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S A M. W E B B E R ' S  
S C H E M E  
To Prevent the  
E X P O R T A T I O N of W O O L .

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*S*

A C C O U N T  
O F A  
S C H E M E

*n*

For PREVENTING the  
EXPORTATION of our WOOL,  
where the Particulars of it are set forth, and  
the Methods of putting it in Execution exem-  
plified.

To which is added,

An EXAMINATION of a SCHEME offered by  
another Hand, shewing the Defects and mischievous  
Consequences of it;

AS ALSO

Several material Extracts from Sir WALTER RALEGH  
and Sir FRANCIS BREWSTER, concerning the *Consequen-*  
*ces* of the *Woollen Trade*, and the fatal Effects arising to  
this Nation from the *Exportation* of our *Wool*.

*Dedicated to the Hon. the HOUSE of COMMONS.*

By *SAMUEL WEBBER.*

L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M D C C X L.

To the Honourable the  
COMMONS of *Great-Britain*,  
Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

*May it please your Honours,*

GRACIOUSLY to accept, and candidly to peruse the following Papers; which I presume to put into your hands with no other View than to serve my King and Country, now in the greatest Danger of being undone by the *Exportation* of our *unmanufactured* Wool to *Foreigners*, and particularly to *France*. I have invented and published a Scheme to prevent this fatal Evil, by an *Universal Registry* in Charter, which his Majesty above nine Years ago, at the Request of above 600,000 *Woollen Traders*, was pleased to grant to me and Company. By the Advice of the present *Lord High-Chancellor*, then *Attorney-General*, I have been endeavouring ever since, to procure an *Act of Parliament* to confirm his Majesty's Grant, and to make the Scheme the more effectual; by vesting in the *Patentees* such Powers as the *Charter* would not give them; but I have not yet been able to obtain one; which I have Reason to impute, not to any Want of Good Inclination in this Honourable House, but to the Misrepresentations that have been

( 4 )

made to Them of *Me* and my *Scheme*. Of *me* it has been said, that I am no better than a *Madman*; and of my *Scheme*, that it is calculated to *monopolize* Trade, and to *enslave* the Nation by an *Excise*. That I am in my sober Senses, I flatter myself, that I gave convincing Proof, when I had the Honour to appear before you at the Bar of the House; and I as little doubt but an Examination of my Scheme will recommend it to your cool Judgment, as an effectual, practicable, easy, advantageous one, and in all Respects worthy of your Encouragement. As to the *printed Scheme*, lately offered to Your Honours by another Hand, my worthy and ingenious Friend, Mr. *London*, has sufficiently exposed the Defects of it in a short Letter, inserted in this Collection. The Extracts from Sir *Walter Raleigh*, and Sir *Francis Brewster* are very material and weighty, but their *Names* will be a much stronger Recommendation of them to your Perusal, than any thing that I am capable of saying of them. I shall give your Honours no farther Trouble in this Address, than to assure you that I am,

*With the most profound Esteem,  
and Submission,*

*Your Honours,*

*Most obedient Servant,*

SAMUEL WEBBER.

A

# S C H E M E

Humbly PROPOS'D for

A CHARTER and HEADS of a BILL, to Confirm and Enforce it for the effectual preventing *Wool, Worsted, Yarn, &c.* from being carried off without having been fully manufactured, and for the more orderly and peaceable manufacturing it in these Kingdoms, and for preventing Parish Law-Suits concerning Settlements of the Poor, and Disputes between Masters and Servants; and for discouraging, discovering, and bringing to Justice all Renegadoes, Vagabonds, Thieves, and other loose, idle, and disorderly Persons, by an *Universal Register*.

**T**HAT the Charter may consist of 122 Persons, answerable to the Number of Counties in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, to remain to them, their Heirs and Assigns for ever.

That each of the Persons in the District which may be allotted them, shall have Power to provide proper Persons to serve in the Registries thereof.

That all Persons who may have any Sheep or Lambs in their Custody or Possession, at the Commencement of the said Charter, shall with-  
in

in give or send Notice under their Hands to the Registers appointed for their respective Parishes, of their Number, and that they may be registred to their Accounts, and that they may be answerable for them, and for every one of them, *exemplified on the Form of the Register, in the Case of Thomas Wilkins, marked A.*

That all Persons who may become Proprietors of any Sheep or Lambs thenceforward, do the same in , and be answerable for them in like manner, *exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins † and of John Jones †.*

That, all Persons from whom any Sheep or Lambs may have been alienated, having made appear to the Registers that they have been registred to some other Persons in like manner, by Certificates from the Registers of the Parish appointed for it, shall be discharged from the said Sheep or Lambs, and from for every one of them for which they were answerable, *exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins \*.*

That all Persons who may slaughter any Sheep or Lambs, or who may have had any die in their Custody, may send Notice of it, under their Hands, to their Registers, and that they shall be discharged from them, and from for every one of them for which they were answerable, *exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins G.*

That all Persons who may have any Property in any Sheep or Lambs before they shear them, and apply to the Registers, and adjust with them the Number which they may have in their Custody, and give them Notice of the Quantity they intend to shear that Season or Year; and that it may not be lawful for them to shear more

more than they give Notice of, *exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins † and †.*

That all Persons who cannot make appear at that, or any other Time (if Oath shall have been made that there is reason to suspect Fraud hath been committed) that all the Sheep or Lambs for which they stand charged on the Register are in their Custody, shall forfeit

for every one of them wanting, all those that may have been stolen or lost without the Owner's Privity and Consent excepted. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins G.*

That all Persons who shall have any Wool, Worsted, or the like, in their Custody at the Commencement of the Charter, shall within send Notice to their Registers under their Hands of the Weight of it, and that it may be registred to their Accounts, and that they may be answerable for it, and for

for every Pound of it. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins A.*

Note, It is proposed that the Weight of the Wool of which Worsted, or the like, hath been produced, shall always be entered in the Registries, which can be easily enough computed. *Exemplified in the Case of Edward Edwards and John Jackson C, and of Joseph Sayer B.*

That all Persons thenceforward who may shear any Wool, or pull, or otherwise take off any from Sheep or Lambs, or Sheep Skins or Lambs Skins, shall likewise give or send Notice under their Hands how many Fleeces they shall have shorn, or Skins they shall have pulled, or otherwise taken off the Wool from, within after it hath been shorn, and within after it hath been pulled or taken off, and dried; and shall likewise give or send Notice of the Weight of the said Wool  
so



so shorn, or pulled, and dried, and that it may be entered to the Owner's Account in the Registries, and that they may be answerable for it, and for \_\_\_\_\_ for every Pound of it.

*Exemplified in the Cases of Thomas Wilkins, John Jones, and Henry Jackson A<sup>3</sup>.*

That all Wool, Worsted, or the like, that may be found \_\_\_\_\_ after Commencement of the said Charter, and after it hath been shorn, or pulled, or taken off and dried, which shall not have been registred in manner aforesaid, and without Certificates thereof, shall be forfeited.

That all Persons who may deliver out of their Custody, as being sold, or in order for Sale, or otherwise (for manufacturing it excepted) any Wool, Worsted, or the like, shall before its Removal apply to their Registers for Certificates to accompany it, signifying the Number of Packs or Parcels of which it consists, and for what Place, and for whose Use it is intended, provided that the Weight thereof exceeds \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds. And that all Wool, &c. over and above \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds, that shall be found on the Road, or elsewhere, without Certificates, shall be forfeited. Provided, that for such as shall be delivered to be manufactured, the Owner's Certificate or Ticket, always wont to be given with it to their Work-People, shall suffice.

That all Persons who may deliver out of their Custody any Wool, Worsted, or the like, in less Quantity than \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds to any Person at a Time, shall be discharged from it, and from \_\_\_\_\_ for every Pound of it, for which they were answerable, if it appear by the Smallness of the whole Quantity to be discharged, or otherwise, that it hath not been

ex-

exported, without having been fully manufac<sup>r</sup> tured, that is, into Stockings, or the like, &c. so that it may not be reduced into Wool, or the like, again, and be work'd up into other Goods, in which Sense that Expression is always intended to be taken. *Exemplified in the Case of Joseph Sayer D.*

That all Persons who may receive into their Custody any Wool, Worsted, or the like, in greater Quantities than \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds (except for the Manufacturers) shall within \_\_\_\_\_ after its Receipt, give or send Notice of the Quantity thereof to their Registers, under their Hands, and it shall be forthwith registred to their Accounts, and they shall be answerable for it, and for \_\_\_\_\_ for every Pound of it; and two Certificates thereof shall be given them in return, one of which shall be given or sent to the Persons by whom the said Goods were delivered, to be produced to their Registers, in order for their being discharged from it. *Exemplified in the Case of Joseph Sayer C, to which the other Cases so marked are parallel.*

That all Persons who may have delivered out of their Custody any Wool, Worsted, or the like, which hath been registred to some other Persons, for which those Persons are become answerable, and for \_\_\_\_\_ for every Pound of it, on their giving or sending Certificates thereof, as aforesaid, shall be discharged from it, and from \_\_\_\_\_ for every Pound of it. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins B, to which the other Cases so marked are parallel.*

That all Persons who shall have fully manufac<sup>r</sup> tured any Wool for which they are answerable, shall at the End of \_\_\_\_\_ give an Account under their Hands to the Registers,

B

of

of the Quantity of Goods that they shall have manufactured, together with the Persons Names who wove, knit, or otherwise finished them; as also the Quantity of Wool they may reasonably compute hath been consumed in manufacturing them, and they shall be discharged from it, and from for every Pound of it.

*Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins, Joseph Sayer, and Edward Edwards E.*

That all Manufacturers Accounts on the Registers shall be ballanced, and what Wool, Worsted, or the like, remains, shall be transferred to new Accounts within and all other Persons Accounts, which stand unadjusted, at the End of every Year. *Exemplified in the Cases of John Jones and Joseph Sayer F.*

That all Persons who cannot make appear at the End of , (or oftener if Oath hath been made of Suspicion of Fraud) that all the Wool for which they stand answerable, is still in their Custody, or hath been manufactured by them, shall forfeit for every Pound of it, and not being capable of paying it, shall

That there may be Liberty for the Registers (Oath having been first made of Suspicion of Frauds) to search in the Day Time any suspected Houses or Places for their Discovery.

That no Person may go or send farther than into the next Parish if he resides in the Country, or out of Town, if in a City or Town, for the Dispatch of his Affairs, with his Register.

That no Foreigner, nor any but Inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland, may receive into their Custody any Wool, Worsted, or the like, on any Pretence whatsoever.

That

That no Person may ship any wool, worsted, or the like, but on English Bottoms, and on such as shall have been registred for that purpose before the Bench of Justices at their Quarter Sessions, and sufficient Security given the Patentees for the Delivery of such Goods in some Port of Great Britain or Ireland. *Exemplified in the Case of the Ship John K.*

That all Vessels which may sail from the Ports in which they are registred to any other, to load and to transport Wool, shall take a Certificate of their having been registred for that purpose, to carry with them, which shall be delivered up to the Registers where they intend to load it, before they may take any on board. *Exemplified in the Case of the Ship John X.*

That no Person who shall have ship'd any Wool, &c. shall be discharged from it, and from for every Pound of it, until it shall have been registred to the Vessel and Master's Account, and that they and their Security are answerable for it in like Manner. *Exemplified in the Case of the Ship John M, and James Rivers L.*

That no Ship, nor Master, nor Security, become thus answerable for Wool, &c. shall be discharged from it, and from for every Pound of it, until it be registred to some other Person's Account, nor until they are become in like manner answerable for it. *Exemplified in the Cases of the Ship John N, and Robert Roberts O.*

That no Vessel that hath been registred, and Security given for her transporting Wool, &c. shall be qualified to receive on board any more of such Goods, until a Certificate from the Register where it was registred to some other Person's Account, shall be delivered up to their

Registry. *Exemplified in the Case of the Ship John Y.*

That the Security of a Ship for the Transportation of Wool not being content to stand any longer engaged for it, shall, on his Application, have his Obligation cancelled, and that the Ship shall be disqualified for it, until other Security is given. *Exemplified in the Case of the Ship John Z.*

That if any Ship having Wool, Worsted, or the like, on board, shall be forced on Shore on foreign Coasts, the Master and Crew shall burn the Ship and Cargo, if possible, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Inhabitants.

That no Ship may sail without Convoy in Time of War; that they shall obey sailing Orders, and that the Captain of the Convoy may do his Duty to prevent its falling into the Enemies hands.

That all Persons who slaughter any Sheep or Lambs, or have any die in their Custody, may within give Notice under their Hands to their Registers, of the Quantity of Sheep or Lambs Skins which they may have sold, together with the Persons Names who bought them; and in what Quantity, and that they may sell them to no Foreigners, nor to any but Inhabitants of *Great Britain and Ireland.*

That all Persons who receive into their Custody any Sheep or Lambs Skins with the Wool on them, shall give Notice under their Hands to their Registers of the Quantity; and it shall be registred to their Accounts, and they shall be answerable for them, and for for every one of them, until

until the Wool shall have been registred to their Accounts in manner aforesaid, and that then they shall be discharged from them. *Exemplified in the Case of Henry Jackson H.*

That all Persons that may pull or take off any Wool from Sheep or Lambs Skins, which they themselves slaughter, may be under the same Regulation as those who buy any.

That the Patentees shall send to the Justices of Peace every Sessions true Copies of the Registries of Sheep and Wool, to be recorded.

That the Registry-general proposed to be established in *London*, in order for the Superintendency and Inspection of all the Patentees and Registers, consisting of a Committee to be chosen from among themselves, shall deliver to the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* every Sessions, an Account of all the Sheep and Wool grown in *Great Britain and Ireland*, setting forth all the Particulars of the Registry, in order for their Inspection, and to be printed, and one of them placed in every Registry, for the Inspection of all Persons who pay Poores Rates.

That all Apprentices may be registred at the Time in which they are bound and discharged, in the Registries where their Masters reside. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Thomas P and Q.*

That all Agreements of Servants made for a Year, or more, and their Discharges, shall be registred in the Parishes where they serve. *Exemplified in the Case of Mary Martin and James Johnson R and S.*

That all Persons who go out of their Parishes to Labour or Service for more than Days at a time, or until they return, shall be registred, and take with them Certificates of what



what Parishes they do belong to. *Exemplified in the Case of John Thompson T.*

That all Persons who are abroad at the Time the Charter commences, shall apply to the Registers of the Parishes where they are, within Days, and shall give them Notice what Parishes they do belong to; and before they depart out of those Parishes, they shall apply to the Registers for Certificates to carry with them.

And on Receipt of the Notice aforesaid, the said Registers shall write to the Registers of their respective Parishes thereof, and they shall register them as being at such a Place. *Exemplified in the Case of James Crump V.*

That all Persons in the two Cases last mentioned, as often as they come into any Parish to labour or serve, shall within Days apply to the Registers of those Parishes, and deliver up their Certificates, and they shall give them a Receipt for the same, and carefully preserve them: And such Registers shall write to the Registers of those Parishes that such Persons are at such a Place, who shall forthwith enter it in the Registries, and when they depart out of the said Parishes shall re-deliver their Certificates. *Exemplified in the Cases of John Thompson and James Crump W.*

That whenever such Persons, or their Families, become chargeable, or likely to become chargeable, or are at any time manifestly contriving, or actually engaged in Riots or disorderly Courses, or having no visible Means of subsisting, but by Lewdness, Theft, or other illegal and unwarrantable Practices, on Complaint made to the Justices of the Peace, and they finding the Complaint to be just and well grounded, shall make an Order for their returning home immediately; which Order shall be

delivered them by the Registers of those Parishes, together with their Certificates, and they shall depart thence without Delay. And if any of the Persons aforesaid refuse to discover their Parishes, they shall within Days after their Return they shall deliver up their Certificates to their Registers, and they shall register it. *Exemplified in the Cases of John Thompson and James Crump U.*

That Foreigners, and Persons not knowing what Parishes they belong to, may be registred in the Parishes where they land, or in which they are; although it might not be thought just that they should thereby be deem'd Parishioners of those Parishes in which they may be registred.

That all Persons who pay Parish Rates may have Liberty to inspect the Registries of their Parishes, and may have Recourse to the Registry-general, without Fee or Reward.

That all Seizures, Fines and Forfeitures may be levied and recovered by the Registry-general, one Third for the Use of his Majesty, one Third for the Patentees, and one Third for the Use of the Persons who may be instrumental in discovering or seizing them; and that all Prosecutions may be carried on by them at the Expence of his Majesty.

That the Postage of Letters relating to the Registry may be free; but to be opened and examined that they relate to no Affairs but to the Registries only.

It may not be amiss here to give the following Instance or two that it requires no great Skill to transact the Affairs of the Registry, *viz.*

The Grower of Wool having shorn his Sheep, and weighed his Wool, without any Attendance or Inspection of any Persons from the Registry, it is propos'd that he shall give or send the following

lowing Notice under his Hand, never *blifed* Town, nor farther than the same or next Parish. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins A<sup>3</sup>.*

1741, May 30. This gives Notice that I have this Day shorn 100 Fleeces, weighing 450 Pounds of Wool.

*Thomas Wilkins.*  
Or his Sign Manual, if he cannot write.

And when he hath sold and is about to deliver it, he is only to give or send the following Notice thereof. *Exemplified in the Case of Thomas Wilkins B.*

1741, June 16. This gives Notice that I intend to send this Day to *Joseph Sayer*, of *Bradnich, Devon*, 1660 Pounds of Wool, in 6 Bags, to be carried thither directly.

*Thomas Wilkins.*

These Notices, it may be observed, serve for a Foundation for the Registers to proceed upon, and as they are to give in return for them Certificates for the Grower, &c. to keep by them, there can be no Room for Law-Suits, unless either will proceed against their own Hand-writing.

The public Spirit and Disinterestedness of the Scheme will farther appear, if it be considered that it is proposed, that for every County there shall be a Patentee; and consequently, that as it will be no Sine Cure, so no Person will be able to enjoy more than one Share; and that the Register of *England* is to be conducted by Inhabitants of *England*, of *Wales* by Inhabitants of *Wales*, of *Scotland* by Inhabitants of *Scotland*, and of *Ireland* by Inhabitants of *Ireland*.

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The FORM of the RE

Devon, Cheryton. }	<i>Thomas Wilkins</i> , Yeoman.	Sheep.	Fleeces.
1741. March 26 April 30	Had then in his Possession at Commencement of the Charter Had then fallen Lambs	A <sup>1</sup> 615 + 10 ----- 25	A <sup>2</sup> 400
May 29 30	Remained in his Custody, of which he sheers 100 only Sheered	--- 110 A <sup>3</sup> ---	--- 100 ----- 500
The Letters and Marks A, +, &c. refer to the Scheme and those Marks and Letters on it.			

Devon, Bampton. }	<i>John Jones</i> .	Sheep.	Fleeces.
1741. April 29. June 10.	Received from <i>Thomas Wilkins</i> , of <i>Cheryton, Devon</i> Sheered	--- 500 A <sup>3</sup> ---	--- 500
Decemb. 31.	Remained in his Custody, as per Account adjusted this Day	F ---	---

Devon, Bradnich. }	<i>Joseph Sayer</i> , Manufacturer.		
1741. June 16. 20.	Received from <i>Tho. Wilkins</i> , of <i>Cheryton, Devon</i> Received from <i>John Jones</i> , of <i>Bampton, Devon</i>	--- C --- --- C ---	---
Sept. 29. Oct. 29.	Remained then in his Custody, as per Account adjusted Received from <i>Henry Jackson</i> , of <i>Exon, Devon</i>	--- F --- --- C ---	---

Devon, Stoke Cannon. }	<i>John Jackson</i> , Manufacturer.		
1741. Decemb. 14.	Received from <i>Joseph Sayer</i> , of <i>Bradnich, Devon</i> , 180 Pounds of Worsted, computed to contain	--- } C ---	---

Devon, }	<i>Henry Jackson</i> , Felmonger.		

The FORM of the REGISTRY for WOOL, &c. proposed.

Devon, Cheryton.	Thomas Wilkins, Yeoman.	Sheep.	Fleeces.	Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Cheryton.	Thomas Wilkins.	Sheep.	Fleeces.	Pounds of Wool.
1741. March 26 April 30	Had then in his Possession at Commencement of the Charter Had then fallen Lambs	A <sup>1</sup> 615 † 10	A <sup>2</sup> 400	--- 1660	1741. April 29 30	Sold John Jones, of Bampton, Devon Slaughtered, or had die Strayed or stolen in this Year	* 500 G 10 G <sup>2</sup> 5		
May 29 30	Remained in his Custody, of which he sheers 100 only Sheered	† 110 A <sup>3</sup> ---	--- 100	--- 450	May 29	Remained in his Custody carried to a new Account	† 110		
	The Letters and Marks A, †, &c. refer to the Scheme and those Marks and Letters on it.		--- 500	--- 2110	June 16	Delivered Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon Delivered James Jacobs, of Crediton, Devon Used in his Family	B --- B --- E ---		--- 1660 --- 405 --- 45
						It is presumed there will be no need to register the Fleeces when the Wool is fold, the Weight alone being sufficient.			2110

Devon, Bampton.	John Jones.	Sheep.	Fleeces.	Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Bampton.	John Jones.	Sheep.	Fleeces.	Pounds of Wool.
1741. April 29 June 10	Received from Thomas Wilkins, of Cheryton, Devon Sheered	† --- 500 A <sup>3</sup> ---	--- 500	--- 2,200	1741. June 20 Decemb. 31.	Delivered Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon Remains in his Custody register'd anew	B --- F ---		--- 1,300 --- 900
Decemb. 31.	Remained in his Custody, as per Account adjusted this Day	F ---		--- 900					--- 2,200

Devon, Bradnich.	Joseph Sayer, Manufacturer.			Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Bradnich.	Joseph Sayer, Manufacturer.			Pounds of Wool.
1741. June 16 20.	Received from Tho. Wilkins, of Cheryton, Devon Received from John Jones, of Bampton, Devon	C --- C ---		--- 1,660 --- 1,300	1741. Sept. 29.	Manufactured into Serges and Hose Delivered in Worsted in small Parcels Remains in his Custody	E --- D --- F ---		--- 2,000 --- 45 --- 915
Sept. 29. Oct. 29.	Remained then in his Custody, as per Account adjusted Received from Henry Jackson, of Exon, Devon	F --- C ---		--- 915 --- 690	Oct. 26. Decemb. 14. 25.	Delivered Edward Edwards of Crediton, Devon, 650 Pounds of Worsted, computed to contain Delivered John Jackson, of Stoke Cannon, Devon, 180 Pounds of Yarn, computed to contain Remained in his Custody, register'd anew	B --- B --- F ---		--- 700 --- 230 --- 675
				--- 1605					--- 1605

Devon, Stoke Cannon.	John Jackson, Manufacturer.			Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Stoke Cannon.	John Jackson, Manufacturer.			Pounds of Wool.
1741. Decemb. 14.	Received from Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon, 180 Pounds of Worsted, computed to contain	C ---		--- 230					

Devon, Exon.	Henry Jackson, Felmonger.			Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Exon.	Henry Jackson.			Pounds of Wool.				
1741. Sept. 28. Oct. 5.	Received Received	H --- H ---	100 60	1741. Oct. 12. 19.	Pulled and dried Pulled and dried	A <sup>3</sup> --- A <sup>3</sup> ---	--- 100 --- 60	--- 440 --- 350	1741. Oct. 29.	Delivered Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon	B ---		--- 690



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Devon, Bradnich. } Joseph Sayer, Manufacturer.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Bradnich. }	Joseph Sayer, Manufacturer.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. April 29. June 10.	Received from Thomas Wilkins, of Cheryton, Devon - - - - - A <sup>3</sup> - - - - - Sheered - - - - -					1,300 900 ----- 2,200
Decemb. 31.	Remained in his Custody, as per Account adjusted this Day F - - - - -	900				
1741. June 16. 20.	Received from Tho. Wilkins, of Cheryton, Devon - - - - - C - - - - - Received from John Jones, of Bampton, Devon - - - - - C - - - - -	1,660 1,300 ----- 2,960	1741. Sept. 29.	Manufactured into Serges and Hose - - - - - E - - - - - Delivered in Worsted in small Parcels - - - - - D - - - - - Remains in his Custody - - - - - F - - - - -	2,000 45 915 ----- 2960	
Sept. 29. Oct. 29.	Remained then in his Custody, as per Account adjusted - - F - - - - - Received from Henry Jackson, of Exon, Devon - - - - - C - - - - -	915 690 ----- 1605	Oct. 26. Decemb. 14. 25.	Delivered Edward Edwards of Crediton, Devon, 650 Pounds of } B - - - - - Worsted, computed to contain - - - - - } Delivered John Jackson, of Stoke Cannon, Devon, 180 Pounds of } B - - - - - Yarn, computed to contain - - - - - } Remained in his Custody, register'd anew - - - - - F - - - - -	700 230 675 ----- 1605	
Devon, Stoke Cannon. } John Jackson, Manufacturer.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Stoke Cannon. }	John Jackson, Manufacturer.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. Decemb. 14.	Received from Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon, 180 Pounds of } C - - - - - Worsted, computed to contain - - - - - }	230				
Devon, Exon. } Henry Jackson, Felmonger.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Exon. }	Henry Jackson.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. Sept. 28. Oct. 5.	Received - - - H - - Skins. 100 Received - - - H - - 60 ----- 160	1741. Oct. 12. 19. Pulled and dried - - A <sup>3</sup> - - - - - 100 Pulled and dried - - A <sup>3</sup> - - - - - 60 ----- 160	440 250 ----- 690	1741. Oct. 29.	Delivered Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon - - - - - B - - - - -	690
Devon, Crediton. } Edward Edwards, Manufacturer.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Crediton. }	Edward Edwards.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. Oct. 26.	Received from Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon, 650 Pounds of } C - - - - - Worsted, computed to contain - - - - - }	700	1741. Dec. 31.	Manufactured into Serges - - - - - E - - - - -	700	
Waterford. } James Rivers, Merchant.		Pounds of Wool.	Waterford. }	James Rivers.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. Aug. 5. 10.	Received from James Ross of Wexford - - - - - C - - - - - Received from John Bancks of Kilkenny - - - - - C - - - - -	100,000 65,000 ----- 165,000	1741. Aug. 31.	Delivered on board the Ship John, of Minehead, Capt. William } James, for Barnstaple - - - - - L - - - - - }	165,000	
Waterford. } The Ship John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.		Pounds of Wool.	Waterford. }	The Ship John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.		Pounds of Wool.
1741. Aug. 31.	Received of James Rivers, of this Place, for Barnstaple - - - M - - - - -	165,000				
Devon, Barnstaple. } The Ship John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Barnstaple. }	The Ship John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.		Pounds of Wool.
			1741. Sept. 25.	Delivered Robert Roberts, of this Place, from Waterford - - - N - - - - -	165,000	
Devon, Barnstaple. } Robert Roberts, Merchant.		Pounds of Wool.	Devon, Barnstaple. }	Robert Roberts.		Pounds of Wool.



1741.  
Oct. 26.

Received from *Joseph Sayer, of Bradnich, Devon, 650 Pounds*  
Worsted, computed to contain ----- C -----

0297

into Serges ----- E ----- 700

<i>Waterford.</i>	<i>James Rivers, Merchant.</i>	Pounds of Wool.	<i>Waterford.</i>	<i>James Rivers.</i>	Pounds of Wool.
1741. Aug. 5. 10.	Received from <i>James Ross of Wexford</i> ----- C ----- Received from <i>John Bancks of Kilkenny</i> ----- C -----	100,000 65,000 ----- 165,000	1741. Aug. 31.	Delivered on board the Ship <i>John, of Minehead, Capt. William James,</i> for <i>Barnstaple</i> ----- L -----	165,000
<i>Waterford.</i>	The Ship <i>John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.</i>	Pounds of Wool.	<i>Waterford.</i>	The Ship <i>John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.</i>	Pounds of Wool.
1741. Aug. 31.	Received of <i>James Rivers, of this Place, for Barnstaple</i> --- M ---	165,000			
<i>Devon, Barnstaple.</i> }	The Ship <i>John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.</i>	Pounds of Wool.	<i>Devon, Barnstaple.</i> }	The Ship <i>John, of Minehead, Capt. William James.</i>	Pounds of Wool.
			1741. Sept. 25.	Delivered <i>Robert Roberts, of this Place, from Waterford</i> --- N ---	165,000
<i>Devon, Barnstaple.</i> }	<i>Robert Roberts, Merchant.</i>	Pounds of Wool.	<i>Devon, Barnstaple.</i> }	<i>Robert Roberts.</i>	Pounds of Wool.
1741. Sept. 25.	Received from on board the <i>John, Will. James, from Waterford</i> -- O -----	165,000	1741.		
The Registry of Ships to transport Wool.			The Registry of Ships to transport Wool.		
<i>Somerset, Minehead.</i> }	The Ship <i>John, William James Master.</i>		<i>Somerset, Minehead.</i> }	The Ship <i>John, William James Master.</i>	
1741. July 15. 31.	Gave Security ----- K. Took out a Certificate to fail for <i>Waterford</i> ----- X.		1741. Oct. 15. 1745. May 30.	Received a Certificate of his having delivered the Wool at <i>Barnstaple</i> --- Y. The Security was discharged and cancelled ----- Z.	
<i>Devon, South Molton.</i> }	The Registry of Servants bound to Service.		<i>Devon, South Molton.</i> }	The Registry of Servants discharged from Service.	
1741. April 1. 2. 3.	<i>Thomas Thomas, of Watchet, Somerset, bound to Thomas Adams, Mercer, for 7 Years</i> --- P. <i>Mary Martyn, of Biddeford, Devon, bound to Mary White, Widow, for 1 Year</i> --- R. <i>James Johnson, of Tiverton, Devon, bound to John Salter, Yeoman, for 3 Years</i> --- R.		1742. April 2. 1744. April 3. 1748. April 1.	<i>Mary Martin, late of Biddeford, Devon, discharged from Mary White, having serv'd 1 Year</i> S. <i>James Johnson, late of Tiverton, Devon, discharg'd from John Salter, Yeoman, having serv'd 3 Years</i> --- S. <i>Thomas Thomas, late of Watchet, Somerset, discharg'd from Thomas Adams, Mercer, having serv'd 7 Years</i> --- Q.	
<i>Devon, Cullumpton.</i> }	The Registry of Persons who go abroad to labour or serve.		<i>Devon, Cullumpton.</i> }	The Registry of Persons who go abroad to labour or serve.	
1741. April 18. 20. 30. May 12. 30.	<i>John Thompson, Woolcomber,</i> He took out a Certificate to go abroad to labour or serve ----- T. He was then at <i>Wellington</i> ----- W. He was then at <i>Taunton</i> ----- W. He was then at <i>Salisbury</i> ----- W. He returned Home and delivered up his Certificate, or did not deliver it up ----- U.		1744. March 26. 30. June 26.	<i>James Crump, Weaver,</i> He was then at <i>Wells</i> ----- V. He was then at <i>Bath</i> ----- W. He returned Home and delivered up his Certificate ----- U.	

**M**Y Scheme for preventing the Exportation of Wool having been misrepresented, I desire the following Principles on which it is founded, and the Propositions offered to support 'em, may be thoroughly examined.

I propose that all the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* shall be entered in a Registry, to be established throughout these Kingdoms, so soon as it is shorn; and that it shall be and remain charged with 5 s. *per* Pound, from thenceforth, till it appears to have been manufactured among us, so far as that it can never be reduced into Wool, Worsted, or the like, again.

If it was charged with 20 s. *per* Pound, it would affect no honest Man, no Money being intended to be disbursed or paid by any Persons but those who export it, and they cannot be punished too severely.

Again, I propose that all Persons who have the Direction of the said Registry shall be under no manner of Influence, and that they shall be rendered incapable of ever having any thing to do in it, on their accepting any Place, Pension, or the like, and on their being guilty of any wilful and notorious Breach of their Duty.

A Law founded on these Principles would effectually remedy this great Evil; but as nothing hitherto ever did, so nothing short of it ever will do it.

Even an Universal Registry of Wool, conducted under *Influence*, would be ineffectual, seeing those who are to take care of it are liable to be discharged, even for doing their Duty, as was the Case of an Officer in a former Reign: whereas nothing can prevent Persons who are *independent* and *unsupported* from being called to

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an Account for Neglect of their Duty, or Abuse of their Trust, were it possible for them to be guilty of it, which would scarce lie in their Power if my Scheme be pass'd into a Law, it being contrived like an exquisite Piece of Mechanism, consisting of a Variety of Parts, the least of which cannot be out of order, but as it will affect the Whole, so it must be perceived and remedied, especially as I propose it shall be not only under the Inspection of the Parliament every Year, but subject to the constant Examination of every Person paying Rates to the Poor.

That \* Officers never will stop Wool, was the Opinion of the late King *James*, who had been himself a great Merchant; of King *William*, whose Country subsisted entirely by Trade; of the Honourable Commissioners of the Customs, in a Report made to that Prince, dated the 4th of March 1689; nay, even of the Parliament themselves, as appears by the Preamble to an Act made in Consequence of that Report, in the 1st of *William* and *Mary*, in which the Remissness and Negligence of the Officers is taken notice of to be of very bad Consequence, tending to the Ruin and Undoing of many of the Subjects, and the great Diminution of the Trade of the Kingdom; by which Act Letters Patents which had been granted to private Persons by King *James*, for preventing the Exportation of Wool, were revived, but for want of an Universal Registry, as well as Charter, and for some other Reasons which I have guarded against

\* It is well worth *France's* while to give some Millions Sterling yearly to Officers to let them have our Wool; and those Gentlemen often find Friends to intercede for them, and screen them from Punishment, or even from being discharged for their Crimes. See the *Draper's Consequences of Trade*, as to the immense Value of the Woollen Manufactures to any Nation that can confine them to themselves.

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gainst, the Act proved ineffectual, and was discontinued from being carried on.

The Charter, then, which his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant me, is not entirely without a Precedent; and tho' an Universal Registry of Wool be, yet that it would be effectual for the End proposed, I think, I have sufficiently demonstrated, and the Liberty of the Subject will be taken Care of by the Parliament: What I propose will be no way uneasy or burthensome to them. To give an Instance, as a Specimen of the Whole. I do not propose that a Gentleman, Farmer, Wool-Merchant, or Manufacturer's House shall ever be visited, even to see the Weight of the Wool when shorn, or any time afterwards, but where Oath has been first made of Suspicion of Fraud having been committed; and no Person who may have any Business with the Registers need stir out of his House to do it, and yet the Affair shall be carried on in so strong and so sure a manner as never to admit of a Law-suit, unless he dares dispute his own Hand-writing. A Lad may do the Business as well as the Steward of a Manor, by a Form already prepared for the Direction of the most ignorant, and no one need go or send out of the Town or City where he resides, nor farther than his next Parish, if he lives in the Country. Which notwithstanding it shall be so far from being an Expence to the Nation, that in Consideration of its being pass'd into a Law this Sessions, I not only engage to bring a Million of Pounds Sterling yearly for ever into his Majesty's Exchequer from Foreigners, without taxing Sheep, Wool, or any other Produce of these Kingdoms, besides the many Millions that would accrue to the Landed and Trading Interest, but

D 2

also

also to demonstrate how to raise and bring into it several Millions more within twelve Months after my Scheme shall be effectually confirmed and established; and that without Loan or Lottery, laying any Tax, or invading any Man's Property, on Forfeiture of the Charter which his Majesty was so graciously pleased to grant me, and on Pain of suffering any Penalties which the Legislature may think fit to lay on me as an Impostor.

Given from under my Hand this 17th Day of February, 1740-1.

SAM. WEBBER.

A Scheme having been proposed for keeping our Wooll at home, by Mr. S. M. at the Newcastle Coffee-house on St. Mary's-hill, Billingsgate, I shall offer the following Remarks on it.

It would cost an immense Sum to build proper \* Warehouses throughout the three Kingdoms, especially as every Person's Wool, Yarn, &c. must be kept apart till it be sold; or if such Warehouses are to be hired, even the Rent of them would not be inconsiderable, and is intended by the Projector, I presume, to be a Charge on the Owners of the Wool, Yarn, &c. whereas no additional Charge of Rent accrues to them by keeping it in their own Houses, where they are sure of finding their own Goods, without being diminished in the Weight, in both

\* Wool may be Smuggled as well from public as private Warehouses, if the Clerks who manage it may be turned out for doing their Duty.

both which they would be liable to be imposed upon if this Scheme should take Place, as is evident to any one who considers the Nature of those Goods, the Weight of which encreases and diminishes even by the Moisture and Dryness of the Air only.

Then, as to the bringing all the Yarn, &c. that may be made out of the Wool into Warehouses, it would in such a Case be impossible to carry on the Woollen Manufactures, especially the mixt or medley Branches of them; and whoever proposes it, he knows but little of the Matter, or means not to stop the Exportation of Wool, but to embarrass Trade; or else that the G—— should, in the End, manufacture ALL our Wool, instead of Part, as he proposes.

Therefore Britons, if they have any Regard for their Trade and their Liberties, ought never to consent that the G—— should buy up Wool on any Pretence whatsoever, much less to manufacture it; for as the Woollen Manufacturies are sufficient to employ some Millions of People, those People, so employed, must be dependent on those from whom they earn their Bread; and if the G—— be once permitted to buy what Wool may lay on hand, they would ere long engross it all. It is said, that it is stipulated that France shall have only what Wool we can spare, which implies that it would be no great Quantity; but let that be as it will, the Running of Wool to that Kingdom has at last reduced us to such a Condition as to be scarce able to manufacture any Part of it, and our Poor are starving by Thousands and Thousands for want of Labour. All private Monopolies are the Ruin of Trade, but much more so if the G—— ever should monopolize so valuable



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valuable and considerable a Branch of it. The *French King*, it is true, carries on considerable Manufactures of Wool for his own private Account, by which he has within these twenty Years acquired immense Riches and Power, whereas before that time he was reduced to the utmost Distress and Poverty. But this does not agree with the Constitution of *Great-Britain*.

The Projector need not fear Wool's lying on our Hands, if the Exportation of it be stopt; for it is evident that at present it is bought up every Year, tho' such great Quantities of foreign Wool is work'd up with it, by which it is likewise as evident that, if the manufacturing of it were confined to ourselves, as foreign Manufactures must then for the most Part be necessarily dropt, the Growth of these Kingdoms would not be sufficient to answer our Demands, and we should be obliged to import what Wool we could get from other Nations. Whenever our Manufactures flourished, as they have hitherto done in time of War with *France*, or when Pestilence visited that Kingdom, our Wool yielded a very great Price at home, and consequently did not lie on hand; whereas now as the Manufactures are decay'd, by Foreigners getting our Wool from us, it scarce yields any thing.

Seeing then that Wool ought by no means to be bought up by the G——, I shall take no further Notice of the Scheme for raising a Fund in order to do it, than to remark that the Author would persuade the poor Manufacturers to forge Chains not only for themselves but the whole Nation: In order to which he does not blush to propose, that a poor Weaver who is Owner of a single Loom, and has a Wife and five or six Children, and can earn scarce 5s. a Week,

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Week, when in full Employment, (as is the Case of many in divers Parts of the Nation) shall pay no less than 2s. out of the 5s. to the G——. This would be giving them a kind Master with a Witness, and well maintain'd, no doubt, they would be: Their present Masters, God knows, are but too hard to them, to say no worse; but this fine Proposal would exceed an *Egyptian Bondage*, not to say *French Slavery*.

As to the rest of this Scheme, it is founded on Mr. Webber's Registry, which as it could be invented by no Person but one perfectly acquainted with all the Branches relating to the Wool, and the manufacturing thereof, so it can be traced thro' all its Parts by none but those who thoroughly understand it. I am,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

J. L.

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I Find, by some of your late Papers on the Woollen Manufactory, that Mr. *London's* Calculations of our Loss and the Gains of the *French*, by the Exportation of our *unmanufactur'd* Wool, are thought to be carried too high; and when those Objectors shall think fit to prove as well as *object*, they shall be fully answer'd, or the Calculations given up: 'Till then 'tis unreasonable in them to expect any Answer to an *Ipsedixit*, or for any one to dispute the Truth of the Calculation. But I cannot help making a short Remark or two. If the Calculations are made, not for Times when Trade is decay'd, but when it is in

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a very flourishing Condition. Mr. London does not assert that the Labour in manufacturing and Profit thereof on so many Packs would amount to so much *now*; when the Price of Labour and Profit is fallen so low by the Loss of the Trade; but that it would do so if we manufactur'd as many Goods as we might do if we kept our Wool at home: Nor does he say that so many Millions are actually brought into the Nation by the *Woollen* Manufactures at present; but that those Manufactures, if confined to ourselves, would bring in so much. 2dly, The Calculations are Mr. London's, as well as Mr. *Webber's*; for tho' Mr. *Webber*, notwithstanding his Reception from his Majesty and the Privy-Council when his Charter was granted, the many Offers that have since been made him, and the great Compliments that have been paid to his Knowledge in Trade by Men of the first Rank for Capacity, has had the Misfortune to be call'd a *Madman*, I never heard Mr. London's Sanity call'd in question. 3dly, Many of these Objectors own, that tho' our Loss be not so great as these Calculations make it, it is enough to ruin us. Now I would ask any Man, who is not ten times *madder* than they would represent Mr. *Webber* to be, whether it be a Straw's Matter to them whether they be undone by the Loss of *Ten Millions*, or *Forty*? If they be not *determined* against all Conviction, I recommend to them the following Calculation of Sir *Walter Raleigh's*, whom, I presume, they will not have the Folly and Impudence to accuse either of *Ignorance*, or *Lunacy*; and if the Loss sustain'd by so many Goods sent abroad *undress'd* and *undy'd*, by one Company only, be so great, the Loss arising from the Exportation of so much Wool *not* manufactur'd at all, must amount, at least, to the Sum mention'd by Mr. London.

4thly,

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4thly, The Argument in Proof of Mr. London's Calculations, drawn from Sir *Walter Raleigh*, is the stronger by Reason of the great Increase of our Wool, as well as the Fall of the Value of our Coin: Which Increase these Objectors cannot have the Face to dispute, because they have asserted it themselves, in order to shew that we have more Wool than we could manufacture ourselves. But to come to Sir *Walter*, who writes thus to King *James*.

*May it please your most excellent Majesty,*

THERE have been about 80,000 undress'd and undy'd Cloths yearly transported. It is therefore evident that the Kingdom hath been depriv'd of about 4,000,000 within these 55 Years; which is near *twenty Millions* that would have been gained by the Labour of poor Workmen in that Time, with the Merchants Gains for bringing in Dying Stuffs, and Return of Cloths dress'd and dy'd, with other Benefits to the Realm, besides exceeding enlarging of Traffick, and Increase of Ships and Mariners.

There would have been gain'd in that Time *Three Millions* by Increase of Custom upon Commodities return'd for Cloths dress'd and dy'd, and for dying Stuffs, which would have been more plentifully brought and used for the same.

There hath been also transported in that Time yearly, by Bays, Northern and Devonshire Kerfies, white, about 50,000 Cloths, counting three Kerfies to a Cloth, whereby hath been lost above *five Millions* by those Sort of Cloths within that Time, which would have come to poor Workmen for their Labour, with the Customs for dying Stuffs and the People's

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Pro-

Profit for bringing them in, with Returns of o-  
 ther Commodities and Freights for Shipping.  
 Bays are transported white into *Amsterdam*,  
 and there being dressed and dy'd are shipped  
 into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Kingdoms,  
 where they are sold in the Name of *Flemish*  
 Bays, setting their own Town Seal upon them;  
 so that we lose the very Name of our homebred  
 Commodities, and other Countries get the  
 Reputation and Profit of them. Lamentable  
 is it that this Land should be deprived of so  
 many abovementioned Millions, and that our  
 native Commodities of Cloth, ordain'd by  
 God for the natural Subjects, being so royal  
 and rich it self, should be driven to so small  
 Advantage of Reputation and Profit to your  
 Majesty and People, and so much improved  
 and intercepted by Strangers, considering that  
 God hath enabled and given your Majesty  
 Power to advance dressing and dying, and  
 transporting of all your Cloths within a Year  
 or two. I speak it knowingly, to shew how  
 it may be done laudably, lawfully, and approv-  
 ed to be honourable, feasible and profitable.  
 All the Companies of your Land transport  
 their Cloths dressed and dyed to the good of  
 your Kingdom, except the Merchant Adven-  
 turers, whereby the Eastland and Turkey  
 Merchants, with other Companies, do increase  
 your Majesty's Customs, by bringing in and  
 spending dying Stuffs, and setting your Peo-  
 ple on work by dressing before they transport  
 them; and they might increase far more Cus-  
 tom to your Majesty, and make more Profit  
 to themselves and this Realm, and set many  
 thousands of poor People more on work for  
 dressing and dying, and likewise employ more  
 Ships and Mariners, for bringing in dying Stuffs,  
 were

were it not for the Merchant Adventurers, who  
 transport their Cloths white, rough, and un-  
 dress'd; and undy'd, into the *Low Countries*,  
 where they sell them to the Strangers, who af-  
 terwards dress, dye, and stretch them to such  
 unreasonable Lengths, contrary to our Law,  
 that they prevent and forestall our Markets,  
 and cross the just Prohibitions of our State and  
 Realm, by their Agents and Factors lying in  
 divers Places with our own Cloths, to the great  
 Decay of this Kingdom in general, and Dis-  
 credit of our Cloths in particular.

If this Account were truly known, it would  
 be found that they make not clear Profit only  
 by Cloth transported rough, undressed and un-  
 dyed, *Sixty Thousand* Pounds a Year; but it is  
 most apparent your Majesty in your Customs,  
 your Merchants in their Sales and Prices, your  
 Subjects in their Labour for lack of dressing  
 and dying, your Ships and Mariners in not  
 bringing in of dying Stuffs and spending of  
 Allom, are hindred yearly near a *Million* of  
 Pounds; so that trade is driven to the Hin-  
 drance of your Majesty and People, by per-  
 mitting your native Commodities to pass rough,  
 undressed and undyed, by the Merchant Ad-  
 venturers.

To this Account of Sir *Walter Raleigh's* I  
 shall subjoin the following Calculation of the  
 manufacturing of two Pounds of Wool, publish-  
 ed in 1706 by a very honest Author, now lying  
 before me.

To form an Estimate of the Loss accruing  
 to the Poor by the Exportation of Wool,  
 it will be of use to compute the Charges of  
 combing, carding, spinning, knitting, dying  
 and pressing two Pounds or less of our finest  
 combed Wool, with some other incident  
 Charges;



Charges; for these Charges going out of the Pocket of the Undertaker, come into the Pocket of the Poor which he employs; and the Exportation of the Wool without this Manufacture is so much neat Loss to the Poor, and indeed to the whole Nation.

	l.	s.	d.
The combing Oyland Soap of 2 lb. } and less of Wool ————— }	0	3	0
This will produce 20 Ounces, the } spinning of which will cost — }	0	6	0
Doubling and Throwing —————	0	1	3
The Worsted thus made will make } five Pair of Hose, worth one } Shilling per Pair knitting — }	0	5	0
The dying the Hose into Scarlet —	0	6	0
Trimming and pressing —————	0	1	0
The Nilescombed out of this Wool } will be twelve Ounces, which is } fit to make fine Druggets or mil- } led Stockings worth 8d. per } Pound, this I count ————— }	0	0	6
The carding and spinning of that } into Yarn ————— }	0	0	9
Doubling and Throwing it —————	0	0	2
Knitting this into a Pair of Hose —	0	0	10
Milling and Shearing these Hose —	0	1	0
Dying them into a Crimson or Scar- } let Colour ————— }	0	1	6
	4	7	0

Not to reckon the Profits of the Wool-comber, Stocking-seller, and other Trades?

This same Author says, that he had a certain Account at that Time that there were 40,000 Packs of Wool smuggled to France yearly, of which he complains very much but in 1715, when

when he writ another Treatise, he says, the Woollen Manufactures were increased so much in France within three Years, that at Amiens only the Looms employ'd therein were increased in that Time from 200 to 7000. How much they have encreased since all over France, may be judg'd from the great Decay of those Manufactures here, and the exorbitant Height of Wealth and Power she is at present arriv'd at.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

I SHALL now make a few Extracts, from a Tract on Trade, written a little after the Revolution by Sir Francis Brewster. Speaking of Wool and Woollen Manufacturies, he calls them, The Great Staple of the Kingdom, and in Truth, of the World; which by Divine Providence is so put into our Hands, as that without a Turn in Nature, we cannot totally lose it; yet all that is possible for an *Unthinking* People (as we are call'd Abroad) to do, We have done, to the Prejudice of Those Commodities, by which Means we have transferr'd great Part of our Woollen Manufacturies to other Countries. What would This Writer have thought, or said of us, if he had liv'd at This Time, when we have lost almost the *Whole* of That profitable Branch of Trade, That almost inexhaustable Fund of Wealth. But from another Passage concerning a Project for the preventing the *Exportation* of *Unmanufactur'd* Wool, we see his Opinion of the Importance of it to the Nation. I have seen (says he) a Proposal of a Gentleman that hath been



' been a great Dealer in This Commodity to  
 ' Foreign Parts, which, he affirms, would be  
 ' infallible to prevent such Exports of Wool ;  
 ' but he reserves part of the Secret. I would  
 ' have perswaded him to offer it to the House,  
 ' but he expects a *great Gratification*, which,  
 ' he thinks, at This Time, will not be given ;  
 ' tho' I am of another Mind, and believe *he*  
 ' *deserves more than he can ask*, if his Project  
 ' takes, p. 24. I shall now give a larger Ex-  
 ' tract from This Gentleman, wherein are several  
 ' Things worth Notice. It begins thus, (*Ibid.*)  
 ' I know a Great *Minister*, who once disputed  
 ' on that with Warmth, against a Care for  
 ' *Wool*, and that it was a Burthen to the Nation :  
 ' It may not be foreign to this Discourse to give  
 ' the Heads of the Dispute, which I the rather do,  
 ' that so it may shew the Need there is for the  
 ' Great Council of the Nation to take it under  
 ' their Consideration.

' The Discourse rose on a Proposition that was  
 ' brought to him, for stopping a vast Quantity  
 ' of *Wool* that was then going to *France* ; it was  
 ' brought him in Writing, and demonstrated,  
 ' That that very *Wool* was enough to work up all  
 ' the coarse *Wool* of *France* for Seven Years ;  
 ' and that the Consequence would be the Loss of  
 ' great part of our Manufactories to *Spain* and  
 ' *Portugal*.

' The *Minister* made little return to that, but  
 ' brought his Discourse to the great Loss it was  
 ' to Men of Estates, that there was not a Way  
 ' for selling twice the *Wool* that now they did ;  
 ' That there was three Years *Wool* then in *Eng-*  
 ' *land*, and what should Men do upon this To-  
 ' pick of the want of a Consumption for the *Wool*  
 ' of *England*, the Gentleman laid down these Po-  
 ' sitions.

' First,

' *First*, That the War was one Reason of the  
 ' Decay of the *Woollen Manufactories*.

' *Secondly*, That the extraordinary Escapes of  
 ' *Wool* to Foreign Parts, put them (Foreigners)  
 ' upon making more *Woollen Manufactories* than  
 ' ever they did before, and that abated our Trade  
 ' abroad.

' *Thirdly*, That our *Wool* going to Foreign  
 ' Parts made it so cheap at Home : This, I re-  
 ' member, put the *Minister* into a Laughter ; and  
 ' laying the two first aside, he desir'd him to make  
 ' out the last Position, That the Escapes of *Wool*  
 ' to Foreign Parts made the *Wool* fall in Price ;  
 ' That the sending so great Quantities of *Wool*  
 ' out of the Kingdom should fall the Price of that  
 ' which was left, was a Mystry he could not un-  
 ' derstand, but seem'd to him, the only Way to  
 ' make it rise : But the Gentleman undertook to  
 ' make out his Assertion, that every Pound of *En-*  
 ' *glish Wool* worked up three Pounds of Foreign  
 ' *Wool* ; and that as much as they Manufactured,  
 ' so much was abated in our Exports ; for that  
 ' they made such Manufactories with our *Wool*,  
 ' as they could not make without it ; and conse-  
 ' quently by that Means one Pound of our *Wool*  
 ' with theirs, made four times as much Cloths  
 ' and Stuffs as we could have made with it, if we  
 ' had kept it at Home : From which he inferred,  
 ' That if one fourth of the *Wool* of *England* went  
 ' to Foreign Parts, there would be as much Ma-  
 ' nufactories made Abroad for Foreign Markets,  
 ' as we could make, if we had wrought all our  
 ' own *Wool* ; and so much being made Abroad,  
 ' we could not have use for half our own *Wool* that  
 ' was left : This he affirmed was the Reason that  
 ' there lay so much *Wool* unwrought in *England* ;  
 ' and he being brought for Proof of what he said,  
 ' That which was Matter of Fact I thought un-  
 ' deniable,

deniable, though it would not be allowed so by the *Minister*: The Thing was this, The Year after the Restauration, there was a Gentleman that got a Grant from the King, with a *Non obstante* to any Statute, for Liberty to Export a certain Quantity of *Wool* to Foreign Parts from *Ireland*; upon which, some Merchants in *London* buying the Grant, sent over to *Ireland*, and bought most of the *Wool*, and sent it to Foreign Parts; this at first rais'd the Price of *Wool* both there and in *England*; but in so short a Time as five Months, it fell Fifty *per Cent.* And tho' not one fourth of what formerly came from *Ireland* into *England*, came then to *England*, yet there was no Vent for the *Wool* of *England*; and in *Ireland* it fell from Seven Shillings to Three Shillings and Six Pence, their Stone of Sixteen Pounds, all the Time they shipped it for Foreign Parts. This he affirm'd he could prove by the Merchants Books that were concern'd, to be literally true; and that the Year after the Shipping for Foreign Parts was over, that *Wool* rise to its former Price both here and in *Ireland*. And he farther added, that the great Quantities which by Stealth go from *England* and *Ireland*, makes *Wool* in both Kingdoms fall in Price, according to the Quantities that are sent out; and that if there went no *Wool* from *England* or *Ireland* to Foreign Parts, all the *Wool* of both Kingdoms would not be half enough to supply the Manufactories that *England* would have Markets for Abroad; for that there is now made twice as much Manufactories with the help of our *Wool* Abroad, as is made in *England*; so that if there were an effectual Stop upon the *Wool* of both Kingdoms, the Flocks of both might be trebled, and yet not be sufficient for the Manufactories *England* might vent. This in few Words

was

was the best Account I ever heard of the Nature and Improvement of the *Wool* of these Kingdoms, and is such Demonstration of the Mischief the Exports of *Wool* doth to the Nation, that I cannot but think him a worse Enemy to his Country than a *common Pyrate*; for that he robs but a small Number, but he that sends out *Wool*, destroys Thousands, weakens the Strength of the Nation both at Land and Sea; and if we believe the Lord *Coke's* Assertion, That Nine Parts of the Trade of *England* comes from the Sheeps Back, there cannot be enough done to secure it; but it hath ever been the Misfortune of our Nation, neither to punish or reward. Impunity in the first makes us abound in Criminals; and the Neglect in the latter makes us Barren of great Actions for our Country; I mean, in that which makes a Nation Rich and Wise: Our Ancestors shew'd more of their good Will to it in the Dark of Trade and Navigation, than we do at Noon-day. I have often thought that it was possible for a Monarch of these Kingdoms to make all *Europe* Tributaries to him in Trade, by a true Management of the Natural and Artificial Product and Navigation of these Kingdoms, without being oblig'd to any Help, but what ariseth from his own Dominions, of which *Wool* is the Chief.

I shall cite one short Passage more, relating to the *French*, p. 1. The Danger that hath been impendent over us for more than 30 Years in This of our Trade, is from the *French*; and in Truth no Nation can so well contest it with *England* as They can; \* And

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\* This shews that the *Dutch* have acted as weakly with regard to Themselves, as they have been treacherous to Us, by endeavouring to destroy our Trade, and impair our Strength, for,

therefore it seems reasonable to consider Them in This, as much as we do in That of their Arms; and perhaps They may be found laying a Foundation in War, to enlarge their Trade and Navigation, while we at the same Time are declining in both; and that These Kingdoms cannot be safe under the Growth of France, none will deny.— As little is it to be disputed whether France be not grown much stronger now than they were then, and That by Means of the Improvement of their Trade.—

It has been objected to the Draper, that in the Consequences of Trade, &c. he did not prove that France had improv'd their Trade in Proportion as We have lost it. I am afraid they do not desire to be better satisfied. But what Proof would they have? Would they have an Exact Account of the Number of Cloths made and exported from France to Foreign Markets? This is neither possible, nor necessary in order to satisfy any reasonable Person. What the Draper has observ'd, is quite Satisfactory to such as are not determin'd against receiving Satisfaction. For, is it not enough that as our Trade has been declining, and we have been growing Poorer, they have grown Rich, and able to support immense Expences, as is particularly mention'd by the Draper; which Riches, as he farther observes, they could have no other possible way of acquiring, but by the Acquisition of our Trade, their Land and the natural Produce of it being just the same now as ever it was. If it be better cultivated than it was 20 Years ago, That is owing to the Increase of their Trade, and is the Effect, not the Cause of their Riches. But how can any one

for, instead of acquiring what we have lost, France, our common and most dangerous Enemy, has run away with it, and by the Help of it now presumes to dictate to Us both.

one be so ignorant as not to know, or so hardy as to deny, what is notorious? Viz. That France at this Time serves those Foreign Markets with Woollen Goods, where we us'd to vend Ours. But as these Objectors, seem so very inclinable to favour the French, I shall give them the Testimony of a French Writer. They will find it in Voltaire's Antimachiavel, in the following Words,

As the Nature of Countries is very different, so there are some whose Riches, and Strength depend upon Agriculture, others upon Vineyards, some upon Manufactures, and others upon Commerce; and in some few Countries we see all these Arts flourish together. Princes therefore who chuse this mild Way of increasing their Power, will be obliged to study the particular Nature of their Country; in order to know which of those Arts is most likely to thrive in it, and consequently which of them they ought most to encourage. The French and Spaniards have at length perceived their Want of Trade, and therefore have contriv'd to ruin the Trade of the English: If they succeed, France will increase its Power, more considerably by this Means than by the Conquest of twenty Towns, and a thousand Villages; and England and Holland, the two finest, and richest Countries in the World, will dwindle away by Degrees, like a Man who is dying of a Consumption.

It is still suggested that there will not be Time enough this Session for such a Bill to go through the House. In other Words, there is not Time to save the King and the Kingdom from Ruin; a great many of the Poor from being starved, a great many Tradesmen from falling into Decay, a great many Estates from falling

falling into Gentlemen's Hands, and the Government from becoming a Prey to *France*. I do not pretend absolutely to say, that we cannot stand it another Year against the growing Power of that ambitious Nation, but this I'll be bold to say, that such a Delay will make our Deliverance from the dangerous Condition into which the Loss of our Trade has brought us, *extremely difficult*, and *very hazardous*; and why should any Man suppose that the Legislature will not do that *immediately*, which is *absolutely necessary* to be done, and which by being delayed will every Day become the *more difficult*. For my own Part, I have so great an Opinion of the Integrity and Wisdom of our Representatives, that I persuade myself they will not hesitate about it one Moment. The Thing speaks itself. I should be sorry to be thought indecently importunate with my Betters; but such an Importunity, in a Time of such pressing Distress and imminent Danger, shews the greatest Respect, as it implies the greatest Regard for their Safety. I do, therefore, once more, in the Honesty of my Heart, conjure them, not only for the Security of his Majesty's Throne, not only for the Sake of the Nation in general, but for their own Sake, for the Sake of themselves and Families, not any longer to defer a Matter of the nearest Concern to every thing that is valuable in this Life. If it should be objected (and what will not the Friends of *France* suggest?) that my Importunity proceeds from *Self-interest*, I can safely call God to witness, that were this Matter effected in the manner which I propose, I could willingly lay my Head in the Grave, fully satisfied with the Consciousness of having done more for my Country

Country than any one has been able to do before me. If any one can propose a more effectual Scheme than mine, I will be one of the first and one of the warmest to solicit its Acceptance; but in God's Name, in the Name of common Sense, let a sinking Nation accept of the *best* Help that offers.

Sam. Webber.

*F I N I S.*





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Handwritten text in an old script, possibly a form or ledger entry, with some faint markings and a vertical line on the right side.