

attention, and money, to a degree of which the world cannot show another example.

But the scene which we are compelled to behold presents a melancholy contrast to that which we might, according to your system, expect in a country possessing such advantages. Workmen of all kinds are at best but very moderately paid, and labourers in many parishes, being directed to stand in some appointed place, do, in fact, remain there all day, in considerable numbers, and not being hired by any one, are then paid by the overseer the lowest sum which will supply a sufficiency of food to themselves and their families. In other parishes labourers are sent, for the same low wages, to work in troops on roads which do not require them; the bread which the labourer eats is often embittered by the reflection that he is not benefiting the master who supplies it, who would prefer being without his labour, if he could at the same time be relieved from the necessity of feeding him. Surely this is not a state of things in which we can fairly conclude that Providence wills us to be inert? What we see around us seems, at least, to direct to the most diligent inquiry, whether some expedient not hitherto tried, or not sufficiently tried, might not remedy evils which are admitted to be very great? I perfectly agree with you, that the difficulty does not proceed from the incapability of the land we inhabit to produce more food; and it seems odd, undoubtedly, when the soil will pro-