

The police of France: or, an account of the laws and regulations established in that kingdom, for the preservation of peace, and the preventing of robberies. To which is added, a particular description of the police and government of the city of Paris / [Anon].

Contributors

Mildmay, William, Sir, 1705-1771.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed by E. Owen and T. Harrison, 1763.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/y5wezpsj>

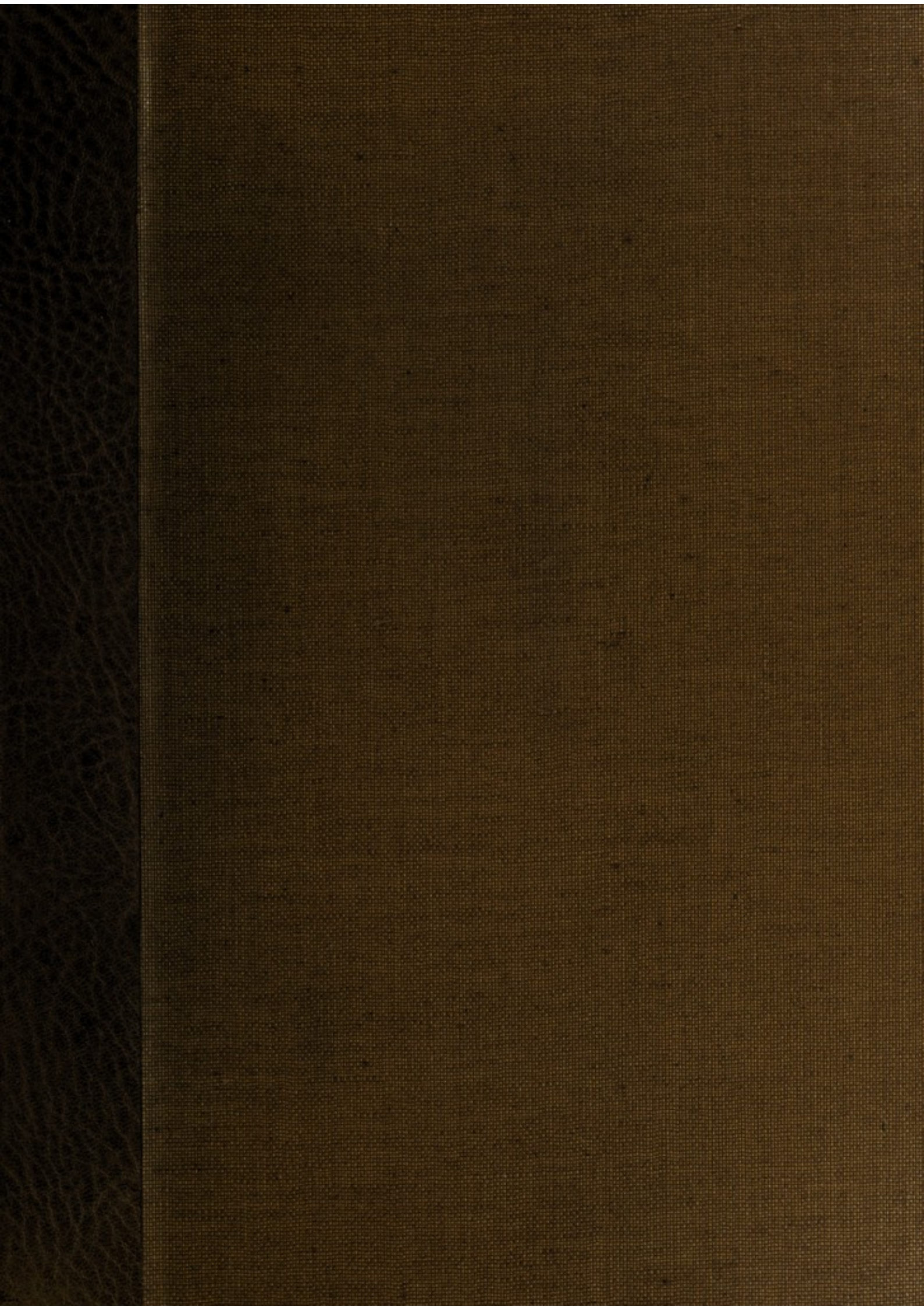
License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



56746/B

MILDMAY, Sir W.

The Police of *France*:

O R,

An ACCOUNT of the

LAWS and REGULATIONS

ESTABLISHED

In that KINGDOM,

FOR THE

Prefervation of P E A C E,

AND THE

Preventing of R O B B E R I E S.

To which is added,

A particular Description of the POLICE and
GOVERNMENT of the City of PARIS.

Sir William Milman

Fas est et ab Hoste doceri. Ovid.

L O N D O N :

Printed by E. OWEN and T. HARRISON in *Warwick-Lane.*

MDCCLXIII.

The Police of France:

An Account of the

LAWYERS and REGULATIONS

53309

ESTABLISHED

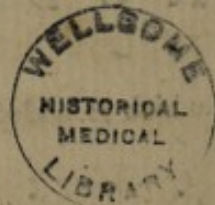
In the KINGDOM

FOR THE

Provinces of FRANCE

AND THE

Township of ROUBERIE




A particular Description of the Police and Government of the City of PARIS.

By M. DE LAUNAY, Esq. of the Parliament of Paris.

LONDON: Printed by R. Owen and T. Harrison in Strand, 1725.

P R E F A C E.

 O M E time after the peace was concluded by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, his late Majesty was pleased to recommend to both Houses of Parliament, “ to consider seriously of some effectual provisions “ to suppress those audacious crimes of robbery “ and violence, which were then become frequent, “ especially about the capital.” This was intimated to me, residing at that time at Paris, where observing, that these great evils were happily suppressed, both in the capital, and in all the provinces of France, I thought it my duty, as a subject of England, to contribute my best endeavours to discover what laws and regulations were established in that kingdom, for the better preservation of peace, and the preventing of robberies. And
A 2 accordingly,

accordingly, from the best information I could procure from the laws themselves, and from the practical knowledge of those, whose duty it was to put them in execution, I there composed the following treatise. But as the renewal of war soon after put an end to all our parliamentary proceedings for the redressing the evils above complained of, it became unnecessary to offer these observations to the public, until the restoration of peace, which being now accomplished, it may be presumed, that our Legislature will re-assume the consideration of promoting the internal *police* of this kingdom, and more especially for preventing the robberies and outrages, which begin again to disturb the domestic peace of his Majesty's subjects.

That we may be apprised of the measures enforced in France to attain these salutary ends, I have divided the following narrative into distinct parts, resulting from the several objects of my enquiry, in order ;

First, To offer a general view of the several jurisdictions established in France for the administration of justice.

Next

Next, to give an account of the particular establishment of the *marechaussée* in each province, for the preservation of the peace, and the preventing of robberies in the highways.

And thirdly, to describe the regulations enforced at Paris for the like preservation of the peace, and the preventing of street robberies.

To which I have added a farther account of the *police* in that capital, with regard to the maintenance of their poor; the support of their hospitals; the duty of their magistrates in supplying wood and water, and other necessary provisions; the preventing of fires; the regulating the public companies; and the paving, cleaning and lighting the streets. I was the more induced to enter into this detail, as I was informed, that the making new regulations in some of these articles, had often been under the consideration of our Legislature.

And lastly, I have offered a few remarks on the extent and circumference of London and Paris, the number of their inhabitants, and the necessity of circumscribing the boundaries of each; concluding with an estimate of the expence of the

police

police at Paris, that at the same time that we view the order, which is there preserved, we may be apprised of the cost of maintaining it.

It may be necessary, before I enter into this account, to premise, that I do not offer it with a view of recommending it in every part, and in all respects. I am aware particularly, that the *marechaussée* in the provinces, and the watch-guard at Paris, go under the name of military establishments, and consequently cannot as such be imitated by our administration, under a free and civil constitution of government: yet I am not without hopes, that some observations may be collected from particular parts of their system, which may help to reform the abuses, that are complained of in our own. With regard to myself, I shall be sufficiently rewarded for my pains, should what I now publish conduce in any degree to the service of my country; for as it is my happiness to be a subject of England, I shall equally esteem it a glory to become an useful member to its community.

W^m Mildmay

A General

P A R T I.

A General View of the several Jurisdictions
established in *FRANCE*, for the Admini-
stration of Justice.

IN order the better to distinguish the laws and regulations enforced in France for the preservation of the peace, it will be proper previously to take a general view of the several jurisdictions there established, for the administration of justice throughout the kingdom. To this purpose, let it be observed, that as France, in a geographical view, is divided into several provinces; so with regard to its civil government, it is divided into several circles, called *generalités*, which comprehend in some parts, only one province, in others, two or more, where the provinces are small; and where they are large, two or more *generalités* are comprehended within one province; so that, upon the whole, the kingdom is divided into about thirty of these distinct partitions, which are subdivided into lesser circles, in some parts called *diocesses*, in others *vigueries*, and in others *elections*; and these again into communities, towns and parishes. Over each *generalité* the King appoints an intendant, who resides in the capital city of his department,
under

under whom are a certain number of subdelegates, residing in the several divisions above-mentioned. These *generalités* are again distinguished under two denominations, some being called *païs d'état*, and others *païs d'élections*. The *païs d'état*, which are only few in number, contain those provinces which have been annexed to the crown in latter times, and which having been formerly distinct sovereignties, do still retain, or are supposed to retain, their antient privileges; the chief of which is that of levying their own annual revenues by the *taille réelle*, or tax on their landed estates, and granting the same to the King by the name of a *don gratuit*; whereas the *païs d'élections*, which are more numerous, being the antient patrimonies of the Kings of France, are subject alike to the *taille réelle* and *personnelle*, levied according to the arbitrary directions of the intendants, both upon the landed estates and personal properties of all the inhabitants, except the clergy and nobility. They are called the *païs d'élections*, because the lesser districts, into which they are divided, formerly elected their own assessors; but that privilege has long ago been taken away, and the name of it now only remains. From hence we may perceive, that these intendants, as representatives of the King's person in each province, are invested with a kind of sovereign authority, to interpose in whatever may be necessary for his Majesty's service: to which purpose, the office of the intendant is always open, to receive the complaints of public grievances, and to issue out the necessary precepts, for the regulation of the *police*.

I am

I am further to observe, that as this kingdom is separated into *generalités* for the regulation of the *police*, so it is again divided into military governments, to enforce the military service; and into archbishoprics, and suffragan diocesses, to support the ecclesiastical authority. The subordinate officers of these several divisions receive their orders from the superior of each department, who receives his from one or other of the five secretaries of state; each of which superintends a certain number of these districts, besides his more immediate duty in some particular branch of the administration: which also is divided into several branches; so that the foreign affairs, the marine, the army, the finances, the civil government, and religion, are the separate official duties of different ministers, who lastly receive their orders from the King himself. Thus we see the government of this nation is carried on with the greater facility, by dividing it into several departments, with different officers, and distinct duties for the administration of each, dependant and relevant, through all the several degrees of subordination, to the sole and ultimate power of the King, who, in this country, is absolute, and unaccountable to any but the Supreme Power of all †.

B

I shall

† The following are the fundamental maxims in France, upon which the King's prerogative is established.

1. Le Roi ne tient que de Dieu et de son épée.
2. Si veut le Roi, si veut la loi.
3. Toutes les personnes de son royaume lui sont sujettes.
4. Au Roi seul appartient de lever les tributs—de faire la guerre & la paix—
& de faire battre monnoie.
5. Le Roi est le principe & le terme de toutes les justices.
6. Le Roi seul peut accorder graces & remissions.

I shall now proceed to offer a general view of the several jurisdictions for the administration of justice in this kingdom, either in civil or criminal matters, according to the edicts, ordonnances and declarations of the King: these are issued by his sole authority, and at his pleasure; and being signed by him, and afterwards, by his order, registered in the courts of justice, called the Parliaments, obtain from thence the force and sanction of laws. An edict is that law, by which the King raises and levies all taxes, creates offices and jurisdictions, reforms all abuses, and enacts what punishment, fine or forfeiture shall be annexed to each. An ordonnance prescribes the forms and regulations necessary for carrying the laws into execution, relative either to the better order of the *police*, or the proceedings and practice of the courts of justice, or the discipline of the army, or for fixing the standard of measure, weight and fineness, of all saleable goods and manufactures. A declaration is only explanatory of any former law, either by way of amendment, addition or exception. To which may be added, the several arrets of council, and arrets of Parliament, which are occasionally issued; these are considered not as part of the laws of the land, but only as temporary rules and orders; and as such, the arrets of council may be compared to the proclamations of our King, or orders of the Privy Council; and the arrets of Parliament to the rules of our courts of justice, for enforcing the authority of their jurisdictions. How difficult then must it be, to obtain a knowledge of all these written laws, with their particular dates and various distinctions; and yet how much more perplexing, to arrive at the knowledge of that other branch of their unwritten laws,

and

and general or local customs of their country; each province having a separate *coutumier* relative to their tenures and inheritances. We must conclude therefore, that numbers of jurisdictions are established for the enforcing these laws, which, like their civil government, are divided into separate departments; and composed of magistrates, with distinct powers of adjudging, according to the competency circumscribed to each.

To begin with the first distinction of superior and inferior courts, we are to observe, that next to the King's Councils of State, in which he himself presides, the courts of justice, called the Parliaments, are the chief and sovereign jurisdictions, which are divided into twelve departments, each containing within its ressort, one, two, or more provinces, and distinguished by the name of the town, in which their several seats of justice are now made sedantry, as the Parliament of Paris, of Rouen, Bourdeaux, Thoulouse, Aix, &c. I need mention no more of these sovereign courts, than that they are composed of different chambers, or courts of judicature, having several competencies of jurisdictions, both in civil and criminal matters; and, when joined together, either to determine an appeal from the subordinate courts within their ressort, or to register the King's edicts, or letters patent, are then stiled a Court of Parliament. That of Paris has the pre-eminence above all others, as therein the King holds what is called, the Bed of Justice; as the dukes and peers of the realm are members of it, and in all criminal accusations are adjudged by it; and as it claims the peculiar

privilege of representing and remonstrating to the King, any ill effects of burthensome impositions, or public grievances.

Each Parliament has under its subordination a number of inferior courts of judicature, distinguished by the two titles of *justices royales*, and *justices seigneuriales*, both which are again subdivided into the several following competencies of jurisdictions.

For example, there is within the ressort of every Parliament, a number of inferior courts, called in some provinces *baillages* (bailiwicks) in others *seneschauffées* (stewardships) invested alike with powers for the trial of all causes, civil and criminal, arising within the circle of their districts; which circles, each containing several towns and parishes, are more or less in number in every department, according to their own compass, or the extent of the sovereign court of Parliament, to which they are subordinate. We are informed from history, that their original establishment arose from certain judges or commissaries, formerly sent by the Kings of France, once a year, into all the provinces, which were then governed by their respective counts or earls, holding in fief under the King; and as these commissaries were duly to administer justice in his name, they were accordingly called the King's bailiffs or stewards; and in process of time, being ordered to remain in the provinces they were sent to, had, for the more easy execution of justice, a particular district allotted to each, called from thence his bailiwick or stewardship. The number of these magistrates were by degrees augmented; so that at present each of these jurisdictions is composed of a Lieutenant Civil, a Lieutenant Criminal, several Councillors, Solicitors, Registers, &c.

After

After these are the inferior courts established in the great towns of each bailiwick, under the names of *prevotés* and *châtellanies*, which are invested with a jurisdiction, in the nature of a Mayor's Court in our corporations, to try small trespasses or disputes of trivial civil matters between the *roturiers* or commoners inhabiting within the town. The gentry or noblesse have the privilege to be amenable only to the superior court of the district, to which the commoner may also carry his appeal against any judgment given in the *prevoté*; but with regard to all affairs relating to the *police*, as the regulating the watch, paving the streets, &c. the city magistrates issue out their orders absolutely and without controul, in which they are assisted by a *lieutenant de police*, an office established in every great city of the kingdom, as well as at Paris.

Besides this ordinary duty as above-described of the *justices royales*, their magistrates are invested with the extraordinary power, of hearing appeals from the inferior courts of each, as to the judgments given in civil matters, and as to all complaints of the male administration of the subordinate magistrates; for it must be observed, that in all civil affairs, the appeal of a cause begun in any inferior court must be carried, *seriatim et gradatim*, through the different scales and degrees of all the superior jurisdictions one after the other, until it comes to be determined finally in the last sovereign court of the Parliament; but in any criminal cases adjudged in any inferior court whatever, from whence an appeal lies, it must be made, *per saltum et omisso medio*, directly to the Parliament.

To avoid therefore the delay and expence of suits trained on by these numerous appeals, and that the sovereign courts
might

might not be troubled with frivolous and vexatious matters to the interruption of affairs of greater importance, another tribunal is established in each bailiwick, called the *presidial court*, for the determination of all suits in the *dernier ressort*, and without appeal; provided that in civil causes the value doth not exceed a certain limited sum; or that in criminal matters the case be *prevotal*, the nature of which I shall hereafter explain. The same magistrates of the bailiwick are judges also of the *presidial court*; only in giving their judgment, be it in the first instance, or on an appeal from any inferior court, they must certify, that it was given *presidially*, and there must be seven judges, at least, to sign such certificate.

These judicial offices, as well as the other employments in France, having been formerly purchased of the crown, and erected *en titre d'office*, are venal, hereditary, and assignable; the King regranteeing them to the person petitioning to be admitted, if qualified, upon consideration of a fine, in proportion to the original purchase money, called the *finance* of the office, and paid on every new admission, whether it be by inheritance, or assignment. The sums thus advanced make no inconsiderable fund for the public revenues, under the title of the *parties casuelles*: but the salaries annexed to these offices, many of them superfluous, constitute a heavy part of the national debt of the kingdom.

Next to the *justices royales* are a number of other inferior jurisdictions, confined to each particular landed estate or manor, under the name of *justices seigneuriales*; there being no *seigneur*, or lord of a manor, who has not as incident to his
estate,

estate, either the *haute*, the *moyenne*, or the *basse justice*, that is, a right in different degrees of holding a court, in the nature of our Court Leets, for the trial of certain crimes and trespasses committed on his lands. If he has only the *basse justice*, he has no other power than that of committing the offender to prison, to take his trial at some other superior court. If he has the *moyenne*, which takes in the former, he can order a corporal punishment. Lastly, If he has the *haute justice*, which comprehends the other two, he has the power of judging upon life and death, subject nevertheless to an appeal to the next Parliament. But although these *justices seigneuriales* may give pompous titles to an estate, for which a consideration is paid in the purchase; yet the power is seldom exercised, being generally transferred for want of competent judges to begin, in the first instance, at the next superior court of the *justice royale*.

But by whatever justice the accused are tried, be it *royale*, or *seigneuriale*, the prosecution must be carried on at the expence of the *partie civile*, as the injured party is called; or, in case of neglect or inability, at the sole charge of the lord on whose land the crime was committed, who often finds himself involved in an expence of 150 or 200 pounds sterling, only because a robbery was committed on his estate. This policy, however well intended to excite the vigilance of the lord of the manor, in preventing crimes being committed within the bounds of his jurisdiction, yet, when they have been committed, has oftentimes been the cause of a relaxation in the prosecution.

From hence we may conjecture, that the backwardness of the subject, in carrying on prosecutions for offences, on account of the great charge attending the forms of the ordinary courts of judicature, might have been one of the reasons for attributing to other courts the cognizance of certain crimes to be prosecuted solely at the King's expence; and that in the next place, as the creating the presidial court, for the determination of certain civil causes without appeal, was found greatly conducive to the speedy execution of justice; so it might from hence be thought equally expedient, for the good of the public, to erect also a like court for the adjudication of certain criminal affairs, in the most speedy method, and without appeal.

To this purpose, the court of the *prevot* of the *marcchaussée*, or, as we call it, the Marshalsea Court, was established in every province, and the same *prevotal* jurisdiction was attributed and united to the court of the *chatelet* at Paris, with powers to pass final judgment without appeal, upon all crimes of robberies committed on the highways, or the streets of the city, if accompanied with assault or open violence. How far these jurisdictions have answered the salutary ends proposed by them, is to be described in the following Part.

It is foreign to my purpose, and much more out of the reach of my capacity, to explain the practice and various forms of proceedings in these courts of justice; and it is yet less necessary for me to do so, since our most excellent method of trials by juries so far exceeds all the methods of administration in other countries. Let it suffice in general to
take

take notice, that, in every criminal prosecution, an Information must first be laid, charging the accused, and specifying the nature of the offence; according to which the court decrees a personal summons, or an arrest of the body, in case he be not taken in the fact: the prisoner is then to submit to the interrogations, and to be confronted by the witnesses; and when the evidence on both sides is reduced into writing, and the whole compacted together, the judges pronounce the sentence. Let me further remark, that whatever dilatory arts may be practised in the intermediate proceedings, yet when once a sentence is pronounced, the execution immediately follows; infomuch that it is common for a criminal to hear of his condemnation at twelve o'clock, and to be led to his execution at four; whether it be to be hanged, or broke upon the wheel.

By the execution following so immediately after the sentence, no hopes can be entertained of a pardon; the King himself having no time, unless a remission be previously granted, to exercise that darling attribute of mercy, which, according to the maxim before-noted, is solely the prerogative of his crown; and which is indeed the most precious jewel in the crown of every monarch.

Punishment ought only to follow the conviction of the crime; but it happens in this country, that penalties are sometimes inflicted, even upon the tryal, in order to arrive at the proof of the guilt; this is called, applying the question; that is, giving an intermediate order for the accused to undergo certain tortures, in order to extort a confession. This they pretend is only applied, when the circumstance is strong,

the living witnesses are insufficient, to prove the guilt. The circumstantial evidence in that case, they say, is presumption sufficient to apply the question; but if no confession follows, the question then destroys the presumption of the circumstance. However, this is at best but an equivocal method of arriving at the truth, since it is often found, that innocent people, under the extremity of pain, will confess themselves guilty, in order to be free from the torture; which they again deny, as soon as they are at ease.

As punishments are due only upon the proof of the guilt, so ought they also to be adequate to the proportion of the crime; therefore, upon small trespasses, small pecuniary fines are imposed; but for misdemeanors tending to the scandal or disturbance of society, banishment is decreed, either for life or a certain limited time. A return before the expiration of the term, incurs a more severe penalty, provided it be proved before those judges who decreed the banishment; since, by the rules of their courts, the infraction of an order can be cognizable only by that judicature, which denounced the original sentence.

But for greater misdemeanors, which not only create scandal to the publick, but injury to a private person, the offender is ordered to make what is called the *amende honorable*, that is, to be conducted to some church, attended by a priest, where kneeling before an altar, in his shirt, with a lighted torch in his hand, he with a loud voice is to acknowledge, that
 “ he falsely and against truth committed the crime laid to
 “ his charge, and for which he asks pardon of God; of the
 “ King; of the justice of his country; and of the injured
 “ party”.

“ party”. The execution of this sentence, which must be complied with under severer penalties, is considered, notwithstanding its appellation of honour, to be a punishment of infamy, which renders the delinquent unqualified ever after to be admitted into the society of any honest people. The *amende honorable* is also enjoined to every one condemned to die, before he is carried to the place of execution. His own confession of the crime, for which he suffers, being deemed a point necessary to give a sanction to the justice of his condemnation.

I must now mention the heavy doom that is annexed to all offences, which are accounted flagrant, though under the degree of capital; such as insolent breaches of the peace; disrespect to the laws and religion of the country; cheating, poaching, smuggling, pilfering, and all such species of robberies, as are called petty larcenies; which being tried at the ordinary courts of judicature, the offenders, in such cases, are usually condemned to the galleys, either for life, or a number of years. This method of punishment, however disagreeable it may be to our notions of liberty in England, is attended in France with many advantages to their government, by saving, and converting the lives of such criminals, once a nuisance to society, to become serviceable to the public; especially since new regulations have been established by the edict of the 27th of September 1748, which ordains, that these slaves shall not for the future be altogether confined at Marseilles, which was heretofore solely appropriated to this department, but shall be divided, and a part sent to the other sea ports of Toulon, Rochefort, and Brest, to yield

the assistance that may be wanted in those arsenals, towards building and repairing his Majesty's Ships of War. To this purpose, the number of criminals, condemned in all the different parts of France to be confined as above in these galleys, are, at certain seasons, collected from the several inland prisons, in the same manner as the felons to be transported, are in England, and brought, chained together, to the sea ports to which they are destined. These crews, whilst thus travelling linked together, are usually called, the Chains; but on their arrival at the sea ports, are called, *Forçats*, or *Galeriens*, where their punishment is no longer to consist in being tied to the oar, but is converted to more useful purposes, by being subservient to the *police* of that œconomy and discipline, by which the establishment is carried on. The edict above-mentioned, having ordered, that in every port, to which the Chains are to be sent, at the allotted times, they shall be distributed into three classes, according to their size, strength, and abilities. The more robust to work in their turns, one week in two, in the dock yards; the others, incapable of so hard labour, are to be instructed in the manufactures of making cordage and sail cloth; which are thus completed, in the several arsenals, as it were, almost gratis to the King, since the slaves are obliged to contribute their skill and industry for no other wages than a daily allowance of bread and water; the King bestowing no more, except to such as are destined to tasks of a laborious nature, he adds five sols *per diem*, towards the purchase of more solid provisions; who, by being on this account enabled to do more work, earn four times more to the King, than the amount

amount of this extraordinary allowance. Each wears a woollen jacket and a red cap, as the livery of his servile condition; the expence of this is no more than the prime cost of the yarn, which some are made to spin, others to weave into cloth, and others to fashion into habits. Several of these slaves, who became so for slender offences, have liberty to work at any trade for their own advantage; these are chained down in shops along the quays. Some are yet further indulged to walk about the town, but coupled together, with a guard to attend them. Others have the licence to go only with an iron ring round one of their ankles, who must have persons under bond to be responsible for their escape. All retire, at the close of the evening, to the place allotted for their lodging, whether it be on board the galleys, or in the *bagnes*, which are little barracks, built on the quays for that purpose. We may imagine these indulgences are only granted to those who are able to pay for them, which brings in such perquisites to the officers and superintendants, as to make a less salary necessary from the government. Those who are in only for a time, are discharged at the expiration of it, by the delivery of a certificate, specifying the nature of their offence, and of the atonement they have made for it; which serves them as a pass from town to town, to the place of their birth, or former residence; being first marked by a hot iron with the letter G, in the fleshy part of one of their shoulders, that in case of their being guilty afterwards of any other crime, with this mark found upon them, they may be punished in a severer manner.

Lastly, All capital crimes, whether adjudged by any of
the

the inferior judicatures, or by the sovereign courts of Parliament upon appeal; as also all *prevotal* crimes, adjudged either by the presidial court, or the court of the *prevot* of the *marechaussée*, such as robberies on the highways, or in the streets of Paris, though of the most trifling value; or even a violent assault with an intent to rob; these are all punished with death, by the offenders being hanged or broke upon the wheel. If the robbery was accompanied with murder, or any other act of cruelty, the condemned, after having his limbs broke, is left to expire by the torture; but for an assault, or a robbery without any circumstance of cruelty, the *coup de grace* is commonly given.

In order to receive this dreadful punishment, the criminal after condemnation is brought to a scaffold, usually erected at the place nearest to where the crime was committed; where the judges who condemned him again assemble, at some convenient distance, to take down in writing his last confession and, the discovery of his accomplices, in case he offers to make any; being always exhorted thereto by the priest that attends him, and who refuses to give his absolution, although the prisoner has made the *amende honorable*, until he makes a discovery, or persists in declaring he had no accomplices: by these means, in the punishment of one criminal, they often arrive at the knowledge of many others.

After having offered this general survey of the jurisdictions established in France for the administration of justice, I shall proceed to describe that particular branch of their *police*, which is more immediately intended for the preservation of peace, and the preventing of robberies.

P A R T II.

An Account of the Establishment of the
Marechaussée in each Province in *FRANCE*,
 for the Preservation of the Peace, and the Pre-
 venting of Robberies on the Highways.



THE establishment of laws and courts of judicature for the preservation of peace, and the preventing of robberies, is a protection every government owes to the persons and properties of its subjects; and I may venture to say the laws intended for that purpose are no where better enforced than in the provinces of France, by the present establishment of what is called the *marechaussée*.

This I must first explain to be a jurisdiction dependant on the court of the constable and marshals of France; of whose history and antiquity I need make no other mention, than that it was originally erected to take cognizance of all crimes committed by men at arms or soldiers in the King's service, either in the field, or garrison, or in going thither, or returning from thence; as may be seen in the twelve fundamental articles of its establishment in 1356.

As there was from hence a power, incident to this jurisdiction, of taking up all deserters from the army, wherever they should

should be found ; and of punishing all outrages of the soldiers, wherever committed ; its competency became in time to be extended to take cognizance of all public disturbances by force of arms, and of all assaults, robberies and murders committed on the highways, even by persons not enlisted in the military service.

Accordingly this court began to have a kind of mixt jurisdiction, between a court martial and a civil judicature ; consisting of officers and soldiers to pursue and apprehend the criminals ; and of magistrates to try and adjudge them. Each distinct employment was formerly held by the King's commission, during pleasure ; but at length these commissions were erected, *en titre d'office*, inheritable in their families, and saleable like all other venal employments in the kingdom, with fixt salaries, and peculiar privileges, granted from time to time by numbers of subsequent edicts and declarations. The ordonnances likewise for regulating their jurisdiction were almost as numerous as the laws against the crimes they were to punish, intended chiefly to circumscribe the powers, direct the functions, and adjust the differences which occasionally happened, concerning the rights and pre-eminencies of the different magistrates. For the authority of this jurisdiction, issuing originally from the high court of the constable and marshals of France, could not be exerted throughout the kingdom, but by being delegated to numbers of magistrates, settled in the chief towns of all the provinces, under various denominations, which, from the want of such officers in England, I must set down by their original names of *prévôts généraux*,

generaux, prévots provinciaux, vice senechaux, lieutenants criminels de robe courte, assesseurs, &c.

But it happened that such a multiplicity of employments, instead of suppressing the evils, as intended, rather occasioned a confusion in the exercise of the duty, and by degrees a total neglect of it; insomuch that at the latter end of the reign of Lewis the XIVth, especially upon disbanding the troops after the peace of Utrecht, the highways became so infested with brigands of robbers, as to demand some more effectual regulations for the maintenance of the public security.

Whereupon, in the year 1720, an edict was published, which fixed the officers of the *marechaussée* throughout the kingdom under a new model, reciting in the preamble, “ That the number of these different officers, under so many
“ various titles as above-mentioned, had only given rise to
“ contests amongst themselves, upon pretext of their independence upon one another: and that likewise the scantiness of the salaries allowed to the * archers, and the
“ little exactness in the payment, had obliged them to attach
“ themselves to other employments, and thereby occasioned
“ such a relaxation in their discipline, and the service to
“ which they were destined, as to make it indispensably necessary to apply a remedy”.

Accordingly all the employments under the former establishment, by whatever titles created, were by this edict
D
suppressed,

* The appellation of archers is given to the private men belonging to the *marechaussée*, probably from their being armed with bows and arrows, before the use of fire arms came into practice.

suppressed, except only the officers and archers of the company particularly belonging to the constable and marshals of France, as also of the company doing duty in the districts round about the city of Paris. However, those who were thus deprived of their employments, which they or their ancestors had purchased, were permitted to bring in their account of the original cost or finance before commissaries, who were appointed to settle the value of the indemnity, which was reimbursed by a fund raised and destined for that purpose.

In the room of these, the King created in every *generalité* of the kingdom, one company of *marechaussée*, to be composed of a *prevot general*, a number of lieutenants, assessors, King's attorneys and registers; with exempts, brigadiers, sub-brigadiers, archers and trumpets; according to a stated number to be distributed into different brigades in each department.

These companies are declared to be part of the King's *gendarmérie*; the *prevots généraux*, and their lieutenants, to be nominated by the King, and to be experienced in military affairs, by having served at least four years in his Majesty's troops. The subalterns to be recommended by the *prevots*, and all hold their offices by commission under the great seal issuing from the war-office, and registered in the court of the marshals of France, as dependant on that jurisdiction; and, in consideration of the perpetual service they are to perform, are exempted from the quartering of soldiers, and all other public burthenfome charges.

As

As to the jurisdiction of the *marechaussée*, nothing is changed by this edict; the new officers are empowered to take cognizance of the same matters, and in the same form as prescribed by all former ordonnances, and particularly by the ordonnance of 1670.

Having thus given a short history of the establishment of this jurisdiction, I must now enter into a more particular relation of the manner of its execution; a point generally the most difficult.

To this purpose, since this office consists, as I observed at the beginning, of a mixed duty, on the one part to apprehend the criminals, and on the other to adjudge them; it will, I presume, be my best method, first, to describe in what manner they execute the military part of their duty in pursuing and taking the offenders; and then proceed to explain the form of their judicature, and the manner of tryal.

We find the *marechaussée* is now composed of several companies distributed throughout the kingdom, one in every *generalité*, of which there being thirty, so consequently there must be as many companies; over each of which there is a *prevot general*, who constantly resides in one of the principal towns of his department, under whom are two or more lieutenants residing in some of the other districts: these command the exempts, and these again command the several brigades into which the company is divided, having more or less in proportion to the extent of the *generalité*; and though each brigade consists of five, namely, an exempt and four archers; yet, there being different numbers of brigades in each department, their companies must consequently be com-

posed of different numbers of men : but as in some departments they have 24 brigades, or 120 men ; and in others not above 18 brigades, or 90 men ; so estimating one company with another to have 20 brigades, or 100 men ; and there being 30 companies, it may be computed that there are 3000 men in all, which make up the whole body of the *marechaussée* ; over whom there are five inspectors, nominated by the King, out of the *prevots generaux*, who take their rounds in different circuits each year, to review the several companies, and see that they are all complete, and properly quartered.

There are two treasurers, who, paying 200,000 livres, or 8750 pounds sterling for their office, have a salary each of 437 pounds 10 shillings *per annum*. These treasurers receive the pay and subsistence, due to the several brigades of all the departments, from the receiver general of each province according to the accounts they bring in, verified by the agent of the *marechaussée*, and are paid every three months from the produce of the funds that are destined for that purpose ; or, in case of deficiency, from the general revenues of the province. The salary to the officers of these corps is fixed in proportion to the sums originally paid for the purchase of their commissions : for example ; the *prevot*, purchasing at 40,000 livres, or 1750 pounds sterling, receive 175 pounds a year ; the lieutenants, purchasing at 15,000 livres or 656 pounds sterling, receive about 65 pounds *per annum* ; and the Archers are paid at the rate of about 30 pounds *per annum* each. From hence therefore we may estimate

estimate the revenues in general that are annually raised to support this military establishment, namely,

	l.	s.	d.
The pay to the <i>prevot</i> — — —	175	0	0
To the two lieutenants at 65 pounds each	130	0	0
To 100 archers at 30 pounds each —	3000	0	0
Sum total to each brigade — —	3305	0	0

The sum of 3305 pounds being paid to each brigade in every department, and there being 30 departments, makes the whole amount to 99350 pounds sterling *per annum*.

The exempts and archers are, for the most part, veteran troopers, who, when disbanded from the King's service, make interest to be put upon this, as their perquisites, which will hereafter be mentioned, are equal to their salaries; out of which they are bound to find themselves with a good horse and accoutrements. They wear an uniform of blue cloth, lined and turned up with red; laced hats, and buff bandeliers laced with silver; their housings blue. The officers wear the same uniform, only distinguished with more or less lace, according to their ranks. As these troops are declared to be a part of the King's *gendarmerie*, they are intitled to be received into the invalids at Paris, when rendered incapable of service, either by old age or accident.

Being divided into different brigades, they are quartered in the several towns within their department, as near as possible, at equal distances: so as not to be more than half a day, from the one to the other; from whence it is their duty to set out every day on horseback; the one day from one side
of

of the town, and the next from the other ; so that one brigade going towards the East or South, according as the road lies, may meet at the extremity of their patrol the other brigade, that sets out at the same time towards the West or the North ; and the next day, each going the opposite ways, again meet with the other brigades, setting out to meet them, in the like manner, from the other sides ; so that each brigade is alternately to meet, every other day, the one and the other, that are quartered on each side in the adjoining districts : by this communication they are able to carry on a string of intelligence, from one extremity of their department, and, I may say, from one extremity of the kingdom, to the other. It is by these means especially, that they inform one another of all public disorders, robberies, or other crimes, that have been committed in their own, or in any distant districts ; and in case of the offenders having escaped, can transmit the description of his person for each to search and apprehend him. This intelligence is also communicated in another yet shorter method, by sending the description, or *signalement*, as it is called, of the fugitive, to the public office of the *marechaussée* at Paris, where it is immediately printed, and a proper number of bills sent by the post to every *prevot general*, in their several departments, who disperse them to their several brigades : thus, within a few days, notice of the crime, and a description of the criminal, are signified all over the kingdom to those very officers, whose duty it is to apprehend them. It is by this method likewise that they generally find out and retake all deserters from the army. So that it is scarcely possible for an offender of any kind what-
ever

ever to shelter himself from justice, throughout the circumference of this wide and extended kingdom.

Having described the order and distribution of these Archers of the *marechaussée*, it will be necessary next to be informed of the service they perform, with the extent of their power, and the manner of exerting it.

I have mentioned it, as their duty, to be upon the patrol every day of the year; but it is not pretended, that they actually are so. It has however its effect, in striking a terror, by its being known, that they frequently do it at stated times, on private notice to each other: especially they are out at all times when any public disorders may be suspected; as upon the march of any troops from quarter to quarter; at the times of any great fairs, kept at any town or district within their department. They are likewise upon duty upon every progress that the King, or any prince of the blood, may make in any part of the kingdom. They escort through their bounds, all governors of provinces, and all generals in chief, repairing to the places of their command. They guard the receivers of the public revenues; and, if required, are ready to do the same to any travellers, apprehensive of danger, upon notice given, and the payment of a certain price fixed at so much per league.

But it is chiefly to be remarked, that this body of 3000 disciplined men, divided and distributed as above-described, are more immediately enlisted into the public service, to be in a kind of perpetual war, not against a foreign enemy, but against such of the native subjects as disturb the peace, and violate the laws of their country; and who, as such,
must

must be deemed common enemies to all society. Happy therefore is it for the honest part of mankind, to find so formidable a force, ready to fight their quarrels, and protect their properties.

I have taken notice, that this jurisdiction was formerly established to take cognizance only of crimes committed by soldiers marching to or from their camps or garrisons; a necessary establishment surely for such a military government as this of France; where the troops, so frequently passing from one quarter to another, would expose the inhabitants to grievous inconveniences without such a protection. We have a testimony of this from the preambles of the several ancient edicts, and declarations, which first attributed this jurisdiction to the *marechaussée*, wherein are set forth, in strong colours, the disorders and devastations committed by the licentiousness of the troops in those times; whereas now, the greatest order and decency is observed in every march; for notice of it being sent to the *prevot* of every department through which they are to pass, it is his duty to assign them their quarters in all the principal towns, whilst the brigades of Archers are dispersed, some in the highways, and others in the villages round about, to pick up all lurkers behind, or stragglers out of the way, and conduct them to their proper companies. Thus they prevent the disorderly soldiers both from deserting, and from committing any insult or outrage to the people of the country.

But as it is not to soldiers only, merely as such, that disorders of this kind are to be imputed; the powers of the *marechaussée* are farther extended to examine all suspected strangers,

strangers, wandering through the provinces as vagabonds, or not having any visible means of livelihood; who not giving a satisfactory account of themselves, are to be carried to the public workhouse of the city next adjoining, or passed on to the place of their birth, or last habitation.

Again, these archers, being supposed to be always out upon the watch in the highways and open fields; are obliged to advance towards all persons they see with guns or engines for the destruction of the game; to enquire if they have any permission from the King, or deputation from the proprietor of the soil; for it is well known that large forests, and numbers of districts, called *capitaineries*, are peculiarly reserved, as the royal hunt, for the King's diversions; and it must be observed, that no subject has a right of killing game, except only upon his own estate; or by virtue of some privilege of chace paramount over the lands of others; but this however is always limited to certain seasons, and to particular boundaries. These limitations, a qualified sportsman in England, may perhaps disapprove, as restrictive of that general liberty he claims, of traversing over any man's grounds in pursuit of his game; but in France, whatever game is found on the lands of any one, is deemed to be as much his property, and as part of the profits of his estate, whilst it there continues, as the deer in his park, or the fowls in his poultry yard. Upon which I must beg leave to remark, that the privilege of chace being in this manner confined to fixed boundaries, prevents, in the first instance, all disputes amongst the gentlemen in the same neighbourhood on account of interrupting each other's sport; and, in the next place, pre-

E serves

erves that prodigious quantity of hares and partridges, which we may find in all the provinces univerfally diftributed, without any restraint of fale. In aid of this, it is the duty of the *marechauffée*, by virtue of feveral ordonnances, to feize upon all common poachers, and conduct them to prifon; from whence, upon conviction, they are condemned to the galleys.

But upon the whole, the moft material part of their duty, is to purfue and apprehend all open and violent tranfgreffors of the laws, either by affaults, robberies, or murders committed on the highways, or in the villages; and, in general, to oppofe themfelves againft any of the King's fubjects appearing any-where in open arms, or tumultuoufly afsembling together in difturbance of the peace: and to encourage them in the purfuit of fuch offenders, the King grants them a recompence, upon every conviction, of one hundred livres; being near five pounds fterling, out of the revenues of the province, over and above their falaries; but if the convict was taken by other perfons, the like reward is transferred to them, and paid out of a ftoppage from the falaries of the *marechauffée*. Thus are they incited to be the more vigilant and active, as, on the one hand, they have a reward for the performance of their duty; and, on the other, fuffer doubly by the neglect of it. I have only to add, that, upon apprehending any offender, they have a power to handcuff and conduct him to the next prifon, belonging to the ordinary jurifdiction of the diftricts in which the crime was committed, and then to give notice to the chief magiftrate prefiding therein; or, if it be a crime within the competence of their own court of judicature, they muft immediately fend notice to their *prevot general*, or one of his lieutenants, which ever may be
nearft,

nearest, who is bound, within the space of 24 hours, to repair to the same place, in order to proceed to tryal.

This leads me to the consideration of the second branch of this office, in which I am to explain the nature and power of its civil jurisdiction.

For the better explanation of this, I thought it proper, in order not to interrupt the connection of the present subject, to prefix a short introduction, giving a general account of the administration of justice throughout the kingdom, as it is delegated to numbers of distinct jurisdictions: amongst these we must remember, that there is in each *generalité*, the court of the *prevot* of the marshals of France; the civil branch of which judicature derives its power from particular edicts, and consequently, can extend it only to such crimes, as therein are assigned to it, and which therefore are called *prevotal* cases; a distinction now to be entered into, and described more at large.

The *prevot general*, or one of his lieutenants, having notice, as above, of an offender's being taken up for a crime, committed in any village, or on the highway, within his department; immediately repairs to the presidial chamber of the same district, where he is to summon six of the magistrates of that jurisdiction, residing in the neighbourhood, to assist him in forming that tribunal, which is to consist of seven, at least; of which the *prevot general*, or his lieutenant, must be one. Those who are thus summoned, are bound, under a certain penalty, to attend. And although this tribunal is held usually in the presidial chamber, and composed chiefly of magistrates belonging to it; yet as the *prevot general*,

neral presides, it is called his court; and the proceedings are carried on, and the final judgment given, in his name, and by his authority. The *assesseur* prepares the evidence, the *greffier* makes up the record, and the *procureur du Roi* opens to the court the nature of the offence.

The first point previously examined is, whether the case be *prevotal*, that is, a case cognizable by this court; for if there be any room to doubt it, the prisoner is instructed to form his objection against the competency of a jurisdiction, from whence there is no appeal to any other.

Now with regard to the point of competency, we are to recollect, that the edict of 1720, which I have recited at length, changes no part of this jurisdiction, but empowers the officers to take cognizance of the same matters prescribed by all former edicts, and particularly by that of 1670. This edict is particularly referred to, because it is that which first in general described their competency in the several cases set forth in the XIIth article of the first title, and in the several subsequent articles of the second title, being little necessary for me to transcribe, since the nature of this jurisdiction has been more amply explained by the declaration registered the 5th of February 1731, which, in a particular manner, describes the *quality* of the persons, and the *species* of the crimes, that are liable to come under the sentence of this court of final judicature.

In the first place, it confirms to the *prevot* of the marshals, an authority over all vagabonds and abandoned people, having no settlements, nor means of subsistence, nor capable of procuring, from any persons of credit, a certificate of their mo-
rals

als and good behaviour. The *marechaussée* are to take up all under this description, even though they are not accused of any crime or misdemeanor : as also all sturdy beggars, who may be in the same case, to be dealt with according to the edicts, ordonnances and declarations against begging, &c.

Secondly, it allows to this court a power of examining those who have before been condemned to any corporal punishment, banishment, or the *amende honorable* ; but then restrains it to take cognizance of only the infraction of that banishment, which itself had denounced ; according to the general rule of all the jurisdictions, as I mentioned in the first part.

Thirdly, its authority extends over all soldiers, as well on their march, as at their quarters ; or at the place of rendezvous ; or where they halt during their march : also over all deserters from the army, or those who favoured their desertion, although these should not belong to the army.

All these cases, in the three preceding articles, are accounted *prevotal*, only on account of the *quality* of the persons accused.

The declaration then proceeds to explain the *prevotal* cases, which are so by the *nature* of the *crimes* themselves ; namely, robberies on the highway ; all thefts by breaking open, when accompanied by bearing arms, and using public violence ; or where the infraction shall appear to have been made through the walls of an enclosure, or the top of a house, or the doors or outward windows, even though the same should not be done by force of arms, or open violence ; sacrilege accompanied by the circumstance above-marked of thefts by breaking open ; all seditions, popular commotions,
gathering

gathering together, or unlawful assemblies with arms; levying of soldiers without the King's commission; coining, or uttering false money.—Provided nevertheless, that no other species of crimes than these above-marked are to be deemed by their nature to be *prevotal*: provided also, that the *prevot* of the marshals is not to take cognizance even of these so described, if committed in the towns or suburbs in which he and his lieutenants keep their residence.

After having thus explained the competency of the *prevotal* jurisdiction, the declaration proceeds to confirm the same competency in the presidial court, agreeably to the original edict of 1551, called the edict *des presidiaux*, with an exception nevertheless of what may relate to deserters from the army, or those who may suborn or favour such deserters, over whom the *prevots* of the marshals have the sole jurisdiction, in exclusion to all the ordinary courts of justice: and next, with this restriction, that the presidial is authorised to enquire only into such *prevotal* cases, where the matter in question, be it of the quality of the person, or the nature of the crime, took its rise within the district of the *baillage* or *seneschall*, in which the presidial is established: to which this farther distinction may be added, that as the court of the *prevot* of the marshals is chiefly intended for the tryal of *prevotal* crimes committed in the villages, or on the highways, being excluded, as above, from exercising their jurisdiction within the towns of their residence; so the presidial court, to remedy this defect, seems chiefly intended for the tryal of the same crimes committed within those towns.

The

The several subsequent articles of this declaration are intended to settle many other distinctions, with respect to cases being part *prevotal*, and part not so : as also about the forms and methods of proceeding : and lastly, concerning the concurrent jurisdictions of the several courts. These have not thought necessary to transcribe, as bearing no relation to the constitutional forms of our courts, so shall observe no more upon this head, than that to avoid the disputes which might happen about the preference of these concurrent powers, which generally tend to the delay or obstruction of justice, it is decided by the above declaration, that if a complaint of a *prevotal* case, cognizable in both courts, should happen to be made to the presidial before it be made to the *prevoté*, or even if it be lodged there the same day, the judge of the presidial shall keep possession of the trial in preference to the *prevot* of the marshals.

However, this is the same in effect, with regard to the prisoner ; for since each court has an equal jurisdiction, their judgment is alike final, and without appeal. But there may be some difference to the prisoner, if both these courts should neglect the complaint, and it should be brought to be tried at the *baillage* or *seneschall* ; for in such case, though that court also may take cognizance of *prevotal* crimes, yet it must adjudge them by the same authority as it adjudges other crimes, from whence consequently an appeal will lie to the superior court of Parliament.

But to return ; supposing the complaint duly made at the court of the *prevot general*, and the case adjudged *prevotal*, which must be three days after the complaint is lodged, the
accused

accused is then to be apprised under what circumstances he, or his crime, is declared to be within the competency of that jurisdiction, that accordingly he may prepare for his defence, against the final judgment to be given thereon, without appeal, and without pardon.

The forms of the proceedings are the same as in all other criminal cases, and which I have described in my account of the courts of justice established throughout the kingdom. But here I must particularly take notice, that the archers of the *marechaussée*, though they are entitled to a reward upon the conviction, yet are allowed to give their evidence upon the trial, as to the manner they were called upon by the public outcry, to apprehend the prisoner; whether he fled, and what resistance he made to avoid being taken; for such resistance is always construed to be an open violence, and at once makes the case *prevotal*, although the crime originally might not have been so.

Upon the sentence being pronounced, there is an end of this court, which has authority only over the crime: the goods and chattels therefore of the prisoner, which, upon conviction, are forfeited to the King, must be delivered to the judge of the ordinary jurisdiction of the district wherein this court was held, who is bound to account for the same to the officers of the *domaine*, as the body must be delivered to the executioner of the same district, who is bound immediately to perform the execution.

By this account of the *marechaussée*, it appears to be an establishment chiefly intended for the safe-guard and protection of honest men against any violent assaults or robberies on the
highways;

highways; to which purpose, a select body of men are disciplined and armed with power to oppose force to violence, and speedy justice to flagrant crimes. For I must observe, that in France there is no such ministerial peace officer as a constable, whose authority is so essentially necessary for the execution of our laws; instead of which, they have here selected, as above-described, a body of men in arms, who, deriving their commissions from the great constable and marshals of France, may be considered as so many military constables. But such an establishment is not to be imitated in our land of liberty, where the injured and oppressed are to seek for no other protection, but that which the law ought only to afford, without flying for aid to a military power; a remedy dangerous, and perhaps worse than the disease. However it may be taken into consideration, whether a select body of men might not be appointed in each of our counties, under the same discipline and œconomy as the *marechaussée* in France, but subservient wholly to the civil power, whose sole duty should be to patrol, in the manner above-mentioned, from town to town, in order to protect the innocent travellers from all assaults or robberies on the highways: and also to aid the peace-officers, in pursuing and apprehending such offenders on every public outcry, and conduct them to the common goals to be tried in the ordinary course of justice, so duely administered at the quarter sessions, or by the judges in their several circuits throughout the kingdom. Such a patrol at least seems more immediately necessary in the adjacent parts of our great metropolis, in and about which, as in all other capitals, assaults and robberies are more frequently

F committed

committed than in the highways at a greater distance : these dangers and mischiefs, notwithstanding all former precautions, having been of late greatly increased in London, his Majesty has been pleased to recommend to both Houses of Parliament, to continue their earnest attention to the important object of reforming such abuses, intimating, that every body should contribute their best endeavours towards it *. In pursuance therefore of so general a recommendation, I have, during my present residence at Paris, taken some farther pains to be informed of the regulations enforced, for preserving the peace, and preventing robberies in the streets of this capital.

* See the King's speeches, November 14, 1751, and November 15, 1753.

P A R T III.

An Account of the Regulations enforced in the City of *PARIS*, for the Preservation of the Peace, and the Preventing of Street Robberies.



AFTER having given an account of the *marechaussée* established in all the provinces of France, I shall now endeavour to describe the *police* and government of Paris, established for the like preservation of the peace, and the preventing of robberies in the streets of that city. In doing this, I shall confine myself to speak only of its civil administration; as it will be foreign to my subject, to take any notice of the ecclesiastical, or of the military government; the first being under the direction of the archbishop, and the other under the command of a military governor.

The civil government of Paris is, in general, delegated to one of the ministers of state, who has the superintendency of this city, as part of the charge of his ministry; and, as herein he represents the power of the King, all the inferior offices, and employments necessary for the conservation of the peace, are subservient to him; and he decides all matters

relating thereto, without appeal : but since this duty is but a part of his ministry, he can give only a part of his time to it, and accordingly holds his public audience but once a week, chiefly to receive the reports of the subordinate magistrates ; to redress the complaints that may be made of their administration ; and to issue out his orders upon such affairs, as may require his ultimate decision.

We must proceed therefore to an examination of the duty of the inferior officers, in their due series of subordination ; and from thence survey the chain of this government, and the particular links of which it is composed ; for since public order is always best maintained by sub-divisions of the general duty, the well-regulated *police* of this capital is principally owing to the designation of numbers of magistrates, divided into separate quarters, mutually dependant on each other, subservient and accountable alike to one chief, and assisted by menial officers and guards that are common to all.

For example ; although the minister above-mentioned may be said rather to supervise the officers of the *police*, than the *police* itself ; yet his substitute, who is called the *lieutenant de police*, is charged with the immediate execution of the laws themselves, relative to the preservation of the peace. He holds his office by the King's appointment, and at the King's pleasure ; and consequently, must make it his chief duty to attend the orders of the court ; to be exact in apprehending all the suspected enemies of the government ; and secret and subservient to the ministry in every part of his administration.

Thus far he is to be considered as an officer of the court : his next duty as a magistrate of the city, pursuant to the
edict

edict of 1667, by which this office was created, extends to the suppressing of all tumults, seditions, and disorders; houses of ill fame, and unlawful games. He is to give his directions upon all inundations of the river, or accidents by fire. To him belongs the right of visiting the fairs, markets, public halls, inns, tipling-houses, and sellers of wine: and it is he that orders in what manner, and from whence, the supply shall be made of all sorts of necessary provisions, that are to be brought by land-carriage. What come by water are under the jurisdiction of the *prevot des marchands*; whose separate function I shall hereafter describe.

It is the *lieutenant de police* also, that has the examination of all printed papers in single sheets; which cannot be dispersed without the authority of his licence: by virtue of this, he has a controul over the Gazettes, news-papers, and the *colporteurs* or hawkers of the same: as also over all the ballads and ballad-fingers; so that nothing of this kind, that is licentious or seditious, either contrary to good morals, or against the government, is ever permitted to be publicly sold, or sung about the streets.

This magistrate likewise presides at the elections of the masters, wardens and syndics of the several communities of arts and mysteries; binding of apprentices; the reception, or, as we term it, the admitting of persons to the freedom of particular companies; the visitation of their manufactures, and the statutes and regulations concerning the due standard and quality of the same, are all under his jurisdiction; and it is he, that settles the amount of the pole-tax, or capitation, that is payable by each community.

After

After having considered the duty of this officer, as a magistrate invested with authority to issue out his orders for the regulation of the *police*, I must proceed to describe the several powers he is armed with, as incident to the authority of his office, for the due execution of those orders. This is the most material consideration for us, as it is not the want of good laws, but a defect in the execution, that occasions those disorders in our metropolis, which are so effectually suppressed in this.

To this purpose, the *lieutenant de police* may be found sitting every day, either at his own house, or at the *chatelet*, in his judicial capacity, upon the accusation of all misdemeanors, crimes, felonies, or other outrageous violences; all which, upon the accused persons being brought before him, he tries, in the first instance, in a summary manner; and for light and trivial offences, either reprimands and dismisses; or orders reparation to be made to the party injured; or commits those who have no visible means of livelihood, to be kept to hard labour in the general hospital, as it is here called; upon which establishment, I shall presently make my remarks more at large. But such as are brought before him accused of more flagrant crimes, and deserving more exemplary punishment, these he commits to the prison of the *chatelet*, or the *fort eveque*, being the two great public prisons in this city, to take their trials at a more formal and superior court of judicature, at which he also assists, once a month, to execute another branch of his commission, of which I shall, in due order, give a brief account.

Upon

Upon thus enumerating the several branches of this office, it may readily be supposed, that the duty must be too great, for the most laborious and vigilant magistrate, without the assistance of divers other inferior officers, who being distributed in different quarters of the city, and having a share allotted to each, the several parts of the burthen may be divided, and the whole sustained by the united endeavours of all, agreeably to the observation I have made before.

Therefore, for the better accelerating of justice, the city being divided into twenty quarters, two or three commissaries are appointed in each, always to be near at hand, to take cognizance of all accidental injuries, insults, robberies, &c. that may chance to be committed within their particular districts. These commissaries, being forty-eight in number, are in the nature of justices of peace within their several divisions; not that I presume to put them upon the rank of our justices of peace, or of the aldermen of the several wards of London; since here, instead of being promoted to their office on account of their fortunes or abilities, they purchase the employment in order to live on the perquisites it may yield: but though the employment is of no high rank, yet it is their *only* employment, and their whole time is given up in duly discharging the duties of it. They are ready to attend upon every complaint of the breach of the peace; they interpose their authority upon all tumults, quarrels, or riots in the streets; they frequently go the rounds of their quarters, both by night and by day, assisted by a sufficient escort; sometimes upon information; and sometimes only upon suspicion; in search of concealed rogues, unlawful assemblies of gamesters,
loose

loose women, and such as have no visible means of honest livelihood. They have a power upon the spot to examine these when discovered, to take the testimonies of the witnesses present, and upon proof of the allegation, to send the parties, either to the general hospital, or to the public prison, for further trial: of all these transactions, and even of the smallest matter of complaint that is brought before them, they are obliged to render an account to the *lieutenant de police*.

Besides this part of their duty, they keep a kind of registry office of all the public hotels and lodging-houses within their district; the landlords of which are obliged to give in the names and qualities of every lodger upon his first arrival, and immediate notice when he departs: and, as the commissaries transmit these registries monthly to the public office of the *lieutenant de police*, every unsettled stranger may be traced, from his leaving of one abode to his taking up another, either by his name; or, if that be changed, by the description of his person: so that it is very difficult for suspected persons, by thus being hunted from place to place, to lie long concealed. I must observe further, that every landlord, that lets out ready-furnished lodgings for hire, without registering his house at the commissaries, is liable to a very severe fine; or if the commissary, upon search, shall discover any assemblies in those lodging-houses playing at unlawful games, the landlord is punished by fine or imprisonment, for not having given previous notice; and the lodger, for having permitted the same in his apartment, is fined 3000 livres, and banished the city.

I must

I must add, that the commissaries, besides their jurisdiction in criminal affairs, make part of the civil jurisdiction of the *chatelet*, as inferior officers to the lieutenant civil, who is the chief judge of that court; and as one branch of his duty is to take the probates of all wills and testaments, so it is the duty of these commissaries, to examine and take the inventories that are to be made by all executors and administrators. The profit of this charge, what with fees and perquisites, is estimated at 6000 livres, or about 260 pounds sterling a year, and is usually purchased at the rate of 30,000 livres, which is near to the amount of 1200 guineas.

But to arrive at a closer discovery of persons, any ways transgressing the orders established for the government of the city, twenty other inferior officers are appointed, one for each quarter, called the *inspectors* of the *police*, to be assistant to the commissaries, by their information of all abuses and irregularities committed within their respective districts. These, in pursuance of the edict of March 1740, for their creation, and regulating their duties, are distributed in the several quarters of the city and suburbs, to give an account of all nuisances in the public streets, either by dirt, rubbish, or bad pavement; whether any houses are ruinous, and likely to fall; and whether the lanthorns at night be duly lighted at the proper hours. And as I have mentioned above, that the commissaries transmit the registers of all the lodgers within their districts, to the *lieutenant de police*, once a month; so it is the business of these inspectors, to visit the public hotels, and ready-furnished lodgings, every day; to take an account of the name, country, and quality of every new-comer; and

of the time of his departure; which they immediately carry to the commissary: they endeavour likewise to discover, whether such lodgers give a true account of themselves, and really are what they pretend to be; and pry, as much as possible, into the nature of their business and employment, and the manner of their lives and conversations.

The salary to these officers is paid out of a monthly duty of 20 sols upon every great hotel, 10 sols upon every house, and 5 sols on every dealer in second-hand goods: over and above which, there is an annual gratification of 4000 livres, which is 175 pounds, to be taken out of the fund that is raised by the fines paid at the *chatelet*, which the *lieutenant de police* has a power of distributing, as he shall think proper, amongst such of these officers, as shall distinguish themselves by their diligence, in the execution of their duty; which they must perform personally, and, upon any neglect, are punishable, either by fine or suspension. But since all regulations are liable to abuse, it is easy to be conceived, that these people, who purchase their employments, make an ill use of their power, by taking bribes to conceal those very people, against whom they ought to inform. Accordingly, such perquisites, added to the amount of the above monthly duty, which is divided amongst them, make the employment so profitable, that it is generally sold for about five hundred pounds sterling.

Besides these public informers, for they are looked upon in that light, it is well known, that the ministry employ numbers of private spies, or flies, as they are generally called; who are buzzing about in all coffee-houses, and places of
public

public resort, to take an account of the conversation of people, what rumours are spread abroad, and what reflections made, either upon the administration, or the persons employed in it. The malecontents are thus discovered, and oftentimes unexpectedly taken up and imprisoned, as fowers of sedition, on account of some imprudent and unguarded expressions.

Next to the inspectors, are the *exempts de police*, fifty in number; the duty of these is to promote the due observance of the regulations established for the maintenance of order in all public places; they direct the coachmen in the streets upon any stop to back, or give way, so as may best clear the passage; and oblige the drivers of carts to walk close to the head of their horses, the better to prevent any accident of running over the people. They take up ballad-singers, who presume to sing any songs, that have not been licensed; examine the pamphlets carried about by the hawkers, in search of such as are prohibited to be sold. They immediately repair to any croud or mob gathering in the streets, and lay their hands on those, who, by any turbulent behaviour, gave occasion to it. They are likewise dispersed in the churches, in the public gardens, and at the several play-houses, where they have a power to seize and turn out such as presume to behave in a manner unbecoming that decency and decorum, which ought ever to be preserved in places of general resort.

To the same purpose, the late ordonnance of the 25th of April, 1751, has established a guard of soldiers, taken from the French foot guards, that are quartered at Paris; who are upon duty every night at the French and Italian comedies, whilst the guard, belonging to the *hotel de ville*, is to perform

the same duty at the opera-house, that theatre being now put under the direction of the *prevot des marchands*. Accordingly, centinels are now placed at each of these houses; some on the stage; some in the avenues leading to the amphitheatre, as the front-boxes are called; and to the *loges*, or side-boxes; and several are placed within the pit; which, at the play-houses at Paris, as well as at London, are the seats, wherein the critics assume the sovereign right, of exercising their judgment upon all dramatic productions. The guards within the house have orders to turn out all persons guilty of tumultuous behaviour; and to silence the loud talk of any individuals, which may interrupt the rest of the audience. There are, at the same time, numbers of centinels, ranged in the streets adjoining to the play-houses, to keep off the mob, and clear the passage; by which means the order in which the coaches are obliged to come up and drive off, renders the entrance and going out, both safe and convenient. But I apprehend, such a guard, stationed with an intent to awe the audience, in the pit of any of our theatres in London, would be apt to create, rather than silence, a noise and disturbance.

It is likewise part of the exempt's duty, to serve the King's *lettre de cachet*, upon all the inferior people, against whom informations are laid for any offences relating to the affairs of the government. They do not purchase their employment, but are appointed by the King, and paid twenty sols a day, with an additional gratification for every extraordinary duty.

After

After the exempts of the *police*, I am to mention the company, known by the denomination of the *archers*; who being one hundred in number, are distributed into brigades of ten, with a brigadier over each; and who march, in distinct bodies, through all the quarters of Paris, from eight of the clock in the morning, till twelve at noon, and from two till six in the afternoon, to take up all the vagabonds, loose women, and idle beggars, that they find wandring and lurking about the streets, whom they carry immediately to the *lieutenant de police*, and from thence, according to his orders, conduct them to the general workhouse or hospital. This company is likewise paid by the King, twenty sols a day for each private man, and thirty sols a day for each brigadier: they are not regularly disciplined, nor have any uniform, but are sufficiently distinguished by wearing buff bandeliers over their cloaths, and are, at all times, subservient to the orders of the *lieutenant de police*.

It was either by their receiving too rigid orders, or by too rigidly executing such as they had received, that, in the summer of the year 1750, a commotion was raised amongst the populace of this city, upon some strange suggestions, that these archers took up, not only the vagabonds and sturdy beggars, but little children they found playing about the streets, and even some that belonged to honest and industrious citizens; which children, it was given out, were so taken up, to be transported to people the colonies. I shall make no digression, by reciting the many idle stories that were spread abroad at this time: after some outrages committed, the mob, which consisted mostly of women and lackeys out of place, was soon dispelled, by the effectual method used
here,

here, of sending a body of disciplined troops to drive them away. The consequence of all which, has been, that the number of archers, which before was but fifty, is now one hundred, and a like augmentation has been made to the city watch guard to patrol by day, as well as by night; the particulars of whose duty I am now going to explain.

What I am to relate on this head, is, that the inhabitants of Paris are protected, day and night, by a guard of armed and disciplined watchmen; if being so watched may be called a protection. This watch-guard consists both of horse and foot, under the denominations of the *guet à cheval*, and *guet à pied*, who are never to serve out of the walls of the city.

The *guet à cheval*, or horse-guard, is a company composed of two hundred effective men, and twenty supernumeraries, appointed and paid by the King, and raised out of the disbanded horse and dragoons that have served in his troops: their pay is three livres, or half a crown a day for each horseman, and four livres ten sols, or about three shillings, and nine pence English, for each brigadier; out of which they find themselves with horse, arms, and accoutrements; are dressed in an uniform; and observe the new exercise in their discipline: they are commanded by a chief, who takes his orders from the *lieutenant de police*, or the minister who has the department of Paris. They are not properly enlisted into this service, although they cannot withdraw themselves from it without the leave of the minister, which he never refuses, there being so many supernumeraries ready to fill the vacancy. When any one is no longer able to serve, he has a pension of four hundred livres for his life, one moiety paid

paid by the King, and the other stopt out of the pay of the supernumerary who succeeds in his place.

This company is divided into brigades ; each brigade is composed of a brigadier and four horsemen : four brigades, or twenty men, patrol the streets in the day time ; and fifteen brigades, or seventy-five men, patrol the streets at night : and the whole, in their turns, perform these separate duties alternately.

The day guard being thus divided, traverse the city in different patrols, and frequently making their rounds appear, by the quickness of the circulation, to be more in number than what they really are. Each brigade in his turn goes through all the public streets, squares and markets, and traverses along the quays ; in doing which, it is their duty to interpose upon the appearance of any tumult and disorder ; to separate and drive away all persons wrangling and quarrelling together ; to pursue all fugitives upon the first outcry ; and lay hold on the offenders they are charged with, and conduct them either to the commissary nearest at hand, or to the *lieutenant de police*, as may be required.

The night brigades, being fifteen in number, as above-mentioned, meet towards evening at the places appointed, to receive the parole and order, which is brought from the commandant himself ; and prescribes the routs they are to take ; through what streets and squares they are to pass, and at what particular hours ; where, and how often, they are to stop ; and where to apply for assistance in case of need. The brigadiers only are entrusted with the secrecy of these orders, which vary every night ; and frequently are changed in one and the same night.

These

These troops, besides their general duty in going the watch rounds, are commanded out upon all festivals and public ceremonies, such as the entry of ambassadors, or of the King, when he comes to visit his metropolis; whom they march before, in order to clear the way, and prevent any confusion or interruption to the procession.

The *guet à pied* is a body of four hundred men, raised out of the disbanded infantry, clothed in uniform, and furnished with a sword, firelock, bayonet, and other accoutrements, by the King, from whom also they receive their commission and pay, which is fifteen sols each private man; eighteen sols for the corporals and *anspasades*; and twenty sols for the serjeants: to these there are also added sixty supernumeraries, to succeed on any vacancy.

This body is in like manner divided into a day and a night guard; one hundred and five being appointed for the day, and the remaining two hundred and ninety five divide, as near as may be, the night duty; half on one night, and half the next, alternately. The day guard is formed into fifteen different parties, by sevens in each, composed of a serjeant, a corporal, an *anspasade*, or under corporal, and four centinels; and are distributed in fifteen guard rooms, or watch-houses, that have been lately built in different quarters of the city; where they remain all the day, with a centinel at the door, who is relieved every two hours: from hence they are to be ready at the first call, to give their assistance upon any event that may occasion a disturbance of the peace. They march out with their arms, as soon as demanded, leaving the centinel to apprise the next brigade of the horse guard that shall happen to pass by, of the event,

event, and of the place where the assistance is wanted; to which the horse brigade is immediately obliged to repair. Their duty is to seize all such offenders as they shall be charged with, but not treat them ill, unless in case of resistance; nor ever to fire, without a superior order. After having carried the person, charged with any offence, to the commissary nearest at hand, or the *lieutenant de police*, they attend his examination; and, if he is there found to be guilty of any flagrant crime, that deserves a commitment to the public prison; it is their duty to conduct him thither, and from thence to repair again to their appointed stations. Let it be observed, that they are never permitted to play amongst themselves at any games, whilst they are attending at these fixed stations.

The night-guard assembles at the destined places upon the close of the day, the serjeants only approach the order: the duty of these is, to march and patrol through the streets, in the same manner as the horse guard, and to perform all other duties in common with them: and further also to search more narrowly into all the bye-alleys where there are no thoroughfares; into all stalls and rubbish; and in the boats on the river, to discover if any persons lie concealed there: so soon as their assistance is required upon any tumult or disorder, they send an advanced centinel, to give notice to the other parties, to join them, who are immediately to change their posts, and conform to what is required. They make their report every morning to certain officers, to whom the chief command is now substituted, in the room of the *chevalier du guet*, which commission has been sometime ago suppressed.

It must be observed, that the night-watch in general, both of horse and foot, are never to remain more than one hour in a place; and it is usual for the commanding officers of each, to send out their spies, to examine if the orders are punctually executed, and if the respective corps are at their proper stations, and at the appointed times; all which obliges them in general to be exactly attentive to the execution of their duty. These stations are changed every night in different parts of the city; so that the same guard is never two nights together in the same place; by which means they cannot receive any bribe or contribution for connivance from any particular quarter; and, as the orders of the night are entrusted only to the brigadiers or serjeants, the private men never know where they are to be, and consequently persons of bad designs can take no advantage of putting their enterprize into execution, by the means of a previous intelligence of the intended stations.

As this watch-guard is upon the military establishment, I would not be understood to recommend the trial of it, upon *that* system, in our country; being too sensible of the blessings of our civil administration, to suggest any measures, either dangerous to our liberties, or unconstitutional to the frame of our government. Nevertheless, I thought it might be proper, whilst upon this subject, to describe the order, discipline, and œconomy of its execution, if happily the same good purposes might be answered by such an establishment under a civil power.

I have observed, that the criminals are carried to the prisons of the city, of which there are two, the one called *fort*

Leveque,

l'evêque, and the other the little *châtelet*, in order to take their trials, at the courts of judicature established for the adjudging and punishing these criminals; who, in the first instance, must be tried at the court of the great *châtelet*, so called from its having been anciently the castle or fortress where the governor of the city resided, but has long since been converted into a court for the administration of justice, and divided into different apartments, containing several separate jurisdictions; one is called the *chamber* of the *police*, where the *lieutenant de police*, assisted by the judges, settles all such matters, relating to the preservation of the peace, and the good order of the city, as are of too great importance to be adjudged by him, in his single capacity: another is stiled the *chambre civile*, constituted for the trial of all civil suits, for small sums, in a summary manner; the chief judge of which is stiled the *lieutenant civil*: another is called the *chambre criminelle*, for the trial of all criminal accusations, not *prevotal*; at this the *lieutenant criminel* is the chief presiding officer, assisted by the *lieutenant de police*, and the *lieutenant civile*, together with another magistrate, named the *lieutenant criminel de robe courte*, from the short gown which he wears. This last-mentioned magistrate, not only assists at the condemnation, but attends at the execution; officiating first as judge; and then, as sheriff, goes in procession to the place of execution, escorted by a company of guards, subject to his orders, composed of four lieutenants, twelve exempts, and sixty archers; who are paid by the King. But the accused, when capitally convicted at this court, has a right of appeal to the Parliament; which constitutes itself, for that purpose, into a sort

of committee, called the *court de tournelle*, being composed of a detached number of presidents and counsellors of the *grand chambre*, and the *chambre des enquêts*, which are the superior seats of justice, and whose members take it by turns to sit in this court of appeal, from thence called the *court de tournelle*.

Lastly, there is a presidial chamber, which is the principal and chief court belonging to the *grand chatelet*, at which all its other judges above-mentioned assist, for the trial of all crimes that are *prevotal*. For the greater authority of this court, and the better administration of justice, it was thought proper, by the edict of 1674, that the *justices royales* and *seigneuriales*, within the city, and the circumference of its *banlieu*, or, as we term it, within the bills of mortality; as also the court of the *prevot* of the *marechaussée*, within the same district, should all be united into one sole jurisdiction, invested with the authority both of the presidial courts, and courts of the *prevot general*: by this court, therefore, the offenders guilty of *prevotal* crimes, are adjudged, and finally condemned, without any right of appeal. The *prevot general* of the *marechaussée* doth not indeed assist at this court in his judicial capacity; yet the military duty of that establishment is required for the pursuing and apprehending of all offenders; and, after condemnation, the officers of the *marechaussée* attend the prisoner to the place of execution, which sometimes is ordered to be at the *carrefour*, or open cross-street, nearest to the place where the crime was committed, or more commonly at the square called the *grève*, especially for the breaking on the wheel.

If, after examining what I have, as above, described, it should be thought expedient, to reform the abuses complained of in London, by the model of this *police* established at Paris, we might imitate, not the military, but the civil, part of its system : so far as it makes the *police* a distinct department, separate from the other branches of their government, not generally entrusted, as in England, to those who have other business, and occupations of their own, to follow ; but committed to the care of distinct magistrates, and ministerial officers ; who, in their several stations, make it their *whole* duty, their *sole* occupation, and their *only* livelihood, to execute the parts assigned to each, for promoting the peace and good order of the whole. The *lieutenant de police* gives orders ; the inspectors inform ; the exempts apprehend ; the archers conduct ; the commissaries commit ; the *chatelet* condemns ; and the priest grants no absolution to the criminal, unless he makes a discovery of his accomplices : and thus it is, that neither the most secret rogues, nor the most audacious villains, can find any means of evading the administration of the laws, under a *police*, so well contrived ; so duly regulated ; and so strictly carried into execution.

P A R T IV.

A farther Account of the *Police* and Government of the City of *PARIS*, with regard to the Maintenance of the Poor; the Support of the Hospitals; the Supply of Provisions; the Preventing of Fires; the Regulating the public Companies; and the paving, cleaning, and lighting the Streets.



THE antient ordonnances of France enjoined no other method, for the maintenance of their poor, than that they should be nourished and entertained by the cities, towns, and villages, of which they were natives and inhabitants: all such therefore, who wandred from the places of their birth, either to seek for work elsewhere, or to serve in the army; when they were out of employment, and absent from their native home, had no other means for subsistence than what they procured by begging, and who, for the most part, usually resorted to the capital; which formerly contained only two houses of charity for the poor, the one a kind of alms-house for old people, the other a kind of charity-school for children;

but

but so few were maintained in each, that, in the year 1640, the number of strolling beggars about the streets of Paris, were computed to amount to no less than 40,000, without settlement, maintenance, or lodging.

The deplorable state of so many unhappy wretches, the scandal it gave to their religion, to their *police*, and to their government in general, excited some persons of eminence at that time, to hold frequent assemblies for the purpose of finding out a proper remedy to so great an evil. It was in consequence of these deliberations, that the project of a general workhouse, or hospital, was agreed to, for the taking in the whole number of the poor under one establishment, and to be supported by one common fund, according to their ages, sexes, abilities, or infirmities.

This project was at first treated as a chimerical one, the common fate of every new proposal ; but at length, in spite of all opposition, an edict was obtained for its confirmation, in April 1656, which edict is introduced with a long preamble, reciting, “ That the former methods for preventing idleness
 “ and begging, the source of all disorders, had been found
 “ ineffectual, for want of a fund necessary for their subsist-
 “ ence, and of a direction proper to conduct so great an enter-
 “ prize ; insomuch that the licentiousness of the poor had
 “ come to that excess, as to draw down the vengeance of
 “ Heaven on their country ; experience having made it
 “ known, that many of them, both of the one and the
 “ other sex, cohabited together without marriage ; their
 “ children remained without baptism ; and all conti-
 “ nued in an habitual course of every kind of vice.” I
 have

have cited this part, to shew, that the precarious charity of the monastic orders, and their pretended care of the poor, did not prevent the horrid evils above complained of ; which the magistrates at Paris at last found could not be abated, but by a civil administration, in fixing the poor to some settled residence ; finding means for their employment ; and establishing some common fund for their support. Accordingly, the edict above-mentioned ordained, that all the beggars, whether in health or sickness, of the one and the other sex, should, from thence forward, be confined, in one general hospital ; to be employed in such works and manufactures, as should be suitable to their abilities.

For the due government of this establishment, the *premier president*, and *procureur general* of the Parliament, for the time being, were appointed the chiefs, to be assisted by a certain number of directors therein nominated, to whom and to their successors, during life, was granted all power and authority, for the direction, administration, *police*, and correction of the poor, confined in the hospitals, exclusively and independantly of any other direction of the *police* of the city, or *prevoté* of Paris ; the King declaring himself, to be the protector of this royal foundation, as it is there called : and, for the reception of such poor, as were thus to be confined, his Majesty granted several houses and scites of ground, within or near adjoining to Paris, particularly two large buildings, the one called the *bicestres*, the other the *salpetriere*, on which the others were to be dependant ; and all to be comprized under the common appellation of the General Hospital.

Towards

Towards the maintenance of these, the edict assigned over all the rights, profits, and revenues, appertaining to several other charities; declaring, that, for the future, every gift and legacy, given by deed or will, in general words, to the use of the poor, should be deemed as given to this hospital: for whose benefit also charity-boxes should be fixed up, and collections made in all churches and public places. It further enjoins, that every community, both secular and regular, of either sex, should send an annual gift to this charity. That, on every contract or lease made with the government, the contractors should advance a certain sum towards it. That part of all forfeitures and condemnations, incurred by any misdemeanors; as also a part of all goods and merchandises, confiscated by law, should be appropriated to its use. That every magistrate, upon his admission into any office of sovereign jurisdiction, or into any of the subordinate courts, erected at Paris; as also all persons taking up their freedom, in any companies of the arts and mysteries within the city, should previously give some alms to this charity; of which they should produce a receipt, before they be admitted: this afterwards by a subsequent edict was fixed to a certain rated tax on each office, according to its rank and degree.

Besides these public contributions, the poor themselves are to be instrumental to their own support, out of the profits of their skill and industry; to which purpose, the directors are empowered to set up any species of manufacture, within the hospital, and to sell them, free from all duties, or from being visited by the officers of the customs; and for the better learning and completing such manufactures, every company

of arts and mysteries is obliged to send two of their body, to instruct the young children that are confined, according as they may be apt and disposed to learn : these assistants, having served six years, and the children having been taught ten years, may afterwards go out of the hospital, and enjoy the freedom of exercising their respective trades, in any part of Paris, without other qualification than that of producing a certificate of their service, as above, from the directors. Lastly, the hospital is discharged from the payment of all duties, on the entry of their necessary provisions ; which are allowed to be brought, free from the tolls on rivers, or passage-money over bridges : with the privilege also of a certain measure of wine, and of salt, clear from the King's duty ; and a free gift of a quantity of wood for firing, to be cut from any of his Majesty's forests, nearest to Paris, as can best be spared.

The edict, having ordained these provisions for the poor, within the hospital, strictly forbids any either to ask or to give alms without doors, either publicly or privately ; except to the *hotel Dieu*, and some other charitable foundations therein enumerated ; and, at the conclusion, by way of appendix, are annexed the rules to be observed by the persons appointed to supervise, and execute all the necessary duties, for the due order and regulation of so large a community.

The King having thus far given his royal sanction to the work, the rest remained to be accomplished by the magistrates, who first proposed this public institution. Who accordingly, by a voluntary subscription, set about to repair the two principal houses, before-mentioned, that of the *bitestre* being appropriated for the men, and the *salpetriere* for the women.

When:

When every thing was prepared, notice was given in all the churches at Paris, that, on such a day, being the 7th of May 1657, these houses would be opened, for the reception of all kind of poor, who wanted either relief or employment; and would voluntarily enter therein; at the same time, the magistrates, by the public cryer, forbid the poor to beg or ask alms at any place, or from any persons whatsoever; giving warning to all such poor, that were not inhabitants of Paris, and refused voluntarily to enter into the hospital, that they should be compelled by force, unless they immediately departed to the places of their proper settlements.

The city now began to have a different appearance to what it had before; the greatest part of the beggars, unwilling to be confined, thought fit to leave Paris, and retire to the places of their birth; the only legal settlement that could then be obtained in France; others betook themselves to some industrious means of gaining their subsistence; and the infirm consented to be shut up, and accept of what was to be provided for them by the establishment: this was all done, as it were, in an instant, by only sending a company of archers, whose functions I have already described, through the streets, to take up such as publicly transgressed the orders that had been notified; so that out of this great computed number of 40,000 beggars, there were no more than 5000 that came at first to take shelter in this hospital, though their numbers have since been increased to some thousands more, and the buildings in proportion enlarged for their reception.

I must just take notice, that the government of this hospital is divided, as is usual in all charitable foundations, into a

spiritual and temporal administration ; and that by the King's declaration of 1673, the archbishop of Paris is named to be one of the chiefs, jointly with the first president and the attorney general ; but as all the rules and orders concerning their spiritual affairs, are agreeable to the doctrine and ceremonies of the Romish religion, it is totally unnecessary for me to enter into any account of it.

The temporal administration, being entrusted to the three chiefs, and a certain number of assistants, and their successors, as above-mentioned ; it has been usual, upon the decease of any director, to elect another in his stead, who is presented to the Parliament, where he takes an oath faithfully to administer the duties of his office, and the distributions of the monies belonging to the poor.

It is time now to give some account in what manner this administration is at present carried on, with regard to the numbers admitted, and the expence of maintenance.

The *bicestres*, which is the general workhouse for the men, is at a little distance on the West from Paris ; the antiquaries pretend it is so called, by a corruption from its original name of *by Chester*, given to it by the English, who built it as an out-guard, when they were in possession of Paris ; be this as it will, one part of it is now destined for the reception of idle and disorderly youths, who being without, or having deserted their parents, are taken in to be instructed and employed in several sorts of manufactures, according to their talents, more particularly, in weaving the linen and cloth necessary for their apparel and the use of the house : another part of the building is appropriated for the confinement of all vagabonds and

sturdy

sturdy beggars, and the punishment of such disorderly people, as the magistrates of the city think fit to commit to hard labour, who, according to their crimes, are to receive the discipline and correction they deserve. Another part, called *la maison de force*, is likewise used as a prison for all inferior persons that are taken up by the King's *lettre de cachét*, for offences against the government; and also to serve as a jail, for the supernumerary criminals, when there is not room sufficient for their confinement in the public prisons of the city. Besides these, there are apartments destined as an hospital, in the nature of Bethlem in London, for the confinement of madmen, with guards to attend them. The whole number of men and boys, contained in this house, either for instruction, correction, or confinement, together with the officers and servants, generally amount to about four thousand.

There is another large building, dependant on this, situated within the walls of the city, called *la pitie*, for the taking in of the poor charity-boys; where they are admitted from the age of five to ten, to whatever parish, province, or nation they belong, provided the curate of any parish in the city, doth but certify, that such child is an object of charity, and destitute of all other means of maintenance and education. Here they are instructed in reading and writing; as likewise in several sorts of manufactures of knitting and weaving; their number is generally between thirteen and fourteen hundred, divided into several schools and classes, some intended to serve such handicrafts-men as may be willing to take apprentices from hence; others are put out to service; and others returned to their parents. There are two other charitable

ritable foundations of the like nature, in which about two or three hundred boys are maintained in separate houses; one is called *les enfans rouges*, or red-coat boys; the other *les enfans de Saint Esprit*, or children of the Holy Ghost; who are taught the church chant, and such other offices as are required to be performed by boys assisting the priest at the altar: they are likewise employed to carry tapers at funerals, and other religious processions.

Here it will be proper to take notice, that the foundling-hospital at Paris, though it be in a great measure maintained and supported by distinct charitable donations, yet is a part of the general hospital, being incorporated and united to it by the edict of the 18th of August 1760, and accordingly, the exposed and deserted children of both sexes, before they are sent into the provinces to be nursed, and after they are brought from thence to be farther maintained and educated, are entitled to an aid and support from this general fund. The infants therefore that are taken, at the grate of what is called the *hospital des enfans trouvés*, or foundling-hospital, erected in the heart of the city, near the cathedral of Notre Dame, are, for the time they continue there, which is about two or three days before they are sent into the country, maintained at the expence of the general hospital; and the boys, when brought back, at the age of five or six, are sent to another building, in the suburbs of Saint Antoine; and the girls to the *salpetriere*, to be educated and brought up under the same administration. In this college, as it is called, of Saint Antoine, there are generally about four or five hundred youths. But I shall presently offer some farther observations

on

on this particular charity of the foundling-hospital, when I come to consider it distinctly and separately by itself.

The other principal building of the general hospital, destined for the reception of the female sex, is called the *salpetriere*, from the manufacture of salt-petre being formerly carried on there. Belonging to this, there is first of all the court called *Notre Dame de pitie*, in which are taken all the parish-girls of Paris, that are poor and destitute, being recommended as above by the several curates; and to these is added, the continual supply of the female foundlings, sent from their nurses in the country, as I have just now mentioned: these girls are first taught their prayers and catechism, and to read and write: they are afterwards instructed and employed, some to knit, and do plain work or embroidery; and others to weave the linen and cloth necessary for their apparel, or the use of the house. There is a particular circumstance attending these girls, which cannot be mentioned without pity or detestation; being generally about 800 in number, they are ranged together in two long apartments, working indeed at their needles, but covered with the itch; a distemper so universally spread amongst them, that so sure as a child is brought in, so surely it catches it. Whether this be owing to contagion, or to low nourishment and want of exercise, they have not yet found any means of eradicating it.

Another part of the building is destined as a house of correction, for all idle beggars, pilferers, and loose disorderly prostitutes, from whence, after having made an atonement, by hard labour for some limited time, they are either discharged, being first marked on the shoulder with a hot iron,

or else sent out of the kingdom to people their colonies in America. It is from the dread of being brought by the exempts of the *police* to this hospital, that the streets of Paris are free from all such night-walkers as impudently swarm in the streets of London.

Here is also a *maison de force*, or strong prison, for such as by their crimes deserve confinement for life : and some other apartments, which serve as infirmaries for paralytics, idiots, and mad-women. It is again with horror, I mention another circumstance attending the manner of treating these unhappy lunatics ; for as more are taken in than the number of cells can contain, the supernumerary ones are chained to bulks in the open courts, without any sheds to cover them, or beds to lie on ; exposed night and day to the open air, in winter as well as summer ; for which they, who look after them, make no other excuse, but that people under such a calamity, are insensible of the inclemency of the weather.

This building, called the *salpetriere*, is the largest belonging to the general hospital, as it has, from time to time, been augmented ; and divided into separate courts, to serve as schools for the children, workhouses for the grown up, and infirmaries for the sick ; besides lodgings for all the officers, nurses, and assistants ; and at this time contains all together near 7000 persons.

The administrators of this hospital, as they are usually called, hold a general board every Wednesday and Saturday, to take in the accounts from the several wards, of the numbers employed and relieved ; to hear the complaints of such who want redress ; and to examine all proposals for the œconomy

nomy of the whole. For the better inspection of each department, they divide themselves into three committees ; the first for purchasing of corn, oxen, sheep, &c. to supply the house. The second for the distribution of the provisions, and the finding of cloaths and medecines ; and also for laying in a sufficient stock of wool, hemp, flax, and other materials for manufacture. And the last for the examination of all affairs relating to the revenues and expences of the establishment.

All the necessaries of bread, meat, pease, &c. are provided in a large building, called the *scipion* ; where people are employed in the butchery, brewing, baking, and preparing whatever may be wanting for the daily consumption of all the separate houses. Each poor being allowed rather more than one pound of bread every day ; two ounces of meat every other day ; and in the intermediate ones a proportionable quantity of pease or beans. These accounts are settled in so exact a manner, that at one view may be seen, the number to be maintained, and the quantity delivered at each house. Therefore that I might be informed with certainty, I examined the account at the office itself, and found, that, at the time of my enquiry, the numbers in each house, and the quantity of bread then delivered, were as follow.

K

Names

<i>Names of Houses.</i>	<i>Number of Persons.</i>	<i>Pounds of Bread per diem.</i>
Biceftre, - - - - -	3670	5027
Salpetriere, - - - - -	6835	8840
La Pitie, - - - - -	1320	1819 $\frac{1}{2}$
Enfans Rouges, - - - - -	100	130
Enfans de St. Efprit, - - - - -	137	160
New-born Foundlings, - - - - -	100	110
Foundlings at St. Antoine, - - - - -	640	680
The Scipion, - - - - -	66	96 $\frac{1}{4}$
Extraordinaries, - - - - -	—	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12868	16887 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Thus we perceive, that the numbers, which, at the first institution of this charity, were only 5000, are now increased to more than double, and we must suppose the revenues for their support have been proportionably enlarged: for let us estimate the expence of maintaining the above number of 12,868 persons at six-pence *per diem* each, including all charges for salaries and wages, which, I was told, was fixing it at the lowest computation, yet even at this rate the expence will be about 117,419 pounds 10 shillings a year. In order therefore to support this increased number, an additional allowance

allowance has been made by several *arrêts de conseils*, of wine and salt, duty free; and subsequent edicts have established a tax of four sols a day on every hackney or hired coach at Paris, and a certain share of the profits each night from the opera, play-houses, and other public diversions: but above all, and which indeed is the principal support of the whole, a fund is now raised from the duties on the entry of provisions into the city; for by several octroys between the King and the *hotel de ville*, it was agreed, that the city should reserve a fifth part from the royal duties payable on the entry of wines, brandies, and other liquors, and of cattle, fowls, game, and other provisions; and of hay, wheat, and other sorts of grain; and as this fifth part amounts generally to 3,200,000 livres, or 139,000 pounds sterling *per annum*, a moiety of it has for a long time since been appropriated to the general hospital, which moiety accordingly produces 69,500 pounds each year towards its maintenance; and the rest of the expence is defrayed by the other incomes arising from the taxes, fines, contributions, and charitable donations before-mentioned: add to these, the no inconsiderable profits, which may be supposed to be gained, by the employment of the poor, and the sale of their manufactures; notwithstanding all which, this corporation is said to be considerably in debt, and not without some surmises of embezlements made by those who are concerned in the administration.

I must observe, that some time after this general hospital was established at Paris, a declaration was published, dated in June 166, to enjoin the erecting the like establishment in all the great cities and towns throughout the kingdom,

wherein all the poor that were natives, or had lived for the space of one year in those districts, were to be confined and prevented from wandring into other parts ; and this seems at present to be the general system in France for the maintenance of their poor : concerning which I have been more particular in making my enquiries, upon being informed, that several treatises have lately been published in London, recommending such a general method of maintaining our poor, as preferable to the provisions which our ancient laws had established by parochial assessments. Whereas at the same time many representations, projects, and memorials have lately been offered here to the French ministry, proposing on the other hand, that their poor might be maintained, as in England, by parochial assessments ; and I may appeal to a multitude of new edicts, declarations, *arrêts* of councils, and *arrêts* of Parliament, that have been published, since the erecting of these general work-houses, all complaining in the preambles, of the increase of vagrants, and the multiplicity of poor unprovided for, notwithstanding those establishments : so that I cannot help refering back to the observation I have hinted at more than once before, I mean, that the *police* of every country is best regulated, when the execution of it is divided into separate and distinct departments : for besides the difficulty of directing and governing so large an institution, and the preventing it from being converted into a private job ; we must consider the fatal objection to such a plan, arises from the numbers to be contained therein being unlimited, whilst there can be only a limited revenue to support them : this accounts for the swarms of beggars, which infest the streets of Paris,

Paris, notwithstanding the rigorous methods of enforcing their laws, as I have before mentioned; for as their hospital can hold only a certain number, it is suspected, that as fast as the magistrates send a croud of vagrants to be admitted at one door, the administrators let out as many at another. Thus far I have taken the liberty to point out the inconveniences of these general establishments, which have been discovered from practice and experience, the best lesson to learn by; but I must remember the design of this treatise is only to describe the *police* of a foreign country, and leave the use that may be made of it in our own, to the decision of others.

I shall now therefore proceed to give an account of the regulations prescribed at the foundling-hospital at Paris, for the care and sustenance of the young deserted children of the poor. This is indeed a species of charity, which deserves the utmost care and attention; tenderness for the lives of so many innocent babes, and the consideration of the service they may do their country, by being preserved to grow up to maturity, are such motives of compassion and self interest, of private charity and of public policy united together, as ought to animate the legislature, as well as individuals, not only to become benefactors, but to direct the benefactions in such a manner, as may best prevent the evil, and procure the good that is intended by such an institution.

The edict of 1670, before-mentioned, which united this charity at Paris to the general hospital, constitutes it at the same time to be a body corporate of itself, with powers to receive benefactions, to buy and to sell, &c. reciting, that it subsisted before only by charitable donations, under the care
and

and protection of the Parliament of Paris, who, by frequent *arrêts* of their court, had ordained some annual contributions to be made towards it by the magistrates under their jurisdiction ; and reciting also how advantageous it might be to the state to bring up such children to be soldiers or manufacturers, or to be sent abroad to people their colonies. The King therefore confirms all those former donations and legacies to be valid and good, as if the said hospital had been before established by his letters patent ; and then makes a grant of several sums, amounting together to 24,000 livres, or 892 pounds 10 shillings sterling, to be annually paid out of his domains near Paris, for its better support. From this foundation, the revenues have increased by subsequent donations and legacies, and are continually assisted by voluntary benefactions, and the profits arising from an annual lottery, the King authorises to be drawn for its benefit. The rest is supplied out of the funds of the general hospital ; four of whose directors are to serve in this for the space of three years by rotation, unless there be a necessity, for the good of the charity, of continuing any of them for a longer time, assisted always by the first president and attorney general of the Parliament of Paris ; and a receiver to be chosen by them, who is to render an account of the receipts and payments within three months after the expiration of every year, to the board of the general hospital. There are some few regulations from the council of state, for the better execution of the above edict, exhorting the administrators to use diligence, in collecting what shall be given to the charity ; to build or repair what houses may be necessary ; to regulate the expences both for the children and the servants
that

that are to attend them ; and lastly, to visit every week the registry, where the names of the children are entered, and to examine it by the registry kept by the commissaries.

From hence it may be necessary to obviate a mistaken notion, which I find some at London have conceived, that all children may be admitted into the foundling-hospital at Paris, without any questions asked, or formality required at the delivery ; whereas there must be first of all an information given to one of the exempts of the *police*, of every child that is left to be offered to this charity ; which exempt is immediately to notify to the commissary of the quarter, that there is a child exposed in such a place, or born in such a house, destitute of sustenance. The person who gives the information, must declare whether it be an exposed infant, whose parents are unknown, or whether it be the child of any poor parents, who desire to relinquish it to the care of the hospital ; if it be in the latter circumstance, a registry of its baptism must be produced, with its name, and a particular mark by which the child may be known, in case it be afterwards reclaimed ; if the parents are unknown, that circumstance is noted down, that it may be christned afterwards : of all which the commissary enters a note in a registry he keeps for this purpose, the copy of which must be carried with the infant to the grate of the hospital ; where, upon the billet's being produced, the child is taken in. This is what is meant by the above order of council, that the directors should examine every week the registry at the hospital, by the registry of the commissaries.

Eight or ten children are thus admitted almost every 24 hours; and many of them brought in the middle of the night, where about fifteen or twenty nurses are constantly attending, to afford them an immediate assistance, until they can be carried out of town to be nursed in some country villages of the adjoining provinces; at which other nurses are hired to take care of them for the first five or six years. Every nurse undertakes three children, besides what she is supposed to have of her own, and is allowed only a French crown, which is less than half a crown English, a month for each; upon the demise of any one, she again applies to complete the number. For this purpose there are twenty officers, called *meneurs*, which, in English, may be called leaders or conductors, whose employment is to enquire at all the villages, within certain particular cantons, within a day's journey distance round about the city, for such nurses as may be proper and willing to undertake the duty. These are brought up to Paris, once or twice a week in waggons, to receive the children and carry them away. It is likewise the *meneurs* business, to visit from time to time the several villages, where the children are at nurse; and to give an account to the directors of the state of their health, or of the death of such as shall happen not to survive. And that all the poor parents, who have relinquished their children to be brought up in this manner, may from time to time be apprised of their state, a public office is erected at Paris, where each parent, giving in the name and mark of the child, may, upon payment of a certain sum, be informed to what district it is sent to be nursed; and upon the farther payment of two sols upon every application,

application, receive intelligence from time to time, whether it be alive or dead. The surviving ones are recalled to Paris at the age of five or six years; the boys to be placed in the suburbs of St. Antoine, and the girls at the *salpetriere*, to be farther maintained, as before-mentioned, at the expence of the general hospital.

The number of exposed and deserted infants, admitted annually into this hospital, is about 4000, as appears by a medium taken from their annual accounts, for several years past. The number of males taken in each year generally exceeds the number of females; but not to fill up the page with a repetition of the same accounts for numbers of years, I shall beg leave only to set down the annual accounts for the three last years preceding this, in which I now write, namely, from 1751 to 1753 inclusive.

An account of the number of children admitted into the foundling hospital.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total Number.</i>
1751 - - -	1922 - -	1861 - -	3783
1752 - - -	2046 - -	2081 - -	4127
1753 - - -	2216 - -	2113 - -	4329

Let us suppose, that out of 4000 children annually carried into the country, which is near the medium as above, two thirds may die during the five years they are destined to remain at nurse, which even in that tender age is much beyond the natural course; so that only 1333 being the remaining third, would constantly be the annual number sent back to Paris; who being kept at the two hospitals before-men-

L

tioned,

tioned, until they arrive at the age of twelve years, and succeeded by the like number each year, the total number composed of all brought in the successive years, from five to twelve, being seven years, would make the constant resting stock of children to amount to 9331; but of these, we will suppose a fifth part to die every year, which again is by far too great a diminution; yet even then the constant resting stock of children ought to be 7465; how greatly then must we be surprized, to find, by the authentic account taken from their own books, only 640 boys in the college of St. Antoine, and not more than 600 girls at the *salpetriere*; so that the resting stock of returned foundlings appears to be no more than 1240, which being deducted from 7465, will make the difference in the deficiencies to be 6225. What then are become of these? are they reclaimed by their parents? or do they perish for want of due care? In answer to which questions, and to obviate the reflections which might arise from thence, it was explained to me, that as many of the lower class of people were induced to marry, in order to be excused from serving in the militia; so when these have children, which they are unable to maintain, they usually send them to this hospital; which therefore must be looked upon, not only as a charity for the care of exposed and deserted infants, whose parents are unknown; but also as the public nursery for the sustenance of poor people's children, who, although registered at the office, are often reclaimed from their country nurses by their parents: this accounts, in some measure, for the small stock brought back to the hospital at Paris, in comparison of what it might be, according to the above computation. The farther difference is suspected to be owing to the insufficient nourishment they receive; as this particular
charity,

charity, as well as the general hospital, adopts that preposterous system of taking in an unlimited number, whilst there is only a limited income for their sustenance.

I shall here take the liberty, to add the account of the births in general in the city of Paris, to be compared to the number sent to the foundling hospital, in the three last years; the proportion being near the same in all the other years, which I have examined.

Total of the births at Paris for three years, namely, from 1751 to 1753 inclusive, compared with the numbers thereof sent to the foundling hospital.

	<i>Births in general.</i>	<i>Numbers thereof sent to the foundling hospital.</i>
1751 - - - -	19321	3783
1752 - - - -	20227	4127
1753 - - - -	19729	4329

From hence an observation immediately occurs, namely, that by the medium of the above numbers, near a fifth part of all the children born at Paris, are sent to the foundling-hospital: to this I shall presently make an additional remark.

Next to this, I am to take notice of that other Christian duty, and no less public charity, of relieving the sick and maimed, incapable of labour, in some common hospital; wherein all real patients may be admitted, and no excuse left to those, who beg abroad under counterfeited ailments. It must be acknowledged, that the foundations, endowed for this purpose at Paris, are larger than ours at London, particu-

larly that of the *hotel Dieu* ; a building very improperly situated in the middle of the city, with regard to air and health, but convenient with regard to the ease of bringing the patients to it. The revenues, upon which this charity is supported, are indeed very considerable, arising first of all from a large estate it has in houses, and ground-rents, in several parts of Paris ; as also from a duty raised upon wood and coals ; from the toll of a bridge contiguous to it, crosses the river Seine ; from a part of all confiscations and fines payable for certain offences to this hospital ; from a share of the monies paid for all sorts of public diversions ; and lastly, from the privilege of selling meat, and all sorts of fowl and game, during Lent ; which privilege they have a liberty to transfer to a certain number of butchers and poulterers, who accordingly pay a considerable sum of money for it.

It is difficult to come at a true state of the revenues of this charity, since they do not publish such accounts of their income and expences, as are annually printed by the governors of our hospitals and infirmaries in London. But as they print an account of the numbers of patients admitted and discharged, we may from thence proceed in the same method of computation as I have used before, with respect to the general hospital ; for by knowing their numbers, we may nearly guess, what must be the annual income to support them. To this purpose, I examined the registry of the numbers constantly remaining in cure each month, in the three preceding years to this above-mentioned, namely, from 1751 to 1753 inclusive, and found the medium of the totals to amount to 3088 patients, which may be set down as the usual resting stock to be maintained ; for

as fast as it may be diminished by the deaths, or the discharged, it is as continually replenished by the new admitted. And let us suppose, that these 3088 patients are relieved at the expence of six-pence *per* day each, including the charges of physic, bedding, physicians, surgeons, nurses, and burials, the whole amount of the expence would then be, 77 pounds 4 shillings sterling, *per* day, or 28,177 pounds 10 shillings *per annum*. And we may suppose, that the revenues are much larger than these expences, from the considerable profits that are imputed to be gained, by those who have the management of them : nor can we imagine a less revenue would be sufficient for the support of so general a charity, where any may come, or be brought in, without either petition or recommendation, being only examined upon their first entrance, by the physicians or surgeons in waiting, and, according to their distempers, conducted to the wards destined for them. Such as are contagious are lodged above stairs ; those who have the venereal malady are sent to the *bicestre* ; and the rest are laid in beds ranged on the right hand and left, in several long apartments. Here we may behold a horrid scene of misery, for the beds being too few for the numbers admitted, it is common to see four, or six, and even eight in a bed together, lying four at one end, and four at another ; of various distempers ; in several degrees ; some bad ; others worse ; some dying ; others dead.

I find also, from the stated monthly accounts in the three years above-mentioned, the medium of the annual numbers admitted to be 21823 ; and the medium of deaths, in the same term of years, to be 4650 ; which is about one in five of all the admitted. It must be mentioned, with honour to

the

the better care and skill used in our hospitals in London, that although their foundations are not so large, yet the annual numbers of deaths to the annual numbers taken in, are considerably less in proportion; and certainly the benefit of the charity consists, not in the numbers admitted, but in the numbers relieved.

There is a particular registry of the burials in all the other hospitals of the city, namely, at the *bicestres*, the *salpetriere*, the foundlings, and all the other dependants on the general hospital; as also in the hospitals for the incurables, and for the blind, called *les quinze vingts*, and for the lunatics, called the *petites maisons*; and in the infirmary called the *charity*, which last, in the nature of our infirmaries at London, is supported by the voluntary contributions of the nobility and others; and where the poor patients are relieved in a more proper and decent manner, than in any of the others: but the annual burials, in all these hospitals, amount to little more than one third of the number of those that are registred in the *hotel Dieu*.

If, upon the whole, we would compare the proportions of the yearly deaths in all these hospitals, to the total of the deaths in general within the city, the same observation will offer itself, as I before hinted at, in comparing the births of the foundlings, to the general births of children within the city: for example,

		<i>Deaths in general.</i>		<i>Whereof die in the hospitals.</i>
1751	- - - -	16673	- - -	5517
1752	- - - -	17762	- - -	5829
1753	- - - -	21716	- - -	7167

By

By the medium of the number of births, as stated in page 83, and of burials, as in the foregoing page, it appears, that as one fifth of the children born at Paris are sent to the foundling hospital; so one third of the people who die at Paris, die in an hospital. I take this from stated accounts printed by authority; and leave it to others to give the explanation, or draw the inferences that may be suggested from them.

From these reflections on the methods of maintaining their poor, and supporting their hospitals, let us now turn our view to the higher stations of life, and examine the methods pursued, for promoting the ease and conveniency of the inhabitants in general.

Here then we are to behold another department of magistrates and officers, composed of a *prevôt des marchands*, who is the chief, assisted by four *eschbevins*, an attorney general of the King, a recorder, city councillors, a receiver general, and several ushers; who jointly form, what is here called, the *bureau* of the *hotel de ville*, or, in our phrase, the City or Lord Mayor's court.

The *prevôt des marchands*, notwithstanding his title, is not a member, like our city magistrate, of the body over which he presides; nor is he promoted to the office by their election, but is nominated by the King, and usually is a person belonging to the robe: his commission is only for two years, though it is generally renewed; so that it has been the custom for a long time past, to continue the same person in the *prevôship*, until he has served the office for four successive terms, or eight years: the *eschbevins* are elected for four years, by those who have served the office before, and who, having experienced the weight of it, must be supposed best to know the qualifications

cations necessary for that duty ; but instead of electing all four at once, two only are chosen every two years ; so that the two seniors, having served half the time before the new ones come in, are enabled to instruct the new chosen in the nature of their office. They are elected out of the notaries, or most substantial tradesmen, provided they were born in the city, which is a necessary qualification. The *eschévins*, recorder, and receiver-general, as well as the *prevôt des marchands*, are all sworn into their office before the King, and by the edict of 1706 are to enjoy all the honours and privileges of the *noblesse*.

To add to the grandeur of these city magistrates, they are attended on solemn occasions, by a horse-guard of an ancient establishment, called the *arbalétriers* and *arquebusiers* of Paris, commanded by colonels, captains, lieutenants, &c. and seem, like our train bands in London, to be exhibited rather for show than service. But for the better security of the gates, the *boulevards*, or ramparts, and the quays on the river, there are three companies of foot-guards of 100 men each, in the pay of the *prevôt des marchands*, and dependant on the *botel de ville* : these are divided into a certain number of *escuades*, or scouts, composed of a serjeant, corporal, and five centinels, whose duty it is to watch night and day, near the several places above-mentioned, particularly on the quays and wood yards ; to prevent all pilferers ; and to take care that the persons, who come to purchase wood, be served in their turns : they also guard the boats, that are loaded with merchandize upon the river ; besides which, part of them are upon guard at the town-house, and another at the opera-house :

house; the *prevôt des marchands* being the chief manager of that theatre. They likewise attend the city magistrates in all their processions; and the officer of the guard constantly makes his return every day to the *prevôt des marchands*.

The duty of this magistrate consists, first, in controuling the accounts of the estate and income of the city, arising from the rents of lands and houses, the tolls of markets, and the warfage on the banks of the river; and, on the other hand, in defraying the expences due for the salary of the officers, the repairs of buildings, the supporting the quays and fountains, the charges of the opera house, and whatever else may be required for the embellishment and decoration of the city, especially on high festivals, and solemn occasions: add to this, that as the lieutenant general of the *police* settles the capitation to be paid by all the communities of arts and mysteries; so the *prevôt des marchands* settles what is payable by the individual citizens in their private capacity. He is also authorized jointly to assist the receiver of the King's revenues, in adjusting the duties that are appropriated for the payment of the interest of the contracts of the *hotel de ville*; as also what is allowed towards the maintenance of the general hospital, as before-mentioned.

The next branch of the office of this city magistrate consists, in his having the sole conservancy of the river Seine, and all other navigable rivers falling into it, within the space of thirty leagues on each side of Paris: incident to this, he has the sole jurisdiction over the boats and merchandizes navigated thereon; and determines all disputes between the masters of the vessels and the owners of the goods; grants licences

to the tanners, dyers, and millers, to erect stages upon the streams, to serve the purposes of their several trades; and takes cognizance of whatever nuisances may arise from thence: has the direction of all the floats of wood that are brought into the city; and appoints in what yards, and in what manner, they shall be piled for sale: he issues out orders for repairing and cleansing the public fountains, common shores, and channels, running through any part of the town; and, in general, all the ports and quays on each side of the river, within the city, are under his jurisdiction.

In all these several functions, he is assisted by the four *eschervins*, who accordingly divide the duty; the one to look after the rents of the estates, and the leases and repairs of the houses; the other, to settle all the public expences for the supporting the quays on the rivers, and the pipes and aqueducts of all the fountains; in which they are likewise assisted by numbers of other inhabitants in the several quarters of the city, called *quarteniers*; who are joined also by a yet greater number, called *cinquantiniers*, or fiftieth men, and *dixiniers*, or tenth men, chosen out of the most substantial citizens: these do not act in a corporate capacity, like the common-council-men of the city of London, but may rather be looked upon as so many inquest-men, to give notice to the *eschervins*, of all defaults, and want of repairs, or other nuisances, in any matters which concern the city magistrates to rectify. This institution seems to resemble the antient divisions of our counties in England, into hundreds, half hundreds, tenth, or tything-men. In the mean while, it is the more particular duty of the city ushers, to go different rounds every day, to visit all
the

the *recevoirs* of the fountains, and the banks of the rivers; and to make their report of their state and condition. To this purpose, the one or other of the *eschbevins* attends at the *hotel de ville*, every day of the week; and on every Monday morning, the *prevôt des marchands*, attended by these, and the other magistrates of his office, holds a chamber of audience, to decide all contests, with regard either to the embarking or landing of goods; and the fixing the price of sale on all provisions, according to the quantity that arrive by water. But if any criminal matter arises at any of the above places, the *lieutenant de police*, or the other judges of the *chatelet*, take immediate cognizance; and the *prevôt des marchands* has no right to interfere.

From hence we may observe the separate functions of these two great officers; the one, as a magistrate of the *chatelet*, being to secure the peace; the other, as a magistrate of the city, to promote the conveniency of the inhabitants. Both these duties, I apprehend, are jointly comprised in the office of Lord-mayor of London: but here they being separate, and as two jurisdictions, by too nearly approaching each other, are frequently apt to clash; so great disputes have formerly arisen, between these two magistrates, concerning the extent and boundaries of their respective powers; of which it is no farther necessary for me to take notice, than that the whole was reconciled by the edict of June 1700; which, in allotting to each their particular provinces, prescribed the rules for supplying the city with the chief necessary articles of life; to which end, the *lieutenant de police* has the jurisdiction over all

the provisions that are brought by land; and the *prevôt des marchands* over what is brought by water carriage.

Such care being taken, that the city should be supplied with provisions, under the direction of both these magistrates; it is an unhappy circumstance, that their chief difficulty should arise, in procuring the most essential necessary articles of fire and water, which ought rather to be attained with the greatest ease, and at the cheapest rate.

The procuring a sufficient supply of fire-wood, as they have few coal-mines in France to supply the want of it, is one of the most material points of their *police* in general; to this purpose they are obliged still to keep in force a multitude of ancient ordonnances for the preservation of the woods and forests throughout the kingdom, the chief of which are contained in what is called the great ordonnance *des eaux et forrêts*, dated August 1699, which in several articles, particularly in that under the title of the *police*, and conservation of the forests, gives directions with respect to the kingdom in general, as to the times for felling, the measurement of the loads and faggots, and the manner of carriage by land or by floats; all which are under the jurisdiction of the *table de marbre*, said to be so called from the judges of it anciently sitting round such a table: the several officers under this jurisdiction, in the nature of our justices in eyre, annually make their visitations throughout the several divisions over which they are appointed, to take cognisance of the state and condition of all the woods, and the service they may be fit for, of which they make a process verbal, and take an account of what is intended to be lopped for fuel, or destined to remain to grow up to timber. Were it not for such a strict inspection, the

woods.

woods in general, even now greatly thined, might have been wholly wasted, as the unlicensed consumption for fuel would have prevented any from arriving to the full growth to serve other purposes, especially that of the navy.

To these general directions for the manner and time of supplying the proper provision of fire-wood, there are many regulations calculated for the particular benefit of this metropolis, relating to the quality, measurement, and price of what is brought here, and the manner in which the several species are to be laid up in separate piles, for the sworn measurers to mark and make a registry of them; nor must any be exposed to sale, until a sample of the billets and faggots are shewn to the *lieutenant de police*, or the *prevôt des marchands*, according as they are brought, either by land or by water; who are then to set their price upon them, and which is marked on a band role, and tied to each pile or boat load, with an express inhibition, under the severest penalties, against selling the same, for more than the fixed and rated price, so marked by authority. Another ordonnance, dated January 1724, adds several new articles to these, concerning the public hours of sale, or the transporting any out of the city without a particular permission: thus vigilant and careful are they obliged to be for the preservation and sale of a material, whose cheapness or dearness must in general influence the price of all provisions, labour, materials and manufactures.

I shall in this place add a few observations on the care that is here taken to prevent any accidents by fire, a calamity so frequently terrible in our metropolis, but which rarely happens in this; the houses and stair-cases being built with stone,

and

and the chimneys and partition-walls erected, conformable to several ordonnances, in such a manner, as may best prevent the like accidents : whenever by chance any house or building does take fire, the officers of the *police* have a right to enter, and taking charge of the whole, send immediate notice to the *bureau des pompes*, or engine-office, which, by the ordonnance of 1722, must have at least thirty engines; distributed in different parts of the city, as there specified, always kept in good repair, with 50 men in their constant pay, under the name of the *gardes des pompes*, who, upon the alarm given, are forthwith to conduct and play the engines at the place required. The *quarteniers* opening the plugs of the fountains, and delivering out the buckets and other utensils, usually kept at a general store-house in each quarter; at the same time the commissaries of the quarter, who keep a registry of all the masons, tylers, and carpenters, with the places of their abode, issue out summons for these to repair to the house that is on fire, which they are bound to obey under the penalty of a severe fine, and there to yield the assistance of their skill and labour, towards suppressing the same; whilst the *guet* both of horse and foot are posted at each end of the street, to prevent any persons whatsoever from entering within their lines, unless it be to carry the buckets, which are supplied from a general store-house in each quarter. Thus all idle spectators, as well as pilferers and sharpers, are kept out from impeding and embarrassing those who are immediately employed in quenching the fire, whilst the goods that are carried out are conducted by a guard to some other place of safety. The proprietor of the house, in which the
accident

accident first happened, is not only subjected to a severe fine, but obliged to pay a pecuniary gratification to the officers of the *police*, who entered his house, for their extraordinary duty on such an occasion.

As the supply of water is no less material an article than that of fuel, it is surprising, that in a city, so well regulated in all other respects, where no expences seem to be spared for the procuring other conveniences, and where the people are so ingenious in contriving the arts and methods of procuring them; it must, I say, seem surprising, that no other methods are here practised for conveying water to the Inhabitants, than by pails-full sold about the streets, as milk is in London.

Those who have been some time at Paris, must have observed, that the stream of the river Seine is frequently troubled by sudden great rains, that many boats are ranged on each side for the conveniency of washing linen; and that several trades, such as dyers, scowerers, and tanners, are established either on its banks, or in boats fixed in the middle; add to this, that it is the ultimate reception of all the common shores and kennels of the city; for which reasons it must be supposed, that the water in many places, and at particular times, is rendered unfit for the common service of the houses: there are a multitude of rules and orders therefore prescribed, when, and how deep, and in what parts of the currents, the pails are to be dipt, so as to take up the element clear from any other mixture; and when it is so, it is certainly as wholesome a water as can be drank, and proper for every other service of a family; though strangers at their first coming sometimes feel a particular effect from it. But
for

for the conveniency of such as may not like this water, or live in distant quarters from the river, there are public fountains erected and supplied by three great *recevoirs*, from springs collected together in the country adjoining ; the one at a village called *le Pré St. Gervais*, the other at Rungis, and the third from Arceuil : this last is esteemed to be the best. It is calculated, that the whole quantity of water from these three aqueducts, amounts to 111 inches diameter, 60 of which are destined for the royal palaces, and the remaining 51 are distributed in pipes to 26 fountains, erected in different parts of the city, for public use : but as these, in dry seasons, often fail, therefore, for a surer supply, two pumps or water-engines are fixed in the river near the bridge of *Notre Dame*, which throw up the water, by two pipes, into a cistern placed on the banks of the river ; from whence the water is again pumped up through two other pipes, of six inches diameter each, into a *recevoir* sustained on the top of one of the houses on the bridge, being 60 feet high, as they pretend, from the common level of the water ; and from thence it is distributed, in small pipes, to 16 other fountains in different parts of the city ; so that there are in all 42 fountains. But as the fountains, supplied by the springs, often fail ; and as those, supplied from the river, are sometimes liable to the same fate, either by the lowness of the stream, or by its being rendered foul, or obstructed in winter by ice, there is a communication between the pipes of all the fountains, by the means of plugs fixed in the several *recevoirs* ; by which they can mutually afford their contributions to one another, upon a want in any particular quarter. When
all

all the fountains fail, the only resource must be by going to the river itself. The price of water, either drawn from the river or the fountains, is in proportion to the distance of the places at which it is sold, and is generally from one sol and a half to two sols for the *voye*, as it is called, or carriage of two pails-full. It may be imagined, that no inconsiderable number of people are employed in thus carrying about what is so universally wanted; and it is extraordinary to see what due order and discipline they observe, by filling in their turns, and giving way to each other, agreeably to many ordinances that have passed to this purpose: he therefore that would propose any other method of conveying water into the houses, must previously point out some other means of subsistence for the numbers of people who at present gain their livelihood by this method.

But I am to remark, that this city not only suffers sometimes an inconvenience from the want of water, but is equally subject, on the other hand, to a contrary inconvenience, by too great an inundation: after long winter rains, or the melting of the snows early in the spring, the river Seine, and the others running into it, are apt to swell to such a height, as to overflow their banks; by this, the regular course of the navigation is interrupted, and consequently, the city debarred from the supply of those provisions that are usually brought to it by this channel; nor is this all, for the water rising beyond its common level, naturally fills the common drains of the streets and houses, and overflows into the cellars and yards, that are below the level, with the water thus risen. Nor is this overflowing for a short time only, like what proceeds from

the high tides at London, which retire upon the reflux, but continues here as long as the rains that occasion it. I was a witness to all this in the month of March in 1751, when the Seine, by a few days excessive rains, rose to the height of twelve yards perpendicular from its ordinary level, as it is now marked on one of the arches of the *pont royal*, on which there are several memorandums of its having risen in like manner as high, and even higher, in former years, particularly in the year 1740. At such times as these, much depends upon the vigilance, sagacity and conduct of the *lieutenant de police*, whose duty must be doubled in procuring provisions by land-carriage, when the supply by water is thus interrupted: these are the usual times, as tradition informs us, of tumults and insurrections; for since the people are made to depend upon their magistrates for a supply of their wants, they have a right to complain when a deficiency happens; and will do so, even though the magistrates are no ways the cause of it. They that would command in fair weather, must take to the helm in foul; the crew then have a right to demand their labour and skill, in lending a helping hand to save a sinking vessel. Here, to carry on the allusion, I might add a remark, that the weaker the vessel, the more necessity there is of keeping a good look out: I mean by this, that the more weak the principles are, upon which a government is founded, the more strict must be the discipline to support it: this perhaps may account for the better execution of the *police* at Paris; and excuse, if any thing can excuse, the greater neglect of it in London.

Whilst

Whilst it is the duty of the magistrates to be thus vigilant in procuring a sufficient supply of the above-mentioned general necessaries, it is no less their care to settle the price, and regulate the distribution of all other provisions of life; which provisions, nevertheless, are charged with a duty upon their entry, either by land or by water. A circumstance so contrary to good policy, cannot be mentioned with any recommendation, since it is evident, that a tax upon the necessary provisions of life, must, in the end, prove a tax upon industry, and a burthen upon trade. To obviate this evil as much as possible, and prevent the sellers from raising their demands beyond the proportion of the tax they pay, these magistrates have a power to settle the price of provisions proportionably to the natural plenty, and the duty imposed; and to this purpose officers are appointed, such as measurers of corn, inspectors of meat, &c. whose distinct duties consist in examining and certifying, that the several provisions, offered to sale, are just and conformable, in goodness and measure, to the price which is fixed upon them; which being settled according to the quantity exposed to sale, and the duty that is levied, is from thence called *le prix taxé*; to which all sellers are bound to conform. And in order to procure them to be brought into the city at as cheap a rate as possible, numbers of ordonnances have passed against all forestallers, regraters and engrossers; which are much better executed than our obsolete laws intended for the same purpose in England. Besides which, there is an express prohibition for any persons to purchase out of Paris, within the distance of ten leagues of it, any corn or grain destined for the consumption

of the city ; by which means all the proprietors within that space, by not being able to sell their corn upon the spot, are obliged to bring it to the public markets, where the greatness of the quantity naturally tends to diminish the price : agreeably to the same *police*, those who deal in the sale of any other provisions whatsoever ; are not only obliged to bring the same to market, but to expose the whole publicly to view : the different markets being so regulated, as not only to have the days, but the hours, fixed for the sale of each sort of provisions ; nor can any one, who buys in order to retale again at second-hand, purchase the quantity he wants, before ten of the clock on each market-day, in order that the choice and preference may be given to all house-keepers, who buy for their own use.

After reciting these regulations, I have here set down the present price of the chief necessaries, as now sold at the common markets at Paris, which being compared to the price for which the same kind of provisions are sold in London, a judgment may be formed, which city has the advantage in point of cheapness in these main articles, allowing for the different value of money, in proportion to its greater plenty and scarcity in either kingdom. At Paris, for example, in this present month of March 1754, the prices are as follow :

Wheat

	<i>livres.</i>	<i>sols.</i>
* Wheat <i>per setier</i> , - - - - -	25	—
Rye ditto, - - - - -	14	—
§ Oats ditto, - - - - -	20	—
Hay <i>per load</i> , - - - - -	44	—
Bread, first sort, <i>per lb.</i> - - - - -	—	4
Ditto, second, - - - - -	—	3
Beef <i>per lb.</i> - - - - -	—	8
Veal ditto, - - - - -	—	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton ditto, - - - - -	—	8
Salt ditto, - - - - -	—	11
Fire-wood, in billets called <i>bois de compte</i> , } fifty-two in each load, - - - - - }	18	8
Ditto sold <i>per measure</i> , - - - - -	17	12
Faggots <i>per hundred</i> , - - - - -	12	10

Were I now to proceed to an account of the price of labour, which is generally determined by the price of provisions,

* A *setier* of wheat or rye, Paris measure, contains 12 bushels, and a bushel weighs 20 pounds; so that a *setier* is 240 pounds. A quarter of corn, London measure, contains 8 bushels, and a bushel weighs 60 pounds; so that a quarter is 480 pounds; consequently, a quarter of corn, London measure, is equal to two *setiers*, Paris measure.

§ A *setier* of oats, Paris measure, contains 24 bushels, so called; though in fact, each contains only half a bushel, wheat measure. One of these half bushels contains 4 *picotins*, and each *picotin*, 2 *litrons*. To reduce this to London measure, we may compute 2 *litrons* to make one quarter, and 4 *picotins* to make one peck, &c.

|| A load of hay at Paris consists of 100 *bottes* or trusses. Each *botte* must weigh 12 pounds.

fions, and recite the feveral edicts and ordonnances, which regulate the price of all commodities and manufactures throughout the kingdom, it would exceed the bounds to which I am at prefent confined, I fhall therefore only take notice of the *police* of this city with regard to the rules and regulations for the make and fale of all commodoties which are under the influence of its jurifdiction.

We may imagine, that in fo absolute a government as this of France, the greateft part of their trade is fubject to monopolies, or the direction of communities with exclusive privileges of exercifing their feveral arts and myfteries: accordingly, we may find no lefs than 124 companies eftablifhed at Paris, created by letters patent, there being fcarce any art, myftery, or occupation, but what has its particular company; of which fix are generally diftinguifhed from the reft by the title of the great companies, or *corps des marchands*; namely, the drapers, druggifts, mercers, fkinners, hatters, and goldfmiths; no perfon can exercife any trade belonging to any one of the communities, without firft being made free of it, the qualification to which, purfuant to the general edict of March 1673, muft be his having ferved an apprenticeship, and his having paffed an examination as to his fkill and knowledge in the bufinefs he would fet up: thefe local qualifications would be too reftriictive, were it not allowed to compromife the want of them by a fum paid for the purchafe of the freedom, which is the more neceffary at Paris, where the communities are divided into fo many diftinct branches, that a man is oftentimes obliged to be of three or four companies, in order to enable him to carry on the whole of the bufinefs relative to
one.

one. All these communities are governed, not only by the rules annexed in their letters patent, but by such particular bye-laws as they may think proper to constitute amongst themselves, for preventing of those frauds and deceits, which might be injurious to the credit of their manufactures. To prevent which, the ordonnance of 1669 directs, that the masters and wardens of the several companies should make their visitations amongst all concerned in the same mystery, to see that every species of their manufactures answer to the standard prescribed, and the marks that are put upon them: the penalties are very exemplary upon all persons presuming to put counterfeit marks, by way of sanction, to goods that do not answer the standard; which penalties are particularly enforced against all such frauds committed by goldsmiths, silversmiths and jewellers. This ordonnance likewise gives competency of jurisdiction to all mayors and other judicial officers of towns, where any manufactures are established, to hear and adjudge all complaints between masters and journeymen, concerning wages; and so strict are the magistrates in preventing every tendency to any tumults or disorders; that should such journeymen at any time combine together not to work but upon their own exorbitant terms, as we know is frequently the case in London, they would soon be sent to the galleys, and there tied down to a more disagreeable task, without any wages at all.

I shall now return to mention an additional duty, which belongs to the inspectors of the *police* of this city, which I omitted before, that I might insert it here in its more proper place. These officers are obliged to visit as often as possible,
and

and at least once a week, the shops of all the jewellers, salefmen, upholsterers, brokers, and other dealers in second-hand goods, to examine their books and registers, which they are obliged, by several edicts, ordonnances and declarations, to keep, being first paged and countermarked by the senior commissary of the quarter; in which they are duly to make a fair entry of the quantity and quality of all the second-hand goods which they buy; as likewise of the names and places of abode of the persons from whom they purchase the same: which registers or entries are to be examined and countermarked every month by the aforesaid inspectors; by which these second-hand dealers are deterred from buying any stolen goods; or, if such should happen to be bought, recourse may be had to the persons who sold them.

It must be observed, that the citizens of Paris are not united into one body politic, as the citizens of London; but yet there is a general syndic, composed of the principal members of the chief communities, who meet once or twice a week at the town-hall, though they have no honorary dignities, like our court of lord-mayor and aldermen, but act only as a committee deputed by the rest, to examine and report to the *lieutenant de police*, what grievances are wanting to be redressed; for this magistrate has the superintendency over all the communities, which I mentioned before, as being one branch of his office, and who accordingly has the right of visitation, to enquire, in a summary manner, into the byelaws of each, and to annul or alter such as may interfere with the general good of the whole. I must also remark, that although there be several parts of Paris, called the suburbs,

urbs, yet they are all indistinctly under the same jurisdiction; and the inhabitants are equally *bourgeois* of the city; the *pre-vôt des marchands*, as well as the *lieutenant de police*, extending their authority over all the quarters within the *banlieu*, or what we call the bills of mortality, excepting a few districts, such as the abbey de St. Germain, and the temple, &c. which, belonging to the church, are places of privilege, where persons may exercise any trades, without being free of a company.

But notwithstanding all the rules, which the wardens of companies may prescribe for the due make and sale of their goods and manufactures, we must be far from taking it for granted, that no frauds are committed, nor impositions exacted, in the course of their trade and dealings. But whenever these are complained of, the remedy is at hand, by a short method of trial; a consular jurisdiction being established for that purpose, by the edict of 1673, called the *code marchand*. The officers of this tribunal, consisting of a judge and four consuls, are annually elected by and out of the most eminent citizens in the several communities. They are empowered to take cognizance in a summary manner, in the nature of the court of conscience in London, of all disputes between buyers and sellers any ways relating to commercial matters; having a competency of jurisdiction, independant of any other court of judicature, to settle and determine all questions concerning bills of exchange, and remittances of money between merchant and merchant; all differences between the merchant and the artists, or workmen who buy in order to fashion the goods for sale again. They take cog-

nizance of all wages, salaries or fees to brokers, factors, or book-keepers, in all affairs relative to their traffic, and of all contests on account of assurances, and other engagements concerning commerce at sea; as also for the freight or hire of ships; and even ecclesiastics and gentlemen may by this edict be summoned before them, upon any disputes concerning the sale of their corn, or wine, or cattle. Upon the whole, this jurisdiction takes cognizance of all disputes about bills delivered in by any dealer, tradesman, or shopkeeper whatsoever, provided it be of goods wherein it is their trade to deal; upon which a satisfaction may be obtained by summoning the party to have the bill taxed, who must submit to such deductions as shall by the court be thought reasonable; the judge and consuls having power of summoning others of the same trade to examine them concerning the price of the goods upon which the question arises.

I have mentioned, that this court is composed of a judge and four consuls, annually elected by the chief of the citizens; a privilege rarely granted to the people of this country! There were many contests formerly about the manner of making this election; but after having received several alterations, it was at last settled by the King's declaration of the 18th of March 1728, That the judge and consuls shall, within the three days before their office is to expire, summon sixty of the most eminent tradesmen out of the several communities, who being assembled, are to choose thirty from among themselves, which thirty must immediately proceed to the choice of a judge and four consuls for the ensuing year; each

each of which must belong to a different company ; two of the new elected consuls must enter immediately into office, joined to two that were in the office the year before ; and the other new-elected consuls are to enter into office six months after ; so that there always remain two, who having been six months in the office, can instruct the noviciates in the nature of their duty. And it must be observed, that the succeeding magistrates must belong to different fraternities from those who were elected before ; that every company may have its turn in supplying this part of judicature, which has a general cognizance over all their trades.

It is well known, that here is also a council of commerce, first erected in 1664, and new modelled by the declarations of 1700 and 1722, at which deputies, from the several principal cities of the kingdom, attend, and assist every Monday and Thursday : but as this board is intended to regulate the affairs of commerce of the nation in general, I must remember, that I am now treating only of what relates to the city of Paris in particular.

After having considered these methods established for the ease and convenience of the inhabitants, it may be useful to examine another branch of their *police* calculated for the same purpose, with regard to the embellishment and decoration of the city itself, particularly in the articles of paving, cleaning, and enlightening the streets.

No other regulations were anciently made for the paving the streets of Paris, than that every inhabitant should, at his own expence, pave the space of ground for a small distance, before his house ; from hence many inconveniences were

complained of, on account of the unevenness and want of uniformity of the pavement; these need not be enumerated, since we are too sensible of them by still persevering in the same method at London. This however was changed at Paris by the declaration of 1609, when the care of paving the streets was put under the joint direction of the *prevôt des marchands*, and the commissaries of the *chatelet*, and the expence defrayed by a tax imposed upon each house in proportion to its front towards the street; but several disputes arising concerning the competency of power between these different magistrates, it was at last found more proper to put the regulation under a separate establishment; and accordingly, by the edict registered in 1640, the direction of it was committed to the *bureau de finance*, or, as we may call it, the board of treasury; and a fund was appropriated out of certain duties payable for the *barrage*, or toll at the barriers of the city, on the entry of certain merchandise levied for this purpose, in lieu and by way of compromise for releasing the tax on the houses, which was then taken off. As the controller-general is the chief of this office, there is a commissary of the treasury appointed under him, who is to be attentive to this part of the *police* with regard to the regulation and the expence of the pavement: and for his assistance, by another edict dated in September 1708, the additional employments of an inspector-general of the pavement, and four controllers of the *barrage*, were erected, *en titre d'office*, who, jointly with the above commissary, are, from time to time, to examine the condition of the works that have been finished,

finished, and what new may be wanting, of all which they make their report to the board of the treasury.

The chief branches of this duty consist in the choice of proper materials—the manner of using them—and the expence of the whole. With regard therefore to the first object, it is directed by many ordonnances, from what quarries the stones shall be brought, being such as are most durable, and of what assize in length and breadth, being such as have been proved to be most fit for paving. Next, a community is established at Paris for the better carrying on the art and mystery of paving, in which a certain number of visitors are appointed to see, that the master paviours and their journeymen perform the work, according to the bye-laws and statutes confirmed to their society by the *arrêt* of council in 1604. And lastly, that the carriage of the materials destined to this public work, may be rendered as cheap as possible from the respective quarries out of which they are dug, all hired carts and stage waggons, passing by and going to Paris, are obliged to take in a certain quantity, and deliver the same *gratis*, at the first barrier of the city through which they pass: and the paving and repairing is generally lett out by lease, for a certain number of years, to such undertakers, as shall offer to perform it, at the cheapest rate, upon the conditions and covenants as therein set forth, giving security, at the same time, for the due execution thereof. But whatever number or weight of stones are wanting to compleat the quantity contracted for, over and above what are conveyed by these carriages, must be brought either by land or water, at the expence of the contractor.

As

As I have procured a copy of the last lease, dated the 1st of January 1747, to continue in force for the term of nine years, I shall here set down the substance of all the articles, that we may be fully apprized of the conditions necessary to be performed, should it ever be thought proper to delegate such an undertaking to a separate commission, for the better pavement of the streets of London and Westminster.

The adjudication of this lease was granted to the present undertaker, to be by him performed in the manner hereunder covenanted, upon the consideration of the annual payment of 295,000 *livres*, which is 12,905 pounds sterling, being the lowest sum for which it was undertaken to be executed. The preamble of the *arrêt* of council, by which the lease is granted, specifies the several parts of Paris, and the precincts adjoining, comprized in this bargain, containing 578,880 *toises* of ground in *superficie*. Note, one *toise* Paris, is equal to two yards English. These are to be kept in repair at the cost of the undertaker, and upon the following conditions.

“ That, out of the above number, there shall be 55000
 “ *toises* of superficial pavement turned up, and new laid, every
 “ year, in the several places marked out, according to a state
 “ that shall be made by the inspector general, in the presence
 “ of the commissary of the pavement, and approved of by the
 “ controller-general of the finances.—In order to execute
 “ this, the undertaker is to erect a number of tool-houses,
 “ furnished with all necessary tools and utensils, and to engage
 “ proper and skilful workmen, for whom he is to be respon-
 “ sible; who are to begin in the month of April, the pave-
 “ ments that were appointed the year before; and afterwards
 “ proceed

“ proceed to the pavements appointed for the ensuing year ;
 “ and finish the whole in the month of October at latest.—
 “ In the new layings ; such old stones, as shall be soft, and
 “ under six inches in breadth and length, shall be put aside,
 “ and replaced by new ones from eight to nine inches on all
 “ sides, solid, and well squared.—After the whole pave-
 “ ment is taken up, for the space at least of six *toises* in length,
 “ the trench shall be cleared of all the earth and broken flints,
 “ and new dug, so as to admit of at least six inches of gravel
 “ or sand taken fresh out of the river, or such quarries as shall
 “ be directed by the controller-general ; the undertaker not
 “ to have the liberty, on any pretence whatever, to take
 “ the same from any other place, under the penalty of 200
 “ *livres*.—In the trench thus dug, the old stones being new
 “ chipped, and the new ones sharpened and smoothed, shall
 “ be laid in even lines, exactly to the antient levels, neither
 “ sinking nor raising them, under any pretext whatsoever, at
 “ least without an express order from the commissary, upon
 “ the report of the inspector-general ; each pavement to be
 “ ranged in strait lines with one another, with the smallest
 “ joints that are possible, either in the upright or the level ;
 “ and equally beat down by rammers of 50 or 60 pounds
 “ weight ; so that there shall remain no holes : and the swell-
 “ ings shall be exactly raised, according to the different ri-
 “ sings of the streets or causeways : after which, the whole
 “ must be covered with gravel half an inch thick, spread
 “ equally over.—Whenever a causeway is to be made in
 “ the suburbs, and out parts of the city, no old stones must
 “ be used, but such as are at least 15 inches in length to 9 in
 “ breadth,

“ breadth, and as much in heighth; but the new stones, that
 “ are brought to replace the old ones, must be from 20 inches
 “ in length, to 16 inches in breadth, and 20 inches thick:
 “ they must be put in a trench upon a bed of gravel, in the
 “ manner prescribed above.—In all the repairs of the pave-
 “ ment, there must be a ninth part new; and this ninth
 “ part may be carried on in a line, in the causeways and
 “ streets of the suburbs, and even in some parts of Paris;
 “ but when the length of the new runs on to 100 *toises*, then
 “ they must begin to lay a proportionable quantity of old
 “ pavement; so that the new may turn out upon the whole to
 “ be no more than a ninth part of the total of the *superficies*.
 “ If at any time the reparations be greater at some places, and
 “ less in others, a compensation must be made at the end of
 “ the year, or in the next succeeding.—Before any work is
 “ begun in a street, there must be laid in at least four cart
 “ loads of new pavement, and as many of sand, and so to be
 “ continued as the work goes on, that there may be no inter-
 “ ruption for the want of the necessary materials: the refuse
 “ stones and rubbish must be carried off in such a manner,
 “ that none remain twenty four hours after the street be new
 “ paved.—The sides of the pavement in the roads on the
 “ out parts of the city, must be so humoured, either in sink-
 “ ing or raising, according to the circumstances, that there
 “ shall not be more than two inches of descent in each *toise*,
 “ to prevent them from being too steep and slippery.—If
 “ in any of the streets or causeways, there should be altera-
 “ tions ordered, either in raising or lowering, or in the de-
 “ scents, or strait lines; the undertaker shall claim no gra-
 tuity,

“ tuity, unless they exceed more than fifteen *toises*; if they
 “ do not, the removing the earth, and the changes and aug-
 “ mentations shall be made at his own expence.—In the
 “ repairing the bye-streets and alleys, where the pavement is
 “ made up of flints and rubbish, there shall be a ninth part
 “ new; and if there be not sufficient quantity of flints for
 “ repairing the remaining eight parts, the supply must be
 “ made up of the refuse stones of the other streets.—The
 “ sides of the streets, alleys, and causeways, shall be kept in
 “ an even manner, and all holes and ruts filled up: and the
 “ new pavements to be made therein, shall be of the same
 “ kind and assise of stones, as before described; except that
 “ in these last mentioned, the refuse stones from the other
 “ streets, which are of five or six inches at top and bottom,
 “ may be employed, provided they be hard, and not da-
 “ maged. Under all the pavements, old or new, that are to
 “ be repaired, the trench shall be dug, and the pavement
 “ well joined and covered with gravel, and rammed close, as
 “ before articulated; and for all these little repairs, there shall
 “ be four tool-houses established, consisting of an overseer,
 “ dependant on the undertaker, with paviours, workmen,
 “ levellers; and tombrels for the bringing the stones or new
 “ sand, and to carry off the refuse dirt that shall be made.
 “ These are to work, without interruption, all the year, except
 “ in frosty, or rainy weather; and shall be furnished with all
 “ necessary utensils. There shall also be a fifth tool-house,
 “ composed of workmen as above, but circumscribed to be
 “ only in the out-parts; who are not to begin until the
 “ month of May, and finish in October. Whatever new

“ pavement is there made during the term of the lease, shall
 “ also be kept in repair.—When in these particular parts
 “ there be any holes, or channels made in the gravel roads
 “ on the side, by the earth being washed away, they shall be
 “ filled up and raised, if the props or abutments are suffi-
 “ ciently high.—There shall be every year 2000 square
 “ *toises* of new pavement, in the places that shall be di-
 “ rected by the controller-general of the finances.—For
 “ the construction of this pavement, the undertaker is
 “ bound to the removing and carrying away 800 *toises* of
 “ earth. If there be more or less removed in one year, an
 “ allowance is to be made in the next; and the whole to be
 “ accounted for at the end of the lease.—The quantity of
 “ stones to supply all the works abovementioned, is not to be
 “ less for each year than 691,000 weight; each thousand
 “ weight to be composed of 1122 stones; to be brought from
 “ the several quarries, and laid up at the particular places at
 “ Paris as therein specified. Of each species of which, as
 “ fast as they arrive, notice must be sent to the commissary
 “ and inspector-general, or his deputies, who shall certify
 “ their quantity and quality, that they may be employed ac-
 “ cordingly. What shall be defective, are to be set aside,
 “ and not comprised in the account.—The works, when
 “ compleated, must be every year measured, and the accounts
 “ delivered in; namely, for the odd jobs in December, and
 “ for the new setts in the May of the year succeeding: but if
 “ any deficiency is found, no report can be made, nor any
 “ order issued for money, until the complaint be rectified.
 “ In these accounts delivered in, express mention must be
 “ made

“ made of the quantity of stones brought in, according to the
 “ visitations at the ports, and the registry of the carriers, ve-
 “ rified by the commissary and inspectors : the undertaker is
 “ also bound, under the penalty of 1000 *livres*, not to sell, or
 “ use in any private works, any of the stones brought in to
 “ furnish the public : he must likewise deliver a note every
 “ week of what number of stones he uses in making or repair-
 “ ing the channels of the public fountains.—No channel is
 “ to be made to any fountain, without permission of the office
 “ of finance, under the penalty of 50 *livres* : nor must they
 “ be repaired by any but the undertaker of the pavements ;
 “ nor in any other manner, but such as shall be directed by
 “ the commissary and inspector-general : and if it should hap-
 “ pen, that there should be any holes by the bursting of the
 “ pipes of the fountains, through the neglect of any indivi-
 “ dual, the undertaker shall repair the pavement ; and after
 “ giving notice to the proprietor, proceed to mend the pipes ;
 “ delivering a bill of the expence to the office of the finance,
 “ which they will oblige the proprietor of the pipes to pay,
 “ in preference to any other creditors. But if any sinking
 “ should appear, through the badness of the pavement,
 “ the undertaker must repair it at his own expence.—
 “ There shall be no joining of the thresholds or entries of
 “ houses to the pavement, by any other person but the un-
 “ dertaker, on the penalty of 20 *livres* on the transgressor.
 “ —Nor must, under the like penalty, the holes made to
 “ fix the scaffolding or props to any house, be filled up by
 “ any other person but the undertaker, who is bound to
 “ repair the same, within twenty-four hours after the props

“ or scaffolds are taken away.—The undertaker may dig for,
 “ and bring away, the sand he shall find fit for his purpose,
 “ upon any ground, paying the proprietor a reasonable satisf-
 “ faction.—The undertaker must attend every day at his
 “ own office, and once a week at the public office of direct-
 “ ion, upon the penalty of 50 *livres*. Every penalty, that is
 “ levied upon him, is to be employed in making new pave-
 “ ments at such places as shall be thought proper. If any
 “ contest arises about the pavement, it must be decided defi-
 “ nitively by the office of the finances; and all persons are pro-
 “ hibited from seeking their remedy from any other jurif-
 “ diction, under the penalty of 200 *livres*.—The under-
 “ taker is to be at the charge of the lease, and all incidental
 “ expences relating thereto.—He must also give good and
 “ sufficient security, by responsible persons, who are to enter
 “ into their recognizance, before the secretary of the council,
 “ previous to the execution and delivery of the lease.”

I have offered the above translation of the articles contained
 in this lease, that we might comprehend from thence, the
 whole system of the administration for regulating the pavement
 of Paris, esteemed to be the best paved city in Europe: from
 whence it may be most material for us to observe, that the
 undertaking is subservient to the direction of one department
 only, consisting of officers no way interested in the lease, but
 invested with a power to direct the work to be executed to
 the advantage of the public, in an equal, uniform and solid
 manner: that the assise of the stones being the same on all
 sides, the turning them up yields always the same even *super-*
ficies; and makes it so much the longer, before the whole can
 be

be worn away : that one part in nine being new every year, the whole pavement of the city is new in the space of nine years, which is the usual term granted to every new undertaker : that work-shops or tool-houses being placed in several parts of the city, if any accidental defect is discovered by the inspector or visitors in going their rounds, upon sending to the workmen nearest at hand, they immediately attend upon the summons to repair it. And lastly, that this whole work is undertaken, upon the king's paying only the sum of 12,905 pounds, which we must suppose is executed at a much less expence, to answer the profit expected by the undertaking.

Next to the duty of the paviour, follows that of the scavenger : this last is the more material, as it contributes not only to the neatness and embellishment of the city, but to the health of the inhabitants ; it being recited by many ancient ordonnances, that the unwholesome air arising from the filth of the streets, was the cause of the many distempers that were heretofore frequent in the capital. These ordonnances were imperfectly executed until the year 1666, when the King established a council of *police*, consisting of the principal magistrates of the city, wherein, amongst other matters, it was thought proper to make some reformation in the particular articles relating to the cleaning and enlightening the streets : the King accordingly having taken upon himself to rectify these, as well as the pavement, they were equally committed to the direction of the board of treasury ; in pursuance of which, a tax was imposed on every house in proportion to its front, and receivers appointed, one in each quarter of the city, to collect and pay what was destined to defray the expence. In

1704, this tax on the houses being redeemed, by the inhabitants paying a certain estimated sum to be exempted from it, the office of the receivers in each quarter was suppressed, and the expence, of both cleaning and lighting the streets, was supplied by a duty on the entry of wine into Paris. Accordingly, the *lieutenant de police* was empowered to lease out, or farm lett the office of scavenger to such person as would engage to perform it at the lowest price. But it was soon found to be impossible for one singly to execute a general work, so daily necessary, at one and the same time, in every part of the city. Whereupon a new edict, by way of declaration, was made in 1714, by which it was allowed, that the scavenger's duty might be leased out to separate undertakers, for each quarter of the city; each of whom should be obliged to furnish six tombrels, with three horses and two men, to take away the dirt in his respective quarter: this is usually undertaken upon the bargain of being paid at the rate of 2000 *livres* a year for every tombrel; which accordingly makes the annual expence, in each quarter, to amount to 12,000 *livres*, or 437 pounds 10 shillings, and the city being divided into 20 quarters, the King's pay, distributed as above to all the undertakers, must amount to 240,000 *livres*, or 10,500 pounds sterling *per annum*. These leases are usually made to continue in force for the term of three years.

After this account of the expence that is allowed; I should proceed to explain the several parts of the duty which these scavengers are required to perform: in doing this, were I to enumerate all the articles and covenants contained in their lease, it would be too tedious, and no ways necessary, since it
will

will be sufficient to describe in what manner the duty is really performed, agreeably to the terms contained in their bargain. We find, to speak of the duty in general, that, to serve all the quarters of the city, there must be 120 tombrels, with two men and three horses to each, employed every day in the several districts of the city : to render the execution of this service the more easy, every householder is obliged to sweep into a heap, all the dirt that lies before his door, house, or garden wall, by nine of the clock, every morning ; of which timely notice is given, by the ringing of a little hand-bell, by one whom the commissary of the quarter appoints to go through all the streets of his division for that purpose. In half an hour after, the inspectors of the *police* make their rounds, to see that the heaps are properly made and placed ; for the neglect of which, the proprietor is liable to a penalty to be imposed by the commissary. At ten of the clock, the carts come by, with the two men, one with a spade to take up the dirt, and the other with a broom to sweep it in : thus they pass from door to door ; and taking up each heap until their tombrels are loaded, they conduct them out of town, to be thrown upon the *voiries*, or places appropriated for the heaping up of dirt and rubbish, in several parts of the out-skirts of the town ; or else to fill up the holes of the sand-pits and stone quarries near adjoining, in such manner as shall, from time to time, be directed : but they are not obliged to take away the rubbish of any house, that is repairing ; nor the refuse stocks of any gardens ; the proprietors themselves being obliged to remove these at their own expence, and are severely fined upon any neglect of so doing. But with regard

to

to the dirt and mud in the middle of the streets, other tombrels are employed, at stated hours, every morning and afternoon, both in summer and winter, to sweep and throw into their tombrels, whatever they may be able to contain, according as the weather may be wet or dry; particularly they are to be more assiduous in their duty in hard winters, to carry off, or sweep away into the kennels, all the ice or snow that may fall; for which extraordinary duty, whenever it happens, they are allowed a gratification at the end of the year, over and above their annual salary. They make as much haste as possible in going and returning from the places where they lay their dirt; nor must they employ their tombrels in any other work whatsoever.

The lighting the streets at night is another duty, which is likewise substituted to such undertakers as will do it for the least sum of money: the expence of this is usually estimated at 300,000 *livres*, or 13,125 pounds sterling: to answer which, as the buildings in the city began to encrease, the antient tax was imposed on the new houses, as not being comprised in the former bargain: and in the beginning of the late war in 1744, a new tax was laid even on the old houses, under pretext, that the bargain they had before made for the redemption, was too favourable on their side.

Two persons are generally contracted with for this undertaking; the one to find the lanthorns, cords and pullies; and the other to supply the candles: for the streets are here illuminated by hanging lanthorns on the middle of a cord, that reaches cross the street; and is fixed to pullies on each side, at about fifteen feet high, and about fifteen yards distance
from

from one another. There are 6500 lanthorns, and consequently as many candles consumed every time they are lighted ; which is only twenty times in a month, being laid aside during the moon-light nights : and are never lighted, but from the last day of September, to the first day of April, each year ; being taken down and set apart, during all the summer months.

Each lanthorn is supposed to consume about fifty pounds of candles every season. When there is no moon-light at all, they burn four in the pound ; and on the encrease and decline of the moon, they burn eight in the pound. The person who contracts for this supply, delivers to the commissary of each quarter, the quantity destined for that district ; from which magazine, he delivers out every Saturday, a sufficient quantity to serve for the ensuing week, to a certain species of officers, called *lanterniers*, who in like manner as the lamp-lighters in the city of London, are elected in each quarter of the city to execute the duty. The election is made on some day in the beginning of August each year, by the householders assembled for that purpose at the commissary's house, where as many are nominated as there are streets in the quarter, one for every street, or rather, one for every fifteen lanthorns, for to that number the duty of each is confined. All inhabitants in their turn, even the first magistrates, submit to the execution of this duty, upon being elected ; and having the number of candles delivered to them every Saturday, as before-mentioned, they substitute some menial servant, or poor house-keeper in the same street, to perform the duty : accordingly, every evening, as soon as it begins to grow dark, the com-

Q

missary

military sends out a person, ringing a hand-bell through all the streets of his quarter, to give notice, as in the morning, for cleaning the streets; so now for lighting them; upon which each *lanternier's* servant immediately falls out, and having a key to the iron box in which the end of every cord is fastned on the sides of the streets, lets down the lanthorn hanging on the same, and fixing his lighted candle therein, draws it up again: and thus every one having only fifteen lanthorns under his care, the whole city is illuminated, in a very short space after notice; though the light itself is indeed a very indifferent one. Let it therefore be observed, that although I have been thus particular in describing the manner in which it is performed, I do not mean it by way of comparison, much less of preference to that better method which is established by a late act of Parliament for enlightening the streets of the city of London. It is pity that method is confined to the city only; whereas here the establishment, deficient as it is, extends equally to every part of the suburbs. I may also venture to offer to our imitation, the little expence at which these three great articles are performed at Paris; namely, the paving at 12,906 pounds—the cleaning at 10,500 pounds—the lighting at 13,125 pounds—the sum total of all, 36,531 pounds.

P A R T V.

Remarks on the Extent and Circumference both of *London* and *Paris* ; the Number of their Inhabitants ; and the Necessity of circumscribing the Boundaries of each : Coucluding with an Estimate of the Expence of the *Police* at *Paris*.



W HETHER London or Paris is the larger city, being a question, often asked, I thought best to have it decided, by ocular demonstration ; and therefore requested an ingenious artist to reduce the plans of the two cities to one and the same scale ; which he accordingly executed, with their environs for the space of about five miles, taking in Kensington and Greenwich from west to east of London ; and the wood of Boulogne and the castle of Vincennes from west to east of Paris. These plans I suppose are to be had at the printsellers, where, at one view, the curious may be satisfied, that London, from the space of ground, and from the number of houses with which that space is covered, is by much the larger city, with respect to length and circumference.

But although London is by much the larger of the two, and may claim several superior advantages with regard to the wideness of its streets, and conveniencies for the foot passengers, yet I must allow, that Paris has by much the neater and more agreeable appearance; and the passages for those who go in coaches, are infinitely more easy and commodious; and its environs, if not more beautiful by nature, are certainly more magnificent by art.

The houses are all built of free-stone dug out of the quarries near at hand; and the wood fires yielding less smoke, the atmosphere is much clearer than that of London; so that the sight of the whole from any eminence, is no ways intercepted. Not that any conclusion can from hence be made, that the air is more healthful in one city than in the other, since, by the bills of mortality, we find the same proportion of advanced ages in each. I must also take the liberty of observing, that Paris, by being built as it were upon a circle, with the river Seine, scarce a third part so wide as the Thames, running through the center, makes the communication from one quarter to the other, much more short and commodious than at London; and the streets here likewise cutting cross each other, give frequent opportunities to the coaches and carts to turn to the right or left, when they see too great a crowd advancing towards them; and thus avoid making any stops in the passages; an inconvenience that rarely happens at Paris; owing perhaps also to the greater politeness of the drivers, who readily give way to each other at the first word; a complaisance, to which the draymen and hackney coachmen at London seem to be totally strangers.

To enter into a more minute description of Paris, I might add, that it contains 57 parishes, 200 churches and chappels, 138 monasteries, 60 for men, and 78 for women; and 970 streets, the names of which are, by an ordonnance in 1730, engraved or marked, in large capital letters, on a square piece of stone or wood, fixed and let in, at a proper heighth, to the corner house of every street; that passengers may be informed of the names without farther enquiry.

As to the number of houses in the streets, and the number of inhabitants in the houses; these cannot be ascertained, by any fixed rule or measure, without a personal enquiry at each; which being difficult to make, we must be content to approach to the truth, as near as we can, by the help of conjectures, founded on such *postulata's*, as are usually laid down in computations, by political arithmetic: however, in endeavouring to form some calculation of this nature, we cannot enter into a fairer method than that of making use of the testimony of their own authors, where, if any partiality can be presumed, it must be supposed to lay on their side.

Accordingly, some of the most reputable authors who have published their calculations on this subject, have computed, from the quantity of square acres built upon in the circumference of Paris, that the number of houses ought to amount to 30,000; but by other computations from the annual income of the *dixieme* taxed upon the rent of each house, their numbers are supposed not to be more than 28,000; let us take the difference, and put down 29,000, and allowing 20 persons to each house, which perhaps is more than they really

really contain, it may from hence be estimated, that there are 580,000 inhabitants.

There is another method of calculation, which seems to be the most conclusive of any ; I mean, the consumption of provisions, particularly of bread, which people of all ages and ranks of life, and at all times of the year, in fasts as well as festivals, equally consume. By finding out therefore the quantity of this consumption, we shall arrive very near to the knowledge of the number of the people ; by computing how many might be supposed to subsist upon such a quantity of provisions.

According to this method of calculation, if we suppose every person at Paris to eat nine pounds of bread in a week, which is the usual allowance to all servants and domestics, he would consume in the year 468 pounds of bread. Now the medium of the entries of wheat and rye, some years ago, was said to be about 82,000 *muids*, but by some entries I have seen of late, they have not amounted to near so much. However we will make our computation on the highest estimate, and suppose that 82,000 *muids* are annually entered. One *muid* of corn, Paris measure, contains 12 *setiers*, and one *setier* 12 bushels, and one bushel 20 pounds. As a *setier* therefore contains only 240 pounds, we may suppose each person to consume two *setiers*, or 480 pounds, in the year, which is a trifle more than what is above supposed ; and upon this computation of two *setiers* to each, it will appear, that to make the annual consumption of 82,000 *muids* of corn, will require 492,000 persons.

I might

I might here enter into a further discussion of this subject, by following the usual method of computing the number of inhabitants by the number of annual births and burials. But I must observe, that conclusions, drawn from figures only, may be oftentimes erroneous, unless we take into consideration, the facts upon which the account is stated. However, to satisfy such persons as may be desirous of comparing the bills of mortality of the city of London, with these of Paris; I have transcribed the state of the christnings, marriages, and burials at Paris for the five last years, that is, from the conclusion of the peace at Aix la Chapelle in 1748, to the present year 1754, during which time I have chiefly resided in this city.

<i>Dates of the Year.</i>	<i>Christnings.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1749 - -	19158 - -	4263 - -	18607
1750 - -	19035 - -	4619 - -	18084
1751 - -	19321 - -	5013 - -	16673
1752 - -	20227 - -	4359 - -	17762
1753 - -	19729 - -	4146 - -	21716

It appears by the account above, that the annual christnings at Paris exceed the burials; as on the contrary, in our bills of mortality, the annual burials in London exceed the number of christnings; but no proof can be formed from hence, either of the greater proportion of increase of people in the one, or of a decrease in the other: for as it is customary in Paris to baptise their children the instant they are born, and to send them, in a day or two after, into the adjacent

jacent villages to be nursed ; all such who happen to die in their infant state out of the walls of the city, appear only in the registry of their christnings ; whereas in London, it being usual to delay the baptism until some days after the children are born, and to nurse them, at the same time, within the town, all such as die in this infant state, without having received the ceremony of baptism, appear only on the registry of its burials. The difference also of the number of burials in each city, depends on many various circumstances : for example ; the nobility of France, the *financiers*, and dependants on the court, reside in their hotels at Paris almost the whole year, and very few of their tradesmen have country houses : such a permanency therefore of inhabitants must be constantly increasing the number of their burials. But the nobility and country gentlemen of England pass only the winter months in London ; and even the merchants and eminent tradesmen divide their time between their counting-houses in the city, and their villas in the adjoining counties. The deaths therefore, which happen in these intermediate times of country retirement, render our bills of mortality much smaller in summer than they are in winter, which upon the whole, must make the yearly account much less than it would have been, had all the people constantly resided in town. There is another circumstance which makes the account of burials in London not so large as might be expected, from even the appearance of the resident inhabitants, I mean the number of people of different sects of religion, who, having separate burying-grounds, are not put down in the public parish register. Yet notwithstanding all these deductions, the bills

of

of mortality in London are much higher than those of Paris. To account for this, another circumstance must be mentioned, which I do not find the compilers of the tables, printed in England, of the births and burials in these two cities, seem to be any ways apprised of; I mean, that the extent and circumference of the districts comprised in our bills of mortality is much larger than that of Paris, as it contains, not only all the parishes within and without the walls of the city, under the jurisdiction of the lord mayor, but also all the parishes of the city and liberty of Westminster, and the adjoining parishes of Middlesex and Surry, amounting in all, to one hundred and thirty six. Whereas the state of the registry, published at Paris, comprehends only those within what is called the *banlieu* or circuit of its jurisdiction, distinguished under the following divisions, namely; The town, containing twenty-eight parishes; the city, containing eleven; and the university, eighteen: in all fifty-seven parishes. And although these are larger than the parishes within the walls of London; yet the parishes in Westminster and Middlesex are in general larger than those of Paris, as appears by the respective burials in each. Consequently if we compare the extent of the districts to the number of inhabitants in each, we shall find, that although London be the largest, yet Paris is the most peopled in proportion to its dimension.

After all, instead of attributing any glory either to London or Paris, on account of the greatness of their circumference, or the number of their inhabitants, we ought rather to determine both are too large. A city over-built, may fall, like Rome, by its own weight. It was to prevent any ill consequences

R

quences from hence, that many ordonnances, and *arrêts* of council, have, from time to time, been made, to fix the boundaries of Paris; the particular reasons for which are recited in the *arrêt* of 1638, setting forth, “ That by the excessive aggrandizing the city, the air would be rendered more unwholesome, and the cleaning the streets more difficult: that augmenting the number of inhabitants, would augment the price of provisions, labour and manufactures: that it would cover the space of ground by buildings, that ought to be cultivated in raising the necessary provisions for the inhabitants, and thereby hazard a scarcity: that the people in the neighbouring towns and villages would be tempted to come and fix their residence in the capital, and desert the country round about: and lastly, that the difficulty of governing so great a number of people, would occasion a disorder in the *police*, and give an opportunity to rogues and villains to commit robberies and murders, both by night and by day, within and about the city.” For which reasons, particular marks were then fixed at each out-let of the city, beyond which it was forbid that any buildings should be erected. But afterwards, by the increase of trade and people, and the embellishments that were added in the reign of Lewis the XIVth, Paris by degrees became extended beyond these limits: upon which, the above inconveniences being soon perceived, it was thought necessary to enforce the design of the former laws by a new declaration of the present King, dated July 18, 1724, which in its preamble, in the same manner, takes notice of the necessity of making these new provisions to prevent the further growth of the city, which,

in

in the end, might prove its ruin ; reciting also the following additional reasons, “ That the inhabitants, augmenting in
 “ proportion to the increase of the buildings, would not only
 “ enhance the price of provisions, but also the price of the
 “ materials for building ; infomuch, that those who had
 “ houses already, would find it difficult to make the necessary
 “ reparations : that the preserving a regular *police*, would
 “ be rendered almost impossible in all the different parts of
 “ so large a body : that the going oftentimes in one day
 “ from one end of the city to the other, which the people
 “ in business are frequently obliged to do, would be rendered
 “ very fatiguing : and consequently, the facility of their
 “ mutual intercourse and communication would be greatly
 “ interrupted ; that besides, it was to be apprehended, that
 “ the ancient buildings in the interior parts, would be quite
 “ neglected, by the people’s being tempted to go into new
 “ ones in the out-skirts.” Therefore as the most sure means
 of preventing all these great evils, it was again thought proper
 to confine this city, large as it was, within the bounds of its
 then circumference ; with liberty nevertheless, to enlarge the
 buildings contained within that compass, under which limits
 it has ever since remained. I was at Paris in the year 1725,
 and several times since, and find it at present just of the same
 dimensions as at the first time I saw it. It is well known, on
 the other hand, to what a degree London has been increased,
 infomuch, that the additional buildings, erected since the time
 above-mentioned, nearly equal one quarter of Paris ; at the
 same time, I am sorry to appeal to daily experience, whether
 those same bad consequences, suggested in the preambles of

the above declarations, which I have purposely transcribed, are not now sensibly felt by the present inhabitants of London and Westminster.

But supposing a city necessarily enlarged by the multitudes of people engaged to carry on its trade and commerce, it must then be a right policy, not only to divide its government amongst several subordinate officers, but also the city itself into several districts, over which each separate magistrate may have a particular superintendency. It was for this reason that Paris, which was formerly divided into sixteen quarters, no sooner began to increase in its growth, than it was found expedient to make some additional divisions, and to alter the former into more equal partitions; accordingly, by the edict of 1702, this city was divided into 20 distinct cantons, without regard to the parochial divisions, which are, as in London, very unequal. These take their names from the most remarkable building, street or church, that is contained in each, as *quartier du Louvre, quartier du Temple, quartier de St. Jaques*. &c. I must farther observe, that as commissaries are appointed over each quarter, for the better administration of justice, so these divisions are again intended for the greater facility of gathering the revenues, that are raised in the city, towards the expence of all the occasional services.

Should I now attempt to set down a state of these revenues and expences, I should at the same time be obliged to desire the reader, as odd as it might appear, not to trust to it: for when we consider how difficult it is for strangers to procure any accounts of this nature; and what particular caution this government takes to keep them secret; how few of their re-

venues

venues are appropriated; how seldom they are liquidated; and how artful the managers are in setting down fictitious charges to mask and cover the expence of private services; when these deceits, I say, are taken into consideration, it must be hazardous to rely on the truth of any article: I shall venture therefore only to describe from what funds their city revenues are raised, and to what purposes they are generally intended, without pretending to set down the amount of the several items, except only such as immediately relate to those branches of the *police*, which have been the subject of this treatise.

To this purpose, it is necessary to take notice, that there are, in almost every city in the kingdom, town duties imposed on the entry of provisions, and other saleable commodities; part of which are appropriated to the service of the King, and part to support their own exigency. These, it may be supposed, are greater in the capital, than in any of the smaller towns of the provinces; and are here under the direction of the *prevôt des marchands*, and the office of the finances established at Paris for the collection of the city revenues; two treasurers and two controllers being appointed for that purpose by the edict of 1729, who are to account for the monies received by the several following articles, viz.—By the rent of lands and houses in and about Paris, belonging to the *hotel de ville*, or corporation of Paris.—By the duties on the entry of wine, brandy, and other liquors, fowl, game, cattle, eggs, butter, cheese, hay, straw, barley, oats, grain, and corn.—By a tax on the fairs and markets within the city, and upon weights and measures, sign-posts, pent-houses, and jettings over shops, &c.—By
the

the tolls for crossing the river in ferries, or other passage boats.—By a tax for cleaning and lighting the streets, on such houses as were not included in the redemption that was made in 1704; together with the new duty imposed on all the houses in general in 1744.—By fines and confiscations at the *prevôts des marchands* court.—By the duty on the reception of freemen to the several arts and mysteries, and fees of visitation.—By a tax of 2 *sols* in 20, over and above the capitation for the expence of gathering it.—By a tax on all butchers stalls, public-houses and victuallers, being 2 *livres* 8 *sols* a year on each, over and above what they pay for the license of retailing beer, cyder, and victuals.—By a tax on wood and coals brought by water, warfage on the quays, and the tax of 1 *sol* in 20 for alien duties on foreign goods.—By a tax on the gage, tonnage and measure of all boats and vessels bringing in wines and other liquors.—And lastly, by a new tax of 4 *sols* in 20, established in 1748, upon all the duties that were imposed in the city from the commencement of the last war. This duty was suspended in 1751; but the inhabitants dread its being laid on again on any renewal of hostilities.

The amount of these revenues are destined first to answer the demands of the King; next to support the magistracy and jurisdiction of the *hotel de ville*; and lastly towards the maintenance of the *police*, for the security and conveniency of the inhabitants.

With respect to the King's demands; we may imagine the greatest share is destined to his and the public service; especially as the duties stand engaged for payment of great part of the interest on the national debt, particularly on what is due
half

half yearly on the contracts of the *hotel de ville*, and for the hereditary, perpetual and life annuities, which have, from time to time, especially within these few years past, been granted for the monies lent, in support of the late war.

As to what is reserved by the *hotel de ville*, for the support of the corporation, the payments are destined to the following purposes : namely, To the salary of the *prevôt des marchands*, and the military government of the city.—To their secretaries, and all other officers belonging to their jurisdiction.—To the pay of the officers and troops of the city guards.—To the appointments of the receivers and comptrollers of their accounts, and all clerks belonging thereto.—To travelling charges of the city messengers.—To the expence of keeping in repair the pumps and engines, &c.—To the city surveyor for repairs of public buildings, fountains, quays, bridges, &c.—To the wages of the public executioner, and attendants, &c.—To several annual gifts, pensions and charities.—To the charge of the usual city feasts, and occasional rejoicings, illuminations and fire-works.—And lastly, to the salaries of the singers and dancers of the opera house, and to the losses on the management ; that public diversion, as I have mentioned before, being under the direction of the *prevôt des marchands*.

I am now come to the third branch of their expence for supporting the charge of the *police*, and which is indeed the only one that properly relates to the present enquiry. I shall therefore set down the amount of these articles ; for whatever difficulties there may be in finding out the truth of the items in the others, I have taken care to be exact in this branch ; the sums being computed from the fixed salaries paid to their civil officers ; from the pay to their military
watch-

watch-guard ; and from the contracts entered into by the undertakers for paving, cleaning and lighting their streets. The particulars of which, I have mentioned under their respective heads, and shall now recapitulate the totals—as follow, viz.

Expences of the POLICE.

	l.	s.
To salaries of the inspectors of the <i>police</i> , } 10000 <i>livres</i> , - - - - - }	437	- 10
To ditto of the exempts of the <i>police</i> , } 18250 <i>livres</i> , - - - - - }	798	- 8
To ditto of the archers, 41975 <i>livres</i> , - -	1836	- 0
To the pay of the <i>guet</i> of horse, namely, } 160 troopers at 3 <i>livres</i> , and 40 bri- } gadiers at 4 <i>livres</i> 10 <i>sols</i> <i>per</i> day ; in } all 200 men, 240900 <i>livres</i> , - - - }	10539	- 7
To ditto of the <i>guet</i> on foot, 306 private } at 15 <i>sols</i> , 57 corporals at 18 <i>sols</i> , 37 } serjeants at 20 <i>sols</i> <i>per</i> day each ; in all } 400 men, 117822 <i>livres</i> , - - - }	5154	- 14
To the public paviour, as <i>per</i> contract, } 295000 <i>livres</i> , - - - - - }	12906	- 0
To the scavengers, as <i>per</i> contract, 240000 } <i>livres</i> , - - - - - }	10500	- 0
To the lanthorn lighters, as <i>per</i> contract, } 300000 <i>livres</i> , - - - - - }	13125	- 0
	55296 - 19	

I might

I might also add to these, the great expence for the maintaining the general hospital, being computed from the consumption of their bread, and from an estimate made of all their other necessary articles, amounting to upwards of 117,000 pounds, as stated before, in page 74. This income destined for the relief of the poor, I have taken notice, is raised by a tax on all kinds of provisions consumed within the city, and consequently paid in common by the strangers as well as native inhabitants; and although duties of this sort may be impolitic, as I have more than once observed before, yet such an appropriation of them, is certainly a charitable one; since, by this means, the provisions consumed by the rich, contribute towards the purchase of provisions for the subsistence of the poor.

Upon the whole, adding the expence for maintaining the poor, to the expence for maintaining the other part of their *police*, they amount, including the charges of the collecting, to about 180,000 pounds sterling: which sum is partly supplied from the income of their own estates, and the remainder raised by a general and equal tax on the inhabitants, as I have mentioned before, and which is levied in lieu of all parochial duties, and in full for poor's rate, watch rate, and the rates payable for paving, cleaning, and lighting the streets, in all the several parishes of the city, suburbs, and the whole circumference of what we may call their bills of mortality. If therefore the separate parochial assessments in the several districts of London and Westminster, for the same purposes, are greater and more unequally levied, we may, by comparing the above example to our own, be led into the consideration what remedy to apply.

This has been my principal view in making these enquiries concerning the several branches of the *police* of France, and of the city of Paris; that by comparing them to the methods attempted in our country, we might discover, which ought to have the preference, agreeably to the principles of our own constitution. The end of this publication will accordingly be answered, if happily from hence, after a due examination of both, such regulations should be formed in our *police*, as might more effectually contribute to the ease and safety of the rich, the relief of the poor, and the peace and welfare of the community in general.

F I N I S.

Erratum. Page 75, last Line but one, for 166 , read 1662.





