

ble to guard against, would be an evil of a most dreadful nature; and that it is probable, if American wheat is received from the colonies infected with it, that infinite numbers of living caterpillars will be received at the same time.

Neither have we at present any reason to doubt, that if the wheat is not disposed of before the return of warm weather, the caterpillars will produce moths fit for the purpose of propagating their species; or indeed, if the wheat of Carolina, which is reaped in the beginning of June, is brought here immediately, that the moths themselves will be brought with it in their full vigour, and arrive exactly at the time of our harvest, ready to lay their eggs in the wheat of the marshes of Essex, which, as salt marshes in America are said to be more subject to their ravages than the upland countries, from its situation on the very banks of the Thames, will be in the utmost danger of their attacks.*

As however it is possible that, from circumstances of which we are at present ignorant, the soil or seasons of Europe may be unfavourable to the increase of this insect, it may be proper, in case at any period an importation of wheat from America may be wanted, that your Lordship should cause enquiry to be made, whether, during the last 30 or 40 years, any quantity of wheat has been imported from colonies now known to have been, at the time when it was shipped, infected with the insect, and particularly whether in Portugal, where large quantities of American wheat has been for some years received, any traces of this destructive animal have been observed in the wheat of the country.

In any calculation, however, deduced from the answers to such enquiries, which tends to shew a diminution of risk, it must always be remembered, that the insect has proceeded in America gradually and slowly from the South Northward, which seems to prove, that successive generations become by degrees inured to, and thrive in, a temperature cold enough to have destroyed their predecessors; and hence we can conclude, that England will run a greater risk in importing wheat affected by the fly, in proportion as the climate from

whence it is brought is colder and more similar to our own.

*I have the honour to be
With the highest respect,
Your Lordship's obedient
And most humble servant,*

JOS. BANKS.

No. 3. ORDER in Council forbidding any entry to be passed for any wheat, the growth of the territories belonging to the United States of America, which may be now arrived, or shall hereafter arrive, until his Majesty's pleasure further signified, 25th of June 1788.

At the Court at St. James's, the 25th June 1788.

PRESENT

The KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

WHEREAS an act has been passed in this present session of Parliament, intitled, 'An act to continue the laws now in force for regulating the trade between the subjects of his Majesty's dominions and the inhabitants of the territories belonging to the United States of America, so far as the same relate to the trade and commerce carried on between this kingdom and the inhabitants of the countries belonging to the said United States: And whereas it hath been represented to his Majesty, at this Board, that there is reason to apprehend that wheat, the produce of various parts of the territories belonging to the said United States of America, may be infected with an insect, the spreading of which would be injurious to the grain of this kingdom: His Majesty, taking the same into his royal consideration, is hereby pleased, with the advice of his Privy Council, to order that the utmost care be taken not to permit any entry to be passed, for wheat of the growth of any of the territories belonging to the said United States of America, which is already or may hereafter be brought into any of the ports of Great Britain, until his Majesty's pleasure shall be further known: And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury are to give the necessary directions accordingly.

(Signed) WM. FAWKENER.

The fact is not so, and therefore this reasoning upon it falls to the ground.

No.

* This is reasoning on a false fact—if I may be allowed the expression. It arises from want of information.

Did ever any body hear of the salt marshes of America being subject to the ravages of the fly before? Certainly no.