

money, and horses. And where his lord shall not buy them of him, he is at liberty to sell them wherever he willoeth, so that he do not sell them to a foreign country."

In 1533, the act of 25 Henry VIII., c. 2. for a time put an end to the exportation of English corn, and absurdly enough gave the lords of the council the power to declare by proclamation the prices at which farmers and others should be compelled to sell their commodities; although, as the preamble of the act much more wisely allows, "dearth, scarcity, good cheap, and plenty of cheese, butters, capons, &c., and other victuals, happeneth, riseth, and changeth, of so many and divers occasions, that it is very hard and difficult to put any certain prices to any such things."

Long before the resolute days of stout old Harry the VIII., the legislature had been at work heartily endeavouring to reduce the price of provisions below their market value, for in 1266, by the 51 Henry III., it was ordained (and this statute was not repealed until the 8th of Ann c. 18) that "when a quarter of wheat is sold for 11d. then wastel bread of a farthing shall weigh 6lbs. and 16 pennyweights, (a pennyweight round and without any defacing, was to weigh 32 wheat corns in the midst of the ear, and 22 pennies do make one ounce, 12 ounces a lb.). And by the same statute it is provided that "when a quarter of wheat is sold for 3s. or 3s. 4d. and a quarter of barley for 1s. 8d. or 2s., and a quarter of oats for 1s. 4d., then brewers in cities ought, and may well afford to sell two gallons of beer or ale for a penny, and out of cities three gallons for a penny."

The parliament of those times were evidently in earnest in their endeavours to keep the bakers and brewers in order, for during the same year (1266) was passed the "statute of the pillory and trumbrel," which also continued in force till the time of Queen Anne. This, like all our early statutes, eschewed all unnecessary verbiage.—The stout barons of that year thus commenced their act: "If a baker or brewer be convict because he has not observed the assize of bread and ale, the first, second, and third time he shall be amerced according to the offence, if it be not over-grievous; but if the offence be grievous and often, and will not be corrected, then he shall suffer punishment of the body, that is, to wit, a baker to the pillory, the brewer to the trumbrel or some other correction."

We may suspect by this marked distinction between the punishment of the bakers and the brewers, that even then brewers

were held to be in a large and more dignified way than the bakers, since they were to be allowed the privilege of riding in a trumbrel.

A certain degree of humanity was displayed by the legislature even in punishing rascally bakers, for by another statute made about this time (Ruffhead. vol. i. p. 186), it was provided that a baker should only be amerced "if his bread be found lacking one farthing in two and sixpence:" but if his short weight exceeded this, he was to be placed in the pillory. And further, it was humanely provided that "every pillory, or stretch neck, must be made of convenient strength, so that execution may be done upon offenders without peril to their bodies." The unprincipled butcher by another statute (*ibid* p. 187.) was subjected to the same punishment, "who selleth swine's flesh meazled, or flesh dead of the murrain."

To be continued.

REDUCING BONES TO POWDER.—Prof. E. W. Johnson, of the Yale Analytical Laboratory, has given the following method of reducing bones to powder, first communicated to the public by Mr. Pusey, an English agricultural chemist:

The process depends upon the fact that bones consist, to the amount of $\frac{1}{3}$ of their weight, of cartilage, or animal matter, which under the influence of warmth and moisture, readily decomposes, (ferments or decays) and loses its texture, so that the bones fall to dust.

From the closeness and solidity of the bony structure, decay is excited and maintained with some difficulty. A single bone or a heap of bones, never decays alone, but dries and hardens on exposure. If, however, bones in quantity be brought into close contact with some easily fermentable substance, but little time elapses before a rapid decay sets in.

So too, if fresh crushed bones are mixed with sand, soil, or any powdery matter that fills up the spaces between the fragments of the bone, and makes the heap compact, and then are moistened with pure water, the same results take place in warm weather, though more slowly.

The practical process may be as follows: The bones, if whole, should be broken up as far as convenient by a sledge-hammer, and made into alternate layers with sand, loam, saw-dust, leached ashes, coal ashes, or swamp muck, using just enough of any one of these materials to fill compactly the cavities among the bones, but hardly more. Begin