

A N
E S S A Y
On the CAUSES of the DECLINE of the
FOREIGN TRADE,
CONSEQUENTLY
Of the Value of the Lands of *Britain*,
A N D
On the MEANS to RESTORE BOTH.
Begun in the Year 1739.

By Sir MATTHEW DECKER.
The FOURTH EDITION.

To which is added,
S E R I O U S
C O N S I D E R A T I O N S
O N T H E S E V E R A L
H I G H D U T I E S

Which the NATION in General, (as
well as it's TRADE in Particular) la-
bours under: &c.

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T H E
P R E F A C E.

THE Merchant, the Manufacturer, and the Sailor, who at first View, appear to have the greatest Interest in Trade, will, upon Examination, be found not to be so deeply concerned in its well or ill Being, as the Landholder, whose Interest seems more remote, and who (with Sorrow it must be said) too often by his Indifference, gives Occasion to suspect, that he thinks he hath no Concern in it at all.

The former are not fixt to a Country; their Effects are all Moveables, vended in many Parts of the World; if they are oppressed in one Place, they can soon pack up and fly to another, where greater Freedoms invite them; they may indeed be bound by Leases of Lands or Houses, but Parchment Chains seldom prevent despairing Fugitives: Therefore the Number of People in any Country, as well as their Well-being, depends intirely on Trade.

The Land-holder hath an immoveable Property, valuable only to some few of his Neighbours or Countrymen, the Produce of which, if Trade carries not off, nor brings in People to consume, but on the contrary, by its Decay drives the Consumers away, his Tenants must decay, break, fly, and his Lands be untenanted; he may indeed sell at one Price or another, but when the Bulk of his Neighbours are in as bad a Situation as himself,
and

and all Rents declining, the Value of untenanted Farms and empty Houses, must be very low.

The Traders are indeed the first pinched, but then they have the first Warning to avoid the Calamity, which coming but by degrees to the Ultimate, the Land-holders, they are the longer lulled in a deceitful Security.

Who then is the most concerned in Point of Interest, with regard to Trade; he whose Property is in Moveables, who hath the first Warning, and the greatest Choice of Purchasers; or he whose Property is immoveable, who feels not the Danger until it is far advanced, hath the least Choice of Purchasers; and those declining ones too, like himself?

As Men are said naturally to pursue their own Interest, this Indifference in our Land holders is monstrous. Is it Pride which makes them think the Subject beneath them? All foreign Courts are now studying it attentively. Is it the Fear that the Subject is too intricate? A little Attention will make it as easy to them as to Foreigners. Is it their Places that engross all their Time? What they think they get by these, they may doubly lose in their Lands. Is it their Pleasures they now make their chief Business? Alas! they are paying very dear for them, and deservedly too, if that is the Case. These Causes may affect some few, but the general one I take to be the Craft, Covetousness, or false Notions of Interest in our Ancestors, who thought to lay the Burden of Taxes as remote as possible from their Lands, by laying them on Trade, and to buttress that up by Prohibitions; both which have had quite contrary Effects, and their Children's Feet are caught in the Traps their Forefathers laid for others; which cynical Spirit, it is to be feared, is not yet quite worn out.

To remove all false Prejudice with regard to Trade, from our Land-holders, to point out to them their true Interest, to clear a plain easy Subject from the Imputation of Intricacy, to remove those destructive Distinctions, without any difference of landed and trading Interests, or to sum up all, to prove the strong Connection in Point of Interest, between Land and Trade, is the Occasion of publishing this Essay.

An Attempt is here made to shew the Symptoms of our Decay, the Difficulties and Discouragements our Trade at present labours under, by which only Foreigners can rival us, the prodigious artificial Value we thereby put upon our Goods, to the hindrance of their Sale abroad; the fictitious Value they make in the Rents the Land-holder now receives, compared with the real Value a Free Trade would make; the great natural Advantages our Country is blessed with, superior to any Nation in *Europe*, the Means proper to preserve these, by unburdening our Trade, which will employ our Poor, increase the Stock of People, and increase our Riches; all which must terminate in increasing the Value of Lands.

As of all the Methods of raising Taxes on the People, the easiest and most equal must naturally raise the most Money and the fewest Murmurs; a Proposal is here offered to the Consideration of the Publick, for one Tax on the voluntary Consumers of superfluous Luxuries, to supply all our present, positive, and involuntary Taxes, without their ill Consequences, more easy, more equal, speedier raised, productive of more Money, which will every Year bring in large Sums to carry on the present War, at the same time restore Trade, and increase the Value of our Lands.

The Consideration of our numerous Monopolies, naturally led to an Enquiry into the nature of a

Free Port Trade, as well as the strong Prejudices now subsisting against it; and though a Difference in Opinion will herein be found with several great Men who have wrote on this Subject, yet it is not intended to cast any Reflection on their Memories, or lessen that Esteem which their past Endeavors for their Country's Good justly intitle them to; but only to set the Subject in that general Light they seem not to have viewed it in, and put it to the strongest Trial it is capable of.

Perhaps it may be wondered at, that no Bounty should be proposed as a Means to restore Trade, but if a Free Port will gain us all those Trades we are naturally capable of, it will appear to be itself the greatest Bounty, and in endeavouring to force Nature, the Expence is certain, but the Success doubtful.

As an impartial Search after Truth was the Author's sole Motive for writing upon this Subject, so he desires the Reader to be assured that he has not published any thing but what appears to him as such; and as an Earnest of his Sincerity, he declares, that whatever Mistakes are proved to be committed, no Person shall be more willing to retract, or more grateful for the Favour of better Information, and which he will not fail to own whenever this Essay shall be found to deserve another Edition. If the several Proposals here offered for the restoring our Trade, and therewith the Value of our Lands, shall appear to be founded on Reason and the Nature of Commerce, he flatters himself there is Virtue and public Spirit enough left in the Nation, to carry them into Execution; which, whether done or not, signifies no more to him than to any other Person whatever, except the Desire of a Portion of that heart-felt Joy which those obtain, whose Labours are blessed with their Country's Good.

AN

E S S A Y

On the CAUSES of the DECLINE of the

F O R E I G N T R A D E.

THE Foreign Trade of *Britain* may be defined to be, its Exports and Imports of Commodities to and from other Countries, with the Navigation and Intercourse of Exchanges thereby caused.

The general Measures of the Trade of *Europe* at present, are Gold and Silver, which, although they are sometimes Commodities, yet are the ultimate Objects of Trade; and the more or less of these Metals a Nation retains, it is denominated Rich or Poor.

These Nations that have no Mines of Gold and Silver, have no Means to get them but by Foreign Trade, and according to the Degrees of those Metals they retain, the Prices of their Commodities, the Numbers of their People, and therewith the Value of their Lands rise and fall in Proportion.

Therefore if the Exports of *Britain* exceed its Imports, Foreigners must pay the Balance in Treasure and the Nation grow Rich.

But if the Imports of *Britain* exceed its Exports, we must pay Foreigners the Balance in Treasure, and the Nation grow Poor.

The Imports cannot exceed the Exports in any Country where the Trade is free, especially if the Country abounds with Home Commodities, because those not being raised to artificial Prices by Taxes, must be so cheap to the Inhabitants, that foreign Commodities could not answer the Charges of transporting for the Consumption of such a Country, unless the People exported so much of their best Commodities as to want, or content themselves with a Supply of inferior ones from other Nations; so that the chief Imports of a Free-Port Trade in a fruitful Country, cannot be for the Consumption of the People, until they make room for them with Advantage to themselves; but must be either Materials to be manufactured, which will afterwards be re-exported in Goods improved by the Peoples Labour at least twice, it may be ten times their first Cost, increasing thereby a Nation's Treasure in proportion; or else Goods to lay up in Store-houses, for it being the Interest of Merchants to buy any Commodities that offer in cheap times to sell again when the Markets are advanced, Part of such Imports, although they be Luxuries, as most of our *India* Goods are, and purchased with Treasure, do become at some time or other advantageous Exports, and besides paying for what is consumed at home, do bring in plenty of Treasure, as was the Case of our *East-India* Trade formerly: Of which *Holland* is at present an Example, although it affords neither Corn, Naval Stores, or Materials of Manufacture to subsist the eighth Part of its People; although it consumes great Quantities of *French* Wines and Brandies, yet because its Trade is almost free, its Merchants bring the Balance in its Favour with almost all Countries.

The Barometer of Trade between any two Nations is the Course of the Exchange, the Nation
over-

over-balanced having always its Money undervalued.

The Barometer of the general Trade of a Nation is its Mint, if plenty of Treasure is brought in, and little carried out; part of it will be continually coining, and much new Money will appear, the certain Symptoms of a flourishing Trade.

But if much Treasure be brought in, yet more be carried out, the Mint must lie idle, little new Money will appear, the sure Sign of a decaying Trade.

That the Foreign Trade of *Britain* declines, will appear by the following Symptoms.

The many Petitions to Parliament complaining of the Decay of the Woollen Manufactory.

The starving Condition the Poor are reduced to in the Cloathing Countries.

The low Price of Wool.

The long Credit Shop-keepers take.

The great Numbers of Bankrupts.

The Exchange being against us this *Feb. 3, 1740*, to Places where formerly it was for us, *viz. Hamburgh, Holland, Venice, and Genoa.*

The Exchange being more against us with *France*, than in the times of open Trade, although its Goods are loaded with such high Duties as amount almost to a Prohibition.

The Exchange being less for us with *Portugal* than it was during *Queen Anne's* War, although we had Troops and Subsidies to pay there.

The great Exportation of *Bullion*.

The Mint's lying idle, little or no new Coin appearing.

The present Scarcity of Money, especially Silver.

The great Arrears of Rent the Tenants are in all over *England*, which the Landlords every where complain of.

The great Numbers of Farms thrown upon the Landlords Hands.

The vast Increase of the Poores Rates.

These Symptoms of the Decline of our Foreign Trade being so very plain, the Causes are the Things to be found out, and then the Remedy may be easy. It is a Maxim in Philosophy, Take away the Cause, and the Effect will cease; but we have troubled our Heads so little of late Days with this good Maxim, that our Remedies of high Taxes, Prohibitions and Penal Laws, have been applied to stop Effects, while the Causes have never been thought on, and since they have not had any Success, or ever can in our present Circumstances, and would appear needless were the Causes understood and removed: I shall attempt to shew what are,

I. The Causes of the Decline of our Foreign Trade.

II. The Reasons why the Decline of Foreign Trade sinks the Value of Lands.

III. Offer some Means to restore both.

P A R T I.

The Causes of the Decline of our Foreign Trade will appear to be,

I. Our present Taxes, some of which are unequal, and all of them fraught with oppressive Consequences.

II. Monopolies, whereby the Many are oppressed for the Gain of a Few.

III. Ill-judged Laws.

IV. Our large National Debt.

I. Our present Taxes, consisting of 1st, the *Stamp Duties*; 2dly, the *Window-Tax*; 3dly, the *Coal-Tax*; 4thly, the *Land-Tax*; 5thly, the *Salt-*

Duty.

Duty; 6thly, the *Excises* on *Sape, Candles, Leather,* &c. 7thly, and lastly, the *Customs*, the oppressive Consequences of which I shall endeavour to shew.

First, The *Stamp-Duty*.

This seems to be a Hardship on the Oppressed, for if Knaves defraud honest People of their Property, these last are deterred from endeavouring to recover it by this excessive Tax on Law, and a poor Man suing for 20 *l.* pays the same Stamp-Duties as a rich Man who sues for 20000 *l.* which greatly prevents the Poor, and oftentimes the Rich, from recovering their just Rights.

N. B. 'Tis submitted, whether to prevent Forgeries, it would not be better to continue the Stamps on Bonds, Deeds, &c. at a moderate Rate, and only take them off Law Proceedings; also to continue them on Cards and Dice.

Secondly, The *Window-Tax*.

This is so unequal, That a Man of 1000 *l.* Capital, bred to a Business that absolutely requires Room, yet if his House has thirty Windows in it, he must pay as much as the richest Duke in the Kingdom, whose Income may be, exceeds forty times the others Capital.

Thirdly, The *Coal-Tax*.

Gee, on Trade, in Page 103, says, that *Coals* brought to *London*, pay about 10 *s.* per Chaldron, Duty.

Ditto, Water-borne, to the other Parts of the Kingdom, 5 *s.*

Ditto, Exported to Foreigners, 3 *s.*

This favours Foreigners more than our own People, more especially the Inhabitants of *London* and its Neighbourhood, who pay about 7 *s.* more Duty per Chaldron than Foreigners, so that we hereby encourage them to under-work the *Londoners* more immediately in Iron Wares, and something likewise in all Manufactories where *Coals* are used.

used. A Tax on a Commodity of such general Use to the Poor as well as the Rich, must, like our *Excises*, add to the Dearthness of the Poor's Living, raise the Wages of their Labour, and the Price of manufactured Goods, which likewise insensibly affects the Rich: But who can express the Hardships and Miseries of the Poor when hard Winters (such as that in *January 1739-40*) raise the Price of *Coals* excessively, and yet a heavy Tax on them still adding to the Oppression?

Fourthly, The Land-Tax.

This being now at 4 s. in the Pound, is paid by some to the full, but by many not above 2 s. in the Pound, and that without any Reason, but because the Estates happen in the different Counties, which were variously affected to a new King when the present Assessment was made, whereby some Members of the Community being ever since put undeservedly in a worse Condition than others, are a dead Weight against even our most necessary enlarged Expences; wrong Policy, that increases Dissension always in times of Difficulty. This Tax has besides been attended with a very bad Consequence to the Nation, in having made a Distinction where there is no Difference, *viz.* of *Landed and Trading Interests*. Country Gentlemen, finding the *Land-Tax* a heavy Burden on them, thought to ease themselves by loading the Trader, whom they looked upon with a Jealous Eye; thinking his Situation easier, whereby that Trade which had raised the Value of their Estates, and which only could support the increased Value, being deprived of their Protection, and cramp'd with Duties without Mercy on all Occasions, has indeed been brought sufficiently low, and is bringing down with it the Rents of their Lands; and they may see the fatal Error when it is perhaps too late, Trade being like a coy Dame, difficult to be brought back when slighted. Mr.

Mr. Locke, in his *Consideration of the Consequences of the lowering of Interest, and raising the Value of Money*, page 86, asserts it to be an undoubted Truth, That he (*i. e.* the Land-holder) is more concerned in Trade, and ought to take a greater care that it be well managed, than even the Merchant himself; for he will certainly find that when a Decay has carried away one Part of our Money out of the Kingdom, and the other is kept in the Merchants or Tradesmens Hands, that no Laws he can make, nor any little Arts of shifting Property among our selves, will bring it back to him again; but his Rents will fall, and his Income every Day lessen, till general Industry and Frugality, joined to a well ordered Trade, shall restore to the Kingdom the Riches and Wealth it had formerly.

Fifthly, The Salt Tax.

This is collected with the greatest Expence of any, in proportion to its Amount, consequently is more grievous to the Subject, and less beneficial to the Government: Is attended with more pernicious Consequences than any single Tax, for it has an universal Influence on all Manufactures, by laying great Hardships on the working Poor, whose chief Food is Bacon and Salted Flesh, and who in many Places are forced to lay in a Stock of salted Provisions for the Winter: The same with respect to the Farmers all over the Kingdom: Is prejudicial also to our Navigation, by enhancing the Expence of Victualling of Ships, which raise the Freights on *English* Bottoms, to the great Advantage of Foreigners; or forces the Merchants to victual abroad, to the great Damage of our Lands: Prevents even the very improvement of our Lands, Salt being the best Manure, and on account of its easy Carriage the cheapest. But the greatest Prejudice of all is, its preventing the Improvement of our Herring-Fishery, that great Nursery of Seamen, by enhancing its Expences to the great Profit

fit of the *Dutch*; for tho' we allow a Bounty on exported Fish, yet the Home-Consumption, which would be a vast Help to promote the Fishery, being taxed, has made the Trade languish, and little is done either for the Home or Foreign Demand: And notwithstanding that this Article of cured Herrings is so necessary for the Support of the working Poor, yet are they loaded with so heavy a Duty, as makes them too chargeable a Morfel for the Poor to encourage the Fishery.

The *States General* in their Proclamation dated in the *Hague*, 19 July, 1624, call the Great Fishing, and catching Herrings, *the chiefest Trade and principal Gold Mine of the United Provinces, whereby many thousands of Households, Families, Handicrafts, Trades and Occupations, are set on work, well maintained, and prosper, especially the Sailing and Navigation, as well within as without these Countries, is kept in great Estimation.*

Should so beneficial a Trade that well maintains Handicrafts, Trades, &c, and keeps in great Estimation a Navigation, should such a Trade as this, I say, be obstructed for the sake of a paltry Tax, that produces but about 150000*l. per Annum* neat to the Government? Have we lost all our Senses, and shall we leave the *Dutch* unrivall'd for ever in a Trade, which they declare to be a principal Gold Mine, and yet is the neglected Produce of our own Coasts?

Sixthly, The Excises.

Tho' the *Excises* on *Sope, Candles, Leather, &c.* by their Manner of raising are so disagreeable to the Nation in general, that any Invective against them at this Time would be needless, having been so largely treated on already by our greatest Political Authors: And as the Intent of this Essay is only to set Things in the single Point of View which relates to Trade, I shall consider them no otherwise

otherwise than as Taxes on Commodities, but attempt to shew the augmentative Faculty of all such Taxes, and the great Prejudice they do to Trade; for whatever raises the Necessaries of Life, raises Labour, and of course the Price of every Thing that is produced by Labour. And it will be made appear hereafter by a Calculation of the oppressive Consequences of the *Excises, &c.* that they almost treble themselves to the People for what they raise to the Government; and it is to be feared it would appear much more, if we would go to the Bottom of the Oppression, and if it be considered that Tradesmen in a Country, by their mutual Dependance on each other, are like Wheels in a Machine, in which if one is touched, the others are affected. Amidst so many trading Movers, to what Degree the Oppression is increas'd, is impossible to know, nor must we be startled at the Largeness of the Calculations as being too great for us to pay; for being circulated chiefly among ourselves, and going out by Dribblets we hardly perceive them, but yet are surprized to find Wages and Necessaries grow dearer and dearer, because few use themselves to consider the Immensity of such collected Advances in small Sums; but if we compare the Differences of the Price of necessaries between *England* and *France*, we shall find that Difference plainly accounting for the vast Amount of the Consequences of our Taxes; nor can it be a Trifle that makes such a fruitful Country as *England* is so dear, and its Trade decline so fast; for our working People being forced to purchase the Necessaries of Life dear, must work dear to live, until their willing working Hands are quite tied up by Foreigners, who live less taxed, and of course work cheaper, so that they must and do undersell us at all Markets for manufactured Goods, where they come in Competition with us, and Time must

must stop all such Exports. And I appeal to the Experience of every honest Man conversant in Trade, whether it does not decline Year after Year, more especially our Woollen Trade, which has been estimated to be as necessary to us as Bread is to the Life of Man, for our dearer Goods must lie unfold or be sold with Loss, which must stop or break our Merchants; they our Clothiers and Weavers; these last their Journeymen, who must either starve, turn Beggars, Thieves, or fly to our Enemies and help them to ruin us the faster, which has happened too much of late Years. Oppress Trade, and the Generality of the common People becomes miserable and burdensome to the Rich, every little accidental Slackening of Trade increases that wretched Number, as the following Case will fully illustrate.

A poor Man either by hard Weather, the dead time of the Year in his particular Trade (for all Trades have such times) Sickness, or various other Accidents cannot work, but having saved ten good Shillings is determined to allow himself only bare Necessaries, which if untaxed, might cost about 4*d.* per Day; his Money then will hold thirty Days.

But if Necessaries are advanced by the Consequences of our Taxes 2*d.* per Day on his Consumption, in that Case 6*d.* per Day is only equal to the above 4*d.* for his Maintainance, and he can then hold out but twenty Days, and is forced the earlier by ten Days (in which possibly he might get Employment) to starve, beg, or steal.

Absolute Starving, we must hope, seldom or never happens amongst so humane a People as the *English*, but want of Necessaries may so impair a poor Man's Health that he may never recover it, and then an useful Subject, part of the Riches of the Nation, is lost.

Begging

Begging but ten Days learns the poor Man an idle Way of Life that few ever get rid of, and then instead of an useful Subject he becomes a burdenson, and often times a villainous one.

Stealing, whereby he becomes the Bane of Society, and not contented with injuring his Neighbour in his Property, is promoted sometimes to take away his Life; and in both Cases exposes himself to be cut off by the Hand of Justice. Every way a Loss to the Nation.

In all these Cases the poor Man may have a large Family of Children, adding Misery to Misery.

Encourage but Trade by knocking off one of those Fetters, its *Excise*, and the Children of the Poor will be trained up to Labour, become useful industrious subjects, live comfortably as Journeymen, or perhaps as Masters, and contribute their Assistance to add more Power to the Nation, and help to ease the Rich of their Taxes; for the greater Number of Individuals there are in a Country capable of paying, the less the Tax will be on each of them if equally laid. It is the Interest of the Rich to let the Poor be able to get Money for their Assistance, for by preventing them, they bring the greater Weight on their own Shoulders; for these Oppressions do not stop with the Poor, but extend like a Plague to the Rich and the Noble, whose Fortunes insensibly moulder a way by them; are the chief Causes of the present declining Condition of their Tenants, that great increase of the Poor's Tax the Nation now labours under, which in some Places has lately been at above 8*s.* in the Pound, and must by degrees inevitably sink the Value of their Estates, until one Ruin involves all.

Several Authors have thought *Excises* and *Land-Taxes* to be the most equal Methods of raising Supplies, but, if strictly attended to, they will appear far otherwise; any thing positive and involuntary

luntary cannot avoid Oppression, which Humanity should always make the first Consideration in raising Money for the People, and good Policy the second, in order to prevent Evasion and Fraud, the Children of Oppression.

A working Bachelor pays the Excise, &c. on his own shoes only.

A working Married-Man does the same for himself, the same for his Wife, the same for his five Sons, the same for his five Daughters; twelve in Family.

A Landed Bachelor of 1000*l.* per Annum, when the Land-Tax is at 2*s.* pays 100*l.*

A Landed Married-Man of the same Estate does the same having a Wife and ten Children.

Will any one say in these Cases that the Excise on Leather, and the Land-Tax, are equal Taxations? In the first Case, is not the Oppression increased twelve Articles to one; and in the second, at least four to one? For the Landed Married-Man, with such a Family, cannot, should not live more comfortably on his whole Estate, than the Bachelor can do on the Quarter of his? and how are the Landed Gentlemen that are married oppress'd, who are in both Cases?

And here it may not be improper to examine the Inconveniencies of a Poll-Tax, such as the States of Holland issued, an Ordonnance on the 28th of March, 1742, for establishing: In the Preamble to which it is said, *That the safety of the Country, and its Inhabitants, requireing a greater Number of Troops to be kept up than ordinary, their Noble and High Mightinesses have been obliged to search for the most proper Means to provide for the Expences of that Augmentation, and they have not found any more fitting than the Establishment of a Poll-Tax, proportioned to the Abilities of every one*

The

The first Class is of those who earn, spend, or possess an Income of

600 Florins,	out of which they shall pay 6 Fl. to this Tax.		
700 Ditto	8 Florins	4000 Florins	75 Florins
800 Ditto	12 Ditto	4500 Ditto	90 Ditto
1000 Ditto	15 Ditto	5000 Ditto	120 Ditto
1200 Ditto	18 Ditto	6000 Ditto	140 Ditto
1500 Ditto	25 Ditto	7000 Ditto	190 Ditto
2000 Ditto	32 Ditto	8000 Ditto	180 Ditto
2500 Ditto	40 Ditto	9000 Ditto	200 Ditto
3000 Ditto	50 Ditto	10000 Ditto	250 Ditto
3500 Ditto	63 Ditto	12000 Ditto	300 Ditto

and so on, increasing on the Foot of 50 Florins, for every 2000 Florins Income.

With due respect to their Noble and High Mightinesses, I shall beg leave to repeat what I have just before asserted, viz. that any thing positive and involuntary cannot avoid Oppression, &c. and add a few Remarks on this Poll-Tax to support that Assertion.

1st, It is unequal, consequently unjust and oppressive.

By this Tax a Married Man of 600 Florins Income, with six, eight, or ten Children, whose Family is so numerous that his Income is scarce sufficient to maintain them, and who at the Year's end has hardly one Florin left; is to pay the same as a Bachelor, who hath only himself to maintain, and perhaps lays up sixty Florins a Year: What Injustice and Oppression is here? Six Florins are exacted from one Man, who has not conveniently, cannot have one to spare, and no more from another who can spare sixty; and yet this is not the worst View this Tax is capable of being put in, for, suppose the Bachelor's 600 Florins Income to arise from the Interest of his Stocks in Holland or England, and the married Man's by his Labour; here is a farther

farther shocking piece of Injustice, whereby Industry and Idleness are put on the same Footing.

2dly, It injures Trade, consequently impoverishes a Country.

By raising the Prices of Labour and Goods; for a Man who earns by his Trade 600 Florins a Year, and whose numerous Family consumes the whole, if six Florins are exacted from him, he must raise them by advancing the Prices of his Labour or of his Goods; else he cannot live, and the dearer Goods grow, the less vendible they are, consequently the less Trade this Man will have; so that this Tax increases his Expences, and at the same time lessens his Income; if this is not Oppression, I know not what is.

All Taxes on Necessaries or Trade do the same.

3dly, It tends to corrupt the Manners of the People, consequently to make them tumultuous and less governable.

For being to pay in proportion to what they earn, spend, or possess, the just Value whereof is impossible to be known but by themselves, and to force them to a Declaration, an Oath is always imposed, which makes a Struggle between Interest and Conscience, an extreme wise Law, whereby an honest Man is put on a worse Footing than a perjured Knave: He that forswears himself pays less than his Due and saves his Money, but he that is conscientious pays to the Full; which latter suspecting others to evade, is peaked at paying more than his Neighbours, and wonders why a false Oath should not sit as easy on him as on so many others; whereby the most solemn Pledge of Truth among Men becomes frequently violated, is despis'd, disregarded, and Interest rides triumphant over Conscience, which latter being to Men as a Dike to keep out the Torrent of Vice, if once a thorough Breach is made, a Deluge of Iniquity ensues,

ensues, whereby all good Principles are drowned: And the more vicious Men grow, the readier they are to oppose Authority.

Seventhly and lastly, The *Customs*.

Customs are Duties collected in Sea-Ports or Frontier-Towns, by Authority of State, on Goods coming in or going out of a Country.

All Authors agree that low Customs are one of the Causes of the great Trade of *Holland*.

If low Customs cause great Trade, it follows that high Customs cause little Trade; which is comparatively our Case now.

If the lower the Customs the greater the Trade, no Customs or Free-Ports must carry Trade to its utmost Height; which Case might be ours.

If low Customs have such good Effects in *Holland*, which hath the most natural Disadvantages of any Country; a Free-Port must have the greatest and best Effect in *Britain*, whose natural Advantages are beyond any Countries in *Europe*, as will be proved hereafter.

That the above Observations are founded in Truth will appear, by shewing how Customs, especially high ones, obstruct the Trade of these Nations.

First, They prevent our Country's being an Universal Storehouse.

Because our Duties being so great an additional Disbursement to the first Cost of the Goods, no Merchant will let so much of his Capital lie dead for Duties here, when he can have it all circulating in Commodities in other Countries; nor can such Goods be re-exported, because the Officers Fees in and out, which always remain, and the Interest of the Money lying dead for Duties paid (tho' they be mostly drawn back) are so great a Charge (the natural Interest of Money being much higher with us than in *Holland*) that the Goods cannot come near so cheap from us to any foreign Market,

Market, as from a Free-Port where nothing is paid in or out; therefore they prevent our Country's having the best Choice of Goods at the cheapest Prices, to tempt our Customers: The great Duties on *India* Goods, discourage Foreigners buying at our Sales, who pay an extraordinary Charge of Commission on that advanced Price, and are forced to lie some Months out of their Money for the Drawback; besides, the strict Rule of declaring Goods at the *Custom-House*, makes publick to every one each Transaction of Trade, and thereby prevents Shipping for foreign Ports such Goods as are there prohibited, which deprives us of several beneficial Branches of Trade that are carried on from *Holland*, or Free-Ports, to the great Advantage of Foreigners.

Secondly, They prevent the Increase of our Navigation.

By enhancing the Expences of building and navigating our Ships.

Boards, Hemp, Flax, Sail-cloth, and Iron, paying Duties, those Materials must be dear, and several Necessaries of Life paying some Customs (and some Excises) the Ship-builders Labour must be dear; also the Provisions and Stores put on board the Ships.

The *English* Sailor paying on his own and Family's Necessaries, Customs (and Excises) must have, and hath higher Wages than most other Countries give.

So that a *British* Vessel built and rigged with dear Materials, by dear Labour, supplied with dear Stores, and navigated by Sailors at dear Wages, must have dear Freights, bring in all foreign Necessaries and Materials for Manufacture dear, and carry out all our own Products and Manufactures dear to foreign Markets, much to the Disadvantage of their Sale.

This

This shews the Reason why we could never rival the *Dutch*, *Hamburgers*, &c. in the *Greenland* Trade, the Navigation of the *Baltick*, or the *Herring-Fishery*, which being Trades carried on for small Profits, our dear Navigation effectually excludes us from making any Increase those Ways.

By not having an Universal Storehouse, our Ships, like empty Houses, lie by idle in our Harbours, waiting Months for Freights, the Interest of the Money they cost eating out their Profits; or else are obliged to lose their Time, and be at great Expences in going from one Port to another to endeavour to get a Cargo.

Thirdly, They prevent the Increase of Sailors, the true Strength of this Nation.

This is a Consequence of the two last Remarks; for no Trade breeds so many or so good Sailors, as the Free-Port and Carrying Trades, the Employment being the greatest, and the Experience the largest, as the Voyages are the most various and extensive, for 'tis no less than the Trade of the whole World.

As Customs are inconsistent with such a Trade, of course they debar us of that Increase of Sailors which must be necessary to carry it on, and who would protect us from, or carry Vengeance to those Enemies that durst insult us.

The Customs upon Foreign Salt, a Commodity so necessary to our Fishery, is likewise a great Prevention to the Increase of Sailors, the Numbers employed in *Holland* by their Fishery, are prodigious, I fear ours bear no Comparison.

The *British* Sailor being forced by Customs and Excises to live dear, must have dear Wages, which excludes him from Employment wherever Foreigners can be legally had, to the great Discouragement of our Sailors and prevents their Increase.

All

All this is not only destructive to our Riches, but also to our Security, it being difficult in time of War to man our Navy, not improperly called our Floating Castles, and occasions that hard Custom of Pressing, which puts a free-born *British* Sailor on the footing of a *Turkish* Slave; the *Grand Signior* cannot do a more absolute Act, than to order a Man to be dragged away from his Family, and against his Will run his Head before the Mouth of a Cannon; and if such Acts should be frequent in *Turkey* upon any one Set of useful Men, would it not drive them away to other Countries, and thin their Numbers yearly? and would not the remaining Few double or treble their Wages? which is the Case of our Sailors in time of War, to the great Detriment of our Trade and Manufactories.

Fourthly, They lessen the Capital of our Merchants.

By keeping a great Part of their Stocks by them idle to pay the Duties of the Goods, they import, which is, in effect making them not only advance their Money for the Service of the State, but likewise run the risk in the Credit they give of ever being reimbursed, and is diverting a Stream of Riches that should water Trade: for it often happens that when our Merchants are short of Cash, and they have both Customs and Manufacturers to pay, so much Money goes for the first, that nothing is left for the latter, which causes a Circulation of Disappointments seldom known in *Holland* on that Account; and the *Dutch* Merchants can carry on the same Trade with much less Stock than ours, sell cheaper, extend their Commerce farther, and of course give better Encouragement to their Working people, whereby they cause them to be more industrious than ours.

The

The following Case will shew the Difficulties and Discouragements our Merchants labour under more than the *Dutch* our great Rivals in Trade.

Suppose a Merchant in *Rotterdam* to ship Corn for *Bourdeaux*, and the neat Produce to amount to the Value of 2000*l. Sterling*, if he orders it to be invested in Wines, and shipped for *Holland*, he will not pay for Duties 40*l.*

Suppose a Merchant in *London* to ship Corn for *Oporto*, and the neat Produce to amount to the Value of 2000*l. Sterling*, if he orders it to be invested in Wines, and shipped for *England*, he will pay for Duty above 2000*l.*

Therefore the *Dutch* Merchant's prime Cost, and Duties of his Cargo will be

	£ 2040
The <i>English</i> Ditto,	4000

1960*l.* of the *English* Merchant's Disburse more than the *Dutch* Merchant's in the Amount of the Duties, is imprisoned until the People he trusts pay him, which may be a Year, or a Year and a Half; whereas if the *Dutch* Merchant's Capital be equal, he has had 1960*l.* to employ in buying up Goods to freight another Adventure, may be of Woollens, giving quick Employment to the Navigation and Manufactories of his Country.

Suppose the Retailers they trust break about the Year's End, and make a Composition amounting to 25 *per Cent.* on the Prime Cost and Duties of the Wines:

The <i>Dutch</i> Merchant's Loss will be	£ 1530
The <i>English</i> Ditto,	3000

This also makes our Merchants Risk in Trade greater, and their Losses heavier than in *Holland*.

Fifthly, They encourage and force the Consumption of Foreign Superfluities.

The dearer outlandish Luxuries are, the more they are esteemed by our People of Taste; it is the Expence that makes the Elegancy, therefore Du-

ties on them only further their Sale, as Mr. *Locke* clearly proves in his *Considerations*, &c. p. 93. For it being Vanity, not Use, that makes the expensive Fashions of your People, the Emulation is, *Whoshall have the finest, that is, the dearest Things, not the most convenient or useful? How many Things do we value and buy, because they come at dear Rates from Japan and China, which, if they were our own Manufacture or Product, to be had common, and for a little Money, would be condemned and neglected? Have not several of our own Commodities, offered to Sale at reasonable Rates, been despised, and the very same eagerly bought and bragged of, when sold for French at a double Price? You must not therefore think that the raising the Price will lessen the Vent of fashionable foreign Commodities amongst you, so long as Men have any way to purchase them, but rather increase it.*

But besides encouraging, our Customs force the Consumption here of most foreign Superfluities that are imported; for though the Duties be mostly drawn back on some Articles, yet the Interest of the Money lying dead for Duties and Fees in and out, hinder in some degree their Re-exportation, and in many Articles the Duties are only in part drawn back, so that what remains in such an additional Load as prevents such Goods being saleable at any other Market, consequently forces us to consume all such Superfluities. This makes a People luxurious, who can do nothing with foreign Superfluities but riot and indulge; whereas the *Dutch* having the Object of Gain always before their Eyes, by the Advance of foreign Markets for those Superfluities they have in their Storehouses, are checked from indulging in what appears to them common, and of no great Value for the present, but may be attended with great Profit hereafter; which accounts for the *Dutch* Frugality, so justly celebrated by all Authors.

Sixthly.

Sixthly, They encourage Smuggling.

Where the avoiding high Customs makes the Profit great, no Risk, no Danger can prevent Mens attempting it; it is throwing out a Bait to a greedy Fish, he will snap at it though Ruin ensues; this prejudices and discourages the Fair Trader, either tempts, or forces him to turn Smuggler, and associate himself with those many Examples of Depravity we have at this time among our People, living in a State of War with the Government, in defiance of Laws, whereby an universal Corruption of Manners and Contempt of Authority must ensue, if not early prevented: Besides, it being chiefly the Articles of Luxury that are smuggled, as Brandy, Tea, *French* Wine, Laces, Silks, &c. it spreads their Consumption among the lower Class of People, who are tempted to imitate at a less Expence the Luxuries of their Superiors; and the same Smugglers that bring us these Superfluities, carry off vast Quantities of raw Wool, to the great Prejudice of our Manufactories, and the Nation in general.

Seventhly, They ruin Manufactories, more especially the Woollen.

Customs prevent the bartering away our Manufactures for foreign Goods, not only for our own Consumption, but also for Exportation, which might enlarge the Vent of our Goods ten times more than it now is; for if a Merchant now exports Woollen Goods, and would barter them for Wines, the Duties on them would amount to more than the Cost of his Woollen Goods; so that he must have a double Capital for such an Adventure, or let it quite alone, whereby the Sales of great Quantities of Woollen Goods are lost to the Nation.

As Customs enhance the Expences of our Navigation, the Freights must be raised accordingly, whereby

whereby the Prices of the Sope, Oil, and Dye-
Stuffs used in manufacturing our Wool, are ad-
vanced to the Maker, and the Freights on the
Cloths or Stuffs exported being also raised, are
additional Clogs upon the Sales of our Woollen
Goods.

Customs prevent the Carrying and Fishing
Trades, the great Nurseries of Seamen, whereby
our Sailors being few, and their Expences raised
by Taxes, they have the highest Wages of most
People in *Europe*, which is another additional Ad-
vance on the Freights, to the Prejudice of our
Woollen Trade as above.

Customs taking away so great a Part of our
Merchants Stocks, they are thereby deprived of
driving that great Trade, and purchasing those
Quantities of Woollen Goods they would other-
wise do; besides our Merchants Risk in Trade be-
ing greater than in *Holland*, and their Losses hea-
vier by our Customs, their Bankruptcies must be
more frequent; this sensibly affects our Manufac-
turers, who are generally considerable Creditors;
for broken Merchants may be well compared to
Nine-pins, one of which seldom falls without beat-
ing down many others.

Customs recommend foreign Manufactures of
fine Goods by making them expensive, which Van-
ity on that Account soon renders fashionable,
whilst our own are despised, though superior in
Goodness, and are a great Discouragement to our
Manufactories.

Customs are the Cause of the Smuggling of
Wool, because the Gain being great by running
Tea, Brandy, and *French* Goods, on account of
the high Duties, hath raised the contraband Trade
to a great Height, and the Smugglers cannot make
their Returns in any Commonity of so quick and
certain a Vent, or that gives so good a Profit as
our

our Wool, for the *French* being less taxed than we,
can work cheaper, and their own Wool being
coarse, *English* and *Irish* Wools are so much in de-
mand, that they will give great Prices for them,
for which Reason they receive vast Quantities, to
the Ruin of our Manufactories.

Customs on Ashes, Bay-salt, Cotton, Copper,
Coals, Drugs, foreign Sope, Flax, Fruit, Furs,
Hemp, Iron, Leather, Linens, Oil, Paper, Rice,
Tobacco, Tallow, Threads, Tapes, Silk, and Su-
gar, being Necessaries, of Life, or Materials of
Manufacture, must necessarily make all our Com-
modities dear, not only to our own People, but to
Foreigners likewise (though our Workmen should
have no Excises to pay) and such Discouragements
give Opportunity to Foreigners to send their Ma-
nufactures cheaper to foreign Markets, and smug-
gle them in defiance of all Laws into our own
Country, to the Ruin of our Manufactures; for
all the above Customs are as much Taxes on our
Woollen Manufactory, as if they were laid on the
Wool itself, or more; for the Workman must
raise the Money on the Woollen Goods, he makes,
to pay the Duties of what he uses of the above
Articles, with the Advances, in all the Hands
they pass through before they come to him. It is
by these, that we ourselves drive away our own
Manufactures, and prevent our ever getting more;
and Foreigners could not rival the People of so
fruitful a Country as *Britain*, if we did not furnish
them with the Means by our high Taxes and Re-
straints, that are always prejudicial to Trade, tho'
designed to amend it, and never effect the thing
intended, though fortified with the most rigorous
penal Laws, as Mr. *Locke* gives an Instance of in
his *Considerations*, &c. p. 116. *It is Death in Spain*
to export Money; and yet they who furnish all the World
with Gold and Silver, have least of it among themselves;
Trade

Trade fetches it away from that lazy and indigent People, notwithstanding all their artificial and forced Contrivances to keep it there; it follows Trade against the Rigour of their Laws, and their want of foreign Commodities makes it openly be carried out at Noon-day.

This seems to be a Parallel of the State we are coming to, and which some Foreigners may by and by make.

It is Felony in *England* to export Wool, and yet they who furnish all the World with Wool, have least of the manufacturing of it among themselves, the Smuggling-trade fetches it away from that Excised and Custom-loaded People, notwithstanding all their artificial and forced Contrivances to keep it there; it follows the Smuggling-trade against the Rigour of their Laws, and their want of taking off the Taxes on their Manufactures, makes it openly be carried out at Noon-day.

By this we see that neither Death nor Banishment can force Trade to an unnatural Channel, and it may be compared in one respect to Water which cannot be compressed within its natural Dimensions, the more Force is exerted, the sooner is the Vessel broke that contained it, and the Water let loose never to return. The great *De Wit*, in his *Memoirs*, *Ratisbon* Edit. p. 77, asserts, *That the Navigation, the Fishery, the Trade, and Manufactures, which are the four Pillars of the State, should not be weakened or encumbered by any Taxes, for it is they that give Subsistence to the most part of the Inhabitants, and who draw in all sorts of Strangers, unless the Necessity was so great that the Country was threatened with an intire Destruction, and these Fundamentals should be attacked upon the hopes that these Taxes would not last long; at least, haste should be made as soon as the Storm was over, to take them off; again, this Distinction should be made that Manufactures should not or cannot be taxed at all, because they are not fixed to the Country,*

try, and we must fetch from Foreign Countries the Stuffs and Materials to work them up.

Eighthly, They send away our Specie.

Britain having no Mines of Gold or Silver has no other Means of getting or preserving its Treasure but by Foreign Trade. As Customs confine our Trade to mere Importation for our own Necessaries or Vanities, and at the same time ruin our Manufactures; what we want in Exports to balance the Imports must be paid in Specie, making the Balance of Trade every Year more and more against us; for as we raise the Prices of our Goods so high by Taxes that Foreigners won't take them, and yet continue to import their Superfluities, which we now chiefly and in time must intirely pay for with our Gold and Silver, as appears by the Bills of Entry in every Week we are beginning to do; and our high Duties encouraging Smugglers who have seldom a settled Habitation, or any Stock of our Manufactures by them, they carry out vast Quantities of Specie to purchase their Cargoes; such large Draughts make our Mint lie idle, we see but little new coined Gold, and hardly any Silver, we find our Money disappear and grow scarcer and scarcer every Year; our Trade declines, and our People starve.

To shew how *Excises*, *Customs*, and *Salt-Duties*, increase the Expences of the People, and consequently ruin the Trade, the following Account may not be improper.

First, The Duties themselves.

The neat Produce of the Taxes following, are computed to be one Year with another as under:

Excises,

Excises,	about	£ 2,800,000
Customs,	about	1,700,000
Salt,	about	150,000
		<hr/>
		4,650,000
The Charges of raising these Duties are about ten per Cent.	}	465,000
		<hr/>
		5,115,000

Secondly, The advanced Price of those Goods the above Duties are laid on.

Woeful Experience teaches us that every small Duty laid on Commodities, raises the Price of them to the Consumer, double or treble the gross Duty.

By the Fees given to Officers, the Tyrants of Traders.

By Tradesmen's Loss of Time in attending upon Excisemen or at Custom-Houses: A Trader's Time is his Bread.

By taking away a quarter Part of our Traders Stocks for Duties, and forcing them to take as great Profit on $\frac{3}{4}$ of their Stocks laid out in Goods in order to live, as they would on the whole if Duty-free.

By Tradesmen's Profits on the Duty and Advances in all the Hands all taxed

Brought over. £ 5,115,000

Goods come through to the Consumer: as for Example:

Suppose there should be no other Tax but that on Leather, let us see how many Advances that would make on the Price of our Shoes. The Grazier, his 1st Advance on the Beast he fattens, to raise the Tax on Leather, and Advances thereby occasioned on the Shoes he wears.

He sells to the Butcher, his 2d Ditto, his Profit on the first Advance.

3d Ditto, on the Hide, to raise the Tax on Leather, &c.

He sells to the Tanner, his 4th Ditto, his Journey-mens Wages, to raise the Tax on Leather, &c.

5th Ditto, Tax of 2d. per Pound on Leather, &c.

6th Ditto, his Profit on the above 5 Advances.

7th Ditto, on the tanned Hide, to raise the Tax on Leather, &c.

He sells to the Carrier, or Leather-cutter, his

8th Ditto, his Profit on the above 7 Advances.

9th Ditto, on the tanned Hide he cuts, to raise the Tax on Leather, &c.

Brought over. £ 5,115,000

He sells to the Shoemaker,
his

10th *Ditto*, his Journey-
mens Wages, to raise the
Tax on Leather, &c.

11th *Ditto*, his Profit on
the above 10 Advances.

12th *Ditto*, on the Shoes
he makes, to raise the Tax
on Leather, &c.

He sells to

The Consumer, with all
these Advances highly mag-
nified beyond the bare Duty,
and all the other Taxes on
the Consumption of these
five Trades, are as much a
Duty on Leather, as the 2*d.*
on the Pound itself, since
they can only raise them in
the same manner, *viz.* on
the Goods they sell, mag-
nified and advanced in Price
through every Hand they go,
as the Consumer finds in the
present Price of his Shoes,
which if compared with the
old Price before these Taxes
were known, any one may
seen pon weighing his Shoes,
how many more two-pences
he pays than the bare Tax
on Leather: The Shoe-
maker affects all Trades,
and is in return himself
affected by all he deals with.

Brought over. 5,115,000

All which duly consider-
ed, might be computed at
above *Cent. per Cent.* on the
gross Pruduce of the Duties,
but though the large Duties
cause some farther Advance
on all the Goods they are
laid on, charged with Pro-
fit upon Profit through e-
very Hand they pass; yet
as they keep not Pace with
the small Duties, and all
Calculations appear fairest
when moderate, I choose
to abate in the Advances,
and to set them only at fifty
per Cent.

2,557,500

The Amount of the ad-
vanced Price of the Goods
the above Duties are laid
on.

7,672,500

Let us see how this
7,672,500 *l.* circulates thro'
the People, advances the
Prices of our Goods, con-
sequently ruins our Trade.

First, This Dearness of
all Necessaries which raises
the first Cost of Goods,
must advance the Price of
all Labour.

The *Spectator* N^o 200,
computes that the People
without Property, who work
for their daily Bread, do
consume $\frac{2}{3}$ of our *Customs*
and *Excises*, therefore they

pay $\frac{2}{3}$ of them and their Consequences; as these People live but from Hand to Mouth, whatever is laid on them they must therefore shift off or they cannot live; and since these various Taxes have been projected, they must earn enough when they do work to pay the Taxes, the advanced Price of Taxed Goods, and the advanced Prices of all other Necessaries, *viz.* Meat, Bread, Cloathing, or whatever they can use, not only for the Consumption of the Days they are employed, but for those also that they are not; therefore they are the Cause of raising the Wages of the working People $\frac{2}{3}$ of 7,672,500*l.* the Amount of the advanced Price of the Goods the above Duties are laid on, which makes

5,115,000

Secondly, This Dearness of all Necessaries forces the Master-Tradesmen to raise on their Customers the Taxes and Advances on their Consumption.

The above *Spectator* allows $\frac{2}{3}$ Consumption of our *Customs* and *Excises* to the People with Property, but

as these may be divided into two Classes, *viz.* in Trade, and out of Trade, and the Proportion consumed by each, not being ascertained by any Author, I shall compute them at Half and Half. Therefore the Master-Tradesmen or People with Property in Trade, *viz.* Merchants, Manufacturers, Mechanicks, Farmers, wholesale Dealers, and retailing Shopkeepers, must each lay on the Goods they sell, the advanced Price of the taxed Goods they consume; whether Food, Cloathing, or Utensils: Their $\frac{1}{2}$ consumption of 7,672,500*l.* 1,273,750 the Amount of the advanced Price of the Goods the above Duties are laid on, which makes

6,393,750

Thirdly, Tradesmen paying advanced Prices on their Goods must have advanced Profits, for whether they lay out their Stocks of Money in Goods that bear their natural Value only, or Goods that bear double that Value by Taxes, still a living Profit must be obtained on the Stocks they employ.

For the Wages of the Manufacturer, the Mechanick, the Labourer, and the Ex-

Brought over, £6,393,750
 pences of the Master Tradef-
 man, being of Necessity
 raised, the first Cost of
 Goods must be so too; and
 considering the various
 Trademens Hands that
 Goods pass through from
 the Workman or Labourer
 to the Consumer, charged
 with Profit upon Profit by
 each of them, (which in the
 little Trades must be very
 great, otherwise their Re-
 turns being small they could
 not live) the Advance there-
 by occasioned may, at a
 moderate Rate, be compu-
 ted at 50 per Cent. to the
 Consumer on the above two
 Articles, which raise the
 first Cost of Goods, and
 makes

3,196,875
 9,590,625

People with Property out
 of Trade, their $\frac{1}{2}$ Consump-
 tion of 7,672,500, the A-
 mount of the advanced Price
 of the Goods the above Du-
 ties are laid on, makes

1,278,750
 £ 10,869,375

Total Advance,
 This part of the Amount
 of the Consequences of rais-
 ing 4,650,000 for the Go-
 vernment, by our present
 Manner of taxing Goods.

Our

Our other Taxes are, The
Land-Tax, the gross Pro-
 duce, at about 4s. in the
 Pound, is about

1,960,000

The *Stamps, Windows, Post
 Office, &c.* their computed
 Gross produce about

500,000

The *Poors Tax* is compu-
 ted, on a middling Rate, to
 equal the *Land Tax*, but
 must be much more when
 Trade is reduced, and the
 Price of Provisions high,
 however to reckon it at no
 more than the *Land Tax*, or

1,960,000

General amount of all
 our Taxes, and part of their
 Consequences,

£ 15,289,375

Let us see now the A-
 mount of our Taxes, with
 regard to our Expences:
 The *British Merchant*, Vol.
 1. p. 165, computes our
 People at Seven Millions,
 and their Expences at 7l.
per Head; but as Necessa-
 ries are grown dearer since
 the Year 1713, when he
 wrote, and the Number of
 People increased, I shall
 compute the People at Eight
 Millions, and their Expen-
 ces at 8l. *per Head*, which
 makes our Total Expence
 annually

£64,000,000

Of

Brought over £ 64,000,000
 Of which 64 Millions the
 People pay for the Taxes,
 and their Consequences, as
 above, 15,289,375

Which being subtracted,
 their Expences, if untaxed,
 would be only £ 48,710,625

15,289,375 *l.* charged on 48,710,625, is a Tax
 of above 31 *per Cent.* on the Expences of the Peo-
 ple, which must add a prodigious artificial Value to
 our Goods, consequently render them less saleable,
 and ruin our Trade.

If it is asked, whether Foreigners for what
 Goods they take of us, do not pay on that Con-
 sumption, a great Portion of our Taxes?

The Answer is, That it must be admitted they
 do; but if that was originally intended, and ex-
 pected to continue the same, as at the first laying
 on of our Taxes, it will be the strongest Argu-
 ment against them; for as our Taxes on Necessa-
 ries are proved to be so burdensome and expensive,
 by raising the Prices of our Goods, Foreigners
 take less of them yearly, and when the Demand
 is reduced, the People having less Work, find less
 Money to pay, and find their Taxes proportiona-
 bly increased on them as they lose their Trade;
 for, as the Government abates neither Expences
 nor Taxes, and if one Method of Taxing fails,
 another is tried; what Foreigners cease to pay,
 we must; or in other Words, the less Trade and
 Money, the more Taxes; and the more our Taxes
 are, the less and less Trade and Money we know
 we must expect. Is not this like adding to a
 Horse's Burden, and diminishing his Meat? and
 must we wonder if he sinks under his Load? Per-
 haps

haps Figures may explain this still clearer, by sta-
 ting a familiar Account thro' 50 Years.

Suppose that in the Year 1710, all our Taxes,
 and Part of their Consequences, were as they are
 now, *viz.* 15,289,375; that Foreigners paid then
 $\frac{1}{7}$ of them, and our own People $\frac{6}{7}$; that Foreign-
 ers going to cheaper Markets since, have ceased
 taking Goods from us yearly in proportion to one
per Cent. only on their former $\frac{1}{7}$ Part of our Taxes
 and their Consequences; the Account every five
 Years will stand thus:

	Foreigners paid of our Taxes, &c.	Our own People paid.
Anno 1710	£ 2,184,196	£ 13,105,179
1715	2,074,987	13,214,388
1720	1,965,778	13,323,597
1725	1,965,778	13,432,806
1730	1,747,360	13,542,015
1735	1,638,161	13,651,224
1740	1,528,942	13,760,433

By this it plainly appears, in what manner our
 present Taxes drive away our Trade, and burden
 our People, who have by this Account 655,254 *l.*
 more to pay in 1740, than they had in 1710,
 with $\frac{3}{10}$ less Trade to pay it with.

To conclude this Head. Two of our greatest
 Authors clearly foresaw at the laying on our nu-
 merous Excises, Customs, &c. that these unhappy
 Consequences must necessarily follow, and their
 Arguments are a full Proof of what has been al-
 ready advanced.

Mr. Locke, in his *Considerations*, &c. p. 90, says
*That for raising three Millions on Commodities, and
 bringing so much into the Exchequer, there must go a
 great deal more than three Millions out of the Subjects
 Pockets; for a Tax of that nature cannot be levied by
 Officers to watch every little Rivulet of Trade without
 a great*

a great Charge, especially a first Trial; but supposing no more Charge in raising it than of a Land-Tax, and that there are only three Millions to be paid, it is evident that to do this out of Commodities, they must to the Consumer be raised $\frac{1}{4}$ in their Prices, so that every Thing to him that uses it must be a Quarter dearer. Let us see now, who, at this long run, must pay this Quarter, and where it will light; it is plain the Merchant and Broker neither will nor can, for if he pays a Quarter more for Commodities than he did, he will sell them at a Price proportionably raised; the poor Labourer, and Handicraftsman cannot, for he just lives from Hand to Mouth already, and all his Food, Cloathing, and Utensils costing a Quarter more than they did before, either his Wages must rise with the Price of Things to make him live, or else not being able to maintain himself and Family by his Labour, he comes to the Parish.

And afterwards he proves, that in the Home-Consumption, the whole Burden falls on the Land at last.

Dr. Davenant, in his *Essays on Trade*, Vol. 3, p. 30, asserts, that, *As to Manufactures, high Excises in time of Peace, are utterly destructive to that principal Part of England's Wealth; for if Malt, Coals, Salt, Leather, and other Things bear a great Price, the Wages of Servants, Workmen, and Artificers, will consequently rise, for the Income must bear some proportion to the Expence, and if such as set the Poor to Work, find Wages for Labour, or Manufactures advance upon them, they must in the Price of their Commodity, or they cannot live; all which would signify little, if nothing but our own Dealings among one another were thereby affected, but it has a Consequence far more pernicious in relation to our foreign Trade, for it is the Exportation of our own Product that must make England Rich.*

And in Page 31, *But the Consequence of such Duties, in Times of Peace, will fall most heavily upon our Woollen*

Woollen Manufactures of which most have more Value from the Workmanship than the Material; and if the Price of this Workmanship be enhanced, it will in a short Course of time put a necessity upon those we deal with of setting up Manufacters of their own, such as they can, or of buying Goods of the like Kind and Use from Nations that can afford them cheaper.

II. Of Monopolies, whereby the Many are oppressed for the gain of a Few.

Besides the Misfortunes arising from our Taxes, we have some Monopolies very destructive to a trading Nation.

It is a Maxim, That in free Countries Monopolies are absurd, inconsistent, and destructive, as encouraging Idleness, Villainy and extravagant Demands for Wages or Goods, whereby the Many are deprived of the Advantages of their Birthrights without having committed any Crime to forfeit them, and for the Benefit of a few only; a Country that suffers them cannot send its Goods so cheap to a foreign Market as its Neighbours, for never yet was a Monopolized Trade extended to the degree of a Free one; therefore any Country abounding in Monopolies must decline in Trade.

To apply this to *Britain*, which hath more Monopolies than are generally thought on.

First Monopoly. Companies with exclusive Charters, viz. *East-India, South-Sea, and Turkey* Companies.

These Companies prevent the Increasing the Vent of our Manufactures abroad, consequently they starve our Poor, as will appear by the following Reasons.

1. By being all of them confined to *London*, the Prices of the Woollens they export are enhanced by long Land-Carriages up to Town, with the additional

additional Charges of Commission, Ware-house-Rent, Portage, &c. much to the Prejudice of their Sale; and what Materials of Manufacture they import, are dispersed over many Parts of the Kingdom, by the like expensive Conveyance, to the great Disadvantage to the Nation in general.

2. The *Turkey* Company, whose Trade is almost dwindled away, can prevent dispatching their Ships for one Year, if they please, to raise the Price of Silk at Home, for their own Advantage, though the Nation thereby loses one whole Year's Vent and Consumption of its Woollen Goods from *Turkey*, which it is said hath happened formerly; and if an iniquitous Rise is given to the Silk here, we cannot manufacture it with such Advantage as our Neighbours. The Reader will be pleased to consider the fine Situation our People employed in the Woollen and Silk Manufactures must be in at such a Time.

3. It is not the Interest of the *East-India* Company to encrease the Quantities of the Woollens they export, but rather to contract them (which I suppose was the reason for obliging them by their Charter to export Woollens to a certain Value) for at all Markets where there are any Demands for Goods, the Smallness of the Quantities naturally enhances the Price; and if the Company can gain as much on 5000 Cloths as on 10000, is it not their interest to prefer the lesser Quantity on account of the lesser Disbursement and Risk? Altho' it is plain the Nation would lose the Sale of one Half of the Manufactures capable of being vended; whereas private Traders pushing against one another, study to increase the Vent of their Goods, by selling at moderate Profits, making the Quantities answer to themselves and their Country.

4. The large Charges the *East-India* and *South-Sea* Companies are forced to be at for the Salaries of

of the Directors, Governors, Supercargoes, &c. besides what may slip thro' their Fingers sometimes, must make these Companies neglect all Trades that will not yield extraordinary Profits to defray them, which Trades private Merchants would be glad of, and turn to good Account for themselves and their Country, were they not debarred by exclusive Charters.

5. The *East-India* and *South-Sea* Companies buying at Home by Directors, and selling Abroad by Servants, who may have an Eye to their own or Friends Interest, and the Foundation of all being the Company's Money, they cannot naturally be supposed to be so Industrious as those who trade only on their own Stocks; therefore Companies can never extend Trade like private Dealers, but must decay where Interlopers are admitted, of which our *African* Company is a strong Instance.

6. What confirms the whole is the Prohibition of the *East-India* Company against their Servants carrying out Cloth, which would be needless, did they not know that their Servants can undersell them, for the Company wants not Money to supply all the Cloth that can be vended with the usual Profit. In the Year 1741, a Seizure was made in one of the Out-Ports of a large Quantity of Cloth designed for *India*, belonging to one of the Company's Servants, when at the same Time, by the Decay of our Woollen Trade, the Poor's Rates were at 8 s. in the Pound, in some of our Clothing Towns; from whence this Absurdity arose, That whilst our Clothiers were starving, the Exportation of Cloth was a contraband Trade.

It is impossible to make any enquiry into our Companies, without taking Notice of their past Villainies, which, as they have been made sufficiently publick, few can be ignorant of: Therefore the bare mention of them is enough, such as the fatal

fatal *South-Sea* Scheme, that ruined thousands of Families. What need to mention former Directors receiving Salaries from Companies, and, tho' contrary to Law, being notwithstanding concerned in the *Ostend* Trade to *India*, whereby they were cutting the Throats of their Benefactors; the selling Goods by false Samples, and buying them for their private Accounts; carrying on private Trade contrary to Treaty, and bribing Officers to wink at them with the Company's Money, and charged to Account by the genteel Name of Presents, subjecting thereby the Company's Effects to Seizures, and their Country to perpetual Jars. The Rapaciousness of Governors abroad, who by engrossing Goods, nay even the Necessaries of Life, have oppress'd the People by arbitrary Prices, and drove away our Trade. Supercargoes, cheating by false Invoices. Captains, quitting or losing Ships, to defraud Insurers and Bottomree-lenders: Are not these things written in the Books of their Chronicles?

But the greaest Mischief of all is, that the Honesty of the People hath been corrupted, by having presented to their Eyes Roguery lightly punished, if not triumphant.

These Companies prevent the Increase of our Navigation,

By their exclusive Charters, debarring us from a Free Trade to $\frac{3}{4}$ Parts of the known World. The Dominions of the *Grand Signior* in *Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa*, are confined to the *Turkey* Company. All *South*, and Part of *North America*, from *Vera Cruz* to *Carthagena*, from *Buenos Ayres* round *Cape Horn* to *California*, that vast Extent of Coast, is the Proportion of the *South-Sea* Company. All the Coast of *Africa*, *Asia*, from the *Cape of Good Hope* to *Japan*, are the Lot of the *East-India* Company. And what a small Number of

Ports

Ports do they all trade to, and what a trifling Navigation do they all maintain? There are greater Numbers of Ship-Tonnage employed in the Trade to the free Port of *Leghorn* only, than all these three Companies employ in their Monopolies to $\frac{3}{4}$ Parts of the World, like the Fable of the *Dog in the Manger*, not eating themselves, but preventing those who would.

Second Monopoly. City and Corporation-Charter.

Where Freemen exclude by Charter any of the same Trade from settling in their Towns, have they not a Monopoly against the rest of the Inhabitants? Cannot they impose extravagant Prices for their Goods on their Customers, and do they not do it?

Where no Journeymen but Freemen can work in Towns, have they not a Monopoly for Wages against their Masters? Do not both these Cases advance the first Cost of Goods, to the Prejudice of their Sale abroad, and account for Foreigners reckoning our Country so dear?

If a Journeyman, not being a Freeman, gets into work in a City or Town-corporate, what an Outcry is there not made of a Foreigner's being come among them, to eat the Bread out of their Mouths? How! can a Free-born *Briton* be reckoned a Foreigner in any Part of his own Country? What an Absurdity is here! yet never the less true. Can one Man eat the Bread out of another's Mouth without being more Industrious than he? Impossible, it must therefore be Idleness and Luxury they contend for, not Bread.

This is one of the Reasons why Foreigners flock to our Plantations, instead of settling here, and by our Decay of Trade many of our own People go over to live there yearly; so that many going, and few coming to supply their Places, a

Scarcity

Scarcity of People will hereafter ensue, to the great Damage of the Mother-Country.

Third Monopoly. Laws to prevent the Importation of Cattle, Butter, &c. from *Ireland*.

This gives a Monopoly to a few Breeding Counties to impose on the rest of the People high Prices for Cattle, &c. to the Ruin of our Manufactories, forces the Labourer to live dear, and of Course to raise his Wages; is greatly prejudicial to our Navigation, for whatever enhances the Expences of a Ship, enhances its Freight, and gives Opportunity to Foreigners to victual cheaper in *Ireland*, than we can do at Home.

But it will be objected to me, That this is done to raise or keep up the Value of our Lands?

To which I answer: That there is always a great Noise made about encouraging this Home-Consumption, by which is meant making Necessaries bear a great Price, which can arise only from an improper Knowledge of the true Nature of Trade, for this is so far from being beneficial, that it has just the contrary Effect; certainly the less is consumed within, the more will be left to export; the cheaper things are, the more of them will be exported, and it is Exportation only that makes a Nation rich. This Monopoly, with respect to the People, is unjust, and the Benefit of it to the Land-holders, only imaginary; as for Instance, *A* hath a grazing Estate, to raise the Value of which, all Cattle from *Ireland* are to be prohibited: *A* having the sole Market, raises the Prices of his Cattle upon the rest of the People, *B*, *C*, *D*, down to *Z*, twenty-three in Number, and their Pockets are to be emptied only to fill his, a very equitable Project indeed! But although these People were as blind as Puppies, yet Necessity, and the natural Course of Things, will force them to retaliate upon him; for as Monopoly

raises

raises the Price of Cattle, their Dearness raises the Price of Labour, dear Labour makes dear Goods; so that the Food, Clothing, Utensils, Labour, every thing *A* wants, comes dearer to him; an imaginary Value is given to every thing, so that tho' *A* should have more Rent for a time (which yet the Decline of Foreign Trade must bring down afterwards) the Money he receives is of less Value, not going so far, or being able to purchase so much as when Goods bore their natural Value only; so that what he thinks he puts in with one Hand, is pulled out by the other; 'tis all a *Deceptio visus*, setting People together by the Ears to prey upon one another, letting Foreigners in the mean while eat the Bread out of our Mouths; for a Nation that adds an artificial Value to its Commodities by Monopolies, cannot export them in such Quantities to foreign Ports, where they are rivalled by those that bear only their natural Value; and their Home-Consumption will likewise sink in Price by the Nation's having less Money brought in by foreign Trade; such a two-edged Sword are Monopolies to Lands. Every Home commodity in a Free Trade will find its natural Value; for tho' that fluctuates, as of necessity it must, according to the Plentifulness or Scarcity of Seasons, yet for the Home-consumption, every Home-commodity must have great Advantages over the Foreign, as being upon the Spot, and free from Freight, Insurance, Commission, and Charges, which on the Produce of Lands, being all bulky Commodities, must in the general be about 15 *per Cent.* and a greater Advantage cannot be given without Prejudice; for 15 *per Cent.* makes a great Difference in the Price of Necessaries, between the Nation selling and the Nation buying, and is a great Difficulty on the latter, but arising from the natural course of things cannot

cannot be helped; tho' it's a sufficient Security to the Land-holders, that Foreigners can never import more Necessaries than are absolutely required, and I presume, in such Cases, they have more Charity than to starve the People merely for an imaginary Profit, which yet would prove their Ruin in the End; for it is a Fallacy and an Absurdity to think to raise or keep up the Value of Lands by Oppressions on the People that cramp their Trade: for if Trade declines, the common People must either come upon the Parish, or fly for Business to our Neighbours; in the first Case, they become a heavy Tax upon the Rich, and instead of buying the Produce of the Lands, must have it given them; and in the second Case, when the Consumers are gone, what Price will the Produce of Land bear? A small Consumption makes a small Demand, and a small Demand makes a small Price for any Commodity; so that when in Conversation the Wisdom of our Laws is magnified to prevent the Importation of Cattle, &c. from *Ireland*, or Corn from any Nation, unless it first bears an immoderate Price here (as keeping up the Value of Lands) how would a *Hollander* or *Frenchman* smile! when he reflected, that in his Country the Poor getting Provisions from any Place where they can be had the cheapest, are thereby enabled to work at Prices the *English* cannot live on, and by working cheaper work more, that is, run away with their Trade, their Money, and their Working-People, and when these are gone, we may as well give them the Land into the Bargain, for any Value it will be of: Besides the Value of our Land is at present but nominal; to prove which,

It

It won't be suspected to be an under Computation to reckon the Rental of *England* at

£ 20,000,000
The Exports and Freight
at 8,000,000

In Page 39, the Expences of the People of *England* are computed at

64,000,000

The general Amount of Taxes, and Part of their Consequences, is

£ 15,289,375

If our Exports and Freight make $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Expences of the People, they must be computed to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the last Article, which makes

1,911,171

Which being deducted, the Remainder is what falls on Land.

13,378,204

Mr. *Lock*, in his *Considerations*, &c. Page 95, says, *It is in vain, in a Country whose great Fund is Land to hope to lay the public Charge of the Government in any thing else, there at last it will terminate. The Merchant (do what you can) will not bear it, the Labourer cannot, and therefore the Land holder must.* If Foreign Trade will pay but $\frac{1}{3}$, Land must pay the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$, which amounting to 13,378,204, and falling on a Rental of 20,000,000*l.* is above 13*s.* in the Pound Tax upon all the Lands of *England*; so that Lands with the present Taxes at 20*s.* per Acre, or without the present Taxes at 7*s.* per Acre, are equal, and the Land is more reduced by our Taxes and Monopolies, than by any possible Free Importation; and this Prohibition,

tion, by us called a *Remedy*, is only a forwarding our general Decay of Trade, and consequently our general Decay of Rents, which actually happened after passing this Prohibitory Law, as *Roger Cooke* informs us in his Treatise, *That the Church and State of England are in equal Danger with the Trade*, published in 1671; in Page 64 his Words are, *That the Ends designed by the Acts against the Importation of Irish Cattle, of raising the Rents of the Lands of England, are so far from being attained, that the contrary hath ensued. And here I wish a Survey were taken how many thousand Farms are thrown up since this Act; how many thousand Farms are abated, some above $\frac{2}{3}$, others above $\frac{1}{2}$, others above $\frac{1}{3}$; some I know, which after two Years lying waste, are abated one half.*"

Fourth Monopoly. Laws to prevent the Importation of most sorts of Fish by Foreigners.

This gives a Monopoly to our few Fishermen and Fishmongers against our own People, and the Consequence is, that Fish bears five times the Price at *London* that it does at *Amsterdam*, or more, great Quantities of Fish being thrown away by our Dealers to keep up extravagant Prices, to the great Grievance of our industrious Poor. And it has prevented our gaining the *Scotch* Fishery, by banishing from our Coasts the *Dutch* Fishermen, who would in time have settled with us, our own Country being better than *Holland*; nothing but Taxe and Monopolies can keep them away; for who would pay heavy Taxes to live in a bad Country, when he could live free and untaxed in a good one? This Obstruction hath enabled the *French* to commence Fishermen on our Coasts, who employ already a great Number of Vessels; how dangerous this may in time prove, I leave every honest *Englishman* to judge. And what a melancholy Figure do we make, surrounded by Fisheries,

yet

yet so bound down by Taxes, Monopolies, &c. that we cannot undertake them, but sit tamely idle, and see Foreigners swarming upon our Coasts, and carrying away our Riches!

Fifth Monopoly. The Navigation Act.

Altho' this Act is beneficial to us under our present Diseases in Trade, but would be needless were they perfectly remedied, yet is it even now not without its Inconveniencies: For a Law that confines, in any degree, our Imports or Exports to particular Ships or Men, gives a Monopoly to those for whose Benefit the Restraint is framed, which in this Case is either the Navigation of the Countries whose Growths we import, or else our own. And this Monopoly is very prejudicial to our Manufacture; for it is enacting that several Necessaries and Materials of Manufacture shall not be imported by the cheapest Navigation, but by a dear one, and of course that they shall pay dear Freights, which must raise their Price: and if the Manufacturer buys his Materials dear, he must sell his Manufacture in proportion. Besides it is enacted, that these Necessaries, &c. shall not be brought from any Country but the Place of Growth, or most convenient usual Ports of Shipping; which gives a Monopoly to Foreigners, and to our Merchants, against our own People; for Foreigners will always know our Necessity for any Sort of Goods, and if our sole Dependence lies upon any one Nation, they will not fail to make us pay for it. Besides, this gives Opportunity and Security to our Merchants for Engrossing; because, if they import or buy up large Quantities of Commodities at the usual Times of Shipping, they are secured in what extravagant Prices they think proper to impose on our People till that Time returns, all foreign Nations who have laid up Stocks being excluded our Market,

tho'

tho' they could afford them ever so cheap. Accordingly, the Author of the *Britannia Languens*, Page 65, informs us, *That the Danes, taking the Advantage of this Act, raised their Prices and Customs upon us for Pitch, Tar, and Timber, near double; and the Leiflanders the same for Hemp and Flax.* And in Page 68 he says, *That they excluding great Numbers of foreign Ships from our Ports, must hinder the vending of great Proportions of our Beef, Pork, Corn, Beer, Cloathing, and other Necessaries.* And Page 69, *The Dutch allow free Commerce to all Foreigners and their Ships.* Now as this Act makes our Navigation dear, it for that reason deprives us of the Fishing-Trade, the great Nursery of Seamen, which cannot be carried on but by a cheap Navigation to vie with the *Dutch* and *French*, in which we make no Progress worth speaking of: Therefore, in this Case, this Act has deprived us of Seamen, instead of increasing them; and the Acquisition of foreign Seamen, in any degree, being prevented by this Act, gives a Monopoly to our own Sailors, by which means in War-time, or any Spurt of Trade, they exact near double the Wages that foreign Seamen are content with; which oppresses our Merchants, brings our Goods dear to all Markets, giving foreign Manufacturers a great Advantage against our own, and our Sailors lying hid in order to get greater Wages by their Monopoly in the Merchants Service, is one, amongst other Reasons, of the Difficulties we find in manning the King's Ships. *Roger Cooke*, in his *Discourse on Trade*, published in 1670, Page 27. says, *That, two Years after the Rump making this Law, the building of Ships became $\frac{1}{3}$ Penny dearer, and Seamens Wages so excessive, that we have wholly lost the Trades to Muscovy and Greenland thereby.*

Sixth Monopoly. Laws to prevent the Exporting Woollen Manufactures from *Ireland*.

After

After the fear that the Value of our Lands should be lessened by the Improvement of *Ireland*, had produced a destructive Prohibition of *Irish* Cattle, as has been proved already: The People of that Country being necessitated to find out some other Employment for their Lands, turned their Thoughts to the breeding of Sheep and raising a Growth of Wool, no sooner was this effected, but a Prohibition ensued on our Part to export the Manufactures made of that Wool. This Prohibition on the *Irish* hath ruined the Woollen-Trade in *Britain*, and raised that of *France*, for unless the *Irish* are suffered to export Woollen Goods, they must sell their raw Wool to the best Bidder, and that is *France*; one Pack of *Irish* Wool works up two Packs or more of *French* Wool, which is double the Damage to *Britain*, that the opening the Exports of Woollen Goods from *Ireland* would be; and *France* by lessening her Taxes since the last War, enabling thereby her People to work cheap, could afford to give large Prices for *Irish* Wool, and became the chief Market for it, having thereby raised for Exportation an immense cheap saleable Manufacture, which their own Wool was not capable of doing; as this increased, that of *Britain* declined, and tho' they are now increasing and we declining, yet still this Fear, or rather Infatuation, about the Value of our Lands, makes us persist in a Prohibition that not only hurts the *Irish*, ruins ourselves, but enriches the *French*: for as the Case now stands, either *Ireland* or *France* must have the Woollen Manufacture; *Britain* by reason of its heavy Taxes and Monopolies that make Labour dear, being out of the Question. The *Irish* export clandestinely some Camblets to *Lisbon* and undersell the *French*, therefore the *Irish* can recover the Woollen-Trade out of their Hands; and shall we compliment the

French

French with a Trade that we deny our own Subjects? Nay, one Third of what *Ireland* gets centers here at last; and shall we refuse such a Sum which the *Irish* would snatch from our Enemies and present to us?

III. Of ill-judged Laws.

The Laws which give a Bounty on exported Corn, Fish, and Flesh, are very prejudicial to our Manufactories, for Wages depending on the high or low Price, Corn, Fish, and Flesh bear, the Bounties on their Exportation serve only to feed Foreigners cheaper than our own People to run away with our Trade: The Pretence of encouraging Tillage by a Bounty on Corn can have no Weight now, since our great Improvements in Husbandry, much less if we erected Magazines of Corn in every Country, against times of Scarcity; Foreigners never buy Provisions till they want them, and then they must have them whether we give Bounties or no. The *British Merchant*, Vol. II. p. 247. says, *If we were to become a Province to France, we shall be obliged to give a Bounty on Wool as we do on our Corn, that France might have it cheaper than our People.* And in p. 400. he computes the Value of the Manufacture in our Woollen-Goods in general, at three times the Value of the Wool. Now I appeal to all men of Sense, whether it be not much more prejudicial in this Case, to feed the Workman cheaper, than to sell cheaper the Material; the Manufacture being as three to one in our Woollen-Trade only, a Bounty on exported Wool, tho' absurd and destructive, stops there; but Bounties on exported Corn, Fish, and Flesh, serve to feed the *French* cheaper than our own People, to run away not only with our Woollen, but also our Silk, Linen, and Iron Manufactures; every thing we can undertake, all Trade, all Navigation:

gation: Is not this Conduct more absurd, more destructive, could we have acted more servily, had we become a Province to *France*, or rather is not this the way to make us so? All Attempts to confine our Wool at Home must prove vain until our People are eased of Taxes, Monopolies, and Ill-judged Laws, equally with or beyond Foreigners; for while the *French* can underwork us so much they can afford to give vast Prices for our Wool, and what effect any Prohibition will have against vast Profits, the Reader may judge. The Penalty of Death hinders not Bullion from being brought away from *Spain* and *Portugal*. Sir *J. Child* remarks upon this Subject of our Wool, in his *Treatise on Trade*, p. 157. *That they that can give the best Price for a Commodity shall never fail to have it by one Means or other, notwithstanding the Oppression of any Laws, or Interposition of any Power by Sea or Land; of such Force, Subtilty, and Violence is the general Course of Trade.* It seems something surprising, that in such small Countries as the *British Islands*, there should be ever supposed to grow sufficient Quantities of Wool, and that of peculiar Sorts too, to glut all the World with their Manufactures, or that it should be thought a reasonable Answer to the Question; How comes our Woollen-Trade to decay? to say, The Quantities made are too great for the Consumption, did we not frequently meet with it in Conversation. These Islands are not the 350th Part of the computed Superficies of the whole Earth; to think that one Part with only what it can spare from its own Consumption should be able to overstock with a Commodity universally necessary 349 other Parts, is strange; but the Solution of the Mystery is this, that we by our Taxes and Monopolies cannot give the Manufacture the Vent it formerly had, or is now capable of, for the Material is so far from being a Drug that

that Foreigners give any Price for it, and we are forced to attempt the preventing its Exportation by severe Penal Laws; it is therefore the Manufacture, that being raised to an extravagant Price by Taxes and Laws, which make Provisions dearer to our own People than to Foreigners, we cannot give Vent to near home, and are deprived doing of it in the remote Trades to $\frac{3}{4}$ Parts of the World by our Monopolising Companies, whereby great Quantities of Woollen Goods being crowded for Sale into a few Ports, become consequently despised and undervalued; whereas, were our Trade quite free, we should send but small Quantities of Wool-lens to the respective numerous Ports we then traded to, which would naturally increase their Price, for being the best manufactured, as they grew scarce they would become esteemed and demanded, insomuch that we might be obliged to import Wools ourselves to answer the Demand; it is our ill Management of our Trade, and that only, which enables Foreigners to deprive us even of our natural Advantages, of which our Wool-len-Trade is one.

Our Laws relating to our Poor are a vast Encouragement to Idleness.

By obliging Parishes to maintain their own Poor, we intitle them to a certain Maintainance whether they deserve it or no, so that when Provisions are cheap they won't work above half the Week, but sit or idle away half their Time, laying nothing up for Sickness or old Age, because the Parish must provide for them then; this is one of the Reasons why the Wages of our Servants and Labourers are so excessive high, because our Laws providing for the Idle, none will work without being extravagantly paid; whereas had they nothing to depend upon but their Industry, or the Character of it to recommend them to the Charitable in their

Misfortunes,

Misfortunes, they would be glad of constant Work at moderate Prices, to support themselves, be more Frugal to make a Reserve against times of Adversity, and more studious to deserve that Relief they might want.

Besides, these Laws are vastly unjust, for the Poors Rates being very high, are a heavy Tax on the Industrious to maintain the Idle, and as every positive Tax must raise the Prices of Labour and Goods, the Industrious are thereby still more oppressed, and the Sale of our Goods hindered Abroad, for our Labour is grown so excessively dear, that we lose all Trades where Foreigners come in Competition with us.

Idleness is still more encouraged by the Defects of our Laws against Vagabonds: A free People are always brave, and the Brave always Compassionate, which being a distinguishing Character of our People, they are easily imposed on by the least Appearance of Distress, so that some Beggars who can counterfeit Misery well, get more Money in a Day than many diligent Labourers, to the great Discouragement of the Industrious, who see Idleness so well rewarded; whereby our Roads and Streets swarm with Beggars, all the Disturbance they meet with, being now and then turned by a Beadle out of his Parish into the next, which is only shifting the Evil from one Door to another, but works no Reformation. And if an Enquiry could be made into the manner that our Poor now spend those Alms they receive from their Parishes, I believe the greatest Part thereof would appear to be squander'd away in Drams, and that the Bulk of them are maintained only to get drunk.

The suffering People to fine for Parish-Offices is one of the greatest Defects in these Laws, for the better Sort of Housekeepers paying to save themselves

themselves the Trouble of putting our Laws in force, the Execution of them is left to the Inferior, who have not time to spare from their Callings to do it well; who are too often tempted to squander away the Money raised for the Poor in feasting, or turn it to their Profit by furnishing Workhouses with Necessaries at extravagant Prices; whereby the Parishioners are high-rated, and the Parishes brought into Debt.

It is a common Saying, that our Laws are good, but ill executed; to which I answer, That a Law not executed is worse than no Law at all, therefore cannot be good; for the Weakness of a Law appearing by its being evaded, makes the People have a mean Opinion of the Wisdom of the Legislature, and brings a Contempt on our Laws in general, therefore must be bad. A Law that by its Rewards or Punishments does not enforce Obedience to its Commands, is in Effect no Law at all, and what has no Effect does no good.

Our Laws that fix and settle the Proportion between our Gold and Silver Coins, are very prejudicial.

For as the Metals themselves vary here in Value weekly as the Proportion changes abroad, one or other of our Coins, must be carried away with Loss to the Nation, as the Case is now with our Silver Coins; as for Example: A Pound of Standard Silver is coined into 62 s. so that one Pound and $\frac{1}{2}$ thereof make 63 s. and exchanges for three Guineas. By *Casting's* Paper of February 3, 1740 Standard Silver was at 5 s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ounce, which makes for one Pound and $\frac{1}{2}$ 68 s. 7 d. $\frac{4}{8}$ being above 5 s. 7 d. $\frac{4}{8}$ more than the Currency; almost nine *per Cent.* loss to us, and gain to Foreigners who carry away our Silver Coin: Can we wonder at the scarcity of it when we make it

so

so profitable an Article to be carried away? Mr. *Locke* observes in his *Considerations*, &c. Page 167. *If your Law set it, i. e. the Proportion of Gold to Silver at 15, when it is at the free Market Rate in the neighbouring Countries as 16 to 1. Will they not send hither their Silver to fetch away your Gold at $\frac{1}{8}$ loss to you? Or if you will keep its Rate to Silver as 15 to 1, when in Holland, France, and Spain, its Market Value is but 14. Will they not send hither their Gold and fetch your Silver at $\frac{1}{5}$ loss to you? This is unavoidable if you will make Money of both Gold and Silver at the same time, and set Rates upon them by Law in respect of one another.*

And here it may not be improper to observe, that our expensive Law-Suits are destructive to Trade, making Traders often submit to Impositions rather than seek a Remedy, that by its Expence often proves worse than the Disease; or where Justice is uncertain to be obtained through the Unskilfulness of the Courts of Law, which seldom fully comprehend the Intricacy of Mercantile Disputes and Accounts. The Counsel confess it in open Court, and often perplex a Cause by their Ignorance which they should clear up by their Knowledge; and many times the Judge in summing up the Evidence, will say to the Jury that the Dispute is a Matter of Trade which I don't understand and you do; and many Causes have by cautious Judges been recommended to be left to the Reference of some of the Jury, ending at a great Expence what might have been done without any worth mentioning. It would be just as reasonable for Lawyers to consult Merchants in Points of Law, as Merchants them in Points of Trade, Cases in which they are equally ignorant: Besides, to what a vast Expence are not Creditors put in taking out Commissions against Bankrupts, which of all Cases should be attended with the least, and where

Losses

Loffes are already but too bad, is it not barbarous to make them worse by a heavy Expence? For the rest, the Reader is referred to Sir *Josiah Child's Discourse on Trade*, Page 141, where this Subject is finely treated on.

I shall now attempt to shew in some Degree, the Amount of our Monopolies and Ill-judged Laws.

Though it be above my Capacity to point out exactly the Advance in the Prices of our Goods, occasion'd by each separate Monopoly or ill-judged Law, that ruins Trade; or to fix the utmost Degree that our Taxes joined to them carry the artificial Value to; yet an Attempt at some Amount, sufficient for our Purpose, may be made. As our Woollen-Trade is our greatest Concern, the Example shall be drawn from that.

De Wit in his *Memoirs*, Page 57, says, *That the making a Piece of Cloth in Holland costs 70 Livres, of which the Workmen pay 20 for Taxes.* That Work then untaxed would be only 50 Livres, and 20 Livres charged on 50, is just 40 per Cent. Tax on Labour: The Dutch Taxes have been considerably raised since *De Wit's* Time, to support two French Wars, which may amount to as much again for aught I know, but to make the Calculation appear the fairer by being moderate, I shall suppose the Increase only at 10 per Cent. making in all 50 per Cent. Tax on Dutch Labour.

English Wool smuggled to Foreigners, sells at above 50 per Cent. Advance on the English Price; they find it answers as well or better than any other Foreign Wools they import, otherwise they would not covet it so much as they do, or we make severe Laws in vain to prevent their having it.

In the *Observations on British Wool*, p. 53, the Author supposes the Value of a Pack of English Comb-
ing-wool, at 6l. The Weight of a Pack of Wool being 240 Pounds, is just 6d. per Pound. In p.

23, he

23, he says, *The Price of English and Irish Combing-wool at Abbeville, was (about the Year 1738) at 10d. and 10½ Sterling the Pound; which last Price is 10l. 10s. a Pack, and just 75 per Cent. Advance on the English Price; which will not be thought extraordinary, when a Survey is taken of the Penalties the Smugglers incur by our Laws, if detected, (besides the Charges of Shipping, &c.) for,*

By the 9th and 10th of William III. Wool found carrying towards the Sea in Kent and Suffex, unless entered, and Security given, is forfeited, with 3s. per Pound Penalty.

By the 9th and 10th of William III. Wool Laden on any Ship for Exportation, unless entered and Security given, is forfeited, with 3s. per Pound Penalty.

By the 12th of Charles II. Master and Mariners knowing thereof, and assisting, to forfeit all their Goods and Chattels, and suffer three Months Imprisonment.

By the 7th and 8th of William III. Persons assisting in the Exportation, to suffer three Months Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize.

By Ditto, The Inhabitants of a Place out of, or through which the Wool is carried or exported, are to forfeit 20l. if the Goods be under the Value of 10l. but if above, treble the Value, and treble Costs of Suit.

By Ditto, To be recovered by Action against the Owners and their Assistants.

By the 5th of George II. Wool seized on board any Vessel, without Cocket, or Warrant, the Vessel, her Guns, Tackle and Furniture, to be forfeited.

By the 4th of George I. Persons not paying the Sum recovered in three Months, the Court may order Transportation for seven Years, as for Felony.

The Dutch have intirely beat us out of the Trade to Portugal in the midling Sorts of Cloths between

8 and 11s. per Yard; and I appeal to our Clothiers if the mixt Cloths made for Exportation, between those Prices, are not reduced to a mere Trifle in Quantity, to what they were formerly; or rather, if hardly any be made. A Dutch Cloth then may be fairly computed to have 50 per Cent. Advance upon it in the Price of its Wool and Taxes on its Labour, and yet comes cheaper to a foreign Market than an English one; the latter must have a fictitious Value of above that Sum upon it, and as 1 per Cent is sufficient to turn the Scale of a Trade that is in *Æquilibrio*, I shall compute the fictitious Value of an English Cloth put at 51 per Cent.

In Page 20, the Amount of our Taxes on the Expences of our People, is above } 31 per Cent.

Therefore the Monopolies and Ill-judged Laws that affect this Cloth, may be about } 20 per Cent.

Together 51 per Cent.

A Bale of English Cloths now costing £ 100
Has included in that Price an Artificial Value arising from Taxes, Monopolies, and Ill judged Laws, with their Consequences, as above } 51

Which being subtracted, the natural Value of a Bale of Cloths, if freed from Taxes, &c. would be only } £ 49

£ 51 charged by Taxes, Monopolies, Ill-judged Laws, with part of their Consequences on 49l. is above 104 per Cent. and is so far an Artificial Value added to our Goods, at a low Computation.
Besides

Besides the Prejudice done to Trade by this Artificial Value we give our Goods, it likewise weakens and distresses the Government, which is forced to raise above double the Sums necessary on the People for every Piece of Service, whereby Murmurs and Discontents arise, the People grow sooner impoverished and unable to raise the Supplies; for above half the Value of every thing we want being fictitious, *we are forced to raise the same Money to maintain 112,500 Men, as the French do to maintain 300,000*, as appears by the *British Merchant*, Vol. 1. Page 7. and if the same difference of Expence holds in the Fleets, that single Consideration should, I think, open our Eyes to make our Security greater, by throwing out all fictitious Value from our Labour and Goods; to be able to cope with these our only dangerous Enemies on more equal Terms.

IV. Our large National Debt.

This is fraught with many Inconveniences.

First, It has ruined our Trade, by serving for a Pretence to continue those Taxes on Commodities, the destructive Consequences of which to Trade, I have before proved.

Secondly, It destroys private Credit: The *Annals of Europe*, for the Year 1739, Page 444, justly remark, *That these Funds first drew out of private Hands most of that money which should, and otherwise would have been lent to our Merchants and Tradesmen; this made it difficult for such to borrow any Money upon Personal Security, and this Difficulty soon made it unsafe to lend Money upon such Security, which of course destroyed all private Credit, and greatly injur'd our Trade in general.*

Thirdly, It encourages Idleness; for several People making from 3 to 5 per Cent. of their Money sleeping.

sleeping, are mere Drones in the Hive, improv'ing no Land, nor extending any Trade.

Fourthly, It encourages Luxury; Idleness is the Mother of Vice, and a mere Stockholder being the idlest Person upon Earth, has nothing to study but how to kill Time by Vanities and Luxuries, in which this Nation has of late Days made a great Proficiency.

Fifthly, It wastes the Body-politick; for a great Part of our National Debt (computed by some at 12 Millions) belonging to Foreigners not residing here, but whose Interest is remitted abroad, they are in the same State, with respect to the Nation, as Landholders Absentees, those Cankers to the Riches of a Country, supposing the Interest remitted abroad to Foreigners, to be only 400,000 *l. per Annum*.

If our Trade prove but a little beneficial, so large a Sum going yearly will certainly keep us poor.

If our Trade brings us in neither Profit nor Loss, and the current Cash of the Nation is 12 Millions, the Interest paid Foreigners in 30 Years, will run away with it all.

But if the general Ballance of our Trade comes to be against us, the sending abroad yearly Money to pay that Ballance, joined to the above 400,000 *l. per Annum* Interest, must bring Destruction upon us like a Whirlwind. So fine a Situation have our Debts brought us to!

To conclude this first Head.

The Foreign Trade of every Country must decline,

That lays unequal Taxes and oppressive Excises on its People.

Cramps its Trade, the Fountain of Riches, by high Customs and Prohibitions.

Suffers

Suffers many Monopolies.

Oppresses its People by prohibiting the Importation of Victuals, under the Pretence of raising the Value of its Lands.

Gives Bounties to feed Foreigners cheaper than its own People.

Encourages Idleness by bad Laws relating to its Poor.

Tempts Foreigners to carry away its Coin for less than its intrinsic Value.

Makes the obtaining Justice chargeable.

Suffers a heavy National Debt, contracted in time of War, to continue unpaid in time of Peace.

These are the Causes of the Decline of our Foreign Trade, which having made appear, they naturally lead us to treat,

P A R T II.

The Reasons why the Decline of Foreign Trade sinks the Value of Land.

First, By sinking the Markets at home; for the Produce of Land being rendered excessively dear, by the Causes before mentioned, Foreigners will not take its Superfluities; and Labour being by the same Causes rendered excessively dear too, we cannot manufacture or improve that Produce, Nations that can supply cheaper overstocking the Markets abroad; so that the Produce of the Lands not being carried off as usual, must become a dead Stock on the Farmers Hands, and cause great Quantities to be crowded into the Markets, where being Encouragement but for few Buyers the Price naturally falls; as for Instance, the declining Demand for our Woollen Goods abroad, falls the Price of Wool now at home.

Suppose

Suppose that in 1699, we exported }
 to Turkey, 40,000 Cloths, the Value of } £ 80,000
 Raw Wool in each being 2*l.* amounts to }

Suppose that in 1738, we exported }
 to Turkey, 8,000 Cloths, the Value of } 12,000
 Raw Wool in each being 1*l.* 10*s.* }
 amounts to

The difference of the Value of Wool }
 exported in those two Years } £ 68,000

Wools of this Value, lying yearly on hand, must make a Glut; the Farmers push to sell at Market, but in vain, unless at under Prices; for the Woolstaplers, finding the Demand decrease, decrease in Number themselves; some break, some leave off Trade, some take to other Trades; for many Sellers with great Stocks on hand, and few Buyers, naturally fall the Markets, and the Landlords pressing the Tenants for Rent, and threatening to seize if Payments are not made, the Wool must be sold at any rate to raise the Money; and there being yearly 68,000*l.* less Money brought into the Nation to be laid out in Wool than in former times, the Price must be still lower on that Account; the lower the Produce sells, the less Rent the Farmer can give for Land; the worse the Markets, the greater Arrears of Rent the Farmer runs into; and Taxes, Monopolies, &c. making Labour and Necessaries grow dearer, and the decay of Foreign Trade making the Wool sell cheaper, must break him in the End, and then the Farm is thrown on the Landlord's Hands, who, unwilling to fall the Rent, keeps it in the Management of Stewards or Bailiffs, whose Profit and Charges seldom make it pay the old Rent, but generally ends in mortgaging the Land, or selling it; and as these Cases grow more frequent

frequent, more Estates will be at Market, and consequently the less Prices they will fetch.

Secondly, By increasing the Number of the Poor to burden the Land.

The Poor, wanting Employment, must be supported by the Land; if Foreigners give them Work, they give them Bread; but when Trade cannot maintain them, Land must, *vide* Page 7. When the Poor's Rates are heavier than the Tenant can bear, the Landlord must pay them, either by Allowance in the Rent, or by taking the Farm into his own Hands; or else by the breaking of his Tenant, who has paid that Money to the Poor's Rates his Landlord should have received.

Suppose in 1699, the Labour of }
 the above 40,000 Cloths to have } 40,000 People
 given Employment to

Suppose in 1738, the Labour of }
 the above 8,000 Cloths to have } 8,000 People
 given Employment to

The Difference is 32,000 People

Suppose these 32,000 People to }
 have earned by their Labour former- } £ 192,000
 ly from Foreigners, 6*l.* per Annum }
 each, it amounts to

But, wanting Employment, they }
 come on the Parish at 1*s.* 6*d.* per } 124,000
 Week, each, which for one Year }
 amounts to

The difference to the Landlord in }
 one Year, is } £ 316,800

For as the Land, by the Decay of Foreign Trade, receives not the first Sum, and is by the same Cause

Cause saddled with the latter, it makes an annual Difference of the above two Sums to the Landholders in this single Branch of Labour; and is the same in proportion for all other decayed Branches of Trade.

Thirdly, By decreasing the Stock of People.

For as Employment lessens, the most Industrious, rather than starve here, will fly to other Countries where Trade can maintain them; so the Consumption of these Things taken away, the Demand at Market must grow less, and of course Rents must fall; yet the Farmers Charges must grow greater: for the fewer Hands, the higher Wages are; this must break him in the End, and produce all the Consequences following that Misfortune, mentioned in the first Remark: Besides, 'tis Men that trade, and bring in Money, therefore the fewer they are, the less Money will be brought in; and the less Money, the less Rent can be given for Land.

Fourthly, By decreasing our Riches.

This is a Consequence of the above three Remarks; for having fewer Goods capable of being exported by reason of their dear Price, and our Manufactures declining must in time be lost, therefore the Importation of foreign Goods must naturally increase, and more Money go out to pay for them.

I have laid it down as a Maxim in Page 1, That Nations which have no Mines of Gold and Silver, have no Means to get them but by Foreign Trade, and according to the Degree of these Metals they possess, the Prices of their Commodities, and therewith the Value of their Lands, rise and fall in proportion; which I shall now prove.

The *Britannia Languens* Page 12, says, *If there were but 500l. in England, an Ox could hardly be worth*

worth a Penny; therefore the Rent must bear its Proportion to the Riches. This appears by *Maitland's History of London*; for he says, that in the Year 961 Land sold at 1s. per. Acre. The Reason that Land then bore so low a Price, was, the low Price the Produce sold at; for he says that in the Year 1000, an Ox sold for 2s. 6d. a Cow for 2s. a Sheep for 1s. and a Swine for 8d. This could be only owing to the little Foreign Trade the Nation then had, and consequently to the little Quantity of Gold and Silver, Trade had then brought in.

But if it should be asked, What is the Reason that at present all Things are naturally so much advanced in Price, to what they were in those Days? The Answer is, That the Quantities of Gold and Silver brought to Europe since the Progress made by the Spaniards and Portuguese in America, have made those Metals more common and of less Value than formerly, so that 20s. will hardly purchase what 1s. would before the Discovery of the *West-Indies*.

The Spaniards and Portuguese don't throw away their Gold and Silver for us to pick up; we have no Mines of these Metals, therefore could not get such Quantities as we have but by our Trade to Spain and Portugal, or to those Countries that had an Over-balance upon them, and were over-balanced by us.

So that the present natural Price of Land, and its Produce, is the Proportion of Gold and Silver that foreign Trade hath brought into, and left in the Nation: If the present Quantity was to be doubled by Foreign Trade, the natural Price of Land, and its Produce, must be so too; for according to the Price the Farmer can sell his Commodity at Market, he can pay for the Rent of Land, and no otherwise. If our Foreign Trade decays

until

until the present Money in the Nation be half swept away, the Produce of Land must sell for half the natural Price it does now, and Land must let at half the Rent it naturally bears now; but if we should go on declining, until we have no more Money left in the Nation than there was in 961, or 1000, the Prices of Land, and its Produce, can be no more than they bore in those Days, (Taxes, &c. deducted.)

Therefore if the Landed Gentlemen have a mind to raise or sink the Value of their Lands, the encouraging or discouraging our Foreign Trade is the only Means to do either, so closely united are Land and Trade; their true Interests are the same; they must stand or fall together.

The Sum of all is this:

That what Foreigners take from others instead of us,	} Sinks the Value of Lands.
What the Poor hath given them instead of buying,	
The Scarcity of People,	
The Scarcity of Money,	

Taxes, Monopolies, Ill-judged Laws, and National Debts, are the Causes of the Decline of our Foreign Trade; the Decline of Foreign Trade causes the above four Calamities; and they sink the Value of Lands. The Taxes, Monopolies, Ill-judged Laws, and National Debts are the Causes of all, therefore they are Causes of the Decrease of the Value of Lands.

P A R T III.

Of the Means to restore the Foreign Trade of Britain, and consequently the Value of its Lands.
It

It is a manifest Instance of the great Natural Advantages in Trade this Nation enjoys, that it hath not been ruined long ago by the Consequences of our own Ill-Management; as I shall have frequently occasion to mention the former, it will be proper here to shew what they are; and, as the *Dutch* and *French* are our great Rivals in Trade, to compare our Natural Advantages with theirs.

First, Our Situation is the securest of any in *Europe*, not liable to the IncurSIONS of our Neighbours, as the *Dutch* are; we have more good Harbours than any Nation on the Continent, open all the Year; whereas the *French* Ports for Ships of any Burthen are few, and those far asunder; and the *Dutch* Ports few, dangerous, and froze up in the Winter. We are surrounded by the greatest Fishery in the World, which the *French* and *Dutch* are both deficient in, and seek at great Hazard and Expence on our Coasts. Our Country is healthy and pleasant; whereas *Holland* is cold, marshy and unwholesome.

Secondly, Our Government is the most mild and excellent of any in *Europe*; whereas the Government in *France* is arbitrary, and in *Holland* very severe.

Thirdly, Our Plenty of Provisions exceeds all *Europe*; no Nation having that Plenty, both of Corn and Flesh-Meat, that we abound in; for *Holland* is deficient in both, and buys of us; and *France* cannot well victual Ships without *Irish* Beef; and its Harvests being more precarious than ours, the *French* are forced to make frequent Purchases of Corn from us.

Fourthly, Our Islands abound in excellent Wool, Coals, Lead, Tin, Leather, Butter, and Tallow; all which both *French* and *Dutch* are deficient in, and forced to buy of us.

We

We have Oak for Ship-building, which both *Dutch* and *French* want. In our Plantations we build vast Numbers of Ships, which the *French* are deficient in, and forced to buy of us.

As the *Dutch* are forced to purchase every thing, they are out of the Question; but the *French* have vast Quantities of Wines and Brandies; they have Silk, Oil, Hemp, and Flax; in these, at present, we are deficient; but we have Lands in our Colonies, for a Trifle, fit to raise them all cheaper than the *French* can do; besides other Commodities which they want, such as Rice, Tobacco, Pitch, Tar, Masts, and Bowsprits.

Fifthly, Our Sailors are the most expert, and our Ships the best-built of any; so that we could have the Preference in the carrying Trade; no Merchants but would ship his Goods on an *English* Vessel at equal Freight preferably to one of any other Country; and the former can be insured at the cheapest Premium.

To all this may be added, that our People are brave, laborious, and strong, extreme neat Workmen, improving to the utmost the Inventions of others: And our Merchants the most generous and honourable in Trade, with whom all Nations are fond to deal.

With all these superior Natural Advantages, we cannot be hurt but by ourselves; 'tis our own covetous Folly only that can undo us. Had our Trade been suffer'd to take its natural Channel, Foreigners could not have diverted its Course, nor ever can, unless these Natural Advantages are annihilated; and they may as well attempt to sink our Islands in the Ocean, as while they remain to deprive us of the Benefits resulting from their Situation and Produce, if we take only a Resolution to open our Eyes; so that tho' our Wounds are deep, and have brought us somewhat low, yet

yet are they not incurable; if they are neglected, the general Decay must be completed in our Ruin, but with proper Care we may rise to a more flourishing Condition than we ever yet knew. And tho' all the Means necessary thereto cannot be supposed to fall within the Compass of any one Man's Capacity, yet is it the Duty of every Man, in time of need, to contribute something, though in part only, and by way of Essay. As such, the following Proposals are offered.

P R O P O S A L S.

- I. To take off our unequal Taxes and oppressive Excises, and to lay one Tax on the Consumers of Luxuries.
- II. To take off our Customs, and make all our Ports free.
- III. To abolish our Monopolies, unite *Ireland*, and put all the Subjects in these three Kingdoms on the same Footing in Trade.
- IV. To withdraw the Bounties on exported Corn, and erect publick Magazines in every County.
- V. To discourage Idleness, by well-regulating our Poor.
- VI. To make our Silver the current legal Money only, at a fix'd Rate, and let Gold find its own Value.
- VII. To prevent expensive Law-Suits ruining Traders, by erecting Court-Merchants in Trading Towns.
- VIII. To pay off our Debts by publick Bonds, bearing Interest, negotiable by Indorsement, and liquidating part of our Debts yearly.
- IX. To encourage our Plantations in raising Growths,

Growths, by permitting their exportation directly to any part of *Europe*.

X. To erect a Drawing-School at the Publick Expence, and not suffer the *French* to be the only People of Taste and Invention.

XI. To improve the Navigation of our Rivers as far as they are capable.

First and Second PROPOSALS.

To lay One Tax on the Consumers of Luxuries, and take off all our other Taxes, Excises, and Customs; and when that is done, to make all our Ports Free.

As the Money-Affair is always the grand Object, something, by way of Equivalent, must be given for the Taxes taken off; as such, the following Scheme is offered.

A PROPOSAL for raising one only Tax on the Consumers of Luxuries.

It is hereby proposed, That all Persons using, wearing, or drinking the following Articles of Luxury as particularly specified, be obliged to take out a Licence yearly, paying each one Subsidy for each Article of Three Half pence in the Pound only, on the computed Income they should have to support the Station of Life they voluntarily place themselves in, by the Article of Luxury they use, wear, or drink, as by the Example underneath.

Com-

Computed Incomes		l.	s.	d.
1. Persons keeping 2 Coaches and Six for their Use,	8000	50	00	0
2. Using Dishes or Plates of Silver at their Tables, commonly called Services of Plate,	4000	25	00	0
3. Keeping a Coach and Six for their Use,	2000	12	10	0
4. Keeping a Coach and Four for their Use,	1000	06	05	0
5. Keeping a Coach and Two for their Use,	800	05	00	0
N. B. Chariots, Four-wheel Chaises, &c. are included in the Term Coach.				
6. Wearing Jewels for their Dress, besides Neck-Laces, Solitaires, Rings, or Ear-Rings,	800	05	00	0
7. Keeping a Sedan Chair for their Use,	800	05	00	0
8. Wearing Gold and Silver, Men on their Coats, and Women on their Gowns.	500	03	02	9
9. Using Silver Plate for their Sideboards or Tables, not having Services,	500	03	02	9
10. Using China Services of Dishes and Plates at their Tables,	500	03	02	6
11. Wearing Necklaces or Solitaires of Jewels for their Dress, besides Rings or Ear-Rings,	250	01	11	3
12. Keeping a Chair or Chaise with one Horse for their Use,	250	01	11	3

At Three Half-pence in the Pound

Com-

Computed Incomes		l.	s.	d.	
13. Drinking Wine in their Houses, Lodging, or Service,	} 100	} At Three Half-pence in the Pound.	00	12	6
14. Wearing Gold or Silver for their Dress, except on Coats, Gowns, Hats, or Shoes,			00	12	6
15. Wearing Jewels in Rings or Ear-Rings,			00	12	6
16. Using no Silver Plate but Spoons,			00	06	3
17. Drinking Brandy, Rum or any Spirits, in House, Lodging, or Service,			00	06	3
18. Drinking Tea, Coffee, or Chocolate, in House, Lodging, or Service,	50		00	03	1½

All Articles of the same Degree, or under the Article paid for, are included in it.

Husbands to pay for their Wives the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Article they pay for themselves, to entitle them to use the same.

Fathers or Mothers (if no Father) to pay for each Child under Age the $\frac{1}{8}$ of the Article they pay for themselves, to intitle them to use the same.

Bachelors to be double-taxed, if of 21 Years of Age.

No Persons keeping Publick-Houses to have Musick, Nine-pins, Shuffle-boards, Cock-pits, Card, Dice, Draught-playing, or any Gaming in their Houses, Out-houses, Sheds, Yards, Gardens or Grounds, for Money or Liquors, except they pay in the same manner as the Persons using Article 9. These People being the great Encouragers of Idleness, Luxury, and Gaming, the great

Corruptors

Corruptors of the common People, Servants, Labourers, and Manufacturers, out of whose Industry the idle live, to the Ruin of many poor Families, and are a great Cause of the vast Increase of the Poor's Tax.

It is not pretended that every Article of Luxury necessary to be taxed is here hit on, with the several Rates proper to be laid on each; such things are too presumptuous for any private Man, and besit only the Wisdom of the Legislature: All that is here attempted is only to give a Specimen of one Tax on the Consumers of Luxury only, the Method of raising it, with some Remarks on the Benefits arising thereby to the Nation.

The Method of raising this Tax.

The Receiver-General of every County to keep an open Office to receive this Tax, during the Months of *January* and *February*, *April* and *May*, *July* and *August*, *October* and *November*, in the most convenient Town in each County; and to cause Attendance to be given on such Days in the Week as the Commissioners shall judge necessary.

All Persons to bring or send their Money to the Receiver-General's Office in their County, with a fair written Note, containing the Name of the County, Town, and Parish, their Titles or Names, Places of Abode, Wives, and Number of Children under Age: with the Number, Title, and Amount of the Article they pay for Subsidies.

Every Receiver-General to deliver to the Persons, paying their Subsidies, a Licence for that Year, in which the above Descriptions shall be specified.

All Persons paying their Subsidies in the Months of *January* and *February*, to have 3 per Cent. on their Licences allowed them; in the Months of

April

April and May, 2 per Cent. in the Months of *July* and *August, 1 per Cent.* and no Allowance afterwards; whereby it will be the People's Interest to raise the Subsidies with the greatest Expedition.

All Persons before the End of the Year must register their Licences with the Church-wardens of the Parish they live in; Persons living in Extraparochial Places, to register their Licences in the Parish nearest to their Dwellings.

Persons having Houses of Residence in several Parishes to register their Licence in each Parish, paying their Parish Taxes, Lodgers, and Servants, to register their Licences only in one Parish.

One or both Church-wardens to attend at the Vestry every *Wednesday* at Ten in the Morning, to register the Licences of the Year, receive the Money for Parish Rates, and give Receipts on the Back of the Licences; to attend there such a Number of Hours as the Vestry shall judge necessary, whereby needless Attendance from their private Affairs will be avoided.

Church-wardens not registering Licences as before directed, and tendered before Witnesses, to pay themselves the Penalty incurred by their Neglect.

Church-wardens to keep a separate Account of all those Licences which have not the Name of their Parish and are brought to be registered on account of Parish Taxes, by Persons having more than one House of Residence.

Church-wardens to deposite in the Vestry, on the first Day of *January*, the last Year's Register of Licences in their Parish, for the Inspection of the Parishioners, and to form a Judgment of the Income of the Parish.

After the first Register, as above, is delivered in, the Vestry of every Parish within fourteen Days

Days to compute their Expences for the current Year for Watch, Poor, Scavanger, &c. and how much in the Pound on the Licences computed to be registred in the current Year will fully defray them, and order the same to be paid to the Church-wardens by publick Notice.

No Person to be liable to pay any Parish Taxes whatever, by any other Rate.

Church-wardens after the first Year not to register any Person's Licence, until they have received their Parish Rates, on the Penalty of paying the said Rates themselves.

Persons not registring their Licences as aforesaid, before the End of the Year, for the highest Article of Luxury they themselves use, their Wives, or Children under Age, to forfeit on Conviction five Pounds, and three times the Sums not paid for Subsidies and Parish Taxes, to be divided as follows; $\frac{2}{7}$ to their Parish to ease their Rates, and $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Receiver-General.

The Receiver-General to pay no Money but into the Exchequer, on the Penalty of 500 l. to the Informer.

The Receiver-General, or his Deputy, not to sue the County for a Robbery, unless the Persons carrying the Money be three in a Company.

The Receiver General to send up his Accounts to the Exchequer, of every two Months Receipts as soon as possible, deducting from the Sum received 100 l. for his Salary for one Year, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. for his Charges.

The Commissioners of the Land-Tax to be the Commissioners of this, for each County.

No Person after the first Year who does not pay for Article Nine, capable to be a Commissioner.

Vestries may order any in the Parishes they suspect of not having registered, or fully paid their last Year's Subsidies, to be apprehended by their

Constable

Constable or Beadle, and carried before one of the Commissioners of the County to be examined, and such Persons not producing their last Year's Licence, and Church-warden's Receipt or Receipts, and not proving that the said Licence was for the highest Article they used, or else that they had not any Article to pay, not having used any; the said Persons not clearing themselves to the Satisfaction of the Commissioner, to be by him committed to the House of Correction, to appear at the next Commissioners Sittings unless they deposit the Penalty in the Commissioners Hands, or give Security to appear at the said Sittings.

Persons giving Security, or depositing the Penalty, to register their Names, and the Names of their Sureties, or the Sums deposited, at the Receiver-Generals Office for the County before the first Day of the Commissioners Sittings; otherwise to proceed against as guilty.

Keepers of Houses of Correction to deliver into the Receiver-General's Office before the first Day of the Commissioners Sittings, a List of the Persons Names in their Custody, committed by the Commissioners.

The Receiver-General, or his Deputy, to make a Register of all Persons Names committed, depositing, or giving Security; to be laid before the Commissioners at their Sittings; to attend there as their Clerk, and record the Proceedings.

Commissioners to sit to hear Causes in the Town the Receiver-General keeps his Office in, during the Months of *March, June, September, and December.*

Every Commissioner to take an Oath in open Court the first Day he sits, that he will vote according to Justice, without Favour or Partiality; otherwise to have no Vote.

Commissioners

Commissioners every Day they meet to choose their President, who shall collect the Votes, and order the Receiver-General, or his Deputy, to record the Proceedings.

Three or more Commissioners to make a Court, and determine Causes by majority of Vote, if the Votes are equal, the Defendant to be dismissed.

In all Causes determined by a less Number than seven Commissioners, there may be an Appeal to seven or more, whose determination to be final.

No Commissioner to have any Vote in his own Cause.

Persons convicted, not paying the Penalty, to be sent to the House of Correction, and kept to hard Labour during the Space of Six Months.

Persons depositing, or giving Security, not appearing to be proceeded against as guilty, their Deposit to be forfeited, and paid as directed, or Distress-Warrants issued out against them and their Securities, to levy the Penalty.

And two or more Commissioners to determine Differences about Distress.

Persons whose Causes are delayed by any Neglect of the Receiver-General, or Keeper of a House of Correction, to petition the Commissioners for Satisfaction to be made them by the said Persons for what Loss they may have sustained thereby, which the Commissioners may award at their Discretion.

The Receiver-General of every County within three Months after the End of every Year to publish his Accounts, shewing the Sums received the preceding Year from each Parish of his County, and how he hath accounted with the Exchequer for the same, and to deliver when demanded at the Price, of 2s. 6d. one of the said Accounts, to every Commissioner and Church-warden in the County, on the Penalty of 5*l.* for each Refusal:

And

And one to be transmitted to the King's Remembrancer's Office in the Exchequer.

The Receiver-General not accounting with the Exchequer for the whole Money he receives, to forfeit on conviction, to every Parish whose Sums he hath given in short, 5*l.* and three times the Sum received in that Parish and not accounted for, to ease their Rates. Church-wardens to prefer their Complaints against the Receiver-General before the Commissioners in open Court.

Church-wardens to deposit in the Vestry one of the Receiver-General's Accounts to examine the Register by.

Before making any Remarks on the Benefits arising by this Proposal, the general Prejudice against the Possibility of carrying into Execution, any Tax on Luxuries, arising from the supposed Evasion and Fraud such a Tax is liable to, must be first removed: In order to effect which, I hope to convince the Reader by the following considerations, that this Tax by its very Nature and Method of raising, is so far from being liable to the above Objection, that it is on the contrary capable of a more exact and equal Collection than any Tax we have at present.

First, By its Nature: For what every Person should pay, must be publickly known: Friends, Neighbours, and Servants, must see whether we drink Wine, Tea, Brandy, &c. in our Houses, Lodgings, Services, or no; and as to our Fineries, it is our Intent they should be manifest, so that Concealments are almost impossible.

Secondly, By the Method of raising.

Which obliges all Parish Rates to be raised at the same time and in the same manner, for it is very observable that most People are more prying into the Proportion they themselves or their Neighbours

Neighbours pay for Parish Rates, than into any Taxes raised for the Government: therefore, as by this Method no Person can pay any Parish Taxes at all, until they have paid their Subsidies to the Government, nor pay less than their Due to the Parish without making their Neighbours pay more than their Dues, and proving besides the Disproportion paid to the Government, which must appear by a Register open to the Inspection of all the Parish, whereby every one can, and will keep a particular Eye upon his Neighbours, to see not only that they pay, but that they pay fair; and the Vestry can and will keep a general Watch on all, in order to ease their Rates by the Fines of Delinquents.

Which allowing no private Reward to Informers, no Scandal can be incurred by any Persons moving in the Vestry to detect the Fraudulent; whereas at present the Character of an Informer being odious, the Taxes grievous, the Concern not general, and Informations requiring Attendance and Trouble, there is the greatest Remissness possible in bringing to light the Frauds in the Revenue, no Person of Credit either out of Business, or of a different Business, does now inform against any Trader for defrauding the Customs or Excise; People do not care to give themselves the Trouble of meddling where they think they have no Concern. But by this Method of Taxing, the Trouble of attending the Vestry on Parish Affairs serves for this, and every one is concerned in point of Interest and Honour to detect Frauds; Interest with regard to himself, and Honour with regard to his Neighbours, by taking care that the Innocent do not suffer for the Guilty.

Which directs the Receiver-General's Accounts to be published, whereby every Vestry will have a Check to examine its Register by, and detect Frauds;

Frauds; for if any Person does not pay at all to the Government, his Name will be wanting both in the Receiver-General's Account and his Parish-Register; if he does not pay enough, the Deficiency will appear against his Name in both; if he pays to the Government but not to his Parish, his Name will appear in the Receiver-General's Account, but be wanting in his Parish-Register; if a forged Licence is registered, the Person's Name will be wanting in the Receiver-General's Account; if the Receiver-General conceals any of the Money, the Parish-Register detects it, and he incurring a Penalty to that Parish, it will not fail to proceed against him. The Receiver-General's Account checks the Register, and they him, both in his Receipts and Payments. Persons of Fortune who will pay the largest Sums by having Houses of Residence in more Parishes than one, will have an additional Check on them in each Parish where their Licences must be registered, to make them pay fair.

Which giving $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Fines of Delinquents to the Receiver-General, makes it become his Interest as well as Duty, to make his Accounts as publick as possible to detect Frauds.

Which laying the *Onus probandi* on the suspected Person, will make every one endeavour to appear fair, in order to avoid the Trouble and Expence that Suspicion will make him liable to.

Which makes it not worth while for the lower Class of People to attempt Frauds; a five Pound Penalty and three times the Sums unpaid, are too great Risks to avoid paying a Trifle, which likewise subject them to the Jealousy of their Comrades, who will look out sharp to prevent others from shifting their Burdens to their Backs; where Money is scarce, the greater care is taken in paying no more than is due: Besides, these People
being

being often quarrelling, will revenge themselves by detecting each other's Frauds; so that a few being made Examples of at first, will shew the rest the Improbability of escaping.

I know of no Tax at present having so many Checks nor so many Persons interested to detect Frauds as this, consequently none so capable of an exact and equal Collection; for if those who pay fair won't detect the Fraudulent, they must pay the Deficiency themselves, whereby they punish themselves for their own Neglect: Detect or pay is the Case.

Remarks on the Benefits arising by this Proposal.

First, The Government by this Method need never borrow any Money, nor have the usual Clauses of Credit every Year, whereby Part of the Expence of advanced Money will be saved, for it being the Interest of all to pay as soon as they can, the greatest Part would be raised the first four or five Months, and by thus giving speedy Vigour, add Weight to our Resolutions.

Secondly, All Persons tax themselves voluntarily, than which nothing can be easier or more equal, and an easy equal Way of raising Taxes will always produce the most Money and the fewest Murmurs.

Thirdly, Those that would abate of their Taxes may abate of their Luxury, as those that won't pay for a Licence to keep a Coach and six Horses, may keep only four, or a pair, and pay for no more, or need not keep any, nor drink Wine, Tea, Brandy, &c. in Houses, Lodging, or Service, neither wear on their Garments Gold or Silver, nor wear Jewels, nor use Plate, and so not pay any thing, consequently no Individual can be oppressed, an Advantage that no People in Europe have at present.

Fourthly

Fourthly, When it is proposed to oblige all Persons to take out a Licence to drink Wine, Tea, Brandy, &c. in Services, as well as Houses and Lodgings, it is done to mend our Servants Manners, by curing their Luxury, or making them pay for it.

Fifthly, Few that can afford to live high will re-trench, those that cannot afford it should be obliged to it, this will be a Sumptuary-Law to keep all People in their proper Stations, and prevent the Ruin of several; it will reform, as well as raise Money sufficient.

Sixthly, When it is proposed that all Bachelors of Twenty-one Years of Age should be double taxed, it is done as well to proportion all Payments as equally as possible to Peoples Situation in Life or Circumstances, as also to encourage Marriages; for though Bachelors are double taxed, yet they will then not pay equal to the Married-men, who pay their Wives Taxes as well as their own, and may-be some Childrens, consequently compared with Bachelors, are at least double taxed; for these last may, if they please, always live equal to a Married-man with half the Expence, and have not that anxious necessary Care of saving, to provide for the present as well as future well-being of their Families; add to which this political Truth, that Inhabitants being the Riches of a Country, and Marriage a Prevention of Debauchery, all wise States have made it their Care to discourage Celibacy: In particular the *Switzers* will not suffer a Bachelor to enjoy any Balliage, and the superior Rank there being almost all Married, make the Inferior be so too; so great is the force of Example, and accounts for their Country, though small, being so very populous. Whereas, one of the Reasons why *England* is not so, is the abandoned loose Lives

our single People lead, whereby they get a disrelish to the Married-state, and are enervated by Debauchery, which unless remedied must render us a poor despicable depopulated Nation; it is therefore the highest Policy to make Marriage fashionable by the Example of the Rich, since it tends so much to the Publick Good, and the Grandeur of our Country.

Seventhly, But the greatest Benefit of all is, that this Proposal hath not those extending, pernicious, Trade-destroying Consequences of our present Taxes; for it will not raise the Value of any one Commodity, but rather by checking Luxury, the Bane of Virtue and Industry, we shall become a rich and flourishing People. In vain would the luxurious Tradesman lay the Expences of his Coach, his Wine, his Plate, or his Laces, on the Prices of his Goods; his frugal Neighbour, who indulged not himself in those Vanities, would so much undersell him, that he could have no Trade; and while the former declined, the latter would be raising an Estate able to afford him all the Gaieties of Life independent of his Business: and Tradesmen should wait for Vanities until they have raised Estates to support them.

Eighthly, The first Year or two, perhaps, will not demonstrate the exact Produce this Tax may give, on account of the Receivers not being sufficiently versed in their Business; the Evasions that wicked People may make to defraud, which seldom can be intirely guarded against until they appear; or the Consideration that the first Year's Tax being the only one that will be felt, will be the shortest; for one Subsidy being laid on the first Year, nothing can be taken off until that Produce appears. which will not be until the second Year, but then 6*d.* in the Pound may be taken off Land, and as many of the other Taxes on

Commodities as that Subsidy hath provided for ; so that until all our other Taxes are supplied by this, in every Year following the People will have remitted to them in the Taxes on Land and Necessaries, with their Consequences, more than an Equivalent for what they paid the foregoing Year, whereby they will be enabled yearly to pay more to this Tax ; so that every Year's Subsidy must increase, and the Government have always in Advance one Subsidy ; the first whereof, though it will be the shortest, yet, considering the Luxury of the Age, upon a moderate Computation may produce about a Million to carry on the present War, and thereby prevent increasing the National Debts, or raising additional Taxes on Commodities, to drive away that little Trade we have left.

Whatever appears most burdensome should be the first taken off, such as the Duties on Soap, Candles, Salt, Coals, or foreign Materials of Manufacture.

Ninthly, This Proposal being different from the Method of raising Taxes now used, and designed to take off our present Oppressions, every body will be Gainers, the poor Manufacturer will not pay any thing, nor should he : but here then will appear a sort of Paradox, the Rich proportionably are to pay all the Taxes, yet each of them to have besides a particular Gain by it ; To solve this, we may fairly divide the Rich into three Classes, *viz.* Landholders, Traders, and Stockholders.

Tenthly, To begin with Landholders : Suppose a Gentleman to have an Estate of 1000*l.* per *Ann.* that this War-time the Land-Tax is 4*s.* in the Pound, but he being in an easy rated County pays but 2*s.* in the Pound, which amounts to 100*l.* in lieu of which Land-tax, Excises, Customs, &c. are allowed for this same Time of War eight Subsidies,

fidies, presuming they would raise a Sum equal to the Amount of our present Duties :

Suppose then this Gentleman to pay by this Proposal.

For himself, 8 Subsidies for the Article 4, is	- £	50 00 00
For his Wife the $\frac{1}{4}$ of what he pays	-	12 10 00
For four Children $\frac{1}{8}$ each of what he pays	-	25 00 00
		<hr/> 87 10 00
He remains a clear Gainer	£	<hr/> 12 10 00

By this it appears, that where the Land-tax in War time is but half paid, such a Landholder hereby saves 12*l.* 10*s.*

But those Gentlemen who have borne the unequal Burden of the Land-tax for many Years, paying from 2*s.* even up to 4*s.* in the Pound, will be thereby greatly relieved, enabled to live better, and so add to the Amount of this Proposal.

The following great Advantages arise likewise to the Land-holders.

The Difference in the Price of Necessaries, when the Taxes on them are taken off, must be much superior to the above Subsidies ; for the present Taxes, and their Consequences, affect the Landholders above 13*s.* in the Pound, *vide* p. 51.

The Poor's Rates, so heavy a Burden on the Land at present, will be hereby reduced to a mere Trifle.

The Rents of Lands will be better paid when the Farmers are eased of their heavy Taxes.

The Farmers will be likewise more able to improve the Lands they rent.

Easy equal Taxes increase Trade, and Trade increases Rents.

Well-paid increased Rents will augment the Capitals of those that have Occasion to sell their Lands.

Land untaxed must yield a considerable better Price than when heavily taxed, as at present.

All which duly considered it may be asserted, That upon this Proposal's being passed into a Law, every Landholder will actually find the Value of his Estate at least doubled.

Eleventhly, With respect to the Trader.

The Difference in the Price of Necessaries, when the Taxes on them are taken off, must be much superior to the Subsidies he should pay for Luxuries; I say should, for he need pay no more than he pleases, or can afford, as appears by the fourth Remark; so he cannot be oppressed.

This puts him in a better Situation than any of our Rivals in Commerce, who all pay Taxes on Necessaries, always attended with some Oppressions.

When those Taxes that are Burdens upon our Trade are removed, then may we send our Manufactures to Foreign Markets as cheap or cheaper than our Neighbours, whereby lost Markets may be recovered, and new ones found out.

The Demand for our Goods must hereby increase at those Markets where at present they have some Vent.

An increasing Demand makes profitable Sales and quick Returns.

Quick Returns are the Soul of Commerce, and enable the Merchant to give constant Employment to all our working Hands.

Commissions for Buying will be always sent by Foreigners to the cheapest Markets, and the cheaper they are the more Commissions they may expect.

A

A flourishing Commerce will enable the Trader to live more comfortably for the present, and at the same time lay up a future Provision for himself and Family.

Our rival Neighbours, some of whom are our natural Enemies, and the best but self-interested Friends, will find the Scene shifted upon them from their rising and our sinking, I mean in Trade, the greatest Blessing that can happen to a People; for, as a late Patriot observed, *it brings Food and Nourishment to a Nation, preserves and increases its Stock, and distributes a convenient Portion of Maintenance to every Part of it.*

Twelfthly. Lastly, in regard to the Stockholder.

His Gain will appear by considering that this Proposal being calculated to raise as large or larger Fund, in a more easy and equal manner than all our other Taxes.

He will be more certain than he is now, in this or any time of War, of his Interest being duly paid.

He will be better secured in the Value or Reimbursement of his Capital.

He will rest assured that the Government will never be driven to lay a Tax on the Funds, which would not only lessen his Income, but considerably diminish the Price of his Capital; and if even the present most just and necessary War should continue, with the Taxes in the present destructive Shape, what else can be left to tax? Surely our declining Trade can bear no more, nor Land above 4s.

By this Proposal he will gain Security; no small Consideration.

Even the Difference in the Price of Necessaries, when the Taxes on them are taken off, must be
more

more Advantage than any mere Stockholder will or need pay for Luxuries.

Thirteenthly, As by this Proposal the Rich will pay all with Advantage even to themselves, so the Poor will receive great Benefit.

They will be able to work as cheap as Foreigners at least, and consequently monopolize the manufacturing their own Wool.

They will have lesser Wages, but of more Value, *4d. per Day* untaxed being more than *6d.* charged with *3d.* for Taxes.

They will have more constant Employment by working cheaper, consequently a better Maintenance.

They will have Foreigners settling here continually to teach them new Branches of Trade.

They will not be drove by Necessity to fly their Country, to starve, beg, or steal.

They will find better Support in their Misfortunes, when their Superiors are in a more flourishing way.

They will have more Opportunities of rising to be Masters, or seeing their Children become such.

Fourteenthly, If it should be asked, How, by this Proposal, a larger Fund than our present Taxes can be more easily raised?

The Answers are, That no Extension of Subsidies for any Sum of Money equal to what the Government now annually raises, can be so grievous to the Subjects as the consequential extending Burden of our present Taxes on Commodities only, exclusive of the Land-tax.

Therefore, if the Subjects can save by raising larger Sums for the Service of the Government, there can be no doubt of their doing it.

It is remarked, with great Humour, as well as Truth, *that a Prince who draws his Revenues from the Vanities of his Subjects, will be richer than another who*

who hath Mines of Gold, because Vanity is an inexhaustible Mine; to which I beg Leave to add, that it is worked much the easiest, and is exactly the Affair now offered to the Consideration of the Publick.

Though all feel, yet as those who are oppressed more immediately by our present Taxes, *viz.* our People in Trade, will be hereby revived; an increasing Trade will bring in such a Flow of Wealth, as will make our Lands still more valuable, and our People rich; Riches will make them gay, and Gaiety will make them pay larger, if equal easy Taxes; therefore this Proposal must prove a growing Fund, and produce every Year more and more to support the King and Nation in so great a Figure, and raise us to such a formidable Height of Power that we may be the Envy or Dread of all our Rivals, and an Overmatch for any one Nation in *Europe*.

Besides, this Tax will lessen the Expences of the Government by untaxing Commodities, which of course makes them cheap, therefore every thing will be to be purchased with less Money, all Provisions, Ammunition, Naval Stores, &c come cheaper to the Government; Sailors, Soldiers, Placemen, and Pensioners, be enabled to live upon less Wages as well as they now do; so that this Method making the Money raised go the further, the fewer Subsidies will suffice, two or three Millions may do as much as four or five Millions now; therefore the Government can never be straitned, nor the People oppressed.

Lastly, This Tax will increase the Civil List; for as Goods grow cheap, Money goes the further; therefore the present Civil List of 800,000*l. per Annum*, may go as far, and be as valuable as one of 1,200,000*l.* or more. And the Value of the

the Pay of Officers and of the Salaries of Places increase in the same Proportion.

Fifteenthly, Of the Benefits arising by a Free-port-trade.

By which I mean, that all sorts of Merchandize be imported and exported at all times without paying any Customs or Fees.

I. It will increase Trade.

By increasing the Number of Merchants; for small Stocks serve where there are no Customs to pay, and there are ten People of small Fortunes in Trade to one of a great one; the more there are, the less liable are they to combine together to impose on the People extravagant Prices for their Goods, to support themselves in Luxuries.

By increasing the Capitals of our Merchants; for if they pay $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of their Capitals for Customs, they can trade but for the $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ left; but when they have no Customs to pay, they can carry on a greater Trade with the same Stock; sell their Imports cheaper, have more Money to buy up the superfluous Produce of our Lands, and give better Encouragement to our Manufacturers.

By making our Country an Universal Storehouse; for when our Merchants have no Customs to advance, they will be importing continually upon Speculation for better Markets all sorts of Goods that were to be sold cheap in all Parts of the World, whereby such fortible Cargoes as were vendible to Advantage, being always ready to seize the favourable Opportunity, would be as continually exporting, giving Employment to a vast number of Watermen, Carmen, Porters, Coopers, Packers, &c. besides supplying hereby our own Manufactures with all foreign Necessaries and Materials in the cheapest manner. To which may be added, that where the best Assortments of Goods

Goods are to be had, there will be the greatest Trade, one Sort helping off another, consequently vast Quantities of our own Commodities will be required to assort our Imports of Foreign Goods, and be exported with them. A Free Port causes the best Assortments of Goods, consequently a Free Port causes a great Exportation of Home-Commodities.

By increasing our Navigation; this is a Consequence of the last Observation; for by the vast Quantities of Goods continually going out and coming in, we must have an immense Number of Ships constantly employed, and seldom send them out in Ballast; and whenever our Sailors are eased of their Taxes, they will be able to navigate as cheap, or cheaper than any; and being indisputably the most able and expert in *Europe*, must have a great Share in the *Greenland* and *Herring Fishing Trades*, and in the Navigation of the *Baltick*, with other Nations those Navigations are vastly increased by those Trades; all which, joined to our *Mediterranean Trade*, would make us the chief Carriers of *Europe*. f

By increasing the Vent of our Goods abroad; for all foreign Necessaries and Materials coming a great deal cheaper to our People, who having no Taxes they need pay at Home (if our Monopolies were but once abolished) our Labour would be so cheap, that we could send all our Goods to foreign Markets cheaper than any People, by reason of our superior natural Advantages; and our Woollen Manufactures in particular could be sold for half the Price they can be afforded now, as will be proved hereafter. It is a just Observation of Sir *William Temple*, in his Account of *Holland*, *There is no Sort of Goods but what will find a Market at one Price or another, and they will be Masters of it that can afford it cheapest.* It should therefore be

our chief Study to make all our Goods bear only their natural Value, which nothing contributes more to than a Free-port-Trade: Add to which, that our Merchants being enabled to barter away our Goods for whatever Commodities they could find in any Country where Money was scarce, must increase their Sale prodigiouſly.

By putting all Traders on the ſame fair Footing; for where no Customs are to be paid, Smuggling muſt ceaſe.

By preventing the Smuggling of our Wool, without Regiſtries, Dragoons, or Cruizers; for our Labour being rendered cheap by the Reduction of Taxes, and Freedom of Trade, we could manufacture our own Wool to greater Advantage than the *Dutch* and *French*; for where Labour is upon a Par, thoſe People who are forced to give 10 or 15 *per Cent.* advance on the Price of our Wool, cannot trade at all; beſides the vaſt Vent a Free-port-trade would enable our Merchants to give our Woollens, by their low Price and good Quality, muſt ſecere us that Manufacture, raiſe the Price of our Wool, and keep it at Home.

By gaining us the Herring-Fiſhery, for the *Dutch* having Liberty to ſell their Fiſh on the Coaſts of *England* would ſnap at ſuch a Market, and ſome of them ſettle with us of neceſſity, by trading on the beſt Footing; for thoſe who would not ſettle, muſt make two expenſive hazardous Voyages, one back to *Holland* to cure and Pack the Fiſh, and the other from thence to the Coaſts of *Britain*, to ſell them, eſpecially the Weſt-Coaſts, which thoſe ſettled here would be free from, and the *Dutch*, by living among our People muſt inſtruct them in the Trade.

By ſecuring to us all Growths, Fisheries, and Manufactures the Nation is capable of; for what *French* or *Dutch* Growers, Fiſhers, or Manufactu-

rers

rers could pay Taxes at Home? the Charges of Package, putting on Board, Freight, Inſurance, Poſtage of Letters, relanding, houſing, Warehouse rent, and Commiſſion on their Goods to ſell to our People, being Growers, Fiſhers, or Manufacturers themſelves, untaxed, free from the above Charges, and bleſſed with ſuperior natural Advantages, it is ridiculous to ſuppoſe it; unleſs that in the beginning of a Free-port-trade, the Demand for our Goods ſhould be ſo great, that we ſhould ſell what ſhould be our own Supply, and content ourſelves with inferior Sorts of Goods from abroad, as the *Dutch* do.

The farther Benefit that Trade receives by a Free-port, the Reader will find in the Answers to the Objections raiſed by ſome Authors againſt it, which will be conſidered hereafter.

2. It will employ our Poor.

This is a Conſequence of the laſt Remark; for Neceſſaries and Materials being by a Free-port-trade, and the Reduction of Taxes, rendered cheap, Labour muſt be ſo too; and by the ſame Cauſes the Vent of our Goods be enlarged, the Poor find conſtant Employment on the Wool we ſhall keep at Home, on the Hemp and Flax we ſhall raiſe, in all Manufactures we are capable of, in the Herring and *Greenland* Fisheries, and in the Increase of our Navigation by the great Demand for Sailors, ſo that none can want Employment that will not be idle. *Holland* is an Example of this, whoſe Customs are ſo low that their Trade is almoſt free, and there is no Country in the World where the Poor are ſo well employed, or in Sickneſs better provided for.

It is a juſt Remark, that one flouriſhing Manu- factory promotes all others; for the better Em- ployment the People have, the better they live, and the more they ſpend for a comfortable Subſit-

ence:

ence : A Manufacturer who earns by his Industry enough to purchase warm Clothing and hearty Food, is a greater Encourager of the Industry of others, than a Beggar covered with Rags and starving with Hunger ; therefore it need not seem a Wonder, that when our Woollen Trade flourished, all others prospered, and the Poor's Rates were low ; and that the Reverse now happens by the Decline of it. If *English* Wool was entirely kept at Home, the manufacturing of it must employ at least one Million of People ; who may be supposed to maintain at least another Million of helpless Infants, Women whose Labour is in part diverted by the Care of their Families, sick and aged People ; and the same in proportion for *Scotland* and *Ireland*.

The Silk-Manufacture, at least for our Consumption, must, by taking off our Taxes and making our Trade quite Free, be entirely secured to us : And supposing the Quantities of *India*, *French*, and foreign wrought Silks, smuggled in upon us by the Temptation of high Duties, and consumed here, to amount only to the Value of 200,000*l.* per Annum, the Labour whereof to be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Value, and the Medium earned per Head to be 6*l.* the supplying this Consumption by our own People, would employ about 25,000 of them, and they maintain an equal Number, as was observed of the Woollen Trade above.

The Linen Manufacture is of such vast Consequence, that the *Dublin* Society, in the first Volume of their *Weekly Observations*, No. 7, reckon the Consumption of Linen in-England, at the lowest Computation, allowing only 10*s.* per Head, to amount to four Millions, the greatest Part of which, they say, is imported every Year : But as they take no Notice of the vast Quantities of Linens we import for our Plantations, which may over-balance what is made

made in *England*, yet I shall only compute, that we pay Foreigners for this Article only three Millions, the Labour at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Value, and the Medium earned per Head 6*l.* which, by a Reduction of Taxes, and a Free-Port Gaining, will thereby employ about 370,000 of our People, and they maintain an equal Number, as was observed of the Woollen-Trade above.

It is impossible to estimate the Numbers of People that a Free-port-trade would give additional Employment to, such as Watermen, Carmen, Porters, Coopers, Packers, &c. or the additional Numbers of Sailors employed in the Carrying-trade, the Amount of all which must be prodigious.

Sir *Walter Raleigh*, in his *Observations on Trade*, says, that thirty several Trades are set on work by the fishing Ships ; and as this Herring Fishery is on our own Coasts, we can carry on this Trade that promotes thirty others, cheaper than the *Dutch*, and of course beat them out of it ; they must make long Voyages out and home for the Fishery, and receive their Supplies in the same dangerous and expensive Manner ; whereas we are at home, and can land our Fish and receive Supplies without almost any Charge : We can victual in *Ireland*, and some Parts of *Britain*, at half the Charge they can do in *Holland* : In blowing Weather the *Dutch* must lie still, they cannot take in their Casks and Stores in a rolling Sea ; whereas we can run into Port, and the unloading, repacking, and dispatching our Fish go on in all Weathers. All Fishing-Vessels push to get first to Market ; so our People, from some Parts of our Dominions, can be at the Markets of *Spain*, *Portugal*, or *Italy*, almost as soon as the *Dutch* can arrive in *Holland*, whereby we may always forestal them. The *Dutch* have heavy Taxes on Necessaries

cessaries, we need not have any. All which duly considered, cannot fail securing us this Trade, with the Navigation belonging to it. The *Scotch* Islanders are expert Fishermen, Necessity forces them to it for their own Supply; but their Poverty prevents their giving the Trade that Extent abroad it is capable of, and the present Clogs upon our Trade cut off the People of *England* from any considerable Correspondence with them, so that they are in a manner lost to each other: whereas was our Trade free, the *Dutch* by settling with us and trading backwards and forwards, would create an Intercourse between the *English* and the *Islanders*, whereby the Stocks of the former would aid the Industry of the latter, make them outdo all Foreigners, and besides expert Fishermen render them good Sailors, and raise the greatest Nursery for Seamen in the World.

The Importance of this Fishery will appear from the following Authors. In the *Memoirs of De Wit* p. 24, there is a Quotation from *Emanuel de Meteren*, who says, 'That in the Year 1610 there failed from *Holland* in three Days time 900 Ships and 1500 Busses for the Herring Fishery.' And he quotes *Gerard Malinas* and *Sir Walter Raleigh*, who agree, 'that the *Dutch* sell yearly 300,000 Tons of Herrings and salted Fish, and that there went out yearly above 12,000 Men for the North and Whale Fisheries:'. And *De Wit*, in p. 25, says, 'that Trade and Navigation being increased above $\frac{1}{3}$ since that time, it is easy to conceive that the Sea produces yearly above 300,000 Tons of salted Fish to the *Dutch*.' And the Author of the *Britannia Languens*, p. 31, informs us, 'that according to modern Calculations the mere Fishing-trade for Herring and Cod, on the Coasts of *England* and *Scotland*, employs above 8000 *Dutch* Ships or Vessels.' Besides, this Fishery

Fishery will support our Manufactures, as appears from *De Wit*, in p. 29, his Words are, 'though it appears from History that many Manufactures were made in the Towns of *Holland*, at the time that the Trade and Navigation of *Europe* were carried on by the *Hanse-towns* and the *East-country* People, and before the Fishing and Carrying-trades were established in the Country; so that it might be said, that the Navigation has been produced by the Manufactories; it is nevertheless very certain, that the Fishery and Navigation give all the Motion to Manufactures, for it is what brings in all raw Materials to be worked up in the Country, and to sell afterwards the Stuffs when they are made, by the Seas and Rivers in all foreign Countries.'

We see then by these Reasons that the *Dutch* can make, with the greatest Advantage to themselves, Sea-Salt, Manufactures of Silk, Linen, Wool, Hemp for Cordage, Cables and Nets; besides the Ship-building-trade.

The Reasons whereof are plain:

First, A Fishery furnishes a Cargo to purchase raw Materials with instead of Money, and prevents a Nation's being impoverished, and its Manufactories languishing through a Scarcity of Money.

Secondly, These raw Materials are thereby rendered cheaper; for the better Profit the Fish give, the cheaper the Returns can and will be afforded, the general Profit of the Voyage being computed on the first Disburse and incidental Charges.

Thirdly, It affords a cheap Sustenance to the Poor, whereby Wages and Labour are kept low, to the Encouragement of all Trade.

Fourthly, It creates a Multitude of Seamen, whereby their Wages are kept low, and of course Freights, consequently a great Navigation is maintained, which brings in raw Materials cheap, and carries

carries out our Manufactures the same, by which Means only their Vent can be extended abroad; therefore the Fishery and the Navigation are the Causes of Manufactures.

Fifthly, It is the Sailor who is the Life of Trade; without him the Skill of the Merchant, the Beauty and Cheapness of the Manufacture, and the Quantity of Shipping are useless and vain. *Glover's* Speech. Page 28.

It has been already proved that we can outdo the *Dutch* in the Herring Fishery, consequently we can employ therein more of our Poor than they; let us see how many People the Fishery employs in *Holland*. *De Wit*, in his *Memoirs*, p. 34, computes the Fishing-trade to give Employment to 450,000 People in the Province of *Holland* only. The Author of the *Britannia Languens*, p. 31, divides the Employment of the above People thus: 200,000 *Seamen and Fishers*, and 250,000 *People more employed at home about this particular Navigation, making of Fishing-Nets, and the curing, ordering, and preparing of the Fish*. *Zealand* is not included in this Account, though it be a great Province for Fishers; nor the *Hamburgers*, *Lubeckers*, and *Bremers*; nor the *French* Fishing Vessels that now swarm round our Coasts: So that upon the Whole, it may be supposed that double the above Number of People are employed in this Trade by those several Nations that fish upon our Coasts, besides the *Greenland* Fishery. So that was our Trade eased according to these Proposals, this Branch only would maintain most of our present Poor, and one Trade belonging to the Fishery is so easy, *viz.* the making Nets, that the most helpless of our People, may work at it, such as Women, Children, Cripples, and aged People; and the Employment is so great, that Sir *Walter Raleigh*, in his *Observations on Trade*, affirms, that

300 Persons are not able to make one Fleet of Nets in four Months time for one Buys.

By what has been said it will appear, that a Free-port-trade will give Employment to all our industrious Poor; therefore the Poor's Rates, so great a Burden at present, may be quite taken away. The few unfortunate Industrious will find easily Friends to make their Cases known to the charitable Rich, whose Bounty will be a sufficient Support when the Objects are few and just; there is more want of a proper Application than of Charity itself at present. But all idle Vagrants who will not work at home, should be transported to work abroad.

Thirdly, It will increase the Stock of People.

By inviting Merchants to settle where Business can be transacted with so little Trouble.

By furnishing Employment to our own Poor they will be kept from deserting their Country, preserved from Want and Diseases, consequently from Death; by their Industry they will procure themselves a comfortable Maintenance, and thereby be enabled to marry and raise Families.

By securing the Manufacture of our own Wool we shall reduce the Woollen Trade of our Neighbours, which joined to the extensive Vent our natural Advantages enable us to give this Manufacture, will oblige us either to enlarge our Growth of Wool, or import Foreign, whereby we should have Occasion for more Hands than we ever yet employed, consequently gain them; for it is a Maxim in Trade, *That such as your Employment is for People, so many will your People be.*

By gaining the Silk, Linen, and other Manufactures, we must gain some of the Manufacturers; for what *Dutchman* or *Frenchman* would pay Taxes at home, and the heavy Charges mentioned in Page 99, on the Goods he sent to *Britain*, when

he could remove thither, live untaxed in that plentiful Country under an easy Government, and add all these Savings to his Profits? It would not be in the Power of any Laws to keep him at home, he would remove, nay some must, for as our Manufactures increase, the Foreign will of course decrease, the Poor want work, and they must either starve or fly; And where would the Fugitives find an Asylum so inviting as that of *Britain*? Besides, when we became thoroughly versed in the Linen and Silk-trades, our own Supply would not confine us, but we should rival other Nations at foreign Markets.

By gaining the Herring Fishery we shall gain some of the *Dutch* Fishers, who will find it more convenient and cheap to remain here than to go home; add to which what was observed in p. 52, that our own Country being better than *Holland*, nothing but our cramping of Trade could keep Multitudes of its People from us; for who would pay heavy Taxes to live in a bad Country, when he could live untaxed in a good one?

By drawing in foreign Sailors, which is a Consequence of the Increase of Trade and Navigation, for our Number of Sailors is even now too scanty for our confined Trade, as appears by the Difficulty of Manning our Ships of War, and the high Wages our Merchants give, which latter Temptation is defeated by the high Price of all Necessaries; but were these to bear only their natural Price, our Pay in our Ships of War would be of so great Value that we should have the picking of all *Europe*, have no need of that arbitrary Expedient of Pressing; for a Free Port furnishing Employment for more Sailors than we now have, vast Numbers would flock here to enjoy our Plenty, Riches, and easy Government.

Fourthly, It will increase our Riches.

By

By giving a greater Vent to our Manufactures by their Cheapness, Foreigners will be the more indebted to us, which must be paid in Money or in Goods; if in the latter, and they are lain by for better Markets, must resolve at last into more Money, by gaining Manufactures from abroad our Wants will grow less, consequently less Money need go out to supply them: and it is a favourite Maxim in Trade, *That a Penny saved is so much won.* Gee, in his *Discourse on Trade*, Page 186, computes, *That we have one Million of People supposed to be out of work.* I have already proved that a Free-port with a Reduction of Taxes can give Employment to all our Poor, and the Labour of Individuals makes the Riches of the whole, therefore supposing these People to earn at a Medium six Pounds *per Annum* each it makes six Millions, as true as if dug out of a Mine in our Country, nay better with regard to the People's Healths. That this is not all Imagination will appear by viewing what a Free Port is capable of gaining us in four Branches only, *viz.* The Herring-Fishery, the Woollen, Linen, and Silk Manufactures.

It is proved in Page 101, that we can outdo the *Dutch* in the Herring Fishery, the Value whereof will appear from Mr. *Smyth*, in his Book called *England's Improvements revived*; who informs us in Pages 249 and 250, ' That he was sent in 1633 ' to *Shetland*, to discover the Manner and way of ' Trading, &c. and the manner of the *Hollanders* ' Fishing with Busses and other Vessels, for Ling ' and Cod: And in page 270 he says, That during the War between *Spain* and *Holland*, the Fishermen agreed among themselves to pay a Dollar ' on every Last of Herrings, to Maintain Ships of ' War to secure the Fishing, that a Record was ' kept, the Amount of which was 300,000 Last

‘ of Herrings taken in one half Year, which at a Medium of the ordinary Prices was worth five Millions Sterling; whereunto if we add the Cod, Ling, and Hake, and the Fish taken by the *Hollanders* and our Neighbours on our Coasts all the Year Long, the Total will evidently arise to above ten Millions yearly.’

Now though we may be proved capable of gaining the Whole of this, I shall compute our Gain to be only of the half, or

£, 5,000,000

If 100,000 of the above Million of unemployed Poor are Woollen Manufacturers, (though I imagine they must be much more in the present declining Condition of that Trade) however, that Number earning six Pounds *per* Head, makes 600,000*l.* and the Value of the Material being computed at $\frac{1}{3}$ of that, or 200,000*l.* makes altogether 800,000*l.* which as a Free-Port will gain, we may set down as so much additional Profit.

800,000

The Linen Manufacture that we shall gain, and which we now buy of Foreigners, is proved in Page 101 to amount to

3,000,000

The Silk is computed

200,000

Total Value of the four Branches of Trade gained by a Free-Port

£9,000,000

If $\frac{2}{3}$ of this Sum is paid to the People's Labour, it makes exactly six Millions, or the Employment of one Million of People at six Pounds *per* Head.

As to the Value of the Materials above, which are included in the Profit, I must observe that the Abatement made in the Value of the Herring-Fishery doubly over-balances their Value.

But it will be said, that this proves only the Employment of our own People, but does not prove

prove that we shall draw in Foreigners, or if we do, that what Foreigners come over will starve our Poor, who will have but just Employment to maintain them: To this I answer, That the Value of the Herring-Fishery is computed only at the half, our Woollen Trade is computed only to recover what we have lost, our Linen and Silk Manufactures are computed only for our own Consumption, but not for what we shall export when the Manufactures are well established, therefore double the Number computed to be employed in these several Branches of Trade may be drawn in, there is no Computation for the Improvement a Free-Port will give our Navigation and other Branches of Trade, which will all want Hands; there is no Computation for the Improvement of Trade by the Consumption of the one Million of Working-people gaining six Pounds *per* Head, or six Millions; which makes a wide Difference in the Demand for Necessaries, compared with the Consumption of one Million of starving Beggars: In short, there is no computing what Numbers a Free-Port can maintain here, consequently no ascertaining the Extent of the Riches it will bring in, only this I must observe, that Trade maintains in *Holland* seven times more People than the Land deprived of it could subsist.

Besides, it is the Nature of Free-Port Trades to be hoarding up in cheap times all Sorts of Goods, to sell again when the Markets are advanced, whereby they take Advantage of the Necessities of all the World, and must amass immense Over-ballances besides supplying their own Wants; and if the Goods are only for foreign Account, when one considers what a vast Sum the Freights, Boat-hire, Porterage, Cartage, Warehouse-rent, Merchants Commission, and often Package and Cooperage before the Goods

are

are sent out again do amount to, it must be concluded, that the Universal Storehouse of a Free-port must bring a vast Profit to a Country.

I do not pretend to say what part of the above-mentioned nine Millions will remain here, doubtless a great part of it must go away again to purchase foreign Necessaries, Materials of Manufacture, or Goods to lay by upon Speculation, for to think to drain all *Europe* of its Money, were an Absurdity; Foreigners cannot take more Goods of us than they can pay for with Money or Goods, either of which are solid Advantages; but this I dare venture to affirm, That by a Free-port Trade it is impossible but that the general Ballance must be greatly in our Favour, and a great Part of the Gold and Silver brought yearly to *Europe*, fall to our Share.

Fifthly, It will increase the Value of our Lands.

By increasing Trade, which carries off our Superfluities, furnishes Employment, consequently a Livelihood for our Poor, and eases the Land of the Burden of maintaining them; increases the Stock of People, which of course increases the Demand for Necessaries and Materials of Manufacture, and the greater the Demand, the greater Price will the Produce of Lands bear; it is People that trade and bring in Money, and the more People there are in the Nation to do it, the more Money will be brought in, and the more Money the People have, the better Price will the Produce of Lands bear: In all Countries the natural Price of home Commodities is according to their Plenty, and the Proportion of Money that Trade circulates, and the more of it is circulating, the better Rent can the Farmers afford to give for the Lands; add to which, that it is People with Plenty of Money that improve Lands, and the more they are improved, the better Rents they bear

bear, which in Purchase increases the Value of Lands.

The Gradations from the Encouragement of Trade to the Benefit of Lands are solid and certain, *viz.* Whatever causes Trade employs the Poor, Employment increases the Stock of People, the Increase of employed People causes an Increase of Money, the Increase of Money causes the Value of Lands to rise. A Free-port is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the rest; therefore a Free-port is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Objections against a Free-Port having been made by *Joshua Gee*, an Author of good Credit for that reason must not be left unanswered; in his *Traet on Trade*, Page 165, he expresses himself thus:

‘ But to think it would be an Advantage for a trading Nation to admit all manner of foreign Commodities to be imported free from all Duties, is an unaccountable Notion, and still less suitable to the Circumstances of our Island than to the Continent; for we have no Inland Countries beyond us (as they have) with whom we may carry on Trade by Land; but what is of the utmost Consequence to us, is, that by laying high Duties we are always able to check the Vanity of our People in their extreme Fondness of wearing exotick Manufactures: For were it not for this Restraint, as our Neighbours give much less Wages to their Workmen than we do, and consequently can sell cheaper, the *Italians*, the *French*, and the *Dutch* would have continued to pour upon us their Silks, Paper, Hats, Druggets, Stuffs, Ratteens, and even *Spanish* Wool Cloths.’

To this the following Remarks may serve for Answer.

First, ‘ But to think it would be an Advantage for any

‘ any trading Nation to admit all manner of foreign Commodities to be imported free from all Duties, is an unaccountable Notion.’ I shall prove this Notion to be highly beneficial even from this same Author, who in page 164, says, ‘ the *Dutch* Duties are small, and the Nature of their Trade absolutely requires it,’ *And again,* ‘ They know very well, that if they should load their Imports with Duties, other trading Places would undersel them and ruin their Traffick that Way.’ The Duties on the Imports in *Holland* are a mere Trifle, the Nature of all Trade absolutely requires it, *viz.* not to be underfold. The *Dutch* know it, and by practising what they know, prevent the Ruin of their Trade; if this is an unaccountable Notion the Reader will judge from this same Author again, who, in Page 191, shews the Consequence of these wise Maxims in the following Words. ‘ As *Holland* is a Magazine or Collection of all the Products and Manufactures of the World, which they disperse all over *Europe*, the Merchants and Shopkeepers are every where their Debtors, and Money is brought them from almost all Countries.’ *Gee* here confesses that by their universal Storehouse, the *Dutch* have every where a Ballance in their Favour; and the Purport of his whole Book is to prove how greatly the Ballance of Trade lies against us: With what Consistency then can he argue against our adopting some of those wise Methods the *Dutch* take to procure themselves such Advantages?

Secondly, ‘ And still less suitable to the Circumstances of our Island than to the Continent; for we have no inland Countries beyond us (as they have) with whom we may carry on Trade by Land.’ But we have in our three Kingdoms a large populous Inland Country of our own (which
the

the *Dutch* have not) to supply with Necessaries and Materials in the cheapest manner, or else we raise the Prices of our Manufactures to the Prejudice of their Sale, besides the supplying our vast Possessions in *America*. But no Inland Trade can be compared to the Free-port Trade, any more than an Inland Country Town can be to the Sea-Ports of *London* and *Amsterdam*, or the Navigation of the *Rhine* and *Maes* to that of the *Baltick* or *Mediterranean*; for a Free Port must have a Finger in all the Trade of the World, even in all those Inland Continent Trades that *Gee* so much prizes, *viz.* by trading to and supplying the Sea-Ports that are the Inlets thereof in all Countries; and the cheaper we can come to Market, and with the best Assortments, which a Free-Port Trade only can effect, the more of that Inland-Continent Trade must we have, the more Vent for our Manufactures, and the greater Navigation.

Thirdly, ‘ But what is of the utmost Consequence to us, is, That by laying high Duties, we are always able to check the Vanity of our People in their extreme Fondness of wearing exotick Manufactures.’—*Gee* says, *We are always able, by high Duties, to check the Vanity of our People, &c.* The great *De Wit*, in his *Memoirs*, p. 170, says just the contrary. *For it is generally found, that these great and too excessive Customs fall of themselves; the Reason whereof is obvious, the higher the Duties, the more Profit by Smuggling. Extreme Fondness checked, naturally breaks out into Madness, which appears at Court every Gala Day in the Number of French Brocades and Trimmings then worn, when that Person is thought the happiest who hath the most and dearest French Fopperies. But what will put this Affair quite out of question, will be the Consideration of the Ballance of our Trade with France, (which shall be hereafter*

hereafter treated on;) if it is more in our favour than formerly, then *Gee's* Opinion will triumph, and the Efficacy of Restraints and high Customs appear: but if the reverse appears, we may safely conclude they have none.

Fourthly, For were it not for this Restraint.— In the *Memoirs of De Wit*, p. 34, it is said, that *Restraint is always hurtful to Trade*; the Reason whereof is plain, for Nature has given various Products to various Countries, and thereby knit Mankind in an Intercourse to supply each other's Wants: To attempt to sell our Products, but to buy little or none from Foreigners, is attempting an Impossibility, acting contrary to the Intent of Nature, cinically and absurdly; and, as ours is a populous manufacturing Country, highly prejudicial to our own Interest: For could we raise all Necessaries and Vanities within ourselves, this Intercourse designed by Nature would be destroyed; and then, how is a Navigation, our only Bulwark, to be maintained? To sell all, and buy none, is to have no Back-carriage, no Freights home; if so, this will raise the Freights outwards; a Vessel that makes but one Freight out and home, must make that one pay all the Wages, Wear and Tear, Charges, and Living-profit, consequently makes our Goods come dearer to Market, and naturally stops their Sales, by which in time Freights outwards would be as much wanted as Freights home, and our Trade must be destroyed. But where Freights are to be had out and home, they ease each other, consequently bring Goods cheaper to Market; and the encouraging our People by the utmost Freedoms in Trade, will enable them, by cheap Labour to carry all Manufactures we are naturally capable of to the utmost Height, and in them Foreigners could not hurt us, no Restraint being so effectual as cheap Prices; and to attempt
more

more is laying our People under Difficulties by Taxes to no purpose; as suppose, for Instance, we should take it into our Heads, in spite of all Taxes and Disadvantages, to make all our own Linens, and, in order to restrain the Importation of foreign Linens, put on them all the said Duties we lay on the *French*; well now, Money is to be saved to be sure! the Poor employed, and fine things done; but alas! this Restraint will not make our own Labour one Farthing cheaper, but the dearer; for our own Linen Manufactures having a Monopoly against the rest of the People, a vast Demand will certainly raise their Prices; but not being able to supply Quantities sufficient, some Foreign may pay the high Duties, some will be smuggled and sold cheaper than what pays Duties, but still dearer than before the laying on this additional Duty, which we will suppose to advance the Price of Linens to the People only 1 s. per Head. Is not this laying a Duty of 1 s. per Head on our Woollen, Silk, and Iron Manufactures, on our Sailors, on our Labourers of all sorts? certainly it is. Do the same in favour of Iron, it will prove a Tax on the rest, and so of any one of them. Do the same by them all, and they all tax one another, all raise each others Prices at foreign Markets, and stop their Sales; Foreigners gain upon us; we distress our whole Trade upon the Pretence of gaining a Single Branch, and this single Branch will grow still dearer, because it being a Burden on the Woollen, Silk, and Iron Manufactures, Sailors and Labourers, the Linen Manufactures will pay dearer for those Goods, pay dearer Freights, dearer for all Necessaries; it will be
Linen dearer to Woollen.
Woollen dearer to Linen.
Linen and Woollen dearer to Silk.

Silk dearer to Woollen and Linen.

Linen, Woollen, and Silk dearer to Iron.

Iron dearer to Silk, Woollen and Linen.

Linen, Woollen, Silk, and Iron dearer to Sailors.

Sailors dearer to Iron, Silk, Woollen and Linen.

Linen, Woollen, Silk, Iron, and Sailors, dearer to Labour.

Labour dearer to Sailors, Iron, Silk, Woollen and Linen.

The dearer our Linens grow, the more Foreigners will smuggle in upon us and stifle our Fabrick, all our Artifices will prove vain to maintain it, and, after injuring all our other Trades, find to our Cost, That nothing but Freedom can secure Trade.

By the above Account may be also seen, how prolifick the Mischiefs of our Restraints by Customs are to Trade; how our many Taxes on Commodities are oppressive; how they add an artificial Price to Goods; how our Country has grown universally dearer, without being richer; and how Foreigners ruin our Trade, who soon seeing thro' our mean Designs of engrossing every thing, grow angry, and stir up their Governments to distress us in their Turn by an Increase of Duty, which a little can effect; for as our Goods are already too dear, a small Addition makes them excessively so, or by easing their Trade, which we shamefully neglect. Has the Linen Manufacture in *England* increased by the Prohibition of *French* Linens and high Duties on *German, Dutch, and Flemish*? So far from it, that it is decreased by our dear Labour, Taxes, and Disadvantages; *Scotland* and *Ireland* attempt it with some Success by their cheap Labour, and when our People are eased of their Oppressions, so may we.

Besides,

Besides, the discouraging to a great Degree the use of Foreign Products by the Restraint of high Customs, is prejudicial, though the contrary is the common received Opinion, arising from a mean Selfishness that would let none live but itself; as for Instance, Suppose *Portugal* to take annually to the Value of 800,000*l.* of our Woollens, and pay it all in Wines, What is the Result of this? Why nothing more but that our rich People drink such an Amount of Woollens, which they would not consume otherwise; double the present Duty on that Wine, thinking that less would be drank, and we should drain *Portugal* of her Gold; see what would be the Consequence, only that the King of *Portugal* would raise the Duties on *English* Woollens, already too dear. Lower the Duties to the *French* and *Dutch*, 800,000*l.* per Annum would be uncirculated amongst us, the Price of Wool must sink, whereby the *French* and *Dutch* would get it easier to ruin the rest of our Trades; about 100,000 of our Poor would be deprived of a diligent Subsistence, and come upon the Parishes for an idle Maintenance, while perhaps at the same time *Portugal* Wine, by its Dearness, would become more fashionable, great Quantities would be drank and paid for with our Money, and instead of our draining the *Portuguese*, be drained by them.

Fifthly, 'As our Neighbours give much less Wages to their Workmen than we do, and consequently can sell cheaper, the *Italians*, the *French*, and the *Dutch*, would have continued to pour upon us their Silk, Paper, Hats, Druggets, Stuffs, Ratteens, and even *Spanish* wool Cloths.'

Gee would have done well to have pointed out the Reasons why our Neighbours give less Wages and consequently can sell cheaper, and since he has

has

has not done it, I shall attempt it. As the *Italians* are more remote and pay dearer Freights on their Goods to *England* than the *French* and *Dutch* our Neighbours, I shall confine myself wholly to the latter.

The Reason why the *French* work cheaper than we, is the Care their Government takes of not taxing many Necessaries of Life, or Materials of Manufacture, but that the Manufacturers shall be supplied with them in the cheapest Manner; whereby Necessaries bearing only their Natural Price, they can afford to work and sell cheaper than we; it is the Taxes that make the Difference. To prove this I shall quote the Author of the Pamphlet called *Observations on British Wool*, published in 1739, said to be wrote by a Person sent abroad by the Ministry to enquire into the State of the Woollen Manufactories among our Neighbours, and what Wooll was smuggled to them; he informs us in Page 8, 'That the *French* send vast Quantities of Stuffs, Stockings, &c. to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, and undersell us 10 or 12 per Cent. And in p. 21, The Reason that Goods are to be bought cheaper in *France* than in *England*, is 'because the Labour is $\frac{1}{3}$ cheaper there.' And he accounts for Labour's being $\frac{1}{3}$ cheaper there in p. 28; 'At *Lisle* the Magistrates have built a Storehouse, in a convenient part of the Town, ten Stories high; in the upper Rooms of it they lay Wheat, Rye, Barley; and in the Cellars they lay Wine, Oil, and Brandy: Those Goods are bought up when they are cheap, and so soon as the Markets are short and Goods begin to rise in the Price, then the Storehouse is opened to the Poor, that they may buy what they have occasion for at the old Market Price. This Storehouse was built since the woollen Manufactory hath so increased in this Town, in order to sup-

port

'port that *Fabrick*, which is a great Encouragement to the Manufacturers, and a Means to keep Labour low. All other things that are needful to the Poor are also cheap in Proportion, as Candles, Oil, Soap, &c.

Far from raising their Prices with Taxes, as we do, their Study is to make Necessaries cheap; and can we wonder that they beat us by 10 or 12 per Cent. in the Markets of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*?

Having shewn how the *French* run away with our Trade by reason of our heavy Taxes, I shall examine how the *Dutch*, though the most taxed in the Necessaries of Life of any People, beat us out of our Trade too, by stating the Disadvantages of an *English* woollen Manufacturer, and the Advantages of a *Dutch* one.

The Disadvantages of an *English* woollen Manufacturer are, 1. That he must buy Bread made of *English* Corn, though dearer than Foreign, whereby the Farmer has a Monopoly against the Manufacturer, and all Monopolies enhance the Prices of Goods. 2. He has no Drawback on his Corn. 3. He has no Drawback on his Malt. 4. He has no Drawback on his Leather. 5. He pays a Duty on his Coals of 10s. per Chaldron in *London*, and 5s. in the Out-Ports. 6 He must buy *English* Beef, Pork, Mutton, Lamb, and Butter, tho' he can have *Irish* cheaper, whereby the *Grazier* has a Monopoly against him, to make his Meat dear. 7. He must buy Fish caught by *British* Traders (except a few Sorts) though he can have it cheaper from the *Dutch*, *French*, &c. whereby the Fisherman has a Monopoly against him to make his Fish dear. 8. He must not buy Foreign Hats, Cloths, Stuffs, Stockings, or any coarse Woollens for his Use that are cheaper now than *English*, even though he could sell his own to greater Advantage than wearing them himself, whereby these several Branches have

have a Monopoly against each other, and the rest of the Nation, to make all sorts of Cloathing dear. 9. He must not buy *French* Linens for his Use, though ever so cheap, whereby the other Linen Countries have a Monopoly against him to make his Linen dear. 10. He must not buy for his Use foreign Shearmens Shears, Iron, or Tin Wares, though ever so cheap, whereby those Manufacturers have a Monopoly against him to make his Iron or Tin Wares dear. 11. He may not have several sorts of Goods imported for his Use bought at the cheapest Market, but only at the usual Port of Shipping (' Vide the Index to the Book of Rates, Goods Inwards,' Article 6.) whereby those Countries have a Monopoly against him to make those Goods dear. 12. He may not have those above Goods shipped at the cheapest Freights, but must be shipped on *British* Ships, or Ships of the Country, and at the usual Port of Shipping, whereby those Ships have a Monopoly against him to make those Goods still dearer. 13. He has heavy Customs to pay on the Oil and Soap he uses in manufacturing his Goods, which helps to advance their Dearness. 14. And lastly, He has long expensive Land-Carriages to pay to *London*, the chief Market for his Goods, the Navigation of our Rivers not being sufficiently improved.

A *Dutch* Woollen Manufacturer is in a Situation just the Reverse of this ; his Advantages are, 1. That he may buy always the cheapest Corn that can be got to make Bread, has no Corn Monopoly on him. 2. He has 5 s. per Quarter Drawback on *English* Wheat ; computing Freight, Charges, and Profit on it, at 3 s. per Quarter, he is fed by the *English* cheaper than their own People by 2 s. in every Quarter of Wheat. 3. He has 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter Drawback on *English* Malt, to make, if possible, his Drink come as cheap to him as in

England

England. 4. He has 1 d. per Pound Drawback on *English* Leather. 5. He has *British* Coals at 3 s. per Chaldron Duty, which is 2 s. cheaper than the Out-Ports, and 7 s. cheaper than the *Londoners*. 6. He may buy Beef, &c. in *Ireland*, or any Country where it can be had cheapest, has no Monopoly on him in this Case. 7. He may buy Fish of any that sell cheapest, has no Monopoly on him in this Case. 8. He may buy and wear the cheapest Woollens he can get from any Country ; and if he can buy Cloth for his Use at 4 s. per Yard, he will, provided he can sell his own of 5 s. per Yard Value with the usual Profit, no Branch of the Trade has a Monopoly against the rest of the People. 9. He may buy the cheapest Linens he can get, no Country has a Monopoly against him in this Case. 10. He may buy the cheapest Iron and Tin Wares he can get, has no Monopoly against him in this Case. 11. He may have all those Goods (specified in the ' Index to ' the Book of Rates in Article 6. of Goods Inwards') bought where cheapest, no Country having a Monopoly against him. 12. He may have all the above Goods shipped on the cheapest sailing Ships, no Shipping having a Monopoly against him. 13. He has Customs so light, that they are a mere Trifle, has not the Prices of his Goods raised by the heavy Customs on his Oil and Soap. 14. He has cheap Water-Carriage almost every where.

I shall now prove, that was our Trade quite free, no Nation could hurt our Staple, the Woollen Manufacture, and that if Cheapness pours in Goods to a Country, we should do it on the *French* and *Dutch*, instead of they on us ; consequently that *Gee's* Objection is void.

By

By the abovementioned Observations on *British Wool*, we find that the *French* can send to *Spain*, *Portugal*, or *Italy*, 50 Stuffs that shall now cost in *England* 100*l.* cheaper by 10 or 12 *per Cent.* say 12 *per Cent.* cheaper, or at

In Page 64, I have proved that above half the present Value of our Woollen Goods is fictitious, that our Taxes, Monopolies, and Ill-judged Laws advance the natural Value of our Woollen Goods above 104 *per Cent.* and that the true natural Value of 100*l.* worth of Woollen Goods at present is but 49 *l.*

So that were our Taxes, Monopolies, and Ill-judged Laws removed, 50 Stuffs that now cost 100 *l.* might be sent to Market at

£ 88

49

The Difference is £ 39

39 *l.* charged by *French* or *Dutch* Taxes and natural Disadvantages on 49 *l.* is an Advance of almost 80 *per Cent.* on the *English* Price.

Therefore the *French* and *Dutch*, who now beat us by 10 or 12 *per Cent.* might be beat by us excessively; they could not sell Woollens at any foreign Market until all ours are sold, much less pour them in here to ruin our Manufactories, as *Gee* imagined; but the rest of their Trade must decline greatly wherever we came in competition with them, and where would be the Nation in *Europe* that could hurt us?

By this it appears, that it is only our ill Regulations of our Trade that give these Nations any Advantages against us.

These

These Taxes and Disadvantages are the Causes of the Decline of our Woollen Manufactory; the only way to restore it is by removing them.

These Taxes and Disadvantages are the Causes of the Smuggling of our Wool; the only way to prevent it is by removing them; and until they are removed, it will be in vain to think of monopolizing the Manufacture of it by Registries or idle Schemes, made in Restraint of the Effects, without taking away the Causes.

Silks and Paper are still poured in upon us, and the boasted Benefit to the Woollen Trade by Restraints at present is a Farce; for as our foreign Demand declines, our People naturally turn all their Stocks to supply the Home-Consumption, until it is so over glutted that great Quantities have been sold for less than they cost making, or at *French* Prices, which must break an over-taxed *Englishman*. Our People manufacture neater than any in Felt and Wool, so that foreign Hats, Cloths, &c. being ill made, suit not the *English* Taste; for which reason, if it should take ten Years time to break the Remainder of our Clothiers, their Stocks would sell so cheap that the *French* could do very little during that time; but afterwards, by getting some of our fugitive Manufacturers to improve their own People, and underselling us so vastly, they will run Woollen Goods as much as they do Teas and Brandies now, and reduce us to the State we were formerly in with respect to *Flanders*, viz. they to buy our raw Wool, and return it us in Manufactures improved to three times its first Value.

Two more Objections may be made.

First, That it seems contrary to Reason to take off the Duties or Prohibitions on the Goods of any Nation that will not do the same by ours.

Secondly. That the Ballance against us with *France* must increase by taking off the Duties on *French* Goods.

To the first Objection I answer, That with regard to Duties, it is already proved they destroy Trade, and constant Experience shews us that Free Ports increase it. If other Nations will destroy their Trade, ours must rise upon their Ruins; and would it not be absurd for us to refuse, by a contrary Conduct, to increase ours? If our Enemies will commit such Follies, why should we? or rather, could we wish them to do worse?

Nothing makes a Country's Goods so cheap as a Free Port, consequently the fewer foreign Goods would be consumed here; more might be imported to lay by for better Markets, the Profits on which must enrich us; for the cheaper our Goods are, the greater Vent they will have; and the higher the Duties Foreigners lay on them, the more will be smuggled upon them.

Besides, those Nations that are our Rivals in Trade, and persist in keeping high Customs on our Goods, persist also in refusing to make their Country an Universal Storehouse, deny their People the Advantage of it, and force their Customers to buy at other Markets, those Goods they lay high Customs on to prevent their coming in. If a Mercer, being a Weaver, should refuse to admit into his Shop, Damasks, because he did not make them, and think thereby to improve the Vent of his other Silks, he would soon find his Mistake, for his Customers that went to other Places for Damasks, would be importuned and induced, if only to save themselves trouble, to buy other Silks they wanted at the same Time. The *British Merchant*, Vol. 3, p. 238, remarks, 'that it is natural for us to buy every thing we want at the Shop where we are obliged to buy any thing.' And would it not be strange if another Mercer, being also a Weaver, should be angry with such a Man, and refuse to admit into his Shop the other's Satins, because

because he refused to admit his Damasks, and thereby drive away his Trade to those general Traders that were wise enough to improve upon their Errors, by admitting every thing that could be sold with Profit? The Case is the same with Nations.

Customs on foreign Goods hurt ourselves more than Foreigners, though our false Notions of Trade make us think the contrary, by confining our Thoughts to the Seller, without regarding the Buyer, who being our own Subject, should be the Person most considered: As for Example, in the Case of *Spanish Oil*; we have laid a Duty on it; no doubt to retaliate on the *Spaniards* the Duties they lay on our Woollens; but whom does our Duty affect? not the *Spaniard*, it cannot hurt him; for he being paid for his Oil, he parted with his Property in it, and has nothing more to do with it: But it is the *English Merchant*, whose Property on Payment, this Oil becomes, and which might be called *English Oil*, for such in reality it then is; he is cramped by this Duty, part of his Capital in Trade is taken away to pay it, the Interest of which, and Officers Fees in and out, make the Oil too dear to export, he is not allowed that Profit, he must sell at home, and must shift the Load from his Shoulders on the Manufacturer, who uses it, and he on the Consumer, whereby our Goods are rendered dearer, and less capable of Exportation.

Here is a Duty on a foreign Commodity indeed, but to be paid by our own People; 'tis their Feet are intangled in the Net laid for the *Spaniards*.

With regard to a Prohibition, this acknowledges the Goods it is laid on to be good and cheap, otherwise it were needless; for what Trader will buy bad or dear Goods if he can get better or cheaper, and they must be necessary, otherwise they would not be demanded, consequently would

not be imported; for who will import Goods where there is no Demand?

A Prohibition on the Goods of any one Nation gives a Monopoly to other Nations that raise the like Growths; thus the Prohibition on *Spanish* Oil gives a Monopoly to *Galipoly*, all Monopolies raise the Prices of Goods; thus *Galipoly* Oil, that before our *Spanish* Prohibition was sold for 15 to 16 Ducats the Salm, is thereby raised to 26 and 27 Ducats; and the same must be the Case with all other Sorts of Goods used instead of *Spanish*, whereby the Merchants Profit on the advanced Price, and that of the several Tradesmen whose Hands these Goods pass through, must further enhance their Price vastly to the Consumer; which since my making this Remark, hath been verified by a Petition of the Clothiers of *Stroud-Water* (and of most of our Clothing Towns) presented to the House of Commons, *Feb. 2, 1742.* complaining that since the Prohibition the Price of Oil is advanced from no less than 26*l.* to 60*l.* a Ton.

But it will be objected that on the Declaration of War, *Spain* prohibited our Goods.

To which I answer, That heavy Taxes with many other Difficulties are the Consequences of War, and in a time of such a general Calamity, is it not absurd to distress our Trade in making our People buy bad or dear Goods of Foreigners, by a Prohibition against any one Nation, which other Nations having the like Commodities, take the Advantage of and raise their Prices upon us? Is not this adding an unnecessary Tax upon our People, whereby they grow sooner impoverished and unable to support a War? If the *Spaniards*, will commit such Blunders, why should we imitate them?

Trade cannot, will not be forced, let other Nations prohibit by what Severities they please, Interest

Interest will prevail; they may Embarrass their own Trade but cannot hurt a Nation whose Trade is free, so much as themselves. *Spain* has prohibited our Woollens, but had a Reduction of our Taxes brought them to their natural Value only, they would be the cheapest in *Europe* of their Goodness, consequently must be more demanded by the *Spaniards*, be smuggled into their Country in spite of their Government, and sold at better Prices; their People would be dearer clothed with Duties and Prohibitions than without, consequently must sell their Oil, Wine, and other Commodities dearer, whereby other Nations raising the like Growths would gain Ground upon them, and their Ballance of Trade grow less and less: But should we for that Reason prohibit their Commodities? By no means, for the dearer they grow, no more than what are just necessary will be used; their Prohibition does their own Business, some may be necessary, what are so, we should not make dearer to our own People; some may be proper to assort Cargoes for other Countries, and why should we prohibit our People that Advantage? why hurt ourselves to hurt the *Spaniards*? If we would retaliate effectually upon them for their Ill-intent, a handsome Bounty given to our Plantations to raise the same Growths as *Spain*, might enable them in time to supply us cheaper than the *Spaniards* could do, and establish a Trade they could never recover. Bounties may gain Trade, but Prohibitions will destroy it; of which let the following Example suffice.

‘ Portugal being united to Spain in the Reign of
 ‘ Philip the II*d.* during the Revolt of the Dutch,
 ‘ Puffendorf in Page 78 of his Introduction to the
 ‘ History of Europe tells us, That Philip being intent
 ‘ upon reducing of the Netherlands, thought that
 ‘ nothing could do it more effectually than to stop
 ‘ their

‘ their Trade and Commerce with *Spain* and *Portugal*, for hitherto the *Dutch* had traded no further, being used to fetch away their Commodities from thence, and to convey them into the more northern Parts of *Europe*. Upon this Consideration *Philip* concluded that if this way of getting Money were once stopped, they would quickly grow poor, and thereby be obliged to submit. But this Design had a quite contrary Effect, for the *Hollanders* themselves being excluded Trade with *Spain* and *Portugal*, tried about the end of the latter Age to sail to the East Indies, and as soon as they had got Footing there they greatly impaired the *Portuguese* Trade, who hitherto had been the sole Managers of it, and afterwards took from them one Port after another. And the *English* with the Assistance of *Abbas* King of *Persia*, forced from them the famous City of *Ormus*: Nor was this all, for the *Hollanders* took from them a great part of *Brazil* and several Places on the Coast of *Africa*, which the *Hollanders*, in all probability, would have had no reason to attempt if *Portugal* had remained a Kingdom by itself, and had not been annexed to *Spain* i. e. *If no Prohibition had happened.*’

Second Objection. That the Ballance against us with *France* must increase by taking off the Duties on *French* Goods.

Answer: Here Experience can decide by comparing the Difference of the Ballance against us when we had a Free-Trade formerly, and the present times, when most Sorts of *French* Goods are loaded with such high Duties as to amount to a Prohibition.

No Person who has read the *British Merchant* will say that he is a partial Author in favour of the Answer to this Objection.

In

In Vol. III. Page 106, he says, ‘ The stated Maxim among Merchants to know whether the Trade be for or against us, is to have recourse to the Course of Exchange, it is a Nicety many of our Merchants are themselves unacquainted with, yet as the Exchange holds the Ballance of Trade, so as that is for us or against us, it immediately decides the Point.’

‘ If the Exchange be above the Par of the Money of the Country we trade with, it is a plain Argument that the Ballance is on their side, for no Man will bring Silver from a Country when the Exchange is more favourable than the Coin.’

The Author of the *Political Reflexions on the Commerce and Finances of France* elegantly calls the Exchange the Barometer of Commerce.

In the Year 1683, it appears by the *British Merchant* Vol. I. p. 332, that though there was a Prohibition, yet he tells us in p. 338, *The Court hindered the Execution of it.* Dr. *Tancred Robinson* the Physician, shewed me a *Memorandum* he made in that Year, on his setting out for *Paris*, viz. for 60*l.* Sterling paid in *London*, he received a Bill of Exchange on *Paris* for 259 Crowns 1 Livre.

The *British Merchant* in Vol. III. p. 118, informs us, *the Par of the Exchange was 54*d.* Sterling for the old French Crown*: Therefore he should have paid only 58 *l.* 7 *s.* for 259 Crowns 1 Livre, consequently the Exchange was in the Disfavour of *England*, not quite

3 per Cent

In the Year 1686. the Prohibition being quite taken off, the *British Merchant* Vol. I. p. 318, informs us, *the Exchange was at 56*d.* per Crown* the Par as above being 54*d.* the Exchange

was in the Disfavour of England
about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent.

In the Year 1729, the French Goods having been loaded ever since King William the Third's Reign, with such high Duties on most Articles, as amount to a Prohibition, by *Castaign's* Paper of March 28, the Exchange was at $32. \frac{1}{2}$ per Ecu Fournois

By Sir Isaac Newton's Table of Assays, Weights, &c. of Foreign Coins, published by Willcock in 1740. the Par is 29d. 149 Dec. was in the Disfavour of England above 11 per Cent.

In the Year 1740, by *Castaign's* Paper of Feb. 3, the Exchange was at 32d. $\frac{1}{2}$. The Par, as above, was in the Disfavour of England almost 12 per Cent.

By the Custom-house Books our Imports from France in 1686, exceeded our Exports, as by the <i>British Merchant</i> , Vol. I. p. 305.	l.	s.	d.
	769,190	16	0
He adds for Goods clandestinely imported, p. 306.	428,139	16	9

Total over-balance that Year. £ 1,197,330, 12 9

The *British Merchant* says above, ' That the Exchange holds the Ballance of Trade, so as that is for us or against us, it immediately decides the Point.' By the *so as* he must mean proportionably, that is, that the Exchange is affected by the Ballance of Trade, agreeable to the French Author above, as the Quicksilver in the Barometer is by the Atmosphere. As no Man, that understands Trade, can deny this Truth, I shall leave

leave it to the Curious to determine, what proportion an Over-balance that affects the Exchange almost 12 per Cent. must bear to one of 1,197,330l. 12 s. 9 d. that affected it only about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent.

France takes from Britain Wool, Corn, Dye-Stuffs, Hard-wares, and Tobacco in great Quantities, some India Goods, Tin, Lead, Ships, Horses &c

But since France is increased in the Woollen Manufacture, in Navigation, and in Sugar-planting, she takes vast Quantities of Wool and Provisions from Ireland, to improve her Manufactures, victual her Ships, and supply her Colonies, which amount to vast Sums Yearly; and though these Articles are vastly increased, yet still the Ballance of Trade cannot be brought in our Favour; Prohibitions and high Duties have made it vastly more Disadvantageous to us than in the Times of a Free-Trade, the Difference in the Exchanges being 12 to 3.

As the general Interest of the Nation, with respect to our Trade, seems to have hitherto been little understood, let us examine the French Trade a little further.

Our great Dealings with this French Shop formerly, were occasioned by its Cheapness, (an excellent Cause) and its being near us occasioned cheap Carriage, (better and better) and though the French had a great Ballance against us (it could not be the half of what it is now) yet other Nations had the less; but Party-Prejudice running high against the French King's ambitious Designs, in King Charles the Second and King William the Third's time; and this Ballance being considered abstractedly, without any View to our general Trade; an inconsiderate Zeal hurried our Ancestors into the Scheme of distressing the French King by Prohibitions and high Customs on his Goods,

not considering the Hurt we should thereby do ourselves, and without ever effectually putting in motion those Means that were practicable to ease our own Trade, so that we only dispersed, during our last Wars, our Trade to dearer Nations; we bought dearer *German* and *Dutch* Linens, dearer *Italian* and *Dutch* Silks, Paper, &c. as if it was better to pay those Nations 15 or 18 *d.* for what the *French* would sell for 1 *s.* distressing our People by dear Prices and thereby draining us of our Money the faster; for such large Quantities of cheap *French* Goods as were consumed here, being prohibited made the Demand greater for the *Dutch*, *German*, and *Italian* dearer Goods, giving them at the same time a Monopoly against ourselves, which made them raise their Prices on us still higher. One would be apt to think that our Fore-fathers had a mind to drive all the Money out of the Nation. For God's sake! let us have Wit in our Anger, and not pay dear Prices to pretended Friends when Enemies will sell us cheaper; let us befriend ourselves a little, by saving our Money, which is the Life of Trade and the Sinews of War; let us keep this Power in our own Hands, to command Weight and Respect from our Neighbours, not squander it away to them, and be forced to court the Assistance of those we give Power to, and sometimes even court in vain; so much for Times of War.

But in times of Peace the Smuggling-Trade goes on easier, high Duties are Temptations that promote it, Ministers of State may be bribed to brow-beat or discharge Officers for doing their Duty; Goods that in a Free-Trade cost but 100 *l.* being charged with 50 *per Cent.* Duty, a Smuggler will sell for 120 or 125 *l.* for the Risk must be paid for, though the Duties are saved; so that even the Smuggling-Trade costs us more than a Free-Trade,
and

and may perhaps be one of the Reasons that the Exchange with *France* is much against us: Whereas had our Country been made a Free-Port in King *Charles* the Second's time, and all Taxes laid on the Consumers of Luxuries, the *French* themselves during the last Wars with *England*, would have fled from Misery at home, to a Country that by its Freedom from Taxes and Ease in Trade, seemed to invite the Establishment of all Manufactures, our Ballance to *France* could not have arose to that destructive Height it is now at, nor had the *French* ever made the Figure in Trade they now do.

The Courses of the Exchanges are Facts notorious to People conversant in Trade; upon those Facts I rest my Arguments, in answer to the above Objection; by which it appears plainly, that a Free-Port Trade would lessen the Ballance against us, even with *France*; agreeable to the Author of the *Britannia Languens*; who in p. 281, says, 'Now if we look back to the Grounds and Reasons of the Decay of our *English* Trade, we shall find them to be no other than our own ill Constitutions in Trade, which are not a bit remedied by the *French* Prohibition, and therefore will prevent any Advantage we might, perhaps, otherwise receive from it. And in p. 268, 'Should we suppose that it (*i. e.* the Prohibition) would restore the Ballance, nay, that it should render the National Trade of *England* somewhat beneficial, yet it must be confessed, that a complete Regulation of our Trade, would render it prodigiously more beneficial, (perhaps more than all the Trade of *Europe* besides) considering how our Advantages in Trade would reduce the Trade of our neighbouring Nations, as ours does improve.'

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding what has been said in favour of a Free-port, such strong Prejudices against a Free Trade with *France*, have been raised by most of our late Authors on this Subject, that few People have any but frightful Ideas of it. The *British Merchant*, a Work in great Reputation, has brought heavy Objections against a Trade with *France*; the Strength of which, it may not be improper to examine, In Vol. I. p. 12 he says;

I.

‘ Goods imported to be re-exported, is certainly a national Advantage; but few or no *French* Goods are ever exported from *Great Britain*, except to our Plantations, but are all consumed at home, therefore no Benefit can be reaped this way by the *French* Trade.

II.

‘ Letting Ships to Freight cannot but be of some Profit to a Nation, but it is very rare if the *French* ever make use of any other Ships than their own; they victual and man cheaper than we, therefore nothing is to be got from them by this Article.

III.

‘ Things that are of absolute Necessity cannot be reckoned prejudicial to a Nation, but *France* produces nothing that is necessary, or even convenient, but which we had better be without.’

Each of these Objections is introduced with a general Maxim which the *French* Trade is asserted to be inconsistent with, and if understood according to the present or then State of our Trade, are founded

founded in Truth; so that I would not be thought by the following Remarks to reflect on the Authors of the *British Merchant*, for seasonably opposing our engaging in Trade with the *French* on unequal Terms during our present ill Regulations. But these Objections are founded only on those ill Regulations, for they otherwise have no Weight, and will fall to the ground when they are removed, so that they affect not an *English*, untaxed Free-Port Trade with *France*, which I shall endeavour to prove, and shall farther confirm by proving, That had our Trade no Incumbrance on it, a Trade with *France* must be beneficial.

To the first Objection, I answer, That it can proceed only from our ill Regulations of our Trade; for high Customs prevent Merchants engrossing in cheap Times, the Duties running away with great Part of their Capitals, the Interest of Money lying dead for Duties, is such a Charge as no Trade can bear that is rivalled by People free from such Clogs: besides, great Part of the Duties on *French* Goods are not repaid on Exportation, so that it is impossible to send them to any Market but our Plantations; our Monopolies and Ill-judged Laws that make Navigation dear, prevent our giving that Vent to the *French* Goods which the *Dutch* are capable of doing, though they have not the natural Advantages that we have, and they cherish this Trade that we condemn as one of their best Branches, being a great Support of their Navigation. According to the Representation of the Body of Merchants to the *French* King in 1658, a Copy whereof was sent to the *States-General* by their Ambassador *Boreel*, the Exports of *France* to *Holland* and *England* (Vide *Memoires*

An ESSAY on the Causes of the
 moires de De Wit. p. 211. the *British Merchant*, Vol,
 2, p. 232.) amounted to 30 Millions of Crowns ma-
 king £ 6,750,000

The *British Merchant*,
 Vol. 1, p.
 306, makes our
 Imports from
 France in
 1686, by the
Custom-House
Accounts, a-
 mount to £ 1,284,419 10 03

To which
 he adds of
 himself, for
Goods elande-
stinely import-
ed, 428,139 16 09

But to leave
 no room for
 Cavil in Vol.
 2, p. 238,
 he publishes
 an *Account of*
Mr. Fortrey's
which made our
Imports from
France amount
 yearly to, 2,600,000 00 00

£ 4,312,559 07 00
 The Medium of which two Ac-
 counts is 2,156,279 13 06

Which being deducted, the
 Remainder must be the *Dutch*
 imports, amounting to £ 4,593,720 06 06
 De

De Wit, in his *Memoirs*, p. 211, says, *The great-
 est part of the French Exports are for Holland*; the
 above Account verifies it; and in Page 214, he
 says, *That the Dutch consume and sell almost all the
 Wine, and Salt that go out of France*; and in Page
 213, he says, *It is certain that the French gain every
 Year upon the Dutch above 30 Millions of Money, be-*
besides the Goods they send to France; these I take to be
 Livres making 10 Millions of Crowns at 54 d. is
 2,250,000l.

The *Dutch* cannot consume that Quantity of
French Goods, for if they did, they could not
 have a Shilling left in the Country with such an
 immense yearly Over-balance for near a Century;
 therefore the Bulk of these Imports must be for
 Re-exportation, which the Objection says is cer-
 tainly a National Advantage; this the *Dutch*
 know, and feel the Sweets of, for they were so
 far from being, like us, frightened at the Amount
 of the Imports, or the Over-balance above, though
 vastly superior to ours, that neither the last *French*
 War, nor the Intreaties of their Allies, could
 persuade them to prohibit that Trade; nay, they
 are grown excessively rich with double the Impor-
 tation that we thought would beggar us. Such
 clear Perceptions have the *Dutch* of Trade, and
 that Foundation of it, *Freedom*: Such Enemies
 are they to Prohibitions, or to give any Foreign-
 ers Monopolies against them, or to pay dearer to
 Friends for what Enemies will sell them cheaper.
 Therefore as the *Dutch* reap a Benefit by this
 Trade, much more may the *English*, whose Na-
 tural Advantages, if disencumbered, are greater
 than theirs.

To the Second I answer, It is notorious that
 foreign Ships frequent the *French Ports* and take
 in Ladings, some of which I presume are for
French Account; but that we can get nothing
 from

from them by Freight, because they victual and man cheaper than we, can arise only from our ill Regulations in Trade, for our natural Advantages are superior to these in Navigation.

In the Shipping-Article the *French* are deficient, and forced to buy of us to a large Amount yearly.

In the Victualling-Article the *French* are deficient, and forced to buy in *Ireland* to a large Amount yearly.

These Articles bring some Profit to our own People, and are attended with some Charges in their Transportation to the *French*, consequently are enhanced in Price to them.

By our Bounties we furnish the *French* with Wheat for Biscuit at about 2s. per Quarter cheaper than our own People. *Vide p. 120*

That the *French* man cheaper than we, I doubt, though they pass less Wages; for not being so expert as we, they are forced to put more Hands on board their Ships, whereby their, Expences are enhanced by additional Wages and Consumption of Stores: to which add the Advance of Insurance they are forced to pay, no Insurer in general will under-write on *French* Ships for so low Præmiums as on *English*.

Before the Prohibition of *Irish* Provisions, we victualled cheaper than any People, and sold to both *French* and *Dutch*, and was that Monopoly, with our Taxes and Bounties, taken off, we should be in the same State as before, consequently victual cheaper than either.

As Customs and Excises enhance the Prices of Necessaries, they make all Victualling and Stores come dearer to our Owners of Ships.

As Customs and Excises enhance the Prices of Necessaries, they oblige the Sailor to demand high Wages to support himself and Family.

We

We have more Sailors than the *French*, as appears by the Lists of Ships at foreign Ports, consequently should navigate cheaper; for it is a Maxim in Trade, *The greater Plenty of Hands, the lower the Wages.*

But this Benefit we defeat by our Navigation-Act which gives the Sailors a Monopoly against our Merchants, so that on the least Spurt of Trade they extort excessive Wages.

Let these ill Regulations be removed, and will any one say that the People who are Buyers of Ships, and Victuals for them, can navigate cheaper than the Sellers? that the People who put the most Hands on Board, and pay a high Insurance, can navigate cheaper than those that put few Hands on Board, and can be insured the cheapest of any People? that a Nation that has a less Number of Sailors can navigate cheaper than another that has a greater? that a People that pay arbitrary Taxes can navigate cheaper than those that pay no Taxes at all? it cannot be.

As no People by their Natural Advantages can navigate so cheap as we, so no People are enabled to give such a Vent to their Growths, Manufactures and Imports as we, and those Nations that would give theirs the same Vent must employ our Shipping, or Trade to Disadvantage: therefore we can force the *French* either to give us Freights, or ruin their Trade, either of which must lessen their Navigation, Riches and Power, and increase ours.

To the Third I answer, These very Authors, in Page 15, reckon, that had the Duties on French Goods been lowered according to the Stipulations in the Treaty of Commerce made at Utrecht, our annual Consumption of French Linens would have been 600,000*l*: being the greatest Amount of any one Article; this Objection therefore is a Mistake, occasioned

occasioned by an over Zeal; for it appears by the same Authors, Vol. I p. 283, that we used to import from France several necessary Articles, such as Prunes, Salt, Soap, Thread, &c.

I believe I need not prove Linens to be either necessary or convenient, since nobody can deny it, therefore France produces something that we want, and until we can gain the Manufacture of it ourselves (which the removing the Clogs on our Trade only can effect) highly necessary to be bought where cheapest, which I presume by the Quantities imported, and the Prohibition, to have been in France, otherwise the Prohibition had been needless; and if we raise the Price of French Linens by Customs to exceed other Foreign that are dearer, I have proved in Page 115 that we distress our whole Trade; and in p. 101 that by a Free-Port Trade we must gain the Manufacture, at least for our Consumption.

I come now to a bold Attempt, and what at first View will startle most People, and that is to prove, that were all our Taxes, Monopolies, and Ill-judged Laws removed, or, in other Words, if our Trade had no Incumbrance on it, but was quite free, that then our Trade to France must be beneficial.

The Authors of the *British Merchant*, writing against the Treaty of Commerce made with France at *Utrecht*, compute, that had the Duties on French Goods been lowered according to those Stipulations, we should have paid to France yearly for

	£
Wine,	450,000
Brandy,	10,000
Linen,	600,000
Paper,	30,000
Silks,	500,000

£ 1,650,000
Let

Let us examine how much of this Sum we should pay if our Trade was quite free.

As to the Wine-Article, I agree, that being the most esteemed of any in Europe, our Importation might even exceed that Sum, but great Part of it would be reduced by our Re-exportation; for our natural Advantages being greater than the Dutch, we should give those Wines a greater Vent than they were yet able to do, and be the common Carriers of them, by which means our Profits and Freights would make our own Consumption come very easy, easier than ever it was to Holland; but to avoid all Objection, I will allow for that Expence the above Sum of 450,000l.

As to the Brandy-Article, that could not cost us any thing; for as our Rum can be imported cheaper, and is more wholesome, our Consumption would be chiefly that, so the Brandies imported would be chiefly for Re-exportation; for which Reason I cannot help thinking but the Profits and Freights must greatly exceed our Consumption in Value.

But there is one Consideration that will reduce this Wine-Article, and that is, That as it is not a perishable Commodity, we should hoard up in cheap Times vast Quantities, and when the Markets were advanced by bad Seasons, or other Accidents, make extraordinary Profits by the Stocks we had by us, which besides would be a great Benefit to our Navigation.

As to the Linen, Paper, and Silk-Articles, them I strike out entirely, for by the Encouragement of our Trade we must gain those Manufactures, as is proved in p. 100; and for the same Reasons we must gain the Indigo and Cambrick Trades.

Therefore

Therefore all these mighty consumptive Importations are reduced only to the Wine-Article above of

£ 450,000

In Vol. 1. p. 15, the Authors of the *British Merchant* compute our yearly Exports to *France* on the Peace at only

£ 200,000

Whereas in p. 305, by a Custom-house Accompt they publish, viz. from Michaelmas 1685 to Michaelmas 1686, (in which are wanting the *Michaelmas Quarter for Deal, Dartmouth, Whitby, and Milford*) our Exports amounted to

515,228

N. B. In this Account there is no mention either of the Wool or Ship-Articles; the Corn-Article amounts but to 14285l. 8s. the Hard-ware, under the Heads of Wrought-Iron, Clock-work, and Nails, amounts but to 1646l. 12s. 6d. and the Tobacco but to 2793l. 9s. 2d.

In Vol. 2, p. 238, they quote Mr. *Fortrey*, who makes our annual Exports amount to

1,000,000

£ 1,715,228

The Medium whereof is £ 571,742

The *Dutch* cannot be supposed to export less of their *French* Imports

than

Brought over £ 571,742

than the Amount of what *De Wit* says the Over-balance of *France* is on them, viz. 2,250,000l. which is a very moderate Computation, for it makes their annual Consumption far superior to whatever *England's* was proved to be, and must be a great deal too much for that frugal People; now the Freights, Charges, and Profits paid the *Dutch* on that Re-exportation cannot be less than 10 per Cent. amounting to 225,000l. clear Gain to *Holland* by that Trade.

As the Natural Advantages of *Britain* far exceed those of *Holland*, as appears p. 73, so by a Free-Port Trade we cannot be supposed to give a less Vent to our *French* Imports than the *Dutch* did, or with less Profit, therefore we may safely add to our Exports the Gain *Holland* received by Re-exporting *French* Goods, amounting annually to

225,000

£ 796,742

From that must be deducted the Wine-Article above, amounting to

450,000

Therefore the annual Benefit to *Britain* from *France* by a Free-Port Trade must be at least

£ 346,742

Our Goods are so well manufactured that their Neatness recommends them every where, nothing obstructs them but their dear Price; but was their fictitious Value once taken off, they would come cheaper than ever they yet were, so that our Exports to *France* would naturally increase, and might

might exceed even Mr. *Fortrey's* Computation of 1 Million *per Ann.* As we beat the *French* out of foreign Markets their Manufactures must decay, and of course they will want the greater Supply from us; if they prohibit them by high Duties they put themselves in the Case of the *Spaniards*, p. 127.

Here is, I think, Demonstration to those that will open their Eyes, that *Great-Britain*, by disencumbering and making its Trade quite free, cannot be hurt by *France*, much less by any other Power in *Europe*, but must of necessity hold the first Rank in Trade.

But now perhaps it will be said, This favours of *French* Designs, this Author is a concealed *Frenchman*, the *French* are already too powerful, we must take care.

To this I answer, That *Britain* should be always vigilant over the Designs of *France*, but need not be afraid of her Power; her wise Regulations in Trade should be the Objects we should keep our Eyes upon, and out-do her in if possible, or else as she rises we must sink; but it is our Comfort that our Remedy is always in our own Hands; nor can there be any solid Reason for the Nation's paying dearer to other Countries for Goods we could buy cheaper in *France*: Would any wise Dealer in *London* buy Goods of a *Dutch* Shopkeeper for 15 or 18 *d.* when he could have the same from a *French* Shopkeeper for 1 *s.* would he not consider that by so doing he should empty his own Pockets the sooner, and that in the end he would greatly injure his Family by such Whims? And shall this Nation commit an Absurdity that stares every private Man in the Face? Do our good Friends, the *Dutch*, commit such a Blunder in favour of us? They know their own Interest too well, and have too good Notions

tions of Trade to do it. The present Power of *France* is indeed great, her Dominions in *Europe* are bigger and more populous by at least $\frac{1}{3}$ than ours; but as her Naval Force cannot match the half of what we have, our Situation makes us the only one of her Neighbours that need not fear her; besides, her People are not in proportion so rich, her Colonies not so extensive and populous as ours: But the certain way to be secure, is to be more powerful, that is, to extend our Trade as far as it is capable of; and as Restraints have proved its Ruin, to reject them, and depend on Freedom for Security, bidding Defiance to the *French* or any Nation in *Europe* that took Umbrage at our exerting our Natural Advantages. Before these Taxes we were more powerful, why not so again? It is our own Fault if we are not. By the *British Merchant*, Vol. 2. p. 232, the Exports of *France* in 1658, according to *De Wit*, were £ 6,750,000

And in p. 314, the Exports of *England* in 1699 were 6,788,000
To which we may add the Value of the four Branches of Trade gained by a Free-Port, *vide* p. 108, besides the other Benefits not enumerated, 9,000,000

£ 15,788,000

Suppose the *French* to have now doubled their Trade of 1658, we can not only double the Value of ours of 1699, but more, as appears above: Besides, the Progress we should make in *Europe* and in the *East-Indies* by a Free Trade, and the vast Improvements our Colonies in *America* are capable of, must increase the Demand for our Manufactures beyond what was ever known. Let all these be duly considered, with the vast Strength of our Navy,

Navy, and the Fear of the *French* Power must vanish like a Phantom. *Imperator maris terræ Dominus*, is a Proverb applied by *De Wit* in his *Memoires* to a King of *England*; let us examine whether this Remark on our Power will hold good at this time. If *France* now gives Laws by Land, *Britain* can now do it by Sea; and in a little time the Sea will command the Land, for our Men of War can destroy their Ships, ravage their Coasts, batter down their Forts, and burn down their Sea-Port Towns; this must ruin their Trade, as Trade goes so must their Money, and when the Money is gone, the Armies cannot be supported, they must be drawn from the Countries they invade, or they will desert rather than perish with Hunger for want of Pay. Had we pushed on the late War only by our Fleets, we should have given quicker Relief to our Allies, saved our Money, prevented a Load of Debts, and soon brought the War to a Conclusion; for the strong Towns which we took in *Flanders*, with so much Expence of Blood and Treasure, must have been abandoned by the *French* Troops for want of Pay, want of Ammunition and Provision, and have fallen into our Allies Hands without striking a Stroke, or making only such a faint Resistance as the Queen of *Hungary's* unpaid Troops and unprovided Towns did before we granted her a Subsidy. We have never yet exerted our natural Naval Force; had the *French* ever felt the full Weight of it, they would be more humble, they would not dare so wantonly to invade our Allies on the Continent, for fear of drawing down our Vengeance upon them.

If any *Englishman* should be so vapourish as to doubt whether Trade and Navigation can effect this, I desire him only to consider what a few *Dutch* Fishing towns were enabled thereby to do in their Revolt from *Spain*, whose Power was then the
Dread

Dread of Europe; the mighty Wars they maintained by Sea and Land for fifty-seven Years against that Crown, which at last gave such a Shock and Reduction to the Power of *Spain*, as it hath not been since able to recover. The extending at the same Time their Trade all over the World, and making vast Conquests in both East and West-Indies, until they arose to such a Prodigy of Riches and Power, that they became the Envy and Terror of all their Neighbours; and that from so low a Condition, that at the Union of *Utrecht*, *Puffendorf*, in his Introduction to the History of Europe, p. 226, says, They coined a Medal, wherein their State was represented by a Ship, without Sails or Rudder, left to the Mercy of the Waves, with this Inscription, *Incertum quo fata ferant*.

And will not Trade and Navigation have greater Effects in these three Kingdoms, whose Natural Advantages exceed any in *Europe*? who have now a greater Naval Force in Commission, than all its natural Enemies can oppose against it in a Twelve-month, and would we but exert it, should hardly suffer them to have a Fishing-Boat at Sea, or to gain a Penny thereon, to pay Armies to invade their Neighbours; this is the shortest and best way to reduce the exorbitant Power of *France*, which, when distressed on the Sea-Coasts, like a human Body that has one Part diseased, will languish throughout, and afford an Opportunity to its Neighbours to make easy Conquests upon it in their turn.

There is a farther Consideration in carrying on a *French* War by Sea only, and ruining their Trade, and that is, that what Trade they lose we shall get; for by harassing their Coasts, their Merchantmen could not, without great Risk, get out or in; the *Turkey*, *East-India*, and Sugar Trades, would
be

be rendered impracticable to them, and the Bulk of them fall into our Hands again: Every 100*l.* that we get by supplanting them in Trade, or taking their Ships, makes them so much weaker to defend themselves, and we so much stronger to attack them, which is a double Damage to them, and a double Benefit to us; now the stronger our Attacks are, and the weaker our Enemy's Defence, the sooner must a War terminate to our Honour, which confirms a Remark I have often heard made, That it is our Interest as Traders, to have a *French* War once in Seven Years; and the *Spaniards*, whom we are uncapable of attacking in any other manner with Success, have a Proverb, *Paz con Ingalaterra y con todo el Mundo Guerra*, Peace with *England*, and War with all the World; so severely did they formerly feel the Effects of our Naval Force.

Our Prohibitions and high Duties have not ruined the *French*, who make a greater Figure in Trade, and empty our Pockets more than ever, so that unless we have thereby improved our Trades to other Countries, we are in a fine Condition.

The Authors of the *British Merchant*, Vol. 2, p. 4, writing against the shameful Treaty of Commerce made with *France* at *Utrecht*, in the Year 1713, say, We gain a Million every Year by the Ballance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*, and near twice as much as that with *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Holland*; and shall we venture the losing the Gain of three Millions every Year from those Countries, not for the sake of gaining, but of losing a fourth Million every Year to *France*?

Let us see now how these advantageous Balances have been secured to us by high Customs and Prohibitions.

By

By *Castaing's* Paper of Feb. 3, 1740,
London gave to *Genoa* for the Dollar 54 d. $\frac{1}{2}$
to *Venice* for the Ducat Banco, 51 d. $\frac{1}{4}$
to *Leghorn* for the Dollar 50 d. $\frac{3}{8}$

By *Sir Isaac Newton's* Tables,
Genoa, the Par is 54 d.
—Loss to *England* about 1 per Cent.
Venice, the Par is 49 d. 49 dec.
—Loss to *England* about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.
Leghorn, the Par is 51 d. 69 2 dec.
—Gain to *England* about 2 per Cent.
To *Genoa* and *Venice* the Ballance is against us,
and favourable only a small Matter to *Leghorn*.

Feb. 3, 1740,
London gave to *Lisbon* for the Millree 65 d.
The Par is 67 dec. 166 dec.
—Gain to *England* about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent.

The *British Merchant*, Vol. 3, p. 107, informs us, that in some Years, when Corn was cheap here and dear in *Portugal*, (he means during the last War) our Ballance was so very great, that notwithstanding we paid Subsidies to the King of *Portugal*, and paid for Troops, there were also vast Sums for Supplies of our Armies in *Valentia* and *Catalonia*, yet still the Over-ballance lay so much against them, that the Exchange has been at 5 s. 2 d. and 5 s. a Millree.

Portugal is a constant Market for Corn, either from *Britain* or its American Colonies; the latter, together with *Ireland*, supply it with vast Quantities of Provisions, great part of the Payments of which, centers in *London*: And though we have no Subsidies or Armies to pay, as in the late War, yet the *Lisbon* Exchange is so far from falling to 5 s.

or

or 5 s. 2 d. *per* Millree, that it has not for many Years been under 5 s. 4 d. which can be only owing to the Decline of the *Portugal* Market for our Manufactures, particularly the Woollen. Foreigners working cheaper, steal it away by Degrees: Cloths between 8 and 11 s. *per* Yard, the *Dutch* supply them with, and have beat out ours about that Price entirely, as has been observed before. *France* begins to supply them with some Woollens, but to *Italy* she sends vast Quantities. So that it appears by the Exchanges now, that not much of the supposed annual Gain of a Million from *Portugal* or *Italy* can now remain, great Part of the *Portugal* Gold brought here, being for *Dutch* Account; and the Moidores circulated for 2 d. $\frac{1}{8}$ more than they are worth, by which the Nation is cheated about $\frac{3}{4}$ *per Cent*.

Feb. 3, 1740.

London gave the Pound Sterling to *Antwerp*, for 35 s. 10 d.

The Par is 35 s. 17 dec. Gain to *England* about 2 *per Cent*.

London gave the Pound Sterling to *Amsterdam* for 34 s. 11 d.

The Par is 36 s. 59 dec. Loss to *England*, about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent*.

London gave the Pound Sterling to *Hamburgh* for 33 s. 11 d.

The Par is 35 s. 17 dec. Loss to *England*, about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent*.

London exchanges with *Norway*, *Sweden*, and *Russia*, by the Way of *Hamburgh* and *Amsterdam*. *Joshua Gee*, who was also a Writer in the *British Merchant*, as appears by the Preface; in his *Treatise on Trade*, published several Years after, supposes, p. 178,

p. 178, the Ballance we pay to
Norway to be £ 130,000
Sweden 240,000
Russia 400,000

£ 770,000

He supposes, p. 179, that we pay a Ballance to *Flanders* of 250,000 l. but as the Exchange to *Antwerp* appears to be Advantageous, to avoid all Exceptions, I shall suppose we gain as much

250,000

The Interest paid to Foreigners, who are Proprietors in our Funds, being chiefly *Dutch*

400,000

Neat annual Ballance due to *England*, from *Germany* and *Holland*, to make the *British Merchant's* Calculation

580,000

£ 2,000,000

Such a formidable Sum due to us yearly, as 580,000 l. must make the *Hamburgh* and *Amsterdam* Exchanges something at least in our Favour. But is it so? Alas! it appears by the Course and Par of the Exchanges above, that this Ballance in our Favour is not only all gone, but that we have a Ballance to pay ourselves, to both *Germany* and *Holland*; and it cannot be a small one neither since it makes the Exchange to both so much in our Disfavour.

We are going headlong to Destruction, with carrying on losing Trades with our Neighbours, and what has brought us to this low Ebb? certainly our Excises, Customs, Prohibitions, Ill-judged Laws, Monopolies, and the national Debts; these are the Causes; the Effects are lost Trades and decaying

caying Rents; no quacking with the Effects will restore us to a sound Constitution, and the Causes must be removed, or it is all lost Labour.

Before unloading our Manufactures of the above-mentioned Grievances, it would be an unaccountable Notion (agreeable to *Gee's* Opinion) to make our Ports Free, but after those Political Fetters are taken off, having so many superior Advantages, nothing could be feared but by those who envy our Success: Our natural Advantages are so great that they are the Foundation of great Part of the Riches of our Rivals, and that they may make the greater Impression on the Reader's Memory, Page 73, where they are enumerated, should be here turned to; and after that View, will any one doubt whether any foreign Manufacturers can underwork a People untaxed, free from Oppressions, and with such Advantages; it is an Affront to the *British* Nation to suppose it. We may rather suppose, that by such Blessings, upon every War or Calamity on the Continent, the declining Manufacturers would fly to this Asylum with their Arts, adding Wealth and Strength yearly to the Nation. We have acted upon narrow Principles, as if the Trade of the World could be made subservient to our Restrictions, which are inconsistent with its very Nature, and always throw it into a new Channel. Customs have been compared to a Tradesman's setting up a Turnpike at his Door to raise Money on his Customers, and would it be a wonder if they contracted their Dealings with so wrong-headed a Man? Sir *Walter Raleigh's* Remark on the Fate of *Genoa*, fully proves this, which being formerly a Free-Port, was the Store-house of *Italy*, but setting a Custom of 16 per Cent. on Goods imported, they lost their Trade of Foreign Merchandize to *Leghorn*, made a Free-Port by the Duke of *Tuscany*, which continuing still Free, re-

tains

tains its flourishing Condition. If such a Duty ruined the Trade of *Genoa*, what will become of ours that is loaded on some Articles from 50 to 100 per Cent.

Monsieur Colbert made *Lewis* the XIVth so sensible of the Advantages accruing by easing the Trade of *France*, that after declaring in the Introduction to the Tariff of 1664, that a large Bounty should be given to encourage Manufactures and Navigation, yet he lays not such a Stress upon the Bounties, as the lessening the Duties on the Exports and Imports, which he calls the most effectual Means for the restoring of Trade; what effect they have had, the Ruin of our Sugar, Turkey, Woollen, and Home-Fishing Trades declares.

The *French* now permit the landing the Sugars and Indico of their Colonies at *Havre* and *Bourdeaux* for Re-exportation, Duty free.

To conclude the Remarks on these 1st and 2d Articles. Whatever is necessary for Life or Manufactures, we should study to let our People have in the cheapest Manner, that the Poor may maintain themselves by their Labour without burdening the Rich, and raise Taxes only on the Luxurious; and, if low Prices rather prevent than encourage the Consumption of foreign Vanities, why should we recommend them by raising an Esteem for them with high Customs? Let us politically, like the wise *Dutch*, tempt Foreigners to encourage our Manufactures, pay our Ships Freights, and to our Merchants, Commission and Ware-house-rent for the Goods they lodge here upon Speculation; no Concern of ours what they are, we must get by them, so shall our Poor have full Employment, our Country become the Storehouse, and our Sailors the Carriers of the World.

Third

Third PROPOSAL.

To abolish our Monopolies, unite *Ireland*, and put all the Subjects of these three Kingdoms on the same Footing in Trade.

By abolishing Monopolies, I only mean all exclusive Trades, not to prevent any from Trading with a large joint Stock who choose it, but that every one should trade in the Manner he found most beneficial.

Of the Benefits arising by abolishing Monopolies, &c.

First, It will increase Trade.

By restoring our People to their natural Rights, and allowing them to gain, by their Industry, an honest Livelihood, wherever they can find it.

By preventing any Set of People from combining together to raise extravagant Wages for Labour, or Prices of Goods.

By furnishing us with the cheapest Necessaries, and at the cheapest Freights, the Market being open for all.

By taking away from our Goods all their present fictitious Value, whereby their Cheapness must prodigiously increase their Want; especially the Woollens, whereby the Price of Wool will be raised, and its Smuggling prevented.

By lessening the *French* and *Dutch* Woollen-Trades, in depriving the People of our Wool to assist their Goods.

By extending our Commerce to three-quarter Parts of the Globe, where it now languishes.

By ruining all foreign East-India Companies, who could not support themselves against our Free-Traders.

By increasing the Number of Buyers at Home for our Goods, consequently raise their Value; a Company being but one Buyer.

By

By increasing the Number of Buyers abroad; private Dealers trade at a less Expence than Companies, and pushing against one another, must sell for reasonable Profits, whereby a greater Vent is given to our Goods.

By gaining us the Herring-Fishery, for the Reasons mentioned in Page 104.

By increasing our Navigation vastly; for by the Fishery, and by opening the East-India and Turkey Trades, twenty Ships would be employed where one is now. There go above twenty private Ships to *Africa*, to one the Company sends.

By opening the Woollen Trade of *Ireland*, that of *Britain* will receive Benefit (though the contrary is the common Opinion) which I prove thus, suppose one Pack of Irish Wool of 6*l.* value, to make four Cloths, that Pack of Wool being Smuggled to *France*, works up two Packs of French Wool, making altogether twelve Cloths.

A Pack of Irish Wool smuggled to *France*, hinders the Sale of twelve English Cloths, supposing them of 6*l.* value each, prevents the circulating of

£ 72

A Pack of Wool Manufactured in *Ireland*, can hinder the Sale but of four English Cloths at 6*l.* each; can prevent the circulating but of

24

The Difference is £ 48

It is computed that one Third of what *Ireland* gets, centers here at last, which on the four Cloths at 6*l.* each, making 24*l.* is

8

The Benefit that *England* receives by every Pack of Wool manufactured in *Ireland*, instead of being run to *France*, is

£ 56

The Wool of *France* is too coarse to manufacture for Exportation, but being mixt with $\frac{1}{3}$ Irish, makes saleable Cloth; every four Cloths exported

from

from *Ireland* as above, stops the Exportation of twelve French Cloths; the foreign Consumption is still the same, let who will supply the Market: *Ireland* can export no more Manufactures of our Sorts than it grows Wool, for were the *English* untaxed, and unmonopolized, they would manufacture all their own Wool; if twelve Cloths are wanted at any Market, and *Ireland* can supply but four, and *France* for want of Irish Wool, not any; *Britain* must supply the remaining eight.

By an Union with *Ireland*, the Taxes on *Britain* will be lessened for the present, whereby they will contribute to make our Goods still cheaper, consequently more vendible: The *Irish* now pay no Taxes to the general, but only to their private Support; whereas the greater the Number of People are by whom a Sum is to be raised, the lighter it falls on each; and the more the *Irish* flourish on the Destruction of the French Trade, the more would they be enabled to ease the Taxes of the People in general, whereby all being on the same happy Footing, no Discontent could arise, but a general Improvement spread over the three Kingdoms, without Prejudice to each other.

Secondly, It will employ our Poor.

This is a Consequence of the last Remark, for the more Manufactures, Navigation, and Fisheries flourish, the greater Employment they provide for the Poor.

Thirdly, It will increase the Stock of People.

This is a Consequence of the first Remark, for where ever Trade is most free, the People flock; if the Door be opened to receive, whatever Sailors, Fishermen, and Manufacturers we want, will be drawn in.

Fourthly, It will increase our Riches.

This is a Consequence of the foregoing Remarks, for the abolishing Monopolies, making our Goods cheaper,

cheaper, and at the same time opening the Trade of the whole World to vend them in; Foreigners must be more indebted to us, and the People that flock here teaching us new Manufactures, or improving some of those we already have, our Wants must grow less, and the general Ballance of Trade be brought more in our Favour.

By opening the Trade of *Ireland*, which Country being too poor to give it the Extent it is capable of, must therefore be carried on for Years to come by English Stocks, consequently a great Part of the Profit of it must fall into the Hands of the English Merchants; add to which, that above one Third of what *Ireland* gets, is sent here for Goods, or spent by Absentees, therefore the richer *Ireland* grows, the richer must *Britain* become.

Fifthly, it will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proof of which the reader is referred to Page LII.

The abolishing Monopolies is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the cause of all other Remarks; therefore the abolishing Monopolies is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Fourth. P R O P O S A L.

To withdraw the Bounties on exported Corn, and to erect publick Magazines of Corn in every County.

Having shewn the Prejudice we do our Trade in feeding Foreigners cheaper by Bounties than our own People, and that the Pretence of keeping up the Value of Lands by any Method that hurts Trade must prove fallacious, I shall now shew how

how their Value may be kept up without any Bounties, *viz.*

By permitting each County to form a Company at 100 *l.* each Share, to erect Magazines of Corn, to be managed by twelve or more Directors, $\frac{1}{8}$ part of whom to go out yearly, incapable ever to be elected again, their Shares to remain one Year unfold after they go out, as a Security for their past Conduct.

No Person capable of being chose a Director who is not possessed of ten Shares.

Every Share to have a Vote for Directors.

That the Stock be not less than one Quarter of Wheat for each Head in the County, after the Computation of 5 Persons to each House.

That they never buy but at 24 *s.* *per* Quarter of Wheat precisely.

That they never sell but at 36 *s.* *per* Quarter of Wheat precisely.

Except that to prevent its spoiling, with the Consent of a General Court, they may sell the old Corn, and replace the same Quantity of new.

That they never sell but to the Millers of the County, who shall give security to grind the Wheat and not export the Flour.

That they never sell more *per* Week than the $\frac{1}{52}$ part of the Corn they have in the Magazines at the time of opening.

That their General-Courts be empowered to enact By-Laws.

Of the Benefits arising by erecting publick Magazines of Corn.

1. It will increase Trade.

By creating this new Branch which we never yet had, and by which the *Dutch* reap great Advantage, and it cannot fail answering the same to us; for with regard to the Proprietors it may be observed, That there is a solid Trade, not liable to Seizures

Seizures at the Caprice of foreign Princes, to Captures by Privateers, to Storms and Shipwrecks at Sea, or to the Frauds of Officers in remote Countries; here the Provident, who store up the Excess of the Bounties of Nature against the unavoidable Calamities of bad Seasons, besides the Pleasure of seeing our own People fully supplied, whilst our neighbours are complaining, will be benefited in their Incomes, not by grinding the Faces of the Poor, but by preventing their Miseries; and as Corn is seldom many years together under 36 *s.* the Magazines may pay better Interest than any of our present Fund.

By rendering all our other Laws relating to the Importing, Engrossing, Exporting, &c. of Corn, needless; for when the fictitious Value of our Goods is taken away, we can raise Corn as cheap or cheaper than our Neighbours, therefore none can be imported for our own Consumption to sink the Value of our Lands, but only upon Speculation for better Markets abroad, which a Free-Port Trade giving Encouragement to, we should have thereby more Corn in our Hands in the Nation than at present, consequently be less liable to be imposed on by Engrossers, who even could afford to sell to our own People 10 or 15 *per Cent.* cheaper than to Foreigners by the Freight, Charges, and Risk being saved; and when any Demand happens, having not only our own publick Magazines for our own Supply, but also more private Granaries, the Exportation of Corn, so far from being dangerous, must create a Trade vastly beneficial.

By encouraging Manufactures, as being a means to keep Labour low; for as the income must bear its Proportion to the necessary Expence, when Corn in bad Years is dear with our Neighbours, their Labour, and consequently their Manufactures, must

must grow dear in Proportion ; whilst our own People being supplied cheap from the Magazines, are able by cheap Labour to bring their Manufactures cheap to Market, whereby they make their way against Foreigners, and establish a Reputation difficult to be removed.

By encouraging our Navigation ; for as Freights must bear a Proportion to the Ship's Expence, so by this Method our Ship-Owners in general will be furnished with Biscuit cheaper than either *French* or *Dutch*, and the cheaper our Freights, the more of the Carrying-Trade must we get ; besides the Importation of Corn upon Speculation for better Markets, and its Re-exportation when the Markets are advanced, must give constant Employment to a vast number of Ships.

2. It will employ our Poor.

This is a Consequence of the last Remark, for the cheaper Labour can be performed, the more constant Employment will be found ; and this being a means to feed the Poor cheaper in Times of Scarcity than the Foreigners, can give no Pretence of raising their Wages above them, but the Miseries the Poor now suffer in hard Winters be in a great Measure prevented, and the Granaries and Corn-Trade will furnish Employment to great numbers of Sailors, Watermen, Carmen, &c. &c.

3. It will increase the Stock of People.

This is a Consequence of the encouraging Trade and employing the Poor, as has been before proved ; to which may be added, That all Times of Scarcity produce Distempers which carry off great Numbers of People, whereas this will prevent that Calamity, consequently preserve many Lives ; and the better the Means of living are in any Country the more People will be drawn in to partake of them.

4. It

4. It will increase our Riches.

By bringing in vast Sums of Money in scarce Years from Foreigners. Sir *Walter Raleigh*, in his Observations on Trade, presented to King *James I.* says, That *Amsterdam* is never without 700,000 Quarters of Corn ; a Dearth in *England*, *France*, *Italy*, or *Portugal*, is truly observed to enrich *Holland* for seven Years after ; that in a Scarcity of Corn in his Time, the *Hamburghers*, *Emdeners* and *Dutch*, out of their Storehouses furnished this Kingdom, and from *Southampton*, *Exeter*, and *Bristol*, in a Year and a half, carried away near 200,000*l.* and he computes their Supply then for the whole Kingdom carried away Two Millions. Had Magazines of Corn been erected some Years ago, what immense Sums might we not have brought into the Nation in the Year 1740 ?

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks ; for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands, for the Proof of which the Reader is referred to Page 111.

The erecting Publick Magazines of Corn is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks ; therefore the erecting Publick Magazines of Corn is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

This Proposal will prevent the Price of Wheat from ever sinking so low as to ruin the Farmer, but on the contrary, keep up a good Price that must even increase the present natural Value of our Land ; 24*s.* per Quarter of Wheat, Taxes, &c. taken off, being as good a Price as 36*s.* now, if not better ; at which last Price if Wheat could be kept now, the Value of our Lands would rise

con-

considerably, consequently must do the same when a Price equivalent to it is constantly preserved.

Fifth P R O P O S A L.

To discourage Idleness by well regulating our Poor.

Sir *Josiah Child's Scheme* in his *Discourse on Trade*, Chap. 2, seems very conducive to this, with some few Additions.

That there be a Corporation established in every County for regulating the Poor, to consist of Fifty Persons with perpetual Succession, to be stiled Fathers of the Poor.

That the said Number of Fifty be constantly filled up by the Election of the Freeholders once a Year.

That all the Parish Officers within each County be subordinate and accountable to their respective Corporations.

That the said Corporations have Power to assess and compel the Payment from every Parish in their County of the Medium of the Poor's Rates raised in the three Years preceding.

That $\frac{1}{10}$ part of the said Sum be abated yearly, until the whole in ten Years time be done away, and the Poor maintained by the Donations of the Charitable only.

That each Corporation do appoint a Treasurer to receive the Alms of all charitably disposed Persons.

That the said Corporations have Power to purchase Lands, erect Workhouses, Hospitals, Working-Schools, Houses of Correction, and to exercise all other Powers relating to the Poor, that any Number of Justices of the Peace may now do in their Quarter-Sessions, or otherwise.

That

That they receive none but Infants, and Persons well recommended for their Diligence and Sobriety, as proper Objects.

That each of the said Fathers of the Poor have Power to commit any Vagrant or Person not having a visible Estate or Trade, and their own disorderly Poor to the County Coal.

That the said Commitments be bailable.

That at the Assizes for the Counties, the Persons Names so committed be called over, and those who cannot give a good Account of themselves be transported for three Years.

That the said Corporations have Power to admit as Members, having equal Power with those elected, every Person paying in 100 $\%$. to the Poor's Use.

That Seven or more Fathers of the Poor do make a Court.

That every Minister and Churchwarden go together once a Year to every House in their Parish to collect the Alms of charitably disposed Persons, entering the same in a Book.

That the whole Collection being made, the Money be remitted to the Corporation the Parish belongs to, with the said Book signed by the said Minister and Churchwardens.

That all Money given for the Poor be accounted sacred, and that it be Felony to misapply, conceal, lend, or convert it to any other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

That every Corporation do publish its Accounts yearly.

That whatever the said Corporations buy, or want, be publickly advertised to the lowest Contractor.

That whatever the said Corporations dispose of be advertised to be sold by publick Auction to the best Bidder.

That

That whenever they want Money, or whenever a time of general Calamity brings on an extraordinary Charge, they take Care to give publick Notice thereof, to stir up the Charity of all good People to relieve their distressed and starving Brethren.

Of the Benefits arising by well regulating our Poor.

1. It will increase Trade.

For our Poor seeing that no idle Vagrants can live here, but must be transported, and that none but those well recommended for their Diligence and Sobriety can be maintained by the Fathers of the Poor in Sicknes or Old Age, they must of Necessity become frugal, industrious, and work at such Prices as Trade will afford; not spend half of their Wages in Drink (as the *British Merchant*, Vol. 1. p. 7. asserts it to be well known ours do) whereby no Nation can out-rival us on account of the Plenty of Provisions of all Sorts that our Country abounds with, and its natural Advantages for Trade superior to any Nation, the Exemption from Oppression by Taxes, the Advantage of a Free-Port, and other good Regulations offered by these Proposals; so that our Poor, by abating their Luxury and Idleness, will be able to work as cheap as any People, the Consequence of which is a certain Increase of Trade.

By taking off our burdensome and unjust Poor's Rates on the Industrious, who now maintain the Idle, our Goods will become cheaper, consequently more vendible.

2. It will employ our Poor.

This is a Consequence of the last Remark; for as it is certain that they who bring their Goods the cheapest to Market will have the most Trade, so those that work the cheapest must have the most Employment;

Employment; for 1. It will be more constant by being cheaper. 2. Though they receive a less number of Pence for Wages, yet they will be more valuable by the Prices of Necessaries being freed from Taxes with their Consequences. 3. The Poor being by this Proposal inured to Labour and restrained from Idleness, they will work more and spend less, therefore be enabled to lay up a better Provision for their Families than they now do.

3. It will increase the Stock of People.

Though this has been proved before to be a certain Consequence of the two former Remarks, yet as some People, out of a false Tenderness, may think that the transporting of many Vagrants may depopulate the Nation, I shall endeavour to shew the contrary.

1. Idleness is the Root of all Evil, and two of the Punishments of Evil-doers with us, are Hanging and Transportation, so that Idleness deprives us of many People; but this Proposal tending in its Nature to make our People frugal and industrious, will preserve and save many from those two Calamities.

2. Idleness brings on want, Diseases, Death, and thins a Nation; but Frugality and Industry cause Plenty, Health, Long-life, and people a Country.

3. Idleness disables Men from supporting a Family, therefore prevents Marriage; Frugality and Industry enable Men to marry and stock a Country with People.

4. If this Proposal drives away the Idle, so much the better, they are a Burden instead of a Benefit to the Community; it will supply their Places by increasing Trade with more deserving People from our Neighbours, agreeable to this Maxim, 'Such as your Employment is for People, so many will your People be.'

5. When

5. When our People see that Idleness is deemed a Crime, and punished accordingly, but that Frugality and Industry are Virtues, rewarded with good Wages and a comfortable Subsistence, a thorough Reformation must ensue among them, the Idle be few, and this Objection vanish.

4. It will increase our Riches.

This is a Consequence of the other Remarks, and of the Proposal itself, which tends to make our People industrious; *the Hand of the Diligent maketh rich*, and the greater number of diligent Hands we have, the more Riches we shall get.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs the Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proofs of which, the Reader is referred to p. 111.

The well regulating our Poor is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks, therefore the well regulating our Poor, is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Objection. But perhaps it will be said, That the Poor being left to subsist on Charity only, will be starved.

To this I answer, That the great Number of idle Beggars we now voluntarily maintain proves the contrary; that in all Times of general Calamities our Charity is eminent, as Sir *Josiah Child* says it was after the Fire of *London*, and was found but lately in the hard Winter; besides the Fathers of the Poor hereby proposed being Persons of Character and Fortune, will for their own Honour, by their delicate Sense of Publick Good, and their Love for true Charity, take Care to distinguish between the real and pretended Objects of Want, by which the Numbers of the former will appear to be but few, and they by good Management maintained

maintained at a small Expence, whereby the Encouragement to Charity will be vastly increased by People knowing certainly where to give their Money to do good, the Want of which certain Knowledge is a great Damp to our Charity at present.

Therefore as we now maintain voluntarily more idle People than really want, there can be no doubt but they will, when reduced to proper Objects only, be sufficiently provided for.

SIXTH PROPOSAL.

To make our Silver the only current Legal Money, at a fixed Rate, and let Gold find its own Value.

Of the Benefits arising by making our Silver the only current legal Money.

1. It will increase Trade.

By taking away the ill-fixed Proportion between our Gold and Silver Coins, the latter being current at near 9 *per Cent.* less than their Market-Value, which great Profit being removed, more of it will remain in the Nation for the Service of Trade, for Money being the Measure of Commerce, the more of it there is in a Nation, the quicker its Circulation will be, which is the Life of Trade.

2. It will employ our Poor.

3. It will increase the Stock of People.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

4. It will increase our Riches.

By preventing Foreigners from carrying away our Gold and Silver for less than their real Value, and by keeping equal Proportions of them for the Nation's

Nation's Use; whereas now by having suffered Foreigners to steal away 109 *l.* worth of our Silver for to pay themselves only a 100 *l.* Debt, our Silver Coin is grown exceeding scarce.

By taking the Advantage of getting from any Nation that keeps a fixed Proportion between its Gold and Silver, either of those Metals that was current for less than its Market-Value, as Foreigners now do by our Silver.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, encreases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proofs of which the Reader is referred to p. 111.

The making our Silver the only current legal Money is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks; therefore the making our Silver the only current Money is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Mr. Locke, in his *Considerations of the Consequences of the lowering of Interest and raising the Value of Money*, p. 167, remarks, that People would be ready to say, 'Would you have Gold kept out of England, or being here would you have it useles
' to Trade, and must there be no Money made of
' it? I answer quite the contrary. It is fit the
' Kingdom should make use of the Treasure it
' has; it is necessary the Gold should be coined
' and have the King's Stamp upon it to secure
' Men in receiving it, that there is so much Gold in
' each Piece; but it is not necessary that it should
' have a fixed Value put on it by publick Authority; it is not convenient that it should in its
' varying Proportion have a settled Price; let
' Gold, as other Commodities, find its own Rate;
' and when by the King's Image and Inscription,
' is

' it carries with it a publick Assurance of its
' Weight and Fineness, the Gold so coined will
' never fail to pass at the known Market-Rate.'

Seventh PROPOSAL.

To prevent Expensive Law-Suits from ruining Traders, by erecting Court-Merchants in Trading-Towns.

Sir *Josiah Child*, in his excellent Book on Trade, has given a Scheme for a Court-Merchant for the City of *London*, for the speedy, easy, and cheap deciding of Differences between Merchants, Masters of Ships, Seamen, &c.

' That the Liverymen in their Common-Hall
' do choose twelve Merchants for Judiciary-Merchants.

' That every Year six do go off in Course, and
' six new be chose; all the twelve old ones to be
' put up, but only the six that have the most Votes
' to continue.

' That any three make a Court.

' That in any Case determined by a less Number than seven, there may be an Appeal to seven
' or more, which Appeal to be final.'

For the rest, *vide* his Book on Trade, p. 141.

Of the Benefits arising by a Court-Merchant.

1. It will increase Trade.

By saving those vast Sums of Money in Traders Pockets, to carry on Trade, which are now taken from them often to their utter Ruin, by the Expensiveness of Law-Proceedings.

By saving that time from Business, which Traders waste in attending dilatory Law-Suits; a Trader's time is his Bread.

By

By inviting Men to become and continue Merchants, when Differences can so cheaply and easily be decided.

By preventing Injustice in Masters of Ships, Frauds in Insurances and Accounts, especially in Partnership, dishonourable Tricks in Bargains, Bills of Exchange, fraudulent Bankruptcies, &c. for the Remedy being easy, and no Quibbles of Law for Shelter, but having always skilful Judges to decide Differences, Men would be deterred from attempting Villainies; and as the Reputation of our Honour grows high in the World, the sonder Foreigners will be of dealing with us.

2. It will employ the Poor.

3. It will increase the Stock of People.

4. It will increase our Riches.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads, in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks, for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proofs of which, the Reader is referred to Page 111.

A Court-Merchant is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks, therefore the erecting Court-Merchants in Trading Towns is a great-Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Eighth P R O P O S A L.

To pay off our Debts by publick Bonds, bearing Interest negotiable by Indorsement, and liquidating Part of our Debts yearly.

That

That an Office be opened at the Bank for receiving Money from any Person or Persons desiring publick Bonds, which Money to be applied immediately to pay off our national redeemable Debts; those that bear the highest Rate of Interest and are of the longest standing to be first paid off.

That the said Bonds for the Conveniency of Trade, be for any Sums not lower than 5*l.* nor exceeding 1000*l.*

That they be divided into Classes according to the Rates of Interest.

That the 1st Class do not exceed 2 Millions *Sterling*,

	at 3 per Cent.
2	4 at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.
3	6 at 2 per Cent.
4	8 at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.
5	10 at 1 per Cent.
6	for the Remainder of the Debt at $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

That the Bonds of every Class be numbered, and the Numbers never altered.

That the Interest be payable at the Bank whenever it be called for, and a new Bond given in the Name of the Person receiving it, with its original Number, and the Date the Interest is paid to.

That the Bonds be negotiable by Indorsement to any Creditor, and for any Tax to the Government.

That the Bonds for the Amount of both Principal and Interest, be a legal Tender for any Tax, Bill of Exchange, Note, or any Debt whatsoever.

That two Millions in time of War, and three Millions in time of Peace be granted yearly by Parliament, one Moiety to pay the Interest of our redeemable Debts and publick Bonds, and the Remainder to liquidate their Capitals as above.

That the redeemable Debts being all converted into the above publick Bonds, the Surplus of the Money granted by Parliament after the Interest is paid, to be applied to liquidate the Bonds; those that

that bear the highest Rate of Interest, and are of the longest standing to be first paid off.

That publick Notice be given in the *Gazette* monthly, by the Bank, as Money arises, how far they can pay off the Bonds, specifying the Number of the Class, and Number of the Bond they pay to; the Interest on all the included Numbers to cease and determine at the Expiration of three Months after such Notice.

That a Contract be made with the Bank for the Charges of Management.

That Accounts be delivered yearly to the Parliament by the Bank.

That a curious Stamp be added to the Bonds; for though their being negotiable by Indorsement only to Creditors, may make Forgery difficult, yet too much Caution cannot be used to prevent it intirely, and give the Bonds the greater Credit.

Of the Benefits arising by paying off our Debts by publick Bonds.

1. It will increase Trade.

By putting our Debts that have almost ruined us, on a Footing of being speedily paid off with Honour.

By creating a Currency more valuable than our Coin, Money lying by brings in nothing, but all these Bonds pay something for keeping, and I presume that no Person (much less the Bank or the Bankers) would keep Money by them lying dead, when they could have current Bonds that bore only a *half per Cent.* Interest; would the Bank, who are computed to have always a dead Cash of above one Million by them, refuse making *5000 l. per Annum* Profit of it at a *half per Cent.* in Bonds? could the Directors answer to the Proprietors the Neglect of not adding such a Sum yearly to their usual

usual Profits? would any Person take out a Bank-Note that bore no Interest, when he could have a Bond carrying a *half per Cent.* and equally convenient, for any Trader would as soon give Change for these, as for a Bank-Note?

By increasing the Currency of the Nation; for as Trade always languishes where Money is scarce, so the Benefit by taking off all Monopolies might be defeated, for want of a proper Currency to carry on the Flow of Trade thereby caused; whereas, adding an Increase of Currency to an Increase of Trade, must carry it to a greater Height, than we ever yet knew.

By reducing the Interest of Money, which is a great Encouragement to Trade, by forcing People to Industry, who would otherwise live idle on the high Interest of their Money; whereas the Interest of these Bonds sinking gently to a Degree too low to indulge People in Idleness, the Possessors of them who have not Lands to improve, must either find out new Branches of Trade, or study to improve the old: enter into Partnership with Traders of Experience, or lend them their Money to trade with, whereby private Credit will be increased, and our Traders enabled to buy at home with ready Money, and sell at long Credit abroad, which will make them steal away the Trade of all those Nations whose high Interest will not enable them to do the same, and the lower the Interest, the more moderate Profits our Traders can content themselves with, whereby the Vent of our Goods must be increased; for was the natural Rate of Interest at *2 per Cent.* a Trader who borrowed Money would think *4 per Cent.* good Profit: whereas he who borrows at *4 per Cent.* cannot be satisfied with less than *6 or 7*, and must neglect all Trades that will not give that Profit, which the *Dutch* by their

their low Interest are glad to undertake, and when our Case is the same, so shall we.

By making our People frugal ; for a low Rate of Interest forcing a low Profit in Trade, People's Expences must grow more moderate, and the less we consume the more we shall have to sell, which is the most solid way to make a Nation Rich.

By gaining more Experience ; for low Profits raising Estates slowly, Men cannot quit Business so soon for idle Country Lives as they do now, but must bring up their Children to their Business in order to assist them in their old Age, which may go on to the fourth or fifth Generation, before an Estate is raised to turn Country Esquires upon, whereby a foreign Correspondency with the best Houses, the Knowledge of proper Workmen, and the Characters of Masters of Ships, are secured to the Son by the Father's Experience, consequently from such a Foundation the utmost Skill in Trade must be attained.

2. It will employ our Poor.

3. It will increase the Stock of People.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

4. It will increase our Riches.

Not only as a Consequence of the above Remarks, but also by reducing those vast Dividends the foreign Proprietors of Stocks have now remitted to them, whereby more Money will be kept in the Nation.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks, for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands ;
for

for the Proofs of which the Reader is referred to p. 111.

The paying off our Debts by publick Bonds is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks ; therefore the paying off our Debts by publick Bonds is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Besides, where Plenty of Currency is to be had, there it will be borrowed by the Land-holders, and employed by different Manures, Cultures, Plantations, new Products, whereby yearly Improvements will be made, and when the Corn Magazines are compleated, there being no other Employment for Money but in Trade or Lands, those who did not understand Trade, or care to trust their Money to those who did, or who had raised sufficient Estates by it, must become Purchasers of Land, which Number by increasing, must increase their Value.

As by the Measures now pursuing, these Kingdoms are this Year 1742, drained of 500,000 *l.* for Subsidies to the Queen of Hungary, near the same Sum to maintain an Army in Flanders, and above 193,000 *l.* for Danes and Hessians, making all together, 1,193,000 *l.* and unless a Peace ensues, as great Disbursements are likely to be made for some Years to come, which, considering the present Situation of our Trade, the Dividends remitted to the foreign Proprietors of our Stocks, and what our travelling Gentlemen spend, must make Money so scarce that the People will not be able to support the Schemes of the Ministry, but the Supplies must fall short, the Rate of Interest rise, Trade decay, and Usurers devour our Land and Trade.

Whereas by this Proposal, a Currency will be established to supply the Place of the Sums we may send

send abroad, the Interest of Money be brought down, whereby the Government may raise whatever Sums they want at 3 per cent. By the Plenty of Bonds Trade will flourish, Goods be sold chiefly at Prompt-Payment or short Credit, whereby a quick Circulation will be made, the several Branches of the Revenue increase, the Ministry's Schemes well supported, the Burden of the War made easy to the People for the present, and the national Debts put in a way of being liquidated in a cheap Manner.

Ninth PROPOSAL.

To encourage our Plantations in raising Growths, by permitting their Exportation directly to any Part of *Europe*.

Our Colonies in *America* extend as far North, and farther South than the Latitude of *Europe*, and seem capable of raising all the *European* Growths; they might be made ten times more advantageous to us than they now are, by consuming most of our Manufactures, and turning the general Ballance of Trade with *Europe* greatly in favour of their Mother Country, and be fixed on a Basis that will prevent their manufacturing or rebelling for Ages to come, as the following Method will demonstrate.

That all unmanufactured Growths whatsoever, and Bar-Iron, may be shipped in our Plantations in *America*, on board any Ship belonging to *British* Subjects, residing in *Great-Britain* or *Ireland*, that has cleared out in any Port of the same for our Plantations in *America*, and may be carried to any part in *Europe* directly, provided the Master before Clearance, takes out a Licence under the Hands and Seals of the Commissioners of the Customs,

toms, or any three of them (or if our Ports are made free, under the Hands and Seals of the Mayor and two of the Aldermen) for loading and carrying unmanufactured Growths and Bar-Iron accordingly, which Licence must be granted upon a Certificate of the Collector and Comptroller of the Port (or if our Ports are made free, of the Recorder or Town-Clerk) that Bond has been given that no Manufactures shall be taken on board at any Plantation, and that the Ship shall proceed directly, with the unmanufactured Growths, according to the Licence, and then proceed to *Great-Britain* or *Ireland*, before she returns to any *British* Plantation.

The other Regulations to be the same, as are now observed, with respect to Rice shipped in *Carolina* or *Georgia*, for foreign Ports.

Of the Benefits arising by encouraging our Plantations, in raising Growths, by permitting their Exportation directly to any Part of *Europe*.

1. It will increase Trade.

By destroying the Manufactures erected in our Plantations, and causing a prodigious Demand for our own.

Because the People in the Plantations, being tempted with a free Market for their Growths all over *Europe*, will all betake themselves to raise them, to answer the prodigious Demand of that extensive Free Trade, and their Heads be quite taken off from Manufactures, the only thing in which our Interest can clash with theirs; for the Labour of their white People being at present very dear, if our Taxes and Monopolies were taken off, our Manufactures would come cheaper to them than they could make them, consequently the raising Growths would yield better Profit than Manufacturing, the first be followed and the latter neglected,

ed, whereby Cargoes will be continually shipped off for *Europe*, and no Vessel being allowed to return without clearing out in *Great-Britain* or *Ireland*, vast Numbers of Ships will be continually doing of it, and they must either return in Ballast, or take our Manufactures, which they will sooner choose to do upon the smallest Prospect of Advantage, than get nothing back, whereby such an Inundation of cheap manufactured Goods at cheap Freights, will be continually poured in upon them, that their own will be quite cramped, and in time forgot; besides, there must be a large Importation of Negroes to raise these Growths in our Plantations, and of our Cloathing them accordingly. A great Part of the Woollens sold in *Portugal* is for the *Brazils* and the great Consumption of Woollens in the *Brazils* is by the Negroes, how much more then must not the Consumption be in our Plantations on the Continent, that are all of them colder than the *Brazils*? may not this be said to be transplanting of Men for our Benefit, by taking them from one Climate, where by its heat they want no Cloathing, and carrying them to another where they cannot live without, nor be supplied by any but ourselves? and there is Land enough in our Plantations to employ a greater Number of Slaves than we can supply with our Manufactures, except we import foreign Materials, and as our northern Colonies supply the *French* and *Spanish* Plantations with great Quantities of Provisions, our People would have thereby Opportunities to introduce the cheaper Manufactures of *Britain*, to which the saving the high *European* Duties would be vastly conducive.

By increasing our Navigation.

For the great Demand for Negroes must employ more Ships in the *African* Trade, and as our Ships with Plantation-Cargoes, would swarm in the
Baltick

Baltick and *Mediterranean*, such Numbers wanting to take something back to *Great-Britain* or *Ireland*, would beat out the Ships of other Nations by low Freights, and be the common Carriers of *Europe*, as they would barter away their Cargoes for whatever offered to assort the Universal Storehouse of their Mother-Country.

By preventing the People in our Plantations on the Continent rebelling for Ages to come.

Because having greater Freedoms in Trade allowed them than any other Nation in *Europe* allows its Colonies, they could not complain of Oppression, nor would, while their Trade was increasing; and the more it increased, the stronger Checks we should have on them to secure their good Behaviour; for as our Sugar-Trade increased, by a Free Exportation being allowed the Islands, the more Negroes they would import, consequently want the more Provisions from the Colonies on the Continent to maintain them; the greater Variety of Growths the latter raised, the more the *British* and *Irish* Markets would take off. People are always afraid of offending good Customers, consequently the greater Damage they would receive by breaking with us, the more quiet they would grow. The Liberty of a direct Exportation to the *Baltick* and *Mediterranean* must increase their Trade vastly in those Seas, which Advantages to them would be intirely in our Power to cut off; the former by keeping Cruizers off the North-Islands of *Scotland*, and the latter by *Gibraltar*; so that an Attempt to be independent of us would not only be contrary to their Interest, but downright Madness.

But if things continue upon the present Footing, we oppressing them, and they manufacturing and grumbling, we cannot in Prudence depend upon them long, considering what vast Numbers of Foreigners go over yearly to settle among them.

2. It will employ our Poor.
3. It will increase the Stock of People.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

4. It will increase our Riches.

Not only as a Consequence of the above Remarks, but by our Plantations supplying part of those Growths we now buy from Foreigners, by their having a more convenient Navigation to the *Baltick* and *Mediterranean* than they have to each other, by being cheap Ship-builders, by having Land for a Trifle, and by the cheap Labour of Negroes, they can supply the *Baltick* with the Southern Growths cheaper than the People on the *Mediterranean*, and this last with the Northern Growths cheaper than the People on the *Baltick*; the latter they already do in some Articles, and being obliged to come and lay out what they get in their Mother Country for their Home Supply, all the Cargoes they furnished us and other Nations with, would be paid for in our own Manufactures whereby we should have no Occasion to send away our Money, but should preserve whatever we got which, joined to a Free-Port Trade, cannot fail to turn the general Ballance of Trade with *Europe* greatly in our favour.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs our Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proof of which the Reader is referred to p. 111.

The encouraging our Plantations in raising Growths, by permitting their Exportation directly
to

to any Part of *Europe*, is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks; therefore the encouraging our Plantations in raising Growths, by permitting their Exportation directly to any Part of *Europe*, is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Tenth PROPOSAL.

To erect a Drawing School at the Public Expence, and not suffer the *French* to be the only People of Taste and Invention.

If the *French* Artificers exceed us in the Design, it is owing chiefly to their Royal Drawing-School; but in the Execution we exceed most Nations, which may be owing to our Workmen having served longer Apprenticeships than Foreigners. In *Paris*, before Boys are put Apprentices to Trades that require Invention, they are sent to the King's Drawing-School, whereby they become early excellent Draftsmen: And I have been informed, that when the Tradesmen want a Design for any curious Work, they go to the King's Drawing-School and propose a Prize for it; the Youths are set to Work, and he whose Draft the Workman takes, has the Prize proposed. What excellent Designs must not they be that are formed by youthful Fancy, spurred on with the Hope of Reward, corrected and adapted to the Work by the mature Judgment of a Workman who was bred himself early to drawing?

Of the Benefits arising by erecting a Drawing-School at the Publick Expence.

1. It will increase our Trade.
By improving the Genius of the People; for as
a Workman who has been bred a good Draftsman will

will be more ingenious in a Business that requires Skill in Drawing, than one ignorant of it, so his Work being better designed, will improve the Ingenuity of his Apprentices, who won't bear to see an ill-fancied Piece of Work; consequently a Succession of skilful Artists will be raised, which is of infinite Benefit to a Trading Nation; for unless the Workmanship of Goods be well fancied, and Foreigners brought to think them fashionable, they won't find a quick Sale; whereas now we send all our Customers to our Rival-Shop, *France*, by having it publickly known that we take our Fashions from thence.

2. It will employ our Poor.
3. It will increase the Stock of People.
4. It will increase our Riches.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

5. It will increase the Value of Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs the Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proofs of which the Reader is referred to Page 111.

The erecting of a Drawing-School at the Publick Expence, is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks, therefore the erecting a Drawing-School at the Publick Expence, is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Though this Article may be thought at first View to be too inconsiderable to find a Place among the other Proposals that seem to be of far greater Concern, yet upon mature Consideration it will appear to be of very great Consequence, for in most Articles of Trade, besides the Use proposed, the
Eye

Eye of Fancy must be pleased, nay is often the first Inducement to buy; Goods that have the Reputation of being the most fashionable, will not only have the Preference at Market, which is a vast Advantage, but also fetch the best Prices, by having many Articles thought fashionable, all will be esteemed so in time; and why should not the *British* Modes grow as prevalent as the *French*, when the same Means are taken to improve them?

If we only consider what Money most People spend in Superfluities, whose Values arise more from the Workmanship than the Material, the Amount and the Number of People thereby maintained, or in other Words, the vast Sums that the *French* draw yearly into their Country from all Nations for Works of Fancy only; these I say will shew, that this Article of Fashion is very well worth our Attention; then as to Trade in general, as one Article often helps off another, to increase in Taste will undoubtedly be a Means to increase greatly in Trade.

Eleventh PROPOSAL.

To improve the Navigation of our Rivers as far as they are capable.

Though it be very advantageous to render as many Rivers navigable as possible, yet the joining Rivers by Cuts or Canals in some Situations is of the highest Benefit, we have some that immediately require our Attention, *viz.* the joining the *Thames* to the *Avon*, the *Trent* to the *Severn*, and the *Forth* to the *Clyde*.

Of the Benefits arising by improving the Navigation of our Rivers as far as they are capable.

1. It will increase Trade.

By improving our Manufactures; for Wool, Hemp, Flax and Iron, being heavy bulky Commodities, their Carriage makes a great Part of their Price; as Carriage by Water is far cheaper than by Land, the former must bring the Materials cheaper to the Workmen, and the Manufactures cheaper from them to the Sea-Ports, to the great Encouragement of their Sale in foreign Countries.

By being a vast Security to our Trade in time of War, as it will cut short some tedious Navigations round our Coasts, and carry many Goods safe within Land, that must otherwise make a long, hazardous, coasting Voyage; our Coasters are weak defenceless Vessels, navigated by few Men, and many Boys, which tempt Privateers to snap them up in time of War, and encourage our Enemies to fit out Ships to cruize on our Trade, which, as the Seas have been guarded of late Years, has turned greatly to our Loss; whereas in Case of a *French War*, *Hull* and *London* having a Communication by the Canals with *Bristol*, would rather trade by that Conveyance, than trust their Goods on Vessels incapable of Defence; nor would this lessen our Number of Sailors in time of War, who would find sufficient Employment on board the King's Ships, whereby they would be quicker manned to defend their Country and offend its Enemies.

2. It will employ our Poor.
3. It will increase the Stock of People.
4. It will increase our Riches.

These having been already proved to be the Consequences of the Increase of Trade, the Reader is referred back to these Heads in the Remarks on the foregoing Proposals.

5. It will increase the Value of our Lands.

This is a Consequence of all the above Remarks; for whatever causes Trade, employs the Poor, increases the Stock of People, and increases our Riches,

es, must increase the Value of our Lands; for the Proofs of which the Reader is referred to Page 111.

The improving the Navigation of our Rivers as far as they are capable, is proved to be the Cause of Trade, which is the Cause of all the other Remarks; therefore the improving the Navigation of our Rivers, as far as they are capable, is a great Increaser of the Value of Lands.

Besides, this will improve the Lands themselves, by affording a cheap Carriage of all Sorts of Manufactures, whereof the Charges of Carriage are sometimes ten times the Value; and also by bringing the Produce of the Lands, which are always bulky Commodities, cheap to our own People, and the Superfluities for Exportation, cheap to the Sea-coasts, whereby a more constant Market will be found for them.

Having thus attempted to shew that our Natural Advantages in Trade are undoubtedly superior to any Nation's whatsoever; that if properly cultivated they would render us more formidable than *Farnce*, consequently than any Country in *Europe*; that if our Trade was quite Free, and those vast Sums that now lie dead in our Funds, circulating in Bonds, we should raise an immense Trade all over the World, a vast Navigation for our Protection, increase the Number of our People, give Employment to all our Poor, accumulate Riches yearly, and that all this cannot be done without vastly increasing the Value of Lands, which in the Remarks on the several Proposals I have endeavoured fully to prove, to the Conviction, I hope, of those Gentlemen for whose Benefit this *Essay* chiefly was intended, *viz.* our Country-Gentlemen the Landholders of these three Kingdoms. Before concluding I must repeat, That my chief Intent herein, was to remove that destructive Prejudice arising from the false Distinction of *Landed* and *Trading Interests*, by shewing

ing, That there neither is, nor can be any difference of Interest between them; for whatever clogs Trade must sink the Value of Lands, and that any Benefit to Trade, how remote soever it may seem from Land, will at last terminate in increasing its Value; therefore I dare boldly affirm, That the giving Trade the utmost Freedoms and Encouragements, is the greatest and most solid Improvement of the Value of Lands. *It must be evident, says the Author of Britannia Languens, p. 290, that were our Trade eased as our neighbour Nations, England would have the Superiority, since the same Causes must produce greater Effects in England, being invigorated with these our National Advantages, which no other Nation doth or can enjoy.*

Was our Trade eased and encouraged by the Proposals, beyond that of our Neighbours, to what a height of Riches and Power would not our Natural Advantages carry us? The Consideration of which is hereby submitted to the Legislature, which can, whenever it pleases, make us the most flourishing People in the World.

F I N I S.

Serious Considerations

ON THE SEVERAL

HIGH DUTIES

Which the NATION in General,
(as well as it's TRADE in
Particular) labours under:

WITH

A PROPOSAL

For Preventing the RUNNING of GOODS,
Discharging the TRADER from any
SEARCH, and Raising all the PUBLICK
SUPPLIES

BY

ONE SINGLE TAX.

By the Late Sir MATTHEW DECKER, Bart.

The SEVENTH EDITION.

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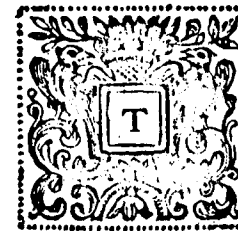
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MDCCLVI.



S E R I O U S

Considerations, &c.



HERE has been lately a current Report, that the *East-India* Company proposed to advance this Year a Million of Money to the Government, at a low Rate of Interest, in Compensation of which, they were to obtain an Act of Parliament to prevent the Running of Tea.

THE monstrous Height to which this illegal Practice was grown, and the Damage which the Public sustained by it, very apparently deserved the Attention of our Ministry. But when the Point came to be considered, they saw, that if the Duty on Tea was lower'd, so as to prevent the Running it, the present Revenue must be greatly diminished; and on the other Hand the Com-
pany

pany found, that if too much Regard was had to supporting the present Revenue arising from this Duty, then their Expectations would not be answer'd. And thus this Proposal came to nothing.

I MENTION all this only as Matter of public Report; whether true or false, I will not enquire, tho' I think it very probable, that something of this Nature was in Agitation.

HOWEVER, this led me into many Reflections upon the Running of other Merchandises in general, as well as Teas in particular; the great Inconveniences and Hardships which Trade lies under from extravagant high Duties, the Penalties of the Law, the many Oaths required of Merchants at the Custom-House; and these Reflections put me upon thinking of some Scheme, which might not only remedy the above-mentioned Inconveniences, but bring with it likewise other considerable Advantages. what this Scheme is, the following Sheets shall explain more at large. I will only beg Leave to premise in a few Words, that as I have expressed my Sentiments very freely, with no Design to please or displease a Party, no Expectation, or Desire of Reward, or View to my own Interest, in any Respect; I shall hope to meet with a candid Reception from the Public,

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A PROJECT of so extensive a Nature, and of such Consequence to the Public, may probably meet with many Difficulties in the Execution, which I have neither foreseen, nor perhaps am capable of removing; but I shall esteem myself amply rewarded for my present Pains, if I have laid a Foundation for the Benefit of the Kingdom in general, and its Trade in particular; and shall leave it to abler Heads and Hands to raise the Superstructure, and grace it with what Ornaments they please. [So much by way of Introduction.]

I SHALL begin with the Article of running Tea, and shew how this pernicious Practice may be stopp'd, to the Benefit of the Public, the *East-India* Company, the Trader in that Commodity, and the Consumer of it.

SINCE the Excise Duty of 4s. per Pound on Tea was laid, it brought in an Average, as I am informed, 130,000*l.* a Year into the Exchequer; and if the Consumption was to be computed from that Quantum, it would amount to no more than 650,000 Pounds.

BUT the real Consumption vastly exceeds this Computation. This is a Truth well known to those who are conversant in that Trade. However, to make it evident beyond

yond all Dispute, I shall relate one single Fact.

SOME Years ago the Treasurer of the *East-India* Company receiv'd an anonymous Letter from *Holland*, which he delivered to the then Directors, by which it was intimat- ed to him, that the Running of Tea, was become so very much in Practice, that the Writer said, He knew one Person in the Province of *Zealand*, who exported yearly for *England*, by way of Smuggling, no less than half a Million of Pounds; and that, if the Directors would enquire, they should find it to be so: Tho' this seem'd in- credible to them, yet upon Enquiry they were convinc'd of the Truth of it; for they were inform'd, that such a Person there was in that Province, who, some few Years be- fore, had been but a common *English* Sailor, was now married there to a Woman who kept a China Shop, and had so well manag- ed Affairs by his Running Trade to *England*, that he was in as creditable a Way, as any Merchant whatsoever: They found that the Quantity of Tea, which he was suppos'd to export to *England*, had not been at all mag- nified by Report, but, as they believed, was really greater than had been represent- ed: That he had four Sloops of his own, which he employ'd in that Way; and that he had more *Guineas* and other *English* Specie in his House, than they believe any Banker (the
Bank

Bank only excepted) in all *England* besides; and that he constantly carried on that Trade.

THE Directors acquainted the Minister with it, who, to his Sorrow, could not pre- vent it. This I do not say by Way of Re- flection upon the Minister; for tho' he had nothing else to mind, and had been never so careful and industrious, yet he could not hinder it, or put a Stop to it. Some Mer- chants will venture where they can double, or triple their Capital; and all the Art of Man won't be able to hinder them: What happened many Years ago in *Holland* plainly demonstrates it.

THE *French* Ambassador complain'd to the Prince of *Orange*, that the Merchants of *Amsterdam*, contrary to Law, had ship- ped off some Arms for *Spain*: He, as Stadtholder, enquir'd into it, and then told the Ambassador, that where the Profit was so great, the Merchants would fetch Arms out of Hell, and even venture to burn their Cloath; and that with all his Power he could not prevent it.

THAT the Running of Tea, therefore, is a common Practice, I think, cannot be denied. But if, after all, any of my Read- ers should doubt it, let me refer him to the many Seizures which we see mention'd in our Daily Papers; and let him consider how many People are employ'd, what Disorders
are

are produced by this Smuggling Trade; how often Wounds, and even Murders do ensue. Therefore every Man, who has the Good of his Country at Heart, ought to be desirous of putting a Stop to such an Evil.

In order to it, I humbly propose, that the Excise Duty of 4*s.* *per* Pound on Tea, be repealed; and that instead of it, the Duty may be raised upon every Family in *England* which drinks Tea, the Highest 20*s.* and the Lowest 5*s.* a Year, to be taxed in Proportion to the Number of Persons in each Family; and that of all Public Houses which sell Tea in Liquor, those in the City of *London* and *Westminster* pay 5*l.* a Year, and in all other Places in *England* 40 *Shillings*.

BUT then will it be said, How shall we know what Families drink Tea? For it would be hard to lay a Tax upon those who do not.

To this I reply in general, that no Scheme can be thought of, from which an universal Good is expected, but what will, at the same Time, be liable to some Difficulties. However, to avoid this particular Inconvenience mention'd in the present Scheme, I would propose that every Officer, who is to levy this Tax, should have printed Forms of an Oath given him, which Oath he should be empowered by Parliament to administer to every Head of a Family, who shall declare
he

he does not drink Tea. And if such Head of a Family will take an Oath to this Purpose, *viz.* ' That neither he, nor any of his Household, have, for the whole Year past, to the best of his Knowledge, drank Tea directly or indirectly, within his House;' This should be sufficient to exempt him from paying the Duty charg'd upon him. But then, if the contrary to what he swears can be clearly proved upon him, a very severe Penalty, such as the Parliament might think proper, should be inflicted.

IF this Method should not be approved, I should hope some other might be thought of, more suited to the Happiness and Ease of my Fellow-Subjects, which is the sole End I have in View.

I NOW proceed to shew the Benefit, which may arise from this way of collecting this Duty, to the several Branches interested therein.

I. IT will immediately, *ipso facto*, hinder the Running of any Sorts of Tea; for where no Profit is, there no Running will be; which must be a vast Advantage.

II. IT will be a great Relief and Quiet to all Dealers in, and Sellers of Tea, who are now liable to have their Warehouses and Shops searched and visited by any of the Excise-Officers, who take it into their Heads, under Pretence of Information, to come at
Night.

Night, or any other unseasonable Time; when their real Intention is rather to pick the Pocket of the Trader, than to do their own Duty. Besides, the Traders must now keep Books, of which some are scarce capable. But according to my Scheme, every Thing of this Nature would be entirely avoided; for, as there could be no Running, there could be no Suspicion of their having such Goods in their Houses, or in their Shops.

III. THE *East-India* Company would be great Gainers thereby; for they would be the sole Venders of all the Tea consumed in *Great Britain*, which is computed at no less than 1,500,000 Pound a Year, and what a prodigious Addition this would make to their present annual Sale, may be very easily computed.

IV. ALL the Consumers of Tea will find their Account in it. For as the Duty now stands, and the advanced Price, which the Tea-Sellers raise above the Duty, may well be computed to amount, upon the Ordinary, to 5s. and upon the better Sort of Tea, to 6s. they will buy it for so much less; for one Pound now sold at 9s. will then be got for 4s. and the Shopkeeper will get more in Proportion, for he needs not lay out so great a Stock, nor give his Customers so much Credit, as when the Duty was upon it: By this it is plain, that such a Family, as is taxed

at

at 5s. a Year, gains whatever it consumes above one Pound; and so the Families higher taxed, in Proportion.

LASTLY. As to the Public, who have now received, by a Computation in an Average 130,000*l.* a Year, it is my Opinion, that this new Method will vastly increase that Sum.

BUT supposing the Matter should prove otherwise: Supposing this new Method (contrary to all reasonable Expectation) should not, for seven Years, advance the yearly Sum of 130,000*l.* still the Public need not be a Loser: For in this Case I would propose, that the *East-India* Company should make up the Deficiency to the Public: And, on the other Hand, if the new Method proposed should be found to answer more than the Sum of 130,000*l.* then the Benefit would be entirely to the Public. The great Increase of the Quantity of Teas, which the Company would by this Means annually sell at their Candle, would sufficiently encourage them to venture an Engagement to the Public, to supply any Deficiency which might arise. Former Directors, I know, would very willingly have done it; and there is no Reason to think, that the present Gentlemen have the Company's Interest less at Heart, or would shew less public Spirit than their Predecessors.

ADD

ADD to all these Advantages already mentioned one other still, which must plainly accrue to the Public (and which is a very considerable one) if this Scheme should take Place. There would need no additional Officer, but on the contrary many might be dismissed, who are now employed in looking out to prevent the Running, and in plaguing the Dealers in Tea by various Methods. For this Tax will be easily collected by the very People that collect the Window-Tax.

HAVING done with the Article of Tea, I shall pass on to another, much more material, and of a much more general Consequence. Here indeed, I find myself under the greatest Difficulties, as I am now to combat with the general Prejudice and Opinion of the greatest Part of the Kingdom. The very Mention of the Word will at once be apt to startle and alarm my Readers; and yet I hope to convince those, who will please to divest themselves of all preconceived Notions, and judge of Things, not by their Names, but by their Nature, That a *General Excise*, odious as it may sound, is not only necessary, but would really be beneficial: I do not mean such an *Excise* as was intended, or presumed to be intended by a Bill brought into Parliament about ten Years ago, for this I always look'd upon as destructive of the Good of the Subject, in many

ny essential Points, and therefore was as heartily zealous against *that Bill*, as it then stood, as any Man in the three Kingdoms. But a *General Excise* in another Shape, is what I am now an Advocate for; and I take upon me to say (with an Appeal to every Merchant in the Nation for the Truth of it) that, without some such Thing, the Trade of *Great Britain* cannot possibly flourish, or indeed well subsist, under such heavy Loads of Duties, as the several Branches are at present charged with; but the *French*, the *Dutch*, and all other Nations must be able to run away with it from us.

BEFORE I open my own Scheme, I would beg Leave to observe, how entirely it differs from that, which was proposed ten Years ago. At that Time, indeed, only two Commodities were mentioned, namely, Wine and Tobacco. But People naturally apprehended, that if the Bill had passed respecting these, every other Branch of Trade would by Degrees have been brought under the like Law. This it was which made the Opposition so strong, so general, and at the same Time, so reasonable.

As much and as well as I can recollect from what was then said and written against this *General Excise*, (for so we must call it) there were chiefly three Things alledged. *First*, An Increase of the Civil List. *Secondly*, A most intolerable and vexatious Search
which

which every Man would be subject to, who dealt in exciseable Commodities. And *Thirdly*, A great Increase of Excise-Officers, in that Case necessary to hinder Frauds.

THESE were the grand Objections against that Bill, and they were pressed at that Time in many Pamphlets with such Force of Reason and Argument, that little could be replied. But in the Scheme which I shall lay down, the two first of these Objections can have no Place, and the last will be absolutely reversed.

MY Proposal in short is this, That there be but one single Excise Duty over all *Great Britain*, and that upon HOUSES. As for *England* alone, exclusive of *Scotland* and *Wales*, (to which I reserve myself to say something hereafter) the Number of Houses upon the strictest Enquiry, amounts to no less than 1,200,000; and according to the common Computation, every House being reckoned at seven Persons, makes in all 8,400,000 Souls.

Now consider only what a Number of Things must be used by every one of these, for which high Duties are paid, if imported from abroad, or high Excises, if of our own Produce; and consider to what an additional Price the Seller of every Commodity will exact from the Consumer upon the
Score

Score of Duty and Excise: Reflect likewise upon the numerous Articles which every Family actually pays for, such as Soap, Candles, Windows, (and what is the most considerable of all) Malt and Land: And then judge if I am mistaken in my Calculation, when I suppose that every one of the 8,400,000 Persons above computed, pays in an Average 40s, a Year, without being a Penny the better for it, either as to Victuals or Cloathing. And yet, according to this Calculation, 16,800,000*l.* will in Effect be raised upon the Subject.*

THAT

* I have been told that many People object to this Calculation, and think me mistaken, when I compute, that every Person pays in the Consumption 40*s. per Ann.* towards the several Taxes, and by Consequence every Family, at seven in Number, 14*l.* I shall therefore only subjoin a List of such Things as are either charg'd with high Duties at their Importation, or high Excises at home, and such as every Family almost is either more or less oblig'd to make use of; and then leave it to the Judgment and Decision of every considering Man, whether I have over-rated this Matter, or not. Velvets and all foreign-wrought Silks, Lace, Callicoes, Muslins, and all Foreign Linnen, all Foreign Wines, Arrack, Rum, Brandy; all Home-distilled Spirits, Beer, Ale, Cyder, Mum, Perry, Sweet Wines, and Vinegar; China-Ware, Wrought Plate, Wire, Cards and Dice; Hides, Leather, Parchment, Vellom, Paper, Pasteboard, Whale-fin, and Oil; Coffee, Tea and Chocolate, Cinnamon, Cloves, Nutmegs, Mace, Ginger, Pepper; all Manner of Apothecaries Drugs; Almonds, Raisins, Plumbs, and all Sorts of Grocery Ware, Molossus, Sugar, Soap, Candles, Snuff, Starch, Tobacco, Salt and Hops. Now, I say, when we take a View of this formidable

THAT the most wealthy, and most substantial Part of any Nation should bear the greatest Part of the Burthen, is certainly most reasonable, but as seldom put in Practice. But it is a Consequence of the Method I propose; and thus I prove it.

I WILL suppose, that in the foregoing Computation of 1,200,000 Houses, there may be 100,000 at several Times uninhabited; it would be unreasonable to expect that they should pay Duty, whilst they remain such.

NEXT, I would fix upon 500,000 Houses, which we may suppose inhabited by the lowest and poorest Sort of People; from these I would expect no Duty, that thereby their Labour might, become so much the cheaper, and the Goods, which are the Produce of their Labour, might, by this Means, be sold at as low, or even a lower Rate than can be afforded by other Nations; for I do not know any Country in *Europe*, where the poorest do not pay some Tax or other; whereas by this present Scheme, those of this Kingdom would be absolutely free.

AFTER

dable List, and consider the large Quantities of some of these Things which are used and consumed in the Families of Noblemen, Gentry, Merchants, Shopkeepers, Farmers, and that no Family can subsist, however mean, without the Use and Consumption of many others of them; I believe we shall be tempted to think that I have rather made my Calculation too low when I place it, in an Average, at 40*s.* per Ann. each Person, or 14*l.* per Ann. each Family, taking one Family with another.

AFTER this Deduction of Houses, there will still remain 600,000, which are to pay the whole Duty; not including Parochial Charges, or the Poor's Rate, which being Things of a different Nature, belong to every Parish in particular, and are not comprehended in the General Scheme, but are left as they were.

LET us see now, whether from these 600,000 Houses may not be raised a sufficient Revenue to answer the Uses of the Publick. But before we enter upon this, we must compute a little what the Publick really wants. I would be understood to make this Computation on Supposition, that Providence may soon be pleased to bless us with an honourable Peace, that the Interest of the House of *Austria*, being once effectually settled, we may not in haste be under a Necessity of intermeddling so much again, with the Affairs of the Continent, and be driven to find out Funds for such immense Sums of Money, as have lately been raised, and (to the great Detriment of the Nation) partly spent Abroad.

THE Question therefore is, what are the Exigencies of the State in Times of Peace.

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I. His Majesty's Civil List amounting to - - - - -	l. 8000000
II. Interest Money to Discharge the Publick Debt, near, but not full - - - - -	2000000
III. Money for the Current Service of the Year - - - - -	2200000
In all—	<u>l. 5,000,000</u>

IN order to raise this Money, I would propose that a Duty of 10*l.* a Year should be laid upon every House; which, upon the 600,000 Houses, would amount to 6,000,000*l.*

THAT I do not mean the same Sum of 10*l.* to be levied upon every single individual House, I presume every Body will understand; I suppose only, that so much Money may be raised upon the Whole.

THERE will be a Difficulty in fixing the Proportion for each House, but this Difficulty might be got over by the Government's procuring an Estimate of the respective Rent of these Houses. And as the Inhabitants would, by this Means, be discharged from paying any Duties whatever, but such as are merely Parochial, they would have no Reason to complain, if such an Estimate was made. For I believe they would find, that there would be a considerable Saving to every Family, by paying one Duty only, in lieu of the many which they now pay.

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THE Method I would point out for collecting this Duty is, that every House in *England*, which is either let for, or inhabited by its Owners, worth 200*l.* a Year, or upwards, or where the Inhabitant is in Possession of a real Estate of 1000*l.* a Year, or more, let the House he liveth in be great or small, should pay 100*l.*; and that all Houses may be ranged in their several Classes, the lowest at 5*l.* and the middle ones in Proportion, with the Addition of real Estates annexed to them. This is, in general, my Notion of laying this Duty.

THUS 6,000,000*l.* might be easily raised; and as the Government, by the above Computation, wants only 5,000,000*l.* there would be an Overplus of 1,000,000. This 1,000,000 therefore, together with what may hereafter be saved, by the Reduction of Interest (which I have likewise in my present View) I would propose should be applied to the Sinking Fund, towards discharging the National Debt: And I am persuaded that the Plenty of Money would soon of itself occasion a Reduction of Interest, without any Force or Compulsion.

THE same Sinking Fund would have a very considerable Addition, if the Legislature should think fit to charge all the Houses in *Wales* and *Scotland*, which have not been yet mentioned, (after the same Deduction of those inhabited by the Poor) with the half

of

of what those in *England* pay; which must amount to a considerable Sum; for, according to the best Account, there are in *Scotland* about 250,000 Houses, and in *Wales* above 150,000. If all this was faithfully laid out in clearing the Publick Debt, it would be surprizing to see how much it would be less'n'd in the short Space of 10 or 12 Years.

IF, in future Times, the Publick should want to raise a greater Sum for the Current Services of the Year, it might easily be procured by adding, for every Million they wanted, one sixth Part upon every House; and such an Addition would be raised within the Year; a Thing greatly desireable by every Body; and the Want of which has been the Cause of our present Debt.

BEFORE I dismifs this Subject, I think it incumbent upon me to remove one Objection, which may probably, and with some shew of Reason, be made, *viz.* that by thus securing six Millions to be annually raised for any determinate Number of Years, we shall make it unnecessary to have a Session of Parliament every Year; and since this would be apparently detrimental to the Subject, as it might prevent Redress of Grievances, and tend to make the Crbwn more independent on the People, than is consistent with the Constitution, I would propose (in order to obviate this Inconvenience) that only six Pound on a House should be fix'd, to be certainly

tainly raised every Year, and the remaining four Pound should be annually granted by Parliament, for answering the Exigences of the Current Year, in the same Manner as the Land and Malt Tax are at present granted.

AND now give me leave modestly to hint what I would have the Legislature to do towards the Furtherance of this Scheme.

I WOULD humbly propose, that the Parliament should, first of all, in the most solemn Manner, engage itself, that, if ever there should be a Deficiency in the Duty upon Houses, the Interest should, previously and before any thing else, be faithfully paid to the several Proprietors of the Public Debts; for which the whole Revenue should stand engaged.

NEXT I would have them provide, that all Acts of Parliament which ever pass'd, and laid any Duty whatsoever; all Penal Laws either upon Goods imported, or Goods now under the Burthen of Excise, and consequently all Forfeitures to be levied by any of the said Acts, should be repealed.

THE only Act which I would have remain in Force, is, that most glorious Bulwark of our Trade, the Act of NAVIGATION; and even here I would have a small Alteration made, the present Practice being a Hardship on the Subject, by which many an innocent Person has suffered wrongfully. I mean in relation to the Clause by which Owners

ers of Ships are liable to Forfeiture for Crimes committed by Masters or Sailors, which they themselves know nothing of, or if they did, would not be able to hinder. This is the only Alteration which I think requisite ; for supposing that Clause to be left out, I look upon this Act as the best which ever pass'd for the Benefit of Trade.

IF the Parliament should approve of this Scheme, and pass some Act or Acts to these Purposes ; let us examine what Benefit would thereby accrue to the Nation in general, and to its inestimable Branch of Trade in particular.

As to the first, many of the lowest Rank among the People would be entirely free from paying any Duty whatsoever ; and all those, who would be obliged once a Year to pay a Tax upon their Dwelling-Houses, would not only find a great Ease by paying but one single Duty, but also a great Profit, by paying, in the Whole, much less than they did before.

As to Trade, all Duties being abolished, it would entirely prevent all Manner of Running, and hinder the Ruin of many Thousands of poor unhappy Creatures, which have been, or are still employed in the Smuggling Trade ; and, I think, there were once, at the same Time, no less than fifteen or sixteen Thousand in the several Goals in *England* ;

land ; now if this Scheme should take Place, I should hope for their Sakes, that the Legislature would shew Mercy to those now in Goal for the same Crime, and annex an Act of Grace in their Favour.

IT would set the Merchant and Shop-keeper free from a Multitude of false and vexatious, or frivolous Informations, which may now be lodged against them. For, if this Scheme takes Place, nobody will be empowered to visit their Dwellings, Warehouses and Shops.

AND, as the Duty upon Merchandise imported from abroad, as well as upon our own exciseable Goods, amounts, in an Average, to above 50 *per Cent* ; it would enable the Merchant as well as the Shop and Warehouse-keeper to trade with half the Stock, and make his Profit the same, or rather increase it, in Proportion to the lesser Sum for which he can purchase the same Commodity. This would create a greater Plenty of Money, and of Consequence greatly help to reduce the National Interest.

IT would also encourage the great Merchants, when they buy any Goods upon Speculation, as they call it, to keep the said Goods at home, and employ their own Warehouses ; whereas, the Case now stands, they are in Prudence obliged to ship off such Goods, as are entitled to a Drawback of 30, 40, and
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even more *per Cent*, for *Holland*, or other Places, whereby *Dutch* Ships are not only benefited, but we pay Commission, Warehouse-Room, and other incidental Charges, which our own People might put in their own Pockets, and have the Goods in their own Possession.

THAT all Prohibitions are in general hurtful, has ever been my Opinion, and I don't question but most Merchants so far agree with me; tho' there may be Cases, where Necessity will call for them.

THERE are, at present, two principal Prohibitions in Force, one against all *East-India* colour'd Goods, and wrought Silks; the other against wearing *East India* Callicoes: The First was procur'd by that great Statesman the Earl of *Hallifax*, when Mr. *Montague*, towards the latter End of King *William's* Reign; what Good this has done, I leave others to judge. But this I know, that this very Nobleman declared to a Person of Credit, who told it me, that in all his Life-time, he had never done any thing, which he so sincerely repented of; but it was now grown so popular, tho' without Reason, among the Weavers, and others of the inferior Sort, that it would be dangerous to attempt to repeal it.

THE Act for prohibiting the Wearing of Callicoes was so lately past, that it is almost
fresh

fresh in every Body's Memory; it is certain it has done a World of Harm to some of the Manufactures of *England*, and particularly to the City of *Norwich*, for whose Benefit it was chiefly intended. Of this I am fully convinced; the very People of the City are now sensible of it themselves; and one of the chief Promoters confessed before he died, that he found it one of the worst Acts that ever passed. The Reason is; the Prohibition of Callicoes here at Home, made them more plenty in foreign Markets, where there used to be a Demand for *Norwich* Stuffs; and when the People Abroad found that they could purchase Callicoes (which had the Advantage of being new every Time they were washed) for a small Matter more than they could procure *Norwich* Stuffs, they chose rather to get into the Wear of this cleaner and neater Apparel; and thus there became little or no Demand for our Stuffs Abroad, and, consequently by Degree a Decay of the Manufacture at Home.

BUT besides the Damage which it did to some of the Manufactures in this Country, the Revenue lost above 50,000 *l.* a Year by it, notwithstanding which it still stands unrepealed. Therefore the Legislature ought to be very cautious how they lay a Prohibition, unless there appears an absolute Necessity.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER very great Advantage which this Scheme will produce, if passed into a Law, and which is of a much more serious Nature, is the preventing a Multitude of false Oaths, which are daily made at the Custom-House and Excise Office; for Oaths are so wonderfully multiplied by the Penal Laws, and withall grown so very familiar, that it is a long Time ago passed into a Proverb in the City to say, *It is but a Custom-House Oath*: In such a slight Manner are they taken; and how many are proved to be false, *Westminster-Hall* may best tell.

THERE is one remarkable Oath which is laid upon all such as ship off Goods, where a Drawback is to be received; every Exporter is obliged to take it, when his Debenture is made out; and it is of such a Nature, that no Man can do it with Truth; so that when it was first required, several Merchants, who had Regard to what they were to swear, remonstrated against it, tho' without Success; the Oath was to be crammed down, or no Drawback to be had.

THIS Oath in Substance runs thus; You swear that the Goods mentioned in this Debenture, are shipped off, either for your own Account, or by Commission from Abroad; and that they are not landed, or intended to be landed in any Part of *Great Britain*, you *having the Direction of the Voyage*.

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ON these last Words lies the Objection; for no Merchant has the Direction of the Voyage. This belongs to the Owners, and the Captain of the Ship; and the Person who ships his Goods on Board, only takes a *Bill of Loading*, and cannot possibly answer for the Captain, if he will steer to another Place, besides that which he promised to go to: Of this there was a few Years ago a famous Trial, by way of Information, against one of the Aldermen of the City of *London*. This Gentleman had sold a Parcel of Tobacco free on Board, as the Custom is; and by so doing was entitled to the Drawback, and consequently obliged to take this Oath; his Tobacco was according to the Bill of Loading consigned to *Holland*; but instead of that, the Captain went to *Ireland* or *Scotland*, and there run his Tobacco: Ten or twelve Years after, the Alderman was attacked by Way of Information; and tho' the Council who pleaded against him confessed, that there appeared no Fraud in him, neither that he had been privy to the altering of the Voyage, yet by his Oath he was found guilty, according to the Letter of the Law, and condemn'd in the Penalty.

IF we seriously then consider the Nature of an Oath, that it is a solemn Appeal to God as a Witness of our Veracity, to God from whose Knowledge nothing is hid, to
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God who is the Patron and Protector of Truth, and the Avenger of Falshood, what must we think our Punishment will be, when we invoke him thus slightly and often falsely? This perhaps may be call'd Preaching, and so be ridiculed; But I am not ashamed to say, that I firmly believe, the Almighty will never permit the false Swearer to go unpunished; and therefore, when the Sin of Perjury once becomes general, I have my Fears, that He may look upon it as a National Sin. *And shall not God be avenged on such a Nation as this?*

BUT to return from this short Digression; let us now observe the several Benefits which this new Scheme of raising 6,000,000 *l.* a Year affords; the very Manner of collecting the Duty will be one Advantage; for when each House is once taxed, what Trouble is it to pay the said yearly Tax? I would fix the *Quantum* on a Plate of Brass, as they mark Houses insured against Fire, and there could be no Dispute.

FOR this Purpose, I would have a Receiver-General in each County, one of the most substantial Inhabitants, and of the most approved Character, who could give good Security; and in order to procure such a one, I would allow him for himself, and his Collectors, and necessary Clerks under him, a Salary of no less than *Four per Cent.* out of
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all the Money he should receive, and return into the Exchequer. This would be so noble and generous a Payment, that it could not fail of being desired by the best Man in each County. The Charges upon the whole Revenue, by that Means, would be 240,000 *l.* which is now computed at above One Million. Whether this saving, and turning out, or rendering useless such a Number of Officers, as are now employed, will promote or discourage this Scheme, Time will shew; but I hope, that when his Majesty, the Ministry, and Parliament, will please to consider the vast Debts already contracted, the great Sums which are now yearly wanted, the high Duties which Merchants and Traders lie under; they will postpone all other political Considerations, and have an Eye to the true Interest of the Nation in general, and of its Trade, from which all Benefit must arise, in particular.

IN the last Place, since I would willingly calculate my Scheme for the Good of the whole Community, and at the same Time not to the Prejudice of any individual Member, if it could be avoided; I would be very willing that the Parliament should consider all those who, by this Scheme, would lose their present Employment. Let their Salary be continued to them upon the same Foot they have it now, or during their
Lives,

Lives, and this perhaps would induce them to look with a favourable Eye on our Design.

THAT something like a Scheme of this Nature is expedient, or rather absolutely necessary, I am more convinced than I care to express; for I would not willingly give a Handle to our Enemies to entertain a mean Opinion of us. I know we are a rich and wealthy Nation, and have great Resources; but consider what the Sacred History reports of the Riches of *Solomon*: His Treasure was immense, such as enabled him to build a Temple at *Jerusalem*, (according to the Computation of learned Men) of almost incredible Value. Yet his Riches have long since vanished, the Place where the Temple stood, and even *Jerusalem* itself, that contained it, is scarcely now to be found. God forbid that this should ever chance to be our Case, by going beyond our Strength.

RECOLLECT now into one short View, the several Conveniences attending this new Scheme, in its whole Extent.

CONSIDER, First, the Evils it aims to prevent, such as Frauds and Collusions, in running of Goods; vexatious searching of Shops and Ware-Houses; a numerous Band of Officers, who are a great Charge and Burthen upon the Public; frequent frivolous and vexatious Law-Suits; and above all,
Equi-

Equivocations with Oaths, or downright Perjuries.

OBSERVE, Secondly, the positive actual Advantage it will bring; to the *East-India* Company; to the Merchant; to the Consumer of Goods of all Sorts; to the Public Funds; and in short, to the Nation in general, as well as to the most useful (tho' at present most unhappy and most burthen'd Part of it) the Poor.

ADD to this, that it would be a Means of making *Great-Britain*, what is call'd in the Mercantile Stile, a *Free-Port*, (a Circumstance very desirable by every Well-wisher to this Country) and then see whether it does not deserve the Care of every worthy Patriot, to make such a Scheme (if it can be) feasible and practicable.

I HAVE said, at the Beginning, that I do not pretend to have advanc'd this Scheme as one that will be attended with no Difficulties, or liable to no Objections. I see very clearly that there must be some Regulations upon some certain Species of Goods, which may be imported from Abroad, and would interfere with our own Manufactures; as well as upon others, where Regard must be had to Treaties. But I am persuaded, when these Regulations come to be made, if Merchants actually in Trade were consulted upon them, and the Wisdom of the Legislature would be pleased

pleas'd to interpose its Assistance, and take into Consideration, what are the properest and most effectual Methods for the Encouragement of Trade, and Navigation: I say, with this Concurrence, I am perswaded some of these Hints might be improv'd into a Scheme, which might make this Kingdom prosper and flourish: I shall, for my own Part, rejoice to have contributed my Mite, and happy should I think myself, if, in Consequence of such a Scheme, it might be said of us, as it was in ancient Time of *Tyre*.

**THAT THEIR MERCHANTS ARE
PRINCES, AND THEIR TRAFFICKERS
THE HONOURABLE OF THE EARTH.**

F I N I S.

