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A N S W E R  
To the PRETENDED  
REMARKS

ON  
*Mr. WEBBER's Scheme,*  
AND THE  
*DRAPER's PAMPHLET;*

SH E W I N G,  
That the REMARKER hath not made the least  
Objection to the Scheme, which the *Draper*  
recommended, nor disprov'd the least Fact  
which he advanc'd: As also, that all that hath  
been alledged by the *Gentleman's Magazine*  
against it is groundless, and that the Truth of  
the Calculation is undoubted.

To which is added,  
A Copy of the LETTER which Mr. *WEBBER*  
received, concerning its being stipulated that *France*  
should have our Wool; which Letter also contains a  
short, but pathetick Address, to the ELECTORS of  
*Great-Britain*. Written at the Time of the last Election,  
and altogether as necessary at this Time, with some other  
Reasons; setting forth the Probability of such a Stipu-  
lation

A L S O,  
A PETITION, intended to have been presented to Parlia-  
ment, praying, an Act to confirm the Charter which His Ma-  
jesty granted Mr. *WEBBER*: Which Petition was not  
refused, on account of such a Charter not having been granted,  
but as a Private Bill that came too late.

By JOHN LONDON.

L O N D O N:  
Printed and Sold by *J. Robinson*, at the Golden Lyon in *Ludgate-Street*; *A. Dodd*, at the Peacock without *Temple-Bar*; and *J. Millan*, over-against the Admiralty Office, *Charing-Cross*. 1741.

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## PREFACE.

**H**AD it not been for a late Occurrence, I should have taken the Liberty to have address'd these Reflections, how much soever beneath the Dignity of the Subject of which it treats, and how unworthy soever they are on that account of his Acceptance to an honourable Gentleman, as a Testimony of the great Respect I bear towards him, as well knowing the great Pains which he took thoroughly to search into the Nature and Importance of the Things advanced in this Treatise; and as a grateful Acknowledgment of his having so zealously and prudently brought them on, and push'd them forward, after he had acquired a perfect Knowledge and Understanding of them; for which, I doubt not, but the whole Nation will one Day return him those Thanks publickly, which he so justly deserves, as some Part of the Country have already done privately.

This honourable Gentleman, has not only acknowledged himself to be convinc'd, by the strong Arguments brought by the *Draper*, of the absolute Necessity of immediately putting a stop to the Exportation of our *Wool*, but hath been so good, as after a cool and thorough Examination of the Scheme, offer'd by *Mr. Webber*, this Sessions, to  
remedy

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remedy so great and fatal an Evil, to testify his Approbation of it, and to use his utmost Endeavours, to have had it put in Execution without delay, as being sensible what bad Consequences the giving away another Year's Wool will be attended with.

And certainly nothing is a greater Characteristic of a noble Mind, than the daring to search into the Bottom of Things, especially of those that are of such a Nature as to be of the utmost Concern and Importance to them; and not supinely and servily to give themselves up to be deluded and led away by the grossest Impositions that ever were advanced in any Nation, or to any People, who seem to be glad to catch at any Thing, that may look like any Plea, however weak, to alledge for their persevering in their Conduct, tho' they cannot possibly be so very ignorant, but they must know, that it must soon end in their own Ruin, as it hath already in that of their Country: So that it is but too evident that they are given up to a Judicial Blindness, the Consequence of which I need not repeat.

Of this Nature, are those Remarks pretended to have been made on Mr. *Webber's* Scheme, and the *Draper's* Pamphlet, which are handed about so industriously and spread through the Nation, to which I may add those in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Tho' their Nature is such, as instead of pointing out the least Defect in either of them, they serve only to set forth their Beauties and Perfections in a clearer and stronger Light; for Truth like the Sun, tho' it may be obscured by a Cloud, will again break forth and appear brighter than ever. But here is the Misfortune, that a Point's having been controverted only, passes for Conviction enough  
with

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with too many, and without once looking into it, 'tis even Reason sufficient for them not to look into it at all; not considering the sinister Designs of those who impose upon them in this Manner, nor that there is not any Thing in reality that can possibly make more for an exceeding good Cause, and one that hath been supported by the strongest Arguments, than to have nothing but what is exceeding weak, wicked and scurrilous pleaded against it. Nor does it reflect a little Honour on a Man of the greatest Knowledge and Experience as well as Virtue and Integrity to be stiled a *Madman*, and an *addle-headed Projector*, and to have it asserted, that what he advances is nothing but *Dreams*, *Visions*, *Whimsies*, and *idle Imaginations*, when it will so evidently appear, that all that hath been objected against him, is nothing but Noise and Nonsense, without any the least Foundation. But as the *Draper* well observes, it is difficult to say, which is the greatest, the *Effronterie* of those who would attempt to impose upon the Nation by such Stuff, or the *Folly* of those well-meaning *Dupes* who repeat it after them.

If it be found, then, that all the Objections which could possibly be made against all that he or his Friends have advanc'd, have been fully answered in this Treatise; and that it hath been made appear on the contrary, that those Advantages arising from his Scheme, vastly exceed all that hath been advanced by them. A Scheme which requires the greatest *Wisdom* and *Sanity* to contrive; so admirably well calculated, not only to prevent the most deplorable Evils that can befall a Nation, but to pour the greatest Blessings on them; a Scheme, the Excellence and Perfection of which,  
even

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even the Advocates for *France*, cannot bring the least plausible Objection against, and so are forc'd tacitly to acknowledge it. The Charge of Madness cannot, with the least Reason, be laid on him, but must fall on that Nation who refuse it, or even make the least delay of accepting of it. I shall only add, that if he hath so well succeeded in what he hath hitherto undertaken to make out; why should what he hath farther to offer, be look'd upon as less capable of Demonstration, seeing that what he hath already done, was at first thought to be altogether as impossible as what remains undone, tho' it now appears to be so very easy and familiar.

A N

## A N S W E R

To the PRETENDED

## R E M A R K S

O N

*Mr. WEBBER's Scheme, &c.*

**I**T may not be amiss, before I enter upon the Subject, to give the Reasons that induced me to answer the *Remarker* on *Mr. Webber's Scheme* and the *Draper's Pamphlet*; which were, first, the *Draper's* thinking it too much beneath him to take any Notice of so weak, so wicked, and so scurrilous an Author, whose very *Remarks* will convince every candid and impartial Reader of the Truth of what *the Consequences of Trade* asserted, and the Excellency of *Mr. Webber's Scheme*, were there no Answer written to it. Secondly, The great Miseries and Calamities my Country labours under, which every Day so surprizingly increase, that had the *Remarker* denied it, as he doth not once attempt to do, it would have been in vain; for as the *Draper* justly observes, Words, tho' they may serve to amuse, will neither feed the Hungry, cloath the Naked, nor pay Rents and Taxes, no more than defend us from powerful and designing Enemies. Thirdly, From my full Conviction

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of the utter impossibility of our being able to prevent our being reduced to become a Province to *France*, if the Exportation of our unmanufactured Wool is not immediately stopt, which great and impending Danger the *Remarker* doth not undertake to disprove. As to the Weakness, Wickedness, and Scurrility of the Author, they abound in every Page of his Performance, and shall be taken Notice of as we go through it, tho' it does so plainly occur to any Person who is void of Prejudice and indued with common Sense. To give a most material Instance of it before I go any farther: His present Remarks then are on the *Sketch* of a Scheme which was delivered to Parliament eight Years since, as one which their *Wisdom could make effectual*, tho' he imposes them on the Publick as Remarks on a *Scheme* which Mr. *Webber* delivered to Parliament two or three Months since, more particularly explained; which Conduct, at the same time that it exposes the Weakness and Wickedness of the Author, is a tacit Acknowledgement of the Excellence of the Scheme, and makes it too obvious that he is one of those who proceed on the *Gazeteer's* Plan of, *the worse they write the better* \*, and that the Patron of such Writings must be drove to great Extremities in being obliged to take up with such mean Shifts, like one who is on the point of being swallowed up catches at any thing he can lay hold on to support himself, even tho' it can serve only to sink him, not only the faster, but deeper too.

As to the Miseries and Calamities of the Country, the *Draper's* Pamphlet had not been published long before there came up the most melancholy Accounts from all Parts of this Kingdom, as well as *Ireland*, setting them forth and confirming what he advanced, tho' they vastly exceeded all that he had advanced on that Head, or that he himself could have imagined, great as he knew them to be. From *Devonshire* in particular it was asserted, that the poor Woollen Manufacturers there were so far reduced for want of Labour, as to feed on *Grains*, tho' no People of what Rank soever were wont to feed on better Victuals than they once did, and by their Labour could afford to do. The plentiful Condition of that County, which is for the most part naturally barren, by Improvements made since the first Establishment of the Woollen Manufactures there, is set forth in a Pamphlet which I published last Year †, which not only demonstrates, how much the Face of the whole three Kingdoms would be altered, and how much their Rents and Value would be advanced, were but the Exportation of our Wool prevented, but what fatal Consequences on the other hand must necessarily attend the suffering it to go off unmanufactured. The Miseries and Calamities of this once rich and flourishing County are so great, that I cannot forbear giving one Instance of it, which was related to me by a Gentleman of great Worth, Honour and Veracity, lately come to Town. It is as follows: That in a certain

\* *Gazeteer of the 9th of March.*

† *Intituled Some Considerations on the Woollen Manufactures, &c.*

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certain Parish there, bordering on *Somersetshire*, which was full of Manufactures (for the greatest Part of *Devonshire* was within these twenty Years but as one great Village employed in the Woollen Manufactures, which extended themselves and were carried on in Country Parishes as well as in Towns) the poor Wretches for want of Employ were so reduced, as to be forced to apply for Relief, in such Numbers, that those who took on them the Management of the Affairs of the Parish, shut them up in a Workhouse, and having kept them there till half of them died for want of proper Care and Necessaries, finding the Numbers which remained to be too chargeable, they turned them out again to beg their Bread. And nothing is more certain than that Thousands and Thousands of those poor Wretches have died in that County since the beginning of last Year, for want of Necessaries, and by Diseases contracted by eating unwholesome Food. And no less certain is it, that this Calamity spreads like a Deluge over the Country, the same Accounts having been since that time transmitted from *Somersetshire* also; and that it is come up so far as the Neighbourhood of *Marlborough* in *Wiltshire*, where they now eat *Grains* too, as I have Authority to produce. I know it hath been industriously insinuated, and it was lately urged to my self by an honourable Gentleman, that the Woollen Manufactures of the *West* were shifted to *Yorkshire*; but a good part of the Manufactures of the County of *Devon* in general, and all those of that Parish, the Miseries of which I have been relating in particular, were wont to be exported to those Nations which are now served, not with *Yorkshire*, but *French* Woollens, of which I have been an Eye-witness, as also that there are exceeding great Quantities of Woollen Goods made at *Lisle* in *French Flanders* not only for the Consumption of *France*, but of *Spain* too; whereas within these thirty Years the Inhabitants of that City themselves were wont to draw great Quantities from *England* in general, and *Devonshire* in particular, which they smuggled into *France*; who could not at that time cloath its own Inhabitants, much less drive us out of all our Woollen Trade \*. Besides; that the Woollen Manufactures in general are not so flourishing in *Yorkshire*, I have Authority to produce; and in particular that the City of *York* hath lost them some Years, I am also credibly informed that at *Hallifax* they pay no less than 14 s. in the Pound for Taxes, which shews that there is neither a flourishing Trade in Woollens in that Town in particular, nor in the County in general, whatever some People may have asserted to serve a Turn; for where People are poor, there they will work cheap, and where Labour is to be had cheapest, there those who carry on Business always will apply for it; and this also the Petition from the City of *York* to Parliament, complaining not only

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of

\* *In the Pamphlet already mentioned, is an Account of the Woollen Manufactures established at Lisle, as they stood in the Year 1736.*

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of the Decay of the Woollen Manufactures there; but all over that County, confirms, as doth the Petition of *Hallifax* the Decay of those of that Town. It hath also been asserted to me, that the Woollen Manufactures of *Norwich* are very flourishing, but the Petition sent from thence shews the contrary. I could pursue this Argument throughout the whole Kingdom, and shew that the Calamity is general †. But to come nearer home to the Manufactures of *Spittlefields* and of the Town in general. Let their Nature be what they will, they all depend on the Woollen Manufactures, and will rise or fall in proportion as those flourish or decay, they being the great Wheel of the whole Machine, and as it moves or stands still, so they also will move on or stand still. And here those who will give themselves the Trouble of inquiring into it will find Thousands and Thousands of those poor Wretches, who were wont to bring so much Wealth in among us, reduced to the utmost Extremity for want of Employment; so that scarce a Day passes but gives melancholy Accounts of their hanging and drowning themselves, and their unhappy Children with them, to free them from their Misery; of their stealing Bread and boiling Puppy Dogs to feed themselves with, and the next Accounts perhaps will tell us of their killing one Child to feed themselves and the rest of their unhappy Family; for many poor Wretches declare they have not tasted a bit of Flesh since *Christmas*, but have sustained themselves by Herbs picked in the Fields, boil'd and eat with Salt and Bread †. Instances never known before in peaceable Times, or at least when we have no Enemies to do with that could possibly have stood so long against us, but among our selves, and can scarce be paralel'd any where but in the longest and straitest Sieges. Such and so great are the Miseries of those poor Wretches who are obliged to stay at home; great Numbers of others are gone into the Army and the Fleet, maintain'd by that Nation to the Support of which they were wont so greatly to contribute, and not a few are gone to cultivate and carry on those Manufactures abroad in which they can find no Employment at home, of which I can give Instances not only in Town but in the Country too; it having been too long a Practice for Persons to come over from *France* to delude and draw over poor brisk young Fellows, and after they have learnt from them all they know, to force them to take on in the *Irish* Troops which are in their Service, in order one Day to make them that

Way,

† The Judges who went the last Circuits, could not, doubtless, but observe the Calamities of the Country.

† Since my writing the above, a Gentleman of Worth, Honour, and strict Veracity, hath sent me a Letter, to let me know that he hath received certain Accounts from *Westmoreland*, that the poor Manufacturers there are in a most deplorable Condition, starving and selling their Cloaths for Bread; and those who have none to sell, eat Grains, and that there was the same Complaints in *Yorkshire* too.

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Way, too, Instruments of their Country's Ruin; and besides our Natives, great Numbers of Foreign Tradesmen and Artisans, have left us for Want of that Business and Gain which induc'd them to come over, which accounts for those great Numbers of Houses which are void and uninhabited within the Bills of Mortality, said to amount to no less than 8000\*, as appears from the Books of the Window-Lights, to the great Loss and Impoverishment of the Owners, as well as the lessening the Revenue and the Strength of the Nation. Many of these Houses are situated in the most Principal Parts of the City †, and so well accustom'd, that a Person could not but with Difficulty within these few Years have hired one of them, and if he could be so fortunate, he was, with Industry and Oeconomy, certain of making his Fortune. How unaccountable is it then for any one to urge that the Trade and Inhabitants of the City of *London* are shifted to *Westminster*, which is altogether as ridiculous as it would be to say, that the Trade and Inhabitants of *Spittlefields* are removed to *Grosvenor-Square*. Nor is it an Answer sufficient to say, that our Woollen Trade is gone to decay by Reason of the War with *Spain*; for every one knows that *Spain* was chiefly supplied with Woollens from *France* before the War, tho' they were not able within so few Years to cloath themselves but with our Woollens; but for some time past, besides their supplying most other Nations, they have in some Measure done it in respect to our selves too, *French* Woollens being continually smuggled in amongst us to my certain Knowledge, and are worn here by Persons not of superior Rank only, but by those of inferior too, tho' it is to be presumed that these latter do not know from what Quarter they come; this I assert from my own Knowledge. The Reasons why *France*, will always be able to underwork us, if they get our Wool, may be seen in the *Consequences of Trade*, which the Remarker has not attempted to disprove; and as for what has been alledged, that our Calamities are owing to the last hard Winters and Failure of our Harvests, were but our Manufactures flourishing, and had our Labourers money to buy them, we should have no Want of Necessaries, although we were obliged to import them from abroad; which is the Case of *France*, who actually carry off our Provisions, notwithstanding the *Embargo*; whilst our Poor, for want of that Labour which they rob us of, have in the midst of Plenty their Bread, without a Metaphor, taken out of their Mouths; so evident is it that we can refuse that Nation nothing, whom we oblige with our Wool. Nor are those Extravagancies and that Luxury which so much prevail among Persons of Superior Rank, sufficient to count-

\* 8000 Houses at but six Persons in a House amount to 48,000 who pay no Taxes, which however must be raised whether on many or few.

† Fleet-street, Pater-Noster-Row, Ludgate-Hill, London-Bridge, and even Cheap-side.

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counterballance the Poverty and Distress of their Inferiors, so as to make us believe the Nation to be in so rich and flourishing a Condition as is wont to be represented. But fearing I have dwelt too long upon this Head I come now to shew from whence my Conviction proceeds that we are come so near to the Point of becoming a Province to *France*, that we can scarce possibly avoid it, did we set about taking Measures immediately to prevent it, which we are very far from doing, that I can see. And here I shall not repeat what the *Draper* hath so evidently made appear, and which the *Remarker* tacitly acknowledges; I shall only observe that our Trade hath been decaying for these 20 Years past: In the Beginning so insensibly that it was scarce felt, and when it was first perceiv'd, it past only for the Effects of the *South Sea Scheme*, and its having so much impoverisht and brought such Ruin on People, as to render them incapable of carrying it on with that Vigour as they did before that execrable Project was put in Execution. All those Arts that have been put in Practice since, in order to forward and encourage that Decay, I shall not enter into the Detail of. It is enough for me to observe that it actually hath grown upon us like Arithmetical Progression, or like a great and rapid River which hath broke through its Banks; the Breach of which was not at first perceived, but at length becomes so great as to overflow all the Country round about us, so that it cannot be reduced into its ancient Channel but with vast Expence, if it be possible to succeed at all in attempting it. Thus tho' our Manufactures and our Commerce have been decaying so many Years, yet have they gone more to Ruin this last Year than they did in very many Years before; and as there is not the least Prospect of Redress, that I can see, what can hinder us from being overwhelm'd by it? That *France* is the only Nation on Earth that can inflave us, and that they long have had such Designs is what the *Draper* hath plainly proved; and as it remains unanswer'd by the *Remarker*, it must be taken for granted. I shall only observe, that this is not the only Nation on Earth that hath been made to overflow with Riches and Plenty by the Woollen Manufactures being carried on among them, and that the Loss of those Manufacturies hath reduced them to Beggary and Slavery\*, and I defy the *Remarker* or his Fellow Helpers to deny what the *Draper* asserts, that without an Alteration of Measures, and a speedy one too, this Government also must soon be overturn'd and the Nation ruined irretrievably.

From this Introduction after having just taken Notice of a most notorious Falsehood which he would impose upon his Country Readers, as if the *Draper's* Pamphlet had not been known in *Town*, where-

† No notice hath been taken of it this Session, tho' the Fortifications of Dunkirk have been so long carrying on, no more than Care hath been taken to prevent the Exportation of Wool.

\* In the Pamphlet beforementioned the Condition of Flanders and Antwerp is compar'd with England and London.

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whereas on the contrary, almost the whole of it was inserted from Time to Time, by Extracts taken from it, not only by the *Daily Post*, but *Champion* and *Englishman's Evening-Post*, and that voluntarily and without any Application made to them for it) I come to the *Remarker*, where he first takes Notice of Mr. *Webber's* Scheme, which, as hath been already observed, is not that which the *Draper* recommended, as appears by his having asserted that it would not only ease *Paris's* Rates, but prevent *Paris's* Law-Suits, and suppress *Vagrants*, and *Thieves*, as well as employ them, which it lies upon the *Remarker* to prove that the most excellent Scheme deliver'd this Session is not admirably well calculated to effect: Whereas the *Sketch* of the Scheme deliver'd to Parliament formerly, and publish'd in the Pamphlet, on which, he says, the *Draper's* is founded, mentions not a Syllable of it; however it will be proper to go through his Remarks, not only to shew they have little or no Foundation, and consequently the Weakness and Wickedness of making them, but also to clear up all other Objections that have hitherto been alledged against either, particularly those in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, which instead of being a faithful and impartial Record, is nothing but an Heap of Falsehood and Partiality, serving only to impose upon well meaning Persons in the Country, (for it is scarce read in *Town*) and to make them believe black is white, for he would not be suffered to take Minutes of his pretended Debates, was it not to serve a Turn. That this hath been his Design for many Years past, is not only too notorious to any one who will give themselves the Trouble to reflect on his Writings, but also appears in nothing so much as the monstrous Light in which he has represented Mr. *Webber's* Scheme and the Proceedings on it, all which I leave my Readers to judge of, and whether such a Writer deserves any more Encouragement from them for such a Heap of Nonsense. I now proceed to the first Article of the Remarks, by which he endeavours to prejudice both the landed and trading Interest against it, by asserting the most notorious Falsehood, and that Mr. *Webber* intended to burthen them with no less than 680,000 *l.* Yearly for carrying it on; whereas it is evident Mr. *Webber* has declared he proposes to do it not only without any Charge, but on the contrary, makes the greatest Offers to this Nation that ever was made by Man to any Nation, for which I refer to the *Scheme* delivered this Session it self: But here I my self cannot help remarking how much on the contrary both these Interests would have been benefitted by it, if it had been accepted, and that even within a little Time, besides the easing of their Taxes and employing their poor starving fellow Creatures, which they are not capable of maintaining, which will appear from the great Advance there must necessarily immediately be on stopping our Wool, and the great Demands, as well as Profit, there would have been in manufacturing it, confirmed by Facts which have actually happen'd, which will also serve for an Answer to those who propose the *G* should buy up Wool, either

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ther to *manufacture* or to *burn* it, on Pretence we shall have no Returns of Trade in three or four Years, and that it will lie on Hand and be an intolerable Burthen to the Country; all which I shall endeavour to make appear from the following short Propositions.

1. There is but little Wool on Hand at present, it having been greedily bought up by the *French*, as it is at so low a Price, and fearing they may possibly soon be depriv'd of the Opportunity of having any more.

2. On Wool's being effectually stop'd, Gentlemen and all Persons of Substance will keep their Wool in Expectation of an Advance, which they were generally wont to do, and that some Years when there was any Hopes of it.

3. What Wool necessitous People may have to sell will be greedily bought up, if not by the Manufacturers, yet by People of Substance, there being no surer way of getting Money than by laying it out in any Merchandize which will not damage in keeping some Years, provided that Merchandize is at a very low Price, and for which there must necessarily come a Demand, and which may be turned into Money again whenever the Owner pleases.

4. *France* and all other Foreigners will drop their Manufactures when they find they are like to have no more Wool to carry them on with, and our Manufactures will revive in proportion to the Decay of theirs. Not but that there will immediately come great Demands for our Manufactures by Reason of their low Prices at present and the Certainty of their advancing in Time, and it is but too evident that the Profit advances naturally in proportion to the Demand for any Thing.

The Truth of these Propositions is confirm'd by Facts, as by what happen'd on passing the Act 1. *William* and *Mary*, where by private Persons were commissioned to stop the Exportation of Wool, which they in a good Measure effected, till for some Reasons, which I shall not mention, to avoid being thought to cast Reflections, the Prosecution of it was dropt. But notwithstanding, whilst it was pursued, it had such an Effect as to advance our Wool from 6 *l.* per Pack to 16 *l.* and our Manufactures to double the Price they bear at present. Another Instance I shall give of it, is by what happen'd in the Time of the Plague's being at *Marseilles*, too well known and observed to need any Thing farther to be said on that Head; and the last Instance is what happened no longer since than the last War between the Emperor, and *France* and her Allies, which was no sooner broke out, but in the West of *England*, at least, Wool advanced from 5 *l.* per Pack, to 8 *l.* or 9 *l.* and the Demands for those Manufactures, which are now quite stop'd there, was exceeding great and advanced proportionably, whereas before that War broke out, they were come to a very low Ebb. Now admit there are but one Million Packs of Wool grown among us, whereas it appears by my Calculations, which I shall defend and confirm the Truth of before I have done, that there are a Million  
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and *Half*, as may be reasonably suppos'd; every Penny per lb. Advance amounts to one Million clear Gain to the Nation; and let the *Remarker* or his fellow Labourers shew Cause why, if Wool is stop'd effectually, it should not, and that in a very few Years too, advance as high as ever, and consequently what Foundation there is for any one to charge Mr. *Webber* or the *Draper* with wild *Notions* and *Whimsies* when they talk of Millions. So much for the landed Interest only; as for the Trading, I leave it to themselves to form a Judgment what Advantage it will be to them, from what their Trade and Profit is at present reduced to; compared with what they themselves know from their own Experience, or have heard it asserted by others to have been formerly.

But to return to the *Remarker*, as to what he alledges that the Charges of the Registers and Permits would amount to; and be no less than 300,000 *l.* yearly Charge on the *Woolen Manufacturers*, arising by Two-pence to be paid for registering every Parcel of Wool from one Pack to any Quantity, had Mr. *Webber* or any of his Friends asserted any Thing like it, they might well have pass'd for *Madmen*, and he would have done well, if before he had made so monstrous an Assertion he had consulted his fellow Helper, the *Magazine*, who herein so mightily differs from him, as that he will scarce allow any Quantity of Wool to be grown among us at all. But here I cannot help remarking, that if so small a Sum laid on every Parcel of Wool (for as he acknowledges it is not proposed to be laid on every Pack) would bring in so considerable a Revenue, what immense Treasures would not so very great a Duty (considering the Value of Money at that Time) as was laid on the Exportation of it by *Edward III.* bring in to the Publick; How much good would it do, if it was distributed among those who are starving for Want of being employ'd in manufacturing it; and how it is possible for any Nation to be guilty of so great an Oversight, as to part with so valuable a Commodity without any Manner of consideration. But I shall leave it to him and his Brother *Mag* to settle it between them, whether it be possible for any Register's Office on that Foot to be worth from 200 *l.* to 1200 *l.* and 600 *l.* per Ann. at a Medium, seeing they differ so very widely; and as to what he alledges, that *Parish Clerks* will not be capable of carrying on the Register, it must be observed, that in the Scheme recommended by the *Draper*, it is evidently proposed, that the *Patentees* shall find proper Persons for doing it. Not but that his Objections against *Parish Clerks* are groundless, provided they are otherwise qualified for it, seeing that it is proposed that they shall never stir out of Doors on Account of the Registry, unless in Case of Fraud having been practis'd; and so they will not only be capable of doing their Duty as *Parish Clerks* at the same Time by attending divine Service on Occasion, but of following their own Professions too, provided that it requires their Attendance at home, especially in small *Parishes*, where the Business will many Times be so small,  
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and require so little Trouble, that 40 s. yearly may be sufficient, and as for travelling Charges there will be none. But let this be as it will, the *Patentees* would undertake to find *proper* Persons without burthening the Publick and consequently the Charge of 380,000 l. yearly on the *Landed Interest* also is without any Manner of Foundation.

As to his naming the *Patentees* \*, and to its remaining to their Successors, that is not only altogether reasonable, but absolutely necessary, in order to obviate those Clamours which the *Remarker* himself would raise against this Scheme. In his Examination of the second Article about *Chequering* and *Extents*, with which he endeavours to frighten those who are not sensible that nothing like it was ever intended by Mr. *Webber*, who if he would have come into that Way of thinking might have had his Scheme comply'd with, and those Sums paid him for it, which the *Draper* asserts he from Time to Time refused, and which, as the *Remarker* doth not deny the Truth of, must be admitted. What he objects is, indeed, a good Reason why the *Ministry* should have nothing to do with the Direction of this Scheme, but none against it, on the Foot it is propos'd to be carry'd it on, i. e. under the Direction of private Persons, who are always to remain *independent* and under no Manner of *Influence*, and consequently would be turn'd out as well for *Abuse* of their Trust, as *Neglect* of Duty; *unsupported* as they would be, tho' it would be scarce in their *Power* to do either. But such a *Tool* could have nothing in his View, by setting Things in this Light, unless to impose on weak Readers. Altogether as weak and wicked is it in him to suggest, that the Legislature would not have taken Care of the *Liberties* of the Subject, as in all other Respects, so in providing that all reasonable *Allowances* shall be made for any *Accidents* or *Circumstances* whatever, the very Words of the rough Draught of a Bill which was drawn up, the Heads of which only were ordered to be printed, and shews that nothing is more evident, than that there will be no Difficulty for any Person who hath parted with his Wool, or manufactur'd it, to get a *Discharge* from it, and that without the least Trouble or personal Application. But supposing that any *Patentee*, or the *Committee* who it is propos'd shall preside over them should be so weak and wicked as to commence malicious Prosecutions for the Penalties, they are not only to be discharged for it, and rendered incapable of acting any more in that Capacity, but it will not even be possible for them to vex any honest Man, seeing the Growers of Wool, as well as the Manufacturers

\* Mr. Webber has but few Friends that he is engaged to, the rest of the *Patentees* may be chose by their Counties or otherwise; for he hath no Objection to any Party, provided that they are Gentlemen of Fortune, and are ty'd up from ever being under Ministerial Influence.

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urers, have Liberty to account for it as if sold or used in small Quantities, and that in the Gross and without any Oath impos'd on them for the Truth of it; notwithstanding which, it is so well guarded against Knavish Practices, that I should be glad to see the *Remarker* or any of his Accomplices, to shew how a Cargo of it may be sent off. But supposing it possible that malicious Prosecutions may notwithstanding be carried on against Persons who are innocent, let it be consider'd that it must be tryed by a *Jury*, who will never be prevail'd on to give up their Neighbours to such Oppressions, tho' at the same Time, as the Law in that Respect is so well regulated, it may well be presumed that no flagrant Offenders will escape unpunished; and this serves for an Answer to the *Magazine* in regard to his Insinuations, as to penal Laws, and as if some *Members* would not admit of them, tho' for the Preservation even of *Trade* it self, and consequently of our being any longer a *Nation* but Slaves to *France*; but who those *Members* are, seeing none of them made such Declaration openly, who are so much in the Interest of *France*, remains a Secret; and it cannot be supposed, for Reasons given by the *Draper*, any of them can be so indeed.

I come now to the next Article of the Scheme, which the *Remarker* takes any Notice of, and that is the 4th, in his Objections to which on p. 21 he states his Case as if poor Persons bought very small Quantities of *Wool* to card and to spin in order to sell it to *Clothiers*, which Mr. *Webber's* Scheme leaves room for, provided those *Quantities* are not too large, without any Application to the *Registers*; and so his Objection, which he set forth, as if attended with those seemingly insuperable Difficulties and Distresses, ceases; not withstanding which, I defy either himself or his Accomplices to shew how a *Cargo* of it may be draw together or ship'd off, much less that a Practice should be made of it. But in the next Place, he says, those very poor Women carry it to the *Clothiers* for whom they work, which implies, that the Wool was not their own Property, but that of the *Clothiers*, as it is fittest it should be, and as is generally the Case throughout the Kingdom, and which if it is not, ought every where to prevail; as 5, 10, or 20 Packs of Wool may be bought together on better Terms than 10 l. 20 l. or even 50 l.; in which Case also they would need no Application to the *Register*. Not but that if the Exportation of Wool was stopt, it appears by what hath been before advanced on the 1st Article, such poor Persons, if they were careful and industrious, would in time be able to purchase as many Packs as they can Pounds now. But here again his *Weakness* and *Wickedness* appear, in that he pretends to pity poor Wretches for *Hardships* which never were propos'd to be laid on them, nor conceived but in his own Brains, I would have said Scul, and at the same time never proposes any thing to help them out of the wretched Condition, to which they are actually reduced.

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His *Remarks* on the 5th Article require no other Answer than that the Scheme which the *Draper* recommends is remarkable, for that there is not so much as an *Oath* required to be taken, on any Occasion whatever, by any Person concerned in Wool, or the Manufacture or Transportation of it; the like of which is scarce to be parallel'd in any other; nor are they required to bring Persons to appear for them at the *Registers*, or so much as even to appear in Person themselves, and so his Objection intirely ceases.

By his *Remarks* on the 6th Article, he endeavours to prejudice *Gentlemen* in the *Commission of the Peace* against it, by insinuating as if it would bring an *Herculean Labour* on them; whereas all that is proposed for them to do is, at their Quarter Sessions, to approve of proper Security, to qualify ships for the Transportation of Wool, which Security once given, will be sufficient so long as the Parties concerned have no Objection against it; and to order Persons, who are likely to become chargeable, Home to their respective Parishes, which is no more than they do at present; but with this Difference, that they will have fewer *Poor* and consequently less *Business*, only if they please they may look into the Copies of the *Registers* proposed to be delivered them, to see that no Frauds are carried on and connived at.

As to what the *Remarker* says concerning *Waste*, and that it is impossible to find a *Remedy* on that Score, it is said, expressly, in the Scheme recommended by the *Draper*, that all Manufacturers shall be discharged from so much Wool as they may compute may have been consumed in manufacturing it into Cloths, &c. how base, and how much of a-piece with his former Remarks is such an Insinuation, as is that other, as if it could not be done but on the Foot of the *Excise*, and *Officers* who must be continually *visiting* People's Houses and *ransacking* them, whereas it is plainly express'd in the Scheme recommended by the *Draper*, that no *Register* is to *visit* any Person's House whatever on any Pretence, but after *Oath* having been made of Suspicion of *Fraud* having been committed, and even then it is proposed it shall be done in the *Day-time* only and at *seasonable Hours*; and how monstrous is it to put so gentle and easy a Regulation on the same Foot, as the *Excise Scheme* or *Bill to regulate Seamen*, as the *Magazine* does, in both which the *M—*'s Will only would have been Law; whereas what is here proposed is no more, and even not so much as what Persons do in searching for stolen Goods, which in Case any are found is to be decided by *Juries*; the strongest Objection that can be made against *Excises*, which would otherwise be as harmless as the *Customs*. So perfectly well agreed are those two notable Fellow-Helpers, that I cannot forbear remarking that their Observations, it is too evident, flow from the same Spring. But wherein consists the *Impracticableness* of putting the Scheme in Execution, it lies still upon the *Magazine* or his *Objectors* to make out.

The next Objection of the *Remarker* is, the Want of a *proper Certainty* as to the *Buyers* of *Wool*, and this I shall shew to be as groundless

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as any offered yet, by illustrating it in the Example which he himself gives us, as follows. *Edward Jones*, of *Taunton*, buys *Wool* of a *Farmer* of *Wilton*, which *Farmer*, makes it in his Bargain to convey it to *Taunton*, for a Price agreed on, and accordingly he sends it thither by his own Carriage, or by that of some one well known to him; on Delivery of which *Wool* to *Jones* at *Taunton*, the said *Jones* gives or sends, proper Notice (of which Forms and Directions will be printed for every Part of the *Register* to make it easy to all concerned) to the *Register* of that Town that he hath received into his Custody, such a Quantity of *Wool* from the *Farmer* of *Wilton*; on Receipt of which Notice, the *Register* sends him a Certificate that it is registred to his Account, which Certificate, is immediately to be given to the *Farmer* of *Wilton*, or to the Person which he employed to be delivered to him, on producing whereof to the *Register* of *Wilton*, the *Farmer* shall immediately be discharged, and in Case *Jones* should afterwards be able to find Means to smuggle it, which I defy him to shew how it is possible for him to do, and if after he has done it, he should not be able to pay five Shillings for every Pound of it, it is proposed, that he shall suffer and be incapacitated of receiving any more into his Custody, and so he can do it but once after all; so perfectly ridiculous are all his Objections, and so excellently well calculated is it to answer the Ends proposed.

As to the *Irish* Woollen Manufactures, if *Mr. Webber* did propose in his former Scheme some Indulgence for *Ireland* in this Article, yet in this he does not, but leaves it to the Wisdom of Parliament, whether they shall be continued on the same Foot as they are at present, or whether any Alteration shall take Place; neither of which interferes with his *Register*. However, to oblige the *Remarker*, I will let him know *Mr. Webber's* Sentiments of the Matter, which he started with an ill Design, and in order to raise a Jealousy and a Contention between the *English* and *Irish* Woollen Manufacturers, who are both starving, that so the *French* may continue to run away with the Bone from both. *Mr. Webber* then thinks, that *Ireland* ought to be treated by *England* as a younger Sister, seeing its present Inhabitants are not only Fellow-subjects, but are in a good Measure descended from us too, and capable, should they revolt, of doing us more Mischief than any Nation on Earth; and he is ready to maintain, and even to demonstrate, that if *Ireland* manufactur'd all their *Wool*, and even exported their *Manufactures* (which however, is more than they claim or expect to be indulg'd in,) it would be infinitely better for the *Gentlemen* of *England*, and the *Woollen Manufacturers* too, than that *France* should have any of it to manufacture. But it too evidently appears, that the *Remarker* and his Fellow-helpers are Tools to *France*, and would rather starve and ruin both Kingdoms, and that neither of them should reap any Benefit by what Nature hath so signally blest them with, and distinguisht them by, than that his

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his *French* Patrons should not be able to bring their favourite Scheme to take Place, of enslaving and giving us up to our *Hereditary* Enemies. In the Causes which he gives, why our Manufactures flourished during the last Wars, he out-does all his outdoings in Stupidity; as if People did not wear Cloths, whether they are in the Army or not. Then as to *foreign* Troops, let him disprove what the *Draper* advances, that *Foreigners* are not able to cloath themselves without the Help of our *Wool*; and as to *Callicoes*, and the like, there were as many worn when our *Woollen Manufactures* were very flourishing, and perhaps more than at present.

All the *Remarker's* Objections against Mr. *Webber's* Scheme having thus been answered and cleared up, and it having been shewn in particular, that it will be so far from bringing an annual Charge of *six or seven hundred Thousand Pounds* on the Nation, that on the contrary it will bring in *immense Treasures*, and so far from being so great a *Burthen* to the *Landed and Trading Interest*, that it will be attended with such great *Advantages*, to it, I would have the *Remarker* give some satisfactory Reasons, why so good and so beneficial a *Scheme* should be rejected, or even the Execution of it delayed? Why the Nation should be burthened with *Taxes*, which they are not capable of paying, and those *Millions* be refused, which Mr. *Webber* proposed to raise this Year, the raising which, would have affected no *British* Subject? Why our *Bread* should be given away to our powerful and designing *Enemies*, and our *Inhabitants* suffered to starve? Why *Wool*, tho' it was not thought proper to stop it those many Years of Mr. *Webber's* Application by his Scheme, and just in his Manner was not stop'd by any other Method? Why the *Custom-house Officers* are not as yet forced to do their Duty and stop it in the best Manner they can, seeing they are capable of doing it in a great measure? And lastly, that as the *Remarker* agrees with the *Draper*, that *Trade* is of great Advantage to all Nations, why it hath been so very long and so very much neglected, and so very little Care taken to encourage and protect it in this? For it is not enough for *Gentlemen* to assert that our *Trade* never was more flourishing than at present, and to appeal for a Proof of it to the *Custom-house* Books, which neither those who refer, or are refer'd to them, would understand, or be capable of making a Judgment of, was it possible for them to come at the sight of, and have the Liberty of examining them: Such *Assertions* may serve to amuse, but cannot alter the *Nature of Things*, nor prevail against *Matter of Fact* and *woeful Experience*. As to the *new Channel* which he speaks of, found out for our *Woollens*, he should have said rather for our *Wool*; there being some *Woollen Manufacturers*, lately gone over to *R*— to set forward that Business there too; and it is too much to be feared, that was it possible for us to subsist as a Nation, without preserving the *Woollen Manufactures*, no Nation in *Europe* would come into *Alliance* with us in short, without making it

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it a Part of their *Stipulation*, that they may have our *unmanufactured Wool*. *Sweden* it is certain prohibited last Year the Importation of our *Woollens*, doubtless by the Insinuations of her Ally, the *French*, who are so well qualified to instruct them what great Treasures they would bring them, and that they might soon be capable, not only of supplying themselves with those *Manufactures*, but the rest of the *Northern World*, as the *French* do the *Southern*; which *R*— is sensible of, and is concerting Measures how to supply themselves, at least, with them.

I must now call upon the *Remarker* to shew Cause, why we should not be able to work up so much *Wool* as *France* at present actually doth, why we should not be able to find People to buy it, and why we should not be able to get forty or fifty Millions yearly by it, seeing he hath not disproved what the *Draper* hath advanced on these Heads; and I shall be glad to see it demonstrated, what could possibly have raised *France* from the poor, weak and distressed Condition to which they were reduced, by carrying on so long and so unsuccessful Wars, by the failure of the Fruits of the Earth, and by the Practices of the late *Regent* and Mr. *Law*, more destructive than either of them, to so rich and powerful a Condition in so few Years, notwithstanding their labouring under the great Disadvantages of beating us out of a *Trade*, in which we had been not only a *Century* or two establish'd, but which are founded on *Manufacturing* the peculiar Produce of our own Country, which they come at, contrary to the strictest Laws of our Land; and notwithstanding the vast Expences they were at in that Time, if those *Manufactures* had not brought them in not a few Millions yearly, seeing, as the *Draper* justly observes, they have made no Acquisitions of Land that could possibly do it; for as to his *Calculations* of the Weight of *Wool* grown on every Sheep throughout the Kingdom, that is perfectly ridiculous, and nothing can be more moderate than what it is computed at in the *Consequences of Trade* \*.

As to what the *Magazine* asserts, of Mr. *Webber's* having imposed on the House, in relation to the Quantity of Sheep slaughtered weekly for the Town, that is a Reflection of such a Nature, as would not have been past over with Impunity at other Times; nor is it safe for any Persons but the Advocates of *France* to do it, even in these Times: However he must allow that the Account was satisfactory to them, seeing the Gentleman from whom Mr. *Webber* told them he had his Information, was at that very time

\* If the Quantity of *Wool* grown among us is not even more than I have computed it to be, it lies upon the *Remarker* to make out, how *Two-pence* paid for every Parcel, from one Pack to any Number, would amount to, and be a yearly Charge of 300,000 l. on the *Woollen Manufacturers*. But why he is guilty of such *Inconsistencies* is but too obvious.

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time attending, and might; if any Doubts had remained, been called in, and questioned himself about it.

That there were 30,000 Sheep slaughtered weekly for the Town till within these few Years; is what that Gentleman † hath so much reason to be satisfy'd of by many Years diligent Search into it; that he ventured on the Truth of it to offer no less than 700 or 800 Guineas for the Fine of a Market, besides paying a greater Rent for it than ever; which, as he is a Man of good Sense, he never would have offered without a good Foundation for it. But this Affair is too well known in London, it having been so often asserted on the Exchange; as well as in publick and private Houses, without being objected to; and so certain a Truth is it; that none of all the publick Papers that are read in Town, tho' often provoked to do it, have ever in the least attempted to dispute it; nor would there ever have been any such Attempts made; were it not in order to impose upon the Country, who could not but take any thing for Fact, when asserted by so faithful and impartial an Author, as they have no Opportunities of informing themselves otherwise. But let him make a Calculation, and demonstrate that a less Quantity of Mutton would serve the Town; I do not say now that 8000 Houses are forsaken of their Inhabitants, and that so many of those Persons who remain, have not Money to buy Meat in so great Quantities, and too many of them, not even any at all; not that I would insist on his making those Calculations, with his Coadjutor the Remarker, from the Bag-shot Heath Croppers neither; this would be no more than I did before I published my Calculations, which I should have inserted here, but that I would gladly see some more of so worthy and ingenious a Gentleman's Performances, by which he would mightily oblige his Readers no doubt, as well as myself; and let him shew in particular, that a Pound of † Mutton is too much to be allowed for every Inhabitant one with another to consume weekly, to me that Allowance seems not to be sufficient, but that Deficiency may be accounted for by those great Quantities that are slaughtered without coming into Smithfield at all, which makes still for my Calculations. But should those Accounts, which he gives the Publick, as taken from the Toll Books, have been actually taken from them, it argues nothing, but that there is some Roguery at the

Bottom

† The Gentleman, with a Friend of his, who lived many Years in Smithfield, will both be ready at any Time, to give any Person the same Satisfaction, which they gave me, and may be heard of at the Publisher's of this Pamphlet. — I had likewise the Curiosity to consult an eminent Fell-monger, who did assure me, that the Fell-mongers for several Years, Communibus Annis, bought so many Skins, from Smithfield; which I presume they could not have done, unless there had been so many Sheep slaughter'd weekly.

† Raw.

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Bottom of it, as too frequently happens in the Affairs of the Publick, which however I cannot suppose, and the less for that this Author hath industriously set all Mr. Webber's Scheme and the Proceedings on it, in a more odious Light than it could be imagined any Person could be so profligate as to do, which shews plainly, that he is so abandoned a Wretch as to be capable of doing any thing: For which I appeal to the said Scheme itself, and to the Letters which he hath so basely misrepresented, particularly those published on Cruels, which he ought to insert in his Collections, if upon no other Account, yet to satisfy his Friend White, if there is any such Person at St. Ives, where I have reason to think there are no such Cruels made nor exported, as he speaks of, which it is evident are those for curious Needle-work, or rather Tapestry, the manufacturing of which amounts to, not to say 40 l. per Pack, but some of the Richest of them, to Hundreds of Pounds per Pack, which Manufactures, were we but wise and not infatuated, must necessarily be immediately dropt abroad and be transported hither.

He ought also to have observed, that by my Calculations, the Wool of Great-Britain and Ireland (the Vell and Lamb's Wool included) amounted to, at least, a Million and Half of Packs yearly, whereas I computed it only at a Million, it being designed to set the Value of Wool in such a Light, as to demonstrate its being worth our Regard, not to ascertain the exact Quantity grown; but what would he and the Remarker have said, had I calculated the Value from the most that it appear'd to me to be, and consequently made it amount to half as much more. But one cannot expect Justice done him by a Person who doth all he possibly can, on the contrary, to delude and deceive his Readers, and is so stupid or perverse as to say, that either the Draper, or his Friends, calculated from thence the Power of Great-Britain and Ireland, and the Benefits arising from the Scheme, seeing Mr. Webber hath expressly asserted that the Million yearly forever, which he proposes to bring from Foreigners, is not to arise by any Tax either on Sheep or Wool; and consequently let the Quantity of them be more or less it will not be affected by it, no more than that other Part of it so admirably well calculated, and so absolutely necessary for the Reformation and Well-being of the Nation. So that after all, these French Advocates can say, there has been nothing advanced but what remains solid and without vanishing into Smoke. But I now call upon them to answer the Draper's Assertion, that we should be infallibly undone were our Loss yearly but Ten Millions only, and our Enemies Gain in proportion to it. Thus I hope the Magazine's Objections and Insinuations are fully answered.

I now return to the Remarker, where he charges the Draper with having, in the most impious Manner, called God to witness, to the greatest Falsities, in asserting that his Majesty had granted Mr. Webber a Charter nine Years ago, for an Universal Register, since in Fact, says he, his Majesty never granted such a Charter.

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In Answer to which, the present Conjunction will not suffer me, to set forth the Steps that were taken this Sessions, to procure an Act for the Confirmation of it, which if I were permitted to do, I should expose the *Remarker*, and the *Falsity* of his Assertions in as strong a Manner as I have hitherto done in any Instance; all I can do, is to insert the following Petition, which was intended to have been presented to the House, and which the Hon. Gentleman would not have undertaken to do, could it have been refus'd on Account of there having been no such Charter granted, as in *Fact* it was not.

*To the Hon. the Commons of Great-Britain, in Parliament assembled, the humble Petition of Samuel Webber, Serge-maker, sheweth,*

“ **T**HAT your Petitioner, ten Years ago, was recommended, by above Six hundred Thousand Woollen Traders, to his Majesty, for the obtaining an Universal Registry in Charter for himself and Company, in order to prevent the Exportation of Unmanufactur'd Wool to Foreigners; that his Grace the Duke of Newcastle did, in his Great Goodness, promise to deliver and recommend a Petition to his Majesty, in behalf of the said *Samuel Webber* and Company for such a Charter; that his Grace's Secretary, *Charles Delafay*, Esq; sent a Messenger with a Summons, requiring the said *Samuel Webber* and Company to attend at *Newcastle* House, which accordingly they did, and were then told that, according to their Petition, his Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant them the Charter requested; that the Fees due to his Grace, on Account of such Charter, were forty Guineas, but that, in Consideration of the great and publick Utility of the Charter, his Grace would be so good as to remit his Demand, for which Act of Generosity we waited on his Grace with our Humble Thanks, and were ordered by his Grace to wait on the Attorney-General, who had Instructions to report or form a Charter; that the Attorney-General, in order thereto, directed us to get an Affidavit drawn up and sworn to before a Master in Chancery, setting forth the Advantages that would arise to his Majesty and the Nation from such a Registry in Charter, and bring it to him, which accordingly we did; that the Attorney-General did farther order us, to carry him Copies of the Stocking-Frame-Knitters and Tobacco-Pipe-makers Charters (they being also Universal ones) for Precedents; that he told us, moreover, that he had returned it to Hampton-Court, but said that it would be expedient, for the more easy Execution of the Charter, to get his Majesty's Grant confirm'd by an Act of Parliament, advising us to apply to the Legislature for that Purpose; that

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“ the next Session, we did petition the Parliament, who chose a Committee; but that the Parliament drawing near a Dissolution, Sir *W—— Y——* acquainted the said *Samuel Webber* and Company, that it was his Majesty's Pleasure to visit his *German* Dominions, and the Desire of the Members to retire as soon as possible to their several Countries, and therefore that there was not Time to pass such an Act that Session, but that they might be assured of obtaining one upon the next Meeting of the Parliament.—This being a faithful Narrative of the Proceedings of the said *Samuel Webber* and Company, in respect to their Charter for an Universal Registry, and an Act of Parliament to confirm it, they cannot, without the highest Indignity to the Honour of the most Honourable Persons, question whether the Charter was actually granted, or whether the Goodness of this Hon. House, will be pleased to make such his Majesty's gracious Favour effectual, by passing such an Act, as they had so much Reason given them to hope for.—And as a reasonable Inducement to the passing such an Act, the Petitioner begs leave to repeat, what he has often asserted, that the Exportation of Wool cannot be effectually stopp'd any other Way than by an Universal Registry in Charter, which Charter cannot be effectual without the Aid of Parliament;

“ Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays to be heard at the Bar of this Hon. House, and hopes for such Encouragement as to this House shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

*As a Condition of this Petition's being accepted, the following Alterations were made by order of the Hon. Gentleman whose Place it was to receive it; viz. instead of Sir W—— Y——, an Hon. Person; and instead of might be assured, might probably obtain. Not but that the Petition as it now stands relates the Matter as it really happen'd.*

As to the Report, which he says, the *Attorney-General* made of it, I take it to be of the same Stamp with the rest of his Performances; for that would, if it was true, reflect no small Dishonour on those Gentlemen, who could impose on Mr. *Webber* in so flagrant a Manner, as not only to promise him to do what they never intended, but to put him off with such notorious Lies, in an Affair of so serious and important a Nature, and thereby induce him to spend so much Time and Money in vain. But I cannot leave this Report without observing, that the *Remarker* would basely insinuate, as if Mr. *Webber*'s Charter was propos'd to be of the same Nature, and would have so dangerous a Tendency to the Subversion of the Government, as the *Combers*, and *Weavers* unlawful

lawful Clubs and Assemblies; the Vileness of such Innuations appears in that, on the contrary, it is so evidently, and admirably calculated, entirely to prevent those great Evils which were occasioned by them, which wanted so much to be redrest, and which no one ever pretended to do before, and that it would be effectual, for that End will appear by what follows. That if we consider it, the Riots and Disturbances which have arisen among the Manufacturers from time to time, are generally begun by idle Fellows, who have run away, and left their Families to their Parishes for a Maintenance, and having no one to take care of but themselves, do only just work enough to get Money wherewith to frequent Ale-houses, where they are continually contriving among themselves how to raise their Wages, that so they may have more Money to spend idly; which Disturbances and Riots as they are the first Contrivers of, so they are the principal Actors in carrying on, for the Natives and Inhabitants always pretend, that they are forc'd into those Measures, as in Reality the Generality of them are wont to be, for should those latter begin, or even appear too forward in them, they would after those Disturbances ceased, have a Mark set on them for those Outrages, and be always remembered for it; so that it would be difficult for them to find Employers: Whereas Strangers immediately go off into some other Places, where they have not been guilty of such Crimes, and where their Practices are not known. But in the Beginning of such Disturbances, and before they are got to a Head, how easy will it be for Complaints of it to be made to any Justice of the Peace, and altogether as easy for them, to make an Order for such turbulent Persons not only to depart immediately, but to oblige them to it, which will as soon put a Stop to all their Proceedings.

But to return to the Remarker, and it fairly lies on him, as has been already observed, to shew Cause why so excellent a Scheme should have been so long deferr'd to the inconceivable, and I may add, almost irreparable Damage of the Nation, seeing what he asserts to be so horrid a Falsity, proves to be so great a Truth. Nay, let him give Reasons why Wool hath not been stop'd by some Means or other, if not intirely, yet in a good Measure; which that it might be done, his Friend the Magazine gives as the Opinion of some Members, by the Officers of the Customs, and that without any new Law; for that they have not done it, appears from the small Quantities which hath been seized by all Sorts of Officers these seven Years past, inserted in this Treatise as it was taken from the Custom-house Books, for which I have undoubted Authority\*. And why the Connivance of the Officers of Excise, may not be bought at as cheap a Rate, as those of the Customs, and why the one are not as liable to be turned out for doing their Duty as the other, seeing there is but one supreme Director, I should be glad to be informed

\* See An Account of Wool seized, Page 21.

informed by either of these Writers. Had I been permitted to have gone into Particulars, I could, on the Occasion taken Notice of by those Writers, have discovered some Instances in both Branches of the Revenue, and such as would have shewn too plainly, that the Case is all one, and but too general to be continued, if due Regard was paid to the Preservation of our Constitution. But why Wool will be effectually stop'd by its being put on the same Foot, and under the same Inspection, as Coffee and Teas, Goods never smuggled more than at present, let the Advocates for Excise make appear.

The Remarker makes a great Noise about the Draper's having said, that France could not have any of our unmanufactur'd Wool in King William and Queen Anne's Time; but every Reader must needs understand what is meant by that Expression, any comparatively speaking, not openly and avowedly, any so as to quite ruin our Manufactures, and to starve the poor Labourers; but so as tho' there were with Difficulty, and the utmost Discouragement of the Government, Parcels carried thither, yet it was not so much, but that our Manufactures flourished all that time, and brought in immense Treasures yearly, which I defy him to deny; as also whether after so long a Peace with all our Neighbours, we are not at present reduced to the utmost Distress and Misery, and that chiefly by the Exportation of our unmanufactured Wool, which hath increased so much upon us from Time to Time, as at present to have but little of it manufactured here.

But why he should assert so palpable a Lye, that the Draper pointed out to the People, That the Day of the illustrious House of Hanover's succeeding to the Throne of these Kingdoms, was the Day from whence this Calamity, which he acknowledges to be One of the greatest that can befall this Nation, ought to bear its Date, seeing the Draper breathes nothing but a sincere Attachment to his Majesty and his Royal Family, throughout the whole Pamphlet, I am at a Loss to determine; much less why he should put that Evil, which he so unjustly and without any Manner of Foundation, says is pointed out, on the same Certainty, as that the Person so long distinguished

\* An Account of Wool seized by Officers during the seven Years last past.

	Pounds. wt.	Fleeces.
From Christmas, 1733, to 1734	25	
to 1735	394	10
to 1736	20	240
to 1737	2321	
to 1738	4137	
to 1739	1680	
to 1740	3602	
	12179	250

( 22 )

tinguished for his faithful Services, hath the Government of the Parliament.

As to what he says, that Mr. Webber's Publick Spirit ought to have induced him to have given the Commissioners of the Customs any Information; he says, in Answer to that, there is but little Encouragement for him to do it, seeing the Case of his Friend, Josias Thompson, is so well known to him, who on his having seized a Cargoe of Wool which was smuggling to France, and on his insisting upon his Right to it, was turned out of his Place, of being an Officer of the Customs; and on his coming to Town to represent his Case; and on his warmly soliciting it, was run thorough the Body, and after he was recovered of it, was obliged to accept of twenty Guineas only, to carry him home, tho' never restored to his Place again.

The Remarker, next forces me, contrary to my Inclination, to examine into the Reasons there are to think, that it is stipulated, that our Wool shall go to France.

The first of which, is the Letter \* which Mr. Webber received from France some Years since, and which he immediately carried to the Secretary of State's Office, as thinking it to be a Letter of a Treasonable Nature, and not safe for him to conceal, compared with the Answer that was given him at the Office, which to him was such a strong Presumption of the Truth of the Matter, that he immediately desisted from making any more Application to those Gentlemen, as he had long done before.

Secondly, the small Quantities of Wool that hath been seized for these many Years past, tho' Wool is of great Bulk, and cannot be put into the Pocket or under the Arm, and run away with concealed.

Thirdly, Mr. Webber's having been denied access to his Majesty after having been promised it, in the London Gazette as the Draper asserts.

Fourthly, by the Sloops which were stationed by the Government, to prevent the Exportation of our Wool having been convicted of exporting it themselves, and when their Captains were called to Account for it, as being too flagrant and notorious; by that Affair's having been past over in so slight a Manner.

Fifthly, by Sir R— asserting in the most publick Manner, that there was but little Wool sent out of England, but from London only; by which he not only charges so worthy and honourable a Body of Men with being accessory to so heinous a Crime, but gives us to understand, that he is not ignorant from what Places Wool is sent abroad, in what Quantities, and to whom it is sent; so plainly to me doth it appear, that what this Journeyman Wool-comber asserted, is not without Foundation: And I have heard it publickly asserted, and that from a Gentleman of Distinction too, and one who declared at the same time, that he did not know  
Webber,

\* This Letter is inserted at the End of this Pamphlet.

( 23 )

Webber, nor ever read any of his Writings, that there was other Authority than his, for the Stipulation of the Exportation of Wool: But whether there is any Consideration given for the Liberty of Exporting it to private Persons, as the Publick were formerly wont to enjoy, and which was at that Time the chief Support of the State, even in Times of War, I am not a Judge of, tho' one would imagine, that so immense a Treasure as that would raise, should not be given away gratis; especially by those who understand the Value of Money so well, and how to apply it so properly themselves. But this I will undertake to demonstrate, that no valuable Consideration on Earth, can be given for it, especially as we must necessarily with it give up Ourselves and Families, and every thing else that is valuable to us, to become Slaves to a Nation, who on account of the brave Actions of our Ancestors, and the natural Aversion they have conceived against us for them, will doubtless, treat us with the most insulting and severe Usage, to say no worse.

Whether the Persons, whom he mentions to be so very diligent and eager into Searches of this Nature, had any Application made to them, for attacking the one aim'd at on this Head, as he would insinuate, is what I leave to themselves. But it is to be hoped, that no Persons will, with open Eyes, give themselves so tamely up to Arbitrary Power, to Banishment, or to a Persecution, worse than either; seeing that all Parties have danc'd so long, that those who have piped, as well as those who have danc'd after 'em, are both on the brink of Ruin, and must, if they fall, perish together; and that as an Earnest of their Intention, to put an effectual Stop to the Exportation of Wool, at the next meeting of Parliament, the Officers will be obliged to put the Laws in being, in Execution forthwith, which would not fail, as has been made appear, of making an Alteration in the Face of our Affairs; and of employing and finding Food for our starving Manufacturers immediately; for it is to be hoped, that tho' so manifest a Breach of Treaties \* in an Affair of so great Importance has been overlooked, as if in reality there had been nothing done toward's such a Violation; or that it was not of Moment enough to take Notice of it; yet, that we are not as yet so much reduced, as not to dare to put a stop to the Exportation of our Wool. Tho' I am credibly informed, that a noted Owl'er of it was so audacious, as to declare publickly, within these few Days, that he would send Wool abroad, in Defiance of the Officers, or those who employ'd them, and that if they pretended to stop it, it would end in their Ruin.

Having thus shewn that the Remarker hath not made the least Objection to Mr. Webber's Scheme, and having cleared it up from the Misrepresentations and false Insinuations of the Magazine,

\* Repairing the Harbour and Fortifications of Dunkirk.

line, and demonstrated, that not one single Fact †, which the Draper advanced hath been disproved; and also, that what he did advance, was not done out of *personal Prejudice*, but in as *tender* a manner as the Nature of the Thing would admit of, seeing that if these Matters were *hush'd up* and *buried in Silence*, the very Stones, less *hard hearted* than some Persons, would not fail to cry out and declare it, tho' I am sensible that those *some* were once as much distinguished for having some *Bowels* for their Country, as well as for their zealously *prosecuting* others, for not reducing *France* to a Condition low enough, as they now are for their *long and faithful Services*; I say all these Things having been considered, and it appearing that there is not the least room for the *Remarker* to stile it a *virulent declamatory Libel* against his *Majesty*, his *Servants*, and the *Parliament*, and aimed at one *Person* particularly, much less that it was intended to raise an *open Rebellion*, as the *Remarker* so basely and maliciously asserts. I shall conclude with this Observation, that it was with the Money that chiefly arose from the great *Duty* which *Edward III.* laid on the Exportation of our *Wool*, that he and his valiant Son, were enabled to make such *Conquests* in *France*, and that *France* never can *enslave* us by any other Means, than by our *consenting* to give them the Manufacturing of it, and by those immense *Sums* arising by those *Manufactures*, whether apply'd to bribe us, tamely to give up our selves by inglorious *Peace*, or whether made use of to reduce us by open *War*.

An exact Copy of the Letter received by Mr. WEBBER.

10th of March, 1734.

Brethren

H EARING your Petitions and Likelihood of obtaining a Charter and Registry to Stop Exporting Wool to *France* and the desire I had to End my Days in *England*, though told by the Count who employed me to set forward the Woollen Manufactures in *France* that an Agreement was stipulated by a great M—tr of *England* we should with all Safety have what Wool could be spared from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* and be Sharers in the Woollen Manufactures. I made my Business to *England* this *Feb.* to hear and believe for my self, and find that Noble Mans words truth, it cant be otherwise, when those who are to secure

† Mr. Webber, to my certain Knowledge, not only sent a Letter to Sir R—W—, giving him to know, that he was the Author of the Narrative in the Draper's Pamphlet, and that he was ready to appear and answer for it, and told Sir W—Y—, the same in my Presence, but declared it also at the Bar of the House, as he assures me.

secure your Trade and Liberties to you takes Places from that M—tr who vilely Betrays you of Trade and must turn out no otherwise as them Three Noblemen while I was in *London*, I would live at home if I could by Trade, but not to Starve while I can have as this *Feb.* out of the *Downs* and *Ireland* as good Wool as grows in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* I have large Acquaintance and will write when I get back zoo of these to *England* to prevent her Ruin if possible, though, by some I may be deem'd a *Torie* a *Jack* Disaffected &c. I declare I am not, I am a *Low Church* Man, and in *France* never otherwise to Convince the World I intreat my Country Men to be firmly Attatcht to his Majesty King *George*, and his Illustrious Family. But on this ensuing Election Vote for none who have or will take Places or Bribe if they Buye you they will sell you for Advantage let your Choice be for Men inclined to Moderation Zealous for to Encourage Trade none others are Friends to his Majesty King *George* or the *English* Nation.

I am your Loving Brother in Trade,

E— Barnes.

The Author of the *Consequences of Trade*, hath been reflected upon, as if he had been too severe, but by his not publishing this Letter formerly as well as some other Things that lie still behind, it is but too evident that he touch'd upon the Affair as tenderly as it would admit of, and was it to be rip'd open, it would plainly appear, that what he advanc'd, did not proceed from personal Prejudices.

F I N I S.

E R R A T.

In Page 17, line 30, for Power, read People.



*This Day is Publish'd,*

(Price SIX-PENCE)

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