

Second Report of the Committee for relieving the distressed inhabitants of Germany, and other parts of the Continent (1806)

Publication/Creation

1806

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LONDON, February 24, 1866.

SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR RELIEVING THE DISTRESSED INHABITANTS OF GERMANY, AND OTHER PARTS OF THE CONTINENT.

SINCE the last Report, the Committee have received a great variety of authentic accounts of the distresses on the Continent. They are now in possession of much intelligence, which would be interesting to publish; but it has been necessary to select and abridge from their voluminous correspondence.—In their next Report they expect to give further details of the distribution of the funds; at present they would lay the following accounts before the Subscribers, and the Public.

Translation of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. —, a Protestant Clergyman in Austria, dated Nov. 27, 1865, addressed to his Father-in-law.

"Thanks be to God that the great anxiety we felt concerning you, was removed by your kind letter of the 19th Instant. We are very happy to find that you have not suffered so much as we have. A skirmish took place at —, which was the cause of our misfortune, we, and the whole country round, being thereby exposed to plunder. My wife and children fled—I alone remained in the house. At eight in the evening the French entered our village; at twelve in the night they came to me. As long as I had plenty of provisions, and the protection of two officers, every thing went on well; but when these were consumed, and my protectors gone, I then could no longer escape being plundered. I was obliged to leave my house, and every thing in it, to their mercy, and save myself by flight.—When I came back I found every thing gone or ruined.—No less than 50,000 men passed through our place, and the greatest distress prevails here."

P. S. Written by the wife of the Clergyman.—"We rejoiced the more to hear a good account of you, as we had felt the greatest anxiety concerning you. Thank God that you came off so well. We met with worse treatment. The French took every thing we possessed—our provisions, clothes, linen, &c. My husband was stripped of his great coat, and his boots were even taken from his legs. They tore my handkerchief off my neck. They first took the money, and then every thing else. They had nearly compelled my husband to go with them in order to point out the richest farmers. They literally left us nothing, for what they could not carry off they entirely destroyed. Our drawers and presses they broke in pieces; they pulled the bedclothes off the bed, which, together with the curtains, they cut in pieces. When we returned to the house we found nothing left. Had not our neighbours brought us food, we must have perished for want.—Besides what I had on, I had nothing left, but one pair of stockings, together with an apron and an old neckhandkerchief, which is worth nothing. My husband met with a similar fate, having nothing left but what he had on. Thanks be to God that it is over. We are in tolerable health, to be quite well is not to be expected, being full of cares and sorrows, in want of all the necessities of life, and having no money wherewith to purchase them. God will provide. We felt the greatest anxiety concerning our children. I have not been perfectly well since the first great fright—I had such a violent pain in my feet that I could scarcely walk, and have entirely lost my appetite.—They drove the cattle out of the stables of the peasants: we saw the finest cows and oxen pass."

Substance of a Letter from Mr. —, a very respectable Merchant in Nuremberg, dated Dec. 20, 1865.

"How can we be sufficiently thankful to God, and those excellent English friends who have sent us another £100. for the relief of the numerous sufferers. We should already have begun to distribute, but we waited for the most accurate accounts, both from Magistrates and Clergymen, of those families and individuals who are in the greatest need. We have already determined that the Protestant Minister in Austria, whose sufferings are represented in the enclosed letters (as above), shall partake of this benefaction. There are also many schoolmasters, who have been plunged into the greatest misery, whom we consider as particularly deserving objects of charity."

Translation and Extract of a Letter from a respectable Gentleman in Saxony, to the Rev. Mr. Schwabe, London.

"Erfurt, January 3, 1866.

"The dreadful consequences of the present state of things are but too visible in our poor country.—You know how much our manufactures had already suffered during the last war, and that a great number of workmen were deprived of their subsistence. This distress has of late been constantly increasing, so that all commerce is at a stand. Since the last fair of Frankfurt and Leipzig, the manufacturers have been obliged to discharge their remaining workmen, and these are now with their families abandoned to hunger and despair. It is melancholy and affecting to see citizens, who but lately were by their industry able to obtain a comfortable subsistence, now go about like shadows; indeed they do not venture to leave their miserable dwellings during the day, but come out in the evening only, to apply for some assistance to those who are at present, (but who knows for how long?) their happier fellow-citizens. Often these unfortunates are obliged to quit the town at night, to beg a miserable subsistence in the neighbouring country, and to leave their wretched children behind them.—Much has been added to this distress by the late bad harvest. In the hilly parts of the country all the potatoes were spoiled by the frost. The oats, wheat, and rye still stand in the field. What these poor people are to do when the little store of corn is consumed, or all delivered into the military magazines, nobody knows; without hope they are abandoned to perish by hunger."

"The present war, and the march of troops, which have almost centered in our neighbourhood, and are still here, have carried the misery to its highest pitch: by so many thousand men meeting in this point, our general stock of provisions is completely consumed. From the public magazines, which formerly supplied the market in time of need at a moderate price, nothing is furnished, because all is required for the soldiers: nor are the poor, as formerly, supplied with wood at a low price. Hence we now often hear of persons who have put an end to their lives. A man, who was a carter, took poison lately in despair, and left a wife and six children. Another man, also a father of five children, hanged himself. In short the misery is indescribable, and will increase daily if relief is not soon given. The few rich inhabitants of our town do as much as lies in their power to prevent the extreme misery, and some sums have been collected and applied to procure bread and fire-wood from other places: but the few persons here are not able to relieve only a small number of the most necessitous, because corn and all other provisions are risen to an enormous price.—If some nobleminded persons would unite with our benevolent inhabitants, and enable us to give some supply of bread and wood to the poor, particularly to those who are ashamed of begging, the present misery might be alleviated, and the increase of it, which in spring is much to be apprehended, prevented.—O! that you might succeed in procuring some assistance to your formerly so happy native country! Britons have given so many proofs of generosity and sympathy, that perhaps our present distress will also move them."

* * * In a former Report the Committee mentioned having sent some help to the above district, but it had not arrived, nor was it indeed known at Erfurt that this Subscription had been opened, when the above letter was written. Further relief has now been sent.

Translation and Extract of a Letter from the Right Reverend Dr. Salfeld, Abbot of Loccum, to the Rev. Mr. Kueper, German Chaplain to his Majesty at St. James's, dated Hanover, January 4, 1866.

"In my last I testified to you the great joy our State Ministers feel, with me, at the benevolent resolutions of your noble Society for procuring relief to the distressed in Germany. Having yesterday received further instructions in your second letter, I hastened to write Mr. Von Bremer, the Chief Justice and Counsellor of the States; Mr. Von Meding, Counsellor of the States of Luneburg; and Mr. Zwickert, Syndic of the city of Münden, which three respectable men were approved of in every respect by our State Ministers, to unite with me and to form a committee. I expect every moment to hear from them, and hope that we shall all meet to-morrow, and then choose more members to associate with us.—I have written and sent orders to several districts, that minute reports should be made to me, which in due time I shall not fail to lay before you. In many places a general emigration was to be apprehended, if the sufferings of the inhabitants had continued but for a short time longer."

"The most dreadful thing now is the want of corn, together with the want of money to procure considerable supplies from foreign countries. This is the more severely felt, as amongst the country people there are many hundreds that will be quite impoverished for want of horses, which are taken from them, and either lost or ruined. For we were forced, besides those many thousand fine horses of our cavalry, to deliver into the hands of the French, before they left us, more than 1000 horses. A similar number they had put in requisition; and more than 1000 other relay horses which they took away with them to Wirzburg, have not been returned, though it was promised they should. Those few that came back were disabled, and the good ones that were left, have been afterwards, and are continually used for transporting magazines, artillery, and baggage waggon belonging to the Prussian, Russian, Swedish, and English troops. It is only the English who pay for those horses as well as for every thing else.—And what new changes and disasters, my dear friend, may we not have to expect yet?—However, in the plan of Divine Providence, our fate is decreed, and our future situation determined. God did never forsake us, and he will assist us in future calamities. The noble example of the generous Society in London will certainly occasion a patriotic emulation here. And by this means it will be possible to do something more effectual for the relief of our distressed fellow subjects. May Almighty God only preserve our former constitution, under which our country has been happy, and the high value of which you certainly feel as deeply as I do."

Translation of a Letter from a respectable Gentleman in Germany, dated January 4, 1866.

"I was hardly ever more deeply affected by any thing, than by the remittance of such a considerable sum, for the relief of those who have been ruined by the late melancholy war. Many fervent sighs and supplications will ascend to the Father of mankind for all those benefactors, that

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that he may bless, protect and deliver them in the hour of danger and distress, and graciously impart to them that peace of God which passeth all understanding. Messrs. — have sent the £300. to Messrs. —, of —, and they have sent me a bill of exchange, payable by all understanding. When I had informed this Gentleman, who is a very excellent character, of the design of this money, he accepted the bill with tears of joy. In a few days I shall receive the money. My first care, and most earnest desire is, to distribute it in the best way. But as all human understanding is but perfect weakness, I applied for direction from above, that I might be guided in this, as in all other things. The same day, I received from a very respectable merchant in Ulm, a letter, representing the present distressed situation of Ulm, and its vicinity; at the same time requesting me to use all my influence in order to procure them some relief.—The Palatinate, and the Electorate of Baden, have comparatively suffered nothing, as the French only marched through; but from Ulm, in Swabia, along the whole extent of the Danube to the borders of Hungary, also throughout Moravia and Bohemia, the most awful misery prevails.

"You will see by the printed letter from Ulm, that the whole mercantile body in that town have united in the establishment of a Society for affording relief. But as I know their situation, being able only to give from one to five shillings, merely to satisfy the wants of the present moment, I will request the above-mentioned Gentleman, whom I personally know, and on whose integrity and prudence I may depend, to give me an account of the most worthy and industrious families among the most distressed, and carefully to inquire what are their particular wants. Such I intend to relieve. To some I will send corn-seed for sowing, to others a cow, to others an ox for tilling the ground. By such an assistance a whole family may again be enabled to earn their bread, whilst by a few shillings at a time, you only relieve the present necessity: you must give again and again, and when they have received as much as a cow would have cost, they are in the same state of beggary as at first.—This is the general outline of the plan upon which I intend to act. Mention this to the Committee, I hope it will meet their approbation. As I have respectable connexions in all the larger towns of Germany, I can the more easily perform this pleasing service for the poor.—Great God! how I thank thee for assigning to me this branch of beneficence. Means of my own I have not, and thou hast given me them from foreign parts. Impart me wisdom for this honourable commission!"

Translation and Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in Norwich, from a respectable Merchant in Memmingen, dated Jan. 8, 1806.

"Our city also sustained a very considerable loss in the late unhappy war. When the Austrians first arrived here, in endeavouring to fortify the city, they ruined many hundred acres of rich garden ground. Many families, which supported themselves by cultivating hops, lost their all. When the French came, our misery increased. For four days no house had less than six soldiers quartered upon them, most had from sixteen to twenty, and many even from fifty to sixty. Had they been satisfied with what our poor citizens could afford, it would have been tolerable—but I shall never forget their cruelty. Having an officer quartered upon me, I used to hear the cries and lamentations of the poor, whom these barbarians had driven from their own houses, because they were unable to supply them with delicacies for the gratification of their palate. The melancholy consequences of this was very manifest at Christmas. At this season it is customary for several of the Patricians, and six merchant-houses, to give to every poor person that calls. This year, for the first time, many very decent citizens appeared among the number, entirely as beggars, so that the heart of every true patriot could not but bleed at the sight of them. Should it be possible for you to procure something from England, I would endeavour to obtain here an additional sum, in order to relieve as many as possible."

Extract of a Letter from the Right Reverend the Abbot of Loccum, to the Rev. William Kuiper, dated Hanover, January 11, 1806.

"Our Committee has met for the first time, and an address to our public is prepared, of which you shall have a copy in my next, together with some other communications.—O! my dear friend, you cannot imagine the distressed and ruined state our poor country is in. Our burthens increase every day—we scarcely began to breathe again, after the main army of our oppressors had left us, when, what we never expected, a large Prussian army occupied our exhausted provinces, and consumed what little provisions were left us for the winter. Then followed the Russians and Swedes, who certainly are our friends, but cost us dear. And now we shall moreover provide again for the 4000 French troops in Hameln, while we are threatened with another Prussian army. What will become of us, having neither money, nor credit, nor provisions! Our country is already ruined for a century to come, and it will be ruined for ever if things go on a little longer in this manner. The dreadful effects of our public misfortunes are felt and to be seen every where.—But no more of it. I know you will excuse these frequent expressions of sentiments, which are always present to my mind, and so much agitate it."

Translation of a Letter from a worthy Minister in Hanover.

"The blessing which your kind letter conveyed to me, brought me on my knees in my closet, in order to offer my humble thanks to my heavenly Father for his providential care towards the poor Hanoverians, whose distress often fills my heart with grief and pain. But as this distribution appears to me an important charge, I could not but implore his gracious direction, that among the distressed those particularly may be relieved who have trusted in him for assistance, and thus their confidence may be confirmed. I also prayed, that a rich blessing may descend upon all the English benefactors, out of the fulness of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Translation of a Letter from E. F. H. Folcke, D. D. First Burgomaster in the city of Hanover, and President of the Administration of the Poor. Hanover, January 21, 1806.

"Yesterday I received your very welcome letter, which proved a sweet balm of consolation after a very laborious day in the service of my suffering brethren. Most readily I will comply with all your instructions respecting a proper distribution of the money, acting according to that rule of the Apostle: 'It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.' Nearly thirty-two months we have now sighed under the burden of hostile, neutral, and friendly troops quartered upon us, whereby the physical strength of our country (which in itself is not rich) has been exhausted. But the most formidable enemy, which now threatens us, is Famine, as the last harvest has quite failed; potatoes, vegetables, and fruits are now nearly consumed. May God have mercy upon us and help us. My office as First Burgomaster and President of the General Administration for the Poor, which I have held these twenty-two years, gives me knowledge and experience of the most deserving objects of relief; whilst at the same time I feel the utmost cheerfulness to disperse that faithfully, with which you may be pleased to entrust me."

Translation of a Letter from a respectable Clergyman in Nuremberg, dated January 12, 1806.

"My nervous indisposition must apologize for the shortness of this, which I write just to inform you, that the last remittance of the third £100, has been safely and gratefully received by us. We have already begun to distribute the money, and several families in the deepest distress have been greatly rejoiced. I must defer particulars to another time."

Translation of a Letter from the Right Rev. Abbot Salfeld, to the Rev. William Kuiper, dated Hanover, January 17, 1806.

"I had wished, my dear friend, that a more detailed report of the distressed situation of the greater part of our countrymen, might be forwarded to you by this day's post. But our Committee having deemed it proper still to collect more facts, which will enable them to lay before you a true and striking picture of the whole, I will endeavour to give you the following outlines."

"Though single communities and individuals have suffered disproportionately these three years, yet there is scarcely any place in our country, that has not suffered in a hard manner; and where the inhabitants have not been reduced to want and poverty. Besides the many heavy contributions in money, and deliveries of provisions to fill the French magazines, the great number of people, horses, and waggons, daily put in requisition, for transporting the baggage, forage, or warlike stores, together with the continual enormous expenses in feeding and clothing the French soldiers, quartered on them in great numbers, have exhausted both the country people and the inhabitants of the towns. In those villages where noblemen, or bailiffs, justices, or clergymen, who were obliged to provide for the French officers, did not reside, the communities themselves were forced to find every thing for them, especially for their table; which, for each officer, as they always wanted good wine, required every day an expense of two rix-dollars; so that many small communities had to make an additional sacrifice for the entertainment of the officers alone, from 120 to 200 rix-dollars a month; to which sum even those people that gain their bread by hard labour were obliged to contribute. The distress in which a great many of our countrymen have been plunged by such enormous expenses, during a long period of thirty-two months of French extortion, is dreadful, and is increasing still. We want money, credit, and corn; and even the most indispensable necessities of life, can scarcely be procured for uncommon high prices: and yet, even under these circumstances, the country must provide again for that part of the French invaders left in Hameln; after a large Prussian army, during eight long weeks, has diminished our provisions; and while so many other foreign troops, to the number of near 70,000 men, continue consuming them."

"Certainly, my friend, we have but too many reasons to fear, that perhaps before the beginning of next summer, and even sooner, a famine will spread over this unhappy country, if we are not relieved by extraordinary means. The harvest of 1804 proved so scanty, that in the middle of last summer, already all our magazines were exhausted: and so great and general then was the want of food, especially in the provinces of

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of Göttingen and Grubenhagen, that thousands of our fellow subjects would not have been saved from starving, had not our Deputation of the States succeeded, with the assistance of the French Marshal Bernadotte, in obtaining a temporary supply from foreign countries, at the most enormous prices. Last autumn, again, a vast quantity of vegetables, especially potatoes, turnips, and carrots, were destroyed by the frost setting in too early; and so scanty was the last harvest, in general, that it would not have been sufficient for our own wants, to bring us through the winter, even if so many thousands of foreign troops had not consumed most of it. In short, my dear friend, the adversities and calamities we have incessantly been struggling with these three years, and the miseries and dangers which still threaten and surround us, are great beyond description, and it certainly requires a firm and manly courage, and much Christian confidence, not to despair at the terrible sight of them.—Every where numbers of estates are to be sold, and their value of course has greatly diminished. In villages and cities, the best situated and convenient houses are offered for any price. People of extended possessions feel happy to get money lent on high interest from foreign usurers. Many respectable persons, who formerly lived in abundance, people of every rank and description, have been under the necessity of pawning every thing, to pay the contributions, feed the French soldiery, and save their families from starving. Commerce and trade have been almost entirely destroyed, with many other useful branches of industry. Artists and professional men of every description want customers and employment. The funds for relieving the poor have decayed and diminished, while the number of those that live on alms have increased. The many charitable institutions, every where established to distribute Rumford Soup and fuel, all fall short to provide for the most urgent wants of the distressed.

Translation of a Letter from a respectable Gentleman in Germany, dated January 19, 1806.

"I have safely received the value of £300. in the sum of 3234 florins, and 58 kreuzers. May the Lord, the Provider and Father of the poor, a thousand times reward all the benefactors for these charitable gifts. Money was never appropriated to better purposes than this; and blessed be the name of the Lord, that he has vouchsafed me to dispense part of this charity; as I myself was so poor in the earlier stages of my life, as to have nothing which I could properly call my own. Permit me now to specify a few cases, in which I have afforded relief.—The first assistance I rendered, was, to a very numerous family of a private gentleman. Respectable as his situation in life is, he had been brought very low by several misfortunes. Now the calamities of war were added; all his usual resources failed him, and he saw himself reduced to the very extremity of distress. Deeply oppressed by the heavy burthen of his cares, he rose one morning very early, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and exclaimed—'O thou Father in Heaven, I know not what to do; but still I trust that thou wilt not leave nor forsake me.' On this very day I became quite unexpectedly acquainted with his distressed situation, and hastened to his relief with the sum of £4, to the unspeakable joy of the whole family; which having not seen the father the whole of the afternoon, till uncommonly late in the night, had been under the most serious apprehensions lest, in a fit of despair, he might have made away with himself.

"The second gift I sent to the relief of an excellent young man, a silversmith, the son of a pious widow in Heidelberg. But lately he had established himself in business in a small town, of the name of Sinsheim. Last autumn the French marched through it. The General sent for him, he being the only person in the whole town that could speak French. He was obliged to go, and was detained for about three hours. During his absence he had his shop broken open, and his whole property taken; so that he was at once plunged into the abyss of misery. I sent him £5, through his excellent Minister, from whom I daily expect the receipt.—The third gift I sent to a very respectable widow lady. The family had the misfortune of being three times plundered. When a friend visited her, he found her much agitated and quite pale. When she was asked the cause of her anxiety, she answered—'Here you see all I have left!' shewing a penny. Being informed of her distress, I sent £1 to her friend, with the following lines: 'Please to take the enclosed to the poor lady, whom you have visited and so humanely assisted. Tell her, that this is sent her by Him, who seeth in secret.'

"Since my last, I received the second letter from Mr. Auer, the very same respectable merchant in Ulm, whom I had mentioned before. He writes as follows: 'My highly respected Sir—Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.' This passage struck me very forcibly, when I received your answer to my letter. Indeed, I had felt a very great desire to address you on this subject; but when I happened to mention it to my wife, she would rather have prevented me from writing, observing, she well knew; how much you were over-run with petitions from poor persons all over Germany; however, my desire remained the same. I wrote; and when I received your answer, I read it to my wife; we both wept for joy, and blessed God for his gracious direction.—But let me now come to the point. I am treasurer of the contributions collected by the mercantile body in Ulm; and all the reports and lists, both from magistrates and clergymen, specifying the suffering individuals and families, are sent to me. It is expressly stated in these lists, a what loss the sufferers have sustained, to what extent, and whether in cattle, furniture, corn, &c. and in continual reference to these lists, a select committee of merchants, assisted by one of the most worthy clergymen of our city, have been appointed to distribute the money; in which distribution, a particular regard is paid to such poor persons, who before, by their industry endeavoured to support themselves, but have now lost the means of support. The sick, the wounded, the aged, are also particularly attended to; and every thing transacted with the utmost conscientiousness. When to any person, or family, a certain portion has been assigned, it falls to my lot, and that of Mr. Niebling, to dispense the charity. The sums which we have already collected, chiefly from mercantile houses in Switzerland, amount to 5,223 florins; and to this would be added, what you might think proper to send us. The above-mentioned sum might appear considerable to you; but when you contemplate the misery around us in its full extent, so far from being able to remove it, it hardly suffices to diminish it to a very small degree. But we do confidently hope, that God will continue to raise up more generous benefactors; as we have been informed, by you, that he has done it, by the establishment of that benevolent Society in England.—After having received this letter, and duly examined its important contents, I determined to send the sum of £100. to Mr. Auer, to be added to their charitable fund, and dispensed in the manner they have pointed out."

Copy of a Letter from Professor Timæus, in Lunenburg, to the Rev. Mr. Schwabe, in London, dated Lunenburg, January 19, 1806.

"I have, my dear friend, within these few days been informed, that in London a number of nobleminded friends of humanity have united, to procure some relief to those sufferers in Germany, and particularly in our country, who by the war have been rendered inexplicably miserable. I understand that already about 2500 dollars have been remitted to Hanover. This information gives, in my mind, birth to the irresistible wish, that our town also might very soon draw some support from this source; and I apply to you to become, in the Committee of that Society, the advocate of my unhappy fellow citizens, as you are probably acquainted with its existence and views. When you were with us in September last, you were a witness to the hard fate which almost overwhelms us. The French left us (a few thousands excepted, who kept possession of Hameln,) in autumn. Scarcely did we begin to breathe a little more freely, when Russians and Swedes arrived; and their marches continue to this moment. They pay, it is said! but how little is their pay sufficient. For a common soldier, a compensation of four groshen (eightpence) is made, for which he must be kept the whole day. With the present immense price of all provisions, this allowance is not half sufficient; and for fuel, candles, and quarters, nothing is paid.

"The following detail will make you more intimately acquainted with our situation. In order to give to my account more authenticity, I put several questions to our magistrate; and communicate to you the result of my investigation, which you may consider as official. Lunenburg has, at the utmost, 11,000 inhabitants, who before the war were very happy. The three principal sources of subsistence—Commission Trade—the Limekilns and the Saltworks—had produced a considerable degree of opulence; the public burthens were inconsiderable, and the taxes light: but the war has ruined us for many generations.

1. From the month of May, 1803, to the end of December, 1805, about 80,000 men, and 14,000 horses, have, at different times, been quartered with us; all of whom were supported at our expence. Besides the troops passing through (who amount to 300 per month,) we have had since the beginning of the war, upon an average, every month, a garrison of from 3 to 4000 men. The expences of individuals, who have soldiers quartered on them, may be calculated in the following manner:

- For an officer, sixteen groshen per day.
- For a subaltern officer, eight groshen per day.
- For a common soldier, six groshen per day.

If we charge only six groshen per day on each man, upon an average (and how far is this short of the real expence,) the loss of individuals during those thirty-one months, amounts to above half a million of dollars, independently of the taxes.

2. On account of the great contributions and requisitions, our Senate has been obliged to contract a debt of 100,000 dollars, the interest on which is raised by new taxes on our houses. The share of taxes which falls to our town, in common with the whole country, and which the subjects are obliged to raise, is not included even in that sum.

3. The principal source of subsistence for Lunenburg, is the Transit-trade; by which the factors, the merchants, clerks, innkeepers, and persons of all trades, as well as a great part of our labourers, are supported. This has, during the above-mentioned period, by the prohibition of the passage of all English goods, fallen to a third of its former extent; and the negative loss of the town may, at least, be calculated at 300,000 dollars per annum.

4. According to public statements, one-fourth of the inhabitants of our town must be considered as completely ruined; during those thirty-one months. Nothing is left of their property; they must live on the labour of their hands; and can scarcely do that at present, as no work is to be obtained.

5. The number of those who are so completely reduced, that they must be supported out of the public funds, (now almost exhausted,) and by charitable contributions, amounts to nearly 1000 persons. I lately made a small collection for the poor of my quarter of the town; and received, in eight days, not so much as in two hours during the year 1802. The rich are assailed every day; and those who were formerly in good circumstances, can give no more.

6. The many millions of debt, that the country inevitably contracted during the last three years, impose upon the inhabitants of Lunenburg a heavy proportion of taxes; which must often be extorted with tears, and the sale of the last remaining property. Humanity, Justice, and Mercy, cease, where the bayonet rules.

7. Two very bad harvests add to the causes of distress. In many parts, the farmer has scarcely obtained sufficient for his own consumption. The price of the first necessities of life, rises every day; and even the calm and courageous observer, foresees a futurity enveloped in a black cloud.

8. More dreadful than all this, is the moral corruption and the diseases, that have been brought into our country by the war. Infidelity, —illicit intercourse of the sexes, with all its dreadful consequences,—contempt of the most sacred obligations,—are the melancholy bequests left to us. They are spread, and have taken deep root among the higher and lower classes; and show, even now, symptoms, which must blight for many generations, the noblest hopes of humanity.

Draw, my dear friend, from all these facts, as melancholy as true, the picture that must be the result of them, and do for our unhappy town what you can. Lay my statement before the Committee; and speak, with all the warmth of a friend of humanity, in behalf of my unhappy fellow citizens. I have long lived among Englishmen; I know and esteem the noble and generous spirit of the nation; I place the greatest confidence in their benevolence; I am even known in many families, and have respectable connections among English scholars. But what you mean to do, do soon; the distress is great. I pledge my honour for a conscientious application; and will, together with our magistrate, transmit receipts, and an account of our proceedings, to the Committee.—You may suppose with what impatience I look forward to your next letter."

Extract of a Letter from the Right Rev. the Abbot of Loccum, to the Rev. Mr. Kaeper, dated Hanover, February 1, 1806.

"To convince you that no changes whatever in our public affairs shall induce us to give up our views, or slacken our activity, I send you enclosed a copy of a Note, wherein our State Ministry fully approve of our Committee's plan. Messrs. ——— have acquainted us, that in the course of a few days they will remit to us 6234 Marc Banco, being the value of the £300 apportioned by your generous Committee for the relief of our distressed countrymen.—It is now generally believed that the Russians and Swedes will leave this country immediately, and that the Prussians are to take us under their protection. Most probably the French will then evacuate Hameln, whose inhabitants are in the greatest distress.—May God soon relieve this poor country, and grant, that after so long and unfortunate a period of suffering, we may live quietly and in peace once more. Alas! these sufferings have been very great."

Copy of a Note from the Administration of His Majesty's German dominions, to the Committee in Hanover for relieving the distressed.

"It having been notified to his Majesty's Ministry by a Memorial, dated the 13th of January, that several patriotic and respectable Gentlemen have formed a Committee, and intend to open subscriptions for the relief of those of His Majesty's Hanoverian subjects who have been ruined under the burthens of the late French occupation. His Majesty's Ministry feel glad in testifying their most entire approbation of so laudable an intention, and warmly wish that the united humane exertions of those Gentlemen may have the most favorable effect.

Hanover, 29th January, 1806, the Ministers and Privy Counsellors of His Majesty's Hanoverian Government.

(Signed)

von der DECKEN."

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* * * The Committee have now lodged a credit upon the Continent to the amount of £7820, of which, the sum of £6170, is already in the course of distribution. The necessities of the perishing Inhabitants are very urgent, and considerable supplies will still be required to procure provisions till the ensuing harvest.

Farther accounts will be published in due time, and also Lists of Subscriptions lately received.

Subscriptions received by Messrs. Hardcastle and Reyner, *Treasurers*, Old Swan Stairs, London.

Subscriptions will also be received, at the following Bankers, in London:

Messrs. Hankey and Co. Fenchurch-Street.
Messrs. Hoares, Fleet-Street.

Messrs. Smith and Holt, Old Broad-Street.
Messrs. Jones, Loyd, Hulme, and Co. Lombard-Street.