

VIII. *A Supplement to a Paper, entitled, Observations on the Population of Manchester*<sup>(a)</sup>. By Thomas Percival, M. D. F. R. and A. S.

TO THE REV. DR. HORSLEY.

REV. SIR,

R. Dec. 14,  
1775. **A** PAINFUL nervous complaint in my eyes, with which I have been troubled a few days, lays me under the necessity of writing to you by an *amanuensis*. I beg leave to return you my best thanks for your kind attention to my Memoir. If you think the following additions of importance, you are at liberty to annex them to it<sup>(b)</sup>.

I have the honour to be, &c.

FROM the table of the number of males and females baptized in different places it appears<sup>(c)</sup>, that the proportion of males to females baptized is nearly as 13 to 12, agreeable to the calculation of Mr. DERHAM; but the succeeding ones shew, the number of females alive considerably exceed the number of males, in a variety of places; and that the widows are almost double the number of widowers.

(a) See Philosoph. Transactions, vol. LXV. art. xxiii.

(b) These papers came too late to my hands to be inserted in the last publication. S. HORSLEY.

(c) See Philosoph. Transf. vol. LXV. p. 333.

A com-

A comparative view of the numbers of males and females  
in different places.

Places.	Males.	Females.
Manchester,	10548	11933
Salford,	2248	2517
Townships of ditto,	947	958
Parish of Manchester,	6942	6844
Bolton,	2159	2392
Little Bolton,	361	410
Monton,	196	190
Hale,	140	136
Horwich,	149	136
Darwen,	900	950
Cockey,	320	391
Chowbent,	554	606
Ackworth,	340	388
Eaftham,	451	461
Chinley,	181	168
Brownfide,	40	47
Bugsworth,	80	95
Ashton under Line,	1406	1453
Parish of ditto,	2584	2513
Tattenhall parish,	382	399
Waverton parish,	310	332
Total,	<u>31238</u>	<u>33339</u>

A comparative view of the number of widowers and widows in different places.

Places.	Widowers.	Widows.
Manchester,	432	1064
Salford,	89	149
Township of ditto,	21	42
Parish of Manchester,	232	315
Monton,	14	13
Hale,	8	12
Horwich,	9	8
Darwen,	30	48
Cockey,	10	27
Chowbent,	26	43
Chinley, Brownside, and Bugsworth,	15	18
Ashton under Line,	50	81
Parish of ditto,	67	95
Total,	<hr/> 1003 <hr/>	<hr/> 1915 <hr/>

Let no arguments in favour of polygamy be drawn from these tables. The practice is brutal; destructive to friendship and moral sentiment; inconsistent with one great end of marriage, the education of children; and subversive of the natural rights of more than half of the species

— “ Higher of the genial bed by far.

“ And with mysterious reverence I deem.” MILTON.

Nor

Nor is this tyranny of man over the weaker, but more amiable sex favourable to population. For notwithstanding the number of females in the world may considerably exceed the number of males, yet there are more men capable of propagating their species, than women capable of bearing children. This painful office gradually becomes more dangerous and less frequent as the rigidity of the fibres increases, and ceases entirely at the age of fifty. The fatality of it is thus wisely obviated, and the comforts of declining life are not interrupted by the arduous toil of nursing. An institution, therefore, which confines in servile bondage to one usurper, many females in the prime of youth, must leave numbers destitute of the means, which nature hath pointed out, for perpetuating and increasing the race of mankind. And it is a fact well known, that Armenia, in which a plurality of wives is not allowed, abounds more with inhabitants than any other province of the Turkish empire.

P. S. Since the preceding paper was written, the rev. Mr. CRADDOCK hath favoured me with a survey of the town and parish of Ashton under Line, distant about eight miles from Manchester. The inhabitants consist of manufacturers and farmers.

An enumeration of the inhabitants of the town and parish  
of Ashton under Line, made in 1775.

	Town.	Parish.
Inhabitants,	2859	5097
Houses,	553	941
Families,	599	971
Males,	1406	2584
Females,	1453	2513
Married,	982	1679
Widowers,	50	67
Widows,	81	95
Under five years of age,	509	896
From five to ten,	396	764
ten to twenty,	541	1011
twenty to fifty,	1044	1882
fifty to seventy,	307	471
seventy to ninety,	62	73

The rev. Dr. PEPLOE, chancellor of the diocese of Chester, has honoured me with the following account of the parishes of Waverton and Tattenhall, both in the neighbourhood of Chester. The inhabitants are farmers and labourers.

An enumeration of the inhabitants of Tattenhall, made  
in August, 1774, by the rev. BRICE STORR, curate.

Inhabited houses,	148
Uninhabited ditto,	2
Hheads of families,	176
Aged above 14 years,	462
Men and boys,	382
Women and girls,	399

	Christenings.	Burials.
1764	28	8
1765	21	9
1766	19	12
1767	29	11
1768	28	16
1769	24	15
1770	37	15
1771	30	9
1772	26	15
1773	38	20
	<hr/> 280 <hr/>	<hr/> 130 <hr/>

An enumeration of the inhabitants of Waverton, made in August, 1774, by the rev. Mr. BISSETT, minister of the parish.

Inhabited houses,	109
Uninhabited ditto,	2
Heads of families,	116
Aged above 14 years,	406
Men and boys,	310
Women and girls,	322

	Christenings.	Burials.
1764	19	10
1765	26	2
1766	17	7
1767	18	10
1768	22	10
1769	17	7
1770	20	8
1771	23	9
1772	18	12
1773	13	9
	<hr/> 193	<hr/> 84

In the valuable work which I have so often quoted, Dr. PRICE hath given many convincing and melancholy proofs of the declining state of population in this kingdom. The growth of large towns; the prevalence of vice

vice and luxury; the discouragements to marriage; the destruction of cottages; and various other causes have the most unfavourable influence on the increase of mankind. But it is to be hoped, that these evils do not universally prevail; and that even some good may arise from them to check their baneful effects. Certain it is, that in this part of England the inhabitants multiply with great rapidity: and though the increase may be chiefly owing to recruits drawn from other counties, yet the flourishing state of our manufactures cannot fail to promote population, by affording plentiful means of subsistence to the poor. The bishop of Chester informs me, that in various parish registers which he has consulted, the births have progressively become more numerous from generation to generation. At Boxley in Kent, where his lordship was vicar, he divided the times, from the commencement of the reign of queen ELIZABETH, into periods of twenty-one years; and found, that the number of births in the first period was 310, and in the last 525. The increase was gradual through the whole time.

Manchester,  
Sept. 20, 1775.