

individual ; and all because, from the operation of the causes that we have now explained, the supply of the market is made to oscillate within smaller limits than the crop—inso-much that though the latter should be deficient by one-third of the whole, the former might not be deficient by one-fifth or one-sixth of what is brought to market annually.

19. This effect is greatly increased by the suspending of distillation in years of scarcity. And after all, should the supplies be yet very short, and the prices therefore far more than proportionally high, this will naturally and of itself bring on the importation of grain from foreign parts. If such be the variety of weather and soil, even within the limits of a country, as in some measure to balance the scarcity which is experienced in one set of farms, by the comparative abundance of another set—this will apply with much greater force to a whole continent, or to the world at large. If a small deficiency in the home supply of grain induce a higher price than with other articles of commerce, this is just a provision for a securer and readier filling up of the deficiency by a movement from abroad—a thing of far greater importance with the necessaries than with the mere comforts or luxuries of life. That law of wider and more tremulous oscillation in the price of corn, which we have attempted to expound, is in itself a security for a more equal distribution of it over the globe by man, in those seasons