

To the CHRONICLE.

Remarks on the TURNPIKE ROADS.

MANY laws have of late been made for the better amendment and preservation of the publick roads; and it was generally believed that broad wheels would answer that end. But whatever good effect they may have produced on the southern roads, experience hath evinced beyond all contradiction, that on all clay soils the nine inch wheels are utter ruin and destruction to the roads. Whoever doubts of this certain truth need only travel from Richmond to Yarm; from Yarm to Durham; from Darlington to Stockton, and many other roads; where he will find trenches and gutters sometimes two foot deep, and eleven or twelve inches wide; occasioned by the constant lead carriage. As all nine inch wheels were permitted to go free without paying tolls for three years; many persons were thereby induced to let up for lead carriers, who through avarice would carry from 25 to 27 pieces of lead, each piece weighing 12 stones; whereby the roads have been flattened, and pressed down to such a degree, that it is scarce visible that those roads ever were formed into turnpike roads; so that the sum of nigh twenty thousand pounds laid out and expended on them, might as well have been thrown away; they being in such ruinous condition, that no one can even travel on horseback without great danger of his life: and considering that materials for the repairing of clay roads are at a great distance, every load of stone being to be fetched three or four miles, the repairs on account of the broad wheels making such wide and deep trenches, containing such quantity of water as entirely founders the road.

October 26, 1758.

A General Meeting of the Gentlemen of HERTFORDSHIRE and ESSEX, is appointed on Monday the 11th of December next, at the Crown-Inn at Hockerill, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, to consider of an Application to Parliament for making the River Navigable from the Town of Bishop Stortford into the River Lea.

The Attendance of the Gentlemen of the said Counties will greatly oblige the Inhabitants of the said Town and Counties.

ANY YOUNG MAN under Twenty-three

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It would also be of service to subject carts to the same rules that waggones are, particularly in what relates to the axeling their wheels, seeing they have got such a method of axeling, that the wheel never goes full on the road, but in a direction rather across it, i.e. the plane of the wheel extended is not parallel to the road; and, instead of being a roller, or levelling the road, the wheels scoop it out in ruts or gutters. Another great, and, I may say, destructive evil, attending most roads, is their being engrossed in the hands of attorneys; who being the clerks of the roads, are become the chief directors of them, making them subservient to their private views and gains; for as all the money arising from the roads circulates through their hands, they apply it at such times, and in such proportions, as best suit their conveniences: and every one knows what an advantage so large yearly incomes as 7, 12, or 1400 l. must prove in the hands of attorneys. These men act in concert one with another, and at most meetings constitute a majority of trustees present; sometimes acting as clerks of the road, and in the very same instant presume to act as

trustees, so that the gentleman attending, never know when they are treating with a servant of the publick, or with a trustee; and to such an insolence are some of them arrived, that they despise the orders or regulations made for the benefit of the road. This behaviour prevents persons of fortune from attending the meetings, as they do not chuse to subject themselves to the insults of those men who on all occasions have their needy clients (who perhaps are just qualified) ready too, and will outvote any order which they apprehend inconsistent with their interest, and by the same means support themselves in their places notwithstanding any disobedience or other fault which may have been by them committed.

It is therefore most sincerely wished, that if no other more material business prevent, it might please the parliament to take under their immediate consideration the present state of the turnpike roads in the kingdom; when it will probably be found, that unless attorneys be restrained from acting either as clerks or trustees so long as they act as attorneys, the roads will be entirely neglected, the capital debt, instead of being paid off, or lessened, will increase, and the income be swallowed up in salaries, or improperly applied; so that in a few years a general bankruptcy of all roads must ensue; many being already in such bad credit, that no one will take an assignment at any discount, three or four years interest being due on securities; and people of small fortune, who have lent their all, are ready to starve for a maintenance. The distress of many poor persons is so great, that it requires some effectual relief; for the creditors may recover their principal or interest, no remedy

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To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, of the County of BEDFORD.

HAVING had the Honour, at the General Meeting held at Bedford on Wednesday last, to be proposed, and unanimously agreed on to be a Candidate to represent you in Parliament, in the room of your late very worthy Representative, the Earl of Upper Ossory, deceased, I beg Leave to request the Favour of your Votes and Interest; and, in regard to the near Approach of the Election, I hope you will indulge me so far as to excuse my personal Application. If I shall be so happy as to be elected, I shall ever retain the most grateful Sense of the Honour conferred on, Gentlemen, your most faithful and obedient humble Servant, HEN. OSBORN. October 26, 1758.

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The Attendance of the Gentlemen of the said Counties will greatly oblige the Inhabitants of the said Town and Counties.

ANY YOUNG MAN under Twenty-three Years of Age, having a good Character, and well made, in height from Five Feet Ten Inches to Six Feet One Inch, may have the Honour of serving in his Majesty's Royal Regiment of H. O. R. S. GUARDS, commonly called The BLUE GUARDS, commanded by the Marquis of GRANBY, by applying to Lieutenant Hall, in Nottinghamshire; Lieutenant Tuffnell, in Staffordshire; Cornet Lafcelles, in Birmingham; Corporal Smithhausen, at Northampton; Corporal Wright, at Wakefield; or Corporal Royal, at Manchester.

To be LETT, ready furnished, by Lease for any Term of Years not exceeding 21. A House completely fitted up in the modern Taste, with a Coach house for three Carriages, Stabling for twelve Horses; a Pigeon house well stocked; two Gardens planted with the best Kind of Fruit Trees; two Orchards, and two Fish Ponds well stocked with Carp, Tench, Eels, Bream, and Cray Fish, and well supplied with Water. The House contains a Hall, two Parlours, and a Closet, a Kitchen, Pantry, Larder, and Butler's Pantry; on the first Floor, a Dining Room, five Bedchambers, and a Closet; over them convenient Rooms for Servants. The Offices are a Servants Hall, Lundry, Store Room, and Granary over it; a Brewing and Wash-house, with Coppers, and every Convenience for washing, &c. with good Cellars, and a Dairy. It is situated in a Park, and commands two remarkable fine Prospects; the one over a rich Vale, chiefly Meadow and Pasture Grounds, well wooded, and watered by a large River, which is in View for many Miles; the other, over a fine Corn Country, terminated by a Ridge of high Hills at the Distance of fifteen Miles. Any Gentleman who takes this House, may have the Privilege of shooting, hunting, and fishing, in several very extensive Mannors, in which are great Plenty of Grouse, Partridges, and Hares; Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and most Kinds of fresh Water Fish. Coals are delivered at the House for 15s. per Ton. Pile, Pitch, and Eels delivered alive, as often as required, at Four Pence per Pound. There is a good Market Town within four Post Miles, and a Church, with a large Seat, within Half a Mile. The Distance from London is four Days Journey for the heaviest Carriage; a Post Chaise has travelled it in two Days and Part of an Evening. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. Cooper, at the Bowling Office, in Thames-street. N. B. The Park is stocked with a very large Kind of Fallow Deer, and will be lett if required.