

try or situation in which such lives happen to be placed, as well as the political causes, such as the arbitrary nature of the government, or the grade of society under which they may be cast. (*x*) It has been observed, from a very remote period, that the high and mountainous regions of Germany have always been much more healthy than the low margins of its great rivers and sea coasts; (*y*) and indeed over the whole world the degree of salubrity often varies with a mile of difference in location. It is universally admitted, that large cities are less favourable to the duration of human life than country situations; insomuch so, that great cities have been justly termed 'the sepulchres of the dead and the hospitals of the living.' The difference between the duration of human life in all cities of such magnitude as London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and the country, have always, and at all times, been very great. But this difference lessens with the smaller towns; so that, as between mere villages and the country, it is nothing at all. (*z*)

The expectation of life varies not only with country and place, but also according to the grade and condition of individuals in society; and such variations are most remarkable in those countries in which the grades and conditions are most strongly distinguished. In England as well as in all the other countries of the old world, the expectation of life is greatest in favour of those of the middle classes, and least favourable to those of the aristocratic orders, whose lives are curtailed by their intemperance and debaucheries; (*a*) and to those of the mere operatives whose lives are shortened by the oppressions and privations under which they suffer. (*b*) Consequently, a table formed for a whole country collectively, cannot be altogether correct for every particular situation, or for each class of society of the same country.

It often happens however, that in the inquiries which have been made concerning the duration of human life much has been said as to the insalubrity of particular situations; as to the causes, prevalence, and cure of diseases; and also as to the political causes which materially affect the continuance of human life; but with all, or any of those causes, or with the prevention, or removal of any of them, a court of justice, when called upon merely to deter-

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(*x*) 2 Southern Rev. 136.—(*y*) 1 Malth. Popu. 380; 2 Price Obser. 242.—(*z*) 1 Price Obser. 127; 2 Price Obser. 30, 33, 45, 49, 65, 83, 127, 218, 226; 1 Malth. Popu. 392; 2 Malth. Popu. 487.—(*a*) 9 Westm. Rev. 388.—(*b*) 9 Westm. Rev. 388; 14 Westm. Rev. 390, note; 1 Price Obser. 150; 2 Price Obser. 144; 3 Lond. and Westm. Rev. art. 8; 2 Sparks' Franklin's Works, 324.