

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

Question stated—Little prospect of a determination of it, from the enmity of the opposing parties — The principal argument against the perfectibility of man and of society has never been fairly answered—Nature of the difficulty arising from population—Outline of the principal argument of the Essay. p. 1.

CHAP. II.

The different ratio in which population and food increase—The necessary effects of these different ratios of increase—Oscillation produced by them in the condition of the lower classes of society —Reasons why this oscillation has not been so much observed as might be expected—Three propositions on which the general argument of the Essay depends —The different states in which mankind have been known to exist proposed to be examined with reference to these three propositions. p. 18.