

XVI. *An Answer to that Part of Mr. W. Kerffeboom's Essay, which treats of the Number of the Inhabitants of London; by Wm. Maitland, F. R. S.*

SOME time ago an Abstract of a Political Essay, written by Mr. *W. Kerffeboom*, a Dutch Gentleman, (*intituled, Verhandeling tot een Proeve om te weeten de probable Menigte des Volks in de Proventie van Hollandt en Westvrieſlandt*) was read before this Honourable SOCIETY; wherein the Author, to the great Disparagement of the City of *London*, has asserted<sup>a</sup>; that the City of *Paris*, in the Year 1684, and at the Close of the last Century, contain'd more Inhabitants than the City of *London*.

And to prove that *Paris* contains a greater Number of Inhabitants than *London*, he has had recourse to the Accounts of Christenings annually publish'd in both Cities, without giving himself the Trouble to inquire into the Nature of those his Authorities; which if he had, he would soon have discover'd, that the former, is a perfect Account, while the latter, is perhaps the most defective of any extant; for the Christenings therein mention'd, are only those whereat the Parish Clerks are present: which, I am of Opinion, cannot amount to near two Thirds of the whole, as I shall endeavour to make appear.

The Burials in the annex'd Table, by some Typographical Errors in the Political Account of my History of  
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*London*

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<sup>a</sup> *Kerffeboom's Verhandel. p. 14. ib. 17.*

*London*<sup>a</sup>, from which it is taken, being increas'd 491 above the real Number, in *Graunt's Account*<sup>b</sup>, the Sum Total whereof, amounting to 90350, must be reduc'd to 89859; and as in the annex'd Term of Years, there appears to have died of the Plague 1741<sup>c</sup>, three and a half of which, I compute, would have died of common Distempers, out of each Hundred, which amounting to about 61, the same being deducted from 89859, the real Number of the Burials, the Sum will be reduced to 89798, which taken from 90883, the Number total

of the Christenings, the remaining Sum will be, 1085, which being divided by Ten, the Medium thereof will be 108½ yearly in Favour of the Christenings.

A Decenary Account of the Christenings and Burials of <i>London</i> , in the following Years.				
Years.	Christn'd	Buried. Com. Dist.	Buried. Plague.	Totals Buried.
1626	6701	7400	134	7534
1627	8408	7713	4	7717
1628	8564	7740	3	7743
1629	9901	8771	0	8771
1630	9315	9228	1317	10545
1631	8524	8288	274	8562
1632	9584	9527	8	9535
1633	9997	8392	0	8392
1634	9855	10899	1	10900
1635	10034	10651	0	10651
Tot. Gen.	90883	88609	1741	190350

This Difference in Favour of the Christenings, is owing to the Citizens of that Time being almost of the same Religion; but the Civil War breaking out soon after, the People deviated into a Variety of Sects, subverted the Church of *England*, and assuming the Civil Power, establish'd a new Hierarchy, or Church-Government. But the Members of the abolish'd Church continuing to baptize among themselves, (with-

<sup>a</sup> *Maitland's Hist. Lond.* p. 535.

<sup>b</sup> *Graunt's Nat. and Polit.*

*Observ. 3d Edit. Lond.*

<sup>c</sup> *Maitland's Hist. Lond.* p. 535.

(without reporting their Christenings to the new-appointed Members of the Company of Parish-Clerks) occasion'd a very great Defect in the Account of Christenings annually publish'd by the said Parish-Clerks.

From this *Epocha*, is to be dated the Majority of the Burials in the Bill of Mortality over the Christenings of *London*: And though the Church of *England* was soon after re-establish'd, yet the numerous Dissenters of all Denominations, persevering in their Separation, continued to baptize within themselves, without sending in Accounts of their Christenings to the restor'd Members of the Company of Parish-Clerks; and the Schism still continuing, the Accounts of the Christenings and Burials of this City remain upon the ancient Foot of Division and Imperfection.

Add to this, that not only all the foreign Churches in *London* christen within themselves, but likewise many Churches and Chapels of the Church of *England*, that send not in their Accounts to the Company of Parish-Clerks, which, together with those of the Dissenters and Foreigners of all Denominations, amount to no less a Number than one hundred and eighty-one Congregations, whose Accounts of Christenings are not publish'd: By which it is evident, that the vast Disparity between the Christenings and Burials of this City, is not owing, as Mr. *Kerffeboom* vainly imagines<sup>a</sup>, to the Residence of the Court, Convention of Parliament, and great Resort of People from all Parts, but in Fact to the great Defect above-mention'd.

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<sup>a</sup> *Kerffeboom's* Verhandel. p. 25.

However, that Gentleman, from the aforefaid very defective Account of the Chriftenings of this City, has calculated the Number of its Inhabitants by a Medium of the Chriftenings in the Years 1684<sup>a</sup> and 1685; whereby he makes the Number at that Time amount to five hundred thoufand three hundred and forty-four: But as this Number, is only taken from a Medium of two Years, he imagines it too great; therefore to reduce the fame to the Number of<sup>b</sup> four hundred and fixty-nine thoufand feven hundred, by a Medium of twenty Years, he has unwarrantably precluded the Sum of fourteen thoufand feven hundred and two, the Number of Chriftenings in the Year 1684, to make room for the Sum of eleven thoufand eight hundred and fifty-one, the Number of Chriftenings in the Year 1674; whereby the Number of the Inhabitants of *London*, is very much leffen'd.

And as a farther Instance of Mr. *Kerffboom's* Partiality in Favour of the City of *Paris*, he has calculated the Number of its Inhabitants (without mentioning the Uncertainty of a Calculation founded on a fhort Space of Time, as he has done in the Cafe of *London*) at a Medium of the Chriftenings for the Years c 1670, 1671 and 1672, whereby he makes them at that time, amount to, fix hundred and ten thoufand three hundred; adding, the Number muft have been greater at the End of the laft Century; as by his extravagant manner of Calculation it fhould be at prefent.

But as it appears by the above-fpecified ten Years Account, that the Chriftenings of *London* greatly exceed the Burials of that Time, I think it will not  
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<sup>a</sup> *Kerffboom's* Verhandel. p. 14.

<sup>b</sup> id. ibid.

<sup>c</sup> ib. p. 16.

be deny'd, that they exceed the same at present; especially if we consider, that the Number of Christenings in *Paris*, at a Medium of nine Years (preceeding that of 1737) exceeded that of the Burials ninety-eight yearly; notwithstanding that City, not only abounds with a vast Number of Religious of both Sexes, who are sworn to Celibacy, but likewise many Thousands of Students belonging to the University, who lead a single Life; whereas in *London*, there are no such Persons, to prevent the Increase of its Inhabitants:

And as in my Political Account of *London*, it appears <sup>a</sup>, that at a Medium of nine Years, there are annually buried in *London* 29542, and in *Paris* only 17804, which is 11738 in Favour of the former; so must the Births in *London* at present (according to the above-specified ten Years Account, the Reasons aforesaid, and the *Paris* Account of Christenings) yearly exceed those of *Paris* 12320; whereby is shewn, that the Inhabitants of *London* exceed those of *Paris* above three fifths in Number.

By what has been said, I doubt not but Mr. *Kerffeboom's* Astonishment will not only cease, in respect to the great Difference between the Christenings and Burials of *London*; but he will be likewise induc'd to do Justice to this injur'd City, by acknowledging that the Inhabitants thereof vastly exceed those of *Paris* in point of Number.

What Mr. *Kerffeboom's* Partiality in Favour of the City of *Paris* is owing to, I know not; unless it be out of Pique to Sir *William Petty*, (with whom he seems not well pleas'd) for saying, that the City of *London* contain'd as many Inhabitants as the Province

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<sup>a</sup> *Maitland's Hist. Lond.* p. 540 and 548.

of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*: Which, I think, will be no difficult matter to make appear, by allowing that Gentleman his suppos'd Number of 28000<sup>a</sup> Children to be annually born in the said Province; whereas, according to the above-specified ten Years Account, and the *Paris* Proportion of Births, there must be annually born in *London* thirty-one thousand and eight Children: Therefore, as this Number, according to my Calculation<sup>b</sup>, is the Produce of 725903, the present Number of the Inhabitants of *London*; so must 28000<sup>c</sup>, the Number of Children suppos'd to be born yearly in the Province of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, be the Produce of 655485, the present Number of the Inhabitants of the said Province. Notwithstanding Mr. *Kerffeboom*, by his excessive and unprecedented reckoning of the Births at a thirty-fifth part of the People, has calculated them at 980000; whereas by the ingenious and learned Dr. *Halley's* Method of Calculation (which is so highly approv'd of by Mr. *Kerffeboom*, that he seemingly would be thought to make it the Standard of his Calculations) the Inhabitants of the Province of *Holland* and *West-Friesland* do not amount to twenty-nine times the Number of the Births; which gives room to suspect, that Mr. *Kerffeboom* has introduc'd this unheard-of Excess, to increase the Number of People in the said Province of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*.

<sup>a</sup> *Kerffeboom's* Verhandel. p. 3.

<sup>b</sup> *Maitland's* Hist. Lond. p. 541.

<sup>c</sup> *Kerffeboom's* Verhandel. p. 3.

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