

full and ample produce; in short, it does not follow, that every grain is to be affected by the fly, or that every grain which is affected, is thereby deprived of all its vegetative quality. The peas of this country are subject to a very ruinous worm, many of the seed peas, though worm-eaten, spring from the earth in appearance healthy and vigorous, but these fail essentially in productiveness.

It may be perfectly true, that neither the egg, worm, or fly, has been found deposited in the grain; but the works of nature are so minute, and its modes so inscrutable, as to baffle every endeavour hitherto made to form a satisfactory conclusion, or even to inspire a reasonable conjecture on the subject; indeed, my Lord, the means of attaining a thorough knowledge are not common here; few are possessed of microscopes, or suitable instruments, to assist in making the necessary discoveries; nor have I yet been able to procure any thing of the sort, which would assist me in the investigation I have in contemplation.

Satisfactory as it would be to my feelings, my Lord, to be able to say with precision, I apprehend no danger of extending the mischief by seed—my duty urges me to declare, I have not yet seen or heard any conclusive fact, by which I could decide a matter of such importance; until that test offers, the wisdom of guarding against so grievous a calamity by all due caution, must be evident; uncertain and inconclusive too, as the researches have hitherto been, to fix whether the loss of crops is, or is not, imputable alone to the destruction of the plant, it is natural to presume there may be danger in suffering wheat straw to be landed from hence in England; a suggestion strengthened by the history given by the Americans of the origin of the Hessian fly, which they assert, with great earnestness, was brought hither in the straw beds and baggage of the German troops employed in the late war. Through the medium of straw, it is by no means impossible, the egg or the worm may be transported; and any number of the insects conveyed to England, however small, would soon, by their rapid increase, spread this alarming evil. The warmth of a ship's hold would be very favourable, not only to their being preserved, but vivified.

It is too certain, my Lord, to admit of the least doubt, that in the countries upon this continent where this insect has appeared, loss and destruction have followed; in some instances the farmers have been reduced to thin and wretched crops, in other instances the ravages have been so ex-

tensive, as to make it necessary to plough up the fields, and to change the nature of the tillage. The yellow bearded wheat, it is thought, has and will resist the attacks of the fly, and is now generally used in seeding at this season, where it can be procured. Most of the grain of this year's harvest, in such parts of this state as have not yet suffered by the fly, is of a very wretched quality; a wet season caused much of it to grow in the sheaf, and a great deal suffered extremely by a severe blight.

In the course of last spring, my Lord, several cargoes of wheat were shipped from hence for different parts of England, under an expectation that the ports would be opened; or, if that should not have happened, to wait orders to convey the cargoes to such good markets as might offer in Europe.

All the grain raised upon Long Island is known to be more or less affected by the fly; the contiguity of that island to New York, induces the farmers to send most of their sale wheat hither; a large portion of the wheat raised in East New Jersey also goes there for sale. Some from that part of New Jersey, and a great quantity of wheat raised in the western province of New Jersey, is brought to Philadelphia, in craft up and down the Delaware. The eastern parts of New Jersey have been for some years, infected by the fly; so that, from the period of the first discovery of the fly upon Long Island, in the year 1779, to the present moment, the cargoes shipped from New York to places beyond sea, were composed of grain raised in a country where the insect had appeared; and for the last three years such of the grain raised in East New Jersey, and sent from this port, was in the same predicament, and so was any grain raised within the last two years in the County of Bucks in this state, and exported from hence. Whether the ports of Great Britain have been open within the last 8 or 9 years, or if open, what quantities of wheat have been imported from hence, or from New York, into Great Britain, is not in my power to ascertain here.

His Majesty's proclamation, prohibiting the importation of grain into Great Britain from America, has created some alarm and uneasiness in this state, and will probably promote a more complete investigation of the manner of preventing its ravages and destruction. In the contracted state of the commerce of this country, this alarm and uneasiness is very natural; but the precautions used by His Majesty, to prevent the extension of so deadly a mischief to His Kingdoms, are also extremely