THE

DANGER

OF

Great Britain and *Ireland*

BECOMING

PROVINCES to *FRANCE*:

OR,

A ſhort View of the *Britiſh* Products, compared with thoſe of *France*; by which it will moſt evidently appear, that the Fleets and Armies of *France*, are at this Time maintained out of the Bowels of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, by the infamous Practice of Smuggling.

BEING

A ſerious and ſeaſonable Remonſtrance to Both Houſes of Parliament; wherein is laid down a plain, eaſy, and effectual Method, ſhewing how the exorbitant Power of *France* may be more ſpeedily reduced and deſtroyed, by *Negative Diſcouragements*, than from the moſt triumphant Succeſs in War; and that without waſting the Blood and Treaſure of His Majeſty's Subjects.

By the Author of the GOLDEN FLEECE.

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TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE universal Neglect, or wrong Management of the Staple Commodity of these Kingdoms, will manifestly appear in the following Pages to every Reader; and this it was which prevailed upon me to publish them; First, to shew what immense Sums of Money *France* gains yearly by the infamous Practice of Smuggling *British* and *Irish* Wool; and Secondly, to apply a Remedy that hath re-

ceived the Approbation of the laſt Septennial Parliament, as will appear by comparing my Propoſal in the *Golden Fleece*, with the printed Votes, *Anno* 1738, *March* the 20*th*. Since that Time, I have made ſome Alterations and Additions, which gives me great Reaſon to believe, that this Propoſal will be more acceptable to the preſent Houſe of Commons, than that was to the former: To whom therefore ſhould I apply for a Remedy againſt this greateſt of all *National Evils*, but to the Guardians and Truſtees of the *Nation's* Liberties, Properties, Commerce, and Happineſs? Laws have been formerly made which puniſh'd this

this pernicious and deſtructive Practice with Death, but all ineffectual; either from ſome Defect in thoſe Laws, or the Manner of putting them into Execution, or rather not executing them at all; but the Method I ſhall now lay before you will put it out of the Power of every Owler, Smuggler, or Society of Pirates on the Sea Coaſt, to carry out any Wool to *France*, without being diſcovered. Therefore it may with more Reaſon expect Succeſs, becauſe it will be much eaſier to prevent His Majeſty's Dominions from being ruined or deſtroyed *by this Method*, than to puniſh ſuch fatal Crimes after the Offences are committed, *by any*

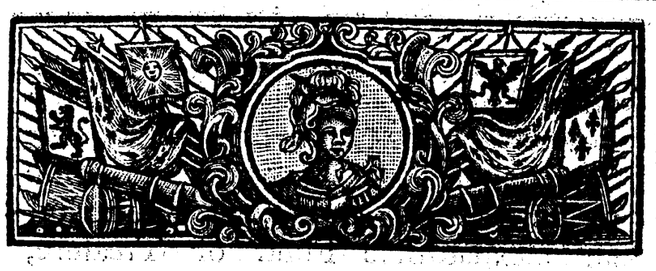
any other Method. And I hope, to you, Gentlemen, is reſerved the Glory of carrying this important Affair into Execution. Can there be a Time more proper than the preſent to deprive *France* of our fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool, Gold, and Silver, by which her Fleets and Armies are maintained? Will any Gentleman heſitate what ought to be done, when the *French* are fomenting, aiding, and aſſiſting a Rebellion in Favour of a Popiſh Pretender to the Throne of theſe Kingdoms? What can we have more to fear? Is not the Sword drawn? Are not the Enemies of our King and Country at the Door, menacing to

to deſtroy our happy Conſtitution by Fleets and Armies maintained with our own Money, got by Smuggling *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool? Can we flatter ourſelves that the *French* will loſe any favourable Opportunity that offers to turn that Riches and Power againſt us, which they have for ſo many Years been getting out of the Bowels of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, by the infamous Practice of Smuggling? Is it not better for the *French* to command our Wool, rather than ſtand to our Courteſy for it, through Fear of being for ever deprived of it by the vigorous Reſolutions of a *Britiſh* Parliament?

THESE, with many other Conſiderations, made me

presume to lay the following Sheets before you; to excite every Friend to his King and Country to lend a helping Hand to frame a Law that will effectually answer this great End, and thereby deprive *France* of that Power, which otherwise will conduct her to Universal Monarchy; but if such a Law is not made, to what Reasons, or to what Motives will His Majesty and His landed and trading Subjects ascribe the Omission of so important a Duty, I am at a Loss to guess; but our Enemies when they have conquered us, will tell them with Pleasure.

THE



THE DANGER OF *Great Britain* and *Ireland* BECOMING PROVINCES to *FRANCE*, BY THE Infamous and Destructive Practice of SMUGGLING, *&c.*

PROVIDENCE and Nature have remarkably befriended *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in bestowing upon them the most useful and necessary Products, for the most profitable Manufactures in the known World, exclusive of all

other Nations; which puts it in the Power of the landed and trading Subjects of both Kingdoms, to ſecure to themſelves and their Poſterity, an inexhauſtible Fund of Treaſure, by Foreign Commerce; which is the only Channel whereby the Wealth and Strength of theſe Kingdoms are received or loſt.

Nothing can be more eaſy to the meaneſt Capacity, than to form a right Judgement of the Foreign Commerce of *Great Britain*, and likewiſe that of *France*, which may be reduc'd to a Certainty, by deſcending into the native Products and Manufactures of each Kingdom, that a Compariſon may be made of the natural produc'd Stock of *Great Britain* and *France*, by which alone every Nation is more or leſs capacitated to carry on their ſeveral Dealings in Foreign Markets.

In order to prove the Truth of this Aſſertion, it will be neceſſary firſt, to take a ſhort View of the *Britiſh Products*, and we ſhall find that they conſiſt of the moſt uſeful and profitable Funds for Foreign Trade, becauſe they are

are the moſt neceſſary for the Support of Life; all Nations ſtand in Need of them, and they are ſuch as no other Country in the known World produce, either in Quantity or Quality, *viz.* Corn, Beef, *Wool*, Butter, Cheeſe, Hides, Tallow, Tin, and Lead.

In the next Place, it will be proper to inform the Reader of the native Products and Manufactures of *France*, which are very well known to our Merchants, and Gentlemen, and many Noblemen, who have made the Tour of *France* in ſearch of uſeful Knowledge, to conſiſt of nothing of any Conſequence, but *ſuperfluous Luxuries*, *viz.* Wines, Brandies, Cambricks, Point Laces, Gold and Silver Laces, Brocades, Embroideries, *&c.*

Which the unthinking People of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* are ſuffer'd to import and conſume in much greater Quantities, than all the Nations under the Sun, and without any Alternative that deſerves the Name of Commerce.

This being a true and impartial State of the agreeable Difference there is between the native Products of *Great Britain* and *France*; it moſt evidently

 appears,

appears, that *Great Britain* has infinitely more natural and artificial Funds for Foreign Commerce, than *France* can pretend to, with a large Surplus for Exportation, of which *France* is in a manner deſtitute, becauſe Nature ſeems to have beſtowed them upon her but ſparingly; from whence we muſt draw our Concluſions.

Nothing is more certain, than that *Great Britain* has no Mines of Gold or Silver of her own, neither has *France*; conſequently the *Specie* or *Bullion*, which we either do or ſhall poſſeſs, muſt be brought into theſe Kingdoms by the Sale of our uſeful and neceſſary Products and Manufactures in Foreign Markets; which are ſo happily circumſtanced by a ſtrong fertile Soil, and a rich Growth of fine Wool for Cloth and other Aſſortments of Draperies, that makes the *Britiſh* Commerce not only more natural and certain, but much more profitable and laſting, than the Foreign Trade of any other Kingdom or State in *Europe*; becauſe *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and many Foreign Countries, want to be ſupplied

conſtantly with ſuch Aſſortments of Woollen Goods, as cannot be made fit for the Uſe and Conſumption of the Countries before mentioned, without *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool.

Therefore there ſeems to be nothing ſo much wanting, as an effectual Stop to be put to the pernicious Practice of running Wool from *England* and *Ireland*, becauſe *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and many other Nations, muſt then be ſupplied by *Great Britain* only; for where the Wool grows, there muſt be the Manufacturers, and there the Demand, without a Poſſibility of being rival'd or underſold.

What an unskilful and impolitick Infatuation muſt it then be in ſome former Gentlemen in Power, to encourage our Wool Runners, Owlers, and others on the Sea Coaſt (in the wide Extent of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*) to act as Agents and Factors for *France*, to ſupport and increaſe her Woollen Manufactures, to the Ruin of our own; becauſe *France* will be enabled, by the Means of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool, to ſupply *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and

other Foreign Parts with Woollen Goods in the ſame Proportion, as the Subjects of *Great Britain*, that produce that inestimable Growth of Wool.

Let us therefore conſider what an Influence the Woollen Manufactures before mentioned, have over many other Branches of Foreign Trade, and what profitable Returns have been made by *France*, for upwards of Twenty five Years paſt, in ſupplying *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other Foreign Parts, with Woollen Goods made of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool.

The ſeveral Aſſortments of Woollen Goods the *French* ſend to *Spain* and *Portugal*, are paid for in *Specie* and *Bullion*.

But from *Turky* and *Italy*, *France* brings Home, in Return for her Woollen Goods (made of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool) great Quantities of Raw Silk, Cotton Wool, *&c.* which gives Employment to many thouſands of her Manufacturers, in making Gold and Silver Stuffs, Brocades, Garments, Ribbands, Stockings, *&c.* which *France* exports and ſells to *Spain* and *Portugal*, and many

many other Foreign Markets; and gains much more *Specie* and *Bullion* by the *Export of her Labour*, in the Articles before mentioned, than all the Nations in *Europe* put together; becauſe *France* could not, by any Means, carry on thoſe Trades, without the Aſſiſtance of *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool, or a certain Proportion of it, to help to work up the coarſe, harſh, hairy Wool of her own Growth; neither can the *French* Wool be mixed or manufactured with the ſhort fine Wool of *Spain*; nor has the *Spaniſh* Wool alone, Length, Strength, or Subſtance ſufficient to make a Superfine Cloth of itſelf; if it had, we ſhould then have been deprived of every Lock of it many Years ago; becauſe *France* has Intereſt enough with the Court of *Spain*, to ingroſs it all to herſelf.

It is therefore eaſy to conceive, that the Wool, which Providence has in ſuch a peculiar Manner beſtowed on theſe Kingdoms, ſhould be more likely to *ruin* than *preſerve* them; becauſe, while Gentlemen of high Rank ſuffer the fatal Exportation of it, they, at the ſame Time, conſent, that the

 Riches

Riches and Power it produces, with all the beneficial Branches of Foreign Commerce that depend upon it, ſhall be transferred to our hereditary Enemies the *French*; who are ever watchful to beat us out of our Inheritance, the Woollen Manufactory; that they may, with more Certainty and Eaſe, arrive at *Univerſal Monarchy*.

Thus have we ſhewn the great Superiority that Providence and Nature have given *Great Britain* over *France*, particularly in her moſt ineſtimable Growth of Wool, which is the *Baſis* and firſt Spring of all our Dealings with *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, *India*, and other Foreign Markets.

From whence the Wealth and Strength of *Great Britain* muſt be received or loſt, in Proportion to the good or ill Conduct of thoſe whoſe Buſineſs it is to guard and protect it.

From whence ſuch large Cuſtoms are brought in, as have been the chief Support of the Crown and Civil Government.

From whence our Increaſe of Shipping, and Dominion by Sea doth ariſe, ſufficient

ſufficient for our Defence and Preſervation.

For no Nation can be ſecure from Invaſions, without Strength; nor can that Strength be obtained without Riches, neither can Riches be brought in among us any other Way, but by a well-regulated and extended Foreign Trade; therefore the Preſervation of His Majeſty's Crown, the Liberties and Properties of His landed and trading Subjects, the reſtoring of Publick Credit, ſo neceſſary to circulate our Commerce, our landed Rents, Paper Credit, and Taxes will be abſolutely inſecure and unſafe without it.

But, to bring the fatal Conduct of *Great Britain* ſtill nearer to our View, if this Practice of running Wool be ſtill continued, the landed and trading Subjects may as well pay a yearly Tribute to *France*, of juſt ſo many Millions Sterling, as ſhe yearly Gains from *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, *India*, and other Foreign Markets, in conſequence of the illegal Exportation of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool, and the Importation and Conſumption of

of the Luxuries of *France*; which has been continued for upwards of Twenty five Years paſt, and increaſed ſo much, that it will be eaſy to conceive, that the Fleets and Armies of *France* are at this Time maintained out of the Bowels of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Which, I think, cannot be better explained to the Merchants, and others, that have any Knowledge in Foreign Commerce, than by caſting an Eye upon the following Articles that are yearly given to *France*, that every Man may make his own Calculations, and enable him to judge what immenſe Riches and Power theſe Kingdoms muſt have loſt ſince the laſt War.

To

	£.
To * 150,000 Packs of the fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool, that is moſt proper to make Woollen Goods to ſupply *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other Foreign Markets, which is but half the Quantity of Wool that is ſuppoſed to be run in the wide Extent of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*,	5,400,000
From *Turky* and *Italy*, *France* brings back Raw Silk, Cotton Wool, *&c.* which the Manufacturer exports and ſells to *Spain* and *Portugal*, and other Foreign Markets,	2,000,000
From *Spain*, *France* has all its Silver; which enables her to employ Nineteen or Twenty Ships yearly in the *India* Trade, for One or Two *France* uſed to ſend there for ſome Years paſt,	1,000,000
To the ſeveral Growths of Claret, Burgundy, Champaign, Brandies, Cambricks, Point Laces, Gold and Silver Laces, Brocades, Embroideries, *&c.* imported and conſumed every Year in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*,	1,000,000
Beſides the great Quantites of Tea, and other *Eaſt India* Goods, which is a conſtant Drain upou that *Specie* and *Bullion* that as yet remains among us.	,000,000

The

See Page 38, 39.

The Advantages now before us, that are yearly given to *France*, are as fairly ſtated as is neceſſary in Computations of this kind; which added to the ſeveral profitable Trades ſhe carries on by means of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool, it will be eaſy to judge, how inſenſibly our Woollen Manufactures muſt have been decreaſed and decayed, by ſuffering the fatal Exportation of the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to *France*.

It is not becauſe there are leſs Woollen Goods uſed in Foreign Countries, than in Times paſt, that our Woollen Trade decays, nor becauſe more Woollen Goods are made in *Great Britain* than formerly. The true Reaſon then, for the great Decay of our Woollen Manufactures, is intirely owing to the *illegal Exportation* of our unwrought Wool, to help to work up the coarſe, harſh, hairy Wool of *France*, and other Foreign Countries, which would otherwiſe remain on her Hands: By which Means, the Bulk of the Woollen Goods made in *Europe* for Exportation are increaſed to more than double the Quantity they otherwiſe would be, were

were that infamous Practice of Smuggling our Wool effectually prevented; becauſe, by the Help of *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool, the *French* ſtudy to out-do us in ſome Aſſortments, and in others to underſell us: But by keeping our Wool at Home, the *French*, and other Nations, that furniſh Foreign Markets with Woollen Goods, would not then be able to ſupply themſelves in their Home Conſumption, with any Sort of Woollen Goods, except ſuch as they can make of the coarſe, harſh, hairy Wool of their own Growth.

There are few Things ſo intricate in Trade, but a little Application will enable us to judge right of them; nor does it require any great Skill to foretell the fatal Conſequences that muſt naturally attend *Great Britain*, while we ſuffer the infamous Practice of Smuggling our fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool to *France*: By which Means the Profits of One Half of that ineſtimable Trade is given to *France*; and, to make our Deſtruction the ſurer, we ſpend the Profits of the other Half of our Woollen Trade in the Luxuries

 of

of *France*, *viz.* Wines, Brandies, Cambricks, Point Laces, Gold and Silver Laces, Brocades, Embroideries, *&c.*

Let us ſuppoſe we had been conquered laſt War, and by that Means become a Province to *France*, and the only Conditions of Peace that could be obtained from the *French* were, that they ſhould ſend a *Viceroy* to *Great Britain*, and another to *Ireland*, to take Care of the Commercial Intereſt of *France*; could the *French* deſire more of us, than to have a ſufficient Quantity of our fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool from *England* and *Ireland*, to carry on a flouriſhing Trade to *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, *India*, and many other Foreign Markets, where the *French* could have little or no Dealings without *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool?

By theſe Means the *French* are enabled to employ Forty Ships in Trade, for One they uſed to employ Thirty Years ago; which is very well known to many of our Merchants, and Officers in the Royal Navy, who have often expreſſed their Concern at the Sight of more trading Ships from *France*,

France, in the Ports of *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and many other Foreign Markets, than *Britiſh* trading Ships, notwithſtanding that moſt of the Cargoes with which the *French* Ships were freighted, conſiſted chiefly of the manufactured Goods made of the Products of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; becauſe the luxurious Products of *France*, ſuch as Wines, Brandies, and Cambricks, are hardly known, and but rarely uſed; therefore not marketable Commodities in *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other warm Countries, that produce Wines of their own.

The *French* have ſettled a fatal Correſpondence upon the Sea Coaſts, throughout the wide Extent of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, by their Prieſts, Emiſſaries, and other Agents; by which Means the notorious Practice of Smuggling is continued; which is a convincing Proof, that the *French* have Jeſuits in *Trade*, as well as *Religion*, who are laying a political Siege to our moſt ineſtimable Commerce, to deprive the *Britiſh* Subjects of their Labour and Induſtry, in order to procure

cure to themselves all the Advantages of an extensive Foreign Commerce.

But to put the Subject under Consideration in a clearer and stronger Light: Let us suppose that Cardinal *Tencin* and Monsieur *Maurepas* had been trusted with the Care of the *British* Commerce for Twenty or Thirty Years past, could they have done more to increase the Riches and Power of *France*? and are they not at this Time invading us with the very Money we have so many Years been giving to *France*, in Favour of a Popish Pretender? Can more be done to dethrone His Majesty, and ruin His landed and trading Subjects?

If the War in *Flanders* should be thought necessary to be continued, at an Expence of near Three Millions *per Annum* to support it, What can balance that Account, or supply us with those Sums, but Foreign Commerce? Why then is it so shamefully neglected? Or, why given up to the *French*, to support the War against us? What Assistance can our Allies expect from us, when the only Means that would enable

able us to prosecute the War with Vigour against *France*, is become a Strength to be turned against us? Surely no Period of Time could ever produce more unnatural Instances than the present; of a Rebellious Frenchified Banditti in the North on the one Side, and a Piratical Banditti throughout the wide Extent of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* on the other; nor was ever the true Interest of His Majesty, and his landed and trading Subjects, in more Danger of being ruined, by the diabolical Agents for *France*, who are daily transferring the Wealth and Strength of these Kingdoms into the Hands of *France*.

Since, therefore, the Skill and Policy of *France* to enrich herself, has hitherto exceeded our Care to prevent it, to what low Circumstances must we expect to be reduced, by turning the liberal Hand of Nature so many Years against ourselves; from such Causes our inevitable Ruin must be the Effect; and the longer we suffer the Commercial Interest of these King-

 doms

doms to remain in the ruinous Condition they are at present, it is natural to expect, that every Year will add new Difficulties, that will threaten Danger to both King and Country; from hence it may be very reasonably inferred, that the Subjects of *Great Britain* are the only extravagant Dupes to *France*, tho' under the best Constitution in the World, who are left to themselves to pursue their own Destruction; a thousand Arts may be practised to set the State of our darling Commerce in other Lights; but this is the Light in which we ought to consider it, if we mean to pursue our own Interest, and to do for our Posterity, what our Ancestors have done for us.

France is now become more formidable than ever; and better situated, by her late Conquests in *Flanders*, not only to alarm us with Invasions, but to annoy our most valuable Foreign Commerce, which Queen *Elizabeth* always esteemed the Mines and *Indies* of *England*; and if the Profits that arise from our Woollen Manufactures, should fail

fail to preserve and defend us, it will be very difficult to find out any that will.

Therefore we must consider *France* in a different Light from all the rest of the Powers of *Europe*; because she never loses sight of her favourite Point of *Universal Monarchy*, for which Purpose she is ever watchful to set a Popish Pretender upon the Throne of these Kingdoms; assuming to herself a Right of making an Emperor in *Germany*, Kings in *Italy*, parcelling out the Dominions of Princes at her Pleasure, and trampling upon the Liberties of *Europe*.

I believe there are very few of my Countrymen, when they come to consider, but what will be grieved to see so many advantageous Articles yearly given to *France*, in so clear and unexceptionable a Manner as is now laid before them, by a fatal Neglect of our most inestimable Products, Manufactures, and Foreign Commerce; and, although the Sums yearly given to *France*, by the Advantages beforementioned, may seem very surprising, yet

 they

they are fairly ſtated; and, in all Probability, fall very ſhort of the Loſs ſuſtained by theſe Kingdoms.

It muſt be an amazing Neglect or Stupidity in a free People, to ſquander away Millions of Money yearly, to gratify their Palates and Dreſs, in the luxurious Products of *France*; but what is ſtill more infamous, is, to ſuffer the fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool, Fullers Earth, Fulling Clay, Teazles, *&c.* to be carried to *France*, with the ſame Eaſe, as if *Great Britain* and *Ireland* were her own Provinces; for Example, *Martinico* and St. *Domingo* furniſh *France* with Sugar, Cotton, and Indigo; *Great Britain* and *Ireland* furniſh *France* with their fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool, Fullers Earth, Fulling Clay, Teazles, Money, *&c.* pray where is the Difference between *Martinico*, St. *Domingo*, and *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; are they not equally devoted to the Intereſt of *France*, ſo far as relates to their Products?

It is hardly poſſible to believe, that any Set of Men could be found, either weak or wicked enough, to give up

their darling Commerce to *France*, for ſo many Years together, without the leaſt Senſe of the Hazard they run, of loſing every other Happineſs they now enjoy in their *Trade*, *Intereſt*, and *Liberty*, which is effectually done, by turning the Labour and Induſtry of the richeſt and moſt productive Country in *Europe*, to increaſe the Riches and Power of *France*; without the leaſt Apprehenſion, that thoſe immenſe Sums of Money, collected together in a Number of Years, by the Advantages before mentioned, may at a proper Time and Seaſon be employed againſt us, in the Shape of Fleets and Armies, to the Terror, if not to the Deſtruction of His Majeſty and His landed and trading Subjects; which is the only Chance *France* can ever hope to have to gain her favourite Point of *Univerſal Monarchy*.

The *French* have *ſeveral Councils of Commerce*, and every ſingle Man gives his utmoſt Attention to promote and encourage it, juſt as much as if the Well-being of *France* depended on his Vigilance and Care; which ſhews, that

the *French* are more anxious for the Prosperity of their King and Country, under the severest Tyranny and Oppression, than the *British* Subjects, who are capable of being made the richest, and most happy People under the Sun.

The Care of the Foreign Commerce of these Kingdoms, belongs to the *executive Power*; because, the legislative Authority cannot at all Times be assembled; and the good or ill Management of it may be easily known by the Conduct of those, whose Business it is to guard and protect it; they ought to have a thorough Knowledge of the Soil, Products, and Manufactures of their own Country, and also those of neighbouring Nations, to enable them to judge right of every Encroachment that may be made upon the Foreign Commerce of their own Country; which would soon make them competent Judges of the Strength and Weakness of every rival Nation, by comparing the Income of the Products and Manufactures of other Countries, with the Income of their own; without such Helps, it will be impossible

sible for any Minister to give sound Advice to his Prince, either in Peace or War.

Because Peace or War are equally destructive to a trading Nation that wilfully gives up the greatest Share of its most inestimable Foreign Commerce to *France*, and spends the Profits of the remaining Part of it in her superfluous Luxuries, for a number of Years together; besides, being incumbered with heavy Debts, oppressed with Taxes to such a Degree, as to make it dangerous to enter into the most just and necessary War, through Fear that the Exigencies of Government cannot be supplied by a *dutiful and willing People*.

It has been said, that Monsieur *Colbert*, Prime Minister of *France*, often declared to his Friends, that he was frequently more capable of serving his King and Country in a Committee of Merchants, than at the Council Board; and, although *Colberts* may be wanting, yet, if this publick Spirit had prevailed in *Britain*, Men in lower Stations, with more natural and artificial Resources for Trade than he had, might,

without being thought Conjurers, have exceeded all the Nations in *Europe* in Foreign Commerce, and thereby have prevented the Rise, Progress, and present exorbitant Power of *France*.

Here it may be proper to apply the Words of a famous *French* Author *, to the *British* Products that are most useful and necessary to the Support of Life, instead of the luxurious Products of *France*.

" To make Peace, in order to pro-
" cure to ourselves all the Advantages
" of an extensive Commerce, is to
" make War upon our Enemies. Let
" us therefore have no more to do with
" those Victories that are gained by
" ruinous Means. Let Glory sleep, and
" and be at rest. It is in the Heart
" of our Plains that Industry shall open
" to us easy Paths to greater Conquests.
" May propitious Heaven preserve to
" us a Prince, whose Wisdom mea-
" sures his Glory by the Happiness of
" his People, and a worthy Minister,
" who seconds his Views, with so
" much

* Political Reflections upon the Finances and Commerce of *France*, &c.

" much Zeal, and extensive Discern-
" ment! *Britain*, superior by the
" Advantages of her Commerce, shall
" make neighbouring States know, that
" she is as capable of raising her Power
" by Peace as by War."

During the late War with *France*, *Lewis* XIV. asked his Prime Minister *Colbert*, How such an Island as *England* could find Money to maintain such numerous Fleets and Armies? That great Statesman replied, That it was the Land of one Country that fights against the Land of another, (by which it is to be understood) that it is the Products and Manufactures of one Country that fight against the Products and Manufactures of another; for when they are exported, and sold in Foreign Markets for *Specie* and *Bullion*, they give Riches and Power, in Proportion to the Value of the Land improved by the Labour of the People; which *Specie* and *Bullion* are the Sinews of War; and Wars are carried on, of late Years, with more Money and less Fighting than in Times past, consequently with less Hazard to the most

moſt productive and rich Country; becauſe Money will hire Troops, corrupt Miniſters to betray their Maſters Councils, and procure innumerable Advantages over a poorer and leſs productive Country.

Theſe, with many other Conſiderations, which muſt naturally occur to a *Britiſh* Parliament, will, it is hoped, excite their Zeal, and determine their Reſolutions to put an effectual Stop to the infamous Practice of Running the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to *France*; leſt it ſhould add Riches and Power ſufficient for the *French* to command our Wool, rather than ſtand to our Courteſy for it; and then there will be an End of our boaſted Pretences of the Value of our *Golden Fleece*, the Bulwark of our *Trade*, *Intereſt*, and *Liberty*.

I ſhall now proceed, agreeable to my Promiſe in the Title Page, to lay down a plain, eaſy, and effectual Method, that will ſhew how the exorbitant Power of *France* may be more ſpeedily reduced and deſtroyed, by *negative Diſcouragements*, than from the

the moſt triumphant Succeſs in War, and that without waſting the Blood and Treaſure of His Majeſty's Subjects.

In the Beginning of this Treatiſe, the radical Produce of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* hath been fairly examined, and compared with thoſe of *France*; and the great Superiority that Providence and Nature have given theſe Kingdoms over *France* (in the moſt uſeful and neceſſary Funds for Foreign Trade) has been ſet in ſo clear a Light, as to make any farther Remarks not only unneceſſary, but preſumptive.

In the firſt Place it is propoſed, that *Great Britain* ſhall abſolutely prohibit the Importation and Conſumption of the Wines and Brandies of *France*; the Conſequence of ſuch a Prohibition would be, that the greateſt Part of her Wines and Brandies would then remain upon her Hands unſold; becauſe no northern Nation can afford to conſume and pay for them; and they are hardly known in the Southern Countries, *viz.* *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other warm Countries, which

which produce great Quantities of Wines of their own.

Let us ſuppoſe then, that the *Engliſh*, *Scotch*, and *Iriſh* Ports or Markets were ſhut againſt the Wines and Brandies of *France*; which Way, or in what Manner, would the Tenants of *France* diſpoſe of their Wines and Brandies, to enable them to pay Rent to their *French* Landlords, when they can find no Market open that can afford to import and conſume thoſe ſuperfluous Luxuries? The landed Men and Tenants of *France* would then be unable to ſubſiſt; conſequently, the Landlords and Tenants of *France* would very ſoon be rendered incapable to contribute any Sum of Money whatever towards the Maintenance of the Fleets and Armies of *France*.

Secondly, It is propoſed, to put an effectual Stop to the infamous Practice of Smuggling our Wool to *France*; becauſe then the *Turky*, *Spaniſh*, *Portugal*, *Italian*, and many other Trades which are dependant on it, will ſoon ceaſe, and be no more; conſequently the Looms of the *French* Woollen Manufacturers

nufacturers muſt ſoon ſtand ſtill for want of *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool, and many of the Merchant Ships of *France* rot in her Harbours: By which Means many Millions of the moſt uſeful Subjects in *France* and *Flanders* will be reduced to the utmoſt Miſery and Want in a ſhort Time, and become a Burthen to the State, or ſtarve.

So that by two Acts of Parliament only, one to prohibit the Importation and Conſumption of the Wines and Brandies of *France*, and the other to prevent the fatal Exportation of the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to *France*, the Landlords, Tenants, Manufacturers, and Merchants of *France* will then not only be rendered incapable to contribute towards the Maintenance of the *French* Fleets and Armies, but all the Advantages before mentioned, which have been yearly given to *France*, will then be taken away; which will ſave us infinite Sums of Money annually that are laid out in the Luxuries of *France*, and add many Millions yearly to the Trade of theſe Kingdoms, by the manufacturing of all our own Wool,

Wool, which for many Years paſt has been worked up in *France*.

From whence it is eaſy to conceive, that we ſhall then be daily bringing a much greater Proportion of the Riches of the known World into our Poſſeſſion; while *France* will be deprived of many profitable Branches of Foreign Commerce, and be daily making large Strides to a ſudden and an unavoidable Poverty and Ruin, with few or no Reſources to enable her to carry on a War againſt us, except her Wines, Brandies, and ſome Linens: By which Means, her Dominion by Land will be but of a ſhort Duration; and by Sea, *nothing* that can ſave her from the juſt Reſentment of every injured Power in *Europe*.

It muſt follow then, that the miſerable and diſtreſſed Condition of ſuch Numbers of the ſtarving Subjects of *France* muſt, in a ſhort Time, either produce a Civil War, or oblige *France* to diveſt herſelf of ſo much Power as *Great Britain* and her Allies think fit to demand; which, it is to be hoped, will be ſo much as will render *France* for

for ever incapable of giving the leaſt Diſturbance to any Province or State in *Europe*.

For no Kingdom or State can arrive to any great Pitch of Wealth and Power, without a large Importation of Treaſure, more than it exports; and the Strength or Weakneſs of every trading Nation will be eaſily known to proſper or decay, in Proportion as thoſe Treaſures are increaſed or diminiſhed; and where the Cauſes are ſo very viſible, it will be impoſſible to be miſtaken in the Effect.

We are very far from pretending to find Fault, or reflect upon the Conduct of any Man, or Set of Men; our chief Deſign is to point out, not only the Evils that the infamous Practice of Smuggling has brought upon theſe Kingdoms, but to ſhew the manifold Advantages which *France* annually gains, by Means of her Smuggling Agents upon the Sea Coaſt, in the wide Extent of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Therefore it is a Duty incumbent on every Man that has received proper Lights, either by Nature, Education, Study,

Study, or Experience, to communicate them to both Houſes of Parliament, the grand Council of the Nation, that they may be clear in their Opinions, whenever the Welfare and Happineſs of their Country is at Stake, ſo as not to be biaſſed by the artful Inſinuations of ſelf-intereſted People at Home, nor the Emiſſaries and Agents from Abroad; whoſe private and political Views often lead our well-meaning Repreſentatives into very fatal Errors.

Since therefore the Trade, Intereſt, and Well-being of theſe Kingdoms are at Stake, and ſo apparently in Danger, all Avenues ought to be ſtopt, that can tend to deprive us of thoſe valuable Bleſſings; otherwiſe, when the *French* have ruined our Trade, they may demand our Liberties; but to ſuffer either to be taken from us, while we have Power and Underſtanding left to preſerve them, cannot be thought on by any true *Briton*, without Shame and Abhorrence.

The Method I have to propoſe to prevent the infamous Practice of Smuggling our Wool to *France*, is the ſame that

that I gave to the Gentlemen in the Adminiſtration fourteen or fifteen Years paſt; and two Years afterwards printed two thouſand, and delivered them for the Uſe of the Lords and Commons, intituled, *The Golden Fleece*; when the laſt Septennial Parliament ſhewed their Approbation of it in the ſtrongeſt Manner they could, by coming into ſeveral Reſolutions taken from the *Golden Fleece*, of a *Land Regiſter* and *Regiſter Ships*, which may be ſeen by turning to the Votes, *Anno* 1738, *March* the 20th; at which Time a Bill was ordered to be brought in, purſuant to the Reſolutions of the then Houſe of Commons: But to the great Surprize of many Gentlemen that repreſented ſeveral Clothing Counties and Boroughs, Mr. *Bladen* brought in a Bill, which conſiſted of Twenty ſeven Pages in Folio, without making the leaſt Mention of a *Land Regiſter*, or *Regiſter Ships*.

Such a happy Alteration in our Domeſtick Affairs, would be changing our Meaſures to better our Circumſtances in our Foreign Affairs; becauſe,

 when

when ſuch Meaſures are fallen upon as are here propoſed, we ſhall effectually prevent all future Encroachments upon our darling Commerce, and be daily increaſing in Riches and Power, which will diffuſe Proſperity to all Ranks and Conditions of Men; we ſhould then have no complaining in our Streets, the landed and trading Subjects of all Denominations would live in Eaſe and Plenty, and the Peace and Welfare of theſe Kingdoms will be better ſecured againſt all Dangers from Foreign Powers, than from the moſt triumphant Succeſs in War; and that without waſting the Blood and Treaſure of His Majeſty's Subjects.

The Reaſon for putting this Piece together, at ſo ſhort a Warning, and in ſo looſe a Manner, was, becauſe a Committee had been appointed ſome Time ago by the Houſe of Commons, to inquire into the true Cauſe of the infamous Practice of Smuggling in general, and to apply a Remedy, and to report their Opinion to the Houſe, before I had any Knowledge of it.

Therefore

Therefore I have endeavoured to point out ſeveral Evils, that have been brought upon theſe Kingdoms ſince the Treaty of *Utrecht*, by the fatal Exportation of our Wool, *&c.* to *France*; and ſhall ſhew in the following Appendix, how our Calculations are grounded upon the Loſs of 150,000 Packs of our fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool ſent to *France*, and then point out an effectual Remedy, by reprinting the Heads for a Bill (with Alterations and Additions that will make it more acceptable to the preſent Parliament) that was ſo much approved by the laſt Septennial Parliament, which may be ſeen by turning to the printed Votes, *Anno* 1738, *March* the 20th, when a Bill was at that Time ordered to be brought into the Houſe of Commons, purſuant to the Reſolutions contained in the ſaid printed Votes.

APPENDIX.

I Shall first shew how necessary it is to encourage and protect our Manufacturers in their several Callings, as an Introduction to those Calculations that are very proper to be known to the Representatives of so great a trading Nation; because the Trade, Interest, and Well-being of *Great Britain* in a great measure depend upon the Export of their Labour.

Nothing is more reasonable, than that every Man, or every Body of Men, should receive Protection and Encouragement from the Legislature, as they contribute to the real Welfare and Happiness of their Country. The Labours of the meaner Sort of People are of too great Consequence to a trading Nation, to be neglected or despised, much

much more the Manufacturers in the several Branches of the Woollen Trade. We cannot but be sensible, that their Maintenance and Labour are dearer than those of Foreign Nations; yet, notwithstanding that Disproportion, they have the same Right to subsist, and the same Wants to supply; which they can no way obtain, but by keeping our Wool at Home; these are the Causes of the loud and repeated Complaints of our Manufacturers, who, by their Labour, improve the happy Product of the Land to six Times the Value it had in Wool; consequently, the national Wealth must be increased in Proportion to the Money earned. Here it is proper to observe, that very few of them have any Property to support their numerous Families, but what is daily produced by their Labour and Industry; therefore it will be necessary to descend into their several Dependencies, whereby it will be more easy to judge of the Reasonableness of their loud Complaints, for Want of Employment.

Upon a moderate Computation, one Pack of Wool, made into Broad Cloth, will give full Employment, for One Week, to 58 Persons, *viz.*

Persons.		*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1	Man to sort and dry it	00	08	00
	Dying and Cleaning, *&c.*	01	10	00
4 Men, 2 Boys	to scribble it	02	08	00
30	Women and Girls to card and spin it	06	00	00
4	Boys to spoole and wind Quills	00	10	00
4	Women to burle it	00	12	00
4, 1	to scour, full, row, shear, rack, and press it	03	04	00
8	Men to weave it	04	16	00
58	In a Week, will earn	19	08	00

One Pack of the long Combing Wool of *Lincolnshire*, *Leicestershire*, *Northamptonshire*, *Kent*, &c. made into fine Stuffs, Serges, Sagathies, Camblets, Long-Ells, *&c.* for the *Spanish* and *Portugal* Trades, will give full Employment, for One Week, to 158 Persons, *viz.*

6	Combers, at 12*s.* *per* Week	03	12	00
	Dying, Cleaning, *&c.*	01	10	00
120	Spinners, at 2*s.* 3*d.* *per* Week	13	10	00
10	Throwers and Doublers, at 8*s.* *per* Week	04	00	00
22	Weavers, at 10*s.* *per* Week	11	00	00
158	In a Week, will earn	33	12	00

One Pack of Wool made into Stockings, for the *Spanish*, *Portugal*, or any other Trade, will give full Employment, for One Week, to 150 Persons, *viz.*

9	Combers, at 10*s.* *per* Week	04	10	00
	Dying, Cleaning, *&c.*	01	10	00
76	Spinners	13	00	00
8	Doublers and Throwers	02	08	00
56	Stocking-Weavers, at 12*s.* *per* Week	33	12	00
150	In a Week, will earn	55	00	00
Total 366	In a Week, will earn, on 3 Packs of Wool	108	00	00

By

	£.	
By the aforesaid Computation, it must follow, that as often as 50,000 Packs of Wool are clandestinely carried to *France*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, *Sweden*, or *Prussia*, so often will *Great Britain* lose	1,800,000	
And so often, will the Number of Persons yearly deprived of Employment, be		117,353
Besides, it is a received Opinion, that 300,000 Packs of Wool are shipped yearly to Foreign Nations, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, through Neglect and Connivance. But if we suppose it were but half that Quantity, it must follow, by the said Computation, that *Great Britain* will lose yearly	5,400,000	
And also, the Numbers of Manufacturers, yearly deprived of Employment, will be		352,059

Besides

Besides the Diminution of the Merchants Profits, and the Hurt done to our Navigation, and altho' the Quantity may be more or less, yet it will bear the same Proportion, touching Profit or Loss to the Nation.

Let us consider another great Damage done to this Nation, by suffering this illegal Exportation. As for Instance, one Pack of *British* or *Irish* Wool will work up two besides itself, of the coarse harsh Wool of Foreign Growth, which otherwise would be useless, and lie on their Hands, in respect to their Trade with *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Foreign Parts. *It may perhaps seem a Paradox to some People, till rightly understood, that the more unwrought Wool we suffer to be exported, the more we shall be overstocked with it at Home.*

EXAMPLE.

Suppose 150,000 Packs of Wool (being but half the Quantity generally thought to be shipt to Foreigners, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*)

Ireland) should be yearly exported unwrought, these added to 300,000 Packs of Foreign Wool, produce a Manufacture of 450,000 Packs; if then the 150,000 Packs were kept at Home, *Turky*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Foreign Countries would want from *Great Britain* the Manufacture of 450,000 Packs, in the room of the like Quantity furnished by neighbouring Nations, who, in this Case, could have none of these manufactured Goods to send to Foreign Markets; therefore as the Demand for Goods in Foreign Parts would continue to be the same, (the Question being not what is the Quantity demanded, or consumed, which is certain, but who shall furnish that Quantity) as much less as Foreigners are enabled to work up (by the Assistance of *British* or *Irish* Wool,) so much more must be manufactured by *Great Britain*; and consequently the first Year a Law were made, to put an effectual Stop to the unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, the Quantity of Woollen Goods for Foreign Trade would be by so much lessened, as is at this Time worked

worked up in *France*, and other Foreign Parts, which would naturally increaſe the Demand more than double it is at preſent from *Great Britain*, and by keeping our Wool at Home, they could only be ſupplied from hence; for without the Material (the *Wool*,) it will be impoſſible for them to have the Manufacture; and, by the ſame Rule, our Woollen Goods muſt increaſe in their Value, in Proportion to their Demand.

EXAMPLE.

If no more than 5000 Ton of Sugar, Tobacco, Wines, or any other Commodity, could be imported, and the Demand or Conſumption required 10,000 Ton, then the Demand would be for twice the Quantity; it muſt therefore follow, that the 5000 Ton will ſell at a higher Price, than if the Demand were equal to the Conſumption; therefore nothing can be more certain, than that our Wool and Woollen Goods would increaſe in their Price, in Proportion to their Demand, and our Merchants would be courted for them

them more than ever, when they may be certain of a quick Sale, and ſure Conſumption; *for where the Wool is, there muſt be the Manufacturers, and there the Demand for the ſeveral Aſſortments proper for each Country.*

HEADS

HEADS *for a* BILL, *to prevent the infamous and destructive Practice of Smuggling our finest and best Wool to* France.

THE many Evils that attend *Great Britain* on this Head, call for the most speedy and effectual Remedies, to prevent this pernicious Exportation for the future; which, with Submission, can no way be obtained, but by a Land Register, and Register Ships, under the Care and Inspection of the most skilful Management; and employing the most able and diligent Officers.

The Running of our Wool to *France*, has, by former Laws been made Felony; but it is much better and easier to prevent that Ruin and Destruction from being brought upon this Kingdom, than to punish the Offenders after such notorious Crimes are committed; therefore it is presumed, the following Method

thod will put them beyond a Possibility of offending, without being discovered.

First, It is proposed, That the Commissioners that manage the Duties on Hops, Malt, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Brandies, Rum, *&c.* be authorized to register the Wool, and stock it in the Hands of the Growers; for which Purpose they have already a great Number of Officers dispersed over every Wool-growing Country.

Shearing-time is but once a Year, and in six Weeks Time all are shorn, and may be stocked in the Field like Hops; by taking an Account of the Quantity of Wool shorn, being the Produce of such a Number of Sheep, or Lambs, attested by a sworn Wool-winder.

Secondly, A Clause to move it by a Licence or Sufferance when sold, or required to be moved, Notice to be given at the Register Office, to stock it in every Hand it passes thorough, till it comes into the Hands of the Manufacturers, which cannot be many, because it will come dear to the Manufacturer, by changing Hands often.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, The Manufacturers that have ſo many Years petitioned the Parliament, to prevent the infamous Practice of Smuggling our Wool to *France*, will think it their Duty, as it is their Intereſt, to give all the Aſſiſtance they can to the Officers that inſpect them, that they may more eaſily come to the Knowledge of the Quantity of Woollen Goods, which every Parcel of Wool they buy is capable of making; which is the only Means that can be taken to anſwer the End of the Woollen Manufacturers Petitions; and therefore they will eſteem that Officer moſt, that is moſt careful and vigilant.

Fourthly, The dead Wool, in the Hands of the Fellmongers, to be weighed, ſtocked and moved, by proper Notice as before mentioned.

Fifthly, That the Collector, Superviſor, or other inferior Officer or Officers, now reſident in each Wool-growing Country, be authorized to check the Returns of ſubordinate Officers, with a Penalty or Puniſhment on any Officer that ſhall make a falſe Return, as the Parliament thinks moſt proper.

Sixthly,

Sixthly, It is to be obſerved by the aforeſaid Method, the Wool of *Great Britain* will be checked through every Hand it comes into, till it is bought by the Manufacturers; therefore no Owler, or ſmuggling Agent from *France*, will dare to purchaſe it, when it will be ſtocked in his Hand; becauſe he will have no Opportunity to ſend it to *France* in the Dark, as formerly. The Wool that they purchaſe, they dare not part with, but by a Licence or Sufferance, without incurring ſuch Penalties or Puniſhments as the Parliament think proper to inflict upon them, as the moſt dangerous and worſt of Enemies to both their King and Country.

The Farmers or Growers Houſes, Barns, or Warehouſes, need not be entered or ſearched at unſeaſonable Hours, like thoſe that deal in Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Brandy, Rum, and many other portable Commodities that are ſtocked in their Hands; becauſe the Wool is a bulky Commodity, and eaſily miſſed, by caſting an Eye once a Month, if any be left in the Farmers, Wool-ſtaplers, and other Hands, which

are

are anſwerable for the Wool ſtocked at Shearing-time, or otherwiſe charged to their Account, which they cannot move without a Licence or Sufferance, without incurring the Penalties aforeſaid.

And that inſtead of Three Men of War and eight Sloops, ſtationed on the Coaſt of *Ireland*, *Anno* 1732, to prevent the illegal Exportation of Wool, there be Twenty four Regiſter Ships, or Sloops, of different Burthen, to bring the Raw Wool and Yarn from *Ireland*, and carry it Coaſt-ways in *England*; and that no other Ship, Veſſel, Long-boat, or Float, of what kind ſoever, do preſume to take on Board any Raw Wool, Worſted, Yarn, *&c.* the Growth of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, under the Penalties hereafter mentioned; each Regiſter Ship, or Sloop, to be commanded by a Captain, and her Compliment of Men to be not leſs than Fifteen, nor exceed Twenty five. *And as an Encouragement to the Officers of the ſaid Regiſter Ships, or Sloops, it is propoſed, that the Time of their being employed in that Service, ſhall be deemed the ſame, for a Rank or Qualification in the Navy,*

Navy, as if they had ſerved during that Time on Board His Majeſty's Ships of War.

N. B. Theſe Regiſter Ships will be the ſame as a Sea Warehouſe, for ſafe keeping and ſafe landing Raw Wool, Worſted, and Bay Yarn from *Ireland*, or carrying it Coaſt-ways, for the Convenience of the Manufacturers.

If the aboveſaid Regiſter Ships, or Sloops, ſhould, by Streſs of Weather, or contrary Winds, be driven on Foreign Coaſts, they are not to break Bulk; and if there be no Poſſibility of ſaving the Veſſel, nor no *Britiſh* Ships at Hand to ſave the Wool, the Captain and his Men are to be required to deſtroy the Ship and Wool (provided it ſhall conſiſt with the Safety of their Lives) that the Wool may not fall into the Hands of our Rivals, on any Pretence whatſoever, under the Forfeiture of the Captain's Commiſſion, and a Penalty of ———— one Half to the King, the other to the Informer, the Recovery made eaſy, *and at the* KING'S EXPENCE.

And that there be appointed Staple Towns in *Ireland* to receive the Wool, Worſted, or Bay Yarn, grown in that Kingdom, for the Convenience of the Regiſter Ships, to carry it to *Great Britain*, with a Duplicate of the Quantity of Wool, Worſted, or Yarn, ſent by each Regiſter Ship to the chief Officer or Officers of the Port where it is to be landed, and to whom conſigned; and likewiſe an Account tranſmitted by the firſt Poſt to the Commiſſioners appointed to regiſter the Wool of *Great Britain*, of the Freight of every Regiſter Ship or Sloop, as ſoon as it departs from any Port in *Ireland*, with the Quantity of Wool, Worſted, and Yarn, with the Number of Parcels, and Weight, the Name of the Captain and Veſſel, Day of the Month and Year.

Alſo that no Ship, Veſſel, or Long-boat, or Float upon the Water, of any kind, or of what Nation ſoever, do preſume to take on Board any Raw Wool, belonging to any of His Majeſty's Dominions, except the Regiſter Ships, Sloops, or Boats, as aforeſaid,

on Pain of forfeiting ſuch Ship, Veſſel, Long-boat, and Cargo, with a Penalty on the Owners of ſuch Ship, Veſſel, Boat, and the Commanders.

Alſo that the ſame Quantity of Wool be carried to the Manufacturers of *Guernſey*, *Jerſey*, *Alderney*, and *Sark*, as hath been allowed by former Acts, and no more, with this Difference, that it ſhall be carried on Board Regiſter Ships, and no other, and then to be under the Care and Inſpection of proper Officers, in like Manner as in *England*, and liable to the ſame Reſtrictions and Penalties.

The Wool being thus ſecured by Land and Sea, the more Ports there are open to receive the Regiſter Ships from *Ireland*, or Coaſt-ways from *England*, the more convenient for the Manufacturers; otherwiſe, thoſe that are neareſt the Sea Ports that are open, will be able to go to Market cheaper than thoſe who are more remote, by the extraordinary Expence they will be at for Land Carriage.

And whereas ſome minute and unforeſeen Difficulties may ariſe unpro-

vided for by Parliament, a Power may be given to the Commiſſioners appointed by this Act to regiſter the Wool of *Great Britain*, to make ſuch additional Regulations, as may tend to the Security of the Wool, the Eaſe and Convenience of the Manufacturers, and all other Perſons concerned; and that a Report of the additional Regulations (if any) made by the ſaid Commiſſioners, be laid before the Parliament the enſuing Seſſion, for their Approbation.

OBJEC-

OBJECTIONS.

WHEN the Bill was ordered to be brought in by the laſt Septennial Parliament, agreeable to the Reſolutions in the printed Votes, *Anno* 1738, *March* the 20th, the Owlers, Smugglers, and other Agents and Emiſſaries for *France*, bellowed loudly againſt a *Land Regiſter* and *Regiſter Ships*, under the Pretence, that it would create an infinite Number of new Officers, which would enlarge the Bottom of Authority, and ruin our Conſtitution; this is a clamorous Objection, in Appearance, but, upon a fair Examination, it has not the leaſt Shadow of Reaſon.

ANSWER.

WILL any Man in his Senſes ſay, That the Fleets and Armies of *France* ſhall continue to be maintained

tained out of the Bowels of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, by the infamous Practice of Smuggling;

Or that *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ſhall remain Provinces to *France*, in the ſame Degree as *Martinico* and *Saint Domingo*, from whence ſhe has Sugar, Cotton, and Indigo, and from us our fineſt and beſt unwrought Wool, Fullers Earth, Fulling Clay, *&c.* pray where is the Difference.

Beſides, the Preſervation of His Majeſty's Crown, the Liberties and Properties of his landed and trading Subjects, the reſtoring of Publick Credit, ſo neceſſary to circulate our Commerce, Landed Rents, and Taxes, ſeem to be ſome of the moſt eſſential Articles of our happy *Conſtitution*, preferable to all others; and theſe will all be ſtrengthened and preſerved by the Method propoſed.

Likewiſe it may be objected, that the Twenty four Regiſter Ships propoſed, will hinder the Sloops of ſome few to be freighted with Wool from *Ireland* to *Great Britain*, or Coaſtways; but, if a proper Enquiry were made,

made, very few Veſſels will be found to bring Raw Wool from *Ireland*, or carry it Coaſt-ways, *when they know ſo many better Markets to vend it in; but, on the contrary, are always ready to aſſiſt in Running it.*

The Veſſels that carry on this deſtructive Traffick in the Dark, have but few Hands on Board, which are very well paid, or equally concerned in the Profits of the Freight. It was a common Practice, during the laſt War, for Owlers and others to correſpond with the *French*, and to agree for a Quantity of Wool to be ſhipp'd (with the Form and Ceremony of giving Bond) the Day and Hour they intend to put to Sea, as the Wind and Weather will permit, when a *French* Ship of Force has been appointed to take them as Prize; whereby it had the Appearance of a manifeſt Loſs to the Owners, both of Ship and Cargo; ſo that there ſeemed no room left to make any further Enquiry after the Wool, for which Bond had been given. Others excuſed themſelves by ſaying, They were driven on Foreign Coaſts by contrary

trary Winds and Stress of Weather. These and many more Contrivances will never fail, if not sufficiently provided against by *Parliament*; which, it is presumed, can no ways be prevented, but by Register Ships, which may be depended upon, for safe keeping and safe landing Raw Wool, Worsted and Yarn from *Ireland*, or to carry it Coast-ways.

It would be very difficult for any Society of Smugglers upon the Sea Coast, to carry on their Piratical Felonies, if they had not Persons of some Consideration to protect them; who not only connive at their infamous Dealings with *France*, but interest themselves in their Favour whenever they are taken; especially if they have a Vote for a County or Borough; otherwise they would not think it worth their while to fit out expensive Vessels, and freight them with such rich Cargoes of our finest and best Wool, Fullers Earth, *&c.* Gold and Silver, to carry to *France*, if they were under any Apprehension of being seized by the Officers of the Customs; who, in some Parts, are afraid of being severely

verely reprimanded, or discharged, if they do their Duty; even Perjury, in promoting this infamous Practice, is looked upon with a favourable Eye, by Persons of Rank and Fortune on the Sea Coast, who wallow in Wealth and Plenty, at the Expence and Ruin of both King and Country, in Defiance of the Laws of God and Man.

The Completion of this great Work would be fatal to neighbouring and distant Powers, and make us a richer and more formidable People, than we should be from an Acquisition of Mines equal to those of *Peru* and *Mexico*, and bring immortal Honour to that Parliament, that could guard and secure this national Blessing from Exportation 'till manufactured.

Otherwise, by suffering this fatal Exportation, the great Produce of Labour and Industry, more valuable than the whole Lands of the Nation, will be lost, Domestick and Foreign Trade will stagnate, Navigation will be greatly injured, our People impoverished and decreased, and the State, by Degrees, inevitably, though insensibly, destroyed.

 An

An ESTIMATE *of the Expence of Manning and Victualling Twenty-four* Register Ships *of different Burthen, to bring Raw Wool, Worsted, Bay Yarn,* &c. *from* Ireland, *and Coastways.*

The yearly Expence of a Register Ship, including Officers, &c. consisting of — 25	Men, at 4 *l. per Mensem* —		*l.* 1,300
Ditto — of — 20 Men —			1,040
Ditto — of — 15 Men —			780

		l.
6 Register Ships of 25	Men each,	7,800
8 Ditto — — of 20	amount	8,320
10 Ditto — — of 15	to —	7,800
24 Regist. Ships Tot. Charge annually		23,920

An

An ESTIMATE *of the Expence of the Three Men of War, and Eight armed Sloops, employ'd at this Time on the Coast of* Ireland, *for preventing the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured, to Foreign Parts.*

The yearly Expence of a Sixth Rate Man of War, consisting of 130 Men, at 4 *l. per Mensem* — —	*l.* 6,760		
Two Ditto — — — —		13,520	*l.* 20,280
One armed Sloop, consisting of 80 Men, at 4 *l. per Mensem* — —	4,160		
Seven Ditto — — —		29,120	33,280
Total Charge annually —			53,560
Charge of 24 Register Ships			23,920
N. B. The Expence of the Three Men of War, and Eight Sloops station'd on the Coast of *Ireland*, *Anno* 1732, exceeds the Expence of the 24 Register Ships propos'd, which will be so much annually saved to the Nation. By —			29,640

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