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LABOR AND SUBSISTENCE.

Extracts from an article in the last number of
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Every kind of taxation which human ingenuity has devised, (except a tax upon income, which, in Britain, operated as a reduction of the interest on the public debt without the consent of the creditors,) let it be called by what name it may, and be direct or indirect, has its base on labor, and must be ultimately paid by the profits or savings of the laboring classes. There is no other way by which taxes can be paid. A nation of kings, or other non-producers, of nobles, or of capitalists, would instantly become a nation of cannibals, eating one another, provided they could not seduce or force the people of some other nation to labor for them. The root of all value is production—whether it be to cultivate the earth, that it may yield its crops of grain for our food, to make garments or to build houses to preserve us against the inclemency of the seasons, or to do whatever else may be needful to obtain and possess the things indispensable or convenient to life—whether so rendered by nature or custom.

To pursue these principles and bring figures to act upon them. According to Colquhoun, the gross population of Great-Britain and Ireland, including the army and navy was less than 17,000,000 in 1812—say that it now is 20,000,000. The principal items of revenue to the government, or of payments by the people, annually, may be averaged thus—

Customs, excise, stamps, land and other taxes	150,000,000
Foor rates and other forced charities	10,000,000
Church establishment, (including Ireland.)	8,000,000
	168,000,000

Other rates and public dues, exclusive of taxes and assessments, levied by corporate cities and towns, for local purposes, will swell the amount to more than seventy millions of pounds sterling, or 310,000,000 dollars.

It is estimated that one fifth of the population of a country are males, capable of bearing arms—and this proportion may be assumed as the quantity capable of doing labor as men. We then have 4,000,000 of these in Great Britain and Ireland, subject, however, to the following reductions—based on Colquhoun's estimate, and advanced according to the general increase allowed on the whole population:

Royalty, nobility and gentry, living on incomes	450,000
State and revenue officers	120,000
Half pay officers and military and naval pensioners	120,000
Clergy of the "established church" of the dissenters	110,000
Law, judges, attorneys, &c.	35,000
Persons imprisoned for debt, lunatics, &c.	100,000
Vagrants, gipsies, thieves, &c.	30,000
Paupers, for an average, say	350,000
(1-5th)	3,315,000

Adult males 3,315,000
Army and navy, including all males deriving their subsistence from either establishment, say, (only) 337,000

1,000,000
And there are 3,000,000 productive or useful adult males, including all engaged in agriculture, the mechanics and manufacturers, the arts, physic, &c. &c. and these must be regarded as the means relied upon to furnish the government with the enormous sum of 310 millions of dollars a year, or at the rate of 103 dollars per man, per annum, besides subsisting himself.

Now, the population of the United States is about 12,000,000, of whom, as above, 2,400,000 are adult males—subject to about the following reductions:

Persons living on incomes	150,000
Officers and agents of the U. S. and of the several states	50,000
Clergy	30,000
Lawyers, judges, clerks, &c. (excluding)	80,000
Persons imprisoned for debt, lunatics, &c.	15,000
Vagrants, thieves, &c. and persons in penitentiaries, &c.	70,000
Paupers and beggars, taxing the public charity	60,000
(1-5th)	455,000

Adult males 91,000
Army and navy, and adult males deriving their subsistence from either establishment 12,000

103,000
Leaving 2,279,000 adult males productive or useful, as above, in regard to Great-Britain, to pay to their general and state governments and for the support of paupers, with voluntary dues to the clergy, 25,000,000 dollars a year, or less than eleven dollars per man, per annum, besides subsisting himself.

These data are not given otherwise than as approximating to truth, and in general in respect to both coun-

* This might safely have been put down at three millions just now.

tries, they are sufficiently near it for every useful matter concerning the subjects before us. It is very clear then, that a Briton cannot exchange a day's labor with an American, or else must live much more meanly indeed—for this reason, (with others that will be noticed hereafter,) that a Briton must earn, or save, 103 dollars a year for his share of the taxes to his government, while the American has only to earn, or save, 11 dollars for his government. The difference to each person is 92 dollars, which, on the whole of the American productive population, would amount to the mighty sum of \$200,000,000, in our favour, per annum. This must be manifest to every one. There is no mystery about it. The only drawback that can be urged against it, is the happy truth—that American laborers consume more of the fruits of their own production than British laborers are allowed to do. But this will be examined in another place. So much for the general political institutions of the two countries.

We have heard much about the cheapness of labor in England—and so it sometimes hath seemed to be; but it was the cheapness of production, through scientific power, or the cheapness of subsistence, reduced to "half a pint of oat-meal per man, per day!" The reader will please to examine for himself the mighty distinctions that grow out of these suggestions. The fact is—that labor is cheaper in the U. States than in England, and articles of food are much cheaper, because of the more moderate requisitions of our government on the growers of it—but scientific power is greater, and the amount of food consumed in England much less, comparatively, than in the United States, as we shall presently observe. We have contributed our full share to the advancement of scientific power—instance, the cotton gin by Whitney, the steam boat, by Fulton, the card making machine, by Whitmore, the wool-spinner, by Brewster, and the roving machine, just now putting into operation by our amiable friend last named, which, at the expense of \$1000, will do the work of old machines that cost 4000 dollars, and by the manual labor of one person in lieu of ten; and in regard to the manufacture of woolen cloth, we understand that another friend has made discoveries not less astonishing than those just above noticed; and it is certain that our artists can apply scientific power as well as the British artists. We will not take a second rank with any other people, in doing any thing that we resolve to do, whether personally in the business of peace, or business of war.

But as to the comparative cheapness of labor. A family of six persons in the United States, with an average earning of 1s. sterling per day, which is equal to eight dollars per week, may live comfortably & respectably, as tens of thousands of families actually do, this being about or rather more than the average product of the labor of that valuable class, our journeymen mechanics, whose wives and children may not contribute one dollar a year to their earnings. With this sum, prudently managed by a good housewife, the family will have abundance of the best bread, may eat good meat, and as much as they like it, and have coffee and tea, with all their usual appurtenances, every morning and evening—enjoy the fruits of the earth in their seasons, pay house-rent and taxes, school their children, and all of them appear decently and comfortably clad. But an English family, of the like description and means, will live very differently. One-fourth of the whole sum earned must be paid to the government, to support its secular and ecclesiastical establishments, and the paupers. This is a severe reduction, and the three hundred dollars yet remaining, will not go far to a comfortable subsistence, provisions being twice or thrice as high in England as in the United States. At the pre-

sent, beef, mutton and pork is from 15 to 25 cents per pound, according to quality, in England, and from 3 to 6 generally, or from 8 to 10, in our cities, for prime pieces of the best cattle—and it is with us that "roast beef" is little spoken of but much eaten, just as often as desired by laboring people. Superfine wheat flour, white as snow, may be had at 2 or 2 1-2 cents per lb. but oat meal in Britain, costs five cents per pound! We do not know the present price of fine wheat flour, but British laborers do not consume it—nor can they have beef or other meat, except of the coarsest pieces and occasionally, and in small quantities—sheep's heads, which we throw away, of beeves' heads, that sell with us for 18 3-4 to 25 cents each—say 9d or 1s sterling; and as to coffee, tea, sugar, fruits, &c. they are out of the question, in such an English family as we have supposed. So much as to subsistence.

With this view of the three great interests of Britain, and of the amount exacted of the people for the support of the government, &c. we arrive at the conclusion—that the personal industry of the British people cannot compete with that of the U. States, unless the latter waste food and is prodigal even of the comforts of life, and the first be reduced to the lowest probable point of human subsistence. Our negro slaves surely live far better and labor less, than the British operatives do. They have their peck of corn per week, being more than one quart per day, instead of "half a pint of oat meal." with other vegetables, and are hardly ever one day without some meat or fish or fowl—and many have as much as they can eat. Capital, and, in some respects, manufacturing skill, with the amount of scientific power, are yet generally in favor of Great-Britain—but these as naturally seek and will find the places at which they are most profitable or convenient, as the waters from the mountains find the level of the sea. By pushing scientific power to its utmost force, (if possible,) and thereby causing two millions of persons to perform the labor of two hundred millions, and by stinting the "operatives" in the quantity and quality of their food, Britain has been enabled to bear her gigantic system of taxation, and make herself the most powerful of modern nations, as to her influence over the affairs of the world: but when other nations shall also have acquired scientific power, as many are doing, as we have done, in regard to the manufactures of cotton, it will be impossible that the taxes and burthens upon her people can be paid or supported—and the restrictive or protective laws of Great-Britain will be met by similar laws every where, in exact proportion as the people manifest a capacity to supply themselves. Hitherto manual labor in the United States, &c. has been contending with scientific power—two hundred men in our forests and fields have sweated to produce something of a money value to exchange with one workman in a British factory; but this state of things is rapidly passing away. We will not any longer be "hewers of wood and drawers of water," to support the British establishments, and maintain her princes, her nobles and gentry, her paupers, and her priests, and we will regard it as superlatively impudent, as indeed it is, to be asked to receive any British manufactured article that we can make for ourselves, while Britain refuses to receive bread and meat of us in exchange for it. If it is said, she cannot make this exchange, because of the taxes that are levied on the land—what is that to us?—why should we pay any part of these taxes? We will not be as her slaves, that her nobles and fund-holders and political priests may wallow in luxury and abound in all that is abominable. Let her raze or abolish the whole—and something of this sort must be done sooner or later. It is not for us to say that the time has arrived, or it is close at hand, when mighty reforma-

tions or fearful revolution must take place in Great-Britain—but that one or the other will soon happen, seems as manifest to us as that the most powerful machine will wear out, and must be resupplied. With the world at peace, the British forcing system will not avail much, for production goes on every where. Her late commercial wars were impolitic, but often carried on with wonderful sagacity, in hiring of their brutal masters hordes of slaves for fighting machines—one man, by labor-saving machines at Manchester, Huddersfield, or Birmingham, &c. easily paying for the blood and bodies of half a hundred Russian, Austrian, or Hessian boors, maimed or slain.

It is fashionable in the U. States—because the notion has been exported from England for our particular use, and received by all her agents and friends, and spread among the people by subservient presses, or persons who have never examined into the truth of what they assert, as to manufactures—that the distress prevailing among the British operatives should make us cautious how we push forward the manufacturing interest in the United States. This is a vulgar idea, and has been adopted by many without for a moment reflecting upon its absurdity. We see that, in general, the artizan, mechanic, or manufacturer, receives as high a money price for his manual labor as is paid for such labor in the United States in ordinary times—why then is the first impoverished, reduced to a living on something like "half a pint of oat meal per day," while the other eats and drinks almost what he pleases, or at least obtains abundant and wholesome subsistence? The answer is easy—government requires one half of the whole proceeds of such labor for its own use in Great-Britain, and a twentieth part supplies all the public requisitions made in the United States, putting most labor at its reduced rate. That the enormous contribution demanded may be paid by the British people, scientific power has been extended to its utmost point, for supplying foreigners with British goods, that they also may pay taxes to the British government—it being absolutely certain that Britain, within herself, cannot support her own systems. But these matters have no sort of relation to the state of things with us—and cannot be more applicable to our country, until our public debt shall be about two thousand five hundred millions of dollars, and the public revenue, forced from the people by arms, shall be about two hundred millions of dollars a year—until we have legions of leeches and herds of vampires to gorge themselves with the blood and sweat of the American people. When we have these things—then, indeed, may the distresses prevail in our manufacturing districts which prevail in those of Great-Britain. And what is the fact just now—at this very time—the fact that overwhelms the unwise assertion or impudent falsehood, that British distresses are caused by the excess of British manufactures? Go to Providence, Rhode Island, and see the fact that we allude to. You may meet with it every instant in that beautiful town, in the busy, bustling, cheerful, healthy and happy countenances of the people of that place, or of its neighborhood—who are also quite as moral too, as though an English bishop, preaching a sermon once a year, was seated in the midst of them, to feed upon and instruct them! And at this same Providence and its vicinity, cloths are made cheaper than at Manchester; aye, and so sold at Vera Cruz, Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso, Lima, Guayaquil, &c. how, then, in the name of all the witches and wizards that ever travelled through the air on broomsticks, is it—that the people of Providence are wealthy, healthy and moral, and living upon the fat of the land, while those of Manchester are poor, miserable, and depraved, and subsisting on the public charity, or hardly subsisting at all? Let the enemies of the "American system" answer us that—answer us that!

It may be observed, and in conclusion as to this branch of our subject, that, by the aid of scientific power and artificial means, the British nation has reached its present alarming height of production and of taxation—and, to speak technically, high steam has been raised until the boiler is ready to burst, but the safety valve cannot be opened lest power should be lost, the whole power being indispensable to keep the vessel of state a-moving—to stop is to destroy it.

From the Kentucky Gazette.

NOTES ON KENTUCKY.

SECTION IV.

About the 1st of March, 1775, Colonel Boone, with forty choice woodsmen of Powell's Vally, together with Col. Richard Henderson, Capt. N. Hart, John Lutrel, and Maj. Wm. B. Smith, again attempted to brave the terrors of a savage wilderness, with the view of making a permanent settlement in the fertile regions of Kentucky. They prosecuted their journey until within fifteen miles of here Boone sborough now stands, unmolested, when (on the 20th of March, a little before day break) they were attacked by a party of Indians, who fired into their tents, and wounded a Capt. Twitty through both knees, and his servant mortally. The Indians rushed forward to Twitty's tent to scalp him, when a faithful bulldog of his laid hold of one of them by the throat and put him down; he cried out for help to his companions, when one of them tomahawked the dog, and the whole made a precipitate retreat. Boone's party lost two men killed and had one wounded. Notwithstanding the enemy were repulsed, on the 23d they returned again, and made a second attack, in which three white men were killed and two wounded, and the enemy again repulsed. Having arrived on the banks of the Kentucky River, the party, on the 1st day of April, 1775, began to erect a fort, and called it Boonesborough, (after Col. Boone), and the place has retained that name from that time to the present time.

On the 4th day of April, the Indians killed one of Boone's party—on the 14th, the Fort was finished, when Col. Boone set out on his return for his family whom he had left on Clinch River, and as soon as the journey could be accomplished, returned with them to Boonesborough. Mrs. Boone and her daughters were the first white women that migrated to Kentucky. On the 24th of December following, the Indians killed one white man and wounded another, near Boonesborough.

In the Spring of the same year, (1774,) Benjamin Logan, (afterwards Gen. Logan, and a conspicuous character in the history of Kentucky) set out from his residence near Abington, Virginia, for this new country. On his arrival in Kentucky, he, with William Gillespie, planted and raised a small crop of corn. Logan returned to his family, and on the 8th of March, 1776, he arrived again at his camp in Kentucky, with Mrs. Logan and the rest of his family. This place was afterwards known by the names of Logan's Station and St. Asaph's.

Logan endeavored to prevail on some adventurers in the neighborhood of the Crab Orchard to make a stand with him at this place, but without effect; he was therefore compelled, for the safety of his family, which he considered in great danger, to remove them to Harrodsburg, after which he returned home himself and attended to his crop. His family remained at Harrodsburg until February, 1777, when they also joined him at St. Asaph's.

During the year 1775, Coonesborough and Harrodsburgh were places of general rendezvous, and considered the only places of safety in the country; those, therefore, who removed their families to Kentucky, made choice of one of these places for a temporary residence. About the month of September in that year, Harrodsburg was first honored with the presence of a white woman. Among the first were Mrs. McGarey, Mrs. Deaton, and Mrs. Hogan.

On the 14th day of July, 1776, being a fine pleasant evening, Jennima Boone, a daughter of Col. Boone, and Betsey and Fanny Calloway, daughters of Col. Calloway, took a walk from the fort at Boonesborough down the margin of the Kentucky River; they had gone but a short distance before they were surprised by a party of Indians, who lay in ambush, taken prisoners, and hurried off as fast as possible. It was no sooner known that the young women were missing, than Col. Boone, Maj. Wm. Smith, and six other men on foot pursued them, and on the 16th, a little below the upper Blue Hicks, overtook them, killed two of the