

independence, or to suggest the need of wise precautions against the evils with which it may be threatened.

The only circumstance of this latter description worthy of regard, has been the disturbance of the relation naturally subsisting between the prices of bread corn and of meat. When we consult any tables of the rates of provisions either in Britain, France, Germany or other European Countries, we shall find this rule to hold universally, that butcher meat is double the price of flour, and butter double that of meat; as for instance, when flour is quoted at 2d per pound—beef is at 4d and butter at 8d—the second being double and the last quadruple of the first; and that these ratios have obtained not at one time and in one place, but as far back as there are authentic annals, and in every nation where statistical accounts have been preserved*. It cannot be denied that these relations are

* As the proportion of prices here stated to exist between flour, meat and butter may be considered as purely hypothetical, I shall present some tables, constructed on minutes taken by Arthur Young in France and in England. Just before the breaking out of the revolution, that gentleman landed at Calais for the purpose of taking a survey of French husbandry; and in the prosecution of his plan, noted down every thing relating to wages, provisions, the methods of cultivation, the nature of crops, manures, and in short, all sorts of materials, which might serve as data for the political economist. These minutes were taken in 1787 to 1789 in all the departments of France; for he traversed that kingdom by three separate routes, and therefore his general averages are fairly drawn. In looking into the particular minutes, I observe that the relation between the prices of meat, butter and bread is somewhat disturbed. In arable districts, for instance, bread is lower, and meat and butter are higher than the general average; and the reverse takes place in tracts fitted for pasturage; yet the ratio on an average of the whole kingdom, comes out with wonderful accuracy. Travels in France vol. 1, page 441—under the article—Price of Provisions.

RECAPITULATION.

	French Money.	English Money,
Beef per lb. on an average of 76 minutes	7 f.	3½
Mutton do	7	3½
Veal of 72 minutes	7½	3½
Pork of 28 minutes	9	4½
Butter of 38 minutes	16½	8½
Bread of 67 minutes	3	1½

A pound of bread, notwithstanding the labour of baking it, is always cheaper than a pound of flour, because the former is to the latter as 36 to 26, that is to say, 26 lbs of flour will, after adding water, salt and yeast, make in all ordinary cases 36 lbs. of bread. Flour therefore in France could not be less than 2d per lb, when bread was at 3 sous. The proportions then in France, from these numerous and extended minutes may be justly quoted as follows—Flour at 2d, meat on an average of all the sorts nearly 4d, and butter at 8½d per lb.

By the same writer and in the same place it is said that in England the prices in 1790 were

Beef	at 4d per lb.	
Mutton	4½	
Veal	4½	
Pork	4	
Bread	1½	equal to flour at 2½ per lb.