

subject, which I am now to put, because not algebraist enough to satisfy myself, and for five years have wished for a correct answer :

The population of Great Britain was, in 1700,	6,523,000.
_____ in 1801,	10,817,000.
_____ in 1821,	14,089,677.

Now, supposing it desirable, all things considered, that our population should go on to double every century for several centuries to come (and you can easily suppose that improved agriculture and economy otherwise might admit of this, with safety and comfort to all, even though we had no supply of food from abroad)—Supposing that, while our population remaining at home increased no faster, we nevertheless doubled by breeding every twenty-five years, and got quit of the surplus by emigration of people between the ages of twelve and twenty years—

Query—How many must emigrate every year from the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, taking the population to start with at twenty millions ?

Before answering with precision, several points may require consideration. But I now do not wish to confuse my meaning as to the principal point, and should willingly do my best to explain any doubt which may arise. Even a vague solution at first would be acceptable, to give opportunity for correcting mistakes or error. It will afford me great pleasure to have a letter on the subject directed to this house, where a good *unknown* pays my postages. In my forthcoming publication there is a letter of mine which appeared first in the *Morning Herald*, with an allusion to your using the word *alone*. I have now in a note said, "This word is so used by other authors when *only* or *sole* would be more proper. My justly respected friend will excuse my pointing to his much too frequent use of it thus, as it smacks of affectation, than which nothing is more distant from the real character, admirable for genuine sincerity."

Could I once be thought perfectly sincere, it is my hope that a broken ship may come to land. You, I hope, think so, and will accept my best assurance that I am very truly yours,

ROBT. GOURLAY.

The Rev. Thomas Chalmers, D.D.

No. 4.

Glasgow, July 27, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR—I received your volume, and take it very kind that you have sent it to me.

Be assured that if I have declined entering upon the question in political economy which you submitted to me, it is not because I am indifferent to any wish or request of yours ; but you know as well as I, how the doctrines of this science hang together, and that we really cannot do full justice to one of its topics, without taking a comprehensive view of the whole.