

County of CAMBRIDGE—continued.

ANSWERS.

NEWMARKET.

*Stephen Piper.*

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| (A.)—NEWMARKET, ALL SAINTS, CAMBRIDGE. | } | 485—486—704—714.                      |
| NEWMARKET, ST. MARY, SUFFOLK.          |   | 1,307—1,431—1,810—2,134.              |
| (B.)—NEWMARKET, ALL SAINTS, CAMBRIDGE. | } | £481—£294—£489—£714.                  |
| NEWMARKET, ST. MARY, SUFFOLK.          |   | £545—£797—£579—£927.                  |
| (C.)—NEWMARKET, ALL SAINTS, CAMBRIDGE. | } | 19s. 9d.—12s. 1d.—13s. 10d.—£1. 0. 0. |
| NEWMARKET, ST. MARY, SUFFOLK.          |   | 8s. 4d.—11s. 1d.—6s. 4d.—8s. 8d.      |

- 1.—Not any. I have been some time preparing a bill as a paving and lighting bill, in which I propose to consolidate, and if possible to incorporate, the two parishes in all parochial concerns. Newmarket is in two counties, and one part of each county being added to it, and excused from the county session, would be an improvement.

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- 2.—The present mode of management is acknowledged to be under the Act of Elizabeth, but much degenerated. This may be considered also as an answer to queries 3 and 5. Many of the present ills arise from the Poor Laws not being now enforced as they were up to the year 1793, the advanced price of corn, the loss of hands for the army and navy, the calling in of machinery. The consequence of all is, that having now an increase of population, much of the present distress arises from those substitutes being continued.

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- 4.—

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- 5.—

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- 6.—Not any.

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- 7.—There have been two nominated, and one as a deputy, which has been this year laid aside. This deputy has no weight, and by the business being left to him the visitation of the poor was neglected. We have only tradesmen to appoint, having no land to either parish above 250 acres. It is hoped that the officers taking the business into their own hands will better inform themselves of the real state of the poor, so that relief may be more equally given, and at a less expense.

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- 8.—Their services have been nominal, on account of the appointment of a Deputy Overseer.

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- 9.—Answered at No. 7.

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- 10.—The sums of money are granted in Vestry; not less than one rate per quarter; which rate is signed by the parish officer and inhabitants then present. The law requires that it should be called over, but this is not always complied with, which is one cause of the omissions which send the rate to the sessions; also the parish accounts are too often kept back from the eye of the rate-payers, who would by their inspection assist in checking the parish officer's liability to imposition from the poor, or from tradesmen's bills. Every parish should have the account kept by a person appointed by the rate-payers; and the visiting of the poor, which is much neglected, and the paying of them, should be done by the Churchwardens and Overseers.

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- 11.—The law duly authorizes those who are in office to call meetings and assess the parish, and to make alterations in the assessment as changes of property take place, &c.

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- 12.—The rate in Vestry must be signed by a majority of the officers; now the number varies, and large districts are under the Incorporate Act, and others under local ones; but the order in signing them is Rector, Churchwarden, Overseers, and inhabitants. The officers are rated by their number, and if not a majority, then the rate is in danger. The inhabitants sign, in evidence that the Vestry meeting was regular. This rate must be signed by two Magistrates and published the Sunday following, and the Church Clerk should attest the call for and the publishing of the granting of a rate for the purpose, and the amounts, dates, &c. The rules laid down for the nomination of officers are not duly attended to, and I have known Magistrates appoint out of the order of nomination, and in very many instances act as judges in their own case.

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- 13.—See Answers to Nos. 1 & 2.

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- 14.—I think this question can be better answered where the incorporated houses have been established. I witnessed its effects, which on the whole are found favourable, at Haverhill in Sussex, where I formerly resided, in which parish the poor are placed under the Incorporated Act. But one parish is seldom found equal to contend with the dead weight of building and stock. A workhouse, to answer, should at least contain from 70 to 100 inmates, to keep up a good classification of the poor. Too much restraint is injurious, while encouragements act with a two fold force, and particularly fit and provide them for places of service.

County of CAMBRIDGE—*continued.*

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15.—We have one on a small scale ; but it partakes more of the class of a lodging-house, there being no employ there.

16.—

17.—The workhouse has been a convenience to provide for paupers suddenly sent home ; this place is much burdened by persons settled by the yeomanry stables, which takes the poor out of the general class.

18.—At Haverhill I see much advantage and comfort was derived by adhering to the Incorporation Act for parishes ; young and old were kept separate, and those who had fallen from better situations would be better relieved.

19.—This at Haverhill was observed.

20.—The Governor at this place is paid by weekly wages, and the inmates have a separate allowance. At Haverhill, while I was there, the provisions, &c. were bought by competition, the Governor paid by salary, and children taught to read, &c. ; and, when able, regularly employed in the manufactory of the place.

21.—At Haverhill, when I was there, not exceeding 3*s.* 6*d.* a head, exclusive of the redemption debt for building the house, which was £2,000. On the present plan this is not to be ascertained, but I think not less than 5*s.* 6*d.* a head.

22.—

23.—I cannot see that these can answer, except a given number is collected ; I should therefore recommend parishes to unite in an establishment confined to a workhouse alone. A plan of this kind I have, but it is too extensive to be communicated here.

24.—At this place they are put out to the relatives or others ; at Haverhill, in the incorporated house, which I recommend in preference ; their morals are better attended to, their habits more regular ; and, when grown up, I have observed they always endeavour to gain settlements from that parish.

25.—This I cannot do, the change is so often.

26.—This is their bounden duty, and I can undertake to say it is now in practice this season, and gives much satisfaction to payer and receiver.

27.—This is done whenever the case requires it. The departure from this rule has been the cause of much of the complaints.

28.—The gradual fall of the poor has deprived them much of this resource, and the general laxity towards them has brought them to despair.

29.—At this place, the objects who apply for relief are such as are turned out of the stables. To employ them is a very difficult task, and out of common cases. As my paper will permit me, I beg to recommend you to a benefit society, now before me, which was established in 1798 at Castle Eden, which, if established in every hundred, would much relieve all classes, and I think far exceed the saving bank system.