyond the blowing-room, or, at farthest, the card-room, which are the inferior and worst paid occupations of adult labour in the trade. Women might find employ in the mills, but it is on all accounts desirable that the mother of the family should rather be advised to remain at home and provide domestic comforts for the rest. At present the demand for labourers for erecting mills, cottages, &c., making embankments, digging foundations, diverting water-courses, and improving roads, is very considerable; but it is not desirable to encourage a large supply of adult labour, as the existing demand for it depends upon circumstances which cannot be expected to continue long to the same extent as at present. Handicraftsmen, mechanics, and widows, all with large families, will be much wanted. Even independently of the demand for labour, arising out of the increase of manufacturing establishments throughout the county, the operation of those clauses of the Factory Act, which gradually practically raise the age of admission into the mills to 13, have rendered the supply of children's labour scarce, and the operative population would consider the introduction of a supply of this species of labour *ab extra* a positive advantage, as many of the processes of manufacture cannot be advantageously conducted without it. The operations of some of the adult workmen are liable to be interrupted by the want of children, and the families sent from the south, which have brought a great number of children with them, have been alike welcomed by the capitalist and by his workmen. These families universally speak with gratitude of the paternal kindness of their masters, and of the good will and friendly assistance of their fellow-labourers, and doubtless the more gentle manners of the southern population have contributed in no small degree to win for them friends among both classes of society.

48. Even when the establishments now preparing come into operation, the demand for adult labour from the south will not be very greatly increased, because a great part of that which will be required may be supplied from the Lancashire district; and in some processes the demand will be superseded by the introduction of the self-acting mule. Independently of the absolute demand for children's labour, they will always be preferred by masters, because their habits not being yet formed by other labour, differing in character from factory occupation, there are no bad habits to correct; they are, moreover, more docile, and learn with greater ease; their limbs are not stiffened with age and labour, nor their hands so hardened by agricultural occupation that they have lost that delicate sensibility and manual tact necessary to skill in the various processes of the cotton manufacture. In all these respects, and in others, the English adult labourer would be preferred to the Irish, but the child would also be exceedingly more valuable to the manufacturer than the man.

49. The fathers of families may procure employment as handicrafts-

men and labourers for some time to come, and if they could amass a little money, might open shops for the supply of the new labouring population.

50. The self-acting mule, which dispenses with the labour of spinners, will be chiefly, if not altogether, supplied to the new mills now in course of erection.

51. Its great price will prevent its being generally introduced so as to displace machinery now in action. Though, therefore, each mule creates a spinner, the demand for spinner's labour will not be less than it is at present; but this is a reason why the demand for adult labour in the mills will not remarkably increase.

52. The facilities which a labouring man has for rearing a family in the Lancashire cotton district, as compared with the southern agricultural counties, may be better understood by an inspection of the following table:—

Previous Occupation.	Place whence they migrated.	Condition: Widow, Orphan, Deceased, &c.	Place where Settled.	Name of present Employers.	Number of Family.	Age of Mother.	Age of Immigrant.	Weekly Earnings from Wages or Partial Allowance, or both, before their Immigration.							Present Weekly Earnings of the Family.							Weekly Earnings, Second Year.	Weekly Earnings, Third Year.	Future Prospects.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	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Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	First Child.	Second.

438 2 6

438 16 1

54. From the inspection of this table it will be seen that I examined 19 families,* comprising 144 individuals, who migrated into Lancashire, and that their total weekly earnings combined with their parish allowance in the south, did not amount to more than one third of the aggregate weekly earnings of the same families in Lancashire. If to this substantial benefit be added that they have universally better cottages, cheaper fuel and clothing, and kind masters, some idea of the benefit they have derived from the change may be attained.

55. Necessity must drive some of the southern population from their present homes; a certain proportion of them are demoralized by the operation of the Poor Law, and have no ties to break, and no sympathies to which violence will be offered, by proposing to them migration. Some natural yearnings for country and kindred will, with others, have to be overcome, and a dread of an untried change to a new and monotonous occupation must be extinguished. But it is certainly grateful to a benevolent mind to have (with whatever partial mingling of ills) to offer so great a boon as thrice the amount of the present earnings and parish allowance of the southern labour; independent industry for pauperism; abundance for starvation; a home of comfort for a hovel of wretchedness.

56. That this is not an exaggerated picture will appear from a particular account of each individual's present and former situation.

Turron, near Bolton, (Lancashire), 12 miles from Manchester.

57. George Allen, aged 35, from Bledlow, Buckinghamshire; migrated with his wife, seven children and two orphans. Had formerly been employed as farmer's labourer at Bledlow; recently was on the parish, which paid his wages for farm labour. He thus earned 7s. per week, and gained something more by gathering dung from the roads, with a donkey and cart, in which occupation, and in collecting faggots for fuel, he was assisted by his son. He might thus earn 2s. per week.

His second son, aged 12, was employed as a chimney sweeper. His daughter, Sarah, aged 11, could sometimes earn 1s. 6d. per week at the lace pillow, and the two orphans (Neals) had resided in the workhouse. Recently Jesse Neal had procured occupation in a paper-mill, and earned 2s. 6d. per week. The earnings and allowance to his own family (omitting the orphans) did not exceed 12s. or 13s. per week.

He paid 1s. per week for a ruinous cottage, into which the rain poured through the thatch. It was a low dark hut, and had mud floors, until he himself recently laid down brick.

Came hither in April.

	s.	d.	
He now earns	12	0	a week as farmer's labourer; wife takes care of house.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
William, Æt. 13.	3	0	in factory	3	6
			2d year	4	6
			3d year		
Sarah . . .	12	2	6 ditto	3	0
			ditto . . .	4	0
			ditto		
Eli	11	2	0 ditto	2	6
			ditto . . .	3	6
			ditto		

He likewise receives the wages of the two orphans who are under his charge, viz. :

* I had not time to examine the families of Quarry-bank, but Mr. Greg's statement of their earnings will be found towards the close of this Report.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Jesse Neal, <i>Æt.</i> 16 . 6	6	in factory	7	0	2d year . 9
Thomas . . . 14 . 5	6	ditto . . . 6	6	ditto . . 8	0 ditto.

Aggregate earnings 31 6

In 2d year will be . 35 0

And in the 3d . . 41 0

He pays 3s. per week for rent, and has an excellent cottage containing three rooms. His clothes when he arrived were very ragged; he is now decently dressed. His master advanced him money to buy furniture. He is very well satisfied with his change, and having had as much food as he could eat, says he feels "four times as strong as when he came."

58. Jesse Neal, aged 16, the orphan brought by Allen from Bledlow (Bucks). His mother destroyed herself on account of ill usage by his father. Five children were left when his father absconded. The eldest, John, is a carpenter at Wickam. Mary is in service in London, as also William. Jesse and Thomas were left at Bledlow.

Thomas, aged 14, was in the workhouse at Bledlow, and Jesse had been there until very recently, when he was employed in a paper-mill, and earned 10s. per month. His occupation was cutting rags. Jesse now earns 6s. 6d. per week. He likes his work better than his former employment; the rooms of the mill are loftier and lighter than those of the paper-mill, as well as cleaner.

He lives with Allen, who is very kind to him. Has very good Sunday clothes, and a decent dress for the week. Came here in tatters.

The whole family say they are very kindly treated by the work people and their employers.

EGERTON, near Bolton (Lancashire), 13 miles from Manchester.
Messrs. H. and E. Ashworth.

Families:

59. Joseph Shepherd, aged 50; from Bledlow (Bucks). Wife dead. 12 months ago; family of eight children; has been 13 weeks here. Earned 7s. per week at Bledlow, as a farmer's labourer, or received this sum from the parish, in which latter case he worked upon the roads.

Joseph, aged 19, was employed by a farmer at 4s. per week, and when not thus employed received 2s. 6d. per week from the parish.

James, aged 18, lived with a farmer, and received board and lodging and 2l. a year for his work. None of his earnings assisted the family.

Thomas, aged 16, had 3s. per week in harvest, and at other times was at home with his father, and earned 1s. 6d.

George, aged 15, worked in a paper-mill, and earned 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week.

Eliza, aged 11, earned at the lace-pillow at school from 6d. to 9d. per week.

None of the other children earned any thing. The wages of the family, taking every thing into consideration, did not, when they were in employ, exceed 16s. 3d., but Shepherd thinks the average was much lower; he says about 12s. per week.

Paid 1s. per week for a thatched cottage with a garden. He was greatly favoured by his landlord in having this cottage at so low a rent. He was able to afford but little for clothing, and when he came here the

family were in tatters. He was glad to conceal his nakedness beneath the smock-frock.

The family now earn 2*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per week (their wages having recently been raised by Messrs. Ashworth for good conduct and skill).

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.
The father earns, as labourer	12	0	12	0	2d year	12	0
Joseph, in factory	9	0	12	0	ditto	15	0
James ditto	6	6	7	6	ditto	8	6
Thomas ditto	5	0	6	0	ditto	7	0
George ditto	4	6	5	6	ditto	6	6
Eliza ditto	2	6	3	0	ditto	4	0
Eden ditto	2	0	2	6	ditto	3	0

The children, when he was in Bucks, were scattered about in the farm-houses; they are now gathered under his own roof; he has bought good clothes for them and for himself; has an excellent cottage, for which he pays 2*s.* per week; has been exceedingly well treated by his employers and by the workmen.

Messrs. Ashworth have already raised the earnings of this family 6*s.* beyond the contract made with them, because they have proved so docile and skilful. It is probable they will earn 10*s.* beyond the contract in the second year, or 46*s.* and 53*s.* in the third.

60. Joseph Stevens, aged 40, from Bledlow; migrated with his wife and eight children. Was employed by the parish, and chiefly as an overlooker of stone-breakers; he had 7*s.* per week; had been on the parish two months, previously to which he had baked bread, and hawked it about, by which he could earn about 10*s.* per week. His son William, aged 13, had 2*s.* 6*d.* per week from the parish; and John, aged 14, 2*s.* ditto. None of the rest earned any thing.

His eldest son, James, was apprenticed to a blacksmith, and lived with his master. The total earnings of the family, with the parish allowance, did not exceed 11*s.* 6*d.*, and when he was at work, 14*s.* 6*d.*

Joseph, the father, now receives 12*s.* as labourer; his wages having been increased, on account of his good conduct.

	s.	d.	
William, aged 18, earns	7	6	in factory.
John	14	3	6 ditto.
Eden	13	3	0 ditto.
Elizabeth	11	2	6 ditto.

The family now receive 3*s.* 6*d.* per week more than their contract; and their present wages, 28*s.* 6*d.*, will be raised to 33*s.* by the contract, in the third year; but Mr. Ashworth thinks, that by their good conduct and skill they will deserve the full wages of factory hands before the expiration of that period; in which case, the earnings of those now employed would be 40*s.* per week, and the oldest of the three other children will, in four years be old enough to work and increase the earnings of the family; the next will succeed to employment in six years, and the youngest in ten.

His rent at Bledlow was 1*s.* per week, and he now pays 2*s.* per week for a very good cottage. They have as much food as they can eat; firing is cheap; and he has improved in strength since he came hither; he would not go back to Bledlow if all his expenses were paid, and money given to induce him to do so, because he finds this country so

much better for his children; the workmen and his masters have been very kind to him.

61. James Fryer, aged 39, from Bledlow; migrated with his wife and seven children. Earned 8s. per week at Bledlow as farmer's labourer.

Sarah, aged 14, }
Eliza . . . 11, } went to school, and earned 2s. 6d. per week, at the
and Mary 10, } lace pillow.

James . . . 12, could occasionally get 1s. 6d. per week, and now and then had a 6d. loaf from the parish, but generally could earn little or nothing.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Father now earns, per week, } as labourer }	13	6	13	6	2d year	14 0 3d year.
Sarah, aged 14, factory . . .	5	0	6	0	ditto	7 0 ditto.
James . . . 12, ditto . . .	4	0	5	0	ditto	6 6 ditto.
Eliza . . . 11, ditto . . .	2	6	3	0	ditto	4 0 ditto.
Mary . . . 10, ditto . . .	2	0	2	6	ditto	3 0 ditto.
	27	0	30	0		34 6

Paid at Bledlow 4l. 4s. a year, or nearly 1s. 9d. per week, and he now pays 3s. per week. He thinks flour is not quite as cheap here as in Bledlow, but beef and mutton are cheaper, as well as firing. Was in very ragged trim, but has bought good clothes; hopes soon to furnish his own house well, but has been here only 13 weeks.

Has a potato ground; and will be able to earn 1s. 6d. per week more for his family by working in the evenings by-and-bye.

The children of these parishes go to school on Sunday, and on two evenings in the week. They say the country is a little strange to them, but are thoroughly satisfied with their change, and would not return.

Besides these three families, two lads are employed in the mill at Egerton. One, George Grimsall, aged 18, now earns 7s. per week, and will have 8s. in his third year; and James Arnott, aged 15, now earns 6s.; in the second year will earn 6s. 9d.; and in the third, 7s. 9d.

62. Some idle girls, of dissolute character, who migrated to these establishments from the south, fancying they should immediately on their arrival find subsistence without labour, were speedily disgusted with the continuous and unvaried routine of the mill-work, and after they had been a very short time, discovering that the day could not be spent in gossiping from door to door, and that the workmen of the district did not at once prefer them to their own "Lancashire witches," those idle girls very soon left their employment and returned home.

Single immigrants will generally feel less satisfied with their change than large families, who, when they are once settled, constitute a home even in a strange land. Even single adults must be oppressed with a sense of loneliness and desertion for a certain period in a strange country, and the happiness of the immigrants will in every case be more certain if they come with their families or with their friends, with whom on their arrival they can reside.

64. One or two single men who come to Lancashire, have, for this reason, returned, but I have not heard that one family has.

W. HARRISON and BROTHERS, Stayley Bridge; small town, seven miles from Manchester.

Families :

65. Samuel Blick, aged 39, migrated with his wife, aged 41, and eight children, from Prince's Risborough, Bucks.

Earned, as farmer's labourer, 8s. per week, but before he came was on the parish, working upon the road at little wages; wife and two girls, 2s. by lace pillow.

William, aged 19, had been two weeks out of work before they left, but previously had obtained 2s. 6d. per week, either by working or from the parish.

John, aged 15, was at service with a farmer, and received board and 2l. a year, but none of his earnings assisted the family.

Henry, aged 13, was a ploughboy, and earned 2s.

Sophy, aged 12, no work nor allowance.

Total earnings and allowance, 14s. 6d.

He paid 1s. 6d. weekly for a poor cottage, with a broken brick floor.

There were three rooms, and other conveniences.	s.
Father, labourer	12
Wife, housewife.	
William, labourer	11
John, foundry	8
Henry, factory	3
Sophy, ill.	
Sally, aged 11, factory	2
Reuben, aged 9	} not employed.
Mary, aged 7	
Alfred, aged 4	
Total	36s. per week.

He has a good cottage, containing four rooms, with oven, grate, slopstones and boiler, &c. for 2s. 6d. per week.

He would not go back if his expenses were paid. Has more and better food, a better house, a kinder master, and is well treated by the workmen.

66. William Bayley, aged 43; migrated with wife and eight children from Prince's Risborough.

	s.	d.	
Was on the roads, and received	5	6	from the parish.
His wife was ill, and received	1	6	from parish.
Betsey, aged 25, earned	1	6	at the lace pillow.
Sarah . . . 24 ditto	1	6	ditto.
Kitty . . . 20 ditto	1	6	ditto.
Ann . . . 19 ditto	1	6	ditto.
Thomas . . . 14 ploughboy	3	0	
James . . . 13 no work nor allowance.			
John . . . 10 ditto			
Sophy . . . 4 ditto			

Total earnings and allowance . . 16s. per week.

Paid 1s. per week for a wretched cottage, having one room above stairs and one below, built of wood and brick, with a roof through which

the rain entered. Could get little firing, and that was very dear. Had only two beds, and four of the family slept on straw. Were miserably cold in winter. The floor of the cottage was bricked, but was much broken.

	s.	d.	
He now earns as labourer.	12	0	{ per week; his wife keeps house.
Betsy assists her because his wife is ill.			
Sarah earns in factory.	7	0	
Kitty . ditto	7	0	
Ann . ditto	7	0	
Thomas . ditto	5	0	
James . ditto	4	6	

The total earnings of the family amount to 42 6 per week.

He now pays 2s. 6d. per week for a good cottage, containing four rooms, a coal-house, and provided with an oven, boiler, slopstones, &c.; his children have better clothes; were half starved; have as much food as they can eat. The workpeople are civil, and his employers kind.

Has written to his relations to induce them to migrate, and would be glad if his neighbours could better their condition as he has done.

67. Mary Mines, aged 52, migrated with four of her children, her son-in-law, his wife, and their two children, from Prince's Risborough.

Lost her husband ten years ago; two of her children were married and did not live with her; four lived at home.

	s.	d.
Widow, three days washing in a fortnight	1	6
received from parish	0	10
Joseph aged 20 jobbing	1	6
David . . . 18 ditto	1	6
Benjamin . . . 16 parish work on roads.	2	6
Edward . . . 14 breaking stones for parish	2	0

Total earnings and allowance . . . 9 10

Paid 1s. for her cottage, which contained three rooms, all on the ground; two of these rooms were built of wood. Fuel was very dear.

	£.	s.	d.
Widow, washing	0	3	0
Joseph, factory	0	8	0
David, ditto	0	8	0
Benjamin, ditto	0	5	0
Edward, ditto	0	3	0
From son-in law.	0	1	0

Total . . . £1 8 0

Pays 2s. 6d. per week for a good cottage, with four rooms, and every convenience. Her son-in-law and his family live with her. Would not go back to Bucks if offered 10l. Had not food to eat there, but has as much as she wishes here.

68. Son-in-law of Mary Mines, James Bick, aged 24; migrated with his wife and two children, from Prince's Risborough.

Was on the road, working for the parish, and earned 5s. 6d. per week.

Paid 1s. for a similar cottage to that of his mother-in-law.

Now earns 12s. as labourer. His wife is not well, and the children are not old enough to earn anything.

Is quite satisfied.

Mary Mines has written to a daughter-in-law to encourage her to come hither, and Blick has also written to several of his friends and relations, and earnestly entreated that they might be received into work if they came.

STAYLEY BRIDGE. Messrs. William Bayley & Brothers.

69. James Hickman, aged 32; migrated with his wife and five children from Prince's Risborough.

He was a hawker, and earned 8s. per week. His wife had no employment. James, aged 12; Richard, aged 11; Suzy, aged 9; Thomas, aged 5; and George, aged 2, earned nothing.

He paid 1s. 6d. weekly for the rent of a cottage, containing three rooms, and much inferior to the cottage he now lives in.

He is now employed as a labourer, and earns 14s. His wife keeps house at home. James earns in the factory, 3s. 6d.; and Richard also, 3s. 6d., though their contract with Mr. Bayley was for 3s. per week.

Has three lodgers in his house, and receives 4s. 6d. towards his rent from them.

He pays 3s. 1d. weekly rent. Fuel is much cheaper here than in Buckinghamshire. He obtains better food, and more of it. Has written to advise a sister, who has a large family, to come; and he would recommend all labourers, with large families, to leave Buckinghamshire and come hither. The workpeople here behave very well to him; and his employers advanced money on his arrival to enable him to buy furniture, and have also advanced the wages of his two children. He would have come hither sooner had he known how much better this country was for a labouring man than Buckinghamshire.

70. William Wootton, aged 44; migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife and five children, but he has eight children living; two of his children he left in Bucks, but he has written for them, and they are coming hither, and the other child is in London.

He was employed in Buckinghamshire as a farmer's labourer, and earned 6s. per week. His wife earned nothing.

John, aged 15, was on the parish roads, and earned 2s. 6d. per week.

Sarah, aged 13, was employed in lace-making, and earned 10d. per week.

Ann, aged 4, was too young to work.

These were all the children who lived with him at Bucks. Another girl (Betsy, aged 15) was at service, but brought no wages to the family, and she is now here.

William, aged 24, was married, and lived separately from the family, in Bucks.

	£.	s.	d.	
William Wootton now earns as a labourer	0	14	0	per week.
Betsy earns in factory	0	7	0	ditto.
John . . ditto	0	6	6	ditto.
Sarah . . ditto	0	2	4	ditto.

Total weekly earnings . . £1 9 10

He had no rent to pay in Bucks, because he lived in a parish cottage which stood upon "the waste," but which "was not fit for a hog to live in." The windows of this hovel were all broken out, and the thatch let in rain. It had a fire-place and oven, but no other convenience. Had two beds only for his family.

He now pays 3s. a week for a comfortable cottage. His son, with his son's wife and child now lodge with him, and pay him 3s. per week towards the rent, for house-room and nursing the child. He considers himself, therefore, rent-free. Fuel is cheaper here; food is about the same price as in Bucks.

His cottage is a very good one, containing four rooms and excellent conveniences. He speaks of it with marked satisfaction.

On his arrival, his master advanced money to him, to enable him to buy furniture. The work-people are very neighbourly, and his employers kind.

When the examination of this man was closed, and he was told he might retire, he turned round in the act of doing so, and said, "I tell you what, sir, I would not wish to break the laws of the country do you see, but I would rather be transported to Van Diemen's Land, than go back to that there bungling parish of mine."

He has written to his wife's brother, to tell him how "well he is off," and he expects his two other sons next Tuesday.

71. William Wootton, aged 24; migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife and one child.

He had been a farmer's labourer in Buckinghamshire, and had earned 5s. or 6s. a week there. His wife earned nothing, and their child was only 10 months old.

He now earns as a labourer 14s. per week, and his wife obtains 6s. 3d. per week by factory occupation. Total 20s. 3d. per week. He pays his father 3s. for the nursing of his child and for rent. With the rest of his earnings he can obtain plenty of food; and he has been well treated by the work-people and by his masters, and is very glad indeed that he came hither.

72. George Stephens, aged 40, migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife and six children. He left a daughter in service in Buckinghamshire. The previous weekly earnings of his family were,

	s.	d.
George Stephens, the father, as farmer's labourer.	7	0
His wife	nothing.	
Rebecca aged 15, at the lace-pillow	1	0
William . . . 14, at farmer's work	2	0
Jemima . . . 13, at the lace-pillow	0	6
Thomas . . . 10	earned nothing.	
George . . . 6	ditto.	
The family now earn every week :	£.	s. d.
George, the father, as labourer	0	14 7
William, in the factory	0	6 0
Jemima, ditto	0	3 6
Rebecca, ditto	0	3 0

Total . . . £1 7 1

Though he laboured for a farmer at Prince's Risborough, he and his

family lived in the parish workhouse. He now pays 3s. 1d. weekly rent for a good cottage.

73. Joseph Rance, aged 34; migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife and four children.

The weekly earnings of his family in Bucks were,		s.	d.
Joseph, the father, by working on the roads for the parish, earned	}	6	0
His wife at lace-making		1	0
William, aged 11			had no work.
James . . . 9			ditto.
Emma . . . 13, lace-making		1	6
Thomas . . . 2			nothing.
Total		8	6

The present weekly earnings of this family are :

	s.	d.
Joseph, father, as labourer	14	0
William, in the factory	2	0
James ditto	2	0
Emma ditto	3	6

He pays 3l. 3s. annual rent in Bucks; and now paid 3s. 1d. per week. He has a very good cottage, which he describes to be similar to those of the other immigrants.

74. John Dean, aged 18; migrated from Prince's Risborough.

He is an orphan. He earned 7s. per week as a bricklayer's labourer, in Buckinghamshire, whereas he now earns 12s. per week. He paid 1s. per week for lodging in Bucks; he now pays 1s. 6d.

William Hives, aged 17; migrated from Prince's Risborough.

His father is dead. His mother is still in the workhouse at Prince's Risborough, and he was himself in the workhouse. He now earns 12s. per week as a labourer.

75. James Curtis, aged 29; migrated from Prince's Risborough.

Having heard of the good fortune of his neighbours, he came hither to seek employment, and earns 14s. per week as a labourer. He had formerly been a gentleman's servant, but had recently lived with his father. His father and he "were very badly off." He hopes by good conduct to obtain the confidence of his employers, and thus obtain a place in some respectable family as house servant.

MELLOR, in Derbyshire. Mr. Clayton's mill.

76. Mr. Clayton expressed great satisfaction with the docility and good conduct of his new work-people. He would not have one Irishman at Mellor on any account. His mill is in a secluded situation, and he has taken great care to select good hands. He thinks he could not keep Irish workmen in subordination, and considers them decidedly inferior workmen. His new hands from Bedfordshire are very gentle in their manners, and have acquired a knowledge of their employment with great rapidity. Mr. Clayton is quite satisfied with their whole demeanour.

The mill is situated in a most romantic valley, and the cottages of the work-people are scattered over the neighbouring hills, in very healthy situations.

77. Philip Peddor, aged 39; migrated from Cranfield, near Bedford, with his wife and six children, five of whom are here.

The family earned, respectively, in Bedfordshire, as follows:

	s.	d.
Philip (the father) as farmer's labourer	7	0 per week.
His wife, in lace-making	1	0 ditto.
Mary, aged 19, ditto	1	6 ditto.
Sarah 16, ditto	2	6 ditto.
Thomas 14, as ploughbo	2	6 ditto.
Betsy 9, in lace-making	0	10 ditto.
Philip 4, nothing.		
Henry 22, was married, and lived separately from the family.		

His rent in Bedfordshire was 3*l.* a year. He had a large garden, also, for which he paid 8*l.* annually, but he thinks he did not make money by it.

His cottage was ruinous; it was thatched, and had a rough broken brick floor. It contained four rooms, and was built on "the waste," with wood.

Fuel was very scarce indeed in Bedfordshire, but is very plentiful and cheap here.

	s.	d.
He now earns, as a farmer's labourer	12	0 per week.
His wife is in the factory, and obtains	5	0 ditto.
Mary, aged 19, is deformed and feeble; she keeps the house clean, cooks the meals, and employs her leisure in picking cotton, by which she can now earn 1 <i>s.</i> per week, but when she has acquired more skill will be able to earn more.		
Sarah, aged 19, works in the factory, and earns	5	0 ditto.
Thomas, aged 14, . . . ditto . . . ditto	4	6 ditto.
Betsy, aged 9, . . . ditto . . . ditto	2	6 ditto.
Total earnings of family	30 <i>s.</i>	per week.

He pays 1*s.* 8*d.* weekly rent for a large cottage, containing three lofty rooms, which are provided with every convenience he requires. Provisions are about the same price here as in Bedfordshire. Furniture is rather dearer; but clothes and fuel are much cheaper. He was nearly starved in Bedfordshire, but all the family have plenty to eat and drink here.

He says he would "rather cross the sea than go back into Bedfordshire." He feels much stronger himself, but does not see so much progress in the rest of the family. He has written to Cranfield to induce his friends to migrate, and expects that 12 of them will come over very soon. He told them, when he wrote, that "if they would not come, they deserved to be starved in Bedfordshire." He says, he has heard that some very foolish reports have been spread in Bedfordshire concerning their condition here, but that the family was never so happy before.

78. Thomas Clarke, aged 39; migrated from Cranfield, Bedfordshire, with his wife, aged 39, and four children, leaving one son, aged 18, in Bedfordshire.

The members of his family earned respectively, at Cranfield, as follows:

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Thomas, the father, as farmer's labourer	7	0	per week.
His wife, at the lace-pillow	1	0	ditto.
Joseph, aged 18, did not live with his father.			
Thomas 13, as ploughboy	1	0	ditto.
James 9,	✓		earned nothing.
Edward 7,			ditto.
George 4,			ditto.
Total	9	0	per week.

He paid 3*l.* annual rent for a cottage much inferior to that for which he now pays 1*s.* 7*d.* a week. In this cottage he has four rooms, and excellent conveniences of every kind. He expects to be made waggoner immediately, and earn 16*s.* per week.

The present earnings of the family are, at this moment, however, as follows:

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Thomas (father), earns, as labourer	12	0	per week.
His wife keeps the house.			
Thomas works in the factory, and earns	4	6	ditto.
James . . . ditto . . . ditto	3	0	ditto.

He was starving in Bedfordshire on 9*s.* 6*d.* per week; he has now 19*s.* 6*d.* weekly, and finds fuel much cheaper here, whilst there is no material difference in the price of food. He has found the work-people very civil, and his employers exceedingly kind.

The earnings of his family will soon amount to 23*s.* 6*d.* per week. His improved diet has increased his strength; he hopes he shall be able to do his master's service greater justice than he could at first. He would strongly advise his friends to remove into Lancashire, and has sent to many of them messages to this effect. He intends to take his son from the service of a clergyman in B—, and have him brought hither.

79. William Rogers, aged 37; migrated from Cranfield, Bedfordshire, with his wife, aged 24, and two children.

He earned in Bedfordshire 5*s.* per week, as a farmer's labourer; and his son John, aged 12 (by a first wife), earned 1*s.* per week; Mary, aged 11, could get about 4*d.* a week at the lace-pillow.

He paid 1*s.* per week for a pretty good cottage.

The family now earn as follows:

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
William (father), as a farmer's labourer	12	0	per week.
John, at the factory	4	6	ditto.
Mary ditto	3	0	ditto.
His wife is ill, and keeps the house.			

He pays 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly rent for a comfortable cottage.

He says, "The parish officers gave me 50*s.* to pay for new furniture when I came here, but if they would take me back free of expense, and give me 50 sovereigns when I got into Bedfordshire, I would not go; for I was starving, and I have now plenty of food and a good master to work for."

He has written to his friends to induce them to come, and hopes

that some of his near relatives will. Mr. Clayton gave all the families a load of coals each on their arrival, and charged them nothing at all for the first nine days' rent. He also offered to lend them money to enable them to buy furniture.

80. Thomas Wright, aged 32; migrated from Cranfield, in Bedfordshire, with his wife and four children.

	s.	d.
He was a farmer's labourer, and earned	7	0 per week.
His wife obtained by working at the lace-pillow	1	0 ditto.
James, aged 13, was a ploughboy, and earned	1	6 ditto.
Jowel 12,		had no work.
Jane 7,		earned nothing.
Jezebel was only six months old,		

Total earnings . . . 9 6 weekly.

He paid 2*l.* 5*s.* annual rent for a very miserable cottage. "His present cottage is a gentleman's house to that." Fuel was very dear there, but is cheap here.

	s.	d.
The family now earn as follows:		
Thomas (father), as labourer	12	0 per week.
His wife keeps house for the rest.		
James is in the factory, and earns . . .	4	6 ditto.
Jowel ditto ditto	4	6 ditto.

Total . . . 21 0 weekly.

He pays 1*s.* 7*d.* weekly rent for a very good cottage, containing four large and lofty rooms, and furnished with an oven, with slopstones, and with other desirable cottage conveniences. If the parish officers came to offer him 20*l.* or 30*l.* or 40*l.* he would not go back. He "remembers the fear of starving too well for that. That is," he adds, "a country in what I call a starvation state; but we have plenty here, and the master behaves like a gentleman to us."

Heywood, small town eight miles from Manchester. Messrs. Cleggs and Halls' mill.

81. Two families migrated hither eight months ago.

William Smith, aged 53; migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife, two of his own children, and two children belonging to a neighbour, one of which has lost its mother, the other its father. These children were sent with him by the parish.

He had been working in Berkshire at paper-making, but had lost his place two or three months before he left Prince's Risborough, and had been working on the roads for the parish, for some time before he came away, at 10*d.* a day. His wife earned at the lace-pillow, 10*d.* to 1*s.* per week; Thomas, aged 14, earned nothing; Ann, aged 11, obtained at the lace-pillow, about 10*d.* per week.

The two neighbour's children:—Thomas Hardman, aged 15, earned nothing, but was at home with his father. John Bristol, had neither allowance nor earnings; lived with his mother.

He paid 1*s.* 9*d.* rent for a good slated cottage, containing four rooms. Fuel was dear. He finds little difference in the price of provisions. Bacon is, however, cheaper here.

His family now earns as follows :

William (father) as labourer, 14s. per week, will get 15s.; his wife keeps the house.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Thomas earns in factory	3 0	will earn	5 0 2d year, 6 0 3d year.
Ann ditto	3 0	ditto	4 0 ditto 5 0 ditto.
Thomas Hardman	3 0	ditto	4 6 ditto 5 6 ditto.

This young man pays his earnings to Smith, and is considered one of his family.

John Bristol earns, as a labourer, 12s. per week, and will soon get 14s. He may even earn 30s. per week at brick-making. He pays Smith 6s. a week for board, lodging and washing.

The earnings of Smith's family, therefore, are 23s., and he receives 6s. from Bristol, making total earnings 29s. per week.

He pays 2s. weekly rent. He has a better house than at Prince's Risborough. It contains four rooms, is well-built and comfortable, and is furnished with an oven and other conveniences. The work-people are civil; and his employers "behave better to him, than any people he had to do with in the south."

He could not be tempted to go back "if his parish paid his expenses, and gave him 20*l.* or 30*l.* to boot."

Has a daughter married at Whiteleaf, to whom he has written, telling her "how well off he is."

82. William Clarke, aged 45; migrated from Prince's Risborough with his wife and 10 children.

He worked on the roads for the parish, and was paid 8s. per week wages. The parish also paid the rent of his cottage. He had been five years on the parish. Had worked 17 years and eight months in Oxfordshire, for Mr. David Hyatt, at paper-making, till his master failed. His wife earned nothing.

Philip, aged 20, his eldest son, suffered from bad sight and ill health, and did not work.

He lived in the poor-house.

Elizabeth sometimes worked at lace-making, but was out of work when they left Bedfordshire.

	s. d.
Charles, aged 16, earned at farmer's work	3 0 per week.
Abraham 14, ditto	2 6 ditto.
Sally 12, at lace-making	0 6 ditto.
George 10, earned nothing.	
James 8, ditto.	
Ann, 6, ditto.	
Thomas 4, too young to work.	
John 2, ditto.	

The total earnings of the family were 14s. per week.

He had his cottage free five weeks before he came away; before which time he paid 1s. 3*d.* per week for it. It contained two rooms only; the rain came in through the thatch. The floor was mud; the boards of the upper story very bad, and the cottage itself a wretched hovel, built on "the waste;" the windows broken; and in the winter it could not shelter him from the inclemency of the season. Fuel was dear. Coals were five miles distant from his hut, and his scanty fire

consisted chiefly of sticks gathered in the woods, which were never lighted excepting to cook his meals.

His present earnings and those of his family are as follows :

William, (father), as labourer, 10s.; will get 12s. Wife keeps the house.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Philip, in factory,	4	0	will earn	8	0	second year;	15	0
						25s. afterwards.		
Charles	4	0	ditto	8	0	ditto	8	0
						15s. afterwards; then		
Elizabeth	6	0	ditto	8	0	ditto	8	0
						third year.		
Abraham	3	0	ditto	4	0	ditto	5	0
						ditto.		
Sally	3	0	ditto	4	0	ditto	5	0
						ditto.		

Total 30s. per week; and George will soon be able to work.

He pays 2s. 4d. weekly rent for a very good cottage, containing four rooms, and furnished with an oven, a boiler, and other cottager conveniences. The work-people are very "neighbourly; he could not wish better treatment."

His employers have behaved with very great kindness to him. They have advanced him money to enable him to buy furniture, and he is now very comfortable.

He has better food, and his strength has much improved since his arrival. Has not yet written to his friends at High Wycombe. He "has a good old father and mother there whom he would like to assist if they were in this country, and by-and-bye he hopes to be able to send them something."

The children are all very happy, and like their place, and he is perfectly contented because they are so well off. The family could not be persuaded to return.

83. I was unable to visit Quarry-bank, near Winslow, in order to inspect the condition of the labourers' families who have settled there; but being acquainted with the Messrs. Greys, I can confidently affirm, that the condition of the workmen committed to their care must be at least equal in every respect to that of those whom I have seen elsewhere.

84. Mr. Grey was so polite as to furnish me with the following account of the earnings and condition of their families:

"Quarry-bank, 20th July 1835.

"Feb. 3.—John Howlett's Agreement:

"24s. per week for the first year; 27s. per week for the second year.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
"John Howlett, employed as foreman, aged 38	12	0	weekly wages.		
Mary Ann . . . factory	16	4	6 ditto.		
Ann . . . ditto	14	3	6 ditto.		
Celia . . . ditto	12	2	6 ditto.		
Timothy . . . ditto	10	1	6 ditto.		
No young children.			24	0	

"John Stevens' Agreement:

"26s. per week for the first year; 29s. per week for the second year.

		s.	d.	
" John Stevens, labourer, aged 38 .	12	0	wages per week.	
Elizabeth . factory . 18 .	6	0	ditto.	
Rebeckah . ditto . 14 .	3	6	ditto.	
James . ditto . 12 .	3	0	ditto.	
Mary . ditto . 10 .	1	6	ditto.	

Five younger children. 26 0

" March 19.—Hannah Veasy's Agreement :

" 20s. per week for the first year ; 23s. per week for the second year.

		s.	d.	
" Hannah Veasy, widow.				
Samuel . factory, aged 18 .	7	0	wages per week.	
Fanny . ditto . 16 .	6	0	ditto.	
Henry . ditto . 14 .	3	6	ditto.	
Joseph . ditto . 12 .	2	1	ditto.	
Mary . ditto . 10 .	1	5	ditto.	

One boy eight years old. 20 0

" Each of the above families occupies a house with two rooms up stairs, and two rooms on the ground floor, also a garden ; rent 2s. 6d. per week. At Bledlow the men had 6s., 7s., and 8s. per week as labourers, and during the hay season could earn 30s. to 40s. at mowing from home ; average about 10s. per week throughout the year.

" With regard to the earnings of the children, we understood from them, when they first came, that their work, as lace-makers, brought them 6d. to 1s. per week each. On questioning them the other day, they stated 4s. per week each to be the amount they could earn by working eight hours per day.

" Of the 13 hands now working in the mill, five are in the spinning-rooms, and the best can scarcely take care of one side. One is in the reeling-room, and if on piece-work, could earn 4s. or 4s. 6d., when ordinary hands earn 7s. to 7s. 6d., and good hands 9s. 6d. to 10s. One boy in the scutching-room is worth his wages ; six are in the card rooms or carrying rovings."

85. The concluding remarks of Mr. Greg's statement, show the Commissioners that the new immigrants cannot for some time acquire the skill requisite to render their labour valuable to their masters, the system of engaging them by contract seems to be, therefore, that which may eventually prove most useful to both parties. By this means the immigrants will, on their arrival, receive greater wages than their deficiency in skill would warrant, if the agreement did not extend to a period when they might be expected to have acquired the requisite tact and address ; and, on the other hand, they will, by contracts, be prevented from throwing themselves too suddenly into the midst of the masses of city population, where they would be subjected to many pernicious agencies, the influence of which they may escape in the country establishments. Nevertheless, it appears desirable that the fullest information should be afforded the immigrants concerning the wages which they may ultimately hope to obtain, and which are ordinarily earned by skilful workmen in the trade.

86. For this purpose I subjoin a statement of the weekly rates of wages paid to the under-mentioned descriptions of workmen in Man-

chester, in the year 1832, from an average founded on facts collected by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce :

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Spinners, men	20	0	to	25 0
" women	10	0	to	15 0
Stretchers	25	0	to	26 0
Piecers (boys and girls)	4	7	to	7 0
Scavengers	1	6	to	2 8

In the Card-room :

Men	14	6	to	17 0
Young women	9	0	to	9 6
Children	6	0	to	7 0
Throstle spinners	5	0	to	9 6
Reelers	7	0	to	9 0

Weavers by Power :

Men	13	0	to	16 10
Women	8	0	to	12 0
Dressers' men	28	0	to	30 0
Winders and Warpers	8	0	to	11 0
Mechanics	24	0	to	26 0

Weaving by Hand :

Quality.	Woven by			
Nankeens, fancy	men	9	0	to 15 0
" common	children and women	6	0	to 8 0
" best	men	10	0	to 13 0
Checks	fancy	7	0	to 7 6
" common	children	6	0	to 7 0
Cambrics	all ages	6	0	to 6 6
Quiltings	men and women	9	0	to 12 0
Fustian cutters	all ages	10	0	to 12 0
Machine makers	men	26	0	to 30 0
Iron founders	men	28	0	to 30 0
Dyers and dressers	men	15	0	to 20 0
Ditto	ditto	12	0	to 14 0
Ditto	ditto	5	0	to 10 0
Tailors, men		18	0	
Porters		14	0	to 15 0
Packers		20	0	
Shoemakers		15	0	to 16 0
Whitesmiths		22	0	to 24 0
Sawyers		24	0	to 28 0
Carpenters		24	0	
Stonemasons		18	0	to 22 0
Bricklayers		17	0	to 20 0
Bricklayers' labourers		12	0	
Painters		18	0	
Slaters		3	8	per day.
Plasterers		19	0	to 21 0
Spademen		10	0	to 15 0

87. To this statement I append, further, an account of the Prices of Provisions in the town of Manchester, in each year from 1826 to 1832, both inclusive ; also the result of the labours of the Chamber of Commerce of that town :

		1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef, best*	per lb.	0	6½	0	6	0	6½	0	6
„ coarse	ditto	0	4½	0	4	0	3½	0	3½
Bacon	ditto	0	7½	0	8	0	7½	0	7
Bread-flour	per 12 lbs.	2	5	2	5	2	7	2	6
„ wheaten	per lb.				0	1½	0	2	0
Cheese	ditto	0	7½	0	7½	0	6½	0	8
Malt	per 9 lbs.	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	4
Meal	per 10 lbs.	1	7½	1	8½	1	5	1	6
Potatoes†	per 252 lbs.	9	9	4	9	5	8	6	6
Pork	per lb.	0	6½	0	7	0	6½	0	5½

86. Having thus given the wages of labour and the prices of provisions in town I am further enabled by my friend, Mr. Thomas Ashton, of Hyde, to show what are the earnings of the FAMILIES employed in his mills, according to an average of 12 weeks, taken in the year 1833; and in a second table, to exhibit the wages earned by all persons in his employ at the SEVERAL AGES therein stated, the sexes being distinguished. The evidence collected from the immigrants, together with these statements of wages, &c., will enable the labourers of the southern rural districts to perceive what positive advantages are within their reach, if they have the energy to seek them.

89. Such has been the estimation in which these advantages have been held by labourers in the neighbouring counties and rural districts, that the population of the township of Hyde, in which Mr. Ashton's mills are situated, has increased from 830, its amount in 1801, to 1,806, the amount in 1811; and thence to 3,355 in 1821; and 7,138 in 1831, of which at least 5,000 must, according to calculations founded on the rate of natural increase in Great Britain and Ireland, have been the result of direct immigration.

WEEKLY WAGES EARNED BY FAMILIES.

90. A LIST of 119 FAMILIES, Tenants of Mr. Thomas Ashton of Hyde, and employed by him at Carr-field and Bayley-field Mills, in Hyde and Newton, showing the number of their Families and their average Weekly Earnings, ending the 23d day of March, 1833.

NAMES.	No. of Family.	Average Weekly Earnings.	NAMES.	No. of Family.	Average Weekly Earnings.
		£. s. d.			£. s. d.
Armitage, Thomas . . .	7	2 15 0	Brought forward . . .	52	17 3 4
Ashton, William . . .	4	1 18 4	Bagshaw, Samuel . . .	2	1 8 8
Ashley, John . . .	5	1 5 0	Broadhurst, Aaron . . .	2	1 10 0
Ainsworth, John . . .	8	2 1 8	Broadbent, Samuel . . .	8	2 5 0
Arundale, Joseph . . .	9	2 16 8	Broadbent, Thomas . . .	8	2 15 0
Barker, John . . .	6	2 5 0	Britnor, Enoch . . .	10	2 1 8
Booth, John and Mat- thew (two families)	13	4 1 8	Bussey, John . . .	8	2 0 4
Carried forward . . .	52	17 3 4	Barnes, Henry . . .	4	1 3 4
			Beeley, John . . .	7	4 5 0
			Carried forward . . .	101	34 12 4

* Contract prices at the Royal Infirmary.

† Contract prices at the workhouse. The other prices are such as were charged by the retail shop-keepers.

NAMES.	No. of Family.	Average Weekly Earnings.	NAMES.	No. of Family.	Average Weekly Earnings.
		£. s. d.			£. s. d.
Brought forward . . .	101	34 12 4	Brought forward . . .	473	160 0 0
Bradley, Joseph . . .	8	2 5 0	Murray, Hugh . . .	8	2 10 0
Bredbury, William . . .	2	1 5 0	Newton, William . . .	9	2 10 0
Barlow, James . . .	11	3 16 8	Newton, Samuel . . .	4	1 10 0
Bramwell, George . . .	7	2 8 4	Newton, Charles . . .	6	1 18 4
Beard, Thomas . . .	8	3 3 4	Nuttall, James . . .	6	4 10 0
Broadbent, John . . .	8	2 15 0	North, John . . .	11	4 15 0
Brown, George . . .	8	2 6 8	Owen, James and		
Brogdant, James . . .	5	1 10 0	Thos. (two families)	10	3 0 0
Beardsell, Joseph . . .	9	2 11 8	Ormerod, Thomas . . .	8	2 18 4
Bent, Betty . . .	7	1 15 0	Oldham, Charles . . .	9	2 11 8
Crinnion, Henry . . .	6	1 8 4	Peel, Richard . . .	5	1 11 8
Chapman, Matthew . . .	6	1 6 8	Platt, Robert . . .	11	2 0 0
Crawshaw, Richard . . .	6	2 13 4	Penny, William . . .	5	2 5 0
Crompton, Isaac . . .	8	3 1 8	Pendlebury, John . . .	12	3 0 0
Dobson, James . . .	6	1 11 8	Ryley, Joseph . . .	11	2 13 4
Darlington, Ralph . . .	10	3 1 8	Roscoe, Thomas . . .	5	1 6 8
Draper, Noah . . .	12	3 10 0	Ravenscroft, Nancy . . .	5	1 6 8
Darnley, Ann . . .	3	1 5 0	Redfern, John . . .	9	5 8 4
Ecroyde, Abram . . .	8	2 11 8	Redfern, Josiah . . .	3	1 8 8
Foster, John . . .	6	1 19 8	Redfern, James . . .	5	1 18 4
Foulstone, Joseph . . .	8	3 0 0	Rowbotham, Joseph . . .	5	2 15 0
Foster, Joseph . . .	6	2 10 0	Rayner, John . . .	8	2 16 8
Fletcher, George . . .	7	2 16 8	Rayner, Joseph . . .	6	2 16 8
Flitcroft, James . . .	8	2 15 0	Rayner, Robert . . .	9	3 6 8
Grainger, John . . .	9	2 11 8	Sedgewick, John . . .	8	2 16 8
Hall, John . . .	11	5 11 8	Smith, John . . .	5	2 13 4
Harrison, Thomas . . .	15	3 3 4	Seville, George . . .	6	2 8 4
Hibbert, John . . .	5	0 18 4	Slater, James . . .	4	1 7 0
Heathcotte, Matthew . . .	5	1 13 0	Schofield, Jacob . . .	6	1 13 4
Heelis, George . . .	7	1 10 0	Seddon, Robert . . .	6	1 16 8
Hoyle, John . . .	11	2 8 4	Schofield, John . . .	10	3 6 8
Hague, William . . .	4	1 11 8	Slater, John . . .	4	1 0 0
Hunt, James . . .	3	2 3 4	Simpson, Henry . . .	10	3 15 0
Hadfield, Edward . . .	7	2 0 0	Thomas, Solomon . . .	8	1 13 4
Hollins, Josiah . . .	6	2 8 4	Taylor, Worsley . . .	10	3 8 4
Hartley, Richard . . .	3	1 18 4	Taylor, Joseph . . .	8	1 10 0
Hegginbotham, Jane . . .	9	3 6 8	Tempest, Joseph . . .	8	3 11 8
Hargreaves, John . . .	9	1 16 8	Taylor, James . . .	6	2 13 4
Higginbotham, Alice . . .	9	1 18 4	Wragg, Adam . . .	11	3 10 0
Jackson, William and			Walker, James . . .	13	3 10 0
Thos. (two families)	6	3 10 0	Wynne, Patrick . . .	7	2 6 8
Kidd, Henry . . .	5	0 15 0	Whiteley, Jeremiah . . .	7	1 15 0
Kerfoot, John . . .	6	2 0 0	White, George . . .	8	3 1 8
Kershaw, William . . .	9	1 18 4	Whittaker, Thomas . . .	7	2 1 8
Leaver, Robert . . .	10	2 10 0	Williams, Thomas . . .	4	1 5 0
Leigh, David, sen. . .	8	6 5 0	Whitehead, Samuel . . .	9	2 18 4
Leigh, David, jun. . .	3	2 6 8	Wyatt, Thomas . . .	8	3 18 4
Leech, John and Wm.			Watson, Gabriel . . .	7	2 13 4
(two families) . . .	16	4 8 4	Wilde, James . . .	7	1 11 8
Mellor, George and			Wilde, Richard . . .	3	1 15 0
Jonathan (two fam-			Yates, George . . .	2	2 1 8
alies) . . .	15	5 11 8			
Mottram, John . . .	8	3 15 0			
Carried forward . . .	473	160 0 0	Total Weekly Average		
			in 12 Weeks, ending	835	286 19 0
			as above . . .		

WAGES EARNED AT VARIOUS AGES OF EACH SEX.

91. A LIST of the Number, Age, Sex, and Average Weekly Wages or Earnings, of all descriptions of Hands, employed by Mr. *Thomas Ashton*, at the before-mentioned Mills, and at Gee-cross Mill in Werneth, taken 25th March, 1833.

AGE.	Males.	Average Weekly Wages or Earnings.	Amount.	Females.	Average Weekly Wages or Earnings.	Amount.	Grand Total of Wages or Earnings.
From 9 to 10 Years ...	27	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
10—12 ...	48	0 2 10	3 16 6	32	2 9	4 8 0	8 4 6
12—14 ...	55	0 3 7	8 12 0	53	3 6	9 5 6	17 17 6
14—16 ...	47	0 5 9	15 16 3	73	5 8	20 13 8	36 9 11
16—18 ...	63	0 7 6	17 12 6	59	7 5	21 17 7	39 10 1
18—21 ...	49	0 8 10	27 16 6	73	8 6	31 0 6	59 17 0
21 and upwards...	234	0 11 6	28 3 6	68	11 4	38 10 8	66 14 9
		1 4 6	286 13 0	295	13 0	131 15 0	478 8 0
Total Males...	523						
Total Females...	653			653			£206 1 2
	1,176	average 12s. per week.					

Joseph Tucker, Book-keeper.

92. I have further to offer the Commissioners, in a separate Report some remarks on the details which it may be useful to observe in constructing a plan for affording, with due caution, facilities to the southern workmen to offer their labour to the cotton district of Lancashire. My remarks will tend to show that the Commissioners would sufficiently promote this object by removing those unnatural obstacles to the free migration of labour, created by the perversion of the Poor Laws, and by diffusing that information which this pernicious state of things has shut out from the rural districts of the south of England.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

JAMES PHILLIPS KAY.

Assist. Poor Law Commr.

APPENDIX (C).

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD.

— No. 1. —

LETTER from HATFIELD BROAD OAK, Essex, near Sawbridgeworth,
Herts.

SIR,

September 12, 1834.

WE, the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak, having had our attention called to a letter advertised in the London newspapers by order of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners, have this day submitted it to the parishioners in vestry, who, having taken it into their serious consideration, have desired us to make to you the following communication of their deliberations.

Before we proceed to notice the information which the Board of Commissioners is desirous of obtaining from us, we are authorized to say, in behalf of the parish, that we will pay every attention to the wishes of the Commissioners respecting future contracts as to the appointment of paid officers. At the present moment there are only two parochial contracts existing, one with the medical officer, who engages to supply medicines and attendance to the poor of the parish at 50*l.* per annum, which engagement expires at Lady-day, 1835; the other with the master of the poor-house, which is determinable at any moment, the engagement for three months having expired, and the same arrangement continuing only until it is revoked by an order from the vestry. The master of the workhouse is a paid officer, as vestry-clerk, at the rate of 10*l.* per annum. We will also, as far as we are able, take care that, until the rules of the Commissioners are promulgated, the general transaction of parochial business should, with strict attention to economy, be continued in the accustomed course, subject to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and in reference to the frequent attendances recommended for ordering the relief to the poor, we beg to state that, together with the principal inhabitants of the parish, though not formed as a select vestry, we meet every Saturday in committee for that especial purpose, and meet the first Wednesday in every month. We now come to the question of the Poor Law Commissioners, whether any evils exist for the removal of which the powers of the Commissioners are available; and here we deem it right to lay before the Board the precise condition of the parish, in order that they may be in possession of the difficulties which press upon it, in the hope of its alleviation. Respecting the improvement of their poor population, that difficulty is the want of labour for the employment of the supernumerary poor. It is according to the truth to assert, that there are between 60 and 70 able-bodied persons who, independently of the regular labourers employed on the farms in the autumn and the winter months, require work, and who must be maintained out of the poor rates by a pecuniary and weekly assistance, if the parish cannot supply them with it; thus themselves devouring the bread of idleness, while they inflict upon the rate-payers a burthen which they scarcely know how to be able to

bear. It is not necessary for us, Sir, to point to you how great are obvious measures of such a system. We have in the last three years endeavoured to alleviate it; in 1831 and 1832 by hiring land according to the 59 G. III. c. 12. and 1 Will. IV. c. 42, and in the last year by adopting the labour-rate system, which we are prevented from renewing by the expiration of the Act of Parliament. In the first of these three years, when 20 acres were hired, the rates were 8s. in the pound; in the next, when about 40 acres (charity land) were hired, 7s. 6d.; and in the last, when the labour of the supernumerary able-bodied poor was absorbed in the different farms of the landed occupiers, who took men according to the number of the acres of land, 5s. 6d. This is the brief sketch of our parochial condition in the last three years, and the great demand for labour is just commenced, though the parish have not the means of employment, except the little work which may be found in the gravel-pit or highways, and which never can be in great abundance. With sorrow, indeed, the parishioners view their poor men in distress for want of employment, and with reluctance they feel called upon to give them pecuniary relief, when they know that if they had the means they could earn by labour their own living. We are therefore desirous, Sir, of seeking advice from the Board of Commissioners how we ought to act; for our accustomed course, which the Board recommends us to pursue, is at variance with the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act. We do not feel ourselves right in proceeding contrary to that, without the sanction of the Commissioners. We are anxious then to be informed whether our payments to the poor are to be continued on the present footing, and what steps we should take when the supply of labour so far exceeds the demand toward the employment or relief of the superabundant labourers; but, Sir, in seeking such information, we are only guided by the wish of co-operating as much as possible with the intention of the Poor Law Commissioners, and of seeing the labourer placed in a comfortable and industrious position. We shall be ready to give you all information in our power which you may require of us, and we shall hope to hear early from you what are the views and wishes of the Commissioners in reference to our parish, and how we can manage its interest for the best, in the altered condition of the laws for the relief of the poor.

We have, &c.

(signed)	<i>George Francis,</i>	} Churchwardens.
	<i>Stephen Green,</i>	
	<i>John Pavitt,</i>	} Overseers.
	<i>George Porter,</i>	
	<i>Henry Murkin,</i>	
	<i>Richard Matthews,</i>	
	<i>W. P. Mulliner,</i>	Vestry Clerk.

Edwin Chadwick, Esq.
Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners.

— No. 2. —

SECOND LETTER from HATFIELD BROAD OAK, Essex, near Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

Gentlemen,

December 26, 1834.

In compliance with your letter, dated 8th November, I have the honour to lay before your Board some details on Hatfield Broad Oak

parish, with regard to able-bodied paupers who were unable to procure employment. A special meeting was convened on 22d November last by the parishioners, to employ the supernumerary poor of this parish : as regards the able-bodied, be set to work at spade husbandry, and that the charity lands, occupied by the parish until Michaelmas next, be applied to that purpose ; the labourers be employed at task-work ; that in case of the allowance not being sufficient for the maintenance of the family of the married labourer, that the relief to him be given in kind, but on no account, except in cases of particular emergency, in money. On 24th November last the spade husbandry commenced : all the applicants that were able-bodied that could not obtain employment, after strict inquiry being made by the parish officers, were then set to work, and so they now still continue, to the number of 30, part married men and part single. Where there be families, a half peck of flour is given per head to the children in lieu of money, in proportion to their earnings. On 22d November I was appointed to superintend the labourers at the spade husbandry. Having taken the active part with them, although they were at task-work, thought it requisite to keep a strict daily account of their time, which prevented a variety of complaints from them ; for when they first went to work they told me they could not be able to make earnings. Their work I measure every Friday ; they perform each 30 rods weekly, at 2d. per rod. Flour given where family as before stated to children. There being four quarters in the parish, overseer to each ; the spade bills and the cost of flour are presented every Saturday for the inspection of the churchwardens and overseers then assembled, specifying the name of every individual employed upon the spade husbandry, his number of rods dug, his time, and the number of children under 12. Able men and able boys are now employed upon the land. The labourer's conduct is far superior than heretofore in this parish, since a regular system of employment has been found ; they appear all peaceable and quiet. As to the flour given to separate families, I have an observation to make upon that head ; am certain it has been instrumental as to preventing much money being spent at the beer-shops in this parish ; for the flour is given to the labourer's wife, which secures food for the children during the week. This commodity is obtained by the poor themselves, who receive a written order for their quantity of flour to the miller or dealer in the same, they not holding any office whatever in the parish. Poor not confined or compelled to go to any single individual ; they have the chance of having a good article, also weight, by going themselves. As to the workhouse, there be a small number of 25, all disabled with the exception of two, chief of them very aged and infirm ; in fact, entirely past all work ; the two mentioned have to assist the infirm. My motive of not communicating before respecting able-bodied labourers being employed upon the spade, as having the management of them, was desirous to pay strict attention what impression it would make upon them as to task-work and flour. I found them more persevering to have different employment ; several left and went to Wapping to the coal-whipping, and have not returned ; some to Stortford and various places. Last winter and spring also these men were accustomed to come every Saturday morn to the pay-table, where they then obtained the hard cash ; from thence to the beer-shops. I found some difficulty at first with those who had been in the habit of partaking of the bread

of idleness, to keep them at their post. Had I not adopted the plan of checking their time as to days and hours, should not have been able to prove what each man could earn. Those that had been in the habit of frequenting the beer-shops do not approve much of the flour system. Having been several years among them, am well aware who is desirous to be industrious and who is not.

I have, &c.

(Signed) *W. P. Mulliner*, Vestry Clerk.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

— No. 3. —

REPORT from WILLIAM HENRY TOOVEY HAWLEY, Esq. to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Gentlemen,

Hastings, July 4, 1835.

1. My attention has been directed during the last week to the formation of a Union of parishes, having Rye as a centre, on the extreme eastern frontier of the county of Sussex, abutting upon that of Kent. They are 12 in number, viz. Rye, Winchelsea, Brede, Udimore, Icklesham, Beckley, Northiam, Iden, Playden, Peasemars, East Guldeford, and Broomhill. Their local situation, as considered relatively to each other, and the fact of their being the only parishes at the eastern extremity of the county yet ununited, point out the expediency of their incorporation; nor will the circumstance of the towns of Rye and Winchelsea being situate within the jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports interfere with the arrangement. No legal objection exists, and the wishes of the rate-payers, both in the rural and corporate parishes, are universally favourable to it. With these premises I will proceed to describe the state of the parishes severally, and point out such facts as may tend to prove the necessity of an interference of this nature, to check the evils of pauperism, with which all are more or less infected.

2. The town of Rye is within the jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports, and contains a workhouse, convenient for the lodging of the aged and infirm poor, but inapplicable to the reception of able-bodied paupers; there being no space contained within its precincts for the erection of buildings wherein to set them to work,—for which reason a system of workhouse discipline has never been resorted to here, and the aged and children have alone been received into it. I found 46 of these classes in the house, and was much struck on learning that eight out of the number of adults were idiots; and a stout, able young man, labouring under mental derangement, was brought to the house to add to the number whilst I was pursuing my inspection. The house appeared clean, and its inmates decent and orderly. The able paupers are relieved out of the house, and I found 46 of this class, composed of labourers, sailors, and fishermen, receiving relief in a town where trade is flourishing and employment constant. These men are all allowed relief in aid of their earnings, which, if inquired into, would in most cases be found to be more than sufficient to support their families; some sort of scrutiny is indeed attempted, and a scale of relief avoided, but no radical amendment can be expected till a board of guardians shall have instituted full inquiries into the circumstances of every applicant for relief. Rents are paid for some, chiefly the aged, and to

them relief is given in money; the able-bodied have received a large proportion of it in kind since the parish officers received the circular orders from the Board to that effect, and much good is reported to have resulted from this practice. Contrary to my expectations, I found that the flour was contracted for, and distributed from the workhouse. The wages of the labourers in this parish, and in most others of the district, are 13s. 6d. per week. Considerable employment has lately been secured to the labouring poor, from the appropriation of certain revenues of the corporation, amounting to 500*l.* per annum, to the improvement of public works: formerly 400*l.* of this sum was annually expended in feasting; now it is more usefully applied to cleansing the harbour, deepening the basins, keeping the public quays in order, and to various other serviceable purposes, which find employment for numerous hands in the town and neighbourhood.

3. The Labourers' Union Clubs, which lately infested this district, originated at Rye, where they had at one time assumed a formidable attitude; but the firmness and judicious conduct of the farmers in discharging from their services all who joined these meetings, backed by the activity of the magistrates, have caused their total dissolution in this town. The magistracy at present consists of the mayor and nine jurats, who will, *virtute officii*, become guardians under a union of parishes; but a bill, which is now passing through the Houses of Parliament, will in all probability make a material numerical alteration in the magistracy of this and other corporate towns. I have ventured to recommend the appointment of four elected guardians for Rye, a number which your Board may possibly consider it entitled to, when its importance as a town, and the very spirited manner in which the leading rate-payers advocate the cause of the new poor law system, are taken into consideration.

4. Winchelsea, (also within the jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports,) as respects its prosperity, is a melancholy contrast to its last-mentioned and more opulent neighbour. The parish of St. Thomas the Apostle comprehends the whole town. There is a house belonging to the parish, which is used as a mere asylum for a few aged and infirm paupers of both sexes; all relief to the able bodied is therefore administered out of the house, and of these (including their families) there are about 130. When paupers are set to work by the parish, it is the custom to allow them the full wages of the independent labourer, viz. 12s. per week; the like relief is also given to both, amounting to the price of half a gallon of flour for the third child, one gallon for the fourth, and half a gallon each for all above that number. No questions are asked as to the earnings of the free labourer. Relief is distributed entirely in money. No rents are paid, nor is any allowance made for fuel. The mayor and four jurats constitute the magistracy, which will receive, as in the last-mentioned town, a severe blow, from the now pending Act of Parliament.

5. Brede is one of the most important, as well as pauperized, of the country parishes. It was here that the rural disturbances of the year 1831 commenced; and the effects of that commotion are still to be traced in the high wages and exorbitant relief, which, emanating hence, infected the whole district, and still remain a sad proof of the evils attendant on a pusillanimous concession to the illegal and unjust demands of a misguided multitude. About 290 paupers are in the

receipt of parochial relief. The workhouse system is carried partially into effect, under the superintendence of Mr. Abell, the assistant overseer, the same person against whom the paupers directed their vengeance in the before-mentioned disturbances. The house is offered to all the single men, and such as contract improvident marriages, where stone-breaking is provided for them, but very few are found to accept this species of relief. The burthens of the parish chiefly arise from the labourers in employment receiving relief in aid of their wages; and of this class, even at this season of the year, I regret to say there is a large proportion. They, in common with the paupers on parish work, all receive relief for the fourth child, amounting to one gallon and a half of flour, and the same for every child above that number, so it be under 12 years of age. It is distributed entirely in kind. The labourers' wages are 13s. 6d. per week. The workhouse, as far as circumstances will allow, is well conducted, and in a state very creditable to Mr. Abell, who is the governor. The poor-rates in this parish are now 14s. in the pound, on an assessment standing at two-thirds the real value; in the year 1833, they were 21s., and in the year 1834, 17s.

6. In Icklesham, I found no able-bodied paupers entirely on the parish; when this is the case, they are set to work on the roads at day-work, the single men being allowed 1s. per day, the married 1s. 6d., and where they have two children, 2s. A general scale of relief, both to paupers on the parish and in employment, exists; last year relief was given for the third child, but this is now discontinued in favour of the fourth child, for which the pauper receives 1s. 6d., and the like sum for every child in addition. Rents are paid besides in some cases, and relief is given all in money. There is a workhouse here, but in an ineffective state. No able paupers are ever sent to it, and it is inhabited entirely by aged paupers and children.

7. Beckley is one of the most pauperized parishes of the district. This state of things is clearly attributable to the mode of management adopted by the parish officers. Though they have a good workhouse, they never attempt to put that system into effect. Only two able-bodied male paupers are at present residing in it, and no employment is provided for them, or any other of the inmates. Equally faulty is the system pursued with the unmarried paupers out of the house, who, though never set to work, are allowed 1s. 6d. in money, and a gallon of flour per week, and permitted to go where they please. Married paupers out of the workhouse, whether employed or not, receive a gallon and a half of flour for the fourth child, and for the fifth, and all above that number, one gallon per head, whilst they continue under the age of 14. Seven of this class of paupers, with their families, are now entirely dependent upon the parish. Wages are 13s. 6d. per week. The rates for the last year are about 9s. in the pound; the assessment at the full value.

8. There are upwards of 230 paupers receiving relief in the parish of Northiam, chiefly labourers in the employment of farmers. The workhouse, which is of sufficient capacity to accommodate 90 paupers, is chiefly inhabited by children; there are a few aged poor within its walls, and one able-bodied man. The single men when on the parish are allowed victuals from the poorhouse, and no work is exacted from them in return; no employment is ever found for the married men under like circumstances, and they are relieved according to the number of their

previously to the formation of an Union.

family. A man and his wife alone are allowed 6s.; where there child 7s. 6d., where two, 9s., and where three, 10s., and here it stops; it is given all in money. The aged poor out of the receive from 2s. to 2s. 6d. weekly, paying their own rents, and their own fuel. Relief is given by a regular scale, and where in aid of wages is distributed in flour. Wages 13s. 6d. per week.

The redundancy of pauperism in this parish is attributed farmers partly to the circumstance of the rector taking his tithes which depresses agricultural improvement, and prevents the of land from employing so many hands as they otherwise would. poor-rates in the last year were 14s. in the pound; the assess two-thirds the real value.

9. Paupers in the parish of Iden are employed on the roads work, at the rate of 6d. per day under the regular rate of wages applies to both single and married men. A fixed scale of established for the pauper on the parish, and the one in employ is extended to any number of male children under the age of 12, females under 13; and since the Board's circular of 8th Nov distributed partly in kind and partly in money. There is a workhouse in the parish, but not used for the reception of the able-bodied; Wages 13s. 6d. per week. The poor-rates are comparatively being 6s. in the pound, on an assessment standing at three-fourths the real value.

10 Playden has no workhouse. The farmers in this parish come to the resolution of employing all the hands on their farms; has so far reduced pauperism, that only three able-bodied labourers receive relief for their families. The remainder of the parish composed of the aged and children. Relief by scale exists, and given entirely in kind. Rates about 4s. 6d. in the pound, at two-thirds the value. The wages the same as in the before-mentioned parish.

11 Pauperism exists to a great extent in the parish of Peas and though no able men are absolutely on the parish, 20 are relieved in aid of their wages. A scale of relief commencing with a four child is established, and they get a gallon of flour for all 12 years of age. Though there is a workhouse, it is never a test of the actual distress of the able-bodied paupers.

12 The parishes of Udimore and East Guldeford have no workhouse, and relates to pauperism, and the mode of administering relief identified with the parish last mentioned, as to make any pauperism on their state unnecessary.

13 Broomhill is a parish consisting almost entirely of pasture consequently requiring comparatively few hands for its cultivation population therefore is inconsiderable, amounting to only 42 persons and the extent of pauperism is in a like proportion. The parish is partly in the county of Kent, and is within the jurisdiction of the county and part of New Romney. I have made due inquiry as to the effect of an alleged difficulty connected with its locality, which might have been an incorporation with the other parishes intended to form the Rye but find none; and am satisfied that its closer affinity with the other Kentish parishes which surround it, furnishes a strong and valid reason for such incorporation.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Spernet House, London.

W. H. T. HAWLEY,
Assist. Poor Law Com.

Name of the PARISH of DATA

PARISHES PROPOSED TO BE UNITED.	Whether united already.		Receiving Relief from, Irish.		
			Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows, and Children.		
			Men.	Women.	Childr.
Rye	not	2,370	17	51	96
Brede	not	3,611	3	6	5
St. Thomas the Apostle, Winchelsea.	not	724	8	7	.
Udimore	not	1,996	7	2	7
Icklesham	not	5,400	3	.	8
Beckley	not	5,000	9	13	6
Northiam	not	3,593	22	20	9
Iden	not	2,862	5	3	13
Playden	not	1,236	1	1	1
Peasemarshe	not	3,240	5	13	4
East Guldeford	not	2,807	2	3	.
Broomhill (partly in the county of Sussex, and partly in the jurisdiction of the town and port of New Romney, in the county of Kent).	not	1,995	1	1	.
TOTALS		34,834	83	120	149

Extreme length of Union . . .
 Extreme breadth . . .
 Greatest distance of any parish from a
 Workhouse

Lewes

Kent.

PROPOSED QUALIFICATION FOR
 A Rental or Value of £25 or more

for the Formation of a UNION.

Present Number of Paupers receiving Relief from, or Employed by, the Parish.							Workhouse.	Poorhouse.	Cottages, &c.	Containing at present.	Capable of holding		
In-Door.						Without Alteration							
Able-bodied Adult Males.	Able-bodied Adult Females.	Aged, Impotent, and Infirm.		Children under 14.		Total Receiving In-Door Relief.					With all Classes of Inmates.	With only one Class of Inmates.	To what Class it is best adapted.
		M.	F.	Boys.	Girls.								
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.								
.	1	14	5	15	14	49	1	.	.	49	90	100	old
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	20	20	20	.
4	2	5	4	5	8	28	1	.	.	28	100	110	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	50	50	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	22	22	22	.
.	3	3	2	6	4	18	.	1	.	18	30	30	.
2	4	8	5	6	13	38	1	.	9	40	50	50	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	38	50	50	50	.
1	4	4	4	19	6	38	rented.		.	.	.	.	.
.	.	1	1	6	5	13	.	1	.	13	30	30	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	25	25	25	.
.	1	4	3	10	8	26	.	1	4	30	30	30	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26	30	30	30	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	15	.	15	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	14	.	14	.
.
7	15	39	24	67	58	210	.	.	.	353	571	591	.

Declare Union, 7th July.

T. F. L.
J. G. S. L.
G. N.

Date of Deci
Day on whic
Notice to be
Day of Elec
First Meetin
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man in the county of Wilts, as an under-groom, to come into Lancashire, at the rate of 15s. per week, but upon his having time to reflect, and finding that he should no longer receive his parish pay, although that and his former earnings were scarcely half the above sum, he refused to go. I am aware that in the proposed law this will be obviated, by relief not being given to able-bodied men; but I fear sufficient provision is not made for individuals and families to improve their condition, by removing to other parts of the kingdom, when they are willing to do so.

It is often the practice here, if a mill-owner is short of workpeople, to apply to overseers of poor and to workhouses for families supported by the parish: of late this has not always been attended with success.

—*, who are extensive cotton-spinners and manufacturers, having two establishments in Cheshire and three in Lancashire, have, like ourselves, been in this practice many years; and being, this spring, short of hands at most of their establishments, sent a person who had occasionally gone out for them during a period of 20 years to seek families in the neighbouring parishes, but this year he could not find an overseer in all the county of Cheshire who was willing to allow a family to leave his parish, because they said they were beginning to be short of labourers themselves.

Under the new poor law, workhouses are to be provided in districts, all under one system of management and general superintendence of commissioners; the cost of maintenance will then be much the same in every workhouse. If employment can more readily be found in one county than another, I would propose that it be in the power of the commissioners to recommend families who are willing to be transferred from one workhouse to another, the former paying the latter workhouse the cost of maintenance till employment be found; the only extra cost would be in the conveying them from place to place.

The above is one reason why it appears to me desirable that the new divisions of districts should be counties, as then there would be less difficulty about the settlement, and greater freedom of removal from one district to another, also it would obviate the great jealousy and dispute which will arise when the commissioners come to the troublesome task of dividing the poorhouse districts. If a county be the division, any part would be the same to a poor family, and in seasons of great distress any public building might be made available for a time. A well-managed parish, I fear, will have great objection to be joined in the payment of rates with any of its worse-managed neighbours, but would, I conceive, have less objection to form an average of the county. Under any circumstances, I hope the district accounts may be published annually, and that the year may close with the year, and not, as is often the case now, that one overseer closes with 51 weeks and his successor with 53 weeks; whereby a comparison of relative expenses is rendered more difficult.

I am most anxious that every facility be given to the removal of labourers from one county to another according to the demand for labour; this would have a tendency to equalize wages, as well as prevent in degree some of the turn-outs which have been of late so prevalent; for instance, the building trades of London have been much annoyed for the last 12 months with turn-out labourers (chiefly Irish) at a guinea

* I have not authority for using the name of this firm, but if questioned, S. G. and Co. will confirm it.—E. A.

per week, whilst within 30 or 40 miles of London we have loud complaints of want of employment for able-bodied English peasantry willing to work at 1s. 6d. per day, but unable or unwilling to leave their parish from the baneful effect of this present poor law system.

I remain thine most respectfully,
 Edwin Chadwick, Esq., (Signed) Edmund Ashworth,
 Poor Law Commission Office.

5 (b).

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from ROBERT HYDE GREG, Esq., to EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., Secretary to the Poor Law Commission.

Manchester, September 17, 1834.

I HAVE for some time thought of addressing you on the same matter as my friend Ashworth did some time ago; namely, the propriety of opening a communication between our (strange to say) underpeopled districts and the southern overpeopled ones.

It is at this moment a most important suggestion, and deserves to be put into immediate operation.

It must be looked upon as a happy coincidence that at the period of depriving or curtailing perhaps the facilities of gaining a livelihood to the people of one half of England, and causing a fall in their present low wages, and a scramble amongst them for employment, there should exist a difficulty in obtaining labourers at extravagant wages in these northern counties. This fortunate occurrence should be taken advantage of.

But for the operation of the poor laws in binding down the labourers to their respective parishes, in the mode and to the degree I need not attempt to explain to you, of all men, there would have existed a free circulation of labour throughout the country, to the benefit alike of the northern and southern parts. Nothing but the poor laws prevented this circulation, or could prevent it, short of the labourers being reduced again to the state of *adscripti glebæ*. * * * *

At this moment our machinery in one mill has been standing for 12 months for hands. In another mill we cannot start our new machinery for the same want. My parlours are without doors, having been sent some time since to be altered, and their progress having been stopped by a meeting of the joiners. The carpenter in the village in which I reside (12 miles from here), cannot get on with my work, having, as he says, been short of men all the year. * * * *

The suggestion I would make is this, that some official channel of communication should be opened in two or three of our large towns with your office, or any office, to which the most overcharged parishes might transmit lists of their families. Manufacturers short of labourers, or starting new concerns, might look over the lists and select, as they might require (for the variety of our wants is great), large families or small ones, young children or grown up, men, or widows, or orphans, &c.

If this could be done, I doubt not in a short time, as the thing became known and tried, we should gradually absorb a considerable number of the surplus labourers of the south, and be supplied from there instead of from Ireland.

The English labourers are much preferred to the Irish, and justly so. On this subject you will find much evidence procured by Mr. Geo. Cornwall Lewis, who was down here on the part of the Irish Enquiry

Commission, with whom I had a good deal of communication upon the subject.

It must be understood at once, that we cannot do with refuse population and insubordinate sturdy paupers. We should require fair play. Hard-working men, or widows with families, who preferred gaining an honest living to a workhouse, would, I am confident, be in demand.

I may add, that I think something on a small scale might be attempted soon. We are now in want of labour. Next year will, unless some unforeseen accident occurs, be naturally a year of increase in our manufactures, buildings, &c., and should this prove the case, any farther demand for labour would still further increase the unions, drunkenness, and high wages.

Whilst food is cheap and wages high, the want of education (I do not merely mean the ability to read and write, which few here are without), but education which may affect manners, morals, and the proper use of their advantages, is extremely felt and to be deeply deplored. I do hope Government will not allow another session to pass without making some struggle to effect this most desirable object.

5 (c).

COMMUNICATION transmitted by GEORGE STEPHEN, Esq.

Gentlemen,

Bledlow, December 4, 1834.

WE, who sign this letter, are paupers of the parish of Bledlow, in Buckinghamshire. Finding ourselves in great distress, we applied to-day to the bench of magistrates met at West Wycombe, to order the overseers to give us further relief. They told us that they had not the power to do so, and advised us to state our case to you, for the overseers said the same thing, that they have not the means of relief, and cannot find work for us to enable us to earn better pay.

We have therefore asked a neighbour to put our case in writing, and to lay it before you, and also before the Government.

We are many of us married men, with large families; we are all able-bodied men, most willing to work, and very unwilling to live in idleness or on charity.

There is not one among us that has ever been convicted of any crime, or even accused of any, except of the most trifling description. Some of us have lived for many years in one service, and given satisfaction to those who employed us.

Now we respectfully and earnestly entreat your attention to the following facts. They cannot be understood without close attention, for they must be new to gentlemen who do not know what it is to live from hand to mouth.

The married men among us are paid 7s. a week; in harvest they may earn, for four or perhaps five weeks, as much as 15s. a week; but this is the extent of our earnings during the year. The 7s. are spent as follows:

We pay 4s. a week for bread; this will buy a little more than eight quatern loaves. We pay about 1s. 9d. more for bacon, and the remaining 15d. are laid out in soap, candles, sugar, tea, thread and worsted, and such necessities. We have nothing left. We have no money remaining to buy clothing or fuel, or to pay for our rent, which may be taken on the average at 60s. a year. We must depend on ac-

cident for these supplies, and of course, therefore, we generally go without them. If we manage to save a guinea out of our earnings in harvest, it is nearly all expended in paying for our shoes, which cost us 15s. or 16s. a pair. We have no rich neighbours among us to help out our scanty means by their benevolence.

Those among us who are single are paid only half-a-crown a week. This is spent as follows :

Thirteen pence are laid out in buying two quartern loaves, 1s. in buying bacon, 2d. in lard, and the rest in sugar, which we mix with water without tea. We have nothing left to pay for lodging and washing, yet these cost us 10d. a week, for which we are obliged to run in debt till chance enables us to pay.

None of us, whether married or single, can buy beer ; it is often that we spend weeks without tasting it. Yet we work from seven in the morning till four in the afternoon.

Gentlemen, the distress which we sometimes suffer cannot be conceived by you. Several of us, when we attended the magistrates this morning at two o'clock, had been without food since yesterday evening. When the week is nearly at an end, we are very much pinched. On Fridays and Saturdays we have scarcely any bread remaining in the house, and no money to buy more. If any of you could enter our houses, and see how destitute we are, with wives and children almost starving, but wanting the means to satisfy them, wanting every comfort, and unable to buy even fuel to warm them or clothes to cover them, you would not charge us with impatience or rudeness in making our wants known, and urging you with importunity to relieve them.

When we married, matters were better ; we could, even as children, earn 5s. a week ; saved a little out of our wages, we bought furniture and married, not dreaming how the world would turn. Now that we have families about us, we can earn but little more as men than we used to gain as children.

Gentlemen, we have looked out for work in vain ; we have gone here and there, and can find none ; and when we leave our parish in the fruitless search, we are deprived of the little allowance which the parish gives us. The allowance is stopped from the day we leave it in search of employment.

Gentlemen, we do not presume to impute blame to any person. The magistrates tell us that they can do nothing. The overseers tell us that they can do nothing, and we believe them. We know not where to apply for relief, but all send us to you ; we most earnestly implore it at your hands. Times used to be better before Bledlow was enclosed ; the extensive common found many of us in little comforts ; now we have no resource but the parish, and ready as we are to work, the parish cannot give us work, and can only afford very scanty relief. We should rejoice to occupy a rood of land, and pay full rent for it, but we have nobody to ask that can let us land. If we could plant a few potatoes, it would relieve us greatly. An allotment, however small, would afford us the means of profitable employment, and still enable us to pay rent for it.

We do not presume to point out this or any other as the proper mode of administering relief, we leave that to you, but we must live ; if we could consent to be starved ourselves, we must not let our wives and children starve ; this would not be right.

We therefore humbly entreat that you will visit our parish, and that

without delay, for hunger and cold and want will not admit of delay ; and when you come we implore you to examine us labourers, and to hear from our own mouths the whole case, and judge as between man and man, and as between yourselves and God, whether we do not require and deserve relief.

We are, Gentlemen, most respectfully and obediently,

William Chitch.

William × Stephens.

Thomas × Smith.

Thomas × Harris.

Richard × Osborne.

James × Williams.

Joseph × Shepherd.

Daniel Butler, with a wife and five children, four under 10.

Thomas × Pratt, with a wife and four children under six, the youngest not a month old.

Levi × Stevens, with a wife and five children under 11.

Thomas × C. Jerry, with a wife and three children under 10.

Joseph × Shephard, with nine children, five under 11 ; has lived 35 years in one house.

John Prentis, with a wife and three children, all under 10.

William × Price, with a wife and three children, one under 10 ; worked 10 years for one master.

William × Hester, in his 65th year.

Thomas × Tombs, with a wife and six children, two of them under 10.

James × Grimsdell.

Francis × Oliver, with a wife and two children under five.

Thomas × Eustace, with a wife and two children under three.

William × Grimsdell, with a wife and three children under nine.

George × Pratt, with a wife and two children, one 14 and the other seven.

John × Stevens, with a wife and seven children, four under 10 ; four years in one place.

James × Stevens, in his 65th year, with several children, one under 12.

John × Cherry, with a wife and two children under two years.

Thomas × Gomme, with two children one under 10.

Samuel Mead, with a wife and three children under four years.

William × Mead, wife and one child aged four months.

Thomas × Eustace, in his 71st year.

William × Osborn, with a wife and five children, the youngest 15.

David × Brown, with a wife and three children under four years.

John × White, in the 63d year.

James × Shephard.

There are about 60 more labourers in our parish who are as badly off as ourselves, but at the time that this letter is written they are not actually paupers, and therefore they have not been asked to sign it. They are, however, liable to be thrown on the parish any day in the week ; and though at present employed by the farmers, they receive no better pay than we do, their case is just the same as ours, and their suffering as great.

John × Stevens.

William × Mead.

The preceding statement has been read over by me to every individual by whom it is signed, and every mark has been made in my presence. The parties have been most closely cross-examined by me, and I believe every word of it to be true.

To the Commissioners of the
Poor Laws, &c. &c. &c.

George Stephen,
17, King's Arms-yard, Coleman-street,
December 5, 1834.

5 (d).

Extracts from a LETTER by HENRY ASHWORTH, Esq.

Turton, near Bolton, Lancashire,
2d Month 18, 1835.

Respected Friend, Edwin Chadwick,

I HAVE received thy letter, and the published account of the destitute condition of 32 poor families, residing in the parish of Bledlow. I wish they were here, or as many of them as are reputable and willing to work; they would very soon find employments and improve their condition.

I find also by thy letter, that the Poor Law Commissioners have been receiving suggestions from magistrates and others relative to the emigration of such families from places where they cannot obtain sufficient employment into the manufacturing districts, where abundance of work and good wages prevail, which they appear to think may be promoted by means of a registry office, to be established in London.

There can be no doubt that it would be a great advantage to these unfortunate poor if they were induced to improve their condition by emigration, instead of remaining where they are enduring great privations and being a serious burthen upon the industry of their neighbours. I may with safety state, by way of encouragement to them, that there is in this neighbourhood a greater scarcity of workpeople than I have ever known, and this fact was never more universally acknowledged, not only by those engaged in manufactures, but by others also in almost every branch of trade. * * * *

I know of no better way to promote the emigration of families than the direct transmission of them to some extensive field of manufacture; allow them a temporary abode for a few days, and the assistance of an active trusty person to show them and make them acquainted with the nature of the employments offering, and the rates of wages paying; and when they have selected such as appear most likely to suit them, and bargained for their wages, they will soon become regularly domiciled, and will feel better satisfied with their change than they would otherwise have been had they undertaken a blind sort of bargain through a registry-office.

It is well known that great numbers of Irish poor resort to these districts; they come over unsolicited, enticed only by the success of others who have come before them, make their way to the seats of manufacture, and obtain employment upon the best terms they can make; and I do not see any reason why English labourers who are starving should hesitate thus to shift for themselves and seek better employments in the same way; if, under the old poor law system, the parishes have heretofore exercised any sort of restraint over them, that is now done away, they are at liberty; and if they have a desire to better their con-

dition, they require only courage and enterprise enough to meet their Irish rivals fairly in the field of open competition, where they are sure to obtain a preference over them, as employers of workpeople have greater reliance upon the peaceable habits and contented disposition of the English.

It may be questioned, how are those who are now so destitute and living upon the parishes to be provided with the means of removing their families? The Poor Law Commissioners are better able than myself to reply to this, although I cannot forbear to remind them, that some of the parish authorities, when they deemed it their best policy to get rid of what they termed their superabundant population, did not scruple to furnish the means required to remove them to other and remote countries, and it cannot be supposed that they will now hesitate to supply their necessitous poor with as much money as will enable them to provide better employments, by removing a day's journey into the manufacturing districts. I think a very trivial outlay would be requisite, when we consider that there are doubtless many families who would willingly repay a loan made to them for such a purpose.

Perceiving as I do, that a right understanding of this subject may become a means to promote the future welfare of thousands of poor families, some of whom may now be pining in hopeless distress, and would be delighted to receive an earnest assurance, that by emigration they might become enabled to elevate themselves and their children to the honourable condition of independent labourers, I feel anxious that the best attention of the Poor Law Commissioners should be directed thereto, and would respectfully suggest that one or more of that body should come down to this neighbourhood, ascertain the condition and prospects of the working classes, examine the extensive preparations which are now making to furnish further employments, and thereby judge for themselves what course they can best recommend or adopt.

In the meantime, as I think some account or narrative of the progress of the cotton manufacture of this district may furnish a sort of criterion whereby the working classes of the agricultural districts, or those who feel interested on their behalf, may form their own opinions of the reliance to be placed upon its affording regularity of employment, allow me (since it is impossible I could describe the whole) to give thee an outline of what is well known to have occurred in one of our smaller seats of manufacture within the observation of many persons who are now living.

About 40 years ago the village of Staley Bridge, seven miles from Manchester, was the residence of about 1,000 persons; it has now become a market town, containing 15,000 inhabitants. This immense increase has chiefly been made up by people coming from the surrounding parts of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and from the poorest hand-loom weaving districts of this county. The Irish have latterly become very numerous there as well as in other places, and it is supposed that upwards of 4,000 of them reside in and near the town; they have a Catholic chapel, with two ministers, and a congregation consisting of upwards of 2,000 persons.

Within the same period the population of the adjoining townships of Hyde and Newton have also increased, the former from 800 to 10,000, and the latter from 500 to 8,000; and I am informed that the manu-

factories, now in course of erection, in this neighbourhood alone, will require a further supply of at least 5,000 people.

In taking a review of these extraordinary changes, it would not have appeared surprising if some occasional inconvenience or distress had occurred from so large a mass of unselected people having been brought suddenly together by the attractive demands of a newly established branch of trade. I am, however, happy to say, that I have never heard of the existence of any sort of privation or distress amongst them, except what has been occasioned by their strikes on account of wages.

It will of course be taken for granted that most of those who have resorted to the manufactories, have had to acquire a knowledge of their newly-adopted business; it must be obvious that this is a matter of no great difficulty, as I have never known nor heard of any child or young person of sound mind being found incapable of filling some sort of profitable situation in or about a manufactory. I have also known many labourers, hand-loom weavers, and others, engaged at ill-paid employments having large families they could not support without parochial assistance, undertake manufacturing employments, and so improve their condition as to become enabled to pay off their old shop scores, arrears of rent and other debts, get good furniture into their houses, educate their younger children, and some of them save money, and have never known nor heard of a single instance of such a family afterwards deserting their new employments, nor requiring parochial relief. * *

Although we have in this district an immense population, which has been filled up by persons coming from the North of England, from Ireland, and from Scotland, I have only heard of one family who have come south of Derbyshire, that of a bricklayer from Northamptonshire, who came in search of employment for himself, and finding that the neighbourhood would suit his family, also removed them.

Since writing the above, a gentleman from Bledlow, has called in my absence to inquire if we were willing to find employment for some of their poor, my brother gave him permission to bring two or three families of such as he could recommend for honesty and sobriety; if these should answer our expectations, and find the change agreeable to themselves, which I have no reason to doubt they will, the poor of that parish will soon cease to require that commiseration which their friends appear to have sought for them by the publication of their distresses.

I am, very respectfully, thy friend,
Henry Ashworth.

5 (c).

LETTER from HENRY and EDMUND ASHWORTH, Esqrs.

Turton, Bolton, 6th Month 27, 1835.

Respected Friend, Edwin Chadwick,

AGREEABLE to thy request, we proceed to give thee some account of four families who have migrated from Bedlow, in Buckinghamshire, to undertake employments in our manufactories, adding such information as we have been able to obtain from them relative to their previous condition.

The fathers of these families have been accustomed to husbandry labour, they are therefore by reason of age and previous habits unfit for such situations as are connected with manufacturing processes.

They have, however, met with regular employments in the neighbourhood, either as spade labourers, farm servants, gardeners, or assisting at building operations.

All the children who are of the legal age are employed in our works; the teaching of them is attended with a good deal of trouble, although they are mostly diligent and tractable; and in order that they may repay us for the advantages of their skill when acquired, they have undertaken to remain with us for three years, at a rate of wages progressively increasing every year.

The first arrival, about three months ago, was the family of Joseph Stevens, with his wife and seven children. We undertook to provide regular employment about the premises for himself, furnished his children with suitable places, and agreed to the following engagement with regard to wages:

	First Year, per Week.	Second Year, per Week.	Third Year, per Week.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The wages of Jos. Stevens, aged 41 years	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 12 0
„ Wm. Stevens, aged 18 „	0 6 0	0 7 0	0 8 0
„ John Stevens, aged 14 „	0 3 6	0 4 6	0 5 6
„ Eden Stevens, aged 13 „	0 3 0	0 3 6	0 4 0
„ Eliz. Stevens, aged 11 „	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 6
	1 5 0	1 9 0	1 13 0
The satisfactory conduct of this family has led us to increase their wages 3s. per week	0 3 0		
Their weekly income at this time is . .	1 8 0	per week.	

Previous to their removal it was from 12s. to 15s., averaging 14s. 2d. per week.

The employment of Stevens, when at Bledlow, was husbandry labour, and when he could obtain full work he earned 7s. a week: his children were employed in any kind of labour provided by the parish, but were chiefly engaged in pitching stones from the fields for repairing the roads.

George Allen, with his wife and seven children, together with Jesse and Thomas Neal, two orphans, for whom he had become guardian, entered into the following engagement on behalf of the children:

	First Year, per Week.	Second Year, per Week.	Third Year, per Week.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The wages of Wm. Allen, aged 13 years	0 3 0	0 3 6	0 4 6
„ Sarah Allen, aged 12 „	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 4 0
„ Eli Allen, . aged 11 „	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 3 6
„ Jesse Neal, aged 16 „	0 6 6	0 7 6	0 9 0
„ Thos. Neal, aged 14 „	0 5 6	0 6 6	0 8 0
	0 19 6	1 3 0	1 9 0
The wages of George Allen which he is receiving as farm servant, gardener, &c. being added	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
Makes the weekly income of the family .	1 11 6	1 15 0	2 1 0

Previous to their removal, and when they were fully employed, it was reckoned at 17s. 6d. per week.

George Allen and his eldest boy had been accustomed to earn a livelihood by collecting dung in the roads, and faggots for fuel, with a donkey and cart; his second son was employed by a chimney sweep; his daughter Sarah could sometimes earn 1s. 6d. per week, by working at a lace pillow, and Jesse and Thomas Neal had resided in the workhouse; but the elder, aged 16, having employment found for him at a paper mill, and his wages being increased to 3s. per week, he was considered competent to provide for himself, and had lately been dismissed from the workhouse.

Joseph Shepherd, with his wife and nine children, entered into the following engagement with regard to wages:

	First Year, per Week.	Second Year, per week.	Third Year, per Week.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The wages of Jos. Shepherd, jun. aged 19 years	0 7 6	0 12 0	0 15 0
„ James Shepherd . aged 18 „	0 6 6	0 7 6	0 8 6
„ Thos. Shepherd . aged 16 „	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
„ George Shepherd aged 15 „	0 4 6	0 5 6	0 6 6
„ Eliza Shepherd . aged 11 „	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 4 0
	1 6 0	1 14 0	2 1 0
The wages of Joseph Shepherd, which he is now receiving as spade labourer, &c., being added	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
Makes the weekly income of the family	1 18 0	2 6 0	2 13 0

Previous to their removal, it was reckoned at 17s. per week, arising as follows:

	s. d.	
J. Shepherd had	7 0	a week as farm servant.
His son Joseph	4 0	
— George	2 0	at a paper mill.
— James } Thomas }	4 0	from the parish.

17 0.

James Fryer, with his wife and seven children, entered into the following engagement with regard to wages:

	First Year, per Week.	Second Year, per Week.	Third Year, per Week.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The wages of Sarah Fryer, aged 14 years	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
„ James Fryer, aged 12 „	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 6
„ Eliza Fryer, aged 11 „	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 4 0
„ Mary Fryer, aged 10 „	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 3 6
	0 13 6	0 16 6	1 1 0
The wages of James Fryer, which he is now receiving as spade labourer, &c., being added	0 13 6	0 13 6	0 13 6
Makes the weekly income of the family	1 7 0	1 10 0	1 14 6

Previous to their removal, it was reckoned at 17s. 6d. per week arising as follows :

	s.	d.	
James Fryer, received	8	0	per week as Farm labourer.
James Fryer, jun.	2	0	
Sarah Fryer	8	0	} At the lace pillow, when employed; but this was very uncertain.
Eliza Fryer	2	6	
Mary Fryer	2	0	
	17	6	

Summary of the above particulars :

	Per Week.	Per Week.
Jos. Stevens' 9 persons, 5 of whom family con- } had been accus- } sisting of . } tomed to earn . }	14s. 2d.	28s. 0d.
Geo. Allen's 11 ditto 6 ditto family . }	17s. 6d.	31s. 6d.
Jos. Shep- 11 ditto 6 ditto herd's do. }	17s. 0d.	38s. 0d.
J. Fryer's do. 9 ditto 5 ditto . }	17s. 6d.	27s. 0d.

Total . 40 persons, 22 of whom } 66s. 2d. per week ; they }
are workers, and earned . } now earn } 124s. 6d.
or at the rate of . 3s. each . . . 5s. 8d. each.

The Bucks people have sent a number of families to the neighbourhood of Staley Bridge, of which thou art aware. Our attention is constantly alive to this subject ; and from inquiries made to-day, we find that they are well received by the neighbourhood, both employers and workpeople ; the latter have already shown a disposition to vie with each other in marks of neighbourly attention to them, some proffering the loan of articles of furniture, others pots and kettles, or any domestic article of which these unfortunate poor happen to be unprovided. They say very justly, " Why should they be unwelcome ; they are Englishmen." One incident we can scarcely forbear to mention, although it appears trivial. On Sunday afternoon, a poor resident, who happened to be in a public-house drinking, and being desired to quit, because it was service time, said, " Well, if I must go, I will take a drop to the strangers," so carried them a can of ale ; but, to his astonishment, and to the credit of the southern poor, they refused to partake his jovial tribute of regard.

It appears unnecessary to add to the foregoing statement any observations of our own with regard to the advantages of the migrators, by the change they have made. In order to find employment for them, we have not found it needful to dismiss any one from our service, as both our own and almost every other establishment in the neighbourhood have been, and still are, too scantily supplied with juvenile workers. The rates of wages of such hands have not been lowered by their coming ; on the contrary, they have been regularly advancing for the last two or three years, and are at this time higher than we have ever before known them. Their neighbours or fellow workpeople have not treated them as unwelcome or intrusive ; on the other hand, their services have proved a timely and valuable acquisition to some of those who, by the assistance of such children, can earn as much as 30s. or

40s. a week, and having no families of their own, have sometimes been put to great shifts to obtain them, or forfeit their employment.

We do not apprehend any immediate danger of the working population of this district becoming too redundant, by reason of any extensive emigration from the south. We stated, in a former letter, that the extension of business now going on would require a very large influx of population, and mentioned, upon the authority of a most respectable and observing individual, that nearly 20,000 persons would be required in the neighbourhood of one of our seats of manufacture alone, that of Stayley Bridge. These extensive sources of employment will shortly be open for the reception of workers, and will probably attract the redundant population of the southern counties, as well as the Irish; a preference would most likely be given to the former, as most manufacturers dislike the Irish, on account of the reckless and improvident habits of the generality of them.

We are, very respectfully, thy friends,

Henry & Edmund Ashworth.

5 (f).

COMMUNICATION from R. GREG, Esq.

Quarry Bank, Wilmslow, Co. Chester; Mills belonging to

Samuel Greg & Co.

14 July, 1835.

In January 1835, two families arrived at this place from Bledlow, in Buckinghamshire, and throughout their six month's residence here we have found them proper in their behaviour, and diligent and tractable at their work.

Their employment has not caused any reduction to take place in the wages of the operatives previously settled here, nor has it made any difference in the work as arranged before their arrival, or caused any of the hands to be thrown out of employment.

The fathers of the two families are employed by us on the farm, and the children work in the mill as many hours as the law allows. On account of the expense and trouble of teaching the children their business, the families have entered into an engagement to remain with us two years, at a rate of wages as stated below.

John Howlett, aged 38, works 12 hours per day,	
Mary Ann Howlett 16 - 11½ - ditto -	} 24s. per week 1st year. 27s. per week 2d year.
Ann Howlett - 14 - 11½ - ditto -	
Celia Howlett - 12 - 11½ - ditto -	
Timothy Howlett 10 - 8 - ditto -	

John Howlett is employed as a cowman, and is a good hand at milking; he is also useful as a general labourer and spadesman when called upon to work in that occupation. At Bledlow he was employed as a farm labourer, and could earn from 6s. to 8s. per week the greater part of the year: but during the hay season he sometimes went from home, and could earn 30s. to 40s. per week as a mower for a few weeks; his earnings might average 9s. to 10s. per week the year round.

John Steevens, aged 38, works 12 hours per day,	
Elizabeth Steevens 18 - 11½ - ditto -	} 26s. per week 1st year. 29s. per week 2d year.
Rebekah Steevens 14 - 11½ - ditto -	
James Steevens - 12 - 11½ - ditto -	
Mary Steevens - 10 - 8 - ditto -	

John Steevens is employed as spade and general labourer, and his conduct and ability are quite satisfactory. At Bledlow he could earn for the same work 8s. to 9s. per week, and during the hay harvest 20s. to 30s. per week; his wages might average 10s. per week the year round.

In consequence of the favourable report given by these families to their friends at Bledlow and the neighbourhood, several applications for work were made in behalf of others, and in March we engaged a third family, consisting of

Hannah Veary, widow :

Samuel Veary, aged 18, works 11½ hours per day,	} 20s. per week 1st year. 23s. per week 2d year.
Fanny Veary - 16 - 11½ - ditto -	
Henry Veary - 14 - 11½ - ditto -	
Joseph Veary - 12 - 11½ - ditto -	
Mary Veary - 10 - 8 - ditto -	

All the girls got some occasional employment, though quite uncertain, in the lace trade, but their earnings appear to have been very irregular, so much so as scarcely to admit of calculation in weekly amount.

R. Greg.

5 (g).

LETTER from JAMES BEARD, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Hope Hall, Manchester, 7 July, 1835.

You may possibly recollect that in the latter end of the month of May, I had some conversation with you respecting the removal of some families from my parish (Cranfield, Beds.) to this county, and upon my arrival at home I found a letter of instruction how to proceed; I forthwith made an arrangement with the officers to send four families down to Mr. Arkwright's mills, at Millor, near Stockport. I selected good labourers, with children, and last Friday I went to Millor to see how they went on. My brother-in-law, who lives and manages Mr. Arkwright's property there, gives me a most gratifying account, and the labourers seem delighted beyond expression at their change of residence. They earn (that is their families) three times as much as they did in Beds, besides having the advantage of fuel at 4d. per cwt. I have made a further arrangement to send 12 more strong boys and girls, and have this day been introduced to several of the great spinners from Stayley Bridge, &c., and amongst others Mr. Thomas Ashton, from Hyde, and he seems to take the soundest view of migration that I have met with. He says, that unless some one is sent in Manchester to make inquiries who may want hands, great evil must arise, and when the hands come from the agricultural districts they would then have some one to apply to. He conceives it to be impossible for too many hands to be sent; they are wanted and must be had, and if the agricultural districts will not send them the Irish will. I therefore, with all due submission, beg to suggest the propriety of your taking the matter into your consideration, as some labourers were sent from Bucks in a most deplorable condition, and if this is too often repeated, migration will be greatly impeded. I shall remain here until Tuesday, and, if you have any spare time to write, I should like to have your sentiments.

Parishes in Beds are willing to send their surplus, and the spinners,

&c. are willing to take them ; but unless something is done by way of arrangement between the parties much evil may arise.

In my own neighbourhood I have desired that they will only send respectable families.

The transit from us here is little more than three days by boat, and the expense not great.

I have long known this country, and I think that trade of all kinds must increase, and this scheme of migration, if well conducted, must prove highly beneficial.

Hoping you will excuse the trouble I have given you,

Believe me, &c.

To Edwin Chadwick, Esq.

(Signed) *James Beard.*

— No. 6. —

COMMUNICATION from Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Sir,

Whitehall, April 24, 1835.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the county of Notts, containing the observations of the magistrates assembled in general quarter sessions at Nottingham upon the Poor Law Amendment Act. And I am to request you will bring these observations, under the consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners, and report to Lord John Russell their opinion upon them.

I have, &c.

The Rt. hon. Thomas Frankland Lewis,
&c. &c. &c.

S. M. Phillips.

(Copy.)

My Lord,

Nottingham, 6 April, 1835.

WE, the magistrates for the county of Nottingham, assembled this day in general quarter sessions, in addressing you upon the Poor Law Amendment Act, disclaim all idea of hostility to the general principle upon which it is founded, that is, the workhouse system, as established under the Act of the 22d of George 3 ; on the contrary, from 20 years' experience of the good effects arising from two Unions established in this county, comprising 89 parishes, we are quite satisfied that in all the parishes the rates have been reduced one-half, and in many still more, due allowance being made for the vast increase of late years in the population. We are also equally satisfied that the poor generally are much better provided for than before these houses were established.

We further beg leave to state that we consider the change of the old law, with respect to settlement, removal, appeal, the making relief to the child relief to the mother, and the exempting fathers of illegitimate children from imprisonment for want of securities, before either the birth or chargeability of the child, to be most wise and salutary. Having admitted thus far the advantages likely to be derived from this Act, we feel it our imperative duty to the public to state to you the evils and inconveniences which the practical operation of two of the clauses of the Act have brought under our observation. These clauses are the 72d and the 57th. The objections to the 72d appear to us to be, first, the very great expense of bringing all the parties and their witnesses to the general

quarter sessions, however distant, instead of the nearest petty sessions ; secondly, the very great difficulty of obtaining corroborative evidence ; thirdly, the want of power of charging the defendant with costs, in case of the parish officer succeeding in obtaining an order of filiation ; fourthly, the payment of "full costs" to the defendant without limitation of amount, if the order is not made ; fifthly, the impossibility in most cases of compelling obedience to the order, from want of goods to seize, or wages to attach, and from want of power to attach the person in default. The attachment of wages, if it were practicable, appears to us to be most mischievous and injudicious, as in most cases it would determine the service, and throw the men out of bread. Few masters would willingly subject themselves to the pains and penalties incurred under the 59th clause for non-obedience to an order of magistrates in this case, especially large manufacturers employing some hundreds of journeymen. In illustration of these evils, we state to you that two cases were brought before us at the October sessions of 1834, and an order made in both cases of 2s. per week : no defence was made in either case ; but the parishes have had all the expenses to pay, and have not received one farthing, although both parties were perfectly able to pay, but no goods or wages could be found to attach. One of the men was the son of a publican, living with his father ; and the other, a man employed in boats on the river Trent, but having no regular master. We may also observe, that the limitation of the father's liability to the child's attaining seven years of age, appears to us to be a mistake, as the child cannot by law be put out apprentice till he is nine. If we might be allowed to suggest a remedy for these evils, we should say, let the man in every case have the option of appealing to the sessions on giving security for costs ; but where there is no defence and no objection, let the case be decided by the magistrates at the nearest petty sessions. Let the person of the man be attachable in default of payment, and let his liability continue as long as the child is chargeable, and no longer. In a third case, which occurred last sessions, the order was not obtained, from deficiency of corroborative evidence, and the parish of Mansfield Woodhouse was saddled with the whole costs, amounting as follows : parish officers' attorney's bill, 29*l.* 1*s.* 1½*d.* ; defendant's ditto, 25*l.* 10*s.* ; in all, 54*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* ; the defendant's costs have been reduced by taxation to 15*l.* These cases are now considered as regular trials in civil actions, and counsel expect and receive their fees accordingly, instead of half-a-guinea, as under the old law.

The objections to the 57th clause will be best explained by stating the cases which have occurred in consequence of it. First, a widow belonging to St. Mary's parish, at Nottingham, with four children, and chargeable, was married to a man having a settlement at Basford, and in a few days after the marriage he applied for relief to St. Mary's, and his wife and children were all removed to Basford, where they have gained a settlement till 16 years of age under this clause. Second, a widow woman with four children and big with child of a fifth, settled at Radcliffe, but having a settlement at Kingston-upon-Hull. The man shortly after his marriage applied for relief to Radcliffe, where he resided, and the officer removed him to Hull with his wife and five children. The third case was a single woman with two bastard children, having a settlement at Radcliffe, married a pauper at Bulwell. The fourth was similar to the last, the woman having two bastard

children, and her settlement at Hucknal Forkard, was married to a pauper at Radford, and removed by Hucknal to Radford. We know that in the last three cases money was given indirectly by the parish officers, to the amount of 5*l.* in one case, and 3*l.* in the others, but it is so extremely difficult to obtain legal proof of the fact, and the expense of a prosecution in these cases is so very great, that we never find any parish willing to undertake it, and the less so as a conviction would not rid them of their burthen. We think that in all cases the husband should be compelled to maintain these children as long as he can maintain himself, the same as if they were his own; but when he can no longer do it, they should all be sent to the workhouse, and the parish to which they originally belonged should be bound to maintain them while they remain there; this would effectually do away every inducement for parish officers to obtain these sorts of marriages.

We have only to add, that after much argument, it appears to be the unanimous opinion of the counsel attending this bench, that the court have no power in any case of ordering the costs of filiation to be paid by the putative father.

We have, &c.

The Magistrates of the county of Nottingham,
(Signed) *Lanc. Rolleston*, Chairman.

(*Copy of Answer.*)

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,

My Lord,

May 13, 1835.

IN compliance with your Lordship's wish, as communicated to us in Mr. Phillips's letter of the 24th ultimo, we have the honour to report to your Lordship the observations which have suggested themselves to us in the consideration of Mr. Rolleston's letter of the 6th April.

The objections which he states to the practical operation and working of the bastardy clauses in the Poor Law Amendment Act, appear to be included under the following heads:

1. Expenses of bringing all the parties to the quarter sessions.
2. Difficulty of procuring corroborative evidence.
3. Want of power to charge the defendant with costs.
4. Payment of full costs to the defendant.
5. Impossibility in most cases of compelling obedience to the orders, for want of goods to seize and wages to attach, and want of a power to attach the person.

With regard to the four first objections, it must be observed, that as the change in the law, which transferred the jurisdiction in bastardy cases from the petty to the general quarter sessions necessarily produced increase of expense and increase of trouble to all parties, the Legislature must be presumed to have contemplated these obvious results. The giving of full costs to the person charged, and none against him must be held also to indicate that the object of the Legislature was to impede, rather than encourage, the application to quarter sessions, and by so doing, to conform partially to the recommendation of the Commissioners of Inquiry, that the remedy against the supposed father should be abolished altogether.

The imposition of these obstacles has been justified by the statement, that parish officers, relying on the apparently easy means of procuring

indemnification to the parish, were lavish in the allowance to the mothers of bastards, and thereby encouraged bastardy, which the Legislature appear to have attempted to check, by removing the factitious bounty on the practice, and by depriving the mothers of bastard children of the expectation of more liberal allowance under the poor laws, than widows with young children would be entitled to.

With respect to the 5th objection, the want of power to attach the person was deliberately established by the Legislature, under the impression that all severe proceedings against the father might be used as a means of compelling a marriage where the man was reluctant; and it is apparent that the imprisonment of the father, whether immediate or after default of payment, would always be an evil, from the occurrence of which he might relieve himself by marriage.

With respect to the other part of the same objection, it is to be observed, that the impossibility of compelling obedience or enforcing payment under an order made by the magistrates at quarter sessions (inasmuch as, in the generality of cases, there would be no goods to seize or wages to attach), amounts almost to an admission of the utter uselessness of any possible remedy against the father; in such cases, the law can do no more than harass the supposed father, without securing any indemnity to the parish; while in cases of the latter class the remedy would not be against the offender, but against the friends on whom he might be dependent.

With respect to the remedy proposed, it would, if adopted, be still liable to the objection before stated, as regards the attachment of the supposed father's person; but with this exception it would probably be sufficient for its object.

If, however, a child is to be affiliated before two magistrates at petty sessions, and the woman's oath to be taken as conclusive, without evidence of any kind to confirm or support her statement, then will the evils be revived which are so fully and so clearly exposed in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry.

The expediency, therefore, or the inexpediency of making the proposed alteration in the law, depends altogether on the determination it may be thought right to take on the main question at issue. Is, or is it not, desirable to revert to the principle on which the bastardy laws stood prior to the Poor Law Amendment Act? or is it better to follow out the recommendations contained in the Poor Law Report, and abandon orders of affiliation altogether.

It is by some persons presumed that under the operation of the bastardy clauses in the Poor Law Amendment Act the expense and the inconvenience of applying to the quarter sessions, and the revolting character of the proceedings before the court (with respect to which many communications have been made to this Board), and the hopelessness of obtaining a sufficient sum from the father to repay the expense of maintaining the child and the cost of the proceedings, will probably soon induce the parish officers to give up the practice; and this expectation is supported by the fact, that in many parishes (St. George's, Hanover-square, for instance,) the process against the putative fathers of bastard children is no longer resorted to.

It should be borne in mind, however, that though more money may be expended in the applications to the magistrates at quarter sessions than can ever be recovered from the fathers of the children, it does not seem

likely that the practice will soon yield to the discouragement to which it is exposed.

The mother of the child endeavours by every means in her power to induce the overseers to make the application; with the overseers themselves such applications have become habitual, and with them the necessity of making them is hardly a matter of doubt.

The prevailing wish to inflict, if possible, some punishment on the father of the child influences the judgment and opinion of all the parties interested, and the overseers themselves (with whom the decision as to the appeal mainly rests) are in many instances not liable to any considerable share of the expense to be incurred by the prosecution. There appears to be no ground for expecting, therefore, that the practice of applying to the magistrates at quarter sessions for orders of affiliation will be speedily and voluntarily abandoned.

Whenever consulted on the subject, the Commissioners have thought it their duty to point out the certainty of expense and inconvenience, and the little chance which exists of indemnification, by resorting to the court of quarter sessions.

When unions shall be established, and the workhouse system be brought into operation, the bastardy clauses in the Poor Law Amendment Act will, it may be hoped, in great measure, fall into desuetude; but until those arrangements are completed, the operation of the Act will be justly liable to the objections so clearly stated by Mr. Rolleston, and to which, in fact, all legislative enactments are liable, which, instead of pointing at once to their object, are designed to accomplish it by indirect means.

With respect to the provisions contained in the 57th section of the Act, and to the inducement which it holds out to parish officers to promote and arrange fraudulent marriages, it must be observed that the offence is a misdemeanor; and although, if this fact were known, it might not in all cases afford a sufficient check to the practice, yet the effect of a single example has not been tried since the passing of the Act.

The Commissioners entertain a hope that the general introduction of an efficient form of parochial accounts, which shall be rigidly examined once in every quarter by an officer appointed for that purpose, will in itself afford a considerable check to the practice complained of. The overseer will not willingly pay out of his own pocket so large a bribe as must be required to tempt even the most reckless pauper to embarrass himself with a family whom he must either support or subject himself to the provisions of the Vagrant Act: it will be difficult to conceal the misapplication of so large a sum under a proper system of accounts; Moreover, should an attempt be made to disguise the expenditure, it would more effectually support the evidence on an indictment for a misdemeanor, the fraud being one of the elements of the offence. The Commissioners hope, therefore, that if the existing law for the punishment of the offence is brought into operation, the commission of the evil will be in a great measure checked.

It is recommended by Mr. Rolleston, in order to do away with every inducement for parish officers to obtain marriages of this description, that when the man can no longer maintain the children they should all be sent to the workhouse, and the parish to which they originally belonged should be bound to maintain them.

The objection to this recommendation is, that it is incapable of any-

thing like a general application, inasmuch as a very large majority of parishes are without workhouses. When the parish in which the husband resides is without a workhouse, one of two results must follow : either the whole of the children (including those within the age of nurture, whom the law does not at present allow to be removed from their mother) must be separated from their remaining parent, and returned to their original parish, or an allowance must be made to them as outlying paupers.

The necessary separation of the children from their parents is liable to many objections. Amongst the chief of these would be the general unpopularity of such a practice, and the consequent reluctance of the parish officers to enforce it, which would be increased when the separation was to a great distance ; the depriving the children of the parental control, without securing any adequate compensation for it, the usual parochial arrangements, even where any arrangements exist for the care of children, being such as in nowise to render such separation in all cases desirable ; the burthening the children's parish with a charge which the parish officers will be apt to acquiesce in too supinely, as not being newly thrust upon them, and from which the enforcement of the workhouse system will not tend so effectually to exonerate the parish as it would if it affected the parents who are capable of independent exertion, their children being by their age precluded from making any effectual effort to support themselves. One of the strongest objections to this power of separating children from parents is, that the determination of the condition and callings of the children will depend on the partial means resorted to by the parish to obtain employment for them, while on the present plan they are subject to the interested vigilance of their parents to procure for them early and profitable employment, and thereby to inure them to habits of independent exertion in those occupations which are more likely to be permanent than what the parish, by the factitious and temporary inducement of a premium, or by the forced operation of the apprenticeship laws, can procure for them.

If it should not be proposed so to extend the law as to admit of such a separation, the other alternative follows : that when there is no workhouse, an allowance must be made by their parish to the children as outlying paupers, during the age of nurture at least ; and which allowance, as experience has shown, is very likely to be continued afterwards, particularly on pleas of illness, and on other pretexts of incapacity to work, with all the fraud and extortion incidental to this mode of relief, in which the very existence of the child is often a matter of question, and the nature and degree of its necessities almost always so.

By such an allowance for the children the man will be again put in a position to acquire a pension, increased by the claims for a wife and a family of children within the age of nurture, which pension would constitute a far more systematical bribe, more permanent in its operation, and more seductive in its character than the bribes of overseers, of which, as before stated, there will remain little ground for apprehension, if the existing law is put into effective operation.

The latter objection, which applies equally to the state of the law as it existed previously to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and to the recommendation now in question, was urged by the Com-

mission of Inquiry as a justification of the enactment contained in the 57th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

We have, &c.

(Signed by the Commissioners.)

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 7. —

MEMORIAL from Sittingbourne, and Answer.

Gentlemen,

Sittingbourne, April 4, 1835.

As Chairman of the meeting at which the accompanying statement was agreed to and signed, I am desirous to forward you the same, and to request that you will be good enough to favour me with a reply thereto at your earliest convenience.

I am, &c.

Thomas Tilley.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Enclosure in the above Letter.

To the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

WE, the undersigned, being owners and occupiers of land and resident householders in the parish of Sittingbourne, in the county of Kent, assembled at a vestry meeting held this 2d day of April instant, in pursuance of a notice to consider the propriety of addressing you on the subject of a separation of this parish from the Milton Union, beg leave to state,—

That we feel ourselves placed under disadvantageous circumstances, from not having had an opportunity, previous to the formation of the Milton Union, of discussing the utility of this parish being joined thereto, at a vestry meeting duly convened for the purpose; that we have reason to believe, that had this latter meeting taken place such Union would not have been acquiesced in by the parishioners; and that the only meeting held prior to the formation of the said Union was one composed of the overseers of parishes included within a very extensive district, convened by Sir Francis Head, one of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners, by letter sent to such overseers two days previously, most of whom could not have consulted with the parishioners of their respective parishes, and do not appear to have possessed any authority to act in the matter:

That we view with much apprehension the injury we are likely to sustain from our connexion with the said Union, believing it will be the means of withdrawing from us the benefit derived from a considerable expenditure of the poor-rates of our own and adjoining parishes among the trade of this parish, and placing it in the hands of some extensive contractor, living probably at a great distance, and bearing none of the parochial burthens:

That considerable sums have of late years been expended by this parish in enlarging and otherwise improving the workhouse, in which the poor are now comfortably provided for; and that we cannot but foresee that any additional expense to which the parishioners may be put in consequence of any alteration in our own, or in the erecting or

providing any other workhouse under the direction of the board of guardians of the Milton Union, will prove very burthensome to us:

That we have reason to fear the management of the poor of this parish by the said board of guardians will have a tendency to increase the parochial burthens, and that we disapprove of a measure which takes from us the control of our own affairs, in the due ordering of which we cannot but be deeply interested:

That as a proof of the disapprobation in this parish of the system at present introduced under the new Poor Law, we refer to the fact, that out of a population of 2,200, among whom is a great number of respectable tradesmen duly qualified, one person only within the parish could be found to take upon himself the office of guardian:

That among other evils likely to arise from our present Union, we fear feelings of ill-will and distrust will be engendered in the breasts of the poor towards their superiors, and most of the houses of the annual value of 10*l.* and under abandoned by the tenants from their incapacity to pay the rents, causing thereby a diminution of the rates, and an increase of pauperism:

That while we object to a Union, we are nevertheless of opinion the provisions of the new Poor Law, and also the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, already issued in pursuance thereof, might, under some modifications, be adopted with advantage in this parish.

We therefore respectfully request that you will be pleased to proceed forthwith, under the powers vested in you by the 32*d* and 39*th* sections of the new Poor Law, to dis sever this parish from the said Union, and enable it to act for itself separately, or be united to four or five adjoining parishes.

(Signed)

Thomas Tilley, Chairman.
And 71 other Names.

Copy of Answer.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
Gentlemen, May 6, 1835.

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have had under their consideration the memorial purporting to be from certain of the parish officers and rate-payers of the parish of Sittingbourne, who request that that parish may be separated from the Union in which it is now included, or that it may be united with four or five of the adjacent parishes.

The memorial sets forth in the following terms, the most prominent reason for the separation:

“That we view with much apprehension the injury we are likely to sustain from our connexion with the said Union, believing it will be the means of withdrawing from us the benefit derived from a considerable expenditure of the poor-rates from our own and adjoining parishes among the trade of this parish, and placing it in the hands of some extensive contractor, living probably at a great distance, and bearing none of the parochial burthens.”

It was one of the greatest evils of the former system that the administration of relief to the poor, too often fell practically into the hands of those who had either no adequate interest in diminishing the rates and the inducements to pauperism, or who had a strong and direct

interest in increasing them. That which you, the administrators of the rates at Sittingbourne, describe as "the benefit derived from a considerable expenditure of the poor-rates of our own," forms an element of mal-administration, which it is the duty of the Board to remove as far as may be practicable. In furtherance of the intentions of the Legislature the Commissioners have united your parish with others under the management of an elective board of guardians, and have provided that the supplies of goods for the relief of the indigent shall be taken by contract, for the purpose of securing to the great body of the rate-payers the advantages of the most economical management.

The Board observe, that out of a population of above 2,200, not more than 72 persons have signed the memorial, although it is stated to have been three times proclaimed in church. The Commissioners regret to have learned from other sources, that a proportion of individuals in the parish do not approve of the poor-rates being diminished, and do not hesitate to express themselves especially averse to the poor-house being cheaply supplied by contract instead of by the local shopkeepers. The Commissioners lament that the abusive modes of administration, which have spread discontent and immorality amongst the labouring classes, often for the profit of a few at the expense of the great body of the rate-payers, and of the community at large, should have prevailed to the extent of implanting the notion implied in the memorial, that a profit derivable from the relief of the indigent is the privilege of any class, or of any place; and that the relief may properly be governed with a view to maintain or enhance such profit.

The suggestion that the parish of Sittingbourne should be united with four or five adjacent parishes, coupled with the opinions as to the supplies of goods, and the statements made to Sir F. Head, the Assistant Commissioner, that an arrangement should be made that Sittingbourne should receive the paupers of the out-parishes at a given rate of allowance per head, appear to be founded upon an impression that it is the duty of the Commissioners to secure to a particular class of persons the advantages they may derive from the custom of those persons who are maintained out of the poor-rate.

By a reference, however, to the Poor Law Amendment Act, it will be seen that such an object cannot be reconciled with the duties of the Commissioners, except when it may happen that the cheapest, the best, and the most convenient supply can be derived from the persons alluded to, and this fact will always be brought to the test by contracts on open tenders.

You state that you disapprove of a measure, "which takes from us the control of our own affairs, in the due ordering of which we cannot but feel deeply interested."

The Board cannot admit the validity of this position, for even if the whole of the rate-payers, and all the owners of property in the parish attended to the administration of relief, instead of too frequently leaving it to a minority, actuated by such interests as have been avowed in your memorial, since the consequences of a large proportion of the existing mismanagement do not fall upon them, but upon the labourers and upon adjacent parishes, such mismanagement by the officers, and by the vestries, is mismanagement, not of their own affairs, but of the affairs of other parishes, or of the public at large. The exceedingly high rates of the parish of Sittingbourne, as compared

with the rates of well-managed parishes, prove to the Board the necessity of their interposition.

The Commissioners would remind you that the Legislature has vested in them exclusively the discretion and the responsibility of forming Unions, and that it is no part of their legal duty to consult the parish officers upon such measures. It nevertheless appears that the Assistant Commissioner gave all parties interested an opportunity of expressing their sentiments at a public meeting held at Sittingbourne on the 17th of November last, at which meeting out of 192 persons who were present, only three held up their hands to oppose the measure.

The measures which will be prescribed by the Commissioners for adoption in the Union, in which your parish is comprehended, will be similar to the measures which have elsewhere been tried, and which have been found beneficial as well in their influence on the condition of the labourers, as in the reduction of the burthens of the rate payers, and the Commissioners have no doubt that similar results will ultimately be derived from these measures in your parish.

The Board feel it necessary to state, after the full consideration of every particular set forth in your memorial, that they are more firmly convinced of the necessity of the measures already adopted with relation to the parish of Sittingbourne.

Signed by order of the Board,

(Signed) E. Chadwick, Secretary.

To Thomas Tilley, Esq.,
and to certain Owners and Occupiers of
Land, Sittingbourne.

— No. 8. —

MEMORIALS from *Doddington and Newnham.*

To the Honourable Board of Guardians assembled for the Faversham Union.

May 8, 1835.

WE, your humble petitioners, the tradesmen and rate-payers of the parish of Doddington, in the county of Kent, feeling, as we do, alarmed at certain sections of the Poor Law Amendment Bill, particularly such part or parts of them as give rise to the contract of bread, and of medical attendance; feeling, as we do, that if such part or parts of the Bill be carried into operation it must be injurious to our interests, if not destructive to our trade; and we also fear, that if such section or sections be not removed, that pauperism will fast increase; we therefore most earnestly pray that your Honourable Board will take into your serious consideration such part or parts of the Bill as will inflict unjust measures on any of His Majesty's loyal and peaceful subjects, and recommend to His Majesty's Commissioners for the Poor Law to remove or amend such section or sections as are injurious to our interest.

20 Signatures.

The memorial from Newnham is *mutatis mutandis* a copy of the above from Doddington.

— No. 9. —

PETITION from *Potton*, and Answer.

Gentlemen,

Potton, April 1, 1835.

I AM instructed to forward you the petition herewith sent, and to express to you the wish of the parish of *Potton*, that, if compatible with your arrangements, you can allow the parishes mentioned in the petition to be united in the poorhouse of *Potton*, it will be a great satisfaction.

I am, &c.

George Henry Bays.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

P. S.—Mr. Adey has seen the petition.

To the Honourable the Poor Law Commissioners.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *Potton*,
Showeth,

THAT your petitioners, having received the rules of the Union of certain parishes, called the *Biggleswade Union*, observe, with dismay, that the said Union, as now set forth, includes numbers of parishes which are accustomed to attend the parish of *Potton*, for the purchase of goods and provisions of all sorts.

That your petitioners have heard, with regret, that all the parishes named in the list, called the *Biggleswade Union*, are to be provided for at *Biggleswade*, and that such provisions are to be obtained at *Biggleswade*, which will greatly injure and oppress the present trade of *Potton*.

That your petitioners respectfully represent to your consideration that the parish of *Potton* contains a commodious house for the reception of the poor, and three roods of ground adjoining, which will allow of a great addition to the present one; and also another house, capable of holding several persons, belonging to the parish, for the use of the poor.

That the inhabitants of the following parishes are contiguous to, and generally trade with, the parish of *Potton*; that is to say, *Cockayne*, *Hatley*, *Eyeworth*, *Everton*, *Sandy*, *Sutton*, *Temsford*, *Wrestlingworth*, and *Dunton*.

That by taking the said trade from the parish of *Potton*, it will greatly reduce the consumption and profit of the present tradesmen and inhabitants, which they feel themselves justified in representing to your due consideration.

Your petitioners therefore most respectfully request that the above-named parishes may be united to *Potton*, instead of being forced to join the Union, called the *Biggleswade Union*, or else be permitted to manage their own poor, without loss to the trade of the town of *Potton*, or how otherwise as you shall deem fit.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) *Richard Whittingham*, Vicar.

And 52 other Signatures.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset-house, April 3, 1835.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the 1st inst., together with the ac-

companying petition from the parish of Potton. In answer to the statements of the petitioners, the Board wish to observe that the main object of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which they are to administer, is to cause proper relief to be provided for the indigent, and it will be the duty of the Board, in the formation of Unions, to take care that such relief shall be provided at the lowest cost to the rate-payers. In the exercise of their other functions the Board will look solely to the general improvement of the administration of relief, and cannot act with a view to the profit of any particular class.

With respect to that part of your memorial, in which you state that you "have heard with regret that all the parishes named in the list called the Biggleswade Union, are to be provided for at Biggleswade, which will greatly injure and oppress the present trade of Potton," and that such provisions are to be obtained at Biggleswade, the Commissioners wish to assure you that no such arrangement has been made in favour of the tradesmen at Biggleswade.

The Commissioners have further to observe that it is their intention, in the performance of their duty, of reducing the burthens of the rate-payers and improving the condition of the poor, to require that all quantities of goods consumed by the indigent shall be purchased by contract on open tender. If, therefore, the tradesmen of Potton are enabled to supply goods for the use of the paupers of the Biggleswade Union at a cheaper rate than the tradesmen of Biggleswade or any other place, it will be the duty of the board of guardians of Biggleswade to act upon the tender of the tradesmen of Potton.

With reference to that part of your memorial in which you state "that the parish of Potton contains a commodious house for the reception of the poor, and three roods of ground adjoining, which will allow of a great addition to the present one, and also another house capable of holding several persons belonging to the parish for the use of the poor," the Commissioners state that those advantages will be still available to your parish in common with the other parishes comprehended in the Union.

The Commissioners lament that the abusive modes of administration which have spread pauperism, discontent and immorality amongst the labouring classes, often for the profit of a few at the expense of the great body of the rate-payers and of the community at large, should have prevailed to the extent of implanting the notion set forth by the petitioners that a profit derivable from the relief of the indigent, is the privilege of any class in any place, and that the relief might properly be governed with a view to maintain or enhance such profit.

By order of the Board,

To Geo. Henry Bays, Esq., (Signed) *E. Chadwick*, Secretary.
Solicitor, Potton, Biggleswade.

—No. 10.—

LETTER from THOMAS STEVENS, Esq.

Gentlemen,

Bradfield, Sept. 2, 1835.

I SHALL be greatly obliged by your sending me your opinion on the following question, "Have the overseers of any parish in a Union the power of charging the poor-rates of such parish with the expenses attending the affiliation of a bastard at quarter sessions without an order

from the board of guardians?" By the Poor Law Amendment Act, s. 72, I see it is "enacted, that when any child shall hereafter be born a bastard, and shall, by reason of the inability of the mother of such child to provide for its maintenance, become chargeable to any parish, the overseers or guardians of such parish, or the guardians of any Union in which such parish may be situate, may, if they think proper, after diligent inquiry as to the father of such child, apply to the next quarter sessions," &c. I have been exerting my influence to the utmost with the guardians of this Union to prevent any application being made to the court of quarter sessions for the affiliation of any bastard child, and I think that I have so far succeeded as to have convinced a majority of the guardians of the propriety of this course. But my endeavours will have been all in vain if the overseers have the power to apply, of their own accord, for the order of sessions on the father, and incur the expenses of affiliation without the sanction, or rather in opposition to the order, of the board of guardians. A case from Streatley of a girl lately confined with a bastard, brought the question of affiliation forward at our meeting on Monday. The guardians of Streatley, one of whom is also overseer, said that the overseers of Streatley would apply at the next quarter sessions for an order upon the person whom they would charge with being the putative father of the child; I urged as strongly as I could the great mischief of such proceedings, referring to the Report of the Inquiry Commissioners, and was on the point of requesting that the board of guardians would make an order forbidding any application to the court of quarter sessions for the affiliation of any bastard child, when the guardian maintained that the Poor Law Amendment Act authorized overseers to apply to quarter sessions without any reference to the board of guardians, and that the board of guardians have no control over the overseers in such cases.

You will be doing us a great kindness by determining this question for us immediately. I cannot help thinking that the application can only be made by order of the board of guardians on behalf of any parish in a Union.

The first general order by our board on the subject of relief to bastards, was made at the weekly meeting, June 26, viz. "That all relief to bastards in this Union be reduced to one gallon of bread per week each."

This order has been strictly observed (except in cases of sickness or urgent necessity) up to the 17 August, when the following orders were made: "That notice be given by the relieving-officer of each division, that from and after the 28th inst. no relief will be given for or on account of any bastard in this Union, except in the workhouse." (The house at Tilehurst being now sufficiently repaired to be used as a temporary house for able-bodied.) "That no bastard under the age of eight years will be received into the house without its mother, if she be living and unmarried."

In consequence of these orders, the mothers of at least half the bastards in the Union attended the board of guardians on Monday, to apply for a continuance of out-door relief. In every instance, except one (where the mother of the child was blind and the child sickly), the order first made was adhered to, and in every instance where the mother of the child was married, the child was ordered into the house. No new instances of this sort can occur, or we should have tried the point, and

have refused to receive the child without its mother though married. The effect of our orders can hardly be ascertained yet, but several who applied yesterday, upon hearing the determination of the board, said that "they should contrive and keep their children out of the house." One or two said that we might take the children, but that they would not go in themselves; this, however, we stoutly refused to do. In the course of a fortnight, I will give the account of all the bastards who did receive relief at the time of the orders being made; how many have accepted relief in the house; how many have stayed in the house more than a week; and how many have refused relief on such terms altogether.

At the same time that you answer my question at the beginning, will you be so good as to express fully your opinion on the course proposed to be followed with respect to bastards. A letter from you on the subject will have great influence with our guardians. I wish that our board should refuse to make any inquiry about the father of any bastard born since the passing of the Act; but in every case of bastardy should afford relief, if necessary, in the workhouse only, and never receive the child without its mother, unless of an age to be able to support itself by its own exertions.

On the whole I think our Union is going on very satisfactorily. Many farmers who disapproved the introduction of the new system, have told me lately, that their opinion is changed, that they find their labourers greatly improved, more industrious, more civil and better satisfied. One farmer, Mr. Pike, of Bucklebury, on Sunday last, told me that he did not care if we increased his rates 10*l.* a year, for we should do more good than equal to that by the improvement of the labourers. He was not pleased with the Union at first. Having no workhouse till just now, we have kept close to the principle of relieving in kind as much as possible, and whenever we have thought an applicant able to do without relief, it has been offered on loan. The facility for this description of relief, given by the new law, is one of its great excellencies. Relief on loan has been frequently refused; I copy one instance from our Minute-book:

"By James Dance, for medical attendance, has a wife and two children, complained he had not the means of paying a doctor; the relieving-officer found, upon inquiry, that he earned from 12*s.* to 16*s.* per week when well, and that his wife could earn 4*s.* per week at smock-frocking. Offered Dance an order for medical attendance, but told him it was on loan, and that his wages would be attached to repay it. The relief on these terms was declined.

In another case, where medical relief was given, the wages have been attached since to repay it. Though our Union has gained nothing by this, as the medical officer must have attended the patient under his contract, the principle has been saved, and the man has been rescued from the disgrace of pauperism. We have always thought it right in extreme sickness, or any immediate and urgent distress, to give relief at once, even when the applicant is in circumstances above pauperism; now, that the attention of the public is being so frequently called to the hardships occasioned by the new law, we are anxious to prevent any real distress, and though the parties applying for relief ought in many instances to have saved sufficient from their large earnings to have kept them from distress, we relieve at once without hesitation, and endeavour to teach them provident habits by attaching

their wages afterwards; when the system becomes generally understood such applications will cease. We have good proof that the poor are becoming more provident in consequence of our union arrangements. Several farmers have told me that even three weeks before harvest their labourers were asking for work for the winter, and in some instances the farmer's promise to employ through the winter has been a condition in the bargain for this harvest. It used to be a great complaint with some of the farmers, that the labourers always left them when they were wanted at harvest, to get high wages near London, and came back when they were not wanted to be maintained by the parish through the winter. The rector of Stanford (the next village) told me a short time ago that two of his parishioners, who had been for some years in the habit of going to the neighbourhood of London every summer for hay-making and harvest, had returned this year as soon as the hay-making was over; he was surprised to see them home again so soon, and asked them, if they could not get such good work as usual, that they returned so much earlier? They replied, "We have done very well, Sir, and have brought home some money; we might have stayed all the harvest if we had liked, and have had plenty of work, only we thought we would come back and work for our farmers at harvest, that they should keep us on through the winter." We have had lately a remarkable example of how much the poor can save; I copy the case from our Minute-book: "The relieving-officer of the 4th Division reports, that J. Hamblin, aged 82, who has for some years been receiving one gallon and half of bread and 1s. money per week from the parish of Basildon, was taken ill in the road on his way to the pay-table. He was carried home by John Cue, wheelwright. Cue laid him on his bed, and thinking him past recovery (as he was speechless), began to look about the room to see what he had got. In his cupboard he found 45s. and three pence halfpenny, and some memoranda of money lent by Hamblin. Relieving-officer went to Hamblin to ask about it, when after some hesitation he allowed that 45s. had been found at his house, but said that he owed it all. Relieving-officer asked to whom? Hamblin replied, to my belly; I have pinched my belly the last 50 years for it." Hamblin had no other apparent resource than the parish. It is in the same parish that the young man, J. Lovegrove, earning 12s. per week, has refused to support his mother; his case was laid before you by Mr. Gulson. I have to-day signed a distress warrant to seize his goods, as he has neglected to attend to the order made upon him, and when summoned to show cause why he did neglect to obey it, again maintained that he never would obey it. He is advised by some one in a superior station, I am sure, or he would not have behaved as he has. I expect that the case will be made public, as an instance of great cruelty and oppression, but the cause will gain by this in the end. I hear that his goods have been disposed of, and that there is not sufficient to distress. Upon the constable's return to this effect we shall commit him to prison for the full term allowed by law. In all such cases we cannot too soon arrive at the point; the principle should be established at once for the sake of example to others.

But of all the instances of good effected under the new system, the most cheering, I think, occurred on Monday last. It shows how differently the poor are beginning themselves to regard parochial relief;

instead of viewing it as their right, they now begin to receive it as charity and with gratitude. I copy our Minute-book again :

" By Thomas Wise, aged 50 years, being ill and unable to work ; has a wife and four children ; ordered 3 galls. bread, 11b. oatmeal, 2lbs. mutton, 1s. money, and report.

" Relieving-officer reports, that Thomas Wise is recovered and relief discontinued. He sent his duty to the gentlemen, and desired the relieving-officer to return his best thanks for what had been given him."

The amount of relief here given to a family of six persons, was equal to 4s. 9d., only 1s. of this in money ; a year ago we should have been abused and insulted grievously, if we had ventured to offer such to any sick person with a family. The state of mind of Wise affords a striking and happy contrast to poor Lovegrove, who is obstinate in his determination to neglect his aged mother and defy the laws, which must compel him to do what natural affection would have made most pleasing to him, but for the demoralizing influence of the old system.

Hoping that you will allow me to hear from you before the next meeting of our board on Monday,

I am, &c.

Thos. Stevens.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

— No. 11. —

CASE submitted to the Attorney-General, with his OPINION thereon.

CASE.

It has become an important question whether the guardians of Unions formed under Gilbert's Act (22 Geo. 3, c. 83), are empowered, or can, by the rules of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, be empowered to administer relief to any able-bodied pauper exclusively in the workhouse.

Before Gilbert's Act was passed there was no restriction as to the class or description of paupers to whom relief might be administered in the workhouse.

The 9 Geo. 1, c. 4, s. 4, enabled churchwardens and overseers to purchase or hire houses wherein to keep, maintain and employ such poor persons as shall desire to receive relief ; and it provides, that " in case any poor persons of any parish or place where such house shall be so purchased or hired shall refuse to be lodged, kept, or maintained in such house, such poor person, by refusing, shall be put out of the book or books where the names of the persons who ought to receive collection are to be registered, and shall not be entitled to ask or receive collection or relief from the churchwardens and overseers, &c."

The 22 Geo. 3, c. 83 (Gilbert's Act), in the preamble of section 35, recites, that " from want of proper descriptions of the poor who are to be objects of the relief, provided by the 9 Geo. 1, c. 7, &c., the poor have been frequently reduced to hardships and distresses."

Accordingly, by the 29th section, the power to offer relief in the workhouse of those parishes and unions to which the provisions of the Act apply, was restricted, and, as relates to certain classes of paupers, and especially the able-bodied, was wholly abolished. The 29th section is as follows :

"And to render the provisions of this Act more practicable and beneficial, be it further enacted, that no person shall be sent to such poorhouse or houses except such as are become indigent by old age, distress or infirmities, and are unable to acquire a maintenance by their labour, and except such orphan children as shall be sent thither by order of the guardian or guardians of the poor, with the approbation of the visitor, and except such children as shall necessarily go with their mothers thither for sustenance."

This enactment, which excludes able-bodied paupers, is however, amongst others, repealed by the 31st section 4 and 5 Will. 4, c. 76, (the Poor Law Amendment Act), in these words: "Be it further enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act so much of the said recited Act made and passed in the 22d year of the reign of his late Majesty, Geo. 3, intituled 'An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor,' as limits the class or description of persons who shall be sent to such poorhouse or workhouse, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed."

This repeal, it is presumed, would revive, in Unions formed under Gilbert's Act, the enactment of 9 Geo. 1, cited above, and deprive the able-bodied man who should refuse relief in the workhouse of any claim to other relief.

The 33d section of Gilbert's Act is, however, to the following effect: "Be it further enacted, that where there shall be, in any parish, township, or place, any poor person or persons who shall be able and willing to work but who cannot get employment, it shall and may be lawful for the guardian of the poor of such parish, township or place, and he is hereby required on application made to him by or on behalf of such poor person, to agree for the labour of such poor person or persons, at any work or employment suited to his or her strength and capacity, in any parish, township, or place of his or her residence, and to maintain, or cause such person or persons to be properly maintained, lodged and provided for, until such employment shall be procured, and during the time of such work, and to receive the money to be earned by such work or labour, and apply it in such maintenance, as far as the same shall go, and make up the deficiency, if any; and if the same shall happen to exceed the money expended in such maintenance, to account for the surplus, which shall afterwards, within one calendar month, be given to such poor person or persons who shall have earned such money, if no further expenses shall be incurred on his or her account to exhaust the same."

For the enforcement of these provisions, it is enacted, in the 35th section, "that it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace, on complaint made on oath, by or on behalf of any poor person belonging to any parish, township, or place, that the guardian, upon application made to him, hath refused such poor person proper relief; and after inquiring into the condition and circumstances of such poor person, if it shall appear to such justice that the person so complaining or on whose behalf such complaint is made, is able and willing to work, but wants employment, in that case it shall and may be lawful for such justice to order the guardian to procure him or her maintenance and employment in the manner hereinbefore directed; and if any guardian shall, upon due notice of such order, refuse or neglect to obey the same, he shall, for every such refusal or neglect, forfeit the sum of 5*l*.

These enactments are unrepealed, unless the words of the Poor Law Amendment Act above quoted should be held to repeal them, by repealing so much of the Act as limits the class or descriptions of persons who shall be sent to such poorhouse or workhouse.

The opinion of the Attorney General is, therefore, requested, with regard to Unions or parishes governed by guardians, under the provisions of the 22 Geo. 3, c. 83:

1. Whether such guardians are still bound, under the 32d clause, to find employment out of the workhouse for poor persons being able and willing to work.

2. If they are so, then whether, in the interval during which work cannot be procured, the guardians have (now that the 29th section is repealed) any power to order an able-bodied person into the workhouse, without incurring the penalty provided by the 35th section.

In case the Attorney General should be of opinion that the guardians must still find work for such able-bodied persons under the 32d section, he is requested further to state his opinion.

3. Whether the 42d section of the 4 and 5 Will. 4, c. 76 (to which attention is requested), can be held to enable the Poor Law Commissioners to determine, by their rules, orders and regulations, the classes of paupers to be received or admitted into the workhouses, in such manner as to render the provisions of the 32d section of 22 Geo. 3, inoperative.

OPINION.

1. I AM of opinion, that while Unions under Gilbert's Act continue, the guardians are bound, under the 32d clause, to find employment out of the workhouse for poor persons able and willing to work.

2. The guardians, I think, may order such persons into the workhouse, where their being in the workhouse is compatible with their having employment under the 32d section, but not otherwise.

3. I am of opinion, that the object in view cannot be effectually attained while the Unions under Gilbert's Act continue, and that the only mode of rendering the provisions of the 32d section of 22 Geo. 3, inoperative, will be for the Unions to be dissolved, so that the parishes composing them may be placed under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Temple, }
5th September, 1835. }

J. CAMPBELL.

APPENDIX (D).

No. 1.—LIST of the UNIONS formed, and of the PARISHES included therein; together with a STATEMENT of the POPULATION, the FIRST THREE YEARS' AVERAGE of POOR'S-RATES upon which each Parish will contribute to the Expense of the Management of the Union, and the Number of GUARDIANS appointed.

No. 2.—NUMBER of the UNIONS formed, with the AGENCY of each ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER; the Number of the PARISHES UNITED, and the AVERAGE AMOUNT of POORS'-RATES.

No. 1.

LIST of the UNIONS formed, and of the PARISHES included therein; together with a STATEMENT of the POPULATION, AVERAGE of POOR'S-RATES paid up to the time of the Union, and the Number of GUARDIANS appointed.

COUNTY OF SUSSEX.

Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elected Guardians.	Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elected Guardians.
NEWHAVEN UNION.				UCKFIELD UNION:			
1 Newhaven . . .	904	£. 568	2	1 Uckfield . . .	1,261	£. 759	2
2 Piddinghoe . . .	231	257	1	2 Maresfield . . .	1,650	1,126	2
3 Southse . . .	142	138	1	3 Framfield . . .	1,468	1,635	2
4 Rodmell . . .	350	527	1	4 Mayfield . . .	2,738	3,612	2
5 Telscombe . . .	121	143	1	5 Rotherfield . . .	3,097	2,885	2
6 Rottingdean . . .	880	334	2	6 Fletching . . .	1,870	2,104	2
7 Ovingdean . . .	119	64	1	7 Waldron . . .	997	976	1
8 Heighton . . .	91	96	1	8 Buxted . . .	1,642	2,046	2
9 Denton . . .	117	104	1	9 East Hoathley . . .	505	550	1
10 Tarring Neville . . .	80	88	1	10 Little Horsted . . .	300	314	1
11 Stanmer . . .	123	51	1	11 Isfield . . .	581	636	1
12 Falmer . . .	432	312	1				
13 Bishopstone . . .	293	191	1	Totals . . .	16,109	16,643	18
14 East Blatchington . . .	170	180	1				
15 Kingston . . .	160	92	1				
16 Iford . . .	187	226	1				
Totals . . .	4,400	3,371	18				
Declared to take place from and after 2d February, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.			
EASTBOURNE UNION.				WEST FIRLE UNION:			
1 Eastbourne . . .	2,726	3,166	3	1 West Firle . . .	618	595	2
2 Pevensey . . .	343	791	1	2 Beddingham . . .	264	443	1
3 Westham . . .	752	1,740	1	3 Glynde . . .	276	186	1
4 Willingdon . . .	603	1,593	1	4 Alciston . . .	266	400	1
5 East Dean . . .	330	288	1	5 Selmeaton . . .	189	403	1
6 Jevington . . .	350	635	1	6 Ripe . . .	360	393	1
7 Folkington . . .	168	258	1	7 Chalvington . . .	188	266	1
8 Wilmington . . .	328	340	1	8 Berwick . . .	203	271	1
9 Lullington . . .	49	61	1				
10 Littlington . . .	143	100	1	Totals . . .	2,364	2,957	9
11 West Dean . . .	150	217	1				
12 Friston . . .	89	130	1				
13 Alfriston . . .	694	919	1				
14 Seaford . . .	1,098	1,726	2				
Totals . . .	7,823	11,964	17				
Declared to take effect from and after 25th March, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.			
				WEST HAMPNETT UNION.			
				1 West Hampnett . . .	500	362	1
				2 East Lavant . . .	407	415	1
				3 Mid-Lavant . . .	669	166	1
				4 Binderton . . .	89	92	1
				5 West Stoke . . .	102	47	1
				6 Singleton . . .	583	512	1
				7 East Dean . . .	400	340	1
				Carried forward . . .	2,750	1,934	7

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	2,750	£. 1,934	7	CHAILEY UNION:		£.	
8 Graftham . . .	316	310	1	1 Chailey	1,030	1,275	2
9 Eartham . . .	112	179	1	2 Ringmer	1,271	2,321	2
10 Boxgrove . . .	778	938	2	3 Barcomb	931	1,769	1
11 Barnham . . .	148	161	1	4 Newick	724	616	1
12 West Wittering . . .	562	744	1	5 Wivelsfield	559	813	1
13 East Wittering . . .	241	190	1	6 Ditchelling	917	1,168	1
14 West Itchenor . . .	300	201	1	7 Street	168	88	1
15 Birdham . . .	800	516	2	8 Westmeston	236	404	1
16 Earnley . . .	153	218	1	9 East Chilington	258		1
17 New Fishbourn . . .	291	157	1	10 Plumpton	275	344	1
18 Appledram . . .	142	285	1	11 Hamsey	608	778	1
19 Donnington . . .	228	581	1	Totals . . .	6,977	9,576	13
20 Hunston . . .	183	276	1				
21 Sidlesham . . .	1,002	1,155	2				
22 Selsey . . .	821	1,054	2				
23 Pagham . . .	985	1,392	2				
24 North Mundham . . .	567	898	1				
25 Remston . . .	129	108	1				
26 Rumbold's Wyke . . .	319	262	1				
27 Tangmere . . .	192	144	1				
28 Oving . . .	789	1,008	2				
29 Aldingburn . . .	833	909	2				
30 Eastergate . . .	208	241	1				
31 Walberton . . .	616	537	2				
32 Yapton . . .	578	883	1				
33 Felpham . . .	588	854	1				
34 Madehurst . . .	154	71	1				
35 Binsted, . . .	102	132	1				
36 Middleton . . .	35	19	1				
37 Upwaltham . . .	95	100	1				
Totals . . .	15,017	16,457	45				

Declared to take place from and after
26th March, 1835.

CUCKFIELD UNION:			
1 Cuckfield	2,586	3,069	2
2 Hurst-Perpoint . . .	1,484	1,984	2
3 Lindfield	1,485	1,923	2
4 Keymer	681	780	1
5 Albourne	362	372	1
6 Twineham	337	529	1
7 Bolney	635	718	1
8 Slaugham	740	1,529	1
9 Horsted Keynes . . .	782	1,492	1
10 Ardingley	587	1,433	1
11 Balcomb	641	992	1
12 Piecombe	227	244	1
13 New-Timber	172	198	1
14 Cowfold	809	1,179	1
15 Clayton	489	697	1
Totals . . .	12,017	17,139	18

Declared to take place from and after
26th March, 1835.

WEST BOURN UNION:			
1 West Bourn	2,031	2,183	3
2 North Marden	31	68	1
3 Compton	241	333	1
4 East Marden	44	107	1
5 Up-Marden	364	522	1
6 Stoughton	570	1,232	1
7 West Dean	641	667	1
8 Racton	88	257	1
9 Funtington	969	891	2
10 Chidham	320	322	1
11 Bosham	1,181	1,355	2
12 West Thorney	105	158	1
Totals . . .	6,585	8,095	16

Declared to take place from and after
25th March, 1835.

HAILSHAM UNION:			
1 Hailsham	1,445	2,638	2
2 Hellingley	1,504	2,872	2
3 Hurstmonceux	1,338	1,720	2
4 Heathfield	1,801	2,072	2
5 Warbleton	1,225	991	2
6 Arlington	727	1,979	1
7 Wartling	948	1,206	1
8 Chiddingly	902	1,185	1
9 Loughton	804	1,321	1
10 Hooe	525	1,081	1
11 Ninfield	606	1,284	1
Totals . . .	11,825	18,351	16

Declared to take place from and after
10th April, 1835.

Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
MIDHURST UNION:				BATTLE UNION:			
1 Midhurst	1,478	1,248	2	1 Battle	2,999	2,493	3
2 Easebourne	904	1,152	1	2 Bexhill	1,867	3,463	2
3 Bepton	166	52	1	3 Hollington	338	431	1
4 Chithurst	172	133	1	4 Crowhurst	370	403	1
5 Cocking	433	770	1	5 Catsfield	619	673	1
6 Farohurst	769	992	1	6 Ashburnham	721	902	1
7 Iping	338	486	1	7 Westfield	938	1,326	1
8 Linchmere	301	543	1	8 Sedlescomb	732	683	1
9 Lodsworth	599	846	1	9 Whatlington	286	221	1
10 Lurgashall	718	1,172	1	10 Mountfield	663	711	1
11 Selham	89	243	1	11 Brightling	656	1,069	1
12 Stedham	494	579	1	12 Dallington	577	534	1
13 Tillington	806	1,398	1	13 Ewhurst	1,200	1,136	2
14 Treyford	130	203	1	14 Penhurst	102	190	1
15 Trotton	416	741	1	Totals	12,068	14,235	18
16 Woolbeding	307	314	1	Declared to take place from and after 10th June, 1835.			
17 Woolhington	338	511	1	HASTINGS UNION:			
18 Harting	1,290	2,558	2	1 St. Clements	2,981	2,144	3
19 Elsted	174	260	1	2 St. Mary-in-the Castle	1,890	579	2
20 Terwick	97	145	1	3 All Saints	3,111	1,139	3
21 Rogate	901	1,528	1	4 St. Leonards	500	90	1
22 Linch	83	200	1	5 St. Mary Mag- dalen	1,100	125	1
23 North Chapel	845	781	1	6 The Holy Tri- nity, otherwise the Dissolved Priory	1,074	118	1
24 Didding	82	49	1	7 St. Michael	7	..	1
<i>County of Southampton:</i>				8 St. Andrew	3	..	1
25 North Ambersham	121	400	1	9 St. Mary, Bul- verhithe	51	..	1
26 South Ambersham	183	232	1	10 Ore	965	667	1
Totals	12,239	17,536	28	11 Guestling	768	1,171	1
Declared to take place from and after 12th May, 1835.				12 Fairlight	533	564	1
THAKEHAM UNION:				13 Pett	297	372	1
1 Thakeham	597	860	1	Totals	13,280	6,969	18
2 Washington	793	632	1	Declared to take place from and after 20th July, 1835.			
3 Sullington	317	458	1	STEYNING UNION:			
4 Findon	544	423	1	1 Steyning	1,436	1,821	3
5 Wiston	296	399	1	2 Ashurst	423	395	1
6 Ashington	285	360	1	3 Henfield	1,516	1,669	3
7 Hardham	129	85	1	4 Shermanbury	345	416	1
8 Coldwaltham	449	394	1	5 Coombes	71	95	1
9 West Chiltington	718	1,485	1	6 Sompington	519	613	1
10 Warminghurst	113	140	1	7 Bramber	97	58	1
11 Storrington	916	1,063	1	8 Woodmancote	342	541	1
12 Parham	46	39	1	9 Old Shoreham	231	241	1
13 Pulborough	1,979	3,307	3	10 Edburton	267	348	1
14 Stopham	129	151	1	Totals	5,247	6,197	14
Totals	7,311	9,796	16	Declared to take place from and after 14th May, 1835.			
Declared to take place from and after 14th May, 1835.				Carried forward			

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Sussex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	5,247	£. 6,197	14	Brought forward	9,516	£. 9,578	13
11 Poynings . . .	268	186	1	8 Iden . . .	517	703	1
12 Beeding . . .	589	703	1	9 Playden . . .	297	191	1
13 New Shoreham . . .	1,503	633	3	10 Peasemars . . .	920	772	1
14 Aldrington . . .	..	..	1	11 East Guldeford . . .	126	260	1
15 Kingston-by-Sea . . .	60	..	1	<i>Counties of Sussex and Kent.</i>			
16 Portslade . . .	615	359	1	12 Bromhill . . .	42	64	1
17 Southwick . . .	502	169	1	Totals . . .	11,418	11,588	18
18 Hangleton . . .	64	29	1				
19 Buttolphs . . .	81	20	1	Declared to take place from and after 27th July, 1835.			
20 Patcham . . .	489	488	1	LEWES UNION:			
21 West Blatchington . . .	58	10	1	1 All Saints . . .	2,112	1,140	2
22 Preston . . .	235	283	1	2 St. John-under-the- Castle . . .	2,421	1,254	2
23 Hove . . .	1,360	262	3	3 St. Thomas-in-the- Cliffs . . .	1,408	740	2
Totals . . .	11,071	9,339	31	4 St. Michael . . .	1,074	716	2
Declared to take place from and after 25th July, 1835.				5 St. John Baptist, Southover . . .	831	667	1
RYE UNION:				6 St. Peter and St. Mary, Westout, otherwise St. Ann's	746	574	1
1 Rye . . .	3,715	2,630	4	7 South Malling . . .	705	679	1
2 Brede . . .	1,046	1,678	2	Totals . . .	9,297	5,770	11
3 St. Thomas the Apostle, Winchel- sea . . .	772	586	1	Declared to take place from and after 10th August, 1835.			
4 Udimore . . .	454	578	1				
5 Icklesham . . .	604	713	1				
6 Beckley . . .	1,477	1,542	2				
7 Northiam . . .	1,448	1,871	2				
Carried forward	9,516	9,598	13				

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

AMERSHAM UNION:	Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.				Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.		
1 Amersham . . .	2,816	1,720	2	Brought forward	5,904	4,308	5
2 Seer Green . . .	245	229	1	4 Denham . . .	1,169	982	1
3 Chalfont St. Peter's . . .	1,416	732	1	5 Fulmer . . .	391	274	1
4 Chalfont St. Giles . . .	1,297	1,142	1	6 Hedgerley . . .	187	134	1
5 Chapen . . .	649	581	1	7 Horton . . .	840	481	1
6 Chesham . . .	5,388	4,825	3	8 Langley Marish . . .	1,797	1,127	2
7 Chesham-Bois . . .	157	191	1	9 Stoks Poges . . .	1,252	847	1
8 Beaconsfield . . .	1,763	963	2	10 Upton with Chalvey . . .	1,502	838	1
9 Penn . . .	1,103	692	1	11 Wexham . . .	181	245	1
<i>County of Hertford:</i>				12 Wyrardisbury, or Wraysbury . . .	682	552	1
10 Coleshill . . .	497	445	1	13 Boveny, Lower . . .	207	111	1
Totals . . .	15,331	11,520	14	14 Dorney . . .	268	196	1
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.				15 Taplow . . .	647	519	1
ETON UNION:				16 Hitcham . . .	232	344	1
1 Eton . . .	3,232	1,844	2	17 Burnham . . .	1,930	1,327	1
2 Iver . . .	1,870	1,714	2	18 Farnham Royal . . .	777	582	1
3 Datchett . . .	802	750	1	19 Hedgerley Dean . . .	171	97	1
Carried forward	5,904	4,308	5	Totals . . .	18,137	12,964	22
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.							

Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
WYCOMBE UNION:							
1 Wycombe (Boro')	3,198	1,793	2	Brought forward	3,154	3,819	7
2 West Wycombe	1,901	2,158	2	7 Mursley with Saldin	495	803	1
3 Chipping Wycombe, or High Wycombe	3,101	2,421	2	8 Stewkley	1,053	1,989	1
4 Ilmire	78	121	1	9 Swanbourne	668	1,104	1
5 Towersey	403	588	1	10 Nash	377	321	1
6 Bledlow with Bled- low Ridge	1,135	1,857	1	11 Tattenhoe	13	12	1
7 Ellesborough	1,490	549	1	12 Whaddon	512	506	1
8 Great Hampden	286	309	1	13 Shenley Brook End	244	205	1
9 Little Hampden	105	36	1	14 Hogshaw-cum-Full- brooke	48	81	1
10 Horsenden	37	12	1	15 North Marston	606	1,378	1
11 Great Kimble	436	733	1	16 Grandborough	341	660	1
12 Little Kimble	176	145	1	17 East Claydon	336	413	1
13 Little Missenden	937	790	1	Totals	7,847	11,291	18
14 Monk's Risborough	1,018	842	1	Declared to take place from and after 9th June, 1835.			
15 Prince's Risborough	2,122	2,199	2	LEIGHTON BUZZARD UNION:			
16 Stoke Mandeville	461	513	1	County of Bedford:	Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.		
17 Wendover	2,008	2,107	2	1 Leighton Buzzard	3,330	2,194	3
18 Bradenham	263	110	1	2 Billington	271	298	1
19 Fawley	254	416	1	3 Eggington	348	538	1
20 Fingest	340	310	1	4 Heath and Reach	784	875	1
21 Hambledon	1,357	436	1	5 Stanbridge	416	479	1
22 Hedsor with Lillifee	207	243	1	County of Buckingham:			
23 Hughenden	1,457	1,085	1	6 Eddlesborough	1,490	1,296	2
24 Great Marlow	4,237	2,782	3	7 Ivinghoe	1,648	1,010	2
25 Little Marlow	783	621	1	8 Slapton	360	334	1
26 Medmenham	384	234	1	9 Grove	21	32	1
27 Radnage	399	414	1	10 Wing	1,152	1,997	2
28 Saunderton	231	666	1	11 Linslade	407	631	1
29 Turville	442	391	1	12 Southbury	570	669	1
30 Woodburn	1,972	1,999	2	13 Cheddington	375	263	1
County of Oxford:				14 Mentmore	329	420	1
31 Chinnor	1,009	1,650	1	15 Stoke Hammond	323	221	1
32 Stoken-Church	1,290	1,324	1	Totals	11,824	11,257	20
Counties of Buckingham and Oxford:				Declared to take place from and after 1st July, 1835.			
33 Ipsstone	430	162	1	AYLESBURY UNION:			
Totals	33,947	30,016	41	1 Aylesbury with Walton	5,021	3,623	6
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.				2 Aston Clinton	1,001	1,055	2
WINSLOW UNION:				3 Bierton with Broughton	605	856	1
1 Winslow-cum-Ship- ton	1,290	1,078	2	4 Buckland	510	510	1
2 Dunton	116	85	1	5 Cuddington	620	927	1
3 Drayton Parslow	416	876	1	6 Dinton with Ford and Upton	893	1,285	1
4 Great Horwood-cum- Singleborough	720	831	1	7 Haddenham	1,484	2,299	2
5 Hogston or Hogg- ston	173	189	1	Carried forward	10,134	10,555	14
6 Little Horwood	439	760	1				
Carried forward	3,154	3,819	7				

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	10,134	£. 10,555	14	Brought forward	4,831	£. 4,404	9
8 Halton	209	204	1	8 Chetwode	149	167	1
9 Hartwell	137	171	1	9 Edgecote	180	203	1
10 Hulcott	145	110	1	10 Foxcote	107	111	1
11 Stone	773	1,133	1	11 Hillersden	251	243	1
12 Weston Turville	637	802	1	12 Leckhampstead	499	567	1
13 Ashenden-cum-Pol- lecot	368	381	1	13 Lillingstone Dayrell	150	291	1
14 Aston Sandford	82	45	1	14 Maids Morton	474	412	1
15 Chearsley	337	246	1	15 Marsh Gibbon	812	1,180	1
16 Kingswood	80	71	1	16 Padbury	708	465	1
17 Ludgershall	505	578	1	17 Pounden	84	95	1
18 Marston Fleet	41	101	1	18 Preston Bisset	502	473	1
19 Oving	384	929	1	19 Ratcliffe-cum- Chackmore	334	233	1
20 Pitchcott	28	175	1	20 Shalston	194	119	1
21 Quainton	952	1,063	1	21 Steeple Claydon	881	1,267	1
22 Quarrendon	60	87	1	22 Stowe	490	348	1
23 Shipton Lee	104	125	1	23 Thornborough	672	866	1
24 Waddeston	1,454	1,952	2	24 Thornton	44	146	1
25 Westcot	242	178	1	25 Tingewick	866	1,188	1
26 Nether Winchenden	294	284	1	26 Twyford	416	434	1
27 Upper Winchenden	223	394	1	27 Water Stratford	186	189	1
28 Woodham	38	23	1	28 Middle Claydon	136	73	1
29 Wotton Underwood	312	244	1	<i>County of Oxford:</i>			
30 Aston Abbots	303	421	1	29 Lillingstone Lovell	159	92	1
31 Cholesbury	127	133	1	30 Boycott	Included in Stowe.	139	1
32 Cublington	284	336	1	Totals	13,129	13,705	32
33 Drayton Beauchamp	275	463	1	Declared to take place from and after 13th July, 1835.			
34 Hardwicke	235	333	1	<i>Hoxne Union:</i>			
35 Hawridge	217	159	1	1 Hoxne	1,243	1,687	2
36 Weedon	405	949	1	2 Athelington	129	139	1
37 Wingrave with Row- sham	783	987	1	3 Badingham	866	1,288	2
38 Creslow	5	31	1	4 Beddingfield	332	347	1
39 Whitchurch	928	1,207	1	5 Bedfield	323	426	1
40 Grendon Underwood	379	351	1	6 Brundish	478	608	1
Totals	21,480	25,221	48	7 Denham	276	321	1
Declared to take place from and after 6th July, 1835.				8 Dennington	1,000	1,532	2
BUCKINGHAM UNION:				9 Fressingfield	1,352	1,945	3
1 Buckingham (Borough)	3,465	2,977	3	10 Horham	464	547	1
Bourton				11 Laxfield	1,158	1,243	2
Bourton Hold				12 Mendam	551	677	1
Gawcott				13 Metfield	733	940	2
Lenborough				14 Monk Soham	433	472	1
Prebend End				15 Saxtead	505	592	1
2 Addington	72	86	1	16 Southolt	193	211	1
3 Adstock	444	643	1	17 Stradbroke	1,527	2,479	3
4 Akeley	291	201	1	18 Syleham	391	383	1
5 Barton Harthorn	145	88	1	19 Tannington	264	463	1
6 Beachampton	254	250	1	Carried forward	12,218	16,300	28
7 Charndon	160	159	1	2 c			
Carried forward	4,831	4,404	9				

Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	12,218	£. 16,300	28	Brought forward	19,778	£. 16,347	47
20 Weybred	708	821	2	40 Southwold	1,875	728	2
21 Wilby	649	854	2	41 Westleton	884	945	2
22 Wingfield	668	915	1	42 Linstead Magna . .	110	296	1
23 Withersdale . . .	194	115	1	43 Sotherton	196	142	1
24 Worlingworth . .	729	899	2	44 Blythburgh	579	1,173	1
Totals	15,166	19,904	36	45 Huntingfield	400	661	1
Declared to take place from and after 24th June, 1835.				46 Easton Bavents . .	16	6	1
				47 Dunwich	232	94	1
				48 Carlton	130	272	1
				49 Kelsale	1,103	1,315	2
				Totals	25,303	21,979	60
				Declared to take place from and after 25th June, 1835.			
BLYTHING UNION:				WANGFORD UNION:			
1 Halesworth	2,473	949	3	1 All Saints and St. Nicholas, South Elmhams	239	626	2
2 Peasenhall	773	452	2	2 St. Andrew, Ilketh- hall	512	691	2
3 Aldringham and Thorpe	362	160	1	3 Barsham	182	692	1
4 Cratfield	692	687	1	4 Beccles	3,862	1,976	6
5 Stoven	112	119	1	5 Bungay, Holy Tri- nity	1,663	903	4
6 Bramfield	667	725	1	6 Bungay, St. Mary . .	2,071	984	4
7 Wenhamston	1,070	698	2	7 North Cove	218	83	1
8 Southcove	183	122	1	8 St. Cross, South Elmhams, or Sand- croft	234	481	2
9 Cookley	287	606	1	9 Ellough	146	210	1
10 Haveringham . . .	423	224	1	10 Flixton	206	310	2
11 Wrentham	1,022	553	2	11 Homersfield	233	129	1
12 Covehithe	182	123	1	12 St. John, Ilkethshall	72	152	1
13 Chediston	409	577	1	13 St. James, South Elmhams	263	322	2
14 Henham	156	171	1	14 St. Lawrence, Il- kethshall	242	303	1
15 Blyford	197	334	1	15 St. Margaret, Il- kethshall	309	528	2
16 Linstead Parva . .	186	94	1	16 St. Margaret, South Elmhams	169	256	1
17 Benacre	208	217	1	17 Mettingham	406	392	2
18 Henstead, including Hulver Hamlet . . .	566	198	1	18 St. Michael, South Elmhams	147	121	1
19 Rumburgh	421	588	1	19 St. Nicholas, South Elmhams	101	Included in All Saints	1
20 Walberswick . . .	279	190	1	20 St. Peter, South Elmhams	122	210	1
21 Frostenden	373	286	1	21 Redisham	179	223	1
22 Wangford	636	233	1	22 Ringsfield	315	480	2
23 Ubbeston	199	249	1	Carried forward	11,891	10,072	41
24 Brampton	289	566	1				
25 Yoxford	1,149	852	2				
26 Uggeshall	303	294	1				
27 Reydon	338	296	1				
28 Leiston	1,070	778	2				
29 Theberton	537	676	1				
30 Middleton	580	598	1				
31 Walpole	658	698	2				
32 Darsham	513	232	1				
33 Sibton	498	766	1				
34 Spexhall	197	163	1				
35 Holton	435	265	1				
36 Westhall	442	600	1				
37 Wissett	419	354	1				
38 Thorington	159	201	1				
39 Knodishall	315	453	1				
Carried forward	19,778	16,347	47				

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Buckingham.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	11,891	£. 10,072	41	Brought forward	4,441	£. 4,591	11
23 Shadingfield . . .	198	271	1	10 Layham . . .	552	654	1
24 Shipmeadow . . .	133	104	1	11 Lindsey . . .	250	532	1
25 Sotterley . . .	243	261	1	12 Naughton . . .	187	227	1
26 Weston . . .	233	215	1	13 Nedging . . .	214	116	1
27 Willingham . . .	158	142	1	14 Semer . . .	275	507	1
28 Worlingham . . .	202	233	1	15 Thorp Morieux . . .	412	429	1
Totals . . .	13,058	11,298	47	16 Wattesham . . .	202	398	1
Declared to take place from and after 25th June, 1835.				17 Whatfield . . .	377	765	1
COSFORD UNION:				18 Polstead . . .	960	1,029	2
1 Aldham . . .	318	395	1	19 Hadleigh Parish . . .	3,425	3,720	3
2 Bildeston . . .	836	588	2	20 Cockfield . . .	1,023	980	2
3 Hadleigh Hamlet . . .	214	102	1	21 Lavenham . . .	2,107	1,889	2
4 Brettenham . . .	366	471	1	22 Monk's Eleigh . . .	733	575	1
5 Chellesworth . . .	346	137	1	23 Milden . . .	177	174	1
6 Elmsett . . .	437	632	1	24 Brent Eleigh . . .	290	314	1
7 Hitcham . . .	1,022	1,407	2	25 Groxton . . .	577	488	1
8 Kersey . . .	700	671	1	26 Cosford . . .	874	889	2
9 Kettlebaston . . .	202	188	1	27 Edwardstone . . .	503	585	1
Carried forward	4,441	4,591	11	28 Preston . . .	321	361	1
Declared to take place from and after 1st August, 1835.				Totals . . .	17,900	19,223	36

COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

DOCKING UNION:				Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.			
1 Docking . . .	1,406	1,790	3	Brought forward	9,877	11,665	33
2 Barwick . . .	35	153	1	24 Burnham Westgate . . .	1,022	496	3
3 Great Bircham . . .	451	490	1	25 North Creak . . .	651	982	2
4 Bircham-Newton . . .	95	74	1	26 South Creak . . .	831	764	2
5 Bircham-Tofts . . .	130	118	1	27 Waterden . . .	24	26	1
6 Brancaster . . .	851	805	2	28 Anmer . . .	132	20	1
7 Fring . . .	127	105	1	29 Dersingham . . .	606	655	2
8 Heacham . . .	733	809	2	30 Bagthorpe . . .	73	86	1
9 Holme-next-the-Sea . . .	268	328	1	31 Barmer . . .	43	73	1
10 Hunstanton . . .	432	437	1	32 Houghton . . .	277	274	1
11 Ingoldesthorpe . . .	236	237	1	33 Syderstone . . .	421	267	1
12 Great Ringstead . . .	524	524	2	34 East Rudham . . .	950	1,005	3
13 Sedgford . . .	595	883	2	35 West Rudham . . .	456	442	1
14 Snerborne . . .	140	95	1	36 Broomsthorpe . . .	13	28	1
15 Snettisham . . .	926	1,551	3	Totals . . .	15,376	16,840	53
16 Stanhoe . . .	436	782	1	Declared to take place from and after 1st August, 1835.			
17 Thornham . . .	668	783	2	SWAFFHAM UNION:			
18 Titchwell . . .	159	155	1	1 Swaffham . . .	3,285	2,824	4
19 Burnham Deepdale . . .	95	27	1	2 Bodney . . .	110	106	1
20 Burnham Norton . . .	183	86	1	3 East Bradenham . . .	381	592	1
21 Burnham Overy . . .	610	581	2	4 West Bradenham . . .	370	398	1
22 Burnham Thorpe . . .	363	706	1	Carried forward	4,146	3,920	7
23 Burnham Ulph and Sutton . . .	364	203	1	2 c 2			
Carried forward	9,877	11,665	33				

Parishes United. (Norfolk.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Norfolk.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	4,146	£. 3,920	7	Brought forward	8,458	£. 8,430	27
5 Caldecot	63	27	1	19 Newton (by Castle Acre)	70	130	1
6 Cockley-Cley . . .	218	173	1	20 Oxborough	427	574	1
7 Great Cressingham	449	446	2	21 North Pickenham .	245	204	1
8 Little Cressingham	276	167	1	22 South Pickenham .	195	60	1
9 Diddington	86	100	1	23 South Acre	96	172	1
10 Fouldean	500	384	2	24 Spole with Palgrave	746	1,253	2
11 Gooderstone . . .	476	713	2	25 Beachamwell . . .	263	122	1
12 Hillborough . . .	310	354	1	27 Ashill	61	32	1
13 Holne-Hale . . .	447	699	2	28 Saham-Toney . . .	700	494	2
14 Houghton-on-the- Hill	52	47	1	Totals	1,060	726	3
15 Langford	36	47	1				
16 Narburgh	300	162	1				
17 Narford	103	133	1				
18 Necton	996	1,058	3				
Carried forward	8,458	8,430	27				

Declared to take place from and after
1st August, 1835.

COUNTY OF OXFORD.

WITNEY UNION:	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Norfolk.)	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
1 Witney	3,190	2,124	3	Brought forward	15,943	14,283	35
2 Crawley	275	340	1	32 Swinbrook	222	115	1
3 Curbridge	398	614	1	33 Taynton	371	371	1
4 Hailey	1,236	880	1	34 Cogges	683	298	1
5 Alvescott	361	306	1	35 Wilcote	10	2	1
6 Asthall and Asthall Leigh	352	357	1	36 Ensham	1,858	1,793	2
7 BamptonwithWeald	1,605	1,322	2	37 Handborough . . .	883	1,180	1
8 Aston and Coto . .	718	1,103	1	38 North Leigh . . .	591	682	1
9 Brighthampton . .	102	66	1	39 South Leigh . . .	339	442	1
10 Chimney	42	72	1	40 Stanton Harcourt .	657	672	1
11 Shifford	47	53	1	County of Gloucester :			
12 Lew	237	224	1	41 Widford	51	64	1
13 Blackburton . . .	352	399	1	County of Berks :			
14 Broadwell	224	263	1	42 Shilton	290	144	1
15 Filkins	473	408	1	Totals	21,898	20,046	47
16 Holwell	96	50	1				
17 Broughton Poggs . .	158	239	1				
18 Burford	1,620	904	2				
19 Upton and Signet . .	246	468	1				
20 Clanfield	529	276	1				
21 Ducklington . . .	406	302	1				
22 Hardwicke	103	45	1				
23 Kencott	199	121	1				
24 Norton Brize . . .	627	434	1				
25 Standlake	669	598	1				
26 Westwell	162	87	1				
27 Yelford	17	8	1				
28 Fullbrook	361	370	1				
29 Minster Lovell . . .	355	370	1				
30 Northmoor	360	1,063	1				
31 Ramsdon(Chapelry)	423	415	1				
Carried forward	15,943	14,283	35				

Declared to take place from and after
25th March, 1835.

BANBURY UNION:

1 Banbury	3,737	3,344	4
2 Neithrop	2,169	1,417	2
3 Bourton, Great and Little	563	464	1
4 Claydon	291	194	1
5 Cropredy	548	570	1
6 Epwell	367	305	1
7 Prescott	15	23	1
8 East Shutford . . .	31	50	1
9 West Shutford . . .	431	426	1
Carried forward	8,152	6,796	13

Parishes United. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	8,152	£. 6,796	13	Brought forward	3,853	£. 3,435	8
10 Swalcliffe . . .	378	456	1	9 East Hagborne . . .	562	530	1
11 Wardington . . .	824	905	1	10 West Hagborne . . .	220	263	1
12 East Adderbury . . .	961	707	1	11 North Moreton . . .	362	546	1
13 West Adderbury . . .	397	480	1	12 South Moreton . . .	410	578	1
14 Alkerton . . .	192	157	1	13 Moulsoford . . .	169	106	1
15 Barford, St. John . . .	131	180	1	14 Sotwell . . .	157	142	1
16 Bloxham . . .	1,343	1,415	2	15 Cholsey . . .	983	1,298	1
17 Bodicott . . .	779	747	1	16 Little Wittenham . . .	113	89	1
18 Broughton . . .	220	272	1	17 Long Wittenham . . .	547	451	1
19 Drayton . . .	184	249	1	<i>County of Oxford:</i>			
20 Hanwell . . .	288	290	1	18 Bensington . . .	1,253	1,489	1
21 Horley . . .	330	327	1	19 Berrick Salome . . .	134	183	1
22 Hornton . . .	551	515	1	20 Ewelme . . .	619	410	1
23 Milcombe . . .	230	332	1	21 Newington . . .	418	641	1
24 Milton . . .	205	280	1	22 Berrick Prior . . .	52		
25 Mollington . . .	360	240	1	23 Warborough . . .	681	533	1
26 North Newington . . .	318	256	1	24 Crowmarsh Gifford . . .	325	339	1
27 Sibford-Ferris . . .	248	357	1	25 Mongewell . . .	162	364	1
28 Sibford-Gower . . .	507	746	1	26 Newnham Murren . . .	249	374	1
29 Tadmarton . . .	355	572	1	27 North Stoke . . .	199	199	1
30 Wigginton . . .	327	417	1	28 South Stoke . . .	751	974	1
31 Wroxton & Ballscott . . .	780	657	1	29 Dorchester . . .	866	670	1
32 Clattercott . . .	9	5	1	Totals . . .	13,085	13,614	29
33 Hook Norton . . .	1,506	2,100	2	Declared to take place from and after 2d June, 1835.			
<i>County of Northampton:</i>				HENLEY UNION:			
34 Chalcombe . . .	485	362	1	1 Henley . . .	3,618	1,831	4
35 Middleton Cheney . . .	1,398	1,562	2	2 Rotherfield Grays . . .	1,145	753	2
36 Warkworth with Nethercote and Grimsbury . . .	426	717	1	3 Rotherfield Peppard . . .	426	403	1
<i>County of Gloucester:</i>				4 Harpsden . . .	238	373	1
37 Shenington . . .	381	261	1	5 Shiplake . . .	515	609	1
<i>County of Warwick:</i>				6 Eye and Dundsden . . .	887	766	1
38 Shotswell . . .	268	250	1	7 Caversham . . .	1,369	947	2
Totals . . .	22,533	22,610	45	8 Checkendon . . .	346	423	1
Declared to take place from and after 3d April, 1835.				9 Bix . . .	409	396	1
WALLINGFORD UNION:				10 Nettlebed . . .	618	430	1
<i>County of Berks:</i>				11 Nuffield . . .	197	333	1
1 Allhallows and Clapcot . . .	164	243	1	12 Ipsden . . .	582	592	1
2 St. Leonard . . .	834	469	1	13 Pishill . . .	170	67	1
3 St. Mary-the- More . . .	1,127	868	1	14 Swincombe . . .	367	304	1
4 Aston Tirrold . . .		475	1	15 Watlington . . .	1,833	1,709	2
5 Aston Upthorpe . . .	172	83	1	16 Britwell Salome . . .	216	294	1
7 Brightwell . . .	578	794	1	17 Britwell Prior . . .	52	81	1
8 Dudcote . . .	181	171	1	18 Pepton . . .	661	1,335	1
Carried forward				19 Cuxham . . .	207	226	1
	3,853	3,435	8	20 Brightwell . . .	332	350	1
Declared to take place from and after 15th June, 1835.				<i>County of Berks:</i>			
				21 Remenham . . .	463	255	1
				Totals . . .	14,651	12,477	27

Parishes United. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
WOODSTOCK UNION :		£.		BICESTER UNION :		£.	
1 Woodstock . . .	1,380	994	2	1 King's End } Bicester.	280	147	1
2 North Aston . . .	305	418	1	2 Market End . . .	2,588	3,605	3
3 Steeple Aston . . .	441	200	1	3 Ambrosden . . .	183	151	1
4 Middle Aston . . .	121	89	1	4 Arncliffe . . .	314	571	1
5 Barton . . .	606	452	1	5 Blackthorn . . .	417	523	1
6 Barton, Wescott . . .	258	279	1	6 Merton . . .	234	395	1
7 Begbrooke . . .	102	126	1	7 Piddington . . .	422	341	1
8 Bladon . . .	442	415	1	8 Ardley . . .	170	102	1
9 Hensington . . .	143	142	1	9 Blechingdon . . .	641	803	1
10 Cassington . . .	428	276	1	10 Bucknell . . .	274	216	1
11 Combe . . .	619	435	1	11 Charlton . . .	358	294	1
12 Deddington . . .	1,590	2,018	2	12 Fencot and Moorcot . . .	300	348	1
13 Clifton . . .	268	280	1	13 Chesterton . . .	382	475	1
14 Hempton . . .	220	386	1	14 Cottessford . . .	163	114	1
15 Duns Tow . . .	450	465	1	15 Fringford . . .	358	227	1
16 Glympton . . .	125	170	1	16 Fritwell . . .	494	386	1
17 Kiddington, Over and Nether . . .	292	235	1	17 Goddington . . .	118	135	1
18 Kidlington . . .	986	718	2	18 Hardwicke . . .	80	34	1
19 Gosford . . .	45	43	1	19 Hethe . . .	414	170	1
20 Thrupp . . .	84	65	1	20 Lower Heyford . . .	541	636	1
21 Water Eaton . . .	102	219	1	21 Upper Heyford . . .	326	150	1
22 Rousham . . .	156	135	1	22 Islip . . .	645	476	1
23 Sandford . . .	534	421	1	23 Kirtlington . . .	687	544	1
24 Shipton upon Cher- well . . .	148	60	1	24 Launton . . .	570	886	1
25 Stonesfield . . .	535	496	1	25 Middleton Stoney . . .	307	262	1
26 Tackley . . .	564	359	1	26 Newton Parcell . . .	131	45	1
27 Wolvercote . . .	524	321	1	27 Noke . . .	187	149	1
28 Wootton . . .	1,060	1,185	2	28 Oddington . . .	176	170	1
29 Nether Worton . . .	94	67	1	29 Shelswell . . .	49	46	1
30 Over Worton . . .	56	17	1	30 Somerton . . .	392	242	1
31 Yarrington . . .	299	287	1	31 Shouclern . . .	599	407	1
32 Hampton Gay . . .	86	35	1	32 Stoke Lyne . . .	593	535	1
33 Hampton Poyle . . .	156	137	1	33 Stratton Audley . . .	360	330	1
Totals . . .	13,219	11,945	37	34 Tusmore . . .	16	47	1
Declared to take place from and after 13th July, 1835.				35 Wendlesbury . . .	196	170	1
				36 Weston-on-the- Green . . .	494	510	1
				County of Buckingham :			
				37 Caversfield . . .	123	214	1
				38 Boarstall . . .	268	471	1
				Totals . . .	14,850	15,327	40
				Declared to take effect from and after 1st August, 1835.			

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

BISHOP STORTFORD UNION :	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Brought forward	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
County of Hertford :				4 Braughin . . .	7,457	5,812	8
1 Bishop Stortford . . .	3,958	2,643	4	5 Little Hadham . . .	1,266	1,260	2
2 Sawbridgeworth . . .	2,231	1,691	2	6 Albury . . .	873	1,198	1
3 Much Hadham . . .	1,268	1,478	2	7 Pelham, Furneux . . .	619	689	1
Carried forward	7,457	5,812	8	8 Thorley . . .	414	390	1
				Carried forward	11,260	10,058	14

Parishes United. (Essex.)	Population in 1813.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Essex.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	11,260	£. 10,058	14	SAFFRON WALDEN UNION:		£.	
9 Pelham, Brent . . .	271	281	1	1 Safron Walden . . .	4,762	2,638	4
10 Pelham, Stocking . .	158	85	1	2 Clavering . . .	1,134	1,425	2
County of Essex:				3 Debden . . .	985	1,193	2
11 Stansted Mount- fitchet . . .	1,560	1,392	2	4 Wimbish . . .	921	1,020	2
12 Henham . . .	863	754	1	5 Newport . . .	914	819	2
13 Manewden . . .	695	908	1	6 Ashdon . . .	898	993	1
14 Great Hallingbury . .	695	744	1	7 Littlebury . . .	875	546	1
15 Farnham . . .	524	740	1	8 Great Chesterford . .	873	784	1
16 Elsenham . . .	483	766	1	9 Radwinter . . .	819	651	1
17 Birchanger . . .	360	490	1	10 Great Sampford . . .	800	694	1
18 Berdon . . .	342	408	1	11 Hempstead . . .	708	1,179	1
19 Ugley . . .	318	430	1	12 Elmton . . .	697	769	1
20 Little Hallingbury . .	483	375	1	13 Arkesden . . .	490	485	1
Totals . . .	18,012	17,421	27	14 Christall . . .	487	415	1
Declared to take place from and after 26th March, 1835.				15 Rickling . . .	447	484	1
DUNMOW UNION:				16 Little Sampford . . .	423	545	1
1 Great Dunmow . . .	2,462	2,434	3	17 Widdington . . .	386	521	1
2 Thaxted . . .	2,293	2,151	3	18 Langley . . .	384	340	1
3 Hatfield Broad Oaks . . .	1,825	2,330	2	19 Wendon Ambo . . .	333	223	1
4 Felstead . . .	1,788	1,789	2	20 Little Chesterford . .	211	191	1
5 Stebbing . . .	1,434	1,743	2	21 Quindon . . .	211	118	1
6 Takeley . . .	1,099	862	1	22 Wicken Bonhunt . . .	134	243	1
7 Great Bardfield . . .	1,029	861	1	23 Wendon Lofts . . .	54	56	1
8 Great Easton . . .	840	1,001	1	24 Struthall . . .	41	41	1
9 Broxted . . .	694	1,058	1	Totals . . .	17,997	16,373	31
10 High Easter . . .	862	842	1	Declared to take place from and after 6th April, 1835.			
11 Great Canfield . . .	511	577	1	CHELMSFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	
12 High Roothing . . .	405	267	1	1 Chelmsford . . .	5,435	2,380	4
13 Aythorpe Roothing . .	259	289	1	2 Writtle . . .	2,348	2,632	2
14 Margaret Roothing . .	233	140	1	3 Great Waltham . . .	2,013	2,272	2
15 Leaden Roothing . . .	147	104	1	4 Springfield . . .	1,851	843	2
16 Little Dunmow . . .	378	374	1	5 Great Baddow . . .	1,719	906	1
17 Little Canfield . . .	277	456	1	6 Danbury . . .	1,060	542	1
18 Little Easton . . .	350	249	1	7 Boreham . . .	991	684	1
19 Lindsell . . .	381	761	1	8 Roxwell . . .	847	702	1
20 Little Bardfield . . .	295	393	1	9 Ingatestone . . .	789	528	1
21 Saling Bardfield . . .	359	306	1	10 Broomfield . . .	747	551	1
22 Barnston . . .	215	271	1	11 Little Waltham . . .	674	697	1
23 Tilty . . .	82	231	1	12 Fryerning . . .	670	328	1
24 Chickney . . .	72	121	1	13 Stock . . .	619	253	1
25 White Roothing . . .	447	499	1	14 Margreting . . .	545	450	1
26 Morrell Roothing . . .	32		1	15 Sandon . . .	525	374	1
Totals . . .	18,769	20,109	33	16 Butsbury . . .	515	464	1
Declared to take place from and after 26th March, 1835.				17 West Hanningfield . .	480	381	1
				18 East Hanningfield . .	447	366	1
				19 Little Baddow . . .	366	491	1
				20 Chignall St. James . .	222	180	1
				21 South Hanningfield . .	214	112	1
				22 Widford . . .	157	209	1
				23 Chignall Smealey . . .	75	106	1
				24 Good Easter . . .	487	312	1
				25 Pleshey . . .	320	190	1
				26 Mashbury . . .	96	93	1
				Totals . . .	24,212	17,246	32
				Declared to take place from and after 10th April, 1835.			

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1825.	Number of elected Guardians.	Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1825.	Number of elected Guardians.
POTTERS-PURY UNION:						£.	
1 Potters-Pury	950	993	2	4 Brought forward	2,771	2,069	5
2 Alderton	162	174	1	5 Croughton or Crowton	450	314	1
3 Ashton	380	249	1	6 Culworth	606	690	1
4 Cosgrove	624	560	1	7 Evenley	506	468	1
5 Furbho	16	6	1	8 Farthinghoe	456	177	1
6 Grafton Regis	241	368	1	9 Helmdon	515	613	1
7 Hartwell	531	313	1	10 Hinton-in-the-Hedges	173	138	1
8 Passenham	828	605	1	11 King's Sutton	1,270	1,238	2
9 Paulers-Pury	1,092	1,151	2	12 Marston St. Lawrence	440	509	1
10 Yardley-Gobion . . .	594	580	1	13 Newbottle	366	388	1
11 Wicken	536	376	1	14 Radstone	203	206	1
Totals	5,954	5,375	13	15 Steane	24	39	1
Declared to take effect from and after 20th May, 1835.				16 Stutchbury	29	30	1
TOWCESTER UNION:				17 Syresham	895	338	1
1 Towcester	2,671	2,048	4	18 Thenford	231	148	1
2 Althorpe	477	680	2	19 Thorpe, Mandeville	175	190	1
3 Cold Higham	391	384	1	20 Astwell, with Falcutt	110	143	1
4 Gayton	461	269	1	21 Whitfield	328	212	1
5 Pattishall	742	639	2	22 Edgecott	96	33	1
6 Tiffeld	131	56	1	23 Eglon	630	512	1
7 Stoke Bruern	437	496	1	24 Greatworth, or Gretworth	214	163	1
8 Shuttlehanger	325	657	2	25 Salgrave	576	563	1
9 Easton Neston with Hulcote	144	161	1	26 Moreton Pinkney . . .	581	925	1
10 Blisworth	769	361	1	<i>County of Oxford:</i>			
11 Adstone	166	112	1	27 Mixbury	387	400	1
12 Blakesley	527	176	1	28 Fiumeis	373	608	1
13 Woodend	302	221	1	<i>County of Buckingham:</i>			
14 Braden	165	165	1	29 Turweston	371	305	1
15 Green's Norton . . .	771	755	2	30 Westbury	391	205	1
16 Maidford	373	258	1	31 Biddlesden	184	119	1
17 Slapton	75	97	1	Totals	13,351	11,743	33
18 Plumpton	197	163	1	Declared to take effect from and after 8th June, 1835.			
19 Silverstone	947	813	2	BRIXWORTH UNION:			
20 Whittlebury	670	503	1	1 Brixworth	973	1,149	2
21 Wappenham	458	480	1	2 Faxton	103	82	1
22 Litchborough	415	313	1	3 Hanging Houghton . .	114	99	1
23 Loys Weedon, or Weedon Pinkney . . .	528	525	1	4 Hannington	196	184	1
Totals	12,142	10,332	31	5 Lamport	136	137	1
Declared to take place from and after 20th May 1835.				6 Old, or Wold	458	360	1
BRACKLEY UNION:				7 Scaldwell	387	286	1
1 St. James's, Brackley .	908	770	2	8 Walgrave	575	482	1
2 St. Peter's, Brackley .	1,199	905	2	9 Holcot	433	509	1
3 Aynhoe	664	394	1	10 Boughton	360	276	1
Carried forward . . .	2,771	2,069	5	Carried forward . . .	3,735	3,554	11

Parishes United. (Northampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Northampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	3,735	£. 3,564	11	WELLINGBOROUGH UNION:		£.	
11 Moulton	1,319	950	2	1 Wellingborough	4,688	3,079	4
12 Pisford, or Pitsford	539	581	1	2 Great Doddington	442	304	2
13 Spratton	912	1,088	2	3 Earl's Barton	977	115	1
14 Coton, or Coaton	116	60	1	4 Ecton	570	588	1
15 Cottesbroke	226	360	1	5 Mear's Ashby	466	337	1
16 Great Creaton	543	556	1	6 Sywell	216	308	1
17 Little Creaton	100	72	1	7 Wilby	386	164	1
18 Guilsborough	751	673	2	8 Overstone	203	157	1
19 Hollowell	318	433	1	9 Hardwick	86	52	1
20 Brington	887	635	2	10 Great Harrowden	148	50	1
21 Chapel Brampton	206	164	1	11 Little Harrowden	465	318	1
22 Church Brampton	176	149	1	12 Isham	318	349	1
23 East Haddon	644	473	1	13 Orillingbury	336	403	1
24 Harlestone	645	395	1	14 Finedon, or Thing- don	1,292	1,099	2
25 Holdenby or Holmby	181	165	1	15 Irthlingborough	1,262	1,275	2
26 Ravensthorpe	496	458	1	16 Bozeat	812	1,020	2
27 Teeton	73	102	1	17 Easton Maudit	210	213	1
28 Draughton	176	159	1	18 Higham Ferrers	965	745	2
29 Maidwell	278	148	1	19 Irchester	797	737	1
30 Haselbeech	140	203	1	20 Newton Bromshead	122	82	1
Totals	12,461	11,388	35	21 Rushden	1,245	1,125	2
Declared to take place from and after 9th July, 1835.				22 Strixton	69	64	1
HARDINGSTONE UNION:				23 Wollaston	973	590	1
1 Hardingstone	1,036	618	2	24 Grendon	622	752	1
2 Brafield on the Green	460	457	1	County of Bedford:			
3 Castle Ashby-cum- Chaddeston	150	192	1	25 Farndish	81	91	1
4 Coghenhoe, or Cooknee	276	294	1	26 Poddington, or Pud- dington	563	386	1
5 Collingtree	194	167	1	27 Wymington, or Wimington	257	379	1
6 Courteenhall	120	162	1	Totals	18,571	14,782	36
7 Denton	527	392	1	Declared to take place from and after 28th July, 1835.			
8 Horton	115	184	1	NORTHAMPTON UNION:			
9 Great Houghton	305	257	1	1 All Saints	7,333	2,126	6
10 Little Houghton	539	475	1	2 St. Giles	3,025	957	4
11 Milton or Middleton Malzor	541	582	1	3 St. Peter	706	115	2
12 Piddington	558	249	1	4 St. Sepulchre	4,287	998	4
13 Hackleton	425	230	1	5 Abington	155	111	1
14 Preston-Deanery	64	180	1	6 Great Billing	372	203	1
15 Quinton	128	65	1	7 Little Billing	88	24	1
16 Rothersthorpe	270	269	1	8 Kingsthorpe	1,344	927	2
17 Whiston	64	35	1	9 Weston Favell	443	253	1
18 Wootton	643	353	1	10 Bugbrooke	865	430	2
19 Yardley Hastings	1,051	1,137	2	11 Dallington	479	273	1
20 Road, or Rode	553	318	1	12 Duston	603	425	1
Totals	8,019	6,616	22	Carried forward	19,700	6,842	26
Declared to take place from and after 20th July, 1835.							

Parishes United. (Northampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Northampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	19,700	£. 6,842	26	Brought forward	21,030	£. 7,656	30
13 Harpole . . .	711	441	2	16 Hisingbury . . .	683	633	2
14 Lower Heyford . . .	507	282	1	17 Upton . . .	48	169	1
15 Upper Heyford . . .	112	91	1	Totals . . .	21,761	8,458	33
Carried forward	21,036	7,656	30	Declared to take place from and after 27th August, 1835.			

COUNTY OF BERKS.

ABINGDON UNION:	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Northampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
1 St. Helen Abingdon . . .	4,693	3,580	4	Brought forward	9,187	8,274	23
2 St. Nicholas . . .	566	484	1	19 Eaton Hastings . . .	167	171	1
3 Radleigh . . .	515	558	1	20 Fearnham . . .	239	255	1
4 Sunningwell . . .	339	356	1	21 Kingston Lisle and Fawler . . .	376	482	1
5 Besselsleigh . . .	124	110	1	22 Longcote . . .	452	420	1
6 Wootton . . .	340	274	1	23 Shrivenham . . .	779	744	1
7 Cummoor . . .	515	843	1	24 Uffington . . .	564	516	1
8 Wytham . . .	218	194	1	25 Watchfield . . .	341	271	1
9 North Hinksey . . .	187	136	1	26 Woolstone . . .	270	209	1
10 South Hinksey . . .	157	120	1	27 Coleshill . . .	351	320	1
11 Marcham . . .	1,170	897	1	County of Oxford:			
12 Drayton . . .	506	291	1	28 Grafton . . .	71	86	1
13 Sutton Wick . . .	271	407	1	29 Radcot . . .	55	34	1
14 Seacourt . . .	25	46	1	30 Kelmescott . . .	140	132	1
Totals . . .	9,626	8,296	17	Totals . . .	12,992	11,914	34

Declared to take place from and after
1st Jan., 1835.

FARRINGTON UNION:	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
1 Buckland . . .	946	1,010	2
2 Charney . . .	270	341	1
3 Hatford . . .	123	85	1
4 Longworth . . .	540	502	1
5 Hinton . . .	348	421	1
6 Pusey . . .	125	48	1
7 Shillingford . . .	246	152	1
8 Stanford . . .	813	701	1
9 Great Coxwell . . .	337	212	1
10 Little Coxwell . . .	304	272	1
11 Great Farringdon . . .	729	2,818	4
12 Little Farringdon . . .	2,156	108	1
13 Langford . . .	391	203	1
14 Ashbury . . .	890	472	1
15 Balking . . .	185	205	1
16 Buscott . . .	416	429	1
17 Bourton . . .	302	207	1
18 Compton and Knighton . . .	156	88	1
Carried forward	9,187	8,274	22

Declared to take effect from and after
2d February, 1835.

BRADFELD UNION:	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
1 Ashampstead . . .	346	221	1
2 Bassildon . . .	780	521	1
3 Streatley . . .	532	469	1
4 Aldermaston . . .	636	520	1
5 Bradfield . . .	956	1,251	1
6 Burghfield . . .	965	1,021	1
7 Englefield . . .	411	293	1
8 Padworth . . .	234	253	1
9 Purley . . .	172	149	1
10 Sulham . . .	72	44	1
11 Sulhamstead Ban- nister . . .	289	78	1
12 Tidmarsh . . .	143	47	1
13 Sulhamstead Ban- nister, Lower End . . .	60	48	1
14 Stratfield Mortimer . . .	860	617	1
15 Ufton . . .	357	230	1
16 Wokefield (Tything) . . .	180	150	1
Carried forward	7,043	5,947	16

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United, (Berks.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United, (Berks.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	7,043	£. 5,947	16	Brought forward	13,692	£. 13,649	31
17 Beenham . . .	360	393	1	30 Beedon . . .	306	258	1
18 Bucklebury . . .	1,300	1,217	1	31 Bright Waltham . . .	442	480	1
19 Graiseley (Tything)	66	56	1	32 Hamstead Norris . . .	1,179	1,417	2
20 Pangbourne . . .	692	668	1	33 Peasemore . . .	298	316	1
21 Sulhampstead Ab- bots . . .	357	239	1	Totals . . .	15,917	16,120	36
22 Tilehurst . . .	1,878	1,351	2				
23 Frilsham . . .	192	112	1				
24 Stanford Dingley . . .	139	186	1				
25 Yattendon . . .	241	209	1				
<i>County of Oxford:</i>							
26 Goring . . .	933	962	1				
27 Maple Durham . . .	536	495	1				
28 Whitchurch . . .	745	620	1				
<i>County of Southampton:</i>							
29 Mortimer West End (Tything) . . .	200	298	1				
Totals . . .	14,682	12,753	30				
Declared to take place from and after 2d March, 1835.				NEWBURY UNION:			
WANTAGE UNION:				1 Newbury . . .	5,967	4,755	4
1 Wantage . . .	2,507	1,980	3	2 Sandlesford . . .	18	27	1
2 Charlton . . .	255	463	1	3 Boxford . . .	688	574	1
3 Grove . . .	520	649	1	4 Brimpton . . .	443	411	1
4 Aldworth . . .	238	237	1	5 Chieveley . . .	1,129	1,452	1
5 Chilton . . .	274	383	1	6 Leckhamstead . . .	402	421	1
6 Compton . . .	554	499	1	7 Winterbourne . . .	326	514	1
7 Catmere . . .	88	70	1	8 Shaw-cum-Don- nington . . .	620	533	1
8 Farnborough . . .	229	168	1	9 Speen . . .	3,044	2,334	2
9 East Ilsley . . .	738	856	1	10 Thatcham . . .	2,502	1,829	2
10 West Ilsley . . .	425	389	1	11 Greenham . . .	1,061	680	1
11 Blewberry . . .	630	674	1	12 Midgham . . .	349	221	1
12 Upton . . .	254	314	1	13 Wasing . . .	79	45	1
13 Harwell . . .	780	708	1	14 Welford . . .	1,061	965	1
14 Ardington . . .	404	301	1	15 Enborne . . .	420	464	1
15 Childrey . . .	561	782	1	16 Hampstead Marshall	313	172	1
16 Denchworth . . .	213	225	1	17 Woolhampton . . .	364	216	1
17 West Hanney . . .	399	417	1	<i>County of Southampton:</i>			
18 East Hanney . . .	631	625	1	18 Newton . . .	268	143	1
19 East Hendred . . .	865	1,204	1	Totals . . .	19,054	15,756	23
20 West Hendred . . .	335	422	1				
21 East Lockinge . . .	373	274	1				
22 West Lockinge . . .	373	10	1				
23 Sparsholt . . .	498	579	1				
24 Letcomb Bassett . . .	288	295	1				
25 Letcomb Regis . . .	444	198	1				
26 East Challow . . .	303	262	1				
27 West Challow . . .	148	154	1				
28 Chaddlesworth . . .	494	381	1				
29 Fawley . . .	194	130	1				
Carried forward	13,692	13,649	31				
Declared to take place from and after 17th April, 1835.				HUNGERFORD UNION:			
				1 Avington . . .	94	52	1
				2 Inkpen . . .	729	352	1
				3 Kintbury . . .	1,781	1,505	2
				4 East Shefford . . .	67	50	1
				5 West Shefford . . .	559	272	1
				6 West Woodhay . . .	127	65	1
				7 East Garston . . .	699	601	1
				8 Lambourne . . .	2,386	2,736	3
				<i>County of Wilts:</i>			
				9 Great Bedwin . . .	2,190	1,529	2
				10 Little Bedwin . . .	587	349	1
				11 Buttermere . . .	137	110	1
				12 Froxfield . . .	581	558	1
				13 Baydon . . .	358	268	1
				Carried forward	10,295	8,447	17

Parishes United. (Berks.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1833.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Berks.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1833.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	10,295	£. 8,447	17	WORKINGHAM UNION:		£.	
14 Ramsbury . . .	2,290	2,104	2	Counties of Berks and			
15 Aldbourn . . .	1,418	1,172	1	Wilts:			
16 Ham . . .	205	87	1	1 Workingham . . .	3,139	1,904	3
Counties of Berks and				2 Sonning . . .	464	260	1
Wilts:				3 Shinfield . . .	1,100	769	2
17 Hungerford. . .	2,715	2,703	3	County of Berks:			
18 Shalbourn . . .	922	870	1	4 Barkham . . .	247	175	1
19 Chilton Foliat . .	761	779	1	5 Arbourfield . . .	268	220	1
County of Southampton:				6 Finchampstead . .	575	667	1
20 Combe . . .	193	96	1	7 Ruscomb . . .	160	178	1
Totals . .	18,799	16,258	27	8 Wargrave . . .	1,423	980	2
Declared to take place from and after 1st May, 1835.				9 Swallowfield (pt. of)	1,106	368	1
COOKHAM UNION:				10 Winnersh Liberty	531	216	1
1 Cookham . . .	3,337	852	3	11 Whistley Liberty	867	300	1
2 Bray . . .	3,480	1,534	3	12 Newland Liberty	252	76	1
3 Bisham . . .	771	477	2	In the parish of Hurst.			
4 Hurley . . .	1,150	398	2	13 Earleigh Liberty .	441	481	1
5 Waltham, White . .	902	279	2	14 Sandford and Wood-			
6 Waltham, St. Law-				ley . . .	796	779	1
7 Shottesbrook . . .	739	346	2	15 Broadhinton Liberty,			
Totals . .	10,517	3,946	15	in the parish of			
Declared to take place from and after 20th July, 1835.				Hurst . . .	519	240	1
EASTHAMSTEAD UNION:				16 Swallowfield, pt. of	Included in Swal- lowfield, Berks.	540	1
1 Easthamstead . . .	647	373	2	Totals . .	11,888	8,153	20
2 Binfield . . .	2,145	707	2	Declared to take place from and after 1st August, 1835.			
3 Warfield . . .	1,207	535	2	READING UNION:			
4 Winkfield with Ascot	2,009	832	2	County of Berks:			
5 Sandhurst . . .	972	253	2	1. St. Mary, with			
Totals . .	6,980	2,700	10	Southcot . . .	6,882	3,234	5
Declared to take place from and after 27th July, 1835.				2 St. Giles, with			
EASTHAMSTEAD UNION:				Whitley . . .	5,112	2,281	5
1 Easthamstead . . .	647	373	2	3 St. Lawrence . . .	4,048	2,664	5
2 Binfield . . .	2,145	707	2	Reading.			
3 Warfield . . .	1,207	535	2	Totals . .	16,042	8,179	15
4 Winkfield with Ascot	2,009	832	2	Declared to take place from and after 10th August, 1835.			
5 Sandhurst . . .	972	253	2				
Totals . .	6,980	2,700	10				

COUNTY OF WILTS.

Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
		£.				£.	
BRADFORD UNION:				Brought forward			
1 Bradford (Town)	3,352	4,379	6	<i>County of Somerset:</i>			
2 Trowle (Tything)	290		1	15 Freshford . . .	666	505	2
3 Leigh Woolley Ty- thing . . .	1,680	970	1	Totals . . .	12,660	10,112	25
4 Holt (Chapelry)	839	332	1				
5 Atworth (Chapel- ry . . .	705	401	1	Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.			
6 South Wrazshall (Chapelry) . . .	389	160	1	CALNE UNION:			
7 Winsley (Chapel- ry . . .	2,847	1,279	1	1 Calne . . .	4,795	4,249	6
8 Limpley Stoke (Chapelry) . . .		269	1	2 Bowood . . .	81	50	1
In the parish of Bradford)				3 Bremhill . . .	1,535	2,303	2
9 Westwood . . .	390	193	2	4 Hillmarton . . .	791	1,026	2
10 Monkton Farleigh . .	396	209	2	5 Highway . . .	148	100	1
11 Broughton Gifford . .	735	1,038	2	6 Compton Basset . .	538	533	1
12 Great Chalfield . . .		12	1	7 Yatesbury . . .	274	318	1
13 Little Chalfield, with Cottles . . .	83	27	1	8 Cherhill . . .	404	284	1
14 Winkfield, with Rowley . . .	283	338	2	9 Calstone Willington .	32	49	1
Carried forward				10 Blackland . . .	65	46	1
				11 Heddington . . .	310	175	1
				Totals . . .	8,973	9,133	18
				Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.			

COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

AMPTHILL UNION:				WOBURN UNION:			
1 Ampthill . . .	1,688	1,035	3	1 Woburn . . .	1,827	1,217	3
2 Cranfield . . .	1,260	1,440	2	2 Aspley-Guise . . .	1,014	740	2
3 Flitwick . . .	636	604	1	3 Battlesden . . .	145	353	1
4 Houghton-Conquest	796	1,008	1	4 Chalgrave . . .	746	830	1
5 Lidlington . . .	814	1,268	1	5 Eversholt . . .	901	628	1
6 Marston-Moretaine	1,007	2,082	2	6 Harlington . . .	481	728	1
7 Maulden . . .	1,231	703	2	7 Hockliffe . . .	460	354	1
8 Millbrook . . .	602	498	1	8 Holcott . . .	49	195	1
9 Steppingley . . .	348	405	1	9 Husborn Crawley . .	680	678	1
10 Clophill . . .	978	540	1	10 Milton-Bryant . . .	373	297	1
11 Flitton . . .	458	540	1	11 Potsgrove . . .	262	193	1
12 Upper Gravenhurst	318	255	1	12 Salford . . .	340	315	1
13 Lower Gravenhurst	77	68	1	13 Tingrith . . .	162	172	1
14 Hawnes . . .	847	703	1	14 Toddington . . .	1,926	2,031	2
15 Higham-Gobion . . .	108	143	1	15 Ridgmont . . .	992	1,103	1
16 Pulloxhill . . .	529	823	1	16 Tilsforth . . .	275	201	1
17 Silsoe . . .	726	411	1	Totals . . .	10,633	10,935	20
18 Westoning . . .	627	1,106	1				
19 Shitlington (two pts. of) and Lower Stondon . . .	1,307	981	2	Declared to take effect from and after 10th April, 1835.			
Totals . . .	14,357	14,602	25				

Declared to take place from and after
10th April, 1835.

Parishes United. (Bedford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Bedford.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
BIGGLESWADE UNION:		£.		LUTON UNION:		£.	
1 Biggleswade . . .	3,226	1,739	3	1 Luton . . .	5,683	2,636	5
2 Astwick . . .	97	68	1	2 Barton in the Clay . . .	720	482	1
3 Cockayne-Hartley . . .	125	93	1	3 Caddington (pt. of) . . .	386	252	1
4 Dunton with Millo. . .	413	364	1	4 Streatley, with Sharpenhoe . . .	339	273	1
5 Edworth . . .	95	56	1	5 Soudon . . .	408	377	1
6 Everton . . .	213	227	1	6 Dunstable . . .	2,117	974	2
7 Eyworth . . .	129	99	1	7 Eaton-Bray . . .	957	853	1
8 Langford . . .	726	630	1	8 Houghton-Regis . . .	1,424	1,257	2
9 Pottun . . .	1,768	1,003	2	9 Studham (part of) . . .	195	96	1
10 Sandy . . .	1,359	838	2	10 Humbershoe (Ham- let) part of Stud- ham . . .	395	148	1
11 Sutton . . .	386	379	1	11 Totternhoe . . .	515	427	1
12 Tempsford . . .	535	590	1	12 Whipsnade . . .	204	209	1
13 Wrestlingworth . . .	448	335	1	<i>County of Hertford:</i>			
14 Arlsey . . .	688	571	1	13 Kewsworth . . .	732	309	1
15 Campton-cum-Shef- ford . . .	1,212	220	2	14 Caddington (part of) . . .	1,177	598	2
16 Clifton . . .	664	309	1	15 Studham (part of) . . .	231	125	1
17 Henlow . . .	724	467	1	Totals . . .	15,483	9,016	21
18 Meppershall . . .	444	334	1				
19 Upper Stondon . . .	37	12	1				
20 Stotfold . . .	833	563	1				
21 Blunham . . .	580	375	1				
22 Moggerhanger . . .	381	498	1				
23 Northill . . .	1,106	741	2				
24 Tynhill . . .	1,280	933	2				
25 Old Warden . . .	660	562	1				
Totals . . .	18,129	12,006	32				
Declared to take place from and after 14th April, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 16th April, 1835.			

COUNTY OF KENT.

FAVERSHAM UNION:				Brought forward	10,547	12,914	16
1 Faversham . . .	4,429	3,970	2	16 Luddenham . . .	219	186	1
2 Doddington . . .	466	893	1	17 Newnham . . .	436	440	1
3 Linstead . . .	952	1,175	1	18 Norton . . .	111	337	1
4 Teynham . . .	675	887	1	19 Oare . . .	176	190	1
5 Boughton-under- Blean . . .	1,300	1,615	1	20 Ospringe . . .	1,037	1,106	1
6 The Ville of Dun- kirk . . .	613	1,152	1	21 Preston-next-Faver- sham . . .	675	857	1
7 Gravesend . . .	197	428	1	22 Sheldwich . . .	497	439	1
8 Hernhill . . .	507	879	1	23 Stalisfield . . .	342	371	1
9 Selling . . .	539	997	1	24 Stone-next-Faver- sham . . .	80	185	1
10 Badlesmere . . .	135	187	1	25 Thowley . . .	675	1,032	1
11 Buckland . . .	15	47	1	Totals . . .	14,845	17,957	26
12 Davington . . .	157	188	1				
13 Eastling . . .	420	201	1				
14 Goodneston . . .	74	93	1				
15 Leaveland . . .	68	102	1				
Carried forward	10,547	12,814	16				
				Declared to take effect from and after 25th March, 1835.			

Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
MILTON UNION:		£.				£.	
1 Bapchild	319	316	1	Brought forward	5,852	4,702	7
2 Bobbing	364	497	1	4 Kemsing	399	184	1
3 Borden	771	724	1	5 Otford	746	689	1
4 Bredgar	512	478	1	6 Seal	1,011	1,233	2
5 Halstow, Lower . .	221	273	1	7 Shoreham	1,015	1,074	2
6 Hartlip	363	662	1	8 Sundridge	1,268	1,341	2
7 Iwade	134	161	1	9 Brasted	964	1,354	2
8 Kingsdown	94	199	1	10 Westerham	1,985	1,393	2
9 Milstead	214	169	1				
10 Milton	2,233	2,019	2	Totals . .	13,240	11,970	19
11 Murston	166	231	1				
12 Newington	730	782	1				
13 Rainham	1,222	1,482	1				
14 Rodmersham	311	315	1				
15 Sittingbourne . . .	2,182	1,448	2				
16 Tong	226	691	1				
17 Tunstall	171	258	1				
18 Upchurch	456	582	1				
Totals . .	10,689	11,179	20				
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 14th April, 1835.			
SHEPPEY UNION:				BLEAN UNION:			
1 Eastchurch	851	906	2	1 St. Cosmus and Da- mion in the Blean	554	271	1
2 Isle of Elmley . . .	29	85	1	2 Seasalter (Liberty)	945	558	1
3 Isle of Harty . . .	67	142	1	3 Whitstable	1,926	1,693	2
4 Leysdown	191	118	1	4 Chisleth	1,145	1,853	2
5 Minster in Sheppey	7,922	4,700	6	5 Reculver	297	430	1
6 Queenborough . . .	760	708	2	6 Herne, otherwise Hearne	1,876	3,276	2
7 Warden	27	36	1	7 Hoath	360	249	1
Totals . .	9,847	6,695	14	8 Sturry, otherwise Sturrey	925	1,209	1
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.				9 Swalecliffe	133	299	1
PENSHURST UNION:				10 West-beer, otherwise Westbere	219	372	1
1 Penshurst	1,453	1,335	3	11 Precinct of Arch- bishop's Palace . . .	218	169	1
2 Chiddingstone . . .	1,223	1,330	2	12 Christchurch . . .	216	214	1
3 Cowden	689	608	1	13 St. Dunstan . . .	809	728	1
4 Edenbridge	1,432	1,154	3	14 St. Gregory	333	278	1
5 Hever	559	753	1	15 Hackington, alias St. Stephens	436	423	1
6 Leigh	1,011	1,229	2	16 Staplegate	247	202	1
Totals . .	6,367	6,409	12	Totals . .	10,639	12,224	19
Declared to take place from and after 13th April, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 20th April, 1835.			
SEVENOAKS UNION:				BRIDGE UNION:			
1 Sevenoaks	4,709	3,754	4	1 Bridge	543	264	1
2 Chevening	901	684	2	2 Lower Hardres . . .	259	226	1
3 Halstead	242	264	1	3 Upper Hardres . . .	311	341	1
Carried forward	5,852	4,702	7	4 Nackington	159	411	1
				5 Patricbourne	280	343	1
				6 Petham	282	573	1
				7 Waltham	572	783	1
				8 Beaksbourne, other- wise Beakesbourne . .	351	158	1
				9 Barham	1,053	874	1
				10 Bishopsbourne . . .	358	413	1
				Carried forward	4,168	4,386	10

Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	4,168	£. 4,386	10	Brought forward	5,870	£. 8,104	13
11 Kingstone, other- wise Kingstone	282	227	1	13 Goodnestone	486	597	1
12 Womenswold	263	173	1	14 Nonington	832	684	1
13 Adisham	390	351	1	15 Wingham	1,115	1,206	1
14 Ickham	567	713	1	16 Great Mongeham	310	542	1
15 Littlebourn	733	633	1	17 Little Mongeham	96	232	1
16 Stodmarsh	119	150	1	18 Northbourne	869	998	1
17 Wickhambreux	486	790	1	19 Ripple	209	299	1
18 Thunington, other- wise Thanington	316	488	1	20 Sholden, otherwise Shoulden	356	671	1
19 Harbledown	819	509	1	21 Sutton by Dover	164	127	1
20 Holy Cross West- gate, Without	814	672	1	22 Walmer	1,779	936	1
21 Fordwich	287	116	1	23 Elmstone	97	180	1
22 Chartham	895	600	1	24 Preston next Wing- ham	576	772	1
Totals	10,139	9,808	22	25 Staple next Wing- ham	502	501	1
				26 Stourmouth	257	423	1
				Totals	13,518	16,272	27
Declared to take place from and after 20th April, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 27th April, 1835.			
THE ISLE OF THANET UNION:				RIVER UNION:			
1 St. Lawrence	2,024	1,843	2	1 River	560	487	1
2 Minster	911	1,150	2	2 Buckland, near Dover	834	826	1
3 Monkton, otherwise Moncton	376	754	1	3 Coldred	139	215	1
4 St. Nicholas at Wade	726	1,400	2	4 Ewell	425	323	1
5 Stonar	52	89	1	5 Guston	197	106	1
6 Birchington, (in- cluding Gore's End)	843	770	1	6 Hougham	1,151	892	1
7 St. Peter's	2,342	1,500	2	7 Lydden	224	180	1
8 Sarr (Ville of)	200	182	1	8 West Langdon	86	30	1
9 Wood, otherwise Acol	Included with Birchington.		1	9 St. Margaret at Cliffe	76	353	1
Totals	7,474	7,688	13	10 Oxney			
						Included in E. Lang- don.	
Declared to take place from and after 20th April, 1835.				11 Poulton	375	64	1
EASTRY UNION:				12 Sibertswold, other- wise Sibbertswold.	363	220	1
1 Easry	1,245	1,374	1	13 West Cliffe	82	265	1
2 Barreston	114	28	1	14 Whitfield	199	327	1
3 Betsbanger, other- wise Betteshanger	20	33	1	15 Alkham	542	539	1
4 Chillenden	154	76	1	16 Ringswold	566	480	1
5 Eythorn	422	403	1	17 Capel-le-Ferne	203	233	1
6 Ham	38	30	1	18 Denton	183	179	1
7 Knowlton	30	40	1	19 East Langdon	322	238	1
8 Tilmanstone	407	251	1	20 Wootton	128	89	1
9 Waldershare	67	171	1	21 Charlton, near Dover	1,720	426	1
10 Woodnesborough	822	1,804	1	22 St. James the Apost- le, Dover	2,169	950	1
11 Word, or Worth	411	622	1	Totals	10,551	7,416	22
12 Ash, near Sandwich	2,140	3,272	2				
Carried forward	5,870	8,104	13	Declared to take place from and after 29th April, 1835.			

Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Kent.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
EAST ASHFORD UNION:		£.				£.	
1 Aldington . . .	732	1,267	1	Brought forward	4,257	6,312	5
2 Bilsington . . .	332	612	1	6 Kingsnorth . . .	386	396	1
3 Bircholt . . .	45	10	1	7 Pluckley . . .	714	963	1
4 Bonnington . . .	127	220	1	8 Smarden . . .	1,177	1,204	1
5 Boughton Aluph . . .	492	702	1	9 Hadokhurst . . .	239	283	1
6 Brabourne . . .	664	889	1	10 Westwell . . .	861	1,648	1
7 Brook . . .	175	90	1				
8 Challock . . .	363	511	1	Totals . . .	7,634	10,806	10
9 Chilham . . .	1,140	606	1				
10 Crundale . . .	263	248	1				
11 Eastwell . . .	97	134	1				
12 Godmersham . . .	444	456	1				
13 Hastingleigh . . .	216	423	1				
14 Hinxhill . . .	163	165	1				
15 Hurst . . .	40	152	1				
16 Kennington . . .	461	378	1				
17 Mersham . . .	677	614	1				
18 Moldash . . .	391	438	1				
19 Sevington . . .	111	155	1				
20 Smeeth . . .	497	456	1				
21 Willesborough . . .	472	409	1				
22 Wye . . .	1,639	2,647	1				
Totals . . .	9,541	11,582	22				
Declared to take place from and after 3d June, 1835.							
WEST ASHFORD UNION:				ELHAM UNION:			
1 Bethersden . . .	973	1,501	1	1 Elham . . .	1,302	1,094	1
2 Great Chart . . .	771	646	1	2 Acrise . . .	194	145	1
3 Charing . . .	1,237	1,571	1	3 Cheriton . . .	1,143	875	1
4 Lington . . .	866	2,205	1	4 Elmstead . . .	502	377	1
5 Northfield . . .	410	359	1	5 Folkestone (Parish)	655	1,421	1
				6 Hawkinge . . .	131	73	1
				7 Lyminge . . .	784	607	1
				8 Lympne . . .	532	792	1
				9 Monk's Horton . . .	156	196	1
				10 Newington . . .	491	814	1
				11 Paddlesworth . . .	54	80	1
				12 Postling . . .	188	239	1
				13 Saltwood . . .	534	973	1
				14 Sellinge . . .	451	417	1
				15 Standford . . .	243	154	1
				16 Stelling . . .	313	139	1
				17 Stouting . . .	254	258	1
				18 Swingfield . . .	282	655	1
Carried forward	4,257	6,312	5	Totals . . .	8,212	9,09	15
				Declared to take place from and after 3d June, 1835.			

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

ROMSEY UNION:				SOUTH STONEHAM UNION:			
1 Romsey, Extra . . .	3,386	2,617	5	1 South Stoneham . . .	2,768	1,905	4
2 Romsey, Infra . . .	2,046	1,248	4	2 Botley . . .	72	474	2
3 Nursling . . .	884	454	1	3 Bursledon . . .	503	274	1
4 East Wellow . . .	318	74	1	4 Hamble . . .	318	200	1
5 Timsbury . . .	165	261	1	5 Hound . . .	417	546	1
6 Mitchelmarshe . . .	962	1,513	2	6 St. Mary's Extra . . .	1,068	385	2
7 Mottisfont . . .	505	743	1	7 Millbrook . . .	2,735	1,450	3
8 Lockerley . . .	560	362	1	8 North Stoneham . . .	766	673	1
9 East Dean . . .	173	141	1	9 Chilworth . . .	150	96	1
10 Sherfield, English . . .	338	223	1				
				Totals . . .	9,447	6,003	16
<i>County of Wilts:</i>							
11 Plaitford . . .	238	250	1				
12 West Wellow . . .	394	254	1				
Totals . . .	9,969	8,141	20				
Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.				Declared to take place from and after 25th March, 1835.			

Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1891.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Year 1881 to 1884.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1891.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Year 1881 to 1884.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
DROXFORD UNION:		£.		Brought forward	7,666	9,150	13
1 Droxford	1,620	1,408	2	12 Selborne	924	1,433	1
2 Duxley	361	320	1	13 Shalden	167	88	1
3 Hambledon	2,026	2,709	2	14 East Tisted	232	205	1
4 Bishop's Waltham	2,181	1,672	2	15 Hartley-Mauditt	69	205	1
5 Soberton	931	1,076	1	16 Wield	248	235	1
6 Corhampton	125	227	1	17 East Worldham	212	289	1
7 Meon-Stoke	382	413	1	18 West Worldham	96	110	1
8 Exton	283	336	1	19 Bentley	728	956	1
9 Warnford	418	504	1				
10 West-Meon	711	610	1	Totals	10,342	12,694	21
11 Upham	511	442	1				
Totals	9,549	9,717	14				

Declared to take place from and after
30th March, 1835.

ALRESFORD UNION:			
1 New Alresford	1,437	799	2
2 Old Alresford	459	803	1
3 Bramdean	215	172	1
4 Beaworth	156	130	1
5 Hinton-Ampner	389	443	1
6 Kilmeston	235	169	1
7 Bishop's Sutton	527	452	1
8 Ropley	779	788	1
9 West Tisted	264	186	1
10 Ovington	179	72	1
11 Swarraton	120	7	1
12 Northington	291	251	1
13 Chilton Candover	130	121	1
14 Brown Candover	284	266	1
15 Itchen Stoke	267	392	1
16 Tichborne	363	478	1
17 Cheriton	566	300	1
18 Bighton	290	252	1
Totals	6,971	6,086	19

Declared to take place from and after
31st March, 1835.

ALTON UNION:			
1 Alton	2,742	2,777	3
2 Bentworth	592	604	1
3 Binsted	960	1,395	1
4 Chawton	446	612	1
5 Farindon	504	613	1
6 Froyle	755	719	1
7 Holybourne	487	875	1
8 Lasham	366	291	1
9 Medsted	418	770	1
10 Newtham	107	203	1
11 Newton-Valence	289	291	1

Carried forward 7,666 9,150 13

Declared to take place from and after
2d April, 1835.

CATHERINGTON UNION:			
1 Catherington	944	1,223	4
2 Blendworth	246	341	1
3 Chalton	235	269	1
4 Clanfield	210	260	1
5 Idsworth	315	703	1
Totals	1,950	2,796	9

Declared to take place from and after
6th April, 1835.

HARTLEY WINTNEY UNION:			
1 Hartley Wintney	1,139	502	2
2 Crondoll	2,010	1,616	3
3 Dogmersfield	272	183	1
4 Eversley	589	405	1
5 Bramsbill	166	208	1
6 Elvetham	481	251	1
7 Grewell	287	256	1
8 Heckfield	623	557	1
9 Mattingly with Hazely	579	285	1
10 Odiham	2,647	1,936	3
11 Rotherwick	436	338	1
12 South Warnborough	374	529	1
13 Winchfield	227	283	1
Totals	9,830	7,439	19

Declared to take place from and after
8th April, 1835.

PETERSFIELD UNION:		Average for the Year 1888 to 1893.	
1 Petersfield	1,423	723	1
2 Buriton	822	750	1
3 Colemore	164	169	1
4 East Meon	1,455	1,736	2
5 Froxfield	618	728	1

Carried forward 4,482 4,196 8

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United, (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1832 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	4,482	£. 4,106	8	Brought forward	13,191	£. 11,219	35
6 Greatham . . .	238	228	1	32 West Sherborne, otherwise Monk's Sherbourn . . .	522	610	1
7 Lyss, otherwise Lyss Turney . . .	663	727	1	33 Worting . . .	120	135	1
8 Prior's Dean . . .	166	150	1	34 Wooton St. Law- rence . . .	847	795	1
9 Privett . . .	225	172	1	35 Woodmancot . . .	92	69	1
10 Steep . . .	531	925	1	36 North Waltham . . .	458	311	1
11 Sheet . . .	380	289	1	County of Berks:			
12 Hawkey . . .	277	455	1	37 Beech Hill . . .	249	185	1
13 Empshot . . .	149	101	1				
Totals . . .	7,111	7,153	16	Totals . . .	15,479	13,324	41

Declared to take place from and after
27th April, 1835.

Declared to take effect from and after
18th May, 1835.

BASINGSTOKE UNION:			
1 Basingstoke . . .	3,581	1,748	4
2 Basing . . .	1,103	1,209	2
3 Bramley . . .	429	564	1
4 Bradley . . .	103	84	1
5 Cliddesden . . .	329	413	1
6 Dean . . .	163	128	1
7 Dummer . . .	383	368	1
8 Eastrope, otherwise Eastrop . . .	69	91	1
9 Farleigh-Wallop . . .	108	115	1
10 Herriard . . .	426	471	1
11 Hartley Westpall, otherwise Hartley Westpale . . .	283	371	1
12 Ellisfield, otherwise Ilfield . . .	245	198	1
13 Mappledurwell . . .	211	130	1
14 Nately Skewers . . .	245	212	1
15 Newnham . . .	329	395	1
16 Nutley . . .	138	80	1
17 Oakley, otherwise Church-Oakley . . .	249	224	1
18 Preston-Candover . . .	442	552	1
19 Popham . . .	104	91	1
20 Pamber . . .	473	635	1
21 Sherborne, St. John Silchester . . .	702	565	1
22 Silchester . . .	414	369	1
23 Steventon . . .	197	105	1
24 Stratfield Turgis . . .	232	162	1
25 Stratfield Saye . . .	559	544	1
26 Shirfield . . .	599	553	1
27 Tunworth . . .	126	153	1
28 Up-Nately . . .	153	65	1
29 Upton-Grey . . .	452	288	1
30 Winslade & Kemp- shot . . .	134	126	1
31 Weston Patrick . . .	210	210	1
Carried forward	13,191	11,219	35

LYMINGTON UNION:			
1 Lymington . . .	3,361	1,425	4
2 Boldre . . .	2,111	1,384	3
3 Brockenhurst . . .	841	527	1
4 Milford . . .	1,533	770	2
5 Milton . . .	956	875	1
6 Hordle . . .	699	490	1
Totals . . .	9,501	5,471	12

Declared to take place from and after
18th May, 1835.

FAREHAM UNION:			
1 Fareham . . .	4,402	2,563	4
2 Boarhunt . . .	225	219	1
3 Porchester . . .	739	464	1
4 Rowner . . .	140	80	1
5 Southwick . . .	723	875	1
6 Titchfield . . .	3,712	4,255	3
7 Wickham . . .	1,106	908	2
8 Widley . . .	512	410	1
9 Wymmering . . .	578	934	1
Totals . . .	12,137	10,708	15

Declared to take place from and after
26th May, 1835.

HAVANT UNION:			
1 Havant . . .	2,083	1,470	3
2 Bedhampton . . .	537	476	1
3 Farlington . . .	778	730	1
4 North Hayling . . .	294	317	1
5 South Hayling . . .	588	642	1
6 Warblington . . .	2,118	1,340	3
Totals . . .	6,398	4,975	10

Declared to take effect from and after
27th May, 1835.

Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
KINGSCLERE UNION:		£.		ANDOVER UNION:		£.	
1 Kingsclere	2,532	2,454	3	1 Andover	4,748	2,820	5
2 Ashmansworth	222	189	1	2 Ampert	713	512	1
3 Baughurst	491	296	1	3 Appleshaw	356	171	1
4 Burghclere	802	567	1	4 Abbots-Ann	562	500	1
5 Crux Easton	97	63	1	5 Bullington	189	115	1
6 Hannington	287	232	1	6 Barton Stacey	623	521	1
7 Highclere	444	350	1	7 Enham Knights	123	81	1
8 Rwhurst	38	2	1	8 Faccombe	290	215	1
9 Itchingswell	449	440	1	9 Fyfield	211	135	1
10 Litchfield	82	14	1	10 Foxcott	95	72	1
11 Sydmonton	170	137	1	11 Grately	130	70	1
12 Tadley	683	607	1	12 Goodworth Clatford	414	435	1
13 Woodcut	90	115	1	13 Hurstborne Tarrant	786	935	1
14 East Woodhay	1,269	951	2	14 Kimpton	383	495	1
15 Woolverton	229	83	1	15 Penton Grafton	429	295	1
Totals	7,885	6,500	18	16 Liukenholt	87	72	1
Declared to take place from and after 3d June, 1835.				17 Longparish	775	860	1
WHITCHURCH UNION:				18 Monxton	276	234	1
1 Whitechurch	1,637	924	2	19 Penton Mewsey	254	156	1
2 Ashe	146	433	1	20 Quarley	201	188	1
3 Freefolk Manor	73	120	1	21 Shipton	287	357	1
4 Hurstborne Priors	490	713	1	22 Tidworth, South	217	189	1
5 Overton	1,507	1,017	2	23 Thruxton	269	157	1
6 St. Mary Bourne	1,125	1,148	2	24 Tangley	283	246	1
7 Tufton	197	41	1	25 Up-Clatford	487	402	1
Totals	5,175	4,396	10	26 Vernham Dean	694	414	1
Declared to take place from and after 4th June, 1835.				27 Wherwell	686	576	1
STOCKBRIDGE UNION:				28 Chilbolton	375	320	1
1 Stockbridge	851	334	2	<i>County of Wilts:</i>			
2 Ashley	93	119	1	29 North Tidworth	392	209	1
3 Bossington	47	26	1	30 Chute	501	355	1
4 Broughton	897	588	2	31 Chute Forest	110	198	1
5 Frenchmore (Ville)	43	16	1	32 Ludgershall	535	410	1
6 Houghton	435	454	1	Totals	16,481	12,715	36
7 Leckford	221	330	1	Declared to take place from and after 9th July, 1835.			
8 Longstock	428	485	1	CHRISTCHURCH UNION:		Average for the Years 1821 to 1824.	
9 King's Somborne	1,046	1,295	2	1 Christchurch	5,344	2,413	6
10 Little Somborne	84	183	1	2 Holdenhurst	733	452	1
11 East Tytherly	294	329	1	3 Sopley	1,012	757	2
12 West Tytherly	497	353	1	Totals	7,089	3,622	9
13 Lower Wallop	900	663	2	Declared to take place from and after 28th July, 1835.			
14 Upper Wallop	478	219	1	RINGWOOD UNION:		Average for the Years 1823 to 1825.	
<i>County of Wilts:</i>				1 Ringwood	3,434	2,035	5
15 West Dean	238	148	1	2 Burley (Ville)	415	115	1
Totals	6,552	5,542	19	3 Ellingham	420	372	1
Declared to take place from and after 6th June, 1835.				Carried forward	4,269	2,522	7

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1825 to 1835.	Number of elec- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Southampton.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1825 to 1835.	Number of elec- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	4,269	£. 2,522	7	Brought forward	4,258	£. 3,599	11
4 Ibsley	316	238	1	11 St. Lawrence	331	215	1
5 Harbridge	322	230	1	12 St. Mary Kalandar	783	376	1
Totals	4,907	2,990	9	13 St. Maurice	1,577	546	2
Declared to take place from and after 29th July, 1835.				14 St. Peter, Colbrook	567	149	1
FORDINGBRIDGE UNION:				15 St. Thomas	1,665	945	2
1 Fordingbridge	2,611	1,872	3	16 St. Faith	394	147	1
2 North Charford	71	67	1	17 St. John	785	186	1
3 South Charford	67	50	1	18 St. Michael	552	376	1
4 Breamore	600	632	1	19 Milland (Ville)	149	99	1
5 Hale	203	98	1	20 St. Peter, Cheesehill	609	193	1
6 Rockbourne	517	332	1	21 Little St. Swithin	556	31	1
County of Wilts:				22 Bishops Stoke	1,026	634	2
7 Whichbury	183	65	1	23 East Stratton	386	273	1
8 South Damerham	716	957	1	24 Hunton	112	130	1
9 Martin	599	681	1	25 Headbourne Worthy	190	250	1
Totals	5,567	4,754	11	26 Littleton	120	141	1
Declared to take place from and after 30th July, 1835.				27 Mitcheldever	936	273	1
NEW WINCHESTER				28 Morestead	90	101	1
UNION:		Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.		29 Owselbury	664	547	1
1 Chilcomb	192	192	1	30 Stoke Charity	135	200	1
2 Crawley	372	434	1	31 Week	182	95	1
3 Easton	494	461	1	32 Wonston	740	806	1
4 Itchen Abbas	243	175	1	Totals	16,807	10,312	36
5 Sparsholt	357	438	1	Declared to take place from and after 10th August, 1835.			
6 Twyford	1,177	673	2	HURSLEY UNION:			
7 Kings Worthy	345	468	1	1 Hursley	1,418	856	4
8 Martyrs Worthy	219	403	1	2 Compton	255	251	1
9 Winnall	115	45	1	3 Otterbourne	583	672	2
10 St. Bartholomew- Hild	744	310	1	4 North Baddeley	297	128	1
Carried forward	4,258	3,599	11	5 Farley Camberlayne	165	252	1
				Totals	2,718	2,159	9
				Declared to take place from and after 11th August, 1835.			

COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

CAXTON AND ARRINGTON UNION:				Brought forward	2,667	1,841	9
1 Caxton	417	318	1	10 Papworth, St. Ever- ard	107	81	1
2 Arrington	254	78	1	11 Papworth, St. Agnes	106	102	1
3 Elsworth	689	607	1	12 Bourne	767	405	1
4 Ettiely	340	162	1	13 Gamlingay	1,319	1,165	2
5 Little Gransden	251	134	1	14 Wimpole	583	243	1
6 Croxton	245	268	1	15 Orwell	537	359	1
7 Longstow	231	103	1	16 Croydon	434	342	1
8 Knapwell	128	74	1	17 Great Eversden	316	157	1
9 Caldecot	112	97	1	18 Kingston	293	200	1
Carried forward	2,677	1,841	9	Carried forward	7,129	4,895	19

Parishes United, (Cambridge.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1825.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Cambridge.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1822 to 1825.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	7,129	4,895	19	ROYSTON UNION:		£.	
19 Toft	279	209	1	County of Hertford:			
20 Little Eversden	196	131	1	1 Royston	1,272	678	2
21 Tadlow	176	112	1	2 Barkway	859	690	1
22 Hatley, St. George	119	108	1	3 Ashwell	1,072	553	1
23 East Hatley	104	110	1	4 Hinxworth	295	103	1
24 Hardwicke	90	83	1	5 Therrfield	974	791	1
County of Huntingdon:				6 Kelshall	251	140	1
25 Great Gransden	527	439	1	7 Barley	704	498	1
26 Yelling	326	297	1	8 Reed	232	185	1
Totals	8,946	6,384	27	9 Nuthampstead	249	110	1
Declared to take place from and after 18th June, 1835.				County of Cambridge:			
LINTON UNION:				10 Royston	483	253	1
1 Linton	1,678	1,706	3	11 Guilden Morden	675	479	1
2 Castleamps	734	780	1	12 Steeple Morden	645	328	1
3 Horseheath	430	227	1	13 Abington Pigotts	259	218	1
4 Shudy Camps	418	522	1	14 Wendy	125	58	1
5 Hildersham	214	141	1	15 Littlington	622	290	1
6 Great Bartlow	106	105	1	16 Shingay	112	93	1
7 Balaham	1,074	1,090	2	17 Bassingbourn	1,255	919	2
8 West Wratting	763	993	1	18 Kneesworth	191	122	1
9 West Wickham	529	403	1	19 Whaddon	339	336	1
10 Weston Colville	444	618	1	20 Melbourn	1,474	811	2
11 Carlton	387	233	1	21 Thriplow	417	248	1
12 Duxford	670	544	1	22 Foulmire	647	472	1
13 Sawston	771	648	1	23 Foxton	408	438	1
14 Ickleton	682	452	1	24 Barrington	485	320	1
15 Whittlesford	524	409	1	25 Meldreth	643	280	1
16 Great Abington	382	324	1	26 Shepreth	345	82	1
17 Hinxton	333	277	1	County of Essex:			
18 Pampisford	293	198	1	27 Heydon	259	257	1
19 Babraham	273	116	1	28 Great Chishall	371	388	1
20 Little Abington	253	134	1	29 Little Chishall	106	73	1
County of Essex:				Totals	15,671	10,233	32
21 Hadstock	424	357	1	Declared to take place from and after 29th June, 1835.			
22 Little Bartlow	205	220	1				
Totals	11,587	10,547	25				
Declared to take place from and after 18th June, 1835.							

COUNTY OF HERTS.

WARE UNION:	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1821 to 1824.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Cambridge.)	Population in 1831.	Average for the Years 1821 to 1824.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
1 Ware	4,214	3,392	4	Brought forward	13,168	11,335	16
2 Standon	2,272	2,242	2	11 Widford	506	262	1
3 Hoddesdon	1,615	1,137	2	12 Wormley	471	184	1
4 Great Amwell	1,321	1,289	2	13 Gilston	233	119	1
5 Stanstead Abbots	966	796	1	14 Eastwick	169	166	1
6 Hunsdon	592	461	1	15 Stanstead St. Mar- garet	107	65	1
7 Thundridge	588	465	1	Totals	14,654	12,131	21
8 Great Munden	550	769	1	Declared to take place from and after			
9 Broxbourne	529	335	1				
10 Little Munden	521	449	1				

List of Unions formed and of Parishes included.

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Parishes United. (Herts.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United, (Herts.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
ST. ALBAN'S UNION:		£.				£.	
1 St. Alban's, other- wise the Abbey . . .	3,092	1,199	3	Brought forward	6,037	2,825	8
2 St. Peter . . .	2,973	1,398	3	4 Great Gaddesden . . .	988	759	2
3 St. Michael . . .	1,527	1,205	2	5 Flamstead . . .	1,462	1,280	2
4 St. Stephen . . .	1,746	1,218	2	6 King's Langley . . .	1,423	808	2
5 Sandridge . . .	810	642	1				
6 Redbourn . . .	2,047	1,213	2	Totals . . .	9,910	5,672	14
7 Harpenden . . .	1,972	837	2				
8 Wheathampstead . . .	1,666	776	2				
Totals . . .	15,833	8,488	17				

Declared to take place from and after
12th June, 1835.

Declared to take place from and after
23d May, 1835.

WATFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	
1 Watford . . .	5,293	2,733	5
2 Rickmansworth . . .	4,374	2,232	4
3 Aldenham . . .	1,494	1,047	2
4 Abbots Langley . . .	1,980	1,036	2
5 Saratt . . .	452	412	1
6 Bushey . . .	1,586	1,013	2
Totals . . .	15,379	8,473	16

Declared to take place from and after
23d May, 1835.

BERKHAMPTSTAD UNION:			
1 Berkhamstead, St. Peter's . . .	2,369	1,047	3
2 Northchurch . . .	1,156	910	2
3 Tring . . .	3,488	3,779	3
4 Aldbury . . .	695	556	1
5 Puttenham . . .	130	186	1
6 Wiggington . . .	536	350	1
7 Little Gaddesden . . .	492	248	1
County of Buckingham:			
8 Marsworth . . .	427	295	1
9 Pightlesthorne, otherwise Pitstone	436	282	1
10 Nettlefen . . .	142	97	1
Totals . . .	9,871	7,750	15

Declared to take place from and after
12th June, 1835.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD UNION:		Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	
1 Hemel Hempstead . . .	4,759	1,999	5
2 Bovingdon . . .	962	655	2
3 Flaunden . . .	316	171	1
Carried forward	6,037	2,825	8

HITCHIN UNION:		Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	
1 Hitchin . . .	5,211	2,588	4
2 Ickleford . . .	502	220	1
3 Ippollitts . . .	874	539	1
4 Kimpton . . .	944	398	2
5 King's Walden . . .	1,004	472	2
6 Lilley . . .	451	193	1
7 Offley . . .	967	729	2
8 Pirton . . .	758	440	1
9 Hexton . . .	294	179	1
10 Newnham . . .	157	68	1
11 Norton . . .	364	246	1
12 St. Paul's, Walden . . .	1,058	619	2
13 Codicote . . .	805	434	2
14 Shephall . . .	217	131	1
15 Bygrave . . .	145	77	1
16 Caldicott . . .	39	17	1
17 Radwell . . .	103	52	1
18 Baldock . . .	1,704	1,239	2
19 Graveley . . .	331	194	1
20 Letchworth . . .	76	130	1
21 Weston . . .	1,046	914	2
22 William . . .	313	228	1
23 Great Wymondley . . .	321	190	1
24 Little Wymondley . . .	226	101	1
25 Stevenage . . .	1,859	978	2
26 Knebworth . . .	259	458	1
27 Clothall . . .	444	418	1
County of Bedford:			
28 Holwell . . .	167	73	1
Totals . . .	20,639	12,816	39

Declared to take place from and after
15th June, 1835.

HERTFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1828 to 1835.	
1 All Saints . . .	1,287	916	2
2 St. Andrew's . . .	1,826	1,395	2
3 St. John's . . .	925	1,066	2
4 Bengoe . . .	855	676	1
5 Watton . . .	830	459	1
6 Brickendon . . .	765	403	1
Carried forward	6,488	4,913	9

Parishes United. (Herts.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1833 to 1835.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United. (Herts.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
Brought forward	6,488	£. 4,913	9	BARNET UNION:		£.	
7 Hertingfordbury	753	463	1	1 Chipping Barnet	2,369	996	3
8 Walkern	771	408	1	2 East Barnet	547	617	1
9 Bennington	631	476	1	3 Elstree	341	314	1
10 Datchworth	593	307	1	4 Ridge	347	496	1
11 Aston	494	246	1	5 Shenley	1,167	806	2
12 Tewin	474	305	1	6 Tottridge	595	374	1
13 Little Berkham- stead	450	193	1	County of Middlesex:			
14 Little Amwell	368	135	1	7 South Mimms	2,010	955	2
15 Sacombe	360	224	1	8 Hadley	979	526	2
16 Bayford	332	230	1	9 Friern-Barnet	615	402	1
17 Stapleford	237	208	1	Totals	8,970	5,486	14
18 Brantfield	204	94	1				
Totals	12,155	8,202	21				

Declared to take place from and after
4th July, 1835.

Declared to take place from and after 18th June, 1835.			
BUNTINGFORD UNION:			
1 Laystone	1,093	818	3
2 Sandon	716	413	2
3 Yardley	599	520	1
4 Great Hornead	576	637	1
5 Aspeden	550	343	1
6 Cottered	435	242	1
7 Westmill	418	288	1
8 Anstey	417	326	1
9 Buckland	373	209	1
10 Rushden	342	241	1
11 Wyddial	243	131	1
12 Wallington	213	115	1
13 Meesden	158	156	1
14 Little Hornead	107	83	1
15 Throcking	76	60	1
16 Broadfield	10	33	1
Totals	6,327	4,615	19

Declared to take place from and after
29th June, 1835.

HATFIELD UNION:			
1 Hatfield	3,593	1,623	3
2 North Mimms	1,068	740	2
3 Northaw	600	521	2
4 Essendon	672	293	1
Totals	5,933	3,177	8

Declared to take place from and after
4th July, 1835.

WELWYN UNION:			
1 Welwyn	1,369	792	2
2 Digswell	196	111	1
3 Ayot St. Lawrence	134	51	1
4 Ayot St. Peter	271	83	1
Totals	1,970	1,037	5

Declared to take place from and after
4th July, 1835.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

HENDON UNION:		Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.		Brought forward	10,439	7,012	14
1 Hendon	3,110	1,825	3	7 Little Stanmore	876	544	1
2 Edgware	591	466	1	8 Willesden	1,876	1,012	3
3 Harrow-on-the-Hill	3,861	2,760	4	Totals	13,191	8,568	18
4 Kingsbury	463	171	1				
5 Pinner	1,270	939	3				
6 Great Stanmore	1,144	851	2				
Carried forward	10,439	7,012	14				

Declared to take place from and after
1st May, 1835.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

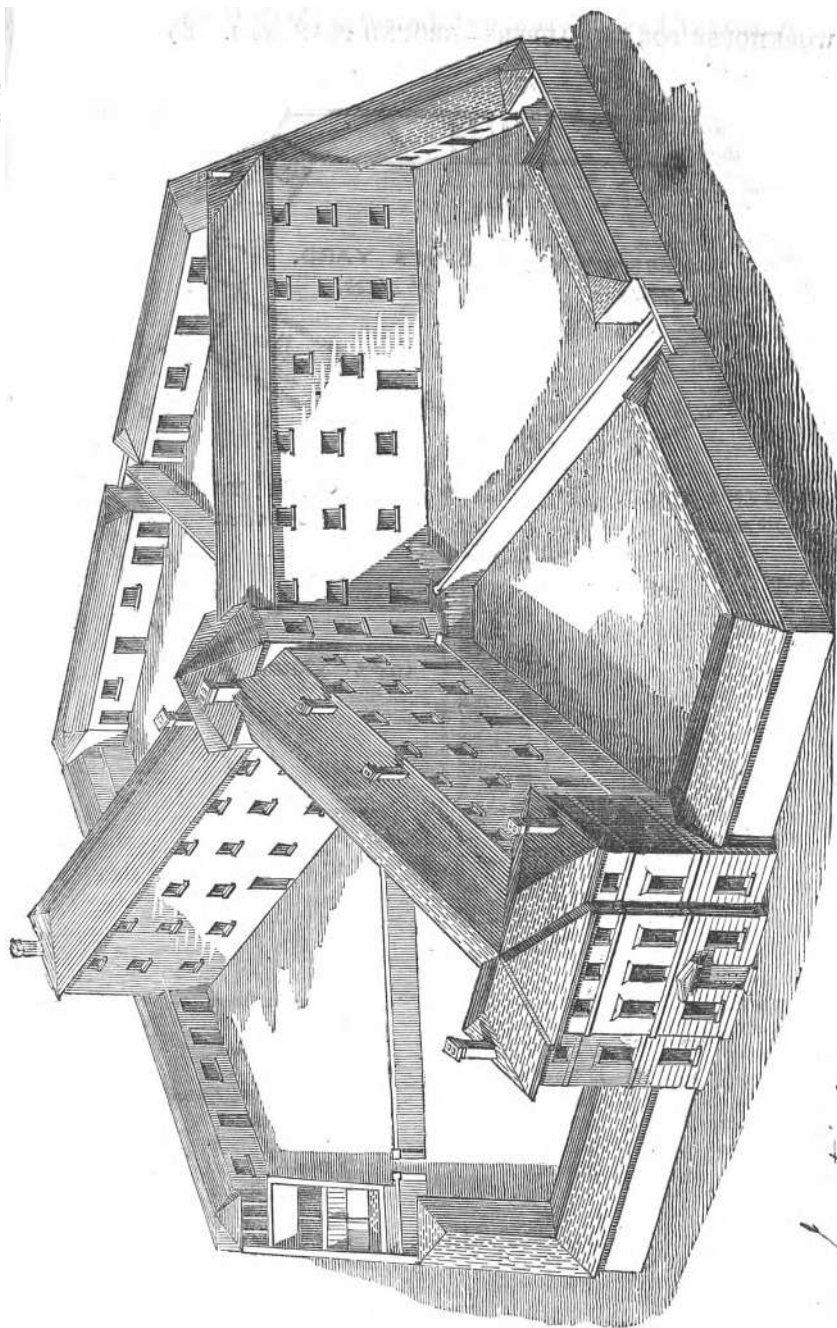
Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.	Parishes United.	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1831 to 1834.	Number of elect- ed Guardians.
GLOUCESTER UNION:		£.				£.	
1 St. Aldates . . .	700	120	2	Brought forward	14,187	4,484	30
2 St. Catherine's, with Kings- holm St. Ca- therine's . . .	1,106	319	2	18 Barnwood . . .	419	151	1
3 St. John Baptist . . .	2,465	440	3	19 Matson . . .	55	40	1
4 St. Mary-de- Crypt. . .	939	400	2	20 Upton St. Leonard's	898	233	2
5 St. Mary-de- Grace. . .	280	112	2	21 Whaddon . . .	152	110	1
6 St. Mary-de- Lode, with Kingsholm St. Mary . . .	1,917	332	3	22 Quedgley . . .	297	157	1
7 St. Michael . . .	913	436	2	23 Elmore . . .	401	159	1
8 St. Nicholas . . .	2,459	608	3	24 Hempstead. . .	165	142	1
9 St. Owen . . .	469	140	2	25 South Hamlet . .	834	188	1
10 The Holy Trinity . . .	685	248	2	26 Lassington . . .	60	70	1
11 Sandhurst . . .	434	241	1	27 Maismore . . .	423	261	1
12 Norton . . .	423	273	1	28 Littleworth . . .	615	134	1
13 Down Hatherly . .	150	75	1	29 Tuffley . . .	109	77	1
14 Twigworth . . .	87	59	1	30 Barton St. Michael	676	132	1
15 Longford St. Mary.	178	106	1	31 Barton St. Mary .	786	293	1
16 Churchdown . . .	517	348	1	32 Over Higham and Linton . . .	327	93	1
17 Hucclecot . . .	465	227	1	33 Longford St. Cathe- rine's . . .	160	52	1
				34 North Hamlet . .	..	25	1
				35 Wootton St. Mary, Ville of Wootton	804	130	1
Carried forward	14,187	4,484	30	Totals . . .	21,368	6,931	49

Declared to take place from and after
30th April, 1835.

— 2. —

NUMBER of the UNIONS formed, with the Agency of each Assistant Commissioner; the NUMBER of the PARISHES united; and the AVERAGE AMOUNT of POOR'S RATES.

Name of Assistant Commissioner.	Up to the 8th of August, 1835.					Total Amount of Average Rates included.
	County.	Number of Unions declared.	Number of Parishes united.	Population.		
Colonel à Court	Hants	21	270	281	181,865	£ 146,541
	Wilts . . . . .	..	10		
	Berks . . . . .	..	1		
Sir F. B. Head	Kent	14	211	211	132,696	143,278
	Berks	8	140	263	164,915	133,690
	Oxford	3	113			
	Hants 1, Gloucester 2	..	..	
	Warwick 2, Wilts 2	227	150,563	125,301
	Northampton 3	..	10			
	Hertford	4	68			
Mr. Power.	Essex	3	96	2	107,578	119,811
	Cambridge	3	61			
	Hunts . . . . .	..	2		
Mr. Hawley	Sussex	11	132	132	107,578	119,811
	Hertford	8	71	165	138,931	110,214
	Bedford	4	78			
	Bucks	1	13			
	Middlesex	3	198	127,619	107,147
	Suffolk	4	129			
	Wilts	2	25			
Mr. Mott	Gloucester	1	35	1	109,871	104,713
	Middlesex	1	8			
	Somerset . . . . .	..	1		
Mr. Gilbert	Bucks	6	145	150	79,007	72,900
	Oxford 4, Herts 1	..	5			
	Berks	3	45			
Mr. Hall	Oxford	2	81	137	92,259	68,697
	Wilts 8, Bucks 2	..	11			
	Hants 1 . . . . .	..	..	
Mr. Earle	Northampton	7	154	162	52,223	61,212
	Oxford 2, Bucks 2	..	8			
	Bedford 3 . . . . .	..	..	
Dr. Kay	Sussex	5	110	112	27,597	29,039
Mr. Pilkington	Hants . . . . .	..	2		
Mr. Weale.	.. . . .	..	..
Sir Edward Parry.	Norfolk	2	68	68	27,597	29,039
Mr. Tufnell
Totals		111	2,311	1,385,124	1,221,543	

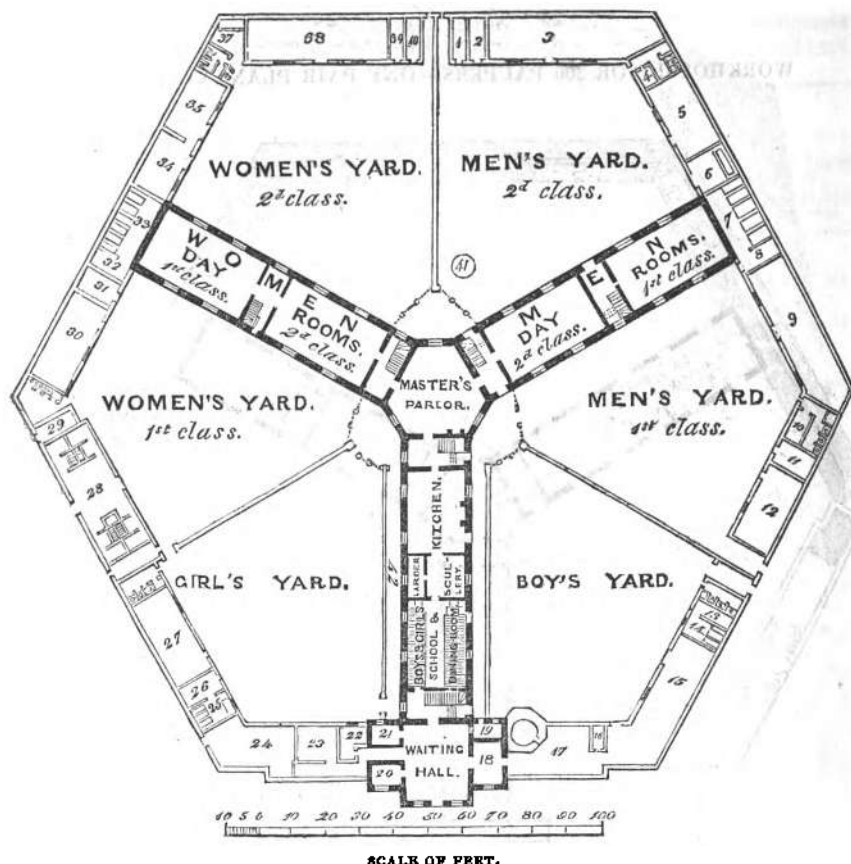


Isometric PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF A WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS. (E.)

SAMUEL KEMPTHORNE, Architect,

CARLTON CHAMBERS, 12, REGENT STREET.

WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS,—GROUND PLAN, No. 1. (E)

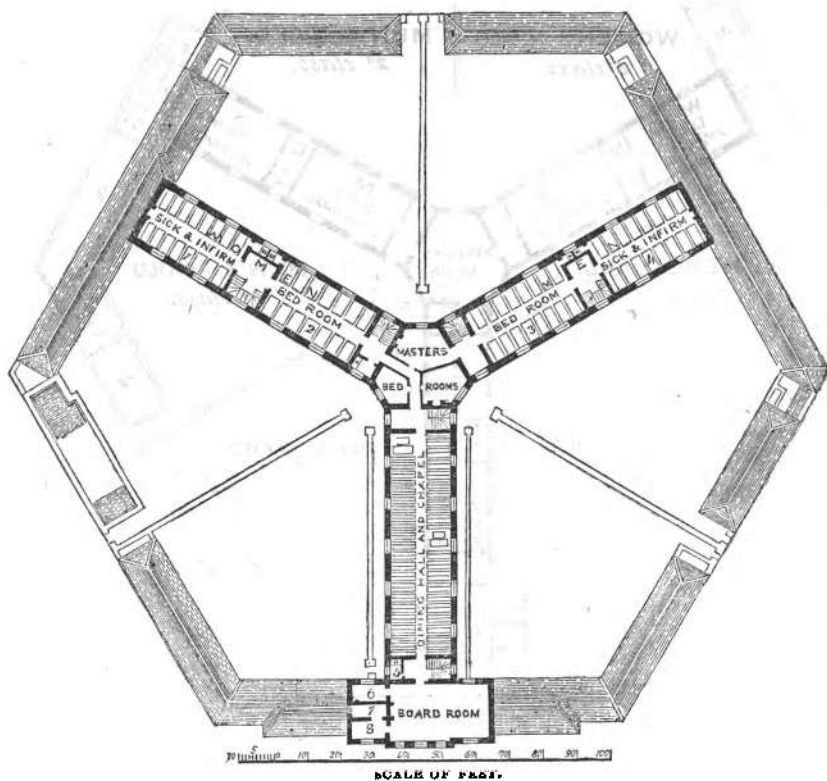


- 1 Dead House.
- 2 Refractory Ward.
- 3 Work Room.
- 4 Dust.
- 5 Work Room.
- 6 Washing Room.
- 7 Receiving Ward, 6 beds.
- 8 Bath.
- 9 Work Room.
- 10 Dust.
- 11 Washing Room.
- 12 Flour and Mill Room.
- 13 Washing Room.
- 14 Receiving Ward, 3 beds.

- 15 Work Room.
- 16 Coals.
- 17 Bakehouse.
- 18 Bread Room.
- 19 Delivery Room.
- 20 Porter's Room.
- 21 Searching Room.
- 22 Store.
- 23 Potatoes.
- 24 Coals.
- 25 Receiving Ward, 4 beds.
- 26 Washing Room.
- 27 Work Room.
- 28 Piggery.

- 29 Slaughter House.
- 30 Work Room.
- 31 Washing Room.
- 32 Bath.
- 33 Receiving Ward, 6 beds.
- 34 Wash-house.
- 35 Laundry.
- 36 Dust.
- 37 Washing Room.
- 38 Work Room.
- 39 Refractory Ward.
- 40 Dead House.
- 41 Well.
- 42 Passage.

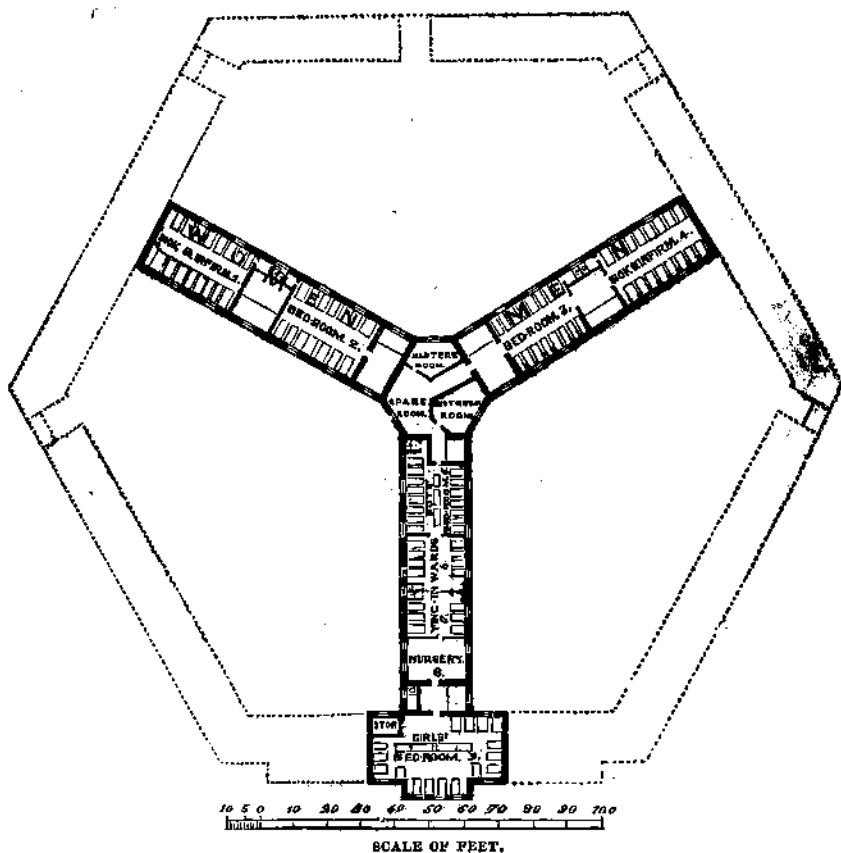
WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS,—ONE PAIR PLAN, No. 2. (B.)



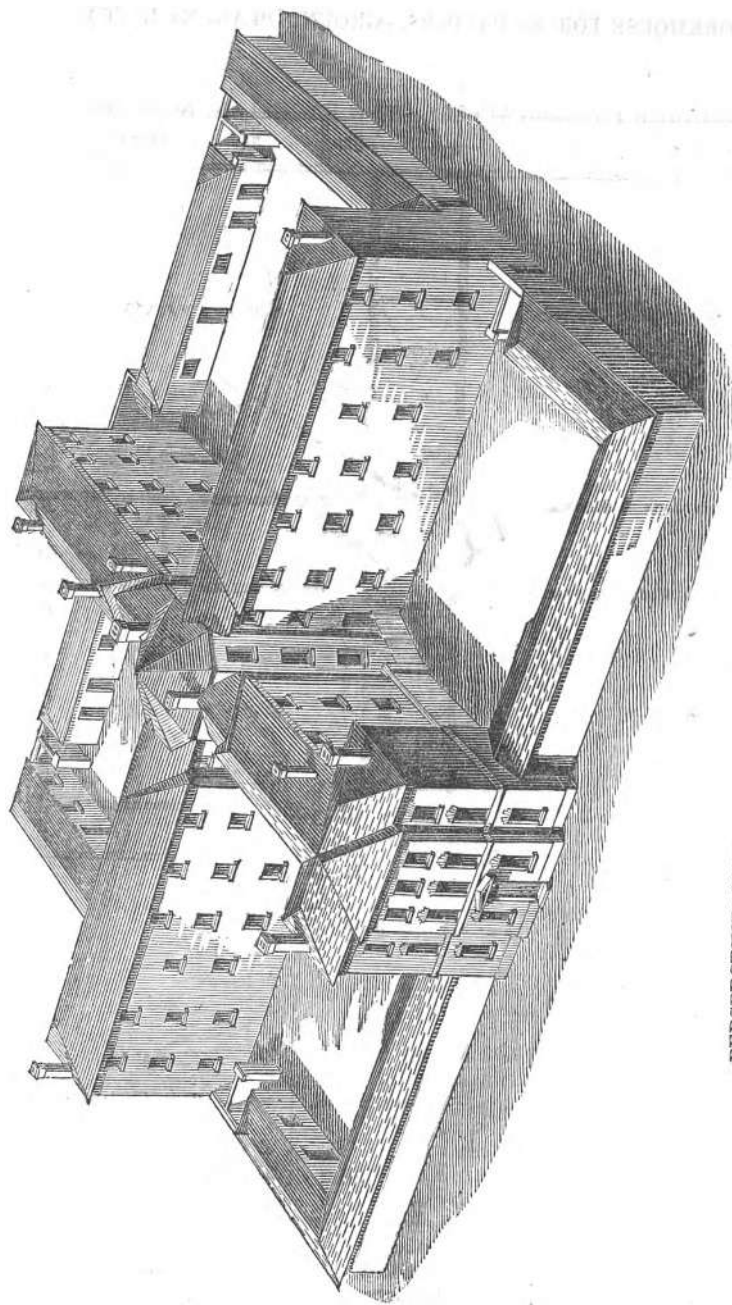
- 1 Sixteen in single beds.
- 2 Twenty-seven in double beds.
- 3 Thirty-two in single beds in two tiers.

- 4 Sixteen in single beds.
- 5 Water Closet.
- 6 Clerk.
- 7 Strong Room.
- 8 Ante-Room.

WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS,—TWO PAIR PLAN, No. 3. (E.)



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Sixteen in single beds. | 5 Thirty-six in double beds
in two tiers. |
| 2 Twenty-seven in double
beds. | 6 Eight beds. |
| 3 Thirty-two in single beds
in two tiers. | 7 Six beds. |
| 4 Sixteen in Single beds. | 8 Ten Children. |
| | 9 Forty in double beds. |

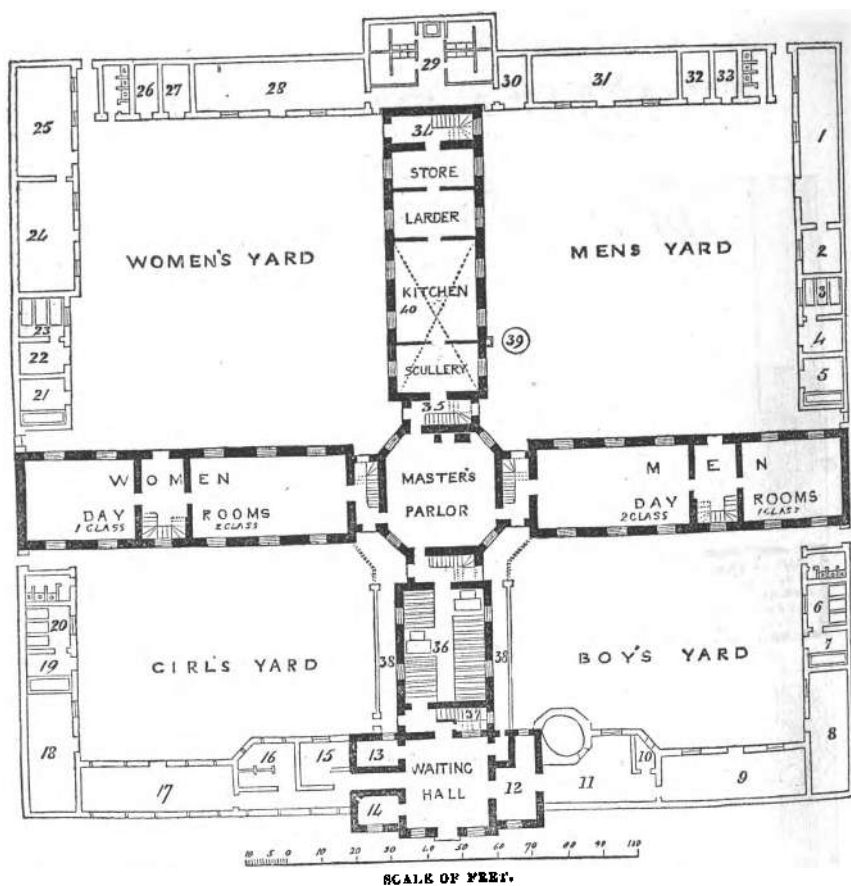


PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF A WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS. (F.)

SAMPSON KEMPTHORNE, Architect,

CARLTON CHAMBERS, 19, REGENT STREET.

WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS,—GROUND PLAN, No. 1. (F.)

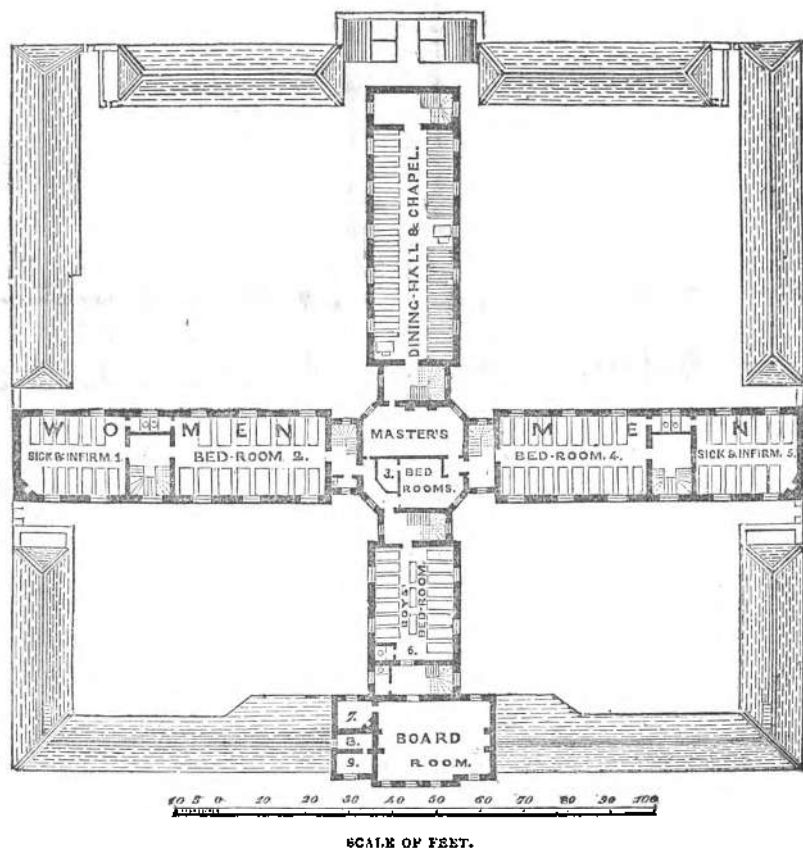


- 1 Work Room.
- 2 Store.
- 3 Receiving Wards, 3 beds.
- 4 Bath.
- 5 Washing Room.
- 6 Receiving Ward, 3 beds.
- 7 Washing Room.
- 8 Work Room.
- 9 Flour and Mill Room.
- 10 Coals.
- 11 Bakehouse.
- 12 Bread Room.
- 13 Searching Room.
- 14 Porter's Room.

- 15 Store.
- 16 Potatoes.
- 17 Coals.
- 18 Work Room
- 19 Washing Room.
- 20 Receiving Ward, 3 beds.
- 21 Washing Room.
- 22 Bath.
- 23 Receiving Ward, 3 beds.
- 24 Laundry.
- 25 Wash-house.
- 26 Dead House.
- 27 Refractory Ward.
- 28 Work Room.

- 29 Piggery.
- 30 Slaughter House.
- 31 Work Room.
- 32 Refractory Ward.
- 33 Dead House.
- 34 Women's Stairs to Dining Hall.
- 35 Men's Stairs to ditto.
- 36 Boys' and Girls' School and Dining Room.
- 37 Delivery.
- 38 Passage.
- 39 Well.
- 40 Cellar under ground.

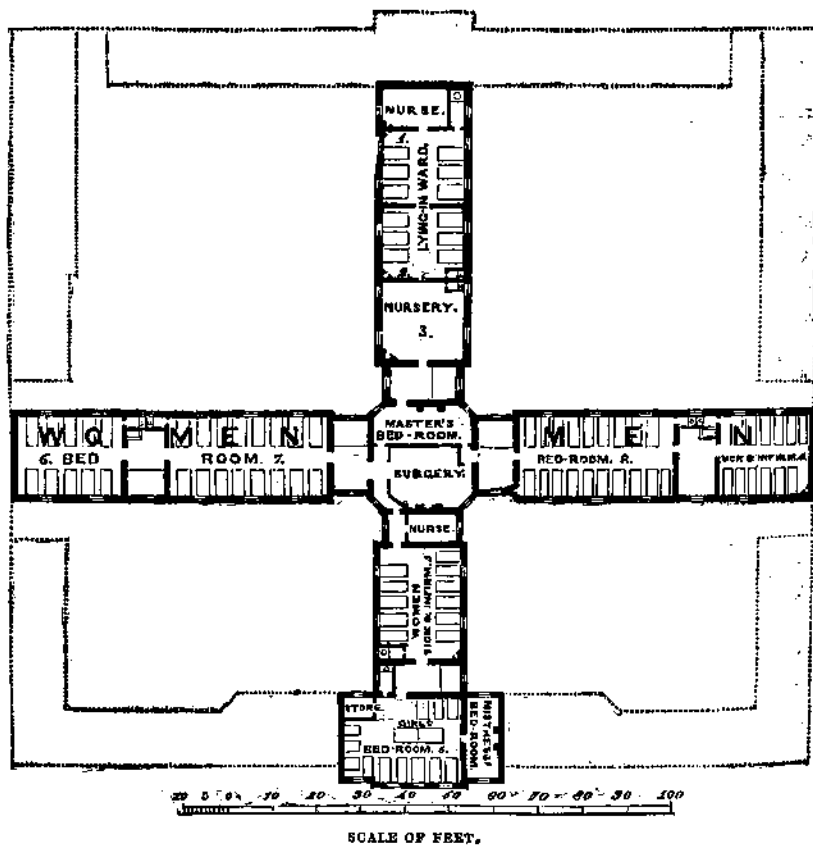
WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS, ONE PAIR PLAN, No 2. (F.)



- 1 Twelve single Beds.
- 2 First class, 30 in double Beds.
- 3 Closet.
- 4 First class, 36 in single Beds, in two tiers.

- 5 Twelve single Beds.
- 6 Thirty-six in single Beds, in two tiers.
- 7 Clerk.
- 8 Strong Room.
- 9 Anti-Room.

WORKHOUSE FOR 300 PAUPERS, TWO PAIR PLAN, No. 3. (F.)

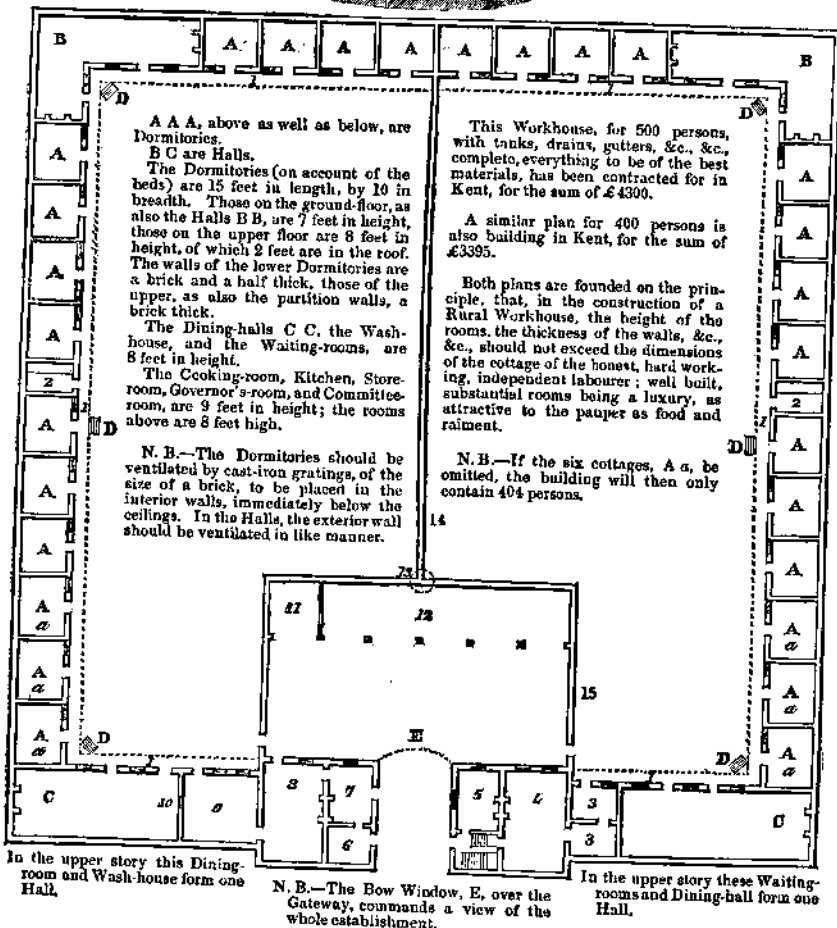
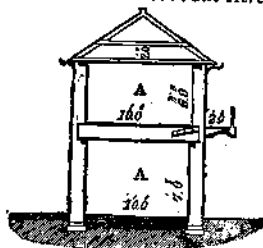


- 1 First class, 6 Beds.
- 2 Second class, 6 Beds.
- 3 Ten Children.
- 4 Eleven Beds.
- 5 Twenty-eight in double Beds.

- 6 Second class, 21 in double Beds.
- 7 Second class, 30 in double Beds.
- 8 Second class, 38 in single Beds, in two tiers.
- 9 Twelve in single Beds.

PLAN OF A RURAL WORKHOUSE FOR FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS.

Total Area.....One Acre.

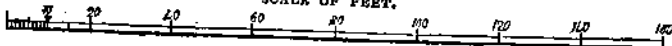


In the upper story this Dining-room and Wash-house form one Hall.

N. B.—The Bow Window, E, over the Gateway, commands a view of the whole establishment.

In the upper story these Waiting-rooms and Dining-hall form one Hall.

SCALE OF FEET.



- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Balcony or Gangway,
D D Steps. | 6 Store-room. | 12 Shed for the Guardians' Horses. |
| 2 Privy. | 7 Kitchen. | 13 Well. |
| 3 Waiting-rooms. | 8 Cooking-room. | 14 Division-wall, 12 feet in height, and
14 inches in thickness. |
| 4 Committee-room. | 9 Wash-house. | 15 Wall, 9 feet high. |
| 5 Governor's-room. | 10 Window to pass Food. | |
| | 11 Coal-house. | |