

5181 R;

Upwards of 40 Years ago I was ordained Pastor of a Church in  
 and by the unanimous Vote of my People had settled on me an  
*hundred pounds per Annum*; i. e. about 40 *l.* per Week, with which 40 *l.*  
 I could buy (as I find by looking over my Accounts 40 Years back) the  
 following Articles, *viz:*

1. Dunghill Fowl 8 <i>l.</i>	1. Cheese 2 <i>l.</i>	1. Candles 5 <i>l.</i>	1 Doz. Eggs 2 <i>l.</i>	0	7	8
1 <i>l.</i> Beef 2 <i>l.</i> half penny	1 <i>l.</i> Mutton 2 <i>l.</i> half penny	1 <i>l.</i> Pork 3 <i>l.</i>		0	1	3
1 <i>l.</i> Veal 3 <i>l.</i>				0	0	11
1 <i>l.</i> Sugar 6 <i>l.</i>	1 Gallon Molasses 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Chocolate 2 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i>		0	4	10
1 Bushel Indian Corn 3 <i>l.</i>	Rye 4 <i>l.</i>	Wheat 5 <i>l.</i>		3	12	0
1 pair of Shoes for my self 5 <i>l.</i>	for my Wife 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i>			0	8	6
1 Gallon Milk 8 <i>s.</i>	half a Barrel Beer 4 <i>l.</i>			0	4	8
					2	10 10

For the same Articles I have been obliged to pay this present Year,  
 in old Tenor Currency, at a middle Price throughout the Year; accord-  
 ing to the following Account;

To 1 Dunghill Fowl 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i>	1 Goose 10 <i>l.</i>	1 Turkey wt. 8 <i>l.</i>				
To 1 <i>l.</i> Butter 5 <i>l.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Cheese 2 <i>l.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Candles 5 <i>l.</i>	1 Doz. Eggs 3 <i>l.</i>	0	17	7
To 1 <i>l.</i> Beef 1 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Mutton 1 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Pork 2 <i>l.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Veal 2 <i>l.</i>	0	15	0
To 1 <i>l.</i> Sugar 5 <i>l.</i>	1 Gallon Molasses 20 <i>s.</i>	1 <i>l.</i> Chocolate 14 <i>s.</i>		1	19	0
To 1 Bushel Indian Corn 20 <i>s.</i>	Rye 22 <i>s.</i>	Wheat 25 <i>s.</i>		3	7	0
To 1 pair Shoes for my self 60 <i>s.</i>	for my Wife 35 <i>s.</i>			4	15	0
To 1 Gallon Milk 4 <i>s.</i>	half a Barrel Beer 18 <i>s.</i>			1	2	0
					15	2 6

You will readily perceive, by comparing these Accounts together,  
 that the same Articles one with another, have risen more than seven  
 and an half for one, since my first Settlement with my People; whereas  
 they could never yet be prevailed on to raise my Salary more than three  
 for one. Upon which 'tis easy to observe, that they fall short more a  
 great deal than one half of the real Value of the original Salary I con-  
 tracted with them for. And I may venture to say, this is the Truth of  
 the Case with respect to most of the Ministers throughout the Province.  
 And what may be expected but the Judgments of Heaven, when so con-  
 siderable a part of the Community are in Tears by reason of Oppression,  
 and can have none to help them? I beg you would publish this Letter  
 in your next Paper. Perhaps it may be of some Service, to us distressed  
 Ministers under our growing Difficulties. Not that I expect it will o-  
 pen the Eyes or soften the Hearts of those among our People, who con-  
 tent themselves with paying towards our Support 2 or 3 times as much  
 as they did 30 or 40 Years ago, while yet they can have the Conscience  
 to demand of us 6 or 7 times as much for the same Things as we were  
 wont formerly to give for 'em: But it may possibly put some righteous  
 Persons of Influence, in public or private Life, on thinking more than  
 they have hitherto done, upon the pitiable Case of the Ministers in the  
 Land at this Day, and stir them up to exert themselves for their Re-  
 lief: Or if it should answer no other End, I have disburthened my  
 Heart; and there is some Satisfaction in telling ones Grievs.

I am;

Your humble Servant,

T. W.

December 11th 1747.

Last Wednesday Morning, between 6 and 7 o'Clock a Fire broke  
 out in the upper Room of the East End of the Court-House, in this  
 Town, and in a few Hours Time that stately and costly Building was  
 reduced to a Heap of Rubbish in the Cellar, nothing being left stand-

ing but the Brick Walls; and with this noble Edifice, the fine Pictures and other Furniture in the Council-Chamber were destroyed, as were also the Books, Papers and Records in both the Lobbies; and those in the Offices kept in the upper Story; but the County Records, and Papers belonging to the Inferiour Court, being deposited in an Office upon the lower Floor, were most of 'em preserved. A great Quantity of Wine and other Liquors belonging to private Gentlemen, was lost in the Cellar, to the Value (as is said) of *Ten Thousand Pounds*.— Several private Houses were set on Fire by the intenseness of the Heat, but were preserved from Destruction with much Difficulty.