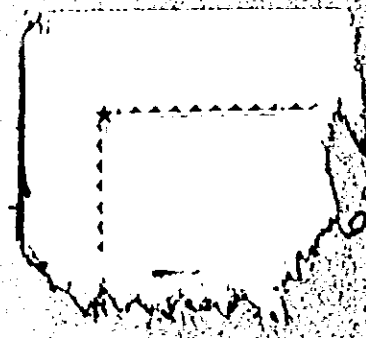


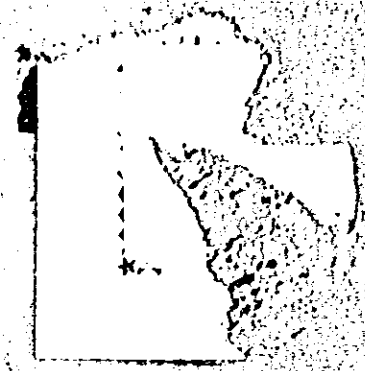
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With the Author's kind regards

A HISTORY
OF THE
ENGLISH POOR LAW,

IN CONNEXION WITH

THE LEGISLATION AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING
THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BY

SIR GEORGE NICHOLLS, K.C.B.,

LATE POOR LAW COMMISSIONER, AND SECRETARY TO THE POOR LAW BOARD.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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"Whenever, for the purposes of government, we arrive, in any state of society, at a class so miserable as to be in want of the common necessaries of life, a new principle comes into action. The usual restraints which are sufficient for the well-fed, are often useless in checking the demands of hungry stomachs. Other and more powerful means must then be employed; a larger array of military or police force must be maintained. Under such circumstances, it may be considerably cheaper to fill empty stomachs to the point of ready obedience, than to compel starving wretches to respect the roast-beef of their more industrious neighbours; and it may be expedient, in a more economical point of view, to supply gratuitously the wants even of able-bodied persons, if it can be done without creating crowds of additional applicants."

BARRAGE, *On the Principles of Taxation*. London, 1851.

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DEDICATION.

To the Boards of Guardians of the several Poor Law Unions in England and Ireland—in the hope that the explanations herein given of the Progress of the English Poor Law, in connexion with the State of the Country and the general Condition of the People, may prove useful to them and their successors—this Work is inscribed,

By their faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

London, August, 1854.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

INDEX	Page ix
INTRODUCTION	1

PART THE FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

Early legislation — Laws of Athelstan and Canute — State of the population prior to the Conquest — Under the Norman kings — In the time of Henry II. — Conquest of Ireland — Magna Charta — Feudalism — Laws of Henry III. — 'Provisions of Merton' — Laws of Edward I. — 'Statute of Winchester' — 'Statutes of Merchants' — Slavery of the people — The Crusades — Annexation of Wales — Condition of the Welsh people — Rise of a middle class, *temp.* Edward II. — Mingling of the races — Advance of freedom — Increase of vagrancy — Laws of Edward III. — 'Statute of Northampton' — The great plague — 'Statute of Labourers' — Sumptuary law — Prevalence of violence and disorder — Laws of Richard II. — Popular progress — Spread of freedom — Wat Tyler's rebellion — Population in 1377 — Wages and scarcity of agricultural labourers — First game-law 13

CHAPTER II.

Laws of Henry IV. — Progress of improvement — Wealth and intelligence of towns — Hotspur's rebellion — Enactments relating to the Welsh — Apprenticing in towns — Increase of vagrancy — Transition from vassalage to independence — Necessity of relief for poverty — Laws of Henry V. — Population — Abuse of charities — Wars with France — Laws of Henry VI. — Wages — Threatening letters — Restrictions on foreign merchants — Price of wheat — Cade's insurrection — Laws of Edward IV. — Sumptuary laws — Remarks by Adam Smith and Blackstone — Commercial prohibitions — State of agriculture — Laws of Richard III. — Restrictions on Italian merchants — Wars of York and Lancaster — Extinction of feudalism — Laws of Henry VII. — Increase of wealth and general improvement — Alarm at increase of pasturage — Increase of vagabonds and beggars — Modification of apprenticeship laws — Wages — Maritime discoveries — Vagrancy — Population 62

CHAPTER III.

Accession of Henry VIII. — Sumptuary laws — Prices of provisions — Pulling down of houses — Consolidation of farms and increase of pasturage — State of Manchester — Gipsies — Vagrancy — "Valiant beggars" — "Rufflers" — Employment of children — Prices — The Reformation — Suppression of religious establishments — Condition of the people — Accession of Edward VI. — Loiterers and wanderers — Beggars' children — Aged and impotent poor — Collection of alms — Trade combinations — Pasture and tillage — "Gigge-mills" — 'Act of Uniformity' — Book of Common Prayer — Laws of Mary — Restoration of popery — Amendment and confirmation of Acts of Henry and Edward — Sumptuary law — Gipsies — Prices of wheat — Tillage — Cattle — General increase of prices — Influences of popery and of the Reformation Page 107

CHAPTER IV.

Accession of Elizabeth — Collectors — First compulsory assessment — Service and wages — Sturdy beggars — Aged and infirm poor — Overseers — Bastardy law — "Collectors and governors" — Houses of correction — "Censors and wardens" — Working of leather — Gipsies — Sumptuary law — Exportation of corn — Game-laws — Regulation of buildings — Vagrancy in London — Duties of overseers — Rate in aid — Liability of parents and children — Rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars — Immigrant vagrants — Soldiers and mariners — Progress of legislation — Provisions of the 43rd Elizabeth — Effects of the Reformation — General tendency of legislation with respect to the poor — Condition of the people — Prices of provisions — Wages — Social improvement 153

PART THE SECOND.

FROM THE ACCESSION OF JAMES THE FIRST TO THE END OF THE
REIGN OF ANNE.

CHAPTER V.

Accession of James I. — Laws against papists — Wages — Players — Rogues and vagabonds — Proclamation against incorrigible rogues — Overseers — Inns and alehouses — Conjurations and witchcrafts — Regulation of manufactures — Fisheries — Exportation of corn — The plague — Gunpowder Plot — Exportation of beer — Game-laws — Enactments against drunkenness — "Levellers" — Apprenticeship bequests — Houses of correction — Expedients for raising the revenue — Hospitals and working-houses — Abolishment of monopolies — Women convicted of "small felonies" — Laws relating to Wales — Usury law — Prohibition of profane swearing — Infanticide — Exportation of corn — Advance in prices — State of England and Ireland — Commerce — Progress of the Poor Law 211

CHAPTER VI.

Accession of Charles I. — Observance of Sunday — Enactment against tippling — 'Petition of Rights' — Dread of popery — Parish apprenticeship — Disuse of parliaments — Commission for relief of the poor, and punishment of rogues, &c. — 'Orders' and 'Directions' of the commissioners — Proclamations — Fasts — Sunday sports and pastimes — Ship-money — Disturbances in Scotland — The Long Parliament — Execution of Strafford and Laud — Tunnage and poundage — Poll-tax — Irish rebellion — 'Remonstrance of the State of the Kingdom' — The civil war — Population in 1660 — Proclamation of Charles II. — State of England during the Commonwealth and Protectorate — Colonization — Trade of Manchester in 1641 — Increase of London — Hackney coaches — A post established — Navigation Act — Reduction of interest — Improvements in agriculture — Woollen-trade — Price of wheat — Rate of wages — Comparison of wages and cost of subsistence — Constitutional principle established Page 255

CHAPTER VII.

Charles II. — Act of Indemnity — Reduction of interest — The army disbanded — Character of the soldiery — Navigation Act — Dutch war — Cultivation of tobacco and exportation of leather prohibited — The Settlement Act — Sir Matthew Hale on provision for the poor — Prohibition of foreign bone-lace, &c. — Exportation of sheep, wool, &c., prohibited — Export prices of corn — Export and import duties — Regulation of colonial imports — Importation of cattle — Cultivation of flax and hemp — The Bedford Level — Act to prevent the delivering up of merchant-ships — Shipbuilding — Woollen manufactures — The great plague and the Dutch war — Fire of London — The war renewed — Rebuilding of London — Regulation of silk-throwing — Punishment for burning stacks and injuring cattle — Metropolitan workhouses — Relief of poor debtors — Greenland and Eastland trade — Observance of Sunday — The Prince of Orange — Papist disabilities — Habeas Corpus Act — Parliament at Oxford — Death of the king — Accession of James II. — Monmouth's rebellion — Law of settlement — Encouragement of shipbuilding — Illegal measures of James — Landing of the Prince of Orange — Abdication of James — The Convention Parliament — Accession of William and Mary — Bill of Rights 288

CHAPTER VIII.

William and Mary — Convention Parliament — Repeal of hearth-tax — Exportation of corn — Irish war — Tithe of hemp and flax — Revision of the law of settlement — Increase of poor-rates — Progress of the Poor Law — Population in 1688 — Increase of wealth — Price of wheat — Highway robberies — Button manufacture — Shipbuilding — Triennial Act — Coinage — Greenwich Hospital established — Growth of hemp and flax — Bank of England — East India Company — Amendment of settle-

ment law — Manufacture of lustrings — Peace of Ryawick — Exportation of corn — The "seven barren years" — Reduction of the army — Inland navigation — Vagrancy — Act of Settlement — War of the Spanish succession — Death and character of William — Progress of the Poor-Law — Mr. Locke's report on the poor — Bristol workhouse — Amount of poor-rates — Population in 1701 — Wages — Mr. Gregory King's scheme — Summary of events in William's reign Page 337

CHAPTER IX.

Accession of Anno — The Mutiny Act — The "truck system" prohibited — Sea-apprenticeship — Worcester workhouse — Pauper labour — Plymouth workhouse — Education of the poor — Augmentation of small livings — Union with Scotland — Game-laws — General scarcity — Prices of wheat — New churches — Norwich workhouse — The woollen and sailcloth manufactures — Peace of Utrecht — Reduction of interest — Condensation of laws relating to vagrancy — The queen's death — Summary of the events of her reign — Population — State of the Poor-Law — Amount of poor-rates — Increase of shipping — Extended importance of the colonies 380

INDEX.

- ANNEA, suppression of, i. 128.
 Able-bodied paupers, numbers relieved in 1852 and 1853, ii. 452.
 Able-bodied poor to be kept to work, temp. Edw. VI. i. 134.
 Accounts, order for keeping union, in a prescribed form, ii. 320; difficulties attending, 321; new order for, 340; importance of effectually auditing, 444.
 Acland, Mr., scheme of, for a universal benefit society, 1786, ii. 104.
 Aged and impotent poor to be relieved, and have dwellings assigned them, temp. Eliz. i. 163; not to quit such dwellings on pain of punishment, i. 165.
 Aged couples, provision for preventing the separation of, in workhouses, ii. 413.
 Agricultural labourers, not to change their vocation, temp. Rich. II. i. 58; act for the better employment of, ii. 227.
 Agriculture, improvements in, i. 282.
 Aire and Calder navigation, act for improving the, temp. Wm. III. i. 366.
 Aix-la-Chapelle, peace of, 1748, ii. 32.
 Albert, Prince, eulogy of, on William III. i. 369, *note*.
 Alehouses, act to restrain tipping in, temp. Jas. I. i. 219.
 Allotment system, advantages and defects of, ii. 392.
 Allotments for the poor, acts for, temp. Geo. III. ii. 193; temp. Wm. IV. ii. 214.
 Almsgiving in the East, i. 3; prohibition of, 98; increase of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 99.
 Alms to be collected for the support of the impotent poor, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 122.
 Althorp, Lord, announcement by, of the intended commission on the Poor Laws, ii. 226; speech of, on introducing the Poor Law Amendment Bill of 1834, ii. 278, *et seq.*
 America, discovery of, i. 102.
 American colonies, progress of, temp. Jas. I. i. 253; commencement of revolt of, 1765, ii. 80.
- American independence, declaration of, 1776, ii. 81.
 Amiens, peace of, 1801, ii. 145, 168.
 Andover union, example of workhouse test in, ii. 346; committee of house of commons to examine into the practice of bone-breaking as workhouse labour at, 395.
 Anglo-Saxon population, state of, prior to the Conquest, i. 14; amount of, i. 16.
 Annates and first-fruits, payment of, to the see of Rome prohibited, i. 127.
 Anne, Queen, accession of, i. 370; death of, 1714, i. 403.
 Annual parliaments, act for holding, temp. Chas. I. i. 272.
 Appeal against poor-rate, course of proceeding in cases of, ii. 141.
 Apprentice, poor children to be bound, by the churchwardens and overseers, temp. Eliz. i. 184.
 Apprentices, act for the regulation of, temp. Eliz. i. 157.
 Apprenticeship bequests, act for preventing the abuses of, temp. Jas. I. i. 232.
 Apprenticeship, act for repealing the restrictions against persons who have not served a seven years', 1814, ii. 158.
 Apprenticeships, regulations as to, temp. Hen. IV. i. 66; limited in cases of pauper children to the age of 21, temp. Geo. III. ii. 88.
 Arable land, alarm occasioned by the change into pasture, temp. Hen. VII. i. 95; causes of the decrease, i. 96.
 Arctic exploration, reward for, temp. Geo. II. ii. 44.
 Aristocracy, decrease of, during the contests of the houses of York and Lancaster, i. 93.
 Arkwright's spinning machinery, importance of the discovery of, ii. 85.
 Army, acts for the disbanding of the, temp. Chas. II. i. 289; reduction of, temp. Wm. III. i. 365.
 Artificers and labourers to be sworn annually to serve according to statute, i. 67; scale of wages for, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 110; repeal of, as far as regards London, 111.

- Artificers, act for the regulation of the wages of, temp. Eliz. i. 157.
- Artificial employment, ill effects of, ii. 215.
- Artisans, &c., punishment for those who exceed the scale of wages, i. 41; act regulating various trades of, temp. Jas. I. i. 222.
- Assessment for relief of the poor, act for, temp. Eliz. i. 156; temp. Eliz. i. 164; right of appeal granted, *ibid.*
- Assistant commissioners, appointment of, ii. 306.
- Assistant overseers, parishes empowered to appoint, 1819, ii. 195.
- Athelstan, laws of, relating to the poor, i. 13; for encouragement of industry, i. 16.
- Attire, increase in the costliness of, temp. Edw. IV. i. 87.
- Attorneys assigned to poor people, free of cost, i. 98.
- Audit districts, formation of, empowered, ii. 386.
- Audit of accounts by justices, inefficiency of, ii. 153.
- Auditors, appointment of, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 316; importance of their office, ii. 341.
- Authorities consulted for the work, i. 9.
- Badgers, forestallers, &c., act for repealing the laws against, temp. Geo. III. ii. 79.
- Badges, licensed beggars directed to wear, temp. Mary, 145; temp. Eliz. i. 155; act requiring paupers to wear, repealed, 1810, ii. 155.
- Baines, Rt. Hon. M. Talbot, appointment of, as president of Poor Law Board, ii. 435; speech of, on the settlement laws, 461.
- Banishment and transportation, the punishment for dangerous rogues and vagabonds, temp. Jas. I. i. 216.
- Bank of England, establishment of, temp. Wm. III. i. 357; Restriction Act passed, 1797, ii. 132.
- Bark, regulations for the production of, temp. Eliz. i. 175.
- Barons, the great, the chief obstacles to the execution of justice, temp. Edw. III. i. 47.
- Bartholomew's hospital, St., London, aged or sick vagrant poor to be sent to, temp. Eliz. i. 161.
- Bastard children, mother and reputed father made liable for the maintenance of, temp. Eliz. i. 169; act for the prevention and punishment of the murder of, temp. Jas. I. i. 245; act for relieving parishes from the charge of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 23; the father rendered liable on the evidence of the woman, doubtful effects of, ii. 24.
- Bastardy law, temp. Eliz. i. 169; acts for amending, temp. Geo. III. ii. 148, 150.
- Bastardy, decrease of, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 336; returns relating to, 354; acts for the amendment of the law of, 383, 397.
- Bath, infirm persons forbidden to visit, in order to obtain charity, i. 166; diseased poor forbidden to resort to, unless licensed, temp. Eliz. i. 189.
- Bear-baiting and bull-baiting forbidden on Sundays, temp. Chas. I. i. 256.
- Bedford Level, act for draining the fens of the, i. 312.
- Beer, act permitting the exportation of, temp. Jas. I. i. 227; and ale, price of, fixed, temp. Jas. I. i. 220.
- Beggars, to be imprisoned, i. 48; distinction between those "able to labour," and those "impotent to serve," i. 59; and vagabonds, act for the punishment of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 115; increase of, by the system of licensing, i. 162; or vagrants brought from Ireland, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, to be taken back by the masters of vessels bringing them, temp. Anne, i. 403.
- Begging, punishments for, temp. Eliz. i. 162; efforts to put down the trade of, temp. Eliz. i. 167; prohibited, either with or without licence, temp. Eliz. i. 185.
- Bequests for apprenticing poor children, act for the encouragement of, temp. Jas. I. i. 232.
- Bentham, Jeremy, observations of, on Mr. Pitt's Poor Law Amendment Bill, ii. 128.
- Berkshire bread-scale, ii. 136; effects of, 138.
- Berlin and Milan decrees, 1806, ii. 169.
- Bishop, directed to remonstrate with persons neglecting to give alms for the support of the impotent poor, temp. Mary, i. 145.
- Blackheath, demands of the peasant rebels assembled at, temp. Rich. II. i. 54.
- "Blacks," act for suppressing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 19.
- Blackstone, opinion of, as to sumptuary laws, i. 87.
- Blenheim, battle of, effects upon the nation, i. 389.
- Board of Trade, establishment of, temp. Jas. I. i. 252; establishment of, temp. Wm. III. i. 371.
- Bodkin's (Mr.) Act, transferring "irre-

- moveable" paupers from the parish to the union, ii. 399.
- Bonaparte made First Consul, 1799, ii. 132; and afterwards Emperor, *ibid.*
- Bondage, efforts of the people to free themselves from, i. 51.
- Bone-breaking, as workhouse labour, investigation of the Andover practice, ii. 395.
- Bone-lace, importation of, prohibited, temp. Chas. II. i. 305.
- Boots and shoes, regulation of the pikes of, i. 85.
- Boston (America), riots in, 1770, ii. 80.
- Bosworth, battle of, in 1485, 94.
- Boyne, battle of the, 1690, i. 340.
- Branding with hot irons, the punishment for dangerous rogues and vagabonds, temp. Jas. I. i. 215.
- 'Bread for the Poor,' statements in, as to the continual increase of the poor's rate, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 346.
- Bridewell, London vagrants to be sent to, temp. Eliz. i. 181.
- Bristol, formation of a union at, temp. Wm. III. i. 373.
- Bridgewater Canal, formation of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 60.
- Brougham, Lord, speech of, on introducing the Poor Law Amendment Bill, 1834, into the House of Lords, ii. 282, *et seq.*
- Buckingham, impeachment of the Duke of, temp. Chas. I. i. 257.
- Buildings in towns, act for the regulating of, temp. Eliz. i. 180.
- Buller, Mr. Charles, president of Poor Law Board, speech of, on introducing the bill, afterwards the 11 and 12 Vict. cap. 110, ii. 426; minute of, regarding vagrancy, 429; death of, 434.
- Bulls of the see of Rome, act against, temp. Eliz. i. 154.
- Bunker's Hill, battle of, 1775, ii. 81.
- Burgoyne, Gen., surrender of, at Saratoga, 1777, ii. 81.
- Burn, Dr., plan of having paid overseers for the poor, ii. 64; proposal of, for punishing the bestower of casual charity, 65.
- Butchers, act for enforcing the sale of meat at reasonable prices by, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 126; repealed, *ibid.*; meat, scarcity of, temp. Mary, i. 148; forbidden to kill or sell victuals on Sundays, temp. Chas. I. i. 258.
- Buttons, cloth, use of, prohibited, temp. Geo. I. ii. 11; act for preventing the importation of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 350.
- Buxton, infirm persons forbidden to visit, in order to obtain charity, i. 166; diseased poor forbidden to resort to, unless licensed, temp. Eliz. i. 189.
- Cubot, Seb., discoveries of, i. 102.
- Cade, John, rebellion of, in 1450, i. 83.
- Calico, printed or dyed, the wearing of, prohibited, temp. Geo. I. ii. 10.
- Cambridge, scholars of, found begging without a licence, punishment for, i. 118.
- Canute, laws of, relating to the poor, i. 13.
- Cape of Good Hope, first doubled by Vasquez de Gama, i. 102.
- Capital, increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 113.
- Caps, prohibition of the importation of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 109; woollen, of English manufacture, act compelling the wearing of, temp. Eliz. i. 177.
- Carriers, act against working on Sundays, temp. Chas. I. i. 258.
- Castlereagh, Lord, speech of, on the Poor Laws, 1817, ii. 180.
- Cattle, act to promote the breeding of, temp. Mary, i. 148; import duty imposed on, temp. Chas. II. i. 310; acts against importing, temp. Chas. II. i. 314, 315; act for the punishment of persons wounding or maiming, temp. Chas. II. i. 320.
- Celt and Saxon, feud between renewed, temp. Hen. IV. i. 65.
- Censors appointed to superintend houses of correction, temp. Eliz. i. 171.
- Channel Islands, penalty on masters of vessels bringing beggars or vagrants from, temp. Anne, i. 403.
- Charity, ill effects of indiscriminate, i. 5; judicious, to be encouraged, i. 6.
- Charitable institutions, abuses of, i. 72.
- 'Charitable Corporation,' establishment of the, ii. 25; frauds committed by, *ibid.*
- Charitable donations, Sir F. Eden's summary of the returns of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 103; doubtful effects of, ii. 351.
- Charles I., accession of, i. 255; beheading of, i. 277.
- Charles II., proclamation of, i. 278; death of, i. 328.
- Chartered privileges, abrogation of, in favour of free trade, temp. Edw. III. i. 35.
- Cheats and vagabonds, description of, by Thomas Harman, i. 161, *note.*
- Children, provision for placing poor, out in service, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 124; punishment of for absconding or refusing to serve, *ibid.*; of vagabonds, &c., to be taken from their parents, temp. Edw. VI. i. 133; rendered liable for the support of their parents, temp.

Eliz. i. 185; pauper, not to be bound before they are nine years old, 1816, ii. 167.

Chimney-sweepers, act for bettering the condition of the apprentices of, ii. 229.

Chocolate, introduced 1660, i. 282.

Cholera, 1848-9, exemption of union workhouses from, ii. 437.

Christ's Hospital, children of London vagrant poor to be sent to, temp. Eliz. i. 181.

Church-ales and other Romish festivals, encouragement given to, temp. Chas. I. i. 269.

Church of England, Henry VIII. declared supreme head of, i. 127.

Church revenues, a portion of appropriated to the use of the poor, i. 60.

Churches, act for building fifty new, in the metropolis, temp. Anne, i. 391.

Churchwardens appointed to collect alms for the relief of the infirm poor, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 122; to keep account of such relief, *ibid.*; to submit their accounts to the justices at a special session, temp. Geo. III. ii. 152.

Churchwardens and overseers to account annually for the distribution of the money for relief of the poor, temp. Eliz. i. 195; maladministration of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 346; not to supply goods for the workhouse, 1815, ii. 162.

Civil war, commencement of, i. 276.

Clerks to boards of guardians, though not attorneys, empowered to act before justices, ii. 390.

Clothiers, being justices, not to act in the rating of wages in any trade connected with the making of cloth, temp. Jas. I. i. 214; act for the punishment of thefts on, temp. Geo. II. ii. 33.

Coaches, introduction of, i. 284.

Coal trade, act for encouraging the, temp. Anne, i. 383.

Coals, act for levying a duty on, to defray the expense of building new churches, temp. Anne, i. 395.

Coffee introduced, i. 282.

Coercive legislation, necessity for, temp. Edw. III. i. 46.

Coin, act for remedying the ill state of, temp. Wm. III. i. 353.

Coinage, bad state of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 70.

Collections of alms, directions for making, for the support of the impotent poor, i. 135.

Collectors appointed to receive alms for the relief of the infirm poor, and to account for the same, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 122; of alms, appointment of, and

their duties, temp. Edw. VI. i. 136; resemblance of to overseers, *ibid.*; appointment of, confirmed, temp. Mary, i. 144; temp. Eliz. i. 155; and governors of the poor to provide materials in order to employ them, temp. Eliz. i. 170; of poor-rates, paid, to be appointed by the guardians, ii. 388.

Colonies, goods of, to be imported only in English ships, temp. Chas. II. i. 310; youths idling about London or other towns may be sent to the, temp. Geo. I. ii. 5, extent of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 62.

Colonization, promotion of, during the 17th century, i. 279.

Columbus, discoveries of, i. 102.

Combinations of workmen, prohibition of, i. 137; punishment for, *ibid.*; effects of, i. 138; prohibition of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 12; act for suppressing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 21; act against, temp. Geo. II. ii. 49.

Comfort, social, increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 113.

Commerce, increase and beneficial effects of, temp. Rich. III. i. 93; of London, i. 225.

Commercial difficulties, 1838 to 1842, effects of on the expenditure for the poor, ii. 374.

Commission issued by Chas. I. for the relief of the poor, and the punishment of vagrants, &c., i. 262; orders and directions issued by, i. 264 *et seq.*

Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Poor Laws, appointment of, in 1832, ii. 237; publications of, 238; names of, 239; Report of, 252 *et seq.*; recommendations of, 258 *et seq.*

Commissioners under the Poor Law Amendment Act, proceedings of, ii. 305; summary of first Report, 325; second Report, 328; difficulties encountered by introducing the new law, 344; third Report, 345; fourth Report, 357; fifth Report, 358; unpopularity of, 360; utility of to local executives, 361; difficulties against which they had to contend, 363; supplemental Report of, 1839, on certain amendments in the law, 366; nature of business transacted by, 368; results of the labours of, 369; principle of relief applied by, 372; orders and regulations issued by, in 1842, 382; empowered to alter the formation of unions, 390; letter of, relative to transaction of the business of the commission, 402 *et seq.*; improved administration of Poor Laws under, 409; charges brought against, 410;

dissolution of the original board of, 411; formation of new board, 412; consolidated order issued by the old board, 1817, 422-455.

Committee appointed to consider the Poor Laws, 1817, ii. 180; report of, 181 *et seq.*

Common Prayer Book, ordained, i. 141.

Commons, growth of the power of the, temp. Jas. I. i. 250; house of, imprisonment of nine members of the, temp. Chas. I. i. 260; attempt to arrest five members of the, 1642, i. 276.

Commonwealth, state of England under the, i. 279.

Conies, act against poaching, temp. Jas. I. i. 227.

Confederacies, illegal, act for suppressing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 19.

Conjurations, enchantments, and witchcrafts, act for punishing, temp. Jas. I. i. 220.

Conquest, population at the, i. 16.

Conventicles, act against, temp. Mary, i. 143.

Convention Parliament, meeting of, i. 335; dissolution of, 340.

Cooper, Mr., plan of, for improving the Poor Law administration, 1763, ii. 63.

Corn, prohibition of the exportation of, temp. Mary, i. 147; exportation of, allowed, temp. Eliz. i. 178; export duties on, temp. Jas. I. i. 223; scale of duty on the exportation of, temp. Jas. I. i. 246; prices of, temp. Jas. I. i. 247; prices at which exportation was allowed, i. 306; export and import duties, temp. Chas. II. i. 306, 307; act for encouraging the exportation of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 338; act forbidding the exportation of, for one year, temp. Wm. III. i. 364; act for preventing the exportation of, temp. Anne, i. 393; and flour, act prohibiting the exportation of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 54.

Cornwallis, Lord, surrender of the army under, in America, 1781, ii. 82.

Corporal punishments in workhouses, act prohibiting, 1814, ii. 159.

Correction, houses of, directions for the establishment of, temp. Eliz. i. 171; provision for the endowment of, temp. Eliz. i. 173; act for permitting the establishment and endowment of, temp. Eliz. i. 190; to be provided in every county, temp. Jas. I. 234; justices empowered to provide, temp. Geo. II. ii. 42.

Cottages, act to prevent the erection of, temp. Eliz. i. 179; exception in favour of cities and towns, i. 180; repeal of the act against building of, 1775, ii. 87.

Counsel, assigned to poor people free of cost, i. 98.

Cranmer and others, directed to provide for the 'Uniformity of Service,' i. 140.

Crimes, statute of Winchester, for the suppression of, i. 22.

Criminals, enormous amount of, executed in the reign of Henry VIII. i. 130.

Cronwell, Oliver, notice of, i. 277.

Crusades, social improvements derived from the, i. 28.

Cuckfield union, example of workhouse test in, ii. 347.

Culloden, battle of, 1746, ii. 32.

Cullum, Sir John, statement of produce of crops at Hawsted, i. 90.

Curwen, Mr., speech of, on the Poor Laws, 1817, ii. 178; scheme of, for reforming the Poor Laws, 179.

Customs duties, amount of, temp. Jas. I. i. 225.

Dearth, proclamation for guarding against, temp. Chas. I. i. 268.

Declaration of Rights of the United States issued 1774, ii. 80.

Deer, punishment for killing, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 60; act against stealing and unlawful hunting of, temp. Jas. I. i. 227; act for punishing the destroyers of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 8.

De Foe, opinion of, as to charity, i. 6, *note*; opinion of, as to the impolicy of pauper labour, i. 387.

Dekker's 'Groans of the Poor,' notice of, i. 253.

Desertion of families, punishment for, temp. Jas. I. i. 235; act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 6.

Deserted children, establishment of hospital for the reception of, 1740, ii. 28.

Diet of servants and workmen, regulation of, i. 43.

Dietaries for workhouses, adoption of, ii. 333.

District schools, act empowering the formation of, ii. 386.

District school establishments, formation of, under the orders of the Poor Law Board, ii. 436.

Dissection, act for giving the bodies of murderers who have been hanged for, temp. Geo. II. ii. 51.

Doles and other charities, not to be distributed by individuals or public bodies, but to be made over to the churchwardens for the relief of the infirm poor, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 123.

Drunkenness, acts for repressing, temp. Jas. I. i. 230, 231.

- Dutch, war with the, 1665, i. 316; peace with the, 318; war resumed, 318.
Dwellings, overcrowding of, cause of disease, i. 224.
- East India Company, new charter granted to the, temp. Jas. I. i. 252.
East India Companies, consolidation of, temp. Wm. III. i. 378.
East India factories, growing importance of, temp. Anne, i. 408.
'Ease for Overseers of the Poor,' notice of the work, i. 218.
Eden, Sir Frel., prices of corn given by, i. 82.
Edict of Nantes, effects of, in England, i. 331.
Education, act to prevent children being sent beyond the seas for the purposes of popish, temp. Chas. I. i. 258; of children in workhouses, provision for, ii. 331; commissioners' report, 364; improvements effected in, 366; number of children in schools, 1852, ii. 446.
Edward I., germs of future improvement of the social state first visible under, i. 24; institutions of, i. 30.
Edward IV., accession of, i. 83.
Edward VI., accession of, i. 130; death of, i. 141.
Egyptians, or gipsies, act for punishing the frauds committed by, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 114; ordered to depart the country, i. 115; act against, temp. Mary, i. 146; act for the repeal of the punishments against, temp. Geo. III. ii. 98.
Elizabeth, Queen, accession of, i. 153; death of, i. 198.
Employment, increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 113.
Emigration, desirableness of regulating, ii. 6; of labourers, regulations for facilitating, ii. 324, 338; increase of, 432; amount and expense of, 1849 to 1852, 447.
Enclosure bills, increase in the number of, 1785, ii. 84.
England, state of, temp. Jas. I. i. 251; at the death of Queen Anne, i. 404.
England and Wales, population of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 105; population of, in 1528, i. 106; population of, 1660, i. 278.
English agriculture, state of, temp. Edw. IV. i. 69.
English Poor Laws, growth of, i. 7; works relating to, i. 7.
Eorl and Ceorl, distinction between, i. 15.
Expenditure on the poor, reduction of, in 1835, ii. 325; in 1836, 343; annual amount of, from 1834 to 1839, 353, 371; annual amount of, from 1837 to 1843, 374; reduction of, in 1843-4, 383; amount of, in 1847-8, 415; decrease of, 1850, 437; annual amount of, 1848 to 1853, 448.
Export duty on corn, temp. Eliz. i. 178.
- Family, only one, to inhabit one cottage, temp. Eliz. i. 180.
Families, persons neglecting to support their, act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 110.
Farmers, act for enforcing the sale of cattle by, at reasonable prices, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 126; repealed, *ibid.*
Farmers forbidden to make waste of woods, houses, or men, temp. Hen. III. i. 21.
Farm-houses, act to prevent the decrease of, temp. Mary, i. 147.
Farming of the poor, act for regulating the, temp. Geo. III. ii. 147.
Farms, act against the consolidation of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 112.
Feiters and vagabonds to be committed to gaol, i. 56.
Feudal system introduced by William the Conqueror, i. 17.
Feudalism, effects of, i. 20; extinction of, temp. Rich. III. i. 93.
Filiation of bastard children, act for regulating, temp. Geo. III. ii. 149.
Fire of London, 1666, i. 317.
Fish, act for the observance of "fish-days," temp. Eliz. i. 174; appointed to be eaten on certain days, temp. Jas. I. i. 222.
Fisheries, regulations for the encouragement of, temp. Eliz. i. 174; act for the encouragement of the, temp. Jas. I. i. 223.
Foreigners, act for allowing, to manufacture hemp, flax, &c. i. 311.
Foundling Hospital, establishment of, 1740, ii. 28; results of such establishments on the Continent, ii. 29.
Flanders, hostile feelings between the master and inferior classes, i. 52.
Flax and hemp, act for encouraging the cultivation of, temp. Chas. II. i. 311.
France, hostile feelings between the master and inferior classes, i. 52; war against, under Henry V., effects of, i. 71, 73; war with, temp. Chas. I. i. 251; war declared against, 1702, i. 380; war declared against, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 339; war declared against, 1739, ii. 30; joins the Americans against England, 1778, ii. 81; war renewed with, 1803, ii. 145.
Fraudulent payments by parish officers

- act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 69.
French Revolution, commencement of war of the, 1793, ii. 130.
Freedom, growth of, encouraged by the establishment of manufactures, i. 53; increased, of labourers, occasions an increase of vagrancy, i. 31.
Free labourers, existence of, temp. Edw. I. i. 30.
Friendly and loan societies, increase of, ii. 364.
Friendly societies, act for the encouragement and relief of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 116.
Fuller, notice by, in his 'Church History,' of the hospitality of abbeyes, i. 4.
Fuller's-earth, exportation of, prohibited, temp. Chas. II. i. 306.
- Gama, Vasquez de, doubles the Cape of Good Hope, i. 102.
Game, artificers and labourers prohibited from killing, i. 61; acts for the better preservation of, temp. Anne, i. 391, 392; ill effects of, 393.
Game-laws, temp. Eliz. i. 178; temp. Jas. I. i. 228-9.
Games, certain, prohibition of servants, apprentices, and labourers from playing, except at Christmas, temp. Hen. VII. i. 97.
Gardening, improvements in, i. 282.
Gentry of England, scarcity of, in consequence of the wars with France, i. 73.
George I., accession of, ii. 1; death of, ii. 22.
George II., accession of, ii. 23; death of, ii. 53; summary of the events of the reign of, ii. 56 *et seq.*
George III., accession of, ii. 61; death of, 1820, ii. 201.
George IV., accession of, ii. 203; death of, ii. 214.
Ghent, treaty of, with the United States, 1814, ii. 169.
Gibraltar, siege of, 1779, ii. 82.
Gigge-mills, act for putting down, i. 139.
Gilbert's Act, 1782, account of, ii. 89 *et seq.*; remarks on, ii. 95 *et seq.*; justices empowered to make regulations for parishes acting under, temp. Geo. III. ii. 154.
Gilbert incorporations, obstructions offered by, to the formation of unions, ii. 334; inconveniences of, 357.
Gilbert, Mr., scheme of, for reforming the Poor Law, 1787, ii. 106.
Gipsies, act against, temp. Mary, i. 146; act for punishing, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 114; increase of, temp. Eliz. i. 176; act for the punishment of, *ibid.*; repeal of acts against, temp. Geo. III. ii. 98.
Glass, foreign, prohibited, i. 282.
Glassmen, act against the frauds of, temp. Jas. I. i. 215.
Glendower, Owen, revolt of the Welsh under, temp. Hen. IV. i. 65.
Gold, prohibition to export, i. 75.
Governors, appointment of, for houses of correction, temp. Jas. I. i. 234; powers given to punish rogues and vagabonds, *ibid.*
Grain, act for permitting to keep in store, temp. Chas. II. i. 307.
Great Harry, the first ship possessed by the crown, the cost of building, i. 102.
Greenland trade, act for the encouragement of, temp. Chas. II. i. 323.
Greenwich Hospital, establishment of, i. 354 *et seq.*
Guardians appointed for poor parish children, temp. Geo. III. ii. 67; orders and regulations for the guidance of, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 314.
Guernsey and Jersey poor, act for the removal of, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 220; temp. Vict. 397.
Gunpowder Plot, 1605, i. 225.
- Habeas Corpus Act, passing of, temp. Chas. II. i. 326.
Hackney Coaches licensed and restricted to fifty, in London, i. 280.
Hair-buttons, the importation of prohibited, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 350.
Hale, Sir Matthew, remark of, on the establishment of a law for the relief of the poor, i. 2; 'Discourse touching Provision for the Poor,' notice of, i. 302.
Hallam, Mr. H., notice by, in his 'Constitutional History,' of the ill effects of the alms of the Romish church, i. 5.
Handicraftsmen, restricted to one trade or mystery, i. 43; act for the regulation of, i. 137.
Hanover, act of settlement of the crown on the house of, temp. Wm. III. i. 363.
Hanway's (Sir Jonas) act for sending pauper infants to be nursed in the country, temp. Geo. III. ii. 67.
Harbouring of beggars and vagrants, punishment for, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 118.
Harman, Thomas, description of various cheats by, i. 161, *note*.
Harvest, constables empowered to com-

pel persons to assist in gathering in the, temp. Eliz. i. 160.
 Harvesting, labourers of the counties of Stafford, Derby, and Lancaster, and of Craven, with the marches of Wales and Scotland, allowed to leave their homes for that purpose, but no other, i. 40.
 Hat-makers, act against combinations of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 49.
 Hats, prohibition of the importation of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 109; persons under the rank of a knight forbidden to wear, temp. Eliz. i. 177.
 Hatters, none to follow the trade of, who have not been apprenticed for seven years, temp. Jas. I. i. 221.
 Hawsted, produce of crops at, i. 90.
 Hearth-money, act for repealing the tax, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 338.
 Hemp, iron, wool, &c., to be provided, in order to employ the idle poor, temp. Eliz. i. 170, 183.
 Hemp and flax, act for encouraging the growth of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 310; act for the encouragement of the growth of, temp. Wm. III. i. 356.
 Henry V., character of, i. 74.
 Henry VII., accession of, i. 94; death and character of, i. 105.
 Henry VIII., accession and character of, i. 107; death of, 130.
 Heresy, proceedings against, temp. Mary, i. 151, *note*.
 Hides, exportation of, prohibited, 1662, i. 293.
 High Commission, court of, extension of the jurisdiction of the, temp. Chas. I. i. 261.
 Highwaymen, increase of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 349.
 Highway robbery, act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 26.
 Highways, act for enlarging, for the prevention of robbery, i. 23; state of, temp. Eliz. i. 204.
 Hobhouse's Act, account of, ii. 217 *et seq.*
 Holland, war with, 1665-6, i. 292.
 Hospitality in the East, i. 3.
 Hospital for penitent prostitutes (Magdalen), establishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 70.
 Hospitals, abuses in the administration of, i. 72; act for permitting the establishment and endowment of, temp. Eliz. i. 190; for the poor, act for the erection of, temp. Jas. I. i. 239.
 Hours of labour, act for the regulation of, i. 101.
 Hours of work for servants prescribed, temp. Eliz. i. 159.
 Houses in villages and hamlets, act for

the re-edifying of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 112; proclamation against the erection of, in London and Westminster, temp. Chas. I. i. 268; additional inmates in, forbidden, *ibid.*
 Houses of correction, justices empowered to provide, temp. Geo. II. ii. 42.
 Howe's (Lord) victory of June 1, 1794, ii. 131.
 Hume, remark of, on the importance of the reign of Edw. III. in establishing the mixed government of England, i. 41; description of the effects of the contests of the houses of York and Lancaster, i. 92; summary of social progress under Henry VII. i. 105.
 Husbandmen, act for the regulation of the wages of, temp. Eliz. i. 157.
 Idle and disorderly persons, who are to be deemed, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 209.
 Idle poor, provision for the setting on work of the, temp. Eliz. i. 169.
 Illegitimate children, mother and reputed father made liable for the maintenance of, temp. Eliz. i. 169.
 Impotent and able-bodied poor, distinction made between, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 119.
 Impotent poor, regulations for, temp. Rich. II. i. 59; act for the relief of, temp. Edw. VI. i. 131; act for the relief of, temp. Eliz. i. 161; wandering abroad and begging, punishment for, temp. Eliz. i. 172.
 Imprisonment for drunkenness in workhouses limited to twenty-four hours, 1816, ii. 165.
 Improvement, progress of, temp. Hen. IV. i. 63; general, temp. Hen. VII. i. 94; progress of, temp. Jas. I. i. 227.
 Incurable rogues, who are to be deemed, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 209.
 Indemnity Act, temp. Chas. II. i. 288.
 Indentures, act for rendering valid those of parish apprentices in certain cases, 1811, ii. 150.
 Independence, advantages of, to mankind, i. 5.
 In-door relief, number of persons receiving in 1839, ii. 371; annual number and amount expended in, from 1839 to 1843, 375; number and amount to 1848, 417; number relieved annually, 1849 to 1853, 450.
 Industry, houses of, act enabling parishes to borrow money to establish, temp. Geo. III. ii. 88.
 Infanticide, act for the repression of, temp. Jas. I. i. 245.
 Infants, pauper, act for the registration of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 66.

Infirm poor, to be confined to their own districts, temp. Edw. VI. i. 134.
 Innkeepers, penalty on, for suffering tipping, temp. Jas. I. i. 219.
 Inoculation for small-pox, introduction of in England, by Lady M. W. Montagu, ii. 23.
 Insolvent debtors, act for the relief of, temp. Chas. II. i. 322.
 Inspectors of workhouse schools, appointment of, ii. 396.
 Interest of money, reduction of the rate of, temp. Jas. I. i. 243; reduction of the rate of, 1651, i. 281, 289; reduction of rate of, temp. Anne, i. 399.
 Ireland, conquest of, by Henry II. i. 18; certain statutes of Edw. III. extended to, i. 33; revenue derived from, temp. Eliz. i. 205; state of, temp. Jas. I. i. 249; act against importing cattle from, temp. Chas. II. i. 314; rebellion in, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 339; penalty on masters of vessels bringing beggars or vagrants from, temp. Anne, i. 403; union with, 1801, ii. 132; famine and fever in, 1846-7, ii. 393.
 Irish Poor Laws, to be treated of separately, i. 8; vagrants, penalty for bringing into England, i. 189; Poor Relief Act, passing of, 1838, ii. 369; separate commission appointed for administering, ii. 370; poor, influx of into England, 1846-7, ii. 393.
 Italy, act concerning the merchants of, i. 90.
 Jack Cade's rebellion in 1450, i. 83.
 James I., accession of, i. 212; death of, i. 248; summary of the results of his reign, *ibid.*
 James II., accession of, i. 328; escapes to France, i. 334; death of, i. 369, *note*.
 Jesuits and Seminary Priests, act against, temp. Eliz. i. 154; act against the, temp. Jas. I. i. 213.
 John, King, grant of Magna Charta by, in 1215, i. 19.
 Justices, empowered to fix rates of wages, temp. Rich. II. i. 60; large powers conferred on, temp. Henry V. i. 71; empowered to grant licences for persons to beg beyond their own limits, temp. Mary, i. 145; empowered to fix the rate of wages, temp. Eliz. i. 159; empowered to make assessments for relief of the poor, i. 167; not in parishes but in larger divisions, 168; empowered to settle the rate of wages for labourers and artisans, temp. Jas. I. i. 214; of peace, act for restraining their ordering of relief, ii. 14; empowered to regulate wages

and decide differences between masters and servants, temp. Geo. II. ii. 47; empowered to order out-door relief, 1815, ii. 163; to inquire into the propriety of apprenticing poor children to particular persons, 1816, ii. 166; their power to order relief curtailed, 1819, ii. 194.
 King, Gregory, scheme of the income of the various classes in England in 1688, i. 377.
 Labour in workhouses, nature of, ii. 394.
 Labour-test, in case of insufficiency of workhouse accommodation, ii. 345; power given to guardians to apply, ii. 378.
 Labourers, Statute of, temp. Edw. III. i. 36; refusing to work, to be committed to gaol, i. 37; and artificers, absenting themselves from their services, to be branded, i. 42; the hardship, and impediment to improvement, of confining to one particular locality, *ibid.*; act for the regulation of the wages of, temp. Eliz. i. 157; beneficial effects of the Poor Law Amendment Act on, ii. 325.
 Labouring classes, increased freedom of, temp. Edw. II. i. 31.
 La Hogue, battle of, 1692, i. 352.
 Land, act empowering parishes to purchase or hire, in order to employ their poor, 1819, ii. 196; or to let the same to the industrious poor, 197.
 Latin liturgy, use of, restored, temp. Mary, i. 141.
 Laud, Abp., influence of, in the councils of Charles I. i. 262; execution of, 272.
 Law expenses, what, may be defrayed from the poor-rates, ii. 387.
 Laws, throw light on the condition and character of a people, i. 1; now in force affecting the poor, list of, ii. 458.
 Leather, regulations for the manufacture of, temp. Eliz. i. 175; not to be exported, *ibid.*; exportation of prohibited, 1662, i. 293; allowed on payment of a duty, *ibid.*
 Legislation, early, relating to the poor, i. 13; ineffective, for fixing the prices of labour or food, i. 44; summary of the progress of, to temp. Eliz. i. 193.
 Lent, butchers forbidden to kill beasts in, temp. Jas. I. i. 222.
 "Levellers," riots of the, temp. Jas. I. i. 232.
 Lewd women, punishment for, temp. Jas. I. i. 235.
 Licensed beggars, punishment for trans-

- gressing their assigned limits, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 116.
- Life Assurance Societies, indebted to the labours of Baron Maseres, Dr. Price, &c. ii. 75.
- Limerick, surrender of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 340.
- Liturgy, attempt to compel the use of, in Scotland, temp. Chas. I. i. 270.
- Living, act for the augmentation of small, temp. Anne, i. 338.
- Loans, relief to the poor by way of, allowed, 1819, ii. 198.
- Local Acts, parishes governed under, form obstructions to the formation of unions, ii. 335; inconveniences of, 357.
- Locke, John, report of, on the increase of the poor, and of the tax for their maintenance, i. 372.
- London, repeal of the act against apprenticing children in, i. 77; corporation, regulation for the dresses of, i. 84; restrictions on Italian merchants in, i. 91; act to prevent the increase of, temp. Eliz. i. 180; resort of vagrants to, temp. Eliz. i. 181, 182; condition of, temp. Jas. I. i. 212; growth of, temp. Jas. I. i. 252; and Westminster, proclamation against the erection of houses in, temp. Chas. I. i. 268; growth of, 1641, i. 280; fire of, 1666, i. 317; act for re-building, i. 318; streets first lighted by glass lamps, 1736, ii. 52.
- Long Parliament summoned, 1640, i. 271.
- Lord's Day, act for the better observance of, temp. Chas. I. i. 256; act for the better observance of, temp. Chas. II. i. 324.
- Low Countries, prohibition of the importation of woollen cloths and yarn into, i. 88.
- Lunatic Asylums, act for the regulation of, ii. 397.
- Lunatics, provision for the security of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 41.
- Lustrings, foreign, act against the importation of, temp. Wm. III. i. 361.
- Lying-in hospitals, act for the better regulation of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 72.
- Macaulay, Rt. Hon. T. B., remark of, on the state of England in the 13th century, i. 19; remark of, on the decrease of the aristocracy during the contests of the houses of York and Lancaster, i. 93.
- Magistrates empowered to license poor infirm persons to beg in assigned districts, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 115; act for limiting penalties against, incurred in performance of their functions, ii. 143; empowered to order out-door relief in certain cases, but the board of guardians to determine the nature and quantity, ii. 333.
- Magna Charta granted by John, 1215, i. 19.
- Man, Isle of, penalty on masters of vessels bringing beggars or vagrants from, temp. Anne, i. 403.
- Management of the poor, machinery for, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 125.
- Manchester, notice of the prosperity of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 114; trade of, in 1641, i. 280.
- Manorial tenants, or copyholders, existence of, temp. Edw. I. i. 30.
- Manufactures, growth of, in England, i. 53; improvements in, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 348; increase of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 60.
- Maritime enterprises, increase of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 102.
- Mariners, act to prevent the extortion of charity by pretended, temp. Eliz. i. 191; sick or disabled, to be provided for, i. 192.
- Marine Society, establishment of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 70; beneficial effects of, 71.
- Mark-lane, act empowering the guardians of incorporated parishes to regulate the assessments according to the price of wheat at, temp. Geo. III. ii. 122.
- Marlborough, Duke of, appointed Captain-General in the war against France and Spain, i. 380.
- Marriage, not to be contracted without the consent of the feudal superior, i. 20.
- Mary, Queen, accession of, i. 141; death of, 150; summary of the reign of, i. 151-2.
- Mary (wife of William III.), death of, 1694, i. 352.
- Maseres, Baron, plan of, for establishing parochial annuities, temp. Geo. III. ii. 74; defects of, 75.
- Massacre of Protestants in Ireland, 1641, i. 274.
- Masters and apprentices, justices empowered to decide differences between, temp. Geo. II. ii. 46.
- Maximum of wages, vain endeavours to fix, i. 82.
- Medical relief to the poor, measures for securing, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 315; clamour against, ii. 338; amount paid for, ii. 391.
- Mendicancy, increase of, occasioned by the increased freedom of labourers, i. 32.
- Mendicant orders of the Romish church, great promoters of vagrancy, i. 120.

- Merchant strangers, act 9 Edw. III. for the encouragement and protection of, i. 34.
- Merchant shipping, act against the surrendering of to "Turks, pirates, and sea-rovers," without fighting, temp. Chas. II. i. 313; provision for seamen suffering in the defence of, i. 314.
- Merchants, statutes of, for the protection of foreigners, temp. Edw. I. i. 24.
- Merchants, foreign, restrictive measures against, i. 78; foreign, increase in the numbers of, i. 91.
- Metropolitan workhouses, act for better regulating the, temp. Chas. II. i. 321.
- Middle-class, rise of a, temp. Edw. II. i. 30.
- Migration of labourers, means adopted for facilitating, ii. 323, 337.
- Militia, act providing relief for the families of men serving in, ii. 145; results of, 146.
- Mints, establishment of, in York, Bristol, Exeter, and Chester, temp. Wm. III. i. 354.
- Monasteries, suppression of, i. 128.
- Money expended under the Poor Laws, returns of, ordered, temp. Geo. III. ii. 99.
- Monmouth, Duke of, attainder of, i. 328; execution of, 329.
- Monopolies, act for the abolition of, temp. Jas. I. i. 240.
- Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley, introduction of inoculation by, ii. 23.
- Moral habits of the people, low standard of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 130.
- Murderers, act for hanging in chains, or giving the bodies for dissection, temp. Geo. II. ii. 51.
- Mutiny Act, temp. Anne, i. 381.
- Napoleon, abdication of, and residence at Elba, ii. 171; return of to France, *ibid.*; defeat of at Waterloo, *ibid.*; confinement of at St. Helena, 172.
- National debt, amount of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 61; amount of, 1763 and 1783, ii. 83; amount of, 1803, ii. 133; increase of, 1803-1817, ii. 173.
- Navigation Act passed, 1651, i. 281; passed in 1660, provisions of, i. 291; act for the encouragement of, temp. Anne, i. 383.
- Navy, act for the encouragement of the, temp. Eliz. i. 174.
- Nobility and gentry, proclamation against the residence of the, in London, temp. Chas. I. i. 268.
- Nolan, Mr., account of his bill for the amendment of the Poor Law, ii. 224 *et seq.*
- Norfolk, repeal of the restrictions against taking apprentices, in favour of the worsted-makers of, i. 99.
- Norman laws, i. 17.
- Normans, neglect of the poor by, i. 21.
- North American colonies, growth of, temp. Anne, i. 408.
- Northampton, Statute of, temp. Edw. III. 32; objects of, i. 33.
- Northern Powers, armed neutrality of, 1780, ii. 82.
- North, Hon. Roger, opinion of, as to the evil results of the law of settlement, i. 342.
- North-west passage, reward offered for the discovery of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 44.
- Nottingham, royal standard set up at, 1642, i. 276; example of workhouse and labour tests at, ii. 349; doubtful effects of charitable donations in aid of poor-rate at, 351.
- Norwich, repeal of the restrictions against taking apprentices, i. 99; act for establishing a workhouse for the city of, temp. Anne, i. 395; powers given by, 396.
- Norwood, farming of pauper children at, ii. 435.
- Nuisances, act empowering the guardians of the poor to remove and abate, ii. 400.
- Occupiers, act making them responsible for the payment of rates, temp. Geo. II. ii. 36.
- O'Neal's Irish rebellion, 1641, i. 274.
- Orange, Prince of, married to the Princess Mary, i. 325; lands at Torbay, i. 333.
- Orders in Council, for prevention of trade with France, 1807, ii. 169.
- Out-door relief, justices empowered to order, 1815, ii. 163; to the able-bodied, prohibition of, in certain unions, ii. 332; magistrates empowered to order, but guardians to determine the nature and quantity, 333; number of persons receiving in 1839, 371; number receiving annually from 1839 to 1843, and amount expended in, 375; number and amount to 1848, 417; number relieved annually, 1849 to 1853, 450.
- Out-relief, act allowing, 1796, ii. 122.
- Overseer, 'Letters on the Poor Law' by, notice of, ii. 241.
- Overseers of the poor appointed, temp. Eliz. i. 164; to superintend the distribution of the money collected, i. 167; appointed for every parish, temp. Eliz. i. 183; to render accounts annually, i. 184; to make and collect the poor-rates, temp. Eliz. i. 217; to be fined for giving relief unless or-

- dered by a justice, temp. Geo. I. ii. 15; act for making them account for the poor's-rate to their successors, temp. Geo. II. ii. 35; returns of money expended on the poor, Sir F. Eden's summary of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 101; for changing the time of election for, from Easter to March 25, 1814, ii. 158.
- Oxford, scholars of, found begging without a licence, punishment for, i. 118.
- Papists, act against, temp. Jas. I. i. 213; act for disabling, from sitting in parliament, i. 326.
- Pardoners and proctors feigning to have knowledge of palmistry, or telling fortunes, punishment for, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 118.
- Parents rendered liable for the support of their children, temp. Eliz. i. 185.
- Paris, peace of, 1783, ii. 83.
- Parish apprentices, act for the regulation of, temp. Chas. I. i. 259; justices to prevent the ill-usage of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 46; time of servitude limited to the age of 21, temp. Geo. III. ii. 68; act for the further regulation of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 112; not to be re-assigned without the consent of two justices, 113; masters and mistresses to be prosecuted for the ill-treatment of, 114; apprentices to be punished for ill-behaviour, *ibid.*; results of forced apprenticeship, *ibid.*; acts for rendering valid certain indentures of, 1811, ii. 155, 156; act for regulating the binding of, 1816, ii. 166; power given to masters to assign, 167; act for empowering magistrates to decide on the complaints of, ii. 206; and servants, act for the protection of from cruelty, ii. 441; guardians or relieving officers to visit, 442.
- Parishes empowered to unite to provide a workhouse, temp. Geo. I. ii. 15.
- Parish farms, adoption and effects of, ii. 216.
- Parish poor-houses, act empowering justices, clergymen, physicians, &c., to visit, temp. Geo. III. ii. 107; ill state of, 108.
- Parish property, act for making more usefully available, ii. 326.
- Parish Vestry Act, fixing a scale of voting according to rental, 1818, ii. 192.
- Parliamentary debates, first publication of, 1771, ii. 86; Reform, meetings in favour of, ii. 203.
- Parochial machinery for the management of the poor, outline of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 125; authorities, rise in importance of, temp. Jas. I. i. 236; assessments, act for regulating, 1836, ii. 327; brought into operation, ii. 356.
- Pasture, alarm at the increase of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 95; restrictions against, *ibid.*
- Pasturage, act for preventing the increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 112.
- Pauper labour, its interference with industrial labour, i. 387; apprenticeships, compulsory, ill effects of, ii. 337; act for abolishing, ii. 384; and for the regulation of voluntary apprenticeships, 385; lunatics, provision for, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 212 *et seq.*; lunatics, returns relating to, ii. 378; act for the regulation of, ii. 397; children "farmed" out, Poor Law Board empowered to make regulations for, ii. 436.
- Paupers, act requiring those receiving relief to wear a badge, temp. Wm. III. i. 359; of full age, not to be hired out, 1816, ii. 164.
- Pawing parish clothing, punishment for, 1815, ii. 161.
- People, condition of the, temp. Eliz. i. 203; improved condition of the, temp. Geo. II. ii. 59.
- Percies, rebellion of, temp. Hen. IV. i. 64.
- Pestilence, effects of, on legislating for labour, i. 45.
- Petition of Rights, passing of the, temp. Chas. I. i. 258.
- Philadelphia, meeting of Congress at, 1774, ii. 80.
- Piracy, act for suppressing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 9.
- Pitt, Mr., speech of, on the Poor Laws, 1796, ii. 125.
- Plague, the great, of 1348, i. 37; in London, temp. Jas. I. i. 212; act for the prevention of contagion, temp. Jas. I. i. 224; temp. Chas. I. i. 255; the great, 1665, i. 316.
- Players, act for the regulation of, temp. Jas. I. i. 214.
- Plays and other unlawful exercises forbidden on Sundays, temp. Chas. I. i. 256.
- Pledges, establishment of a corporation to lend small sums upon, ii. 25; ill effects of, *ibid.*
- Plunderers acting in large bodies, temp. Edw. I. i. 23.
- Plymouth workhouse, act for establishing, temp. Anne, i. 387; schoolmaster appointed to, *ibid.*; mathematics to be taught by, 388.
- Poaching, act for the punishment of, temp. Anne, i. 392.

- Pole, Cardinal, arrival of, as Legate from the Pope, i. 142.
- Police of the kingdom, temp. Edw. III. i. 46; defective state of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 52.
- Poll-tax, the cause of Wat Tyler's rebellion, i. 55; of 1641, i. 273.
- Poor, expenditure for the relief of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 57.
- Poor-Law, establishment of, by the 43 Eliz. i. 194; summary of the state of the, 195 *et seq.*; state of, at the death of Queen Anne, i. 405; Amendment, Mr. Pitt's Bill for, ii. 127; administration, schemes for the reform of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 58.
- Poor-Law Amendment Bill, 1834, introduction of, ii. 277; passing of, 286; omissions of, 287; summary of, 289-298; difficulties against which it had to contend, 353.
- Poor-Law Board, formation of, ii. 212; Mr. Charles Buller president of, 422; Rt. Hon. M. Talbot Baines president of, 435; Rt. Hon. Sir John Trollope president of, *ibid.*; Rt. Hon. M. Talbot Baines re-appointed, *ibid.*; empowered to make regulations for establishments for farming pauper children, 436; empowered to arbitrate in certain cases of settlement between parishes, ii. 443.
- Poor Laws, Committee appointed to consider the state of, 1817, ii. 180; Report of the Select Committee on, 1817, ii. 204; summary of the existing, temp. Wm. IV. ii. 231 *et seq.*; consolidation of, desirableness of, ii. 459.
- Poor-rates, amount of, in 1691, i. 345; alarm at the increase of, 346; progressive increase of, temp. Wm. III. i. 370; alarm felt at, i. 371; amount of, temp. Wm. III. i. 374; amount of, temp. Anne, i. 406; increase of, 1785, ii. 84; amount of, 1802-3, ii. 139; act for the better collection of, ii. 140; quarter sessions empowered to amend, 141; increase of, 1801-1820, ii. 177; increase of, in 1831, ii. 210; increase of, ii. 302; annual amount of, from 1813 to 1834, 303; decrease of, 1843-4, ii. 383.
- Popish recusants, act against, i. 154.
- Population of England and Wales in 1381, i. 55; in 1415, i. 71; amount of, temp. Jas. I. i. 251; amount of, temp. Wm. and Mary. i. 345-6; amount of, temp. Wm. III. i. 374; contradictory opinions as to, 375; amount of, 1714, i. 404; increase of, 1780, ii. 84; first census of the United Kingdom, 1801, ii. 134; increase of, 1801-1851, ii. 178.
- Portugal, British assistance afforded to, 1808, ii. 170.
- Post-office established, 1635, i. 281.
- Pope of Rome, all payments to, prohibited, i. 127.
- Popery, encouragement afforded to, by James II. i. 332.
- Popish Plot, the, temp. Chas. II. i. 326.
- Potatoes, considered a delicacy, temp. Jas. I. i. 247, *note*; increased cultivation of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 59; failure of the crop of, 1845-6, ii. 392.
- Poverty and want, individual instances of, the consequence of increased freedom, i. 68.
- Pretender, the Old, joins the rebels in Scotland, 1715, ii. 2; the Young, lands in Scotland 1745, ii. 31; escape of, ii. 32.
- Prisoners for debt, act for the relief of, temp. Chas. II. i. 322.
- Profane cursing and swearing, act for the repression of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 44; prevalence of, 45.
- Property, description of, to be assessed by the poor-law, temp. Eliz. i. 194; assessed to poor-rates, and amount of assessment, 1826-1833-1841, ii. 376.
- Prostitutes, hospital for penitent, establishment of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 70.
- Protection to manufactures, advantages and disadvantages of, i. 362; of home manufactures, ill effects of, ii. 11.
- Protectorate, state of England under the, i. 279.
- Protestants, massacre of, in Ireland, 1641, i. 274; contributions for survivors, i. 275; foreign, act for the encouragement of, to settle in England and Ireland, temp. Wm. III. i. 356.
- Provision for the infirm poor, made temp. Hen. VIII. i. 121.
- Provisions of Merton, temp. Hen. III. i. 20.
- Provisions, legislative attempts to fix the prices of, temp. Edw. III. i. 38; prices of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 111; act for regulating the prices of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 125; prohibition of the exportation of, temp. Mary, i. 147; increase of the prices of, temp. Mary, i. 149; prices of, temp. Eliz. i. 205; high price of, 1846-7, ii. 393.
- Rate in aid, provision for, temp. Eliz. i. 163; power given to levy, temp. Eliz. i. 184.
- Rates for the poor, act requiring notice to be given before making, temp. Geo. II. ii. 34.
- Rebellious assemblies, act against, temp. Mary, i. 142.
- Rebellion in Scotland, 1745, ii. 31.

Reclaimed and improved lands, act for regulating the rating of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 26.

Reformation, effects of, i. 6; in England, commencement of, i. 127; effects of, 129; forwarded by the early acts of Elizabeth, i. 153.

Register of impotent poor, directions for keeping, i. 135; temp. Eliz. i. 164.

Relief of the poor, an organised system for the, marks an advanced stage of civilization, i. 2.

Report of the Committee appointed in 1817 to consider the state of the Poor Laws, ii. 181 *et seq.*; of the Poor Law Inquiry Commissioners, account of, ii. 252 *et seq.*; recommendations therein, 258 to 277.

Religion, state of, in England, temp. Mary, i. 143.

Religious houses for monks, nuns, &c., suppression of, i. 128.

Religious service in workhouses, provision for, ii. 330.

Remonstrance, passed by the Commons, 1641, i. 276.

Removal, order to be suspended in cases of sickness, i. 120; of infirm poor to their own districts, act for the, i. 134; act for preventing the removal of poor persons until actually chargeable, temp. Geo. III. ii. 118.

Restoration of Charles II. i. 288.

Restrictions on the mobility of labour, injurious effects and long continuance of, i. 44.

Revenue, increase of, 1793-1802, ii. 134; increase of, 1803-1815, ii. 172.

Rick-burning, act for the punishment of, temp. Chas. II. i. 320; and cattle-maiming, act for punishing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 20; and riots, 1830 and 1831, ii. 299; supposed causes of, 301.

Rights, Bill of, passed, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 326.

Riot Act, passing of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 2.

Riots, and combinations against the law, temp. Rich. II. i. 50; occasioned by the proceedings under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 317; speedy subsidence of, *ibid.*; renewed, 329.

Road and canal bills, increase in the number of, 1785, ii. 84.

Robbers, formidable associations of, temp. Edw. III. i. 47.

Robbery with violence, act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 26.

Roberdesmen, wasters, and draw-latches, power to arrest by day or night, i. 34.

Rochelle expedition, failure of, i. 260.

Rodney, Admiral, naval victory of, 1782, ii. 82.

Rogues and beggars, audacity of, in London, temp. Eliz. i. 182; dangerous, to be committed to the house of correction or the county gaol, temp. Eliz. i. 188; and vagabonds, act for the punishment of, temp. Jas. I. i. 214; act for the passing of, to their parishes, temp. Geo. III. ii. 109.

Roman Catholics, discontent of, on the accession of Elizabeth, i. 153.

Rome, Bishop of, all payments to, prohibited, i. 127; repeal of all acts against the see of, temp. Mary, i. 142.

Romish Church, the dispenser of charity, i. 3; effects of the overthrow of, i. 129.

Rose, Mr. George, introduces the bill for establishment of Savings Banks, ii. 204.

Roundsmen, injurious practice of employing, temp. Geo. III. ii. 123 *et seq.*

Rufflers, punishment for, i. 123.

Runaway servants, fine for harbouring, i. 48.

Russia, invasion of, by the Emperor Napoleon, 1812, ii. 169.

Rutlandshire, rate of wages in, temp. Eliz. i. 208.

Ryswick, peace of, 1697, i. 362.

Sable, restricted to the wear of noblemen, i. 86.

Sacrament, act for the administration of, temp. Edw. VI. i. 140.

Sailcloth, permission to export, free of duty, temp. Wm. III. i. 356; act for encouraging the making of, by a bounty, temp. Anne, i. 398; duty on foreign imposed, *ibid.*

Salads, fetched from Holland, temp. Henry VIII. i. 130.

Sanctuary, act for abolishing the privileges of, temp. Jas. I. i. 246.

Sanitary precautions, properly intrusted to poor-law administrators, ii. 401.

Saxon laws, relating to the poor, i. 13; institutions, decline of, i. 21.

Saxons and Normans, intermingling of the races, i. 26.

Savings Banks, report of the Poor Law Committee in favour of, 1817, ii. 188; recommendation of, by the Select Committee on the Poor Laws, 1817, ii. 204; establishment of, *ibid.*; statistics of, 206; increase of deposits in, 1838, ii. 364.

Scarcity, extreme, 1766, 1767, ii. 78.

Scarlett, Mr., account of his bill for the amendment of the Poor Law, ii. 221 *et seq.*

Scholars of the Universities, begging without a licence, to be scourged, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 118.

Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses of workhouses, parliamentary grant in 1846 towards the salaries of, ii. 386; amount of in 1852, 446.

Scotch and Irish poor, act for the removal of, temp. Wm. IV. ii. 220; temp. Vict. ii. 397.

Scotch Poor Laws, to be treated of separately, i. 8; vagrants, penalty for bringing into England, temp. Eliz. i. 189.

Scotland, commissioners appointed for promoting an union with, temp. Jas. I. i. 213; disturbances in, owing to the attempt to introduce the liturgy, temp. Chas. I. i. 270; act for the union with, 1707, i. 390; results of, 391; rebellion in, 1715, ii. 2; rebellion in, 1745, ii. 31.

Seamen, number of, in England, temp. Eliz. i. 204; act for the increase and encouragement of, temp. Wm. III. i. 354; registry of, i. 355.

Sedan-chairs introduced, 1634, i. 281.

Seditious words and rumours, act against, temp. Mary, i. 142.

Select vestries, act enabling parishes to establish, 1819, ii. 193.

Serfage, gatherings of people, to abrogate, i. 49.

Serfdom and villeinage, modifications of slavery, i. 27.

Senior, Mr., testimony of, in favour of the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 278; in favour of the workhouse test, ii. 352.

Septennial Act, passing of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 3.

Servants, scarcity of, i. 37; to be sworn to observe the ordinances respecting wages, and not to leave the places of their abode, i. 40; wages, act for the regulation of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 99; not to quit their service without a testimonial, temp. Eliz. i. 158; act for empowering magistrates to decide on complaints against, ii. 207.

Servitude, general state of, temp. Edw. I. i. 25.

Settlement Act, 14 Chas. II. passed, i. 293; causes for, i. 294; objects of, i. 295; results of, i. 297 *et seq.*; act, passing of the, temp. Jas. II. i. 329; law of, act for the amendment of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 341 *et seq.*; difficulties arising out of, temp. Wm. III. i. 360 *et seq.*; act to amend, temp. Wm. III. i. 363; act defining the right of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 17; act for the amendment of the law of,

temp. Geo. II. ii. 52; act for the modification of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 120; act for the further amendment of, 1809, ii. 151; act for altering parts of, 1814, ii. 158; Mr. Sturges Bourne's act for the amendment of, 1819, ii. 201; acts for amending the law of, temp. Geo. IV. and Wm. IV. ii. 210; select committee of House of Commons on, ii. 419; resolutions passed by, 420; inquiry into the operation of by commissioners, ii. 432; act providing that five years' residence shall prevent removal, ii. 398; speech of Rt. Hon. M. T. Baines on, ii. 461.

Sexes, separation of the, in the workhouses under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ii. 319.

Sick-clubs, advantages of, and means taken for promoting, ii. 340.

Sickness, families not to be removed during the sickness of any of their members, temp. Geo. III. ii. 151.

Sick women and children, exemptions in favour of, i. 98, 104.

Silk, attempt to introduce the growth of, temp. Jas. I. i. 252.

Silk-throwing, act for removing restrictions on, temp. Chas. II. i. 319.

Silver, prohibition to export, i. 75.

Sheep, act limiting the number to be kept, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 113; exportation of, to Scotland, prohibited, temp. Chas. II. i. 306; stealing, act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 32.

Sheriffs, penalty on, for not carrying into effect the acts against vagabondage and begging, temp. Hen. VII. i. 104.

Sheerness, fortifications of, destroyed by the Dutch, i. 317.

Shilling, reduced by proclamation to sixpence, temp. Mary, i. 150.

Ship-building, increase of, temp. Jas. I. i. 252; improvements in, i. 282; act to encourage, temp. Jas. II. i. 330; act for the encouragement of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 351.

Ship-money levied, 1634, i. 270; opposition to, *ibid.*; declared illegal, i. 273.

Shipping, increase of, temp. Anne, i. 407.

Ships, act for encouraging the building of large and defensible, temp. Chas. II. i. 314; duty imposed on foreign-built, temp. Jas. II. i. 330.

Shipwrecked mariners, licensed to beg, temp. Eliz. i. 189.

Slavery, a state of, does not require any special provision for destitution, i. 27; attempt to restore, the origin of the poor-laws, i. 45.

Slaves, native, sale of, in 1283, i. 26;

children of vagabonds, &c., to be taken from their parents, and to be made "slaves," males till 24, females till 20, temp. Edw. VI. i. 133; such slaves to be let, sold, or bequeathed, *ibid.*; act repealed, i. 134.

Smith, Adam, opinion of, as to sumptuary laws, i. 87.

Smithfield, death of Wat Tyler in, i. 54.

Social condition of the Normans, i. 18.

Soldiers and mariners, act for allowing, to follow trades, temp. Geo. II. ii. 50; act prohibiting from begging, temp. Geo. III. ii. 110.

Soldiers, payment of, temp. Edw. III. i. 41; act to prevent the extortion of charity by pretended, temp. Eliz. i. 191; sick or disabled, to be provided for, i. 192; act for allowing, to follow trades without apprenticeship, i. 290; act for allowing the disbanded, to follow trades, temp. Wm. III. i. 365; and sailors, act for extending the privileges of discharged, to their wives and children, temp. Geo. III. ii. 99.

South Sea scheme, notice of, ii. 13.

Southwell and Bingham, management of poor at, ii. 240 *et seq.*

Spain, war with, temp. Chas. I. i. 257; war declared against, 1702, i. 380; war declared against, 1739, ii. 30.

Speenhamland act, for regulating the wages of labourers according to their families, ii. 137; evil effects of, 138.

Sports and pastimes, proclamation permitting, after divine service on Sundays, temp. Chas. I. i. 269.

Stamp act, 1765, repudiated by the North American colonies, ii. 80.

Star-Chamber, fines imposed by the, temp. Jas. I. i. 233; extension of the jurisdiction of the, temp. Chas. I. i. 261; Court abolished, i. 273.

Statutes cited—*Henry III.* 20, cap. 7, 'Provisions of Merton,' i. 20; 43, cap. 23, i. 21. *Edward I.* 11 and 13, 'Statutes of Merchants,' i. 24; 12, 'Statutes of Wales,' i. 28; 13, 'Statute of Winchester,' i. 22, 33, 55. *Edward III.* 2, 'Statute of Northampton,' i. 32, 51, 55; 5, § 14, i. 33; 9, i. 34, 62; 23, 'Statute of Labourers,' i. 36, 37, 41; 25, i. 35, 39, 41, 62, 66, 67, 81, 82; 34, i. 42; 37, i. 42, 87. *Richard II.* 1, cap. 6, i. 48; 2, cap. 6, i. 49, 53; 5, i. 54; 7, cap. 5, i. 55, 97, 98, 101, 104; 12, i. 56, 59, 66, 67, 71, 75, 81; 13, cap. 8, i. 60, 75, 80; 13, cap. 13, i. 60, 179, 228; 15, cap. 6, i. 60. *Henry IV.* 1, cap. 17, i. 62; 2, cap. 16, i. 65; 4, cap. 29, i. 65; 7, cap. 17, i. 66, 77. *Henry V.* 2, cap. 4, i. 71; 4, cap. 4, i. 72, 75;

9, cap. 5, i. 73. *Henry VI.* 6, cap. 6, i. 73; 8, cap. 6, i. 76; 18, cap. 4, i. 77; 23, cap. 12, i. 79, 99, 101, 110; 27, cap. 1, i. 83. *Edward IV.* 3, cap. 5, i. 83; 4, i. 88; 22, cap. 1, i. 86; 23, cap. 1, i. 85. *Richard III.* 1, cap. 9, i. 90. *Henry VII.* 4, caps. 16 and 19, i. 95, 147; 11, cap. 2, i. 99, 110, 207, 284; 11, cap. 11, i. 99; 11, cap. 12, i. 98; 12, cap. 3, i. 103; 19, cap. 12, i. 103, 119. *Henry VIII.* 1, cap. 14, i. 108; 3, cap. 15, i. 109; 6, cap. 1, i. 108; 6, cap. 3, i. 110, 207; 6, cap. 5, i. 112; 7, cap. 1, i. 112; 7, cap. 6, i. 108; 22, cap. 10, i. 114; 22, cap. 12, i. 115, 130, 134, 145, 155, 161, 166; 23, cap. 20, i. 127; 24, cap. 3, i. 125; 24, cap. 13, i. 108; 25, cap. 1, i. 126; 25, cap. 13, i. 112; 25, cap. 21, i. 127; 26, cap. 1, i. 127; 27, cap. 25, i. 121, 130, 134, 166, 193, 298, 383; 28, cap. 10, i. 127; 31, cap. 13, i. 128; 33, cap. 15, i. 114; 35, cap. 4, i. 113. *Edward VI.* 1, cap. 3, i. 131, 133, 163, 298; 2 and 3, cap. 1, i. 140; 2 and 3, cap. 15, i. 137; 3 and 4, cap. 16, i. 134, 161; 5 and 6, cap. 2, i. 135, 145, 193; 5 and 6, cap. 5, i. 139; 5 and 6, cap. 22, i. 139. *Mary I.* 1, cap. 12, i. 142; 1, cap. 13, i. 144. *Philip and Mary I.* 1 and 2, cap. 2, i. 146; 1 and 2, cap. 3, i. 142; 1 and 2, cap. 4, i. 146; 1 and 2, cap. 5, i. 147; 1 and 2, caps. 8, 9, and 10, i. 142; 2 and 3, cap. 2, i. 147; 2 and 3, cap. 3, i. 148; 2 and 3, cap. 5, i. 148; 4 and 5, cap. 9, i. 145. *Elizabeth I.* 1, cap. 18, i. 151; 5, cap. 2, i. 155, 181; 5, cap. 3, i. 155, 167, 193; 5, cap. 4, i. 157, 207, 213, 290, ii. 158; 5, cap. 5, i. 174; 5, cap. 6, i. 174; 5, cap. 8, i. 175; 5, cap. 15, i. 151; 5, cap. 20, i. 176; 8, cap. 11, i. 177; 13, cap. 11, i. 177; 13, cap. 19, i. 177; 14, cap. 5, i. 161, 172, 173, 184, 193, 196, 217; 18, cap. 3, i. 168, 173, 217, 237, 245, ii. 24, 148, 255, 274; 23, cap. 10, i. 178; 27, cap. 13, i. 325; 31, cap. 7, i. 179, ii. 87; 35, cap. 6, i. 180, 224; 35, cap. 7, i. 173, 237; 39, cap. 3, i. 173, 183, 190, 193; 39, cap. 4, i. 173, 183, 186, 190, 195, 196, 214, 224, 403; 39, cap. 5, i. 190, 237, 239; 39, cap. 17, i. 191; 43, cap. 2, i. 185, 186, 191, 192, 194, 236, 245, 259, 263, 360, 400, ii. 34, 87, 111, 114, 152, 158, 178, 182, 196, 231, 235, 258, 269, 419, 457. *James I.* 1, cap. 1, i. 213; 1, cap. 2, i. 213; 1, cap. 6, i. 213; 1, cap. 7, i. 214, 403; 1, cap. 9, i. 219; 1, cap. 12, i. 220; 1, cap. 17, i. 221; 1, cap. 22, i. 221; 1, cap. 23, i. 223; 1, cap. 25, i. 223, 227,

247, 259; 1, cap. 29, i. 222; 1, cap. 31, i. 223; 3, cap. 11, i. 227; 3, cap. 13, i. 227; 3, cap. 21, i. 244; 4, cap. 1, i. 230; 4, cap. 5, i. 230; 7, cap. 3, i. 232; 7, cap. 4, i. 233, 403, ii. 150, 236; 7, cap. 5, i. 243; 21, cap. 1, i. 239; 21, cap. 3, i. 239, 261; 21, cap. 6, i. 241; 21, cap. 7, i. 231; 21, cap. 9, i. 241; 21, cap. 10, i. 241; 21, cap. 12, i. 243; 21, cap. 17, i. 243; 21, cap. 20, i. 244, ii. 45; 21, cap. 27, i. 244; 21, cap. 28, i. 246. *Charles I.* 1, cap. 4, i. 256; 3, cap. 1, i. 258; 3, cap. 2, i. 258; 3, cap. 3, i. 258; 3, cap. 5, i. 259; 16, cap. 1, i. 272; 16, cap. 8, i. 273; 16, cap. 9, i. 273; 16, cap. 10, i. 273; 16, caps. 10 and 11, i. 273; 16, cap. 14, i. 273; 16, cap. 30, i. 275. *Charles II.* 12, cap. 4, i. 307; 12, cap. 9, i. 289; 12, cap. 11, i. 288; 12, cap. 13, i. 288; 12, cap. 15, i. 289; 12, cap. 16, i. 289, 365; 12, cap. 16, i. 291; 12, cap. 21, i. 289; 12, cap. 34, i. 292; 13 and 14, cap. 12, i. 293, 321, 329, 341, ii. 188, 190, 234, 458; 14, cap. 7, i. 293; 14, cap. 10, i. 338; 14, cap. 13, i. 304; 14, cap. 18, i. 305; 15, cap. 7, i. 306, 309; 15, cap. 15, i. 311; 15, cap. 17, i. 312; 16, cap. 6, i. 313; 18 and 19, cap. 2, i. 314; 18 and 19, cap. 4, i. 315; 18 and 19, cap. 8, i. 318; 19 and 20, cap. 10, i. 293; 19 and 20, cap. 11, i. 319; 19 and 20, cap. 12, i. 315; 22, cap. 14, i. 308; 22 and 23, cap. 7, i. 320; 22 and 23, cap. 11, i. 314; 22 and 23, cap. 18, i. 321; 22 and 23, cap. 20, i. 322; 25, cap. 7, i. 323; 29, cap. 7, i. 324; 30, cap. 1, i. 326; 31, cap. 2, i. 326. *James II.* 1, cap. 17, i. 329, 341; 1, cap. 18, i. 330. *William and Mary I.* 1, cap. 1, i. 337; 1, cap. 10, i. 338; 1, cap. 12, i. 338, 364; 1, cap. 13, i. 339; 3, cap. 3, i. 340, 357; 3, cap. 11, i. 341, 363, ii. 14, 15, 52, 232, 234; 4, cap. 8, i. 349; 4, cap. 10, i. 350; 4, cap. 23, i. 392; 5 and 6, cap. 34, i. 351; 6 and 7, cap. 2, i. 352, ii. 3; 7 and 8, cap. 1, i. 353; 7 and 8, cap. 21, i. 354. *William III.* 7 and 8, cap. 39, i. 356; 8 and 9, cap. 20, i. 357; 8 and 9, cap. 30, i. 358, 363, ii. 11, 115, 121, 155; 8 and 9, cap. 36, i. 361; 10, cap. 3, i. 363, 393; 10, cap. 4, i. 364; 10, cap. 17, i. 365; 10, caps. 25 and 26, i. 365; 11, cap. 18, i. 366; 12 and 13, cap. 2, i. 368. *Anne I.* 1, stat. 2, cap. 20, i. 381; 1, stat. 2, cap. 22, i. 382; 2 and 3, cap. 6, i. 383, ii. 235; 2 and 3, cap. 8, i. 385; 2 and 3, cap. 20, i. 388; 3 and 4, cap. 4, 389; 6 cap. 11,

i. 390; 6, cap. 16, i. 391; 6, cap. 46, i. 387; 8, cap. 2, i. 393; 9, cap. 17, i. 394; 9, cap. 27, i. 392; 10, cap. 15, i. 395; 10, cap. 26, i. 397; 12, cap. 12, i. 398; 13, cap. 15, i. 399; 13, cap. 26, i. 400, 405, ii. 37. *George I.* 1, stat. 2, cap. 5, ii. 2; 1, stat. 2, cap. 38, ii. 3; 1, stat. 2, cap. 56, ii. 3; 4, cap. 11, ii. 4; 5, cap. 8, ii. 6; 5, cap. 28, ii. 8, 19; 6, cap. 16, ii. 8, 19; 7, caps. 1, 2, and 5, ii. 13; 7, stat. 2, ii. 13; 7, cap. 7, ii. 10; 7, cap. 12, ii. 11; 7, cap. 13, ii. 12, 76, 77; 8, cap. 24, ii. 9; 9, cap. 7, ii. 14, 23, 89, 147, 159, 163, 232; 9, cap. 22, ii. 19; 12, cap. 30, ii. 20; 12, cap. 34, ii. 20, 49. *George II.* 5, cap. 31, ii. 25; 6, cap. 2, ii. 25; 6, cap. 7, ii. 23; 6, cap. 31, ii. 23, 236; 7, cap. 21, ii. 26; 10, cap. 28, ii. 37; 11, cap. 22, ii. 26; 13, cap. 24, ii. 37; 13, cap. 29, ii. 28; 14, cap. 3, ii. 28; 14, cap. 6, ii. 32; 15, cap. 27, ii. 33; 15, cap. 34, ii. 32; 17, cap. 3, ii. 34; 17, cap. 5, ii. 37, 109; 17, cap. 6, ii. 31; 17, cap. 37, ii. 36; 17, cap. 38, ii. 34, 141, 152; 18, cap. 17, ii. 44; 19, cap. 21, ii. 44; 20, cap. 19, ii. 46, 115, 207; 20, cap. 55, ii. 207; 22, cap. 27, ii. 49; 22, cap. 44, ii. 50; 24, cap. 23, ii. 51; 25, cap. 37, ii. 61; 29, cap. 79, ii. 63; 30, caps. 1, 7, and 9, ii. 54; 31, cap. 11, ii. 52; 32, cap. 8, ii. 54. *George III.* 2, cap. 22, ii. 66; 7, cap. 39, ii. 67; 8, cap. 17, ii. 13; 8, cap. 17, ii. 76; 9, cap. 31, ii. 70; 9, cap. 37, ii. 69; 12, cap. 67, ii. 70; 12, cap. 71, ii. 79; 13, cap. 82, ii. 72; 15, cap. 32, ii. 87; 16, cap. 40, ii. 84, 99; 18, cap. 47, ii. 87, 111, 235; 20, cap. 36, ii. 88; 22, cap. 83, ii. 89, 154, 159, 232, 300, 324, 458; 23, cap. 51, ii. 98; 24, cap. 3, ii. 99; 26, cap. 56, ii. 99; 26, cap. 59, ii. 102; 28, cap. 48, ii. 229; 30, cap. 49, ii. 106; 32, cap. 45, ii. 109; 32, cap. 57, ii. 111, 187; 33, cap. 35, ii. 94; 33, cap. 54, ii. 116; 33, cap. 57, ii. 207; 35, cap. 101, ii. 118, 151, 188, 234, 274; 35, cap. 111, ii. 118; 36, cap. 10, ii. 122; 36, cap. 23, ii. 124, 163, 195; 41, cap. 9, ii. 94; 41, cap. 23, ii. 141, 235, 458; 42, cap. 46, ii. 89, 235; 42, cap. 74, ii. 94; 43, cap. 14, ii. 116; 43, cap. 47, ii. 145, 276; 43, cap. 110, ii. 94; 43, cap. 141, ii. 144; 45, cap. 54, ii. 147; 49, cap. 68, ii. 148, 236; 49, cap. 124, ii. 151, 458; 50, cap. 49, ii. 152; 50, cap. 50, ii. 154; 50, cap. 51, ii. 156, 236, 274; 50, cap. 52, ii. 155; 50, cap. 57, ii. 150; 51, cap. 80, ii. 155, 157; 52, cap. 73, ii. 122; 54,

cap. 96, ii. 158; 54, cap. 107, ii. 156; 54, cap. 170, ii. 158, 164, 165, 234, 458; 55, cap. 137, ii. 161, 193, 233; 55, cap. 159, ii. 166; 56, cap. 129, ii. 164, 206; 56, cap. 139, ii. 166, 235, 458; 57, cap. 30, ii. 204; 58, cap. 48, ii. 204; 58, cap. 69, ii. 192, 217; 59, cap. 12, ii. 193, 214, 215, 217, 219, 231, 233, 235, 260, 268, 458; 59, cap. 50, ii. 200, 210, 234; 59, cap. 85, ii. 192. *George IV.* 1 and 2, cap. 32, ii. 156; 1 and 2, cap. 56, ii. 94; 4, cap. 29, ii. 206, 236; 4, cap. 34, ii. 206, 236; 5, cap. 83, ii. 208, 236, 378, 428; 5, cap. 87, ii. 208; 6, cap. 57, ii. 210, 234; 9, cap. 40, ii. 212, 236, 376; 11, cap. 5, ii. 220. *William IV.* 1, cap. 18, ii. 211, 234; 1 and 2, cap. 42, ii. 214; 1 and 2, cap. 49, ii. 214; 1 and 2, cap. 60, ii. 217, 235, 389, 458; 2, cap. 42, ii. 215, 231; 2 and 3, cap. 96, ii. 227, 331; 3 and 4, cap. 40, ii. 220; 4 and 5, cap. 35, ii. 229; 4 and 5, cap. 76, ii. 286, 458; 5 and 6, cap. 69, ii. 326; 6 and 7, cap. 96, ii. 327, 419, 458. *Victoria*, 1 and 2, cap. 56, ii. 369; 3 and 4, cap. 29, ii. 380; 3 and 4, cap. 89, ii. 419; 4 and 5, cap. 32, ii. 380; 5 and 6, cap. 57, ii. 363, 377, 379; 7 and 8, cap. 101, ii. 383, 397, 443, 459; 8 and 9, cap. 10, ii. 397; 8 and 9, cap. 117, ii. 397, 459; 8 and 9, cap. 126, ii. 397; 9 and 10, cap. 66, ii. 398, 420, 426, 458; 9 and 10, cap. 96, ii. 400; 10 and 11, cap. 33, ii. 397; 10 and 11, cap. 90, ii. 370, 412; 10 and 11, cap. 109, ii. 411, 422, 457, 459, 460; 10 and 11, cap. 110, ii. 399; 11 and 12, cap. 31, ii. 459; 11 and 12, cap. 82, ii. 387; 11 and 12, cap. 110, ii. 399, 426, 442, 458; 11 and 12, cap. 123, ii. 401; 12 and 13, cap. 103, ii. 458; 12 and 13, cap. 111, ii. 401; 13 and 14, cap. 99, ii. 441, 459; 14 and 15, cap. 11, ii. 441, 459; 14 and 15, cap. 105, ii. 443, 459; 15 and 16, cap. 59, ii. 460; 16 and 17, cap. 97, ii. 459.

Statutes of Wales, temp. Edw. I. i. 28.

Steam-engine, great improvement of, by James Watt, ii. 60.

Steam-power, vast extension of, 1824, ii. 85.

Stock-in-trade, exemption from being rated to the relief of the poor, ii. 419.

Stocks of wool, hemp, iron, &c., to be provided, in order to employ the idle poor, temp. Eliz. i. 170, 183.

Stocks, servants and labourers wandering from home without a licence, to be placed in the, i. 57.

Stoke-upon-Trent, example of workhouse test at, ii. 348.

Strafford, Earl of, influence of, in the councils of Chas. I. i. 262; execution of, i. 272.

Street robberies, frequency of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 52.

Sturdy beggars, definition of, i. 163; punishment for harbouring, *ibid.*

Sturges Bourne, Mr., his act for amending the Settlement Act, 1819, ii. 200.

Style, act for the change of, 1751, ii. 51.

Summary proceeding against rioters, temp. Rich. II. i. 50; provisions for, repealed, 51.

Sumptuary law, temp. Edw. III. i. 43; temp. Edw. IV. i. 84, 85; temp. Hen. VIII. i. 108-109; temp. Mary, i. 146; temp. Eliz. i. 174.

Sunday, act for the more strict observance of, temp. Chas. I. i. 258; observance of, a test of Protestantism, temp. Chas. II. i. 324.

Suppers, proclamation against the eating of, on Fridays and fasting-days, temp. Chas. I. i. 268.

Suppression of abbeys, monasteries, &c., effects of, on the poor, the idle, and dissolute, i. 128.

Surveyors of highways appointed, temp. Eliz. i. 204.

Swearing and cursing, act for the punishment of, temp. Jas. I. i. 244.

Tailors, act for regulating the wages and hours of labour of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 12; ill effects of, ii. 13; journeymen, act for regulating, temp. Geo. I. ii. 21; act for regulating the wages and hours of labour of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 76 *et seq.*

Tanners, curriers, &c., act regulating the trade of, temp. Jas. I. i. 222.

Tea, introduced 1660, i. 282; increased consumption of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 59.

Temporary relief, provision for, in cases of persons destitute and without lodging, ii. 387.

Tenements, act for assessing owners of small, to the poor-rates, ii. 441.

Test, the workhouse, application of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 16; introduction and beneficial effects of, at Southwell, ii. 244; efficiency of, ii. 353; applicability of, to aged and infirm persons, ii. 439; to able-bodied poor, 440.

Thames frozen over, 1739-40, ii. 27.

Threatening letters, act for the punishment of sending, i. 76.

Theft, acts for the punishment of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 33.

Thomas's Hospital, St., London, aged or

sick vagrant poor to be sent to, temp. Eliz. i. 181.

Tillage, act for promoting the increase of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 96; act for the increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 112; act for the encouragement of, temp. Edw. VI. i. 139; act for the increase of, i. 147; act for the encouragement of, temp. Eliz. i. 155.

Tithe of hemp and flax, act for fixing the amount of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 340.

Tippling in alshouses, &c., act for the repression of, temp. Chas. I. i. 256.

Tobacco, prohibition of growth of in England, 1660, i. 292.

Tommy or truck system, evils of, i. 398; prohibited, temp. Geo. I. ii. 21.

Tonnage and poundage, remonstrance against, i. 260; subsidy granted by parliament, 1641, i. 273.

Tooting, outbreak of cholera among the pauper children farmed at, ii. 435.

Towns, precautions in, for preventing robbery, i. 22; increase of wealth of, i. 58; always the advocates of freedom, *ibid.*; superior wealth and intelligence of, i. 64; act to prevent the pulling down of houses in, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 112; decay of, causes of, i. 114.

Trade, increase of, temp. Anne, i. 408; combinations, act for suppressing, temp. Geo. I. ii. 20; increase of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 57; increase of, 1782-1801, ii. 133; increase of, 1805-1814, ii. 173.

Traders, foreign and native, act for the protection of, temp. Hen. IV. i. 62.

Trafalgar, victory of, 1805, ii. 169.

Traffic, freedom of, statute to confirm, 25 Edw. III. i. 35.

Transportation, punishment of, for persons convicted of theft or larceny, or who "have been ordered to any workhouse," temp. Geo. I. ii. 4; for killing deer, ii. 8.

Travelling on Sunday, act for discouraging, temp. Chas. II. i. 324.

Trent navigation, act for improving the, temp. Wm. III. i. 366.

Triennial Act, passing of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 352.

Truck system, act for the prevention of, temp. Anne, i. 382; payment by way of, act prohibiting, temp. Geo. I. ii. 21.

Tudor sovereigns, summary of the social progress in the reigns of, i. 198 *et seq.*

Tyrconnel, Earl of, rebellion of, in Ireland, i. 339.

Ulster, plantation of, by English settlers, temp. Jas. I. i. 249.

Unemployed poor, difficulties of providing for, i. 69; persons to be compelled to serve, temp. Eliz. i. 158.

Union and workhouse system established, 1834-5, ii. 307; obstructions to, ii. 329.

Union of England and Scotland, measures of James I. for promoting, i. 230; effected in 1707, i. 390; results of, 391.

Union officers, number of, and amount of salaries, in 1846, ii. 396; number and salaries, 1850, ii. 438.

Unions, formation of, ii. 308; rule observed in, 309; size of, 311; number of, in 1836, 343; in 1838, 357; exemptions from, of certain places, 389; number of, in 1852, 396, *note*; number of, 1853, 454.

Unions of parishes, recommended by Sir Matthew Hale, for maintaining of their poor, i. 302.

United Kingdom, first census of the population of, 1801, ii. 134; increase of, 1801-1851, ii. 178.

United States, acknowledgment of the independence of, 1783, ii. 83; war with, 1812, ii. 169.

Usury, act against, temp. Jas. I. i. 243.

Utrecht, peace of, 1712, i. 399.

Vaccination, acts for promoting by means of the poor-law functionaries, ii. 380; payments on account of, 382, *note*; number vaccinated, ii. 445.

Vagabondage, evils of, and ineffectual attempts to repress, i. 45.

Vagabondism, increase of, occasioned by the increased freedom of labourers, i. 32.

Vagabonds and beggars, punishments for, temp. Hen. VII. i. 97; increase of, 98; acts mitigating the punishments for, temp. Hen. VII. i. 103, 104; act for the suppression of, temp. Edw. VI. i. 131; punishments for, i. 132; act for the punishment of, temp. Eliz. i. 161; and sturdy beggars, act for the repression of, temp. Eliz. i. 186; who are to be deemed, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 209.

Vagrancy, increase of, following the advance of freedom, i. 31; the statutes to repress made no provision for the maintenance of the poor, i. 36; increase of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 119; consolidation of the acts against, temp. Anne, i. 400 *et seq.*; increase of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 43; severity of punishment for, *ibid.*; act for repressing, temp. Geo. IV. ii. 208.

- 'Vagrant Act,' the, passed, temp. Geo. II. ii. 37, provisions of, 37 *et seq.*
- Vagrants encouraged by the alms of the Romish church, i. 4; and beggars, efforts to repress, temp. Edw. II. i. 32; able-bodied, punishment of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 117; act for the punishment of, temp. Wm. III. i. 366.
- Valentinian, decree of, relating to the poor, i. 4, 5, *note.*
- Valiant beggars, punishment for persons relieving, i. 36; act for the setting to work of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 121.
- Vassalage, difficulties of a transition from, to independence, i. 70.
- Vassals, have to be supported by their owners, i. 68; emancipation from, leads to an increase of vagrancy, *ibid.* i. 70.
- Vegetables, introduction of new, from the Low Countries, i. 130; high price of, temp. Jas. I. i. 247, *note.*
- Velvet caps, persons under the rank of a knight, forbidden to wear, temp. Eliz. i. 177.
- Victuallers, justices empowered to regulate the gains of, temp. Rich. II. i. 60; act for the regulation of, i. 137; penalty on, for suffering tippling, temp. Jas. I. i. 219.
- Violence and disorders, temp. Edw. III. i. 47.
- Villeinage, talk of abolishing, temp. Rich. II., but nothing done, i. 54; progress of emancipation from, i. 64.
- Villeins, account of, i. 15; and serfs residing in a town for a year and a day to become free, i. 58.
- Visiting committees, appointment of, and powers given to, ii. 414.
- Victoria, Queen, accession of, ii. 355.
- Wages, legislative attempts to limit the amount of, temp. Edw. III. i. 38; scale of, for labourers, i. 39; for artisans, &c., i. 40; scale of, in 1388, i. 57; proclamation for the regulation of, temp. Hen. IV. i. 75; scale of, temp. Hen. VI. i. 79, 80; comparison of, with the scale of Richard II. *ibid.*; with that of Edw. III. i. 81; scale of, temp. Hen. VII. i. 100; comparison with temp. Hen. VI. i. 102; repeal of, i. 103; scale of, repealed as far as regards artificers in London, i. 111; agricultural, scale of, in Essex, 1661, i. 284; in Rutland, 1610, i. 285; rate of, temp. Wm. III. i. 376; of servants, act for the recovery of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 46; rate of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 136; rate of, 1801-1825, ii. 175-6; minute scale of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 47 *et seq.*; rise of, during the 17th century, ii. 55.
- Wales, annexation of, to the British crown, i. 28; effects of, i. 29; complaints of the injury done by the people of, temp. Hen. IV. i. 65; applicability of the new workhouse system to, ii. 354.
- War, effects of, on legislating for labour, i. 45.
- Wardens appointed to superintend houses of correction, temp. Eliz. i. 172.
- Warren Hastings, impeachment of, 1786, ii. 129.
- Warren robbery, and poaching, act for the punishment of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 19.
- Washington, Gen., appointed to the command of the American armies, ii. 81.
- Wat Tyler, rebellion of, i. 53; death of, i. 54.
- Watches, introduction of, i. 204; first made in England, 1658, i. 282.
- Waterloo, victory of, 1815, ii. 172.
- Watt, Jas., act for securing the right of, in the steam-engine, ii. 85.
- Wealth, increase in the general, temp. Hen. VII. i. 94; increase of, in England, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 348.
- Weekly collections for the poor directed to be made at church every Sunday, temp. Mary, i. 144.
- Wellington, Duke of, Peninsular campaigns of, ii. 170; speech of, on the Poor Law Amendment Bill, 1834, ii. 235.
- Welsh cloths, act for the free trade in, by Welshmen, temp. Jas. I. i. 242.
- Welsh people, condition of, temp. Edw. I. i. 29.
- Welshmen, oppressive restrictions on, i. 65.
- West India settlements, growth of, temp. Anne, i. 408.
- Westminster, act to prevent the increase of, temp. Eliz. i. 180.
- Whale-fishery, act for the encouragement of the, temp. Chas. II. 323.
- Wheat and flour, act for discontinuing the exportation of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 78.
- Wheat, prices of, from 1599 to 1660, i. 283; high price of, temp. Wm. III. i. 364; prices of, temp. Wm. and Mary, i. 348; prices of, temp. Anne, i. 393; prices of, temp. Geo. II. ii. 28; prices of, in 1853, ii. 49; average prices of, during the 17th century, ii. 54; prices of, in 1725, ii. 49, in 1757, ii. 54; prices of, temp. Geo. III. ii. 134-5; prices of, 1801-1835, ii. 173-4; prices of, 1846-7, ii. 393; in 1853, 448.
- Whipping, beggars to be subjected to, if begging without a licence, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 116; vagrants to be whipped

- from town to town, i. 117; public, the punishment for sturdy beggars, temp. Eliz. i. 187; act for punishing rogues and vagabonds by, but female vagabonds to be exempt, temp. Geo. III. ii. 110.
- Wight, Isle of, decay of population in, i. 95.
- William III. lands at Torbay, i. 333; arrives in London, 335; crown settled on him and Mary, *ibid.*; death of, i. 369; summary of events during the reign of, i. 379.
- William IV. accession of, ii. 214; death of, ii. 355.
- Winchester, Statute of, temp. Edw. I. i. 22.
- Windows, duty on, enacted, temp. Wm. III. i. 353.
- Winter, severe, 1708-9, i. 394; 1739-40, ii. 27.
- Witchcraft, act for punishing, temp. Jas. I. i. 220.
- Woods, act for punishing the destroyers of, either clandestinely or riotously, temp. Geo. I. ii. 8.
- Woodstock, manor of, conferred on the Duke of Marlborough, i. 309.
- Wool, exportation of, prohibited, temp. Chas. II. i. 306.
- Wool-growers, increased profits of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 113.
- Woolen manufacture, establishment of, in England, i. 52; cloths and yarn, prohibition of the importation of, i. 88; manufactures, importance of, temp. Edw. IV. i. 89; caps, regulation of the price of, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 110; gigge-mills prohibited to be used in factories, i. 140; trade, increase of, 1668, i. 282; manufactures, act for encouraging, temp. Chas. II. i. 316; manufactures, act for encouraging, temp. Anne, i. 397; and silk manufactures, act for the protection of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 10.
- Wolsey, Cardinal, probable influence of, in procuring the repeal of the scale of wages, i. 111.
- Women, convicted of small felonies, for which men had benefit of clergy, not to suffer death, but some minor punishment, temp. Jas. I. i. 241; begging, bearing a child in parishes to which they do not belong, to be whipped, temp. Geo. II. ii. 42; punishment for, who have bastard children chargeable to the parish, temp. Geo. III. ii. 150.
- Worcester, act for establishing a union workhouse at, temp. Anne, i. 385; its approximation to the modern workhouse, i. 386.
- Work, act to provide, for the able-bodied poor, temp. Hen. VIII. i. 121; poor persons able to work, and refusing, punishment for, temp. Eliz. i. 165.
- Workhouse, act empowering justices to visit, temp. Geo. III. ii. 106; ill state of, 108; character and results of, temp. Geo. I. ii. 18; school, establishment of, at Southwell, ii. 248; schools, provision for, ii. 331; efforts to improve, ii. 431; power given to different unions to use the same school, ii. 443.
- Workhouse test, introduction of, and beneficial effects of, at Southwell and Bingham, ii. 244 *et seq.*; example of the efficiency of, at Andover, ii. 346; at Cuckfield, ii. 347; at Nottingham, ii. 349; at Stoke-upon-Trent, ii. 348; sufficiency of, ii. 353; applicability of to Wales, 354; to aged and infirm persons, ii. 439; to able-bodied poor, 440.
- Workhouses, act for the better regulating of, temp. Chas. II. i. 321; persons refusing to enter not to be entitled to relief, temp. Geo. I. ii. 15; act prohibiting corporal punishments in, 1814, ii. 159; act for the building of new where the old are insufficient, 1819, ii. 196; means for providing suitable, ii. 312; classification of inmates in, ii. 318; distances of, ii. 333; deficiency of, in 1841, ii. 380; improvements in, ii. 448.
- Working classes, efforts to keep them below their natural level, i. 72.
- Working-houses for the poor, act for the erection of, temp. Jas. I. i. 239.
- Workmen, scarcity of, i. 37; or servants, punishment for leaving their service without reasonable cause, i. 38; combinations of, prohibited, i. 137; act for punishing, who embezzle materials with which they are intrusted, temp. Anne, i. 382; enactment that the wages of, are to be paid in money and not in goods, temp. Anne, i. 397.
- Wyat's, Sir Thomas, insurrection, temp. Mary, i. 142.
- York and Lancaster, contests between the houses of, effects of, on the general improvement, i. 92.
- York, Charles I. assembles the nobility and gentry at, i. 276; Duke of, bill for excluding from the succession, temp. Chas. II. i. 326.
- Yorkshire, rate of wages in, temp. Eliz. i. 208.
- Youths, chargeable to the parish, act for apprenticing to the sea, temp. Anne, i. 383 *et seq.*