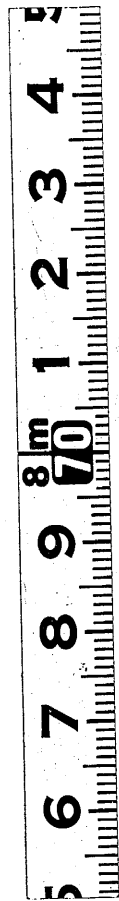


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*A Brief ESSAY on the ADVANTAGES and DISADVANTAGES, which France and Great Britain respectively labour under in regard to TRADE: With some PROPOSALS for Removing the Principal DISADVANTAGES of Great Britain.*



*The Principal DISADVANTAGES of FRANCE.*

I.  HE First Disadvantage to a Free Trade is the *Government*, which is *arbitrary* and *despotick*; and therefore such as a Merchant would not chuse to be under, if He knows the Sweets of Liberty in another Country, and has no Attachments of Family or Interest to keep him still in *France*. It must be acknowledged, his *Property*, generally speaking,

[ 2 ]

is secure enough, but his *Person* is not so. To explain this: There are fixed and stated Laws to decide all Cases of Property, and Criminal Causes, as it is here in *England*: So that He may know the Rules he is to be govern'd by in those respects, and can have an open Trial for his Life or Fortune. But there are no Laws to ascertain the Nature of *Political Offences*, or to circumscribe the Power of the Judge; so that he is entirely at the Mercy of the *Lieu-tenant de Police*, and his Deputies, who can *imprison* him without assigning any Reason, or bringing the Evidences to confront him. And therefore his only Security is, To be for ever lavish in the Praises of the King and the Ministry, and to say nothing, which may give any handle to the Spies, who swarm all over the Kingdom, to inform against him.

II. THE Second Disadvantage to the Freedom of Trade, is the *Romish Religion*, which, besides its many Absurdities, is *arbitrary* in its own Nature, and *cruel* against all Opposers. And a Protestant Merchant, if at the same time a *Conscientious* and *Religious* Man, will find himself very often reduced to great Difficulties, to avoid acting the *Hypocrite* by Compliances against his Conscience, or to avoid the Danger which attends the *exercising* his Religion, and *educating* his Children in the Protestant Way. This, I say, will often hap-

[ 3 ]

happen, even at present, tho' the Bigotry of the Court of *France* is not near so great, as it was in former Times.

III. ANOTHER great Burden, and consequently a Disadvantage to the Trade of *France*, is, *The great Number of Religious of both Sexes*. The lowest Computation of these, is 300,000 Persons: A great Part of which might, and would be employed in Trade and Manufactures; and the rest might be useful to Society in other Spheres. But that is not all: They are a very heavy Weight upon the Publick: Vast Estates are appropriated for the Support of *some* of these Religious Orders; Their Fund is continually accumulating, not only by Legacies and Donations, but also by whatever Fortune each Person is possess'd of at the Time of taking the Vow. And others, who have no Property, but are *Mendicants*, are a continual Tax upon the Industry and Charity of the People; — and these mostly of the middling and lower Sort. Not to mention the encreasing Riches and dead Wealth in all their Churches.

IV. A Fourth great Disadvantage to the Trade of *France* is their *numerous and poor Nobility*. The Nature of that Government requires, That the Notion of *Birth* and *Family* should be kept up very high. This will always create an *indigent* Nobility, and consequently

[ 4 ]

requently *dependent* upon the Court for such Preferments as may not *deroge*, or bring a Stain upon their Family. Moreover, the same refined Policy induces the Court to make the *Military* Service be esteemed the *most honourable*. Thus the whole Body of the Nobility are *devoted* to War; The Richer serve for *Glory*; And the Poorer for an *honourable Support*. The Consequence of all this is, That They heartily despise the *Bourgeois*, *i.e.* the Merchant and Tradesman: And He, when He gets Rich, is as desirous of quitting so *dishonourable* an Employ. He is ambitious of raising his Family to be of the *Noblesse* too; and therefore leaves off Trade as soon as he can, breeds up his Sons to the Military, or purchases some Office in the Law or Civil Government, which may *ennoble* them.

V. THE Trade of *France* suffers another Inconvenience by the *Nature of its Taxes*. Some of these in certain Provinces are very arbitrary, as the *Taille*, which is levied mostly upon the poor Peasants and Manufacturers in the Country Villages: Others are very heavy, as the Duty upon Salt: Others again are improperly laid, because they are upon the Necessaries of Life, which are to feed the Tradesman. Thus, for Example, all Sorts of Provisions, Corn, Wine, Butchers Meat, Poultry, Eggs, Fish, Garden-Stuff and Fruit must

[ 5 ]

must pay a Duty at the Entrance of their great Cities. There are Duties also lately laid upon Soap and Candles. And in the *Pais des Etats*, where the most grievous of these Imposts are not levied, they lay a *Provincial* Duty upon all Things going in or out of that Province; which makes the Merchandise so passing thro', become the dearer at a foreign Market.

VI. THE *Maîtrises*, which so universally prevail all over *France*, is a Clog upon the Trade of the Country. These *Maîtrises* are much the same as our Companies in Towns Corporate: Only We have this Advantage, That We can more easily elude their pernicious Effect, by having Shops, &c. within Glass Windows; And our best manufacturing Towns, such as *Birmingham*, *Manchester*, *Leeds*, and even Four Fifths of *London* itself, *viz.* *Westminster*, *Southwark*, and all the Suburbs have no Companies at all. Whereas in *France* all Tradesmen are obliged to be free of their proper *Maîtrise* before they can set up. The Fine for this in some Trades is very considerable. And there is also in Time of War an Annual Demand for a certain Proportion of Men out of each *Maîtrise*, which is understood to imply a Sum of Money by way of Equivalent. Thus, the more these *Maîtrises* become useful to supply the Exigencies of the Government at a Pinch, the more

[ 6 ]

more Privileges they will acquire: And the greater any particular Privilege is, the less will be the general Trade of the Country.

VII. THE *French* sustain some Disadvantage by their *Monopolies and exclusive Charters*. They have an *East-India Company* at Port *l'Orient*: *Marseilles* is a Free Port for the *Levant* and *Barbary Trade*; whereas there is a Duty of 20 *per Cent.* upon all Merchandise of those Countries, if imported into any other Port of *France* in the *Mediterranean*. And even at *Marseilles* there is a particular exclusive Company for importing Corn and Wool from *Africa*. *Lions* is free for all Silk entering or going out: whereas there is an heavy Duty in the neighbouring Towns; by which means *Lions* may be said to have an exclusive Charter. And I suspect there is something of the same Nature for the *Turkey Cloth* at *Carcassonne*, the Silk and Worsted Stockings at *Nismes*, the Clothing for the Soldiery at *Lodève*, the Superfine Cloth at *Abbeville*, the Stuffs at *Amiens*, the Camblets at *Arras*, the painted Linens and Cottons at *Rouen*, &c.

VIII. THE *French* labour under no small Disadvantage on Account of the *Expence they are at in the Article of Shipping*. They have more Men to navigate their Ships than the *English*, because they are not so expert Sailors: They must carry some supernumerary  
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[ 7 ]

Landsmen by the King's Orders; They must have many Officers to govern these Men, because the Merchant is to be responsible for them, when the Ship returns. These Officers will have a grand Table, a Cook, and new Bread every Day. The Ship lies long in Port, if sent to the *West-Indies* to dispose of the Cargo; because their *Creolians* are said to be so dishonest, that they do not care to trust them with Commissions: And so the Expences of the Officers and Crew run very high. Add to this, That the Officer belonging to the Marine in *France* will find Ways and Means to give great Trouble to the Merchant, both as to the Choice of Sailors and of Officers, unless He is *properly consider'd*; which is generally done by buying some Ship Stores of Himself or Friend at an exorbitant Price.

IX. THE two National Vices of the *French*, *Gaming* and *Fine Cloathes*, is a great Hurt to their Trade. These Expences cannot be supported but by a large Profit; And That will always lessen the Demand at a foreign Market, if their Neighbours can afford to sell cheaper. Not to mention the Swift Ruin, which Gaming sometimes brings on; and the Loss of Time in both.

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X. THE Situation of the *French Ports* are a great Disadvantage to them with respect to the *Hamburgh, and Northern Trade*: And in regard to the *Southern and West-Indies*, They are not better situated, and are not near so many, nor so good as Ours, especially if we take *Ireland* into the Account. They have only an Advantage with respect to the *Mediterranean*.



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*The Principal* ADVANTAGES of FRANCE *with respect to* TRADE.

I.  HE *natural Produce and Commodities of the Country*. These are chiefly Wines, Brandies, Silk, Linen, Hemp, and Oil. I do not mention Corn; For though they raise a great deal, yet, as they are great Bread Eaters, they consume a great deal, and have little to spare for Exportation. Their Harvests also are more precarious than ours, and often fail them,

II. THE *Subordination of their People* is an unspeakable Advantage to them in respect to Trade. By this means Their Manufacturers are kept industrious; They dare not run into shocking Lewdness and Debauchery: To Drunkenness they are not inclined. They marry, and raise up large Families to Labour; so always keep down the Price of it; And consequently by working cheaper, enable the Merchant to sell the cheaper.

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III. THE *Rules and Orders* They are obliged to follow is a great Advantage to the Credit of their Manufactures, and consequently to Trade. All Sorts of Goods for Exportation must undergo an Inspection of the proper Officer in the publick Hall, and receive the Mark and Seal of the Hall, before they are allowed to be exposed to Sale. And the Bad are confiscated, with a Fine levied upon the Offender. By which means the fraudulent Designs of private Traders, who would get rich at the publick Expence, are prevented; and the Manufactory constantly kept up in high Credit.

IV. *Their navigable Rivers, Roads, and Canals* are of singular Advantage to their Trade. Their Rivers are indeed for the most Part the Work of Nature; The *Seine*, the *Loire*, the *Garonne*, and the *Rhone*, with all the Rivers, which fall into them, help to carry on a Communication with most of the great Cities of the Kingdom. Their Roads are more their own proper Praise; because they are most excellently good, are carried always streight on where the Nature of the Ground would permit, and made at a most prodigious Expence; Each Province being obliged to make and keep their own Roads: And yet there is no Expence for Turn-pikes from one End of the Kingdom to the other. Their

[ 11 ]

Their Canals also are as serviceable to Trade by lowering the Price of Carriage; as they are worthy of Admiration, for their Grandeur and Contrivance. Among these, that of *Languedoc*, and the two Canals of *Orleans* and *Briare* deserve particularly to be mentioned. For by means of the former a Communication is opened between *Marseilles* and *Bordeaux*, between the Ocean itself and *Mediterranean*, without passing thro' the Streights of *Gibraltar* and surrounding all the Coasts of *Portugal* and *Spain*: And by Virtue of the two latter, an easy Intercourse is maintained between all the great Towns situated on the *Seine*, and the *Loire*.

V. THEY enjoy a great Advantage in the *Goodness of their Sugar Colonies*. It is not owing to any superior Policy in *them*, or wrong Conduct in *us*, nor yet any greater Oeconomy in their Planters, or Profuseness in ours (for upon the strictest Enquiry both will be found to be equally culpable) that they exceed Us in these Particulars, but because our Lee-ward Islands are wore out, being originally of no Depth of Soil, and the Ground more upon a Level, so more subject to be burnt up: whereas their Islands are still very good: The Ground is rich, the Soil deep; And they have high Hills in *Martinico*, with Water and Shades; by which means Canes of 30 Years planting are still good: Add to this,



this, That the *French* do not use the tenth Part of the Sugars for Home Consumption, which the *English* do; And therefore have that Commodity to export again to foreign Markets, and with it to encrease the National Wealth.

VI. THE Manner of Collecting their Duties upon several Sorts of Goods imported, is of greater Advantage to their Trade than one can easily imagine. In the Port of *Bordeaux* (and I take it for granted so good a Regulation obtains in other Places) there are publick Warehouses, very good and convenient, adjoining to the Custom-House. And all Provisions and Goods necessary for the Use of their Sugar Colonies are there deposited by the Merchant, till the Ship sails, Duty free, paying only a moderate Price for Cellarage. When she returns, the Sugars, &c. are landed in the King's Warehouses, where they remain, till the Importer has found out a Purchaser for a proper Quantity; then He pays the Duty for it, and has it taken away, and lets the rest continue. Or when he intends to re-export, there it lies ready and convenient for him. By this means he is never driven to Streights on Account of the King's Duty; and is enabled to carry on a very extensive Trade with a small Stock. The Consequence of which is, That many Persons are hereby capacitated to enter considerably

ably into Commerce, who otherwise would have been unavoidably excluded: For 1000*l.* Sterling in *France* will go near as far as 2000 in *England*.—Not to mention, That as there is no Money immediately advanced on Account of the King's Duty, the Merchant's whole Gains will arise only from the Money actually in Trade: Now as this is less by near one half to what it would have been, had the Duty been all paid at once, consequently he can afford to sell at almost one half less Profit, than he must have demanded in the other Case.

VII. THEIR Neighbourhood, and present Connection with *Spain* is of such Advantage, as is worth all their Trade besides. For it is certain, That they get more from the *Spaniards* than all the Trading Nations in *Europe* do. Their Poor from *Perigord*, *Limosin*, and other Places, come yearly into *Spain* to reap their Corn, and gather in their Vintage; and then carry back what they have earned, to spend in *France*. The Fishermen from *Bayonne*, and the Neighbouring Places supply them with great Quantities, both of Salt and fresh Fish to eat on Fast-Days, and to keep Lent with. The Pedlars and Shop-keepers in *Spain* are mostly *French*, who retire into their own Country when they have made their Fortunes. The Towns in *Languedoc* supply them with Cloth, Silks, and Stockings;

[ 14 ]

ings; *Rouen* with Hats, and coarse Linen Stuffs; *Abbeville* with superfine Cloths; *Amiens* and *Arras* with Worsted and Camblet Stuffs: And *Lions* with all Sorts of Silks, and Gold and Silver Lace for their Consumption both in *Europe* and *America*. In short, the greatest part of the Produce of the Mines of *Potosi* comes into *France*: Hence it is, That their Payments are all in Silver: And Gold is much more scarce in *France*, than Silver is in *England*: A plain Proof, that they have the great Trade to *Spain*, as we have to *Portugal*.

VIII. THEIR *Address in drawing raw Materials from other Countries* to work up in their own is a very great Advantage to their Trade. *France* produces some Wool and Silk but not a fourth Part of what is made use of. Their great Resource of Wool, is what they import from the *Levant*, *Barbary*, and *Spain*. They also bring Wool from *Switzerland*. Some little perhaps is run from *England*; but I have reason to believe, not much: The Quantity from *Ireland* is very considerable; which is owing to our own wrong Policy. The best of their Silks they draw from *Piemont*, the *Levant*, *Italy*, and *Spain*. Their Cotton is brought from the *Levant*; And the Ashes for making Soap from *Egypt*, &c. &c.

IX. THE

[ 15 ]

IX. THE Government of *France* encourages *Foreigners* to trade and settle among them, by treating *them* with particular Gentleness and Indulgence. And the Situation of the Country is greatly assistant to this Disposition of the Government; For it is surrounded with populous, that is, *prolific* Nations, who have no Trade and Manufactures of their own, to employ their Poor. *Flanders*, all *Germany* on the Side of the *Rhine*, *Switzerland*, and *Savoy*, pour their Supernumerary Hands into *France*, where they are cared for, and received into the Army, or the Manufacture, according to their Inclinations. The *Rhone* is so easy and cheap a Conveyance for the Swarms of Inhabitants near the Lake of *Geneva*, that so small a Sum as 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. each Person will bring them to the chief Manufacturing Town in *France*, viz. *Lions*. And there are said to be no less than 10000 *Swiss* and *Germans* employed in this City. The Numbers also in the other Commercial Towns are very great.

X. THE *English Monopolies*, which are our Destruction, become to *them* of the greatest Benefit and Advantage. *Marseilles* is, as I may say, built and Supported by our *Turky Company*. The *English Hudson's Bay Company* is the only Cause, which can make the *French Settlements* in so wretched a Country as *Canada* to flourish. It is this, which



which enables them to underfell Us in all the Articles of Furr; which they apparently do in Times of Peace.


XI. THE Publick Stock of Wealth is greatly encreased by *Foreigners* of all Nations *travelling* among them. For while these *Foreigners* reside in the Country, they not only pay for the Necessaries of Living, but also buy up many Curiosities, and Cloath themselves with the Manufacture of it. This gives a Spur to the Genius of their Artificers to be Still inventing Something new and curious; And adds greatly to the Credit of the National Manufacture, and their Goût for Dress. The *French*, on the contrary, scarce ever travel themselves; And by that means circulate the Money in their own Country.

XII. FRANCE enjoys a great Advantage with respect to Trade, as it doth not lose much by the Article of *Smuggling* in Comparison to what *England* doth. This is owing to the Strictness of their Government, the many Spies they have upon every Mans Actions, and their being able to punish the Slightest Offence more Severely, and in a more Summary way, than we can, or is consistent with a free Constitution to do.

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The Principal ADVANTAGES of GREAT BRITAIN with respect to TRADE.

I.  HE natural Produce, and Commodities of the Country; Corn, Wool, Lead, Tin, Copper, Coal, Butter, Cheese, Tallow, Leather; All which are not to be found in *France* in that Plenty and Abundance, which they are in *England*.

II. THE Number, Goodness, and Situation of our Ports. Those on the *Western* Side of *Great Britain* (especially if We reckon *Ireland* as a Part of ourselves, and include both *Islands* under ONE GENERAL INTEREST, as in Reason and Policy we ought to do) are almost as well Situated for the *Southern Trade*, as the *French*; They are four times as many in Number, and much better for Safety and Water. And as to the *North* and *Baltick Trade*, The *French* Ports can come into no Comparison with ours.

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III. ENG.

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III. ENGLAND enjoys another Advantage by means of its *free Government, and Liberty of Conscience*. A Merchant can go to Law with the *Crown* as easily as with a private Subject. The Judges are for Life, and not under the immediate Influence of the Court. No Man's Person can be detained, but a Reason must be given, and the Matter brought to an open Trial, where his Equals are to be his Judges, and to decide between him and the *Crown*, whether He has committed an Offence against the *State*, or not.

AND as to Matters of *Religion*, He is permitted to Worship GOD in his own Way without Fear or Reserve; and may educate his Children how He pleases. The *Roman Catholicks* indeed are under some *legal* Discouragements; but it is plain, the Legislature considered them more as a *Political* than a *Religious* Sect, when those Laws were enacted. And the present Government by it's Conduct towards them, has given them sufficiently to understand, That they shall not be disturbed in the free Exercise of their Religion, *provided they will give no Disturbance to the State in Civil Affairs by siding with it's Enemies*. This surely is but a reasonable Demand; And here the Matter seems to rest.

IV. ENG-

[ 19 ]

IV. ENGLAND has always enjoyed an Advantage in Trade, as it's *Manufacturers* have ever been in high Repute for their *Skill* and *Ingenuity*. Our Locks, Chains, Clock-Work, and Cutlery Ware exceed all others at this Day. And our Sailors are considerably superior to the *French* in their Art and Dexterity.

V. ENGLAND enjoys a very visible Advantage over FRANCE, *as the whole Bulk of our People may be concerned in Trade if they please*, without any Disreputation to their Families. To be a *Merchant* is esteemed full as honourable as to be an *Officer*. And no Man need leave off Trade, when He finds himself Rich, in order to be respected as a *Gentleman*. It is likewise no Scandal for Younger Brothers of the most antient Family to be bred to Trade and Business.

VI. WE enjoy a singular Advantage by our *vast Colonies on the Continent of America*. From *Newfound-land* to *Georgia* is an immense Country; where all the Inhabitants do use more or less of the Growth and Manufacture of their Mother Country; And *England* again receives the Produce and Growth of theirs. This is a mutual Benefit, and is still improveable.

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VII. THE *Island of Jamaica* has some Advantages over any of the *French Islands*, on Account of it's Situation, to carry on a beneficial Trade with the *Spanish Main*; he Sweets of which have been sufficiently felt of late, so as to need no further Illustration. And this Island is capable of great Improvements in many other Respects.

VIII. THE *very Wants of Great Britain* in one Respect might be turned into a singular Advantage over the *French* in another. It is certain, *France* cannot carry on a Trade to most Countries with that Advantage to the Country it trades with, as the *English* can. For Example, the *English* can trade with the *Spaniards* to mutual Advantage: If The *English* export Cloth and Stuffs to *Spain*; they can take off Fruits, Oil, and Wine, by Way of Barter. Whereas the *French* can make no Use of these Commodities, having so much of the same of their own Growth both to use, and to spare. A Consideration of this Nature well timed, and strongly urged, might have a good Effect upon the *Spanish* Court to induce them to favour the *English* Commerce, and discourage the *French*. It is owing to the successful Application of Sir *Paul Methuen* on this very Head, when Envoy to the Court of *Portugal*, that the *English* [at this Day enjoy the whole Trade of *Portugal*, and that the *French*, in a manner, are excluded.



The Principal DISADVANTAGES which GREAT BRITAIN labours under in Respect to TRADE.

I.  HE first and capital one, is the Want of Subordination in the lower Class of People. This is attended with dreadful Consequences, both in a Commercial and a Moral View. If they are subject to little or no Controul, they will run into Vice: This is attended with Expence, which must be supported either by a high Price for their Labour, or by still more destructive Methods. It ends in Poverty and Disease; And so they become a loathsome Burden to the Publick. Nothing is more visible, than the great Difference between the Morals and Industry of the manufacturing Poor in France, and in England. In the Former, they are sober, frugal, and laborious. The Cities are free from Street Walkers. The common People marry, and have Flocks of Children, whom they bring up to Labour: In the latter they are given up to Drunkenness and Debauchery: The Women

Women walk the Streets and Spread the Infection, till they are rotten ; And then are carried to an Hospital, or to their Grave. The Men are as bad as can be described : Both Sexes never working, while they have any thing to spend upon their Vices.

II. THE *prodigious Expence of Electioneering is another fatal Stab to Trade.* It is not only so much Money Spent, but it is Spent mostly upon *Manufacturers*; And so it gives them a Taste for Idleness, and a thirst after Drunkenness and all Extravagance. The want also of Subordination just now complained of, is mostly to be imputed to the Same Cause, as it sets them above restraint, frees them from Controul, and brings down the Rich to pay their Court to *them*, contrary to the natural Order of Society.

III. ANOTHER very great Burden on the *English Commerce* is the *vast Numbers of Poor*; And those every Day encreasing. If we trace the Matter to it's Fountain-head, we shall find it to be owing mostly to the same Causes, *viz.* Electioneering, and the Want of Subordination. And if a Calculation was made of the Expences of Electioneering and the Consequences of it, together with the annual poor Tax, I am very sure it would much exceed, in the Proportion, what

what *France* expends in maintaining 300,000 *Religious* of both Sexes : So that we gain no Advantage over *France* in this respect, by our own Diffoluteness and Mismanagement.

IV. OUR Trade is greatly burthened by the Nature of *most of our Taxes, and the Manner of Collecting them.* The Customs on Goods imported make those Goods come much dearer to the Consumer, than they would do, if the Consumer himself was to pay the Duty : And this becomes a strong Temptation to our People to *Smuggle.* The Taxes upon the Necessaries of Life, are in fact so many Taxes upon Trade and Industry : And such must be accounted the Duties upon Soap, Coal, Candles, Salt and Leather. The expensive Manner likewise of collecting them is still an additional Disadvantage ; such as the Multiplication and Splitting of Offices, Patent-Places, Fees, Sine-Cures, Pensions, &c. &c. These Things indeed Create a Dependence upon the Court, and are said to Strengthen the Hands of the Government in *one* respect ; but they weaken it much more in *another.* They give too much Cause to Complaint ; the best Friends of the present Establishment are grieved to see any Measures which they cannot justify. Repeated Murmurs, where there is a Real Foundation for them, naturally tend to alienate the Affections of the Mass of the People,

[ 24 ]

People, which above all Things should be guarded against; because in Times of actual Danger it is the People, and not the Place-Men and Pensioners, who can save the Government, and oppose themselves against the Invasion of Foreign, or the Insurrection of Domestick Enemies. As was plainly seen in the late Rebellion.

V. THE great Number of Smugglers in England are of infinite Detriment to Trade. They carry nothing but Bullion, or Wool out of the Kingdom, and Return mostly with the Commodities of France. They are the necessary Cause of creating many Offices, of maintaining Sloops, Smacks &c. to guard against them; And they furnish a Pretence for adding many more. Thus they become doubly Mischievous. They tempt others to do the like, for fear of being ruined by being underfold. The Practice of Smuggling Debauches the Morals of the Common People, it leads them into Perjury, and tutors them in all Vice and Extravagance. So many Expences incurred, so many Deficiencies in the Revenue and bad Consequences must be made up by other Duties not so liable to be embezzled. And therefore Fact it is, That every Man in paying Taxes for Land, &c. pays for the Damage done, or caused by Smuggling. And yet till there is a proper Subordination introduced, and the Qualification for Voting some-

[ 25 ]

something alter'd from what it is at present, it is easy to see, there can never be any effectual Cure for this growing Evil. Smugglers are for the most Part Inhabitants of Boroughs and Towns Corporate: They, or their Relations, Friends, Dealers, Acquaintance, &c. are VOTERS: And—*Verbum sat sapienti.*

VI. Our Monopolies, publick Companies, and Corporate Charters are the Bane and Destruction of a free Trade. By the Charter of the East-India Company, at least nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine British Subjects, out of 10,000, without having committed any Fault to deserve such a Punishment, are excluded from trading any where beyond the Cape of Good-Hope. By the Charter of the Turkey Company a like, or a greater Number are excluded from having any Commerce with the whole Turkish Empire. The Hudson's Bay Company engrosses all the Fur Trade with the Indians in those Parts. And the South-Sea Company takes in the vast Extent of South America, and some Part of the North. Thus the Interest of 9,999 fellow Subjects must be sacrificed, in so many Respects, for the Sake of a single one: The whole Nation must suffer in its Commerce, and be debarred trading to more than three-fourths of the Globe to enrich a few rapacious Directors. They get wealthy the very same Way by which the Publick becomes

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poor,

poor, viz. 1st, By raising the Price of the English Manufactures Abroad, and exporting but a small Quantity of them, that the foreign Market may not be over-stocked: And 2dly, by importing but a few of the raw Materials of Foreign Countries, that they may have the higher Price for what they bring home. — A double Mischief! equally fatal to the Community either Way.

AND as to Corporate Charters and Companies of Trades, they are likewise so many Monopolies in the Places to which they belong, to the great Detriment of Trade in general. To convince any one of this, Let him but suppose a Set of Town and Country Butchers frequenting the same Market; And that the Country Butchers were excluded for a Market or two; would not the Town Butchers immediately raise their Price? *i. e.* put all their fellow Citizens under Contribution by means of this Privilege? And doth not every other Company do the same in all Things they sell? And what is the Consequence? — A general Dearness among one another, which must light at last upon the Foreign Trade, and therefore diminish the Quantity to be exported.

VII. OUR Imprudence and narrow-spiritedness in not inviting Foreigners to settle among Us, is another material Disadvantage to the English Trade. Foreigners can never get rich

rich among Us, but by working cheaper or better than the Natives. And if they do so, though Individuals may suffer, the Publick is certainly a Gainer; As there is so much Merchandize to be exported on cheaper Terms, or so much saved to a Merchant, whereby his Expences are lessened, and he may afford to export the cheaper. Not to mention, That by this means, the Price of Labour is continually beat down, Industry is encouraged, and an Emulation excited: All which are greatly for the Publick Good.

Besides, a Foreigner, just escaped from Slavery and Oppression, when He gets rich in a Land of Liberty and Plenty, is not likely to return home, but will settle among Us, and become one of ourselves with his whole Family. And what are ALL Englishmen but the Descendants of Foreigners? In short, It is the same weak Policy to prevent Foreigners settling among us, as it is in the Poor about London, to grumble at the Welsh and Irish coming up to work in the Gardens, or to reap, and carry in the Harvest; not considering, That if the Gardiner, or Farmer could not have his Work done cheap, He could not afford to sell the Garden-Stuff, Bread, &c. cheap to them. So that They themselves find their Account in the Cheapness of these Person's Labour. Indeed we should give MORE Encouragement, if possible, to Strangers than France doth, as for many other



Reasons, so particularly for this, That the *Swiss, Germans, Piemontise, Italians, &c.* can arrive at most of the Manufacturing Towns in *France* at a trifling Expence; whereas the long Journey from their own Country, and the Passage over into *England*, are a very great Discouragement to Manufacturers to come to Us.

VIII. OUR *ill judged Policy, and unnatural Jealousy in cramping the Commerce and Manufactures of IRELAND*, is another very great Bar to the extending our Trade. If *Ireland* gets rich, what is the Consequence? *England* will be rich too; And *France* will be the poorer. The Wool, which is now smuggled from *Ireland* into *France*, and manufactured there, and from thence sent to Market to oppose our own Commodities, would be manufactured in *Ireland*; The *French* would lose the Benefit of it, the *Irish* would get it;—The Rents of the *Irish* Gentlemen's Estates would rise; And then the Money would soon find its Way into *England*. Besides, the *Irish* might be incorporated into the *English* Parliament, and make one Nation with ourselves, bearing an equal Share of Taxes, and so easing *England* at the same Time that *Ireland* is enriched. But more of this hereafter.

IX. WANT of a less expensive Way of Repairing our Roads; Want of more Navigable Rivers

*Rivers and Canals* are a very great Disadvantage to *England* in Comparison of *France*. Every one must be sensible of the heavy Tax, which so many *Turnpikes* lay upon Trade; And how bad even the *Turnpike-Roads* are in many Parts of the Country. We have no Canals to open a Communication between City and City, River and River; though our Country in most Places, is much better adapted for them than *France*.

X. WE labour under a very great Disadvantage, as most of our *Lee-ward Islands* are worn out, and not so fertile as the *French*; And therefore require greater Expence to cultivate them: So that our Sugars come the dearer, and we have not much to spare for Foreign Markets, after our home Consumption is provided for.

XI. WE also suffer a further Inconvenience in not inviting *Foreigners* to travel into *England*, and spend their Money among Us; And in being too fond of travelling Ourselves. It is certain, That *England* has as many Curiosities for a *Foreigner* to observe; as any Country in the World. The whole Island, and every thing belonging to it, is in many Respects different from the Continent, and worthy a *Stranger's* Attention. And even as to fine *Paintings, original Statues, and Antiques*, we have prodigious Collections of them in private Hands,

[ 30 ]

Hands, though little known even to our own Countrymen, for want of a *publick* and *general* Catalogue. Moreover, our *English* Travellers in *France* and *Italy* are continually making new Collections in order to carry home, and embellish their own Country. And yet our Gentry are so shy to Strangers, our Servants expect so much Vails from them, and the Common People are so rude and affronting to them, that few or none care to travel in such a Country.

XII. THE *high Price of Labour* is another *insuperable Bar to a large Trade*: The Causes of which have been assigned already.

XIII. WE suffer a very great Detriment thro' the Want of *Publick Inspectors* to see that our *Manufacturers* produce every thing good in its Kind, that they give good Measure, and fold the worse Side Outermost. And what is still worse, where such have been appointed, they have degenerated through some unhappy Mis-management and Abuse, so far as to encrease the Evil they were intended to correct. The *Blackwell-Hall* Factors are certainly a Nufance to Trade, not a Service to it. And thus Things have gone on from Bad to Worse, to the Loss and Damage of the Publick.

XIV. ADD to all these, the *Discouragements and Oppositions*, which the most gener-  
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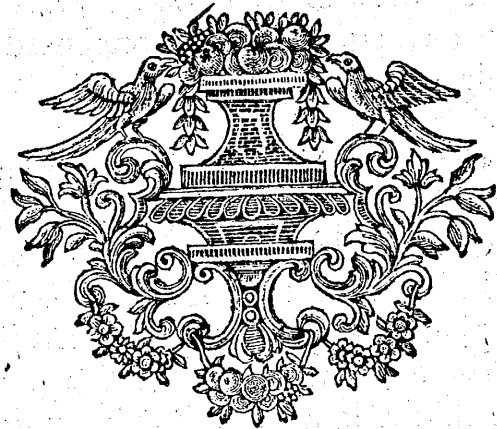
[ 31 ]

ous Scheme will too often meet with from self-interested and designing Persons among Us, thro' the shameful Abuse of Liberty and a free Constitution. In a despotick Kingdom, the Ministry have none to oppose them in their good Designs: But among Us, let their Plan be never so well calculated for the Publick Good, yet if it clashes with the Private Interest of any particular Persons, trading Companies, or Boroughs (as it necessarily must do) then it will be opposed under various Pretences, by the United Force of such *false Patriots*, and will be blackened and mis-represented in the most malevolent Manner.

Besides: In an Absolute Government there is no Possibility of gaining Preferment by making One's Self formidable to the Ministry: Whereas *here* it is the sure Road to it. A bold, plausible Speaker in the House, embarrasses the Scheme of the Ministry, not because He thinks it wrong, but because he expects to be bought off by a Place or a Pension. A News-writer, or a Pamphleteer will put every Measure of the Court in the most Odious Light, in order to make his Paper sell the better, or to be thought considerable enough to be retained on their Side. On the other Hand, the Ministry are too apt to endeavour to quash a Motion, not because it was a *bad* one, but because it came from the Party in the Opposition.

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These are Evils, which I despair 'of seeing effectually removed or cured, without introducing worse in their Stead, unless Men were much honefter and better than they are; — which I fear is not likely to be soon the Cafe.

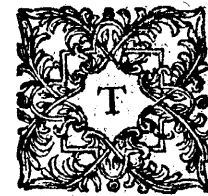


Certain



CERTAIN PROPOSALS *for remedying many of the above-mentioned Inconveniences, and retrieving the Trade and Credit of GREAT BRITAIN.*

I. PROPOSAL,



*To alter the Qualification of Voting, and to introduce a just Subordination among the People.—*

\* When 40 s. a Year was fixed upon as a Standard for a Voting-Freeholder, it was certainly more than an Equivalent to 20*l.* *per Ann.* of modern Rent.  
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\* The very Recital of the Statute, which ascertained the Qualification of Voting Freeholders, is the best Proof of the Reasonableness and Necessity of what is here proposed.

*“ Anno octavo HENRICI VI. Cap. 7.*

*What Sort of Men shall be Choosers, and who shall be chosen Knights of the Parliament.*

‘ WHEREAS the Elections of Knights of Shires, to come to the Parliament of our Lord the King in many Counties of the Realme of England, have now of late been made by very great outrageous and excessive Number of People, dwelling within the same Counties of the Realme of England, of the which  
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Suppose now, That 20*l.* per *Ann.* was the requisite Sum for a Freeholder, and 200*l.* Stock in Trade for a Tradesman to qualify them to vote; the immediate Consequence would necessarily be, that the Manufacturing Part of our Nation would not be called from their Work to run a roving after every Elect-

‘ most Part was of People of *small Substance, and of no Value,*  
‘ whereof every of them pretended a Voice equivalent as to such  
‘ Elections to be made, with the most worthy Knights and  
‘ Esquires dwelling within the same Counties, whereby *Man-*  
‘ *slaughter, Riots, Batteries, and Divisions* among the Gentlemen,  
‘ and other People of the same Counties, shall very likely rise  
‘ and be, unlesse convenient and due Remedy be provided in this  
‘ Behalf: Our Lord the King considering the Premises, hath  
‘ provided ordained, and stablished by Authority of this present  
‘ Parliament, that the Knights of the Shires to be chosen within  
‘ the same Realme of *England,* to come to the Parliaments of our  
‘ Lord the King, hereafter to be holden, shall be chosen in ev-  
‘ ery County of the Realme of *England,* by People dwelling and  
‘ resident in the same Counties, whereof every one of them shall  
‘ have Land or Tenement, to the Value of *forty Shillings by the*  
‘ *Year at least, above all Charges,* and that they which shall be  
‘ so chosen, shall be dwelling and resident within the same Coun-  
‘ ties. . . . . Provided always, that he which cannot expend  
‘ *forty Shillings by the Year, as afore is said,* shall in *no wise be*  
‘ *Chofer* of the Knights for the Parliament.”

Here we find the same Cause producing the same Effect in former Times as in the present. Only there is this Difference, that the Evil could not be near so great then, as now, both because the Common People were used to much greater Subordination, and the Trade of the Kingdom was very inconsiderable, consequently could not have suffered by it in any Degree to what it doth at present. And yet if such were the Reasons which induced the Legislature to pass the above recited Act at that Time, how much more Reason have We to follow their Example now? — The present Value of 40*s.* is not a tenth Part of what they intended: Therefore, if We would keep up to the *Spirit* and *Meaning* of this Law, We should at least fix the Qualification at 20*l.* per *Annum.*

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ioneering: A proper Subordination would be effectually introduced: The Laws against Idleness and Debauchery might be executed; And Smuggling in a great measure suppressed: And all this without running the Risk of disobliging such Voters, and losing their Votes. Moreover, when Things were put upon such a Footing, it would be a Matter of *Honour* and *Reputation* to have a Vote; And consequently the Voter would pique himself more upon his Integrity and Uncorruptness, than he now doth. He would be above that Bribery and Corruption, which appear so openly and avowedly on all Sides at present throughout the Kingdom. Likewise a Spirit of Emulation and Industry would be excited: And the Privilege of Voting would become a laudable Inducement to every *Artificer* (not to get *Drunk,* or to take a poultry *Bribe,* as at present is the Case, but) to be *frugal* and *saving* in order to raise himself to the Degree of a *Voter.* And most Artificers might accomplish this by a few Years Industry after they are set up. The Number also of the Poor would consequently be lessened; the Price of Labour reduced; And the Persons themselves, who would be debarred of Voting by such a supposed Bill, much happier, much richer, and quieter than they now are. Add to this, That a Militia for Land Service, and a Register for the Sea Service might then be introduced, if it was judged expedient; whereas at present

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it is impracticable; because such a Power, wherever lodged, would infallibly be applied to the bad Purposes of influencing Votes at the Time of Elections.

II. PROPOSAL.

To reduce the Number of Representatives in Parliament for those Six Western Counties, which are opposite to France, viz. Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire; And to take about Sixty of the Irish Parliament into our House of Commons to supply their Room. Sixty or Eighty, (or more if necessary) might very well be spared from these Western Counties: And several Boroughs, which now send two Members each, be joined together, and send but one.

III. PROPOSAL.

AFTER such an Union of the Two Kingdoms, To lay the English Taxes gradually upon Ireland, and to ease the English of the worst of theirs by the same Gradation. Suppose the first Year, The English Excise, and Duty upon French Wines and Brandies, are extended to Ireland; then England might be eased of the Salt Tax the same Year. If in the second Year, Ireland is charged with the Stamp Duties, England might be discharged of the Tax upon Soap and Candles. If in the third the

the Windows are charged with a Duty in Ireland, the Coal Duties might be taken off from England. If in the fourth, the Tax is laid upon Coaches, this would be sufficient to enable the Parliament to take off the Duties upon our own Leather.

IV. PROPOSAL.

To set up Woollen and Silk Manufactures in the West of England, and the South-West of Ireland, in order to rival the French. \* The

\* The Price of Labour at the Places hereafter mentioned were given me as follows.

Abbeville and Amiens: Journeymen Weavers, and Cloth Workers, according to the Nature of the Work, and their Dexterity, from 20 to 50 Sous per Day.

Ditto, Women employed in the Manufacture, not more than 12 Sous per Day.

Hedgers and Ditchers in the Country, about 10 Sous per Day.

Lille: Journeymen Stocking and Camblet Weavers, about 24 Sous per Day.

Nantes: Journeymen Ship Carpenters, about 30 Sous per Day. Castelnaudary: Labourers mending the Canal of Languedoc, by the Job, 12 Sous per Day.

Nismes: Journeymen Weavers in the Silk and Stocking Trade, from 30 to 35 Sous per Day.

Marseilles: Journeymen Taylors, 30 Sous per Day.

Ditto, Carpenters. 30 Sous per Day.

Ditto, Silk Weavers, from 30 to 35 Sous per Day.

Toulon, Journeymen Carpenters in the King's Yard, 30 Sous.

Lions: Journeymen Workmen have several Prices, according to the Silks, Velvets, Gold Stuffs, Lace, &c. &c. from 50 to 100 Sous per Day.

Land Carriage of Goods from Marseilles to Lions, and Vice versa (230 English Miles) which is often done either for Speed or for safety; the Rhone being difficult to mount; and fine Goods may take Damage in going down, Per C. (108 lb. Eng.) from 6 to 7 Livres.

Price

[ 38 ]

Price of Labour is there as cheap as any where in *France*; And when a proper Subordination is introduced, and a Trade open, it is probable it might be much Cheaper: By which means the *French* would be beat out of a great deal of their *Levant* and *Spanish* Trade. But in order to effectuate this, we must have Recourse to the

## V. PROPOSAL.

*Viz.* To demolish our exclusive Companies, beginning with the *Turkey* and *Hudson's Bay* Companies; which hurt the Trade of *Great Britain* more essentially with respect to *France* than any other Company can do.

## VI. PROPOSAL.

To Encourage Foreign Merchants and Tradesmen to settle among Us, by a general Naturalization Act for all Protestants. And if it be judged improper to admit them into Offices of Trust or Power, it is easy to add a Clause, That these Things shall still be confined to the natural born Subjects.

## VII. PROPOSAL.

To invite Foreigners of Distinction to travel among Us, that so We may have something in Return for the vast Sums, which we yearly

[ 39 ]

yearly send abroad. To this End, there is wanting a concise Treatise in *French* and *English*, setting forth the Advantages, which Persons of different Tastes and Inclinations may enjoy by such a Tour; The Man of Pleasure and Diversion—The Virtuoso—The Scholar and Man of Letters—The Lawyer—Physician—Divine—Merchant, &c. with Directions how to perform a regular Tour—a shorter or a longer—what Things are most remarkable to be seen—Churches—Seats—Gardens—Pictures—Manufactures—Ports, &c.—what Books or Treatises may be consulted; how to learn the Language: With the proper Stages marked out, and a Calculation of the Expence in the moderate Way of Travelling.

## VIII. PROPOSAL.

To cut some Canals between our great Towns of Trade. Canals are much preferable to the making Rivers navigable, even where both might be done. For in the first Place, the Expence is not greater, except, perhaps, the Purchase of the Ground: In the next Place, they are kept and repaired at a much easier Rate; They are not subject to Inundations, or to the Shifting of the Sand and Gravel; They are generally much shorter and streighter. But what is above every other Consideration, A Boat loaden with Merchandize in a Canal, may be drawn by a single Horse, on  
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a full Trot, as in *Holland*, either up or down the Stream, and that whether it be a Flood, or not; and it requires but two Men to navigate it.

If a Canal was cut between *Reading* and *Bath*, there would then be an easy Communication between the two Principal Cities of the Kingdom, *London* and *Bristol*; And Goods and Passengers might be carried at one quarter of the present Expence. And Surely 75. *l. per Cent.* saved in Freight, deserves Consideration. The River *Kennet* from *Reading* to *Silbury-Hill* is a plain Illustration how practicable such a Scheme might be so far. And from thence to the Descent towards *Caln* is the only Difficulty on the *Bath* side. But those, who have seen the great Canal of *Languedoc*, know full well, that it might easily be performed, and at a fortieth Part of the Expence, which the other was. A Canal also ought to be dug between *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow*. And our Regiments in Times of Peace might work alternately at it, receiving some small Addition to their Pay when they are at work.

#### IX. PROPOSAL.

To raise a Fishery on the Northern Coasts of *Scotland*, by giving a double Premium (for some Years) for all Herrings caught and cured by Persons residing within certain Districts, and exported to foreign Markets.

#### X. PROPOSAL.

To make *Gibraltar* and *Port-Mabon* free Ports and Magazines for our *Levant* and *Mediterranean Trade*. The long time, which Ships are often forced to wait for a favourable Wind in the Streights-Mouth is a very great Detriment at present. But if they were to unload their *English* Merchandise at *Gibraltar*, and to find their Cargo ready for returning home, the Trade might be carried on to much greater Advantage, and with greater Expedition. The Island of *Minorca* is commodiously Situated for vending great Quantities of *English* Goods into *France* and *Italy*. If a Scheme of this kind was to take Place, the Island would also then stand a fair Chance of being peopled by many *English* Families, or by those well affected to the *English* Crown. Whereas at present there are scarce any except the Garrison, but bigotted *Spaniards*, who at the first taking of the Place, would have been glad to have parted with their Possessions for a Trifle, and to have retired. But now, they are got *immensely* rich: Their Lands are said to be more than five Times their former Value: And yet their Bigottry and Aversion continue as strong as ever.

## XI. PROPOSAL.

To have publick Inspectors of all our Manufactures; To see, that there is no private Fraud in packing, no Deficiency of Weight, or Measure; And that in every Kind of Merchandise the Worst is put Outermost for a Sample, not the Best; so that the Buyer, in seeing the Mark and Seal of the Office, is sure not to be deceived by what is out of Sight. This, if faithfully and honestly executed, would always keep up the Credit of our Manufactures, on which depend the Spirit and Life of Trade; and would prevent the fraudulent and deceitful to get rich at the Expence of the Publick, and their honest Neighbours.

## XII. PROPOSAL.

To alter the Method of collecting our Duties upon particular Sorts of Goods imported, viz. By lodging them in Warehouses erected at the publick Expence, till the Importer fetches them away, according as he wants them, and pays the Duty, or causes it to be paid by the Person who purchases of him. This Scheme I am sensible, would raise a great Clamour, if enforced by any compulsive Law; But if left to each Person's free Choice, there is the highest Probability, that

that it would universally obtain. Suppose therefore, That the Laws relating to the Customs in general should continue as they are; But that Permission should be granted to such Persons as are desirous of using it, to land their Goods in the publick Magazines, there to remain at the usual moderate Rent for Cellerage, till such Time as they find it their Interest to remove them, and then to pay the Duty. If such a Permission was granted to the Importers of Sugars, Rum, Wines, Brandies, Tobacco, Raisins, Prunes, and Currants, it is easy to foresee, That almost every one concerned, would embrace it. For, in the first Place, the Expence of Warehouse Room would be just the same; but the Difference between paying the Duty all at once upon Importation, and paying it by Degrees, would be very great, and much to the Advantage both of the Importer and the Publick. The Importer would be a Gainer, as he would not be streightned for Money to pay the Duties every time his Ship arrives; and might keep his Goods till he saw a promising Market, or might export them to some Foreign Country, if they bore there a better Price. And this itself would be a great Advantage to the Publick, as it would render our Country a kind of common Magazine for others, and as we should get by it all the Profits of Freight, Commission, &c. Moreover, the Publick would

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be more especially benefitted, as the Trade would be encreased, and the Goods afforded much the cheaper.—When a Trade can be carried on with a *small* Stock, the more Persons are capable of embarking in it; And when the Duties are not paid all at once, but by Degrees, as the Goods can be sold, the *Home-Consumer* will buy so much the cheaper. For he will only pay the King's simple Duty,—the Expences of the Adventure,—and the Merchant's single Gains upon that Adventure: Whereas, according to the present Way of collecting the Revenue, every Consumer pays *another* considerable Article, viz. *The Gains of the Merchant on the Sums advanced to pay the King's Duty.* And if the Goods have passed from the Merchant *Importer* to the last *Retailer*, thro' two or three Hands, before they come to the Consumer, then He pays *two* or *three* Advances the more. \* So that in fact, He not only pays the *first* Duty to the King, but perhaps twice as much again to others, by Means of these *Advances* upon *Advances.* The Consequence of all which is, That Trade becomes monopolized by a few Rich Persons, because there is a greater Stock required to carry it on; And *Smugglers* will

\* See this Affair set in a true and strong Light in a Treatise entitled, *An Essay on the Causes of the Decline of the Foreign Trade,* Lond. 1744. Printed for J. Bretherton. Pages 16 and 17.

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be the *more numerous*, and the more audacious, because the *Temptations* to, and the *Gains* of *Smuggling* become so much the greater. Whereas by the Method now proposed, both these Mischiefs would be prevented to a great Degree.—Observe, The Proposal here made, *compells* no Persons to submit to these Regulations, but only *permits* them to make use of them, if they are *disposed* to do it. — Observe also, That this Scheme requires no *new Officers* even at the Commencement of it: And when it has been thoroughly tried and known, it would certainly greatly *lessen the Number* of them. A Set of Publick Magazines (which, by the By, might be so contrived, as to be *ornamental*, as well as *useful*) built uniformly, and in a *Quadrangular* Figure, might easily be taken Care of and inspected by a very few Officers, who might well be spared from the Numbers now employed as *Land-Waiters, Tide-Waiters, Searchers, Deputies, Extraordinary Men,* &c. &c.—Observe, 3dly, That with respect to any *Embezzlement*, which these Magazine-keepers might be suspected of, this might be prevented, as much as any thing of such a Nature can possibly be (not only by Weighing the Goods, Gauging them, and taking Samples before they are delivered into the Officers Care) but also by making it necessary, That these Officers should be engaged with two sufficient Bondsmen in two Sorts

Sorts of Securities, one to the King, to enforce their Fidelity to him, and another to the Mayor or chief Magistrate of the Town, and his Successors, where the Magazine is kept, in Trust for the Merchants, to ensure their Honesty to them: And that when any of these Officers are suspected of Embezzling the Merchants Property, the Party aggrieved may be at Liberty to bring an Action in the Name of the Mayor or chief Magistrate for the Time being, and recover treble Damages with Costs of Suit, on Proof of such Embezzlement. Now in *all* these Respects the *Present* Proposal differs entirely from the *late famous Excise Scheme*; And *every* Objection made against *that*, is obviated *here*. As to the *Expence* in erecting these supposed Magazines, which is the only Difficulty attending the present Proposal; what I am going next to offer, if put in Execution, would raise a Fund more than sufficient to answer it; viz.

### XIII. PROPOSAL.

To check the prevailing Mode of living Bachelors, by some salutary penal Law; the Fine of which might be applied to the erecting publick Magazines, or Warehouses for the Uses abovementioned. The manifold ill Consequences attending the Practice of living Bachelors, are too glaring and evident.

dent. For we may venture to pronounce, without any Degree of Uncharitableness, That it is *one* great Cause of all the Lewdness and Debauchery of this Age. Some *few* indeed undoubtedly there are, who no ways contribute to these Immoralities by their single Life; But they are too inconsiderable in Number to deserve to have particular Exemptions, even were it possible to distinguish them from others, which it is not possible to do in a legal Way. In all things calculated for the *general* Good, some *Individuals* must suffer; and it cannot be avoided. Now (to consider this Matter merely in a *commercial* Light) as there are at least Ninety-Nine in an Hundred, who gratify their Desires, but *so as to add* no *proper* Increase to the *Publick* Stock of Inhabitants, in which the *Riches* and *Strength* of a Nation do consist, one may easily judge of the Evil of such a Practice by its bad Consequences. And in *London* particularly, where this Vice of living Bachelors *mostly* prevails, there it is observable, by the Bills of Mortality, that more Persons die, than are born every Year. So that were it not for the continual Supplies from the Country, where the Marriage State is not yet quite so *unfashionable*, that great Metropolis would be *depopulated* in a few Years. And yet there is no Place, in which there is so great a Number of the Female Sex in the Proportion, as in *London*.  
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Can it be credited, tho' perhaps it is too true, That in this City alone, there are upwards of Ten Thousand *loose* Women, from 16 Years old to 40, who have not *fifty* Children in a Year? And these *born* with all *sorts* of Disorders, and *educated*, if they live, in all *kinds* of *Vice* and *Wickedness*? In short, it has been often remarked, That the greatest Rakes, that all *Europe* can produce, when they arrive in *England*, and come to *London*, are quite *shocked* and *scandalized* at the *unparalleled* Lewdness and Debauchery reigning among *Us*, so far beyond any thing they could have imagined. Now if these 10,000 *loose* Women had not been debauched and corrupted, and were married to Persons of their own Rank and Condition, they might have had at least 1000 *healthy* Children every Year; And these in a fair Way to be bred to *honest* Trades and Callings. Besides, upon the present Footing, the *Injustice* done to the *married* Tradesman, and Landed Gentleman is most grievous and intolerable. \* For *they* pay the Excise and several other Duties in Proportion to the Consumption of their Families; But the *Batchelor* pays only for his *single* Self; i. e. Those who are *most beneficial* to the Publick, are *doubly, trebly, or quadruply* Taxed, in Proportion as *they* are *beneficial*: And others, who are

\* Causes of the Decline, &c. p. 8 and 9. and p. 51.  
Exempted.

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a *Nuisance* to it, are *therefore* exempted. Is there any Justice or Equity in this? I add, Men may understand these things as *Patriots* and *Politicians*, who would turn a deaf Ear to Lectures in *Morality* and *Divinity*. Nay more; such *Abounding* of *Lewdness*, and *Surfeiting* of *Prostitution* doth in fact tend to *encrease* the more *unnatural* *Vices*, instead of preventing them, as it is vulgarly, tho' erroneously supposed. And the History of *all* Nations, from the former Times down to the present, confirms this Assertion. Antient *Greece* and *Rome*, and modern *England*, to mention no more, have furnished *too many* Examples in Proof of this Point. And Reason itself should tell us, That it is with *this*, as with all other *depraved* Appetites, where *Surfeiting* and *Satiety* are Inducements to seek out *less natural* Ways of Gratification.

WHEREFORE the Proposal here is, That all *Batchelors* after they have attained to the Age of 25 Years, shall pay *double* King's Tax,—Poor Tax,—Window Tax,—and the Taxes upon Coaches, till they marry. Thus the greatest, i. e. the *wealthiest* Offenders are properly mulcted. For undoubtedly *they* have it in their Power of settling in the World, if they will. They are the People, who set bad Examples, and by their Station, Riches, Intrigues, and Address, debauch those young  
G Women

Women at first, who afterwards become the *common Prostitutes* of the Town. But as this only reaches the *wealthiest* of them; And as there are vast Numbers of single Men, whom this Scheme would not affect, therefore there should be added to it a *general Capitation Tax* for *all Batchelors*, of whatsoever Degree, above 25 Years of Age. And if this was fixed at 10 s. a Head per Ann. for all above the Condition of Day-Labourers, and at 5 s. for them (with an Exemption only for common Soldiers and Sailors) it would be a very just and equitable Law, and would certainly be attended with many good Consequences, both as to the *Morals* and the *Commerce* of the Nation.



CONCLUSION.



## CONCLUSION.

**A**ND thus I have ventured to give my Sentiments, with that *Freedom* and *Unreservedness*, which is natural to Men, who mean well, and whose sole Aim is the Good and Prosperity of their Country. As I have no private Ends of my own to serve either the one way or the other, I have had no Bias of Self-Interest upon my Mind.—It is true, I confess, that *many* of the Proposals here made, are Subjects very *unpopular* in the present Times: Neither would I willingly have advanced any thing *harsh* or *disagreeable*, even to *prejudiced* Minds, *were it possible* to have made *Truth* and *Popularity*, in this Case, consist together. But since that cannot be, what must be done? must we still go on, languishing in our Commerce, encreasing in our Disorders, and beholding our Rivals taking their Advantage of these Misfortunes, merely because some People do not choose

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to



to be told *Where* the *Core* of the Evil lies, and how it may be taken out? If the Alterations here proposed, are *necessary* or *advantageous* to the Publick, *that* alone should be *sufficient* to recommend them to the Esteem of *all* Persons of *Worth* and *Character*; But if they are not, I put in no Plea or Apology for them:—Only I will add, on behalf of the Author, that his *Intentions* were *good*, tho' He was mistaken.

I AM also well aware, That there is a customary Prepossession entertained against Projects of all kinds; And that Projectors are looked upon as a race of Beings who have something very singular and whimsical in their Composition. And yet I think it must be allowed, That, notwithstanding all the Prejudice which some chimerical Gentlemen of this Stamp have drawn upon themselves, there must be both Projects and Projectors, when things are *bad*, and want *mending*; otherwise they never could be *better*, nor the Faults *corrected*.

WITH respect to the Case before Us, there are two general Objections, as far as I am able to perceive, which may be made against what has been advanced.

THE 1<sup>st</sup> is, That many of the Proposals, tho' they may be right in Theory, are impracticable in fact. To

To this I reply, That no one can be certain of this, till an Attempt has been made to put them in Practice: And that I am very sure, Every one of them might be easily put in Execution, were Persons as really animated with the Love of their Country, and as truly concerned for it's Welfare and Prosperity, as they *pretend* to be; And had some among Us, in *their Opposition* to every Measure of the Government, no *dark latent* Scheme at Heart, which they *cover* over with these *Specious* Names.

THE 2<sup>d</sup> is, That this Scheme is attended with Inconveniences, as well as others.

I GRANT it is: And surely no Man in his Senses could ever suppose, That there could be any Scheme calculated for the *general* Good, which would not bear hard upon the Interests of some *Particular* People.—The true way of estimating any Proposal is, To consider, Whether it doth remedy more *old* Inconveniences, than it introduces *new* ones;—And Whether, upon the *whole*, it is *beneficial*, or not,—and it's Benefits of such *Importance* as deserve to be regarded;—lastly, Whether likewise some of these very Inconveniences which are supposed to attend it, may not be *prevented* or *amended* by further

ther Experience and Observation. This is the true way for estimating any Proposal; And by this Rule I would chuse, that my own should be tried.—And then let them stand, or fall.

WE are always complaining of the bad Morals of our People, of a general Corruption, and the Decay of Trade. Nevertheless it is very certain, That the present System of things greatly contributes to the Encrease of each of these Evils. My Meaning is, That it lays powerful Temptations in Peoples way.—And then, what can be expected? Some *few* perhaps will prove their Virtue to be superior: But the *great Majority* will certainly be corrupted. For evident it is, That the *Innocence* of the Bulk of Mankind is best preserved by their being kept *ignorant* of the Temptation, or at a great *Distance* from it. Now, what is the natural Tendency of *Customhouse Oaths, Election Oaths, Freedom Oaths, &c. &c.* but to entice and encourage Mankind to be guilty of the foul Sin of *Wilful* and *Deliberate* Perjury? What are the *heavy* Taxes upon the *married* State, and *Exemptions* for *Batchelors* but the like Inducements to Men to remain *single*, and to gratify their Desires in an *unlawful* Way? What are all the *exclusive* Companies, all the *heavy* Duties upon Importation, and the Many Statutes for *cramping* the Trade of *Ireland,*

*land,* but so many continued Attempts to *drive away* the Trade from Ourselves to the *French,* who are not only our *Rivals,* but our most *dangerous* Rivals? And truly we have greatly succeeded in all these: Yet who can we blame but Ourselves? It may be pleaded indeed in Excuse for these Laws and Establishments, That they were not originally intended to produce those bad Effects.. I allow they were not; nor are they charged with any such Design. But the Question here is, not what was the View of Makers of these Laws, or what was the End proposed by such Establishments, but what is the *Tendency* of them, as verified by *Experience,* and how they do *operate* in fact? And if it is made to appear, That they are so destructive in their Consequences, and subversive of our *Morals, Liberties* and *Commerce,* it is but of little Consolation to know, That they were established with a better View; as we are now considering the Things themselves, with their natural Consequences, not the Characters or Design of their Authors and Projectors.

I WILL only add one Reflection more to what has been said; viz. That if we would still keep on our Trade at a *Foreign* Market, we must at least be upon an *equal* Footing with *other* Nations, as to the *Goodness* and *Cheapness* of what we have to sell; Otherwise we cannot

cannot expect, That Foreigners would give Us the Preference to their own Loss. This then being the State of the Case, it necessarily follows, That we must always have an Eye upon the Practice and Proceedings of our *Rivals*, and take our Measures accordingly, as far as regards this mutual Emulation. If *they* contrive Ways and Means to render their *Manufactures* cheaper or better than they did before, so as to outvie Us; *we* must strive to outvie them in Cheapness and Goodness, or be deprived of that part of Commerce by them: If *they* invite Foreigners to settle among them, in order to have the more Hands, and to keep down the Price of Labour; *we* must do the same, or take the Consequence to Ourselves; If *they* allow of no exclusive Companies in a Branch of Trade, which interferes with our Trade; *we* must put down our Companies, or loose *that* Trade: If *their* Manufacturers are sober and industrious, and work for low Wages, and seldom become a Burden upon their Parishes; *we* must endeavour to put *ours* upon the same Footing, or be content with the Poverty, which will be brought upon Us: If *their* Government requires little or no Duties upon Importation, in order to encourage the greater Numbers to engage in Trade, and that all Merchandise may come the cheaper to the Consumer; *we* must imitate them in that respect,

spect, and change our Customs into In-land Duties, or administer continual Temptation to the needy and fraudulent to turn Smugglers, and suffer ourselves to sink under these Evils, together with the Burden and Weight of our Customs. These are the Alternatives which are set before Us; And one would think, That if Mankind were not greatly blinded with their Prejudices, and biaised by private Interest and sinister Views, they need not be long in deliberating which to choose.— Not to mention, That as every Country in *Europe* now begins to understand the Maxims of Trade, and apply themselves to Commerce, and are actually raising Woollen Manufactures of their own, and have laid new Duties upon Ours;—For these Reasons, *We* ought to be more intent than ever to contrive all Ways and Means possible to lower the Price of every thing we export, in order to overballance these additional Duties by Dint of Cheapness of Labour, and to outvie these *new Rivals* by the Goodness of our Manufactures.

F I N I S.



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## APPENDIX,

*Containing a PLAN for raising ONE  
only TAX on the Consumers of  
Luxuries.*

**T**HE foregoing Proposals were endeavoured to be drawn up in such a Manner as pointed out, how the desired Alterations in our Systems of Commerce, and of collecting the Publick Revenue might be brought about as gradually as possible. And no greater Deviations were attempted to be made from the present State of these Affairs, than seemed absolutely necessary; least too precipitate a Shock might prejudice Mankind against Conviction. I did not therefore propose some of the above-mentioned Alterations

tions, as what appeared to me the very best, which could be devised; but the best in our present Circumstances, and the likeliest to succeed. For I am convinced, That what I am now going to offer, is in itself a much more effectual Remedy, if our Constitution is strong enough to admit the Application of it.

THE Scheme is generally ascribed to Sir *M. D.* as the Author of it; And is taken out of a Quarto Pamphlet, which would do Honour to any Man, several times already quoted; viz. *An Essay on the Causes and Decline of the Foreign Trade.*

BUT as I shall take the Liberty to make some few Alterations from, and Additions to what this most ingenious Author hath advanced, I shall put those Articles in a different Character, that they may be distinguished from his; And that his Original Plan may not be involved in any Censure, which perhaps is only due to my Additions and Alterations.—The Reasons which induced me to believe that some few things might be altered, or added for the better, shall be laid before the Reader in the Sequel.



An Extract from Page 44, &c. of  
the *Essay on the Causes and Decline*  
of the *Foreign Trade*.

First and Second PROPOSALS.

**T**O 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 Luxu-  
ry, 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 following.

ARTI-

Articles of LUXURY.	Computed Income.	Tax at three Half-Pence in the Pound.		
---------------------	---------------------	---	--	--

	l.	s.	d.
All Persons			
1. Keeping two Coaches and Six for their Use	8000	50	
2. Using Dishes or Plates of Silver at their Tables, commonly called Services of Plate	4000	25	
3. Keeping a Coach and Six for their Use	2000	12	10
4. Keeping a Coach and Four for their Use	1000	6	5
5. Drinking French Wines in their Houses or Lodgings	1000	6	5
6. Keeping a Coach and Two for their Use	800	5	
☞ Chariots, Four Wheel Chaises, &c. are included in the Term Coach.			
7. Wearing Jewels for their Drefs (besides Necklaces, Solitaires, Rings, or Ear-Rings)	800	5	
8. Keeping a Sedan Chair for their Use	800	5	
9. Wearing Gold and Silver, Men on their Coats and Hats; and Women on their Gowns and Shoes	500	3	2 6
10. Using Silver Plate for their Side-Boards or Tables (not having Services)	250	1	11 3
11. Using China Services, viz. Dishes and Plates at their Tables	250	1	11 3
12. Wearing Necklaces or Solitaires of Jewels for their Drefs (besides Rings or Ear-Rings)	250	1	11 3
13. Keeping a Chair or Chaise with one Horse for their Use	250	1	11 3
14. Keeping a Pack of Hounds.	250	1	11 3
15. Keeping a Man, or Men-Servants in Livery, or to wait at Table	250	1	11 3
16. Keeping more Saddle Horses than one	250	1	11 3

Articles

Articles of LUXZURY.	Computed Incomes.		Tax at three Half-pence in the Pound.	
	l.	s.	d.	
All Persons				
17. Drinking <i>Port</i> Wine in their House, Lodging, or Service. <i>I have inserted the Word Port for Reasons hereafter; And all other Wines, except French, are here included</i>	100		12	6
18. Keeping Grey-hounds, Setters, Netts, Fowling Pieces, &c.	100		12	6
19. Using China Plates for Deserts only (having no Services of China)	100		12	6
20. Wearing Gold or Silver for their Drefs (except on Coats, Gowns, Hats, or Shoes)	100		12	6
21. Wearing Jewels in Rings or Ear-Rings	100		12	6
22. Going to Plays, Operas, Concerts, Balls, Masquerades, Ridottos, Long Rooms, Publick Gardens	100		12	6
23. Going to Bear and Bull-baitings, Prize-fightings, Boxing-matches, Cock-fightings, and Horse-races	50		6	3
24. Using no Silver Plate but Spoons	50		6	3
25. Drinking Brandy, Rum, or any Spirits in House, Lodging, or Service	50		6	3
26. Wearing Silk or Silk-Stuffs in Apparel	50		6	3
27. Having Pictures, Paintings, or Prints in House, or Lodging	50		6	3
28. Having more than one Looking-Glass in Ditto	50		6	3
29. Drinking Tea, Coffee, or Chocolate, in House, Lodging, or Service	25		3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
30. Using China Tea-Dishes, Cups, or Saucers	25		3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

THIS

THIS is the general Scheme of the Author: And I have ventured to make such Additions to it, as, I hope, are consistent with his good Design. I shall therefore make no Apology for each particular Alteration; And only observe with respect to the 5th and the 17th Articles, *i. e.* The Distinction between drinking *French* Wines, and *other* Wines (which are the principal Alterations) That they both seem to me to be highly necessary. The Author indeed makes no Difference throughout the Treatise between promoting the Consumption of *French* Wine or *Port* Wine; as if it was the same to the Commerce of this Kingdom: But, tho' I acknowledge with Pleasure the Instruction I have received in other Parts of the Science of Commerce, I cannot follow him in this; And must still stick to the Maxims of all the former Writers on Trade, till I can see more Reason to alter my Opinion. If *French* Clarets, *Burgundy*, and *Champagne* were as cheap as *Port*, few Men would hesitate long which to choose. The *British Merchant*, I think, has satisfactorily proved, That were we to abolish all Duties on *French* Goods, and they to do the same on *English* (as was partly the Scheme of the Ministry during the four last Years of *Q. Ann*) The Consequence would be, at least, for a great many Years, That *England* would be over-run with *French* Silks, Laces, Wines, Brandies, Cloths,



Cloths, Stuffs, Ribbons, Fans, Toys, &c. And the *French* would take very little or nothing in Return, more than at present. The Experiment therefore which he proposes, seems to me too hazardous; The bad Effects of it would be violent and instantaneous, and the good ones very slow and gradual; so that the Patient would be in Danger of expiring, as is often the Case, before the Medicine can operate.

BESIDES, were We to give such Encouragement to the *French* Wines, as is here supposed, what would become of our *Portugal* Trade? which, as to the Ballance of it, is worth two Thirds of all the rest. The Court of *Portugal* would lay an high Duty and perhaps a Prohibition upon all *British* Commodities, the Moment they found We did not give due Encouragement to theirs: Which indeed by Publick Treaty We are bound to do. And the *French* have always viewed this gainful Trade with a longing Eye; and would be glad to put in for it, if they found any Opening.

BUT to return; As to the Scheme in general, it is certainly very good. Perhaps the Valuation of the Income supposed necessary for some few of the principal Articles is set too high; being, I presume, calculated for the Meridian of *London*, and the adjacent Coun-

Counties: Whereas the Calculation should have been made more upon a Medium with the more distant Parts of the Kingdom, where things are much cheaper. But this is a Trifle; and might easily be rectified. It is sufficient, that the Scheme is good in itself, and is still capable of great Improvements.

THE Author in the next Place gives a general Rule, 'That all Articles of the same Degree, or under the Article paid for, are included in it.' *i. e.* If I understand him rightly, The *greater* includes the *less*. For Instance, if a Person pays for a Coach and Six, he is thereby entitled to use a Coach and Four, a Chariot, a one Horse-Chaise, or any other Vehicle he pleases. If he enters a whole Service of Plate, he may use Side-Boards, and all other Plate besides. If He takes out a Licence for drinking *French* Wines, the same will serve for *Port*, *Spanish*, or any other, for Rum and Brandy; And so on.

I ADD also, what I conceive the Author has omitted, That the *highest* Article which any Man enters, gives the Lead to all the rest; so that he is to pay for each of the succeeding the same which he pays for the first. If a Person enters a Coach and Six, and pays 12 *l.* 10 *s.* 0 *d.* according to the

[ 66 ]

Rates in the Table, he is to pay the same Sum for every other Article he enters. And there are the following weighty Reasons for it: First, That by so doing, this Scheme becomes the most excellent *sumptuary* Law, that ever was devised: And Secondly, That it is just and reasonable each Person should pay in Proportion to what he Uses of any Commodity: Now the most probable Grounds We can go upon (for the Affair will not admit of Certainty and Demonstration) is, That Persons in general live in Proportion to the Figure they make. A Person, who keeps a Coach and Six, is supposed to have more Wine drank in his Family than one who keeps only a single Chariot, and to use a greater Quantity in Proportion of every other Article, which he enters; And therefore in all Reason and Justice, he should pay the more.

THE next Article that he proposes is, 'That Husbands should pay for their Wives the 1/4th of the Article they pay for themselves, to entitle them to Use the same; And that the Parents should pay for each Child under Age the 1/8th of the Article they pay for themselves, to entitle them to use the same.' Here again I am sorry I find myself obliged to differ from the worthy Author. If the Husband is taxed for his Wife, and Parents for their Children  
in

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in Proportion to their Numbers; this would be making too near Approaches to the Fault the Author had himself so justly condemned in our present System. Besides, when a Man has a Family, he is necessarily obliged to enter more Articles than he would do, were he single. And it would be a great and discouraging Hardship for the Heads of Families to pay these Articles, or any part of them, over again, on the Account of their Wives and Children. Moreover, I do not see how We could rightly distinguish which Articles belonged to the Husband, which to the Wife, and which to the Children. It therefore seems to me a more equitable way, That the Husband or Parent be responsible for the *whole* Family, and be considered, as if he entred *all* the Articles, for his *single self*. If the Family are extravagant, and will use more Articles of Luxury than his Circumstances will afford, it is his Business to restrain them: And the present Plan makes it his immediate Interest, as well as Duty so to do.

THE Author then proposes, 'That Batchelors should be doubly taxed, if of 21 Years of Age.'—This, with Submission, is too soon. Suppose rather, That they paid a single Tax for each Article, till they arrived at 25 Years; And then were *trebly* taxed, till they married; And that Widowers like-

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wife

wife without Children, if upwards of 30, and under 45, were *doubly* taxed.

THE Author then recommends, That all Persons Such as he there reckons up, who get their Living by the Luxuries and Extravagance of others, should be obliged to pay for every Article they enter, as if they had an Income of 500*l.* a Year.— But here I think there is not a sufficient Distinction made between the different Classes of these People; seeing that, according to him, all must pay alike; from the meanest Ale-house to the greatest Tavern; which surely is a very unequal way of Taxing, and not at all agreeable to his own just Maxims. Suppose therefore, instead of fixing upon any particular Sum, That each of these Persons should tax himself, by his way of Living, according as others do, but only much higher, viz. That all Keepers of Taverns, Coffee-houses, Long-Rooms, Publick Gardens, Ale-houses, &c. And that all Players, Shew-men, &c. should be *trebly* taxed as long as they continue in such Professions; —And that even this should be *doubled* on all those, who retail *French* Wines or Brandies.

BUT undoubtedly the way and manner of levying such a Tax, is the Point which merits most the Attention of the Publick. And

on

on this Head, the worthy Author has given great Specimens of an uncommon Sagacity and Penetration. I shall not stay to repeat all his Rules and Directions, but refer those who are disposed, to the Treatise itself. But there is one Point, which particularly deserves to be mentioned for it's Singularity and Contrivance, and as it is the Master Key to all the rest: And that is, the Method which he has taken to make each Person immediately interested in detecting the Frauds and Impositions of his Neighbours: He observes in the first Place, That as the whole Scheme is a Tax upon *Vanity*, the very Nature of this Passion betrays itself, and will not be concealed: Consequently there can be little Room for defrauding the Revenue in such a Case. — But suppose a few Frauds should be attempted in some particular Circumstances; Then the following Method, which he proposes, is the most effectual Way of detecting them, viz. Let each Person for the first Year voluntarily tax himself according to the Station of Life He chooses to appear in; And let him take out a Licence of the proper Officer in each District, specifying the several Articles he enters: Let a Parish Register be kept of all the Money so raised in the Year within that Parish; And let the Tax so collected, be a Standard for laying on the Parish Rates of Church, Poor, Lamps, Scavengers, and all other Pa-  
rochial

rochial or County Payments for the ensuing Year. The Consequence will be, That those who pay most, will naturally detect such of their Neighbours as use any of the Articles above-mentioned without entering them; because in so doing, they cause this latter Burden of Taxes to light the easier upon themselves, and oblige their Neighbours to contribute their Quota with them. And as the Author proposes, That the suspected Person should be charged with the *Onus Probandi*, or Justification of himself, this would still facilitate the Scheme. And the Idea of an Informer would be very far from being considered in that contemptible and detestable Light it is at present, when the best, the greatest, and those who make the most splendid Figure in each Parish, would be of the Number.

THIS Tax is proposed by the Author to be laid on the first Year without taking off any other, in order to have a Fund beforehand, and to pay our National Debt the faster, and also to see what it would amount to. Then he proposes, That all other Taxes should be abolished Year by Year, as this encreases, and is found adequate to supply their Places.

I WILL therefore single out a Gentleman of 250 *l.* Income by the Year, with a Wife and

and four Children: And I will suppose that he enters every Article he well can; And compare that Tax with the present, in order to see what Advantages may be reaped by it.

A Gentleman of 250 *l.* per Annum, living somewhat profusely, enters,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1. A Service of China, which includes all other Articles of China	1	11	3
2. A Side-Board of Plate; all other Plate (except Services) included	1	11	3
3. Jewels, viz. Necklaces and Solitaires; Rings and Ear-Rings included	1	11	3
4. A two-wheeled Chaise	1	11	3
5. A Pack of Hounds; Grey-hounds, Guns, Nets, &c. included	1	11	3
6. Men-Servants in Livery, or to wait at Table	1	11	3
7. Saddle Horses	1	11	3
8. <i>Port</i> , and all Wines (except <i>French</i> ) Rum, Brandy, and Spirits included	1	11	3
9. Gold and Silver in Dress (except on Coats, Hats, Shoes, and Gowns) Silk, and Silk-Stuffs included	1	11	3
Carried over	14	1	3

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	14	1	3
10. Going to Plays; all other Diversions included	1	11	3
11. Pictures, Prints, &c.	1	11	3
12. Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate	1	11	3
13. Looking Glasses	1	11	3
<hr/>			
Total, which this Gentleman would pay for his Annual Licence	20	6	3
Deduct 3 d. in the Pound Expences in collecting	00	5	1
<hr/>			
Remains clear to the Government	20	1	2

WHEREAS a Gentleman of the same Income, let him be as frugal as he well can, pays at present for himself, his Wife, Children, and Family, in Duties, Customs, and Excises to the King, and Perquisites to Officers of the Customs, with all their Train of *enhancing* Consequences, at least double the former; tho' the neat Produce, which comes clear to the Government is full one third less by the following Estimation.

1. THE

	l.	s.	d.
1. THE Gentleman is charged with the King's Duty, Customs and Excise, for all the Salt, Soap, Leather, Candles (and perhaps Coal) all the Malt and Hops (and perhaps Ale, Beer, Cyder and Perry) all the Wine, Brandy, Rum, and Spirits; the Sugar, Raisins, Currants, Lemons, Oranges, Tobacco; the Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate, and other Articles used and consumed by himself and Family: Which, if he is very saving, perhaps may amount to no more than about	20	00	0
2. HE is charged with the <i>primary</i> kind of Advances on each of these Articles, <i>i. e.</i> The Advances which the Person who first pays the Duty, makes on the next Buyer, and He on the next, till it comes to the Consumer, who must pay for ALL: Which at least must amount to	10	00	0
<hr/>			
Carried over	30	00	0
K			brought



	l. s. d.
Brought over	30 00 0
3. * HE is charged with all secondary kind of Advances, i. e. The reciprocal Advances of the Price of Labour, Provisions, and all Commodities, which Tradesmen, Landlords, and all People concerned, make upon one another.—This must at least amount to as much more	10 00 0
<hr/>	
Total paid at present, even with good Oeconomy	40 00 0

BUT

\* The Nature of *primary* and *secondary* Advances may be best explained by an Illustration of both in the same Trade. Suppose A. by Trade a Shoemaker: He buys his Leather of the Tanner and Currier, and pays to them the King's Duty, with their Advances upon it: He charges this Duty, with the Addition of their Advances, and a *new* one of his own, upon the Shoes he sells. This is the Nature of all *primary* Advances, be they multiplied ever so often. The Interest of the Money so paid and used in Trade, as Matters now stand, make it necessary, that they should be:

But this is not all: For A. finds that B. C. D. E. F. G. &c. That is, The Butchers, Brewers, Bakers, Farmers, Cheefe-Mongers, Chandlers, Grocers, Clothiers, Taylors, and in short, all the Tradesmen, whom he deals with, do likewise charge him with *their respective* Advances. Therefore, as he has no Resource, but what his Occupation brings in, he charges his Shoes, as it were again, with a *secondary* Advance; in order to answer their Demands. Thus the Affair goes round, they charging him, and he them; till the Original Price of each one's Commodities is encreased to a *prodigious imaginary Value*. It is therefore no longer to be wondered at, That a Pair of Shoes, which doth not pay 4 *d.* Duty

	l. s. d.
BUT tho' the Gentleman concerned pays 40 l. per Annum for the Duties and their Consequences, yet the Original Duty to the King was no more than	20 00 0
Deduct therefore 1 3d at least for collecting	6 13 4
<hr/>	
Remains clear to the Government	13 6 8

I HAVE here allowed 1 3d for collecting: And whoever considers the vast Expence, which the Government is at, especially in the Salt and Customs, will be apt to conclude, That I have not allowed enough. As there is a Draw-back upon all Salt exported; and Salt for the Use of the Fisheries; therefore it is necessary to have Salt Officers in all the Ports and Creeks of the Kingdom, to prevent Frauds and Impositions upon this Account. An amazing Expence, which this amounts to. And as to the Customs; there is not one Port in ten (except the Ports of *London, Bristol, Liverpool, Southampton, Hull,*

Duty to the King, is yet enhanced a Shilling, or more in the Price, since the Duty laid upon Leather, and other the like Necessaries of Life.—Whereas no such thing can happen according to the Nature of the Scheme here recommended: All Necessaries of Life, being Duty-free, and without Advances of any kind.



*Newcastle, Lynn, Leith, and Glasgow*) which enter Merchandize enough to defray the Expences of their own Officers.—What a Difference is this, in Comparison to the Scheme proposed! In *that*, as it is proposed, That each Person shall be obliged to come and enter, and pay the Money without any farther Expence, 3 *d.* in the Pound would be full sufficient for the Salary of the Receiver and his Clerk: In *this*, 6 *s.* 8 *d.* will scarce satisfy for the collecting of 20 *s.* even by computing all upon an Average. So that tho' the Subject with all his Oeconomy, pays annually 40 *l.* The King receives but 1 3d of it, *viz.* 13 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* Whereas in the other Case, the Subject would pay but 20 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.* tho' he appeared in a much gayer Scene of Life. And yet the Government would receive, clear of all Charges, 20 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.* which is 1 3d, more. What then would it have been, had they both lived in the same Degree of Gaiety and Profusenefs!

SUCH a Scheme therefore as here proposed, one would think should recommend itself. For all Persons in the Nation would find their Account in it in the long run, if they could have the Patience to look forward, and were not so contracted in their Views, as to be chained down to the *present* Advantage of private Interest.—But what has been already mentioned is only *one* Good Consequence,

quence, out of a Multitude of others which would attend it. For as it would render all things cheaper, it would necessarily encrease our Foreign Trade, enrich our Country, employ our Poor, encrease the Stock of Inhabitants, raise the *real* Value of all our Lands and Commodities, and depress the present *imaginary* and *factitious* one: As there would be no Duty upon Importation, it would invite more Persons to engage in Trade; and prevent the very Possibility of Smuggling: As all Ports would be open, every Part of the Kingdom would have a fair and equal Chance; And the Sun-Shine of Commerce and Plenty would be diffused equally throughout: Above all, It would be attended with two excellent Consequences, which deserve to be more particularly noted, as we have little of the kind now existing. For *First*, It would be a most excellent *sumptuary* Law, to give a Check to the Luxury and Extravagance of the Age. The *highest* Article which a Man enters giving the Lead to all the rest, would make it his immediate Interest, to go as Low as possible: So that He would find himself under a continual Monitor to forego his Pleasures, till he could better afford to pay for them. His *aspiring* Vanity would be cheked by the Consideration, That he is to pay the more for every other succeeding Article in Consequence of the first. *Secondly*, It would be a Tax, which

[ 78 ]

which no Man could complain of, as it would be his own voluntary Act and Deed to rate himself in this or that Class, and to appear either in an higher or a lower Station of Life.

BUT alas! after all what can We expect from such a World as this?—The Scheme before Us is of too *enlarged* and *noble* a Nature to be rightly comprehended and truly relished by *narrow* and *contracted* Minds. It clashes with the *present* Interest of too many Persons, to be likely to succeed. And I am afraid, I may apply to this Author, the Words I heard in a Case not very different from it: *Sir, This is all right; But it will never do:—It is too honest.*

HOWEVER, there is a Satisfaction in offering things *right* and *honest* to Publick Consideration, whether they are accepted, or not. It is a laudable Passion to be willing to do the most *extensive* Good. And there are not many Men, tho' many may be honest and upright in their private Capacity, who think themselves concerned to be active and indefatigable in promoting the Welfare of the Community. The Case with the Selfish and Designing is quite the reverse: They are ever vigilant and industrious in defeating every Measure, which is not calculated for their own *private* Advantage, to the Detriment of others. Their Craft is endangered by such a System:

[ 79 ]

a System: And therefore they always cry it down, and are zealous in opposing it.

THUS it is, That in most Contests, where the Publick Good is concerned, a few knavish and dishonest Persons are an Over-match by their Zeal and Activity for greater Numbers, who are more negligent and indifferent. Every generous and disinterested Proposal naturally alarms all those, who prey upon the Publick.—But let the Event be what it will, an honest Man who doth his Duty, enjoys that Satisfaction, which they are Strangers to.

F I N I S.



The first part of the document is a letter from the  
 Secretary of the Board of Education to the  
 Board of Education. The letter is dated  
 and is addressed to the Board of Education.  
 The letter is signed by the Secretary of the Board of Education.  
 The letter is dated and is addressed to the Board of Education.  
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