

**Candid remarks on Mr. Hanway's Candid historical account of the Foundling Hospital, and a more useful plan humbly recommended in a letter to a Member of Parliament / [David Stansfield].**

### **Contributors**

Stansfield, David, active 18th century  
Member of Parliament

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183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
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*Candid* REMARKS on Mr. HANWAY'S  
Candid Historical Account  
OF THE  
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,

A N D

A more useful Plan humbly Recommended, in  
a LETTER to a Member of PARLIAMENT.

by D. Stansfield

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*Habemus confitentem Reum.*

Cic.

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THE SECOND EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

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To which is added a

REJOINDER to Mr. HANWAY'S  
Reply to the above REMARKS.

C O M P A R I N G

The *New Plan* of a Foundling Hospital, which is now  
offer'd by Mr. H.; with the *old one* of our present  
Poor Laws.—And pointing out a *few* of the *many* ad-  
vantages, which would result to the community; from  
the abolition of *both*. And establishing, in lieu of'em,  
National, or County Workhouses.

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*Salus populi, suprema Lex.*

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## Candid Remarks, &c.

 *F. H.* Signifies FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.



S I R,

 I N Obedience to your Commands, I now cover you a few Observations which occur'd to me on reading Mr. *Hanway's* Candid Historical Account of the *F. H.*—This Judicious Writer I observe, gives up the *present Scheme* of extending that Hospital to *all* Children, and in page 42 he calls it, and calls it very truly, a *ridiculous Scheme*, ful of *Danger*, as it promotes Numberless Evils.

THO' this author is a Governor of the *F. H.*, Yet in order to prove the certainty of its preserving Life; The difficulty of his coming at satisfactory Calculations for want of sufficient *data*; may arise, partly from the number of pregnant women, who for *Secrecy* and Hospital Aid,



come out of the Country, to be deliver'd in Town ; and partly from the uncertain (because continually *increasing*,) number of *healthful*, lusty country Bastards and other Infants, which are admitted into the *F. H.* intermixedly with *unhealthful* City-Children from Stews and Workhouses. These several Blinds render *all calculations* on this extended Plan precarious, and incline this candid Author to subscribe his Accounts, as Merchants do theirs, *Errors excepted*.

But as he pleads for the *F. H.* being still continu'd on a more limited Plan, which Plan according to his proposal, is to extend no farther, than to the Bills of Mortality: the *sole* Reason which he urges, for such continuance and limitation is as follows, *viz.*

The Number of Infant Lives, which he says are lost in the Workhouses, within the Bills of Mortality, thro' the *Indolence* and backwardness, in men of Fortune and Capacity, to superintend, or thro' the indifferency and carelessness of the Parish Officers to overlook them: is *he* thinks a sufficient Plea, for continuing the *F. H.* within those Limits, as a Refuge more Eligible than such Workhouses, and which promises a greater savingness



of Lives to the Public, and therefore ought to be aided by the Public. But when Mr. Hanway himself judiciously asserts in p. 9. and 10. “ *that where the Poor Laws are regularly and properly executed, F. Hs are unnecessary.*” and when he further assures us in p. 88 “ *that some few Parishes in Westminster do execute those Laws properly, and that they are the true kind of F. Hs,*” — These Questions naturally occur. — Why do not the Parish Officers and Gentlemen in London, discharge their Duty as well as *they* in Westminster? — If the Workhouses in London are too small, why are not larger built? — If in a bad Situation, why is not a better chosen? — If Dirt, Nastiness and Filth, beget Infection, Disease and Death, why is it not remov’d? — Must the other Parishes in the Kingdom who *do their Duty* to the Poor, and to their Country, be burden’d afresh, to support the Poor of those Parishes who thro’ their officers Indolence and Carelessness *do it not*? — If fresh Powers from the State be wanting, why are they not Obtain’d? the Legislature, when properly apply’d to, is always ready to give Sanction to Laudable Schemes of this kind. — If City Luxury, and City Licentiousness, generate unhealthful Children in Stews and Brothels, and the *F. H.* by encouraging those Licentious generating Means increase the



Number of unhealthful Children, — Must the Sober and Diligent in the Country, take Care of, and Support such Children?—and why? why, because the Lazy and Indolent Citizens refuse to superintend and take Care of 'em themselves?—But, is this the way to check that torrent of Evil in the City which such a Licentious Carnality threatens? or to restore the Morals which the *F. H.* has corrupted? or to encourage other Parish Officers in the Country to a constant discharge of their Duty?—Nay, wil not granting Public Money, in aid of Metropolitan Parishes, for their Officers *confess'd misconduct* to Infants, tend to promote farther and greater degrees of misconduct to their other Poor, the Adult and Aged?

In page 55 he truly and judiciously observes “ that  
 “ the *Happiness* of a Nation, but particularly of *this*  
 “ *Nation*, depends a great deal more on the *Virtue*  
 “ of the *Poor* and the Common People, than we are  
 “ generally aware of.” And indeed the sudden Resolution of founding *Magdalen Houses*, which was immediately form'd and executed (upon the State being yok'd to the *F. H.* in 1756) with a View to restore and corroborate that Female Sense of *Shame* and Regard to Morals which the *F. H.* had demolish'd and weakened, and



was still demolishing and weakening so fast;—indicates  
 1 sufficiently, that many Good Men were *then* of his Opinion. And by carrying these 2 Plans so far into Execution, near 200,000l of Public Money and Private Bounty, has been expended, in promoting two *Effects* diametrically opposite to each other.

In page 41 and 42 he says, “ the Secrecy on which the  
 “ *F. H.* is founded, is *detrimental*, and like the States  
 “ being *Pander* to Whores and Whoremongers and to  
 “ provide a *F. H.* for such purposes, to say no worse,  
 “ seems to be RIDICULOUS, in such a Nation as this.”  
 And further in page 49 he adds, “ upon a general View  
 “ of the present Plan of the *F. H.* I cannot conceal  
 “ my Apprehensions of DANGER.” Yet when the Legislature began to oppose and examine into this *F. H.* Idol, which had been so long worship’d; Mr. H. observes in p. 40 upon some of the leading Patriots in that Opposition. “ I believe (says he) they are VERY  
 “ RIGHT upon the whole—yet I am *alarmed*, and so  
 “ far as I am concern’d think it necessary to stand up—  
 “ on the *defensive*.” Mr. H. cannot surely mean by this Declaration of his, to defend what he himself thinks *very wrong*, and if the Foundling Plan shou’d be found



on a careful Inspection to be one of those *foolish extremes* which (Mr. H. says p. 40) the Nation is so apt to run into, Why shou'd it not be gently and peaceably dropt, and every unnecessary *Alarm* banish'd?

Those truly Honourable and worthy Patriots who headed this inquiry are humane Men, ful of Public Love, ful of Private Virtue, and ful of the most generous Compassion to their Suffering Country; watching every Avenue which might lead to destruction, least, while the extream parts of the Body Politic are flourishing, a Viper shou'd be poisoning its Vitals, or, whilst his Majesty's Arms are gathering Strength, Riches, and Glory from abroad, a *F. H* shou'd be strewing Weakness, Poverty, and Depopulation at home. They are unaw'd by Power, unbias'd by Interest, unprejudic'd by Custom, uninfluenced by a Mob Popularity; and all good Men, in lieu of being alarm'd at their inquiries, wil rejoice to be under their Protection, and wil think them worthy of their utmost confidence, as wel as deserving of their highest Praise

'Tis not improbable but upon a more strict scrutiny into the Plan of the *F. H.* there may be found at the  
bottom



Bottom of it, a low liv'd *Juncto* concealing their infamous *Design*, under the Sanction and truly compassionate *Design* of its worthy Governors to preserve Life : and which *Juncto* may be encouraging and helping to form those Plans of *Secrecy* which Mr. H. says in p. 111 “ are now forming,” But which he himself most heartily *disapproves* of.

If we reflect upon the late Efforts that were made extend the Lying-In Hospital for marry'd Women, to Women of all denominations, *Seemingly* to annihilate those 2 Divine Guards to Female Innocence, *Shame* and *Timidity*, faster and more effectually than the *F. H.* alone cou'd destroy them,—and if we attend to the Doctrines that have been publicly propagated, in favor of Concubinage as preferable to Marriage, and that half of the Human species, viz. the Females, shou'd only be considered, as Gentlemen consider their *Brood Mares*, or as Country Squires do their *Game Hens*, or their *Bitches* to breed on,—and that as *NATURE* does not furnish Females enough, in the proportion *she* usually observes, to satisfy their Sinful Lusts, The *STATE* ought to import Quantities of 'em from abroad, that Men of such licentious inclinations may increase the



Number of Whores in the Kingdom;—Such *Facts*, and such Doctrines, thus Propagated, indicate *seemingly* a more than probable Sinister *Design*; a Design which ought in *reality* to alarm our Apprehensions, and awaken our Fears, if we prefer Virtue, Order, Decency, Population and Government; — to Vice, Disorder, Licentiousness, Depopulation and Ruin.

In p. 45 this sensible Writer says, “ nothing is more  
 “ evident to me than that INDUSTRY will be hurt by the  
 “ *F. H.* whilst we continue to receive *all* Children secretly  
 “ and indiscriminately.” And he adds a little further in  
 p. 46. “ *Useful Labor*, is the great Source whence the  
 “ Riches of the Nation flow: every Spur to it is there-  
 “ fore a *Benefit*, and every Motive to Idleness an Injury.”  
 And permit me to add, what I greatly fear will be the Con-  
 sequence of his own propos'd Plan: *viz.* that *Industry* and  
 useful *Labor* and even the Manufactories in Spittle Fields,  
 wil go heavily on; if the Parish Officers within the Bills of  
 Mortality have Liberty to carry *all* Children which are  
 brought to 'em indiscriminately (without the Secrecy) to  
 the *F. H.*—As to our present Poor Laws, however *Singular*  
 they may be in their *Liberality* to the Poor, and however *se-*  
*vere* in respect to Settlements, and however *defective* and



unprecedented they may be in both, yet 'tis seemingly Mr. H's Opinion as well as mine, that they are much better adapted to a Commercial State such as ours is, when properly executed, than a *F. H.* is, even when it is limited according to his own Plan. For,

From a desire of *Ease*, in the Poor, and to procure exemption from Labor, accompanied with a *Self Interested* Principle inhærent in *them*, as well as in the Rich, these Paupers wou'd load Parish Workhouses (in Manufacturing Countries) much more than they do, did not the *Self Interest* of the Parish, on the other hand, by their Officers and Church Wardens, obstruct and prevent them. And we find by Experience, that two such opposite *Interests* seldom meet of 'emselves without the interposition of a *disinterested* Magistrate: when a prudent one will Examine carefully, and Judge equitably, whether One, or more Children shall be taken from every such *Pauper*, to leave him Children *enough* to Balance the utmost of his Labor, (in which the Public is so highly interested,) and not *too many*, least he injure his Health and Despond. But by adopting the propos'd limited Plan of a *F. H.* and aiding it with Public Money, these before *balancing* selfish Interests of the Poor, and



their Parish, are dissolv'd, and the interposition of a Magistrate render'd useless: whereby a Door is open'd within those Limits, for *Ease* and *Indolence* to the one, and private influential Gratuities to the other.—Such a capacious sure refuge as this limited Plan wil appear to be in the Eye of Paupers, cannot fail in the Issue, of Effectually removing those *wants* of the Poor, which are the grand *Spur* to their Industry.—Wil Poor People *work* when they may have their Wants relieved without it? Wil *Industry* thrive, when the Principal Motives (namely their Children) which lead to it, are taken away? Wil Commerce and Manufactories flourish when, for want of these spurs to Labor, none wil Labor, in the lowest Offices, but on their own Terms? can it be expected that these *Paupers* wil struggle with constant Difficulties, under the severest Labor, (and which Multitudes do at present struggle with contentedly, even to the end of Life, ) when they have such a Commodious Access to *Ease* and *Relief*?

Moreover, when the Parishes in and about *London* become partly *uninterested*, thro' this Public Aid, and their Officers being uncheck'd by Magistrates;—Who wil wonder if in a few Years the Offices of Overseers and Church Wardens in *London* shal be found as beneficial as that  
of



of a Coalmeter's Office, and as much sought after? — The narrow selfish tricks practis'd in the several Parishes of *England* about their Poor, even under the present Poor Laws, (if we cast a retrospect reflection upon the present Method of removing Poor Families from one Parish to another,)—by bribery, by hired Marriages, by settling those Families on Farms of 10l. Value for a Year in another Parish, to procure them a Settlement in that other ; and by their so often banishing Poor Families from a Parish where such Families *can earn a Maintenance*, into another where they *cannot* : and those many other hard, ( I had almost said Cruel, ) Methods made use of by Parishes to stave off the threaten'd but uncertain Charge ;—abundantly demonstrate, that Shoals of Poor Children from the *Country* wil soon find their way to the City, on this limited Plan, if aided by the Public ; and sufficiently intimate the necessity of a more enlarged and better Guarded Plan, if we mean in *reality* to revive that *Industry*, and useful *Labor* which is so essential to the *Well-being*, if not to the very *Being* of a Commercial State.

EXPERIENCE teaches us, that the Healthy and Robust Poor, generally *Labor* in proportion to their *Wants* ; and to supply the latter, is Effectually to ob-



struct, if not totally to suppress the former; the *certain* settled Provision for them by Law *in futuro*, when by Age, or accident, they may be incapacitated for Labor, prevents their making Provision by present Labor, for any such distant futurity. This Bp. Burnet foresaw, which made him so strongly recommend in the History of his own Times the Abolition of our Poor Laws, as they encouraged Sloth, and hurt Industry: and consequently are repugnant to the Interest of a Commercial Nation.

These Truths being acknowledged (and to the unprejudic'd I appeal,) What less can be expected, shou'd this Plan be adopted, and aided by the Public, than that in a few Years all the Poor Children within the Bills of Mortality will become Foundlings; and in a few Years more, the Parents of those very Children, having *then* lost their Natural Support; wil, by the Effect of this Plan when Age and Sicknes approaches, become *Another* monstrous Burden to their respective Parishes? May we not suspect, that this burdensome Period is nigh at hand, within the above mention'd limits? (notwithstanding many in the City are so fond of *F. H. Aid*,) when Mr. H. tels us in p. 109. "that the A G E D and " Sickly and GROWN PERSONS, *even now*, contribute ALL their Parish Rates."



These Children being *thus removed*, from Arts and Manufactory,—remov'd from the Influential Example of their Parents Industry,—from that Labor which is adapted to their Infant Years, and to which Labor Parents inure their Children much earlier, than they are, or can be well initiated in *F. Hs*, must be circumstances very alarming to every well-wisher to the Trade of his Country, as well as to these unfortunate Children. for,

It costs the Father nothing to give his Art to his Children, who even in their Infancy are the Instruments of this Art. Besides, when they are grown up to Manhood, tho' not worth two Pence, yet each of 'em, by the produce of that art, is equal in Riches to a Freeholder of 10 or 12 Acres of Land, when obliged to cultivate it for the Support of himself and Family. Can it then be right *Policy* to attract the Child of a Manufacturer from its Parent's Art, which is its Birth-Right, and deprive both it, and its Parents, of the reciprocal advantages which result from *Filial and Parental Tyes*? to strip it of every relative advantage, and then turn it into the World, without Money, without Father, or Mother, or any other relative connexion?



In Manufacturing Countries, P A R E N T A L A F F E C T I O N does not hinder Poor Parents from giving up their Children to Parish Officers, to be put out Parish Apprentices, to Families always averse to 'em, and from whom consequently the best of Usage cannot be expected, but the hardest servilities, and at an Age when such Children are near becoming serviceable to their Parents :—Much less wil *it* hinder them, from giving up their Children in a more Infantile State to this Hospital, (as the Governors of it have sufficiently experienced,) where they are sure to have them better Maintain'd, better Taught, and better Cloath'd. And,

By the inability of the *F. H.* Guardians, to put out their Children Apprentices 'til they are 12 or 13 Years of Age, every such Child wil cost the *State* 40 or 50 Pounds more than it wou'd have cost the *Parish* it belong'd to ; besides the former Scheme tends to Increase and Perpetuate the National Debt, whilst the latter is much more Provident, as the Parishes finds an equivalent for the Expense of such Children in a larger Increase of *Industry* ; the Increment of which throughout the Kingdom, being the most likely Method to diminish that Debt.



Mr. *Hanway* tels us in Chap. X. “ That since the  
 “ Year 1756, many Parishes, within the Bills of Morta-  
 “ lity have sent *all* their Children to the *F. H.* — It is  
 “ not necessary (he says, tho’ I think it very necessary)  
 “ to examine into the Reasons of this Conduct; the dif-  
 “ ference between the *Governors* of the Hospital, and the  
 “ Officers of the Parish, is very *distinguishable*; the *for-*  
 “ *mer* have always been desirous to save *Life*, the latter to  
 “ *save Money*. And to give an ample detail of the *Suffer-*  
 “ *ings* of the Infant Poor, *Occasioned* by the *Misconduct* of  
 “ Parochial Officers, wou’d fill MANY Volumes.”

Now Sir, you see another *design* in yoking the *F. H.*  
 to the State, a design, promoted by a large Body of  
*Self-interested* Men, to *lessen* their Poor Rates. But to find  
 the Judgement of this celebrated writer so much *warp’d*,  
 as it appears to be in this Chapter, will be grating to you,  
 as it is to me. — To see him obliged to load his Fellow  
 citizens, with whole *Volumes* of reproach and obloquy,  
 in order to furnish out the *only* Plausible Argument  
 in favor of the *F. H.* And yet in this Chapter  
 he *seemingly* gives Credit to the Infamous and



Self-interested reports of these Parochial Officers ; and, (as if *now* they design'd to Bully the State into a National Provision for those Infants, which their own misconduct and avarice wou'd not provide for,) he ECHOES their Reports to the Public in the following Language p. 85. “ In  
 “ our Manner of officiating the very Attempt to preserve  
 “ Infant Life is a mere *farce* ; we desire to be excused  
 “ the trouble of such Attempts : if you trust to us, your  
 “ Success will be no better than heretofore ; and then  
 “ roar out one and all,—“ *our Children all Die,—we can-*  
 “ *not possibly save one ;—and we have not sav'd a Child*  
 “ *these Twenty Eight Years.*” Good God ! that preserving Life should be so *difficult* with the Parishes in *London*, and so *easy* in the Parishes of Westminster and Lamb's Conduit Fields ! Do you wonder at this difference ? read the next p. 86 and your wonder will cease, where they further tel you “ that their Infants have *Gin* and *Sleeping*  
 “ *Potions* given them out of *Charity* to deliver them as  
 “ speedily as possible from that *Death* they are devoted  
 “ to.” And, when the more careful and compassionate Governors of the *F. H.* intimated to these Gentry how equitable it was that each Parish shou'd furnish its Quota of money in proportion to the number of Infants it sends



to the Hospital ; They had the impudence to Answer in p. 109 “ Our Infant Poor have put us to *no* Expence, for “ they have all Died.” And in p. 91 they boldly threaten, “ that if you shut the Doors of the Hospital, Thousands of Infants will be sentenced to Execution.” But least these threatenings, shou’d provoke you to think of *Halters* for Parish Officers, in lieu of an *Hospital* to make Foundlings ; you are sooth’d with hopes in p. 88 “ that “ Humane Parish Officers wil *never* be wanting to execute “ their duty to the Infant Poor even in L O N D O N, — “ when they are put on such a footing as shal not *cost any* “ *thing* to their Parishes.” *i. e.* they had rather offer you *Humanity*, when not wanted, and which wil cost them *nothing* ; than be burden’d with the *expense* of their Infant Poor, tho’ they roundly assert, as has been observ’d, that their Infant Poor puts them to *no expense*.

I T is easy to see where the Shoe pinches, notwithstanding all these colorings, soothings and threatenings : in p. 84, these Parish Officer Gentry are represented “ as flocking to the Hospital with *all* their Children, from “ a Compassionate Desire to *save Life* ; but in the very “ next page, it appears ’twas only a Desire to *save Money* ; “ WITHIN the Bills of Mortality, Parishes send *all* “ their



“ their Children to the *F. H.*,” WITHOUT those Limits, if a Parish Officer (to procure his Parish a little benefit from this Public Aid,) send a Child to it, the Corporation fall upon him, and he is prosecuted with Public Money. The *design* of all which, appears to be this ;—that provided you and your Brother *Senators* will Mortgage your Estates to the Humane Governors of the *F. H.*, to enable these Governors to *do*, what the Parish Officers in L O N D O N ought to have *done* ; and provided you will ease these Officers of the trouble, and those Parishes of the expense, which attends their Infant Poor : you may then expect Humane, Sociable, and careful Officers, but except you will find the *Money*, they must return to their *Killing* nurses as usual.

T R U T H is so amiable, and its discoveries so Powerful, that like Lightning it *will* break forth and shew it self from a Clear head, and a good Heart ; and one cannot but esteem and admire the Author of this Historical Account of the *F. H.* &c. when he is listening to, and declaring, what it dictates, tho’ it should be *seemingly* at the Expense of his former Judgment. In p. 94. says he, “ had the *Overseers* or *Parish Officers* in L O N -  
“ D O N preserv’d the Lives of such Infants, as were



“ in past times openly, (not secretly,) committed to  
 “ their Care, there could not have been sufficient  
 “ Grounds for the Establifhing A N Y Foundling  
 “ Hofpital.”—Whence it obviously appears that the *In-*  
*famous misconduct of the Parifh Officers in L O N D O N*  
 is not only the *fole* Cause of the Author’s Plea for the  
 continuation of a *F. H.* on his local Plan; but has been  
 the *Sole* Cause of Founding, Incorporating, and fo pub-  
 lickly and privately Supporting, a *F. H.* at fuch an im-  
 menfe Expence, and for fuch a length of time, and fo  
 ful of Monftrous Evils, monftrous Dangers, and mon-  
 ftrous Difficulties to the Public, that nothing but the  
 utmoft exertion of Public Spirit, guided by impartial  
 and *unlocal* Confiderations, is equal to the task of ex-  
 tricating the Nation from thofe Evils, Dangers and Dif-  
 ficulties, it is feemingly at prefent (by this very Hof-  
 pital) involv’d in.

But amidft all thefe difficulties and dangers, humble  
 Hope fays ’tis not impoffible, but that thofe Public  
 Spirited Patriots, who prefaced the examination into the  
*F. H.* Inftitution, may probably ftrike Light out of  
 Darknefs; and by their Inviolable Love to their Coun-



try, may produce the Greatest Good from what threaten'd it with the Greatest Evil. How? why, Should this Labyrinth of Difficulties lead the State to abolish our Poor Laws, and with them our Parish Contests about Settlements, and convert these several secret Asylums for Bastards, &c, into open and Public Workhouses for the truly necessitous Poor, and shou'd they build others in the kingdom upon Waste Lands, and Guard them by proper Powers, (such as Senatorial Wisdom can easily devise, not only against *all Secret*, but against all *open* Admittance, when such open admittance may possibly, or even probably *lessen* the aggregate Quantity of *Industry*,) and shou'd they Govern them by Men of Fortune and Character, (such as wou'd superintend them with the like Public Spirited Zeal, with which I am perswaded the *F. H.* has been superintended,) Thence *Industry*, which is the *Soul* of a Commercial Nation, wou'd revive, the Poor wou'd then Labor for *themselves*, and for *futurity*, when convinced they must otherwise Labor for the State. Thereupon, by inforcing the Execution of our Laws against Bastardy and Fornication, a Reformation of *Morals* might probably accompany a revival of *Industry*; and Multitudes of other Advantages wou'd accrue,



not only to the Metropolis, but to the whole community from this Plan and from the Execution of those Laws ; such as are mention'd in the 2d Part of *The Tendencies of the F. H. &c.* which, being handed about in MSS. formerly, wil, we hear, shortly be publish'd.—A Plan like this of National Workhouses, for the promotion of *Industry*, and for the benefit of the whole Community, along with the due execution of wholesome Laws against Fornication &c, wou'd be as ful of Public Good, as the *F. H.* Plan is ful of Public Evil ;—This wou'd be as ful of Industry, as that is of Sloth,—This as ful of Riches, as that is of Poverty ; The one as productive of Strength to the State, as the other is of Weakness to it ; and, as conducive to Subordination and Obedience to Government, as the *F. H.* is to Mob-Law, Disobedience and Anarchy, which are all so many *Evils* expected from this wel-intended *Good*, expected by *All* around me now who think closely on Both, All thinking on this National Subject in the Same Track with

S I R.

WESTMINSTER, Jan. 16.  
1760.

Your sincere

C. A.







A  
R E J O I N D E R

T O

Mr. HANWAY's Reply

T O

C-- A--'s Candid Remarks,

C O M P A R I N G

The *New Plan* of a Foundling Hospital, which is now offer'd by Mr. H.; with the *old one* of our present Poor Laws : — pointing out a *few* of the *many* advantages, which would result to the community ; from the abolition of *both*, and establishing in lieu of'em, National, or County Workhouses.

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*Salus populi, suprema Lex.*

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






A

## Rejoinder to Mr. H. &c.

 F. H. Signifies FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,



S I R,



OUR public Reply, to my remarks on your Historical Account of the Foundling Hospital, obliges me to give you this public Answer.

If on a strict Scrutiny into the conduct of Parochial Officers within the Bills of Mortality, which the State seem now resolv'd upon: it shou'd be found that the Reports formerly made to you, by Parish Officers and other interested Persons, were magnify'd, and might probably mislead your Judgement; yet be not angry good Sir, Many Parishes in my Eye, from the like Selfish Principles, have deceiv'd and misled greater men than you, nay even the Senate itself. For,

I remember



I remember some years ago, the H— of C—s made an Order to oblige the several Parish Officers in the Kingdom to return to 'em a true Account of the Sums each Parish annually paid to their Poor ; and I remember as wel, that many of those Officers return'd a false Account, by reporting the annual Sums much Less, than they actually paid. And altho' this fraud was warmly remonstrated against by some, as tending to mislead, not only the State, but those very Patriots who were then exerting their Zele to lessen part of that Load which these very Parishes groan'd under, Yet the annual *Savings*, procur'd to many Parishes, by a fraudulent Report of a similar kind when the Land Tax Act took Place, and their fear of being taxed to some other *new* Poor - Law Scheme, in proportion to the Sums they reported, and which they actually did pay to the *old*; outweighed every Remonstrance, and kick'd up the Scale which contain'd 'em with amazing rapidity.

As the Facts advanced in my CANDID REMARKS, stand uncontroverted, by any thing which appears in your Reply ; so those *Passionate Attachments, and undue Prejudices,*



*Prejudices*, which you charge me with having contracted in favor of my own Opinion *against* the F. H. I might easily retort upon your self, and charge you with an *over* fondness for it.—Such Prejudices, and Attachments, seem to arise more naturally in you, from that fondness men usually contract for a Corporation, whereof they themselves have been active Members. But waving all Altercations of this kind, as useless and ungenerous, I rather choose to come closer to the Point, by readily Assenting to the Proposition you labor so assiduously to establish; (*viz.*) *That the Lives of Infants, within the Bills of Mortality, are more likely to be preserved under the paternal care of the Governors of the F. H.—than under the usual Management of Parish Officers in Workhouses; nay, I will grant you farther, that more Infant Lives might still have been preserved. had the State countenanced and supported those Attempts which were made to erect F. H.s all over the Kingdom, for the Admission of Infants in the first Instance. And you might have urged in favor of such an Extension, the State Education of Children in S P A R T A, an Education I dare venture to say not unthought of by many of the F. H. Advocates. But you know very well, that an Education of this kind in E N G L A N D, (however it might train men to*



*Arms* in a Republic supported by *Arms* ; and as such, be there worthy the wisdom of a *Lycurgus*,) wou'd not only extinguish our Manufactures, and destroy our Commerce ; but wou'd distress the State, and subject our Fleets to Worms and Rottenness.

If the preservation of Infant Life, is to be the *single* Object of our Concern ; how many Thousands more might stil be preserved, shou'd the State oblige all Parents to inoculate their Children for the Small Pox ? Yet a Law of this kind, (tho' there might be precedents for it in other Nations) wou'd be thought by some, an infringement of Civil, as wel as of Religious Liberty.

The superior Care of Governors, to that of Parish Officers, may probably on the whole, produce a Balance of Infant Lives sav'd, above the number usually sav'd in Workhouses ; but shou'd the *F. H.* by its being worse guarded than Parish Workhouses, prove an *opening* to more and worse Evils than *any* it proposes to remedy, and shou'd it by that opening tend to destroy ten times more Adults of both Sexes, than its supersaving of Infants is a balance for, where is the Advantage to the Community ?

But



But since this Hospital assumes a new Plan, and offers its aid as a Substitute to Parish Workhouses, within the Bills of Mortality. It will be necessary to examine, whether those Parishes ought to adopt, and support this *New Plan*, (supposing Public Money, and Private Bounty to be withdrawn;) or abide by their *old* one; (*i. e.*) the Plan of our present Poor Laws, 'til a better Plan than either can be form'd.

The Quest. is not, I apprehend, whether this, or that Scheme, preserves most Infants; but it is whether the Present Plan of our Poor Laws (which, for Brevity, I shall call the old Plan,) or the New Plan of a *F. H.*, which you now offer, (*every thing duly consider'd*) will be less injurious to the Community. And to set this point in a clear light, permit me to inquire, what sort of Infants you propose to give aid to, by your new Plan?

Married People in good Circumstances, you'll suppose, *wil not* accept *F. H.* Aid for their Infants; and you say yourself, that *affluent* men who beget Illegitimate Infants, *ought not to accept it*; neither ought the Illegitimate Infants of young Merchants, Tradesmen, or Mechanics, to have



it offer'd on such cheap and easy terms. Consequently the Aid you Offer, must be to Pauper Infants *only* ; to those born in Wedlock, and to those born out of it.—Now those Parish Officers, who formerly executed the old Plan can tel you, (if they wil,) that the *Infants* of Pau- pers in Wedlock, do not stand in need of *F. H. Aid*, (*very extraordinary Cases excepted such as Twins, &c.*) If the old Plan obliges the Parishes to give Aid to a Poor Family, from the Great number of their Children, 'tis not by *making* a Foundling of the youngest, not by robbing the Mother of her sucking Child ; but by easing them of Children from 2 to 5 Years of Age, such as are past Infantile Dangers, and by Apprenticing those Children out in the Parish, at 7 years of age ; which your new Plan cannot do.—Nay, if the Pauper Husband is left a Widower, by the Death of his Wife in Child-bed, he is lazy to a Crime if he cannot provide for *one* Child ; or shou'd the Wife be pregnant and left a Widow, the Lying-in Hospital helps her over the first distress ; and she is a bad *Hen* indeed, if by her Diligence and Oeconomy, she cannot with one Chick, get over the second.—I have known several poor Women who have got over both, without any great Difficulty. And as you declare yourself (in p. 5.) *An open Enemy to the Seperation of Parents*  
and



*and Children, where it can be prevented, you must concur with me, in respect to this Class of Infant Poor, that the old Plan is better calculated to preserve good Parental Byasses, than the New one; and that the Infants of Poor People in Wedlock ought not to have F. H. Aid.*

They must therefore be Poor Infants born *out* of Wedlock, you propose to give *F. H.* aid to. — Now these may be divided into two Classes :

First, Infants born of young Delinquents, where the Putative Father *can* be discovered:

Secondly, Infants of common Prostitutes, where he *cannot* be discovered.

Let me therefore examine the Managers of each Plan, with respect to Infants of this first Class of Delinquents. And however *careless* you say the Parish Officers have been in their conduct to the Infant before the *F. H.* existed; you must allow at least, that they have been very *careful* in finding out the reputed Father of it :—here INTEREST, as well as Duty unite, and both together, enforce the Execution of the old Plan; the Officers



are now alert upon their Duty, and haunt the Criminal, like *Banquo's Ghost*, 'til he has paid the Penalty due to his Crime, ( or Indemnified the Parish by securing a suitable Provision for the Infant;) which Penalty, thus levied, oppugn's the Progress of carnal Vice, and tends to suppress it : — Whilst your New Plan, however compassionate it appears to the Infant, yet overlooks, and cannot be expected to ferrit out the criminal Parent so successfully as the old One : consequently it connives at, and thereby promotes the Growth of carnal Vice, as it tends to cover and countenance it. Hence arises the great number of our City Advocates for a *F. H.* ; as it Levies money upon the Public, and upon wel disposed Citizens, to save the Pockets of Whoremasters and other fornicating Criminals.

Thus far I may venture to assert, that the Wisdom of our Ancestors, appears ful as amiable, as that of *some* of our Moderns ; and that the old Plan, (however imperfect,) is preferable to the New One ; as it *exposes* the Criminal, which the New One *covers* ; *That* Taxes the Vice, whilst *This* Taxes Virtue ; — and to adopt your own Language, — “ *Where the Poor Laws are properly executed, they are the true kind of Foundling Hospitals.* ” And again in (p. 50



Historical Account) “ *Though we all mean the same good, yet*  
 “ *if we D E P A R T from the beaten Track we shall be as*  
 “ *much bewildered in our Politics; as in our Morals.*”

The only Class of Infants which remain, and which alone you can with any degree of Propriety offer *F. H.* Aid to, are those of common Prostitutes, where the Putative Father cannot be discovered :—Infants from Brothels, bred on Disease, and born in Rottenness ; difficult, if at all, to be brought to maturity, either in a *F. H.*, or in a Workhouse. And for every puny Mortal thus sav'd to the Public, probably 10 times the Number of Lives, at full Maturity, are Lost to the Public ;—Lost, by generating these sickly Objects for your Hospital ;—cut off in the midst of their Days.—To be kept til *then* at great Expense to the Public, without gain to it.—Cou'd all the Bones of such Adults, thus sacrificed, be collected into one Pile, they wou'd exceed in Magnitude your Pile of Infant Bones, (Bones of such Infants I mean as you suggest wou'd be Lost without *F. H.* Aid,) wou'd exceed them as much as the Largest Pyramid in *Egypt* exceeds an ordinary *English* Tomb :—But why you shou'd so fruitlessly expend your Public Spirited Zele, in *feeding* the *Grand Evil* which se-



minates so many other Evils ; rather than in attempting to eradicate the Grand Evil itself :—in destroying Men, for the saving a very few diminutive Infants :—in making Foundlings, rather than in preventing their being made ; a solecism in Policy, which I leave you to Account for.

The very existence of a *Foundling* in a Protestant Country like B R I T A I N, where the Poor are so amply provided for, reflects dishonor, not only upon the State, but upon the whole Community, as it tacitly implies, either a Want of wholesome Laws, or a Want in the due Execution of them :—A Foundling, Sir, reflects the highest disgrace on Human Nature, and supposes a depravity in the *Morals*, and a degeneracy in the *Affections* of Rational beings ; such as sinks their characters *much* beneath the character of Brutes : and to encourage such Depravity, must not only be offensive to God whose Image we bear, but destructive of all Social Order and Concord.

The first Principles were wrong, on which the F. H. was founded, as you yourself confess, when you tel us in your Historical Account p. 44 “ *That F. Hs are generally founded and supported upon a Principle of Secresy*”

yet



yet in the next Page you tel us you are “ *equally clear,*  
“ *that the Plan ought to be changed, and the Secrecy dropt.*”  
Originally, this Hospital was founded to *prevent* the  
Murder of Infant Bastards ; but by Experience, we *now*  
find it *promotes* them :—*then* it was to be extended, and  
others Built all over the Kingdom ; *Now* such Extension  
is *pregnant* with innumerable Dangers :—one while the  
*Secrecy* on which it was founded, was ful of good : Anon,  
it is an inlet to much Evil. If therefore the Founda-  
tion is bad, how shou’d the Superstructure be good ! are  
not the *various* Plans you have already try’d, and found  
ineffectual, sufficient to diswade you from trying any  
other Plan ? have you been *doing*, and *undoing*, for these  
20 Years Last past, at the Expense of thousands upon  
thousands ? (besides the number of Parents, whose hearts  
now bleed for their *childrens* lost Innocence.) And can you  
not be easy ’til you have try’d fresh Experiments on the  
Public ? is it *ridiculous* (in your own opinion) for the  
State to act as *Pander* to Whores and Woremongers ?  
and wil it not be equally ridiculous for the Metropolis  
to become *Pander* in its stead ?

Your new Plan for the City, view’d in the best Garb  
you can dress it, appears, only like a false healing



to a dangerous Wound :—the increasing *mortal Disease*, which Preys upon the Vitals of the Metropolis, requires Corrosive Medicines, rather than Palliatives ; a Plan that wil obstruct, and at least *tend* to remove the *Cause* ; rather than one which only Palliates and provides for the *Effect*. All the specious Appearance of *Good* which your New Plan can *properly* lay claim to, arises from the suppos'd necessity of a Continuance, increase, and propagation of *Evil* :—you take diseas'd Infants with one hand, but obstruct the Existence of Healthful Ones with the other :—you save to the Community a few Tender, Ghostly Children ; but the Community pays for 'em tenfold in Healthful Sound Adults. Thus, in the commercial language, you solicit the Public to barter Sterling Silver, for Gallic Tinsel, Diamonds for Beads, and Virgin Gold for Glasß Bottles.

*Extend* your Views farther ; and withdraw in time that Public Love of yours, from a Plan which is seemingly in a wrong Channel ; and direct it to one, which if as Zelously adopted, and as Generously supported, wou'd be more than seemingly in a right Channel ; I mean that of Public Workhouses :—Search into the several



owners rights, to the *Heaths* and *Commons* which lye round these 2 Great Cities, and exert your Zele, to get those Rights purchas'd out, whether they be Freeholds, Manors, or Royalties : when purchas'd, get them Ornamented with Plain Built Workhouses, which wou'd be more pleasant to look upon, than Felons on Gibbets :— Improve those Lands, by the labor of such People, as at present are idle and burdensome Nufances to the City ; that by improv'd Lands without the Workhouse, and improv'd Labor within it, a Perpetual Fund of aid may accrue to the Metropolis. Then,

Prostitutes who *now* burden others with their illegal Infants, might be obliged to Nurse 'em themselves ; whereby Parental Byasses wou'd be fastened to 'em, as a first step to Reformation. But when judged improper for Nurses, let their Labor, which the Public has a right to, pay the Price of proper ones, as also purchase Food for themselves.

A Plan like this, among many other good tendencies ; which I have not time to enumerate, wou'd in *one*, resemble that of the *Marine Society* ; it wou'd redeem Whores and deserted Girls, from Sloth and Poverty, as  
that



that does Men and Boys from Sloth and the Gallows ; *this* wou'd conduct vitious Females, to Virtue ; Slothful ones, to Industry,—and teach 'em an Art which wou'd assist Commerce, and be mutually useful to Them, and to the State ; as *that* conducts such of the other Sex, as are Drones, or Nufances ; to an Employment which Strengthens and invigorates our Navy :—this Plan by annihilating Sloth so seasonably, and creating Industry out of its ruins, ( in Vagrants, Beggars and Lazy Poor of both Sexes, as well as Whores, ) wou'd greatly Increase our Manufactures, and wou'd tend to Augment our Exports and Imports ; and be the most certain means of furnishing a certain Employment, ( when the War ceases ) for that useful Body of Seamen on their proper Element, which that other Plan has so meritoriously saved,—trained,—and instructed for the Public ; and by speedily adopting *this*, 'twould be an useful Supplement to that other, as it wou'd not only *prevent* the good Effects of that other from being lost, ( when a Peace shal take place ) but by co-operating together, they wou'd mutually Strengthen and enrich, a much weaken'd Community ; and might probably hinder numbers of Robberies and Murders from being hereafter committed, in and about these Cities, when ever a Period shall be put to the present War.



HAS this Plan of Public Workhouses so promising an aspect in this *Single View*? View it a little farther, and you will see it saving the lives of Hundreds, may I not say Thousands of Common *Prostitutes*, who now, are not only the Bane of our Youth, but of sound Children, and even of themselves. — View it restoring *these Public Nuisances*, to health of Body, more safely than by Quack medicines, [A] and to Health of mind, by good precepts, and by inuring them to habits of virtue, diligence, and Oeconomy ;—with these attainments, (acquir'd by *means* of themselves,) see 'em *then* emerge from these Workhouses in full health, beautifully reform'd; attracting conjugal partners and producing Numbers of Healthful living Children, and those Children generating afterwards, multitudes of other healthful ones, for the Service of our Corn Fields and Manufactories.

View it again in another light, (when aided by the Execution of wholesome Laws against such Fornicating Criminals as either will not, or cannot *provide maintenance*

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[A] When I speak of Public Workhouses, I wou'd be understood to mean such as have been formerly recommended to the Public; Where the *Front* may be appropriated for Manufactures, one *Wing* for an Infirmary, and the other for a House of Correction :—with proper conveniencies for Agriculture.



for their courtisans and their offspring ; ) and you will see it cleansing the City, from those Sinks of Corruption, which poison the youth from the Country, as well as those in the City ;—see it when accompanied by those Laws, stopping the Channels of *Vice*, and opening the Avenues to *Virtue* ; not only saving the Lives of our Youths, but leading the Tide of their Passions to Matrimonial Gratifications ; with the more healthful, and more innocent ( but too long neglected, ) British Beauties ; from whence another class of Healthful Children will arise, which wou'd give life to Industry,—invigorate Commerce,—replenish the City with useful Members of Society, and that without impoverishing the Country, by drawing fresh Stocks of people Annually from thence.

You tel us in your Historical Account, p. 70 “ that the  
 “ *Country* supplies *London* with FIVE THOUSAND  
 “ Souls Annually ;” which computation, I judge to be rather under, than over truth ; and altho' you seem mighty careful, to cover this *Annual* destruction of Adults ; by a pretended increase of people in the City ; yet the Annual Bills of Mortality are an irrefragable proof of the contrary ; then you suppose this prodigious Annual *drain* from the Country, is to balance for those  
 people



people, who go *abroad* from the City ; but when the number of Foreigners, who come to settle *in* the City, are set in opposition ; a very few indeed from the Country will be wanted to make up that deficiency. — Another pretended cause of City destruction which you urge, is that of hard *Labor*, but this surely must be a fallacious one, since Labor in General, tends to promote population, rather than the contrary. Consequently the *Major Part* of these 5000 Souls must be destroy'd annually in generating Foundlings for your Hospital, according to what you tel us tho' with seeming reluctance in p. 71. that this Great drain from the Country is to Supply  
 “ THOSE WORN OUT BY DEBAUCH-  
 “ ERY.

Such an Annual destruction of Adults as this, so *alarming*, and which so far exceeds your annual saving of Infants ; overturns all the flattering hopes of Strength, which the Community might entertain from your calculations, and supposed thousands which the Public is to gain by foundling labor ; and demonstrates, that to acquire, in this manner, those *uncertain* Foundling lives, and their more uncertain Labor, to the Public ; the Public must not only give up a much greater Num-



ber of *certain* lives, at *maturity*, and at *present* too ; but must loose many Millions Sterling by an *immediate* loss of their Labor ; all for the remote prospect of gaining sometime or other the Labor of a few Diminutive foundlings. But supposing this *Destructive carnal Debauchery*, should spread thro' the Country, to that degree, which now prevails in the City ( and the late *F. H.* Plan has begun it, nor wil your new Plan obstruct it ; ) then, every common Arithmatician, wil tel you the time when, ( to adopt your own words ) “ we shall  
 “ give up the Glory of the Land to others, who know  
 “ better what to do with it.”

Had I time to enumerate, all the good tendencies a General Workhouse Plan is ful of, and compare them with the Evil Tendencies of a Foundling Plan ; the contrast however striking, wou'd swell this rejoinder beyond the present taste of most Readers :—The former Plan is as inviting, as the latter is forbidding :—The closer you examine the one, the brighter it appears ; whilst the other grows darker and darker ; as you examine it farther and farther :—THIS, turn it which way you wil, is pregnant with Good :— *that*, in every light (except that one which arises from the superior Care and Human-



nity of Governors, to that of Parish Officers, ) is pregnant with Evil. But, if after all which I have said, which you have said, and which others have said; and much more which might still be said against a *F. H.* in *ENGLAND*;—you are resolv'd to try it on a new Plan which has both Danger and Darkness about it; when a clearer Plan lies before you, with Safety and Sunshine in your Eyes:—Remember, — your own Language Sir,—“one false step *MAY* bring on twenty others,” and however candidly the Public may incline to overlook *past* Errors, the Evil of a *future* one, will be charged full against yourself.

I esteem you as a Writer *against* the *F. H.*, not as an Advocate *for* it. — As a Writer, and an Advocate, for the *Marine Society*; I not only Esteem, but I admire you:—Who I am, or what is my Character, is immaterial. But to satisfy you in part, I am one who prefers a Plan, that promises Health and Strength to the Community; rather than one which threatens it with a Continuance, if not an increase, of Sickneſs and Imbecility:—one who am against giving Public Money, for the Support of Private Vice; altho' such a partial application of it, might benefit my own Pocket, and ease me



from the Annual charge of my Illigitimate Brood; and this I call preferring the *Public Good* before my own *private Gain*:—I am one who prefer old *English Sincerity*, to *French Gallantry*, with all its Refinements:—One who think, that if a *Tithe* of the 3000 Prostitutes ( you say there are in these 2 Great Cities, ) had been Married, before Vicious Habits had taken such fast hold of 'em ) and follow'd the examples of many couples I cou'd mention ; *they*, and their Children, and their Children's Children, and the labor of 'em all, wou'd have strengthened, and enriched the Community, more than all the 3000 Prostitutes wil enrich it, even with the assistance of your *F. H.*—In short I am for immediately laying the Ax to the Root of *carnal Vice*, rather than watering and manuring the Soil whereon it Grows ; least her deadly Poison, like a Plague, spread sudden Desolation ; and the Strength, Greatness, and Glory of BRITAIN ; like the Glory of *Rome* and other Ancient States, sink down into Historical Records, to be re'd of indeed by Posterity, but never, — never more to be seen.

That a Period so shocking, may be very far distant, is the passionate desire of

WESTMINSTER, *March* 15th. 1760.

Sir Yours,

F I N I S.

C. A.







