

Two essays in political arithmetick, concerning the people, housing, hospitals, etc. of London and Paris / By Sir William Petty.

Contributors

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WHITE HALL

Aug. 2^d 1886

Let this Paper be printed

Wm. L. G. P.

1687



WHITE-HALL,

Aug. 26th 1686.

Let this Paper be printed.

Sunderland P.



T W O
E S S A Y S
I N
Political Arithmetick,
Concerning the
People, Housing, Hospitals, &c.
O F
L O N D O N and P A R I S.

By Sir *WILLIAM PETTY*,
Fellow of the Royal Society.

————— *Qui sciret Regibus uti*
Fastidiret olus —————

L O N D O N,
Printed for *J. Lloyd* in the Middle Exchange
next *Salisbury-House* in the Strand. 1687.

309661



TO THE
KING'S

Most Excellent MAJESTY.

I Do presume, in a very
small Paper, to shew Your
Majesty, that Your City of
London seems more conside-
rable than the Two best Cities
of the French Monarchy, and
for ought I can find, greater
than any other of the Uni-
verse, which because I can say

A 3

without

Epistle Dedicatory.

*without flattery, and by such
Demonstration as Your Maje-
sty can examine, I humbly pray
Your Majesty to accept from*

Your Majesty's

Most Humble, Loyal

and Obedient Subject,

William Petty.

A N

(I)

A N

ESSAY

I N

Political Arithmetick,

B Y

Sir *WILLIAM PETTY*,

Tending to prove that *London* hath more People and Housing than the Cities of *Paris* and *Rouen* put together, and is also more considerable in several other respects.

I. **T**HE Medium of the *Burials* at *London* in the three last years, viz. 1683, 1684 and 1685, (wherein there was no extraordinary Sick-
A 4 nefs,

ness, and wherein the *Christenings* do correspond in their ordinary proportions with the *Burials* and *Christenings* of each year one with another) was 22337, and the like Medium of *Burials* for the three last *Paris* Bills we could procure, viz. for the years 1682, 1683 and 1684 (whereof the last as appears by the *Christenings* to have been very sickly) is 19887.

2. The City of *Bristol* in *England* appears to be by good estimate of its *Trade* and *Customes* as great as *Rouen* in *France*, and the City of *Dublin* in *Ireland* appears to have more *Chimnies* than *Bristol*, and consequently more People, and the *Burials* in
Dublin

Dublin were Anno 1682 (being a sickly year) but 2263.

3. Now the *Burials* of *Paris* (being 19887) being added to the *Burials* of *Dublin* (supposed more than at *Rouen*) being 2263, makes but 22150, whereas the *Burials* of *London* were 187 more, or 22337, or as about 6 to 7.

4. If those who die unnecessarily, and by miscarriage in *L'hospitel Dieu* in *Paris* (being above 3000) as hath been elsewhere shewn, or any part thereof, should be subtracted out of the *Paris Burials* aforementioned, then our assertion will be stronger, and more proportionable to what follows

lows concerning the Housing of those Cities, viz.

5. There were burnt at *London*, *Anno* 1666, above 13000 houses, which being but a fifth part of the whole, the whole number of houses in the said year, were above 65000; and whereas the ordinary *Burials* of *London* have increased between the years 1666 and 1686, above *one third*, the total of the houses at *London* *Anno* 1686, must be about 87000, which *Anno* 1682, appeared by accompt to have been 84000.

6. *Monsieur Morery*, the great French Author of the late *Geographical Dictionaries*, who makes *Paris* the greatest City in the *World*, doth

doth reckon but 50000 houses in the same, and other Authors and knowing Men much less; nor are there full 7000 houses in the City of *Dublin*, so as if the 50000 houses of *Paris* and the 7000 houses in the City of *Dublin* were added together, the total is but 57000 houses, whereas those of *London* are 87000 as aforesaid, or as 6 to 9.

7. As for the Shipping and foreign Commerce of *London*, the common sense of all Men doth judge it to be far greater than that of *Paris* and *Rouen* put together.

8. As to the Wealth and Gain accruing to the Inhabitants of *London* and *Paris* by Law-suits (or *Lachicane*) I only say that the Courts
of

of *London* extend to all *England* and *Wales*, and affect seven Millions of People, whereas those of *Paris* do not extend near so far: Moreover there is no palpable conspicuous argument at *Paris* for the Number and Wealth of Lawyers like the Buildings and Chambers in the *Two Temples*, *Lincoln's Inn*, *Gray's Inn*, *Doctors Commons*, and the seven other Inns in which are Chimnies, which are to be seen at *London*, besides many Lodgings, Halls and Offices relating to the same.

9. As to the plentiful and easie living of the People we say,

1. That the People of *Paris* to those of *London*, being as about

bout 6 to 7, and the Housing of the same as about 6 to 9, we infer that the People do not live at *London* so close and crouded as at *Paris*, but can afford themselves more room and liberty.

2. That at *London* the *Hospitals* are better and more desirable than those of *Paris*, for that in the best at *Paris* there die 2 out of 15, whereas at *London* there die out of the worst scarce 2 of 16, and yet but a fiftieth part of the whole die out of the *Hospitals* at *London*, and $\frac{2}{5}$ or 20 times that proportion die out of the *Paris Hospitals* which are of the same kind; that is to say, the number of those at *London* who chuse to lie sick in *Hospitals* rather than
in

in their own Houses, are to the like People of *Paris* as one to twenty; which shews the greater Poverty or want of Means in the People of *Paris* than those of *London*.

3. We infer from the premises, viz. the dying scarce 2 of 16 out of the *London Hospitals*, and about 2 of 15 in the best of *Paris*, (to say nothing of *L'hostel Dieu*) That either the *Physicians* and *Chirurgeons* of *London* are better than those of *Paris*, or that the Air of *London* is more wholesome.

10. As for the other great Cities of the *World*, if *Paris* were the greatest, we need say no more
in

in behalf of *London*. As for *Pekin* in *China*, we have no account fit to reason upon ; nor is there any thing in the Description of the two late Voyages of the *Chines's Emperour* from that City into East and West *Tartary*, in the years 1682 and 1683, which can make us recant what we have said concerning *London*. As for *Dely* and *Agra* belonging to the *Mogull* we find nothing against our position, but much to shew the vast numbers which attend that *Emperour* in his business and pleasures.

II. We shall conclude with *Constantinople* and *Gran Cairo* ; as for *Constantinople* it hath been said by one who endeavour'd to shew
the

the greatness of that City, and the greatness of the *Plague* which reigned in it, that there died 1500 *per diem*, without other circumstances: To which we answer, that in the year 1665 there died in *London* 1200 *per diem*, and it hath been well proved that the *Plague* of *London* never carried away above $\frac{1}{5}$ of the People, whereas it is commonly believed that in *Constantinople*, and other *Eastern Cities*, and even in *Italy* and *Spain*, that the *Plague* takes away $\frac{2}{5}$ one half or more; wherefore where 1200 is but $\frac{1}{5}$ of the People it is probable that the number was greater, than where 1500 was $\frac{2}{5}$ or one half, &c.

As

12. As for *Gran Cairo* it is reported, that 73000 died in 10 weeks or 1000 *per diem*, where note, that at *Gran Cairo* the *Plague* comes and goes away suddenly, and that the *Plague* takes away 2 or $\frac{3}{5}$ parts of the People as aforesaid; so as 73000 was probably the number of those that died of the *Plague* in one whole year at *Gran Cairo*, whereas at *London Anno 1665*, 97000 were brought to account to have died in that year. Wherefore it is certain, that that City wherein 97000 was but $\frac{1}{5}$ of the People, the number was greater than where 73000 was $\frac{2}{5}$ or the half.

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We

We therefore conclude, that *London* hath more *People*, *Housing*, *Shipping* and *Wealth*, than *Paris* and *Rouen* put together; and for ought yet appears, is more considerable than any other City in the *Universe*, which was propounded to be proved.

(13)

A N

ESSAY

I N

Political Arithmetick,

B Y

Sir *WILLIAM PETT*,

Tending to prove that in the
Hospital called *L' hostel Dieu* at *Paris*,
there die above 3000 *per Annum* by
reason of ill accommodation.

I. **I**T appears that *Anno 1678*
there entred into the Ho-
spital of *La Charité* 2647
Souls, of which there died there
within the said year 338, which

B 2

is

is above an *eighth part* of the said 2647, and that in the same year there entred into *L' hostel Dieu* 21491, and that there died out of that number 5630, which is above *one quarter*, so as about half the said 5630, being 2815, seem to have died for want of as good usage and accommodation as might have been had at *La Charité*.

2. Moreover in the year 1679 there entred into *La Charité* 3118, of which there died 452, which is above a *seventh part*, and in the same year there entred into *L' hostel Dieu* 28635, of which there died 8397, and in both the said years 1678 and 1679 (being very different in their degrees of Morta-

Mortality) there entred into
L' hostel Dieu 28635 and 21491,
 in all 50126, the Medium where-
 of is 25063, and there died out
 of the same in the said Two years
 5630 & 8397, in all 14027, the
 Medium whereof is 7013.

3. There entred in the said
 years into *La Charité* 2647 and
 3118, in all 5765, the Medium
 whereof is 2882, whereof there
 died 338 and 452, in all 790,
 the Medium whereof is 395.

4. Now if there died out of
L' hostel Dieu 7013 *per annum*,
 and that the proportion of those
 that died out of *L' hostel Dieu* is
 double to those that died out of
La Charité (as by the above
 B 3 Numbers

Numbers it appears to be near thereabouts) then it follows that half the said Numbers of 7013 being 3506, did not die by *natural necessity*, but by the evil administration of that Hospital.

5. This Conclusion seem'd at the first sight very strange, and rather to be some mistake or chance than a solid and real truth, but considering the same matter as it appeared at *London*, we were more reconciled to the belief of it, *viz.*

1. In the Hospital of *St. Bartholomew* in *London* there was sent out and *cured* in the year 1685, 1764 Persons, and there *died* out of the said Hospital 252. Moreover

Moreover there were sent out and *cured* out of *St. Thomas's Hospital* 1523, and *buried* 209, that is to say, there were cur'd in both Hospitals 3287, and buried out of both Hospitals 461, and consequently cured and buried 3748, of which number the 461 buried is less than an *eighth part*, whereas at *La Charité* the part that died was more than an *eighth part*; which shews that out of the most poor and wretched Hospitals of *London* there died fewer in proportion than out of the best in *Paris*.

2. Farthermore, it hath been above shewn that there died out of *La Charité* at a Medium 395 *per annum*, and 141 out of *Les*

Incurables making in all 536; and that out of *St. Bartholomew's* and *St. Thomas's Hospital, London*, there died at a Medium but 461, of which *Les Incurables* are part; which shews that although there be more People in *London* than in *Paris*, yet there went at *London* not so many People to Hospitals as there did at *Paris*, although the poorest Hospitals at *London*, were better than the best at *Paris*; which shews that the poorest People at *London* have better accommodation in their own houses, than the best Hospital of *Paris* affordeth.

6. Having proved that there die about 3506 Persons at *Paris unnecessarily* to the damage of *France*,
we

we come next to compute the value of the said damage and of the Remedy thereof, as follows, *viz.* the value of the said 3506 at 60 *li. Sterl. per head*, being about the value of *Argier Slaves*, (which is less than the intrinsic value of People at *Paris*) the whole loss of the Subjects of *France* in that Hospital seems to be 60 times 3506 *li. Sterl. per Annum*, *viz.* 210 thousand 360 *li. Sterl.* equivalent to about two Millions 524 Thous. 320 *French Livres*.

7. It hath appeared that there came into *L' hostel Dieu* at a Medium 25063 *per Annum*, or 2089 *per Menssem*, and that the whole stock of what remain'd in the
prece-

precedent Months is at a Medium about 2108 (as may appear by the third Line of the Table N^o 5, which shall be shortly published) *viz.* the Medium of Months is 2410 for the sickly year 1679, whereunto 1806, being added as the Medium of Months for the year 1678 makes 4216, the Medium whereof is the 2108 above mentioned; which number being added to the 2089 which entred each Month, makes 4197 for the Number of Sick which are supposed to be always in *L'hostel Dieu* one time with another.

8. Now if 60 *French Livres per Annum* for each of the said 4197 sick Persons were added to
the

the present ordinary Expence of that Hospital (amounting to an addition of 251 Thousand 820 *Livers*) it seems that so many lives might be saved as are worth above ten times that sum, and this by doing a manifest deed of Charity to Mankind.

Memorandum, *That Anno 1685.*
the Burials of London were
23222, and those of Amster-
dam 6245; from whence, and
the difference of Air, 'tis proba-
ble that the People of London
are quadruple to those of Am-
sterdam.

F I N I S.





