

*An Extract of two Essays in Political Arithmetick concerning the comparative Magnitudes, &c. of London and Paris by Sr. William Petty Knight. R. S. S.*

The excellent Author of these two Essays, has in several former of the same Nature made it appear that Mathematical Reasoning, is not only applicable to Lines and Numbers, but affords the best means of Judging in all the concerns of humane Life. In the present he endeavours to prove *London*, as it now is, the most considerable City now in being, by shewing it much to exceed *Paris*, (which not only the *French* but foreigners have asserted to be the chief City of *Europe*.) both in People, Housing, and Wealth: The first by comparing the Bills of Mortality, whereby he finds that the People of *London* are as many as those of *Paris* and *Rouen* put together. The second by comparing the number of Houses, which by the Chimny-Books are found above 80000 in *London*, whereas a great Author among the *French*, (who seldom fail to magnifie their own things,) reckons but 50000 Houses in *Paris*. As to the third, to wit the Wealth, he conceives that there is yet a much greater disproportion, there being no comparison between them for Trade, and besides a good argument drawn from the Law-Suites of both places, he concludes from the *Paris* bills of Mortality, that two 5ths of the People of *Paris* are so poor that they chuse rather to die in Hospitals, than lie sick at their own Charges; and that a third of the whole People of that City, die out of the most wretched Hospitall of *L'Hôtel Dieu*; whereas at *London* there dies scarce one in fiftie in our Hospitals. Hereupon in the second Essay, our Author extends his Charity to those poor wretches, shewing how by a reasonable expence, 3000 persons might be there saved *per Annum*, who die for want of good accomodation. The whole is so close writt, that it will not bare Epitomizing, wherefore I rather recommend it to the Curious who cannot but be satisfied therewith. An