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THE
DRAPER Confuted;

Or, A Candid and Impartial, but Full

A N S W E R

TO THE

Consequences of Trade:

Humbly Offer'd

To the Consideration of both Houses of
P A R L I A M E N T.

By a FRIEND to the GOVERNMENT.

Out of Thine Own Mouth will I condemn Thee.



L O N D O N:
Printed for T. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-*
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THE
DRAPER *Confuted.*

AUTHORS without Names are like *Vagrants*, who strole up and down the Country without a Pass, and ought to be employed, not in writing, but in working for the Good of their Country, 'till they can give some Account of themselves. There has lately been publish'd a Pamphlet concerning *the Consequences of Trade, &c.* without any other Name to it, than that of a *Draper of London*, and without any other Account of the Writer, than a solemn Protestation of his good Intention. Under this ambiguous Character it has travell'd all over the Kingdom, making free with Persons of the most unblemish'd Reputation, and disquieting the Minds of his Majesty's good Subjects with false Reports and groundless Apprehensions; and therefore he cannot complain of any Hardship if he be obliged to let us know a

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little more of him before we credit his Pretensions. As I promis'd, in my Title Page, to write with Candour and Impartiality, I shall freely acknowledge that I think him either one of the most honest Men in England, or one of the greatest Rogues that ever acted the Hypocrite to Perfection, for he carries the fairest Face of Sincerity, and looks with as much Innocence as he writes with Ingenuity. But so much the fitter is he to carry on bad Designs for having a good Aspect and a pleasant Tongue, so much the more Mischief is he capable of doing, and so much the more Reason have we, in prudence, to guard against him. The Demureness of a Wh—e at a Christening is become proverbial, and nothing has been more common than for Men of ambitious Views to set up for *Patriots*, while they meant nothing, by their Opposition, but their own Advancement. There is one Circumstance that shews more Art and Management than is consistent with the seeming Simplicity of the Performance. When two Editions were dispers'd, at the End of the Pamphlet, in the Third Edition, appears one Mr. *Webber*, by way of *Nota Bene*, making himself responsible for all the Facts related in it: from whence he may reasonably be suppos'd to be the Author, tho' he did not think fit to put his Name into the *Title Page*, that he might with the more Decency commend himself in those violent Strains of Panegyrick which are introduced into the Work. If the Pamphlet be this Gentleman's Production, we have his own Evidence to prove that he is look'd upon as no better than a *Madman*, and

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we have the Testimony of his Writings to confirm it. That I may keep up to my own Character, I must be careful not to misrepresent his. When I say that he writes like a *Madman*, I do not mean that he does not write with sound Sense, with strict Coherence, and many times with great Strength of Reasoning, but only that some of his Positions from whence he argues, and many of the Facts which he asserts, are such as no Man in his sober Senses could advance. And it is no new Thing for a Person to be quite mad, as to one particular Point, upon which whenever you touch he raves, while he talks and acts in every other Instance with Sedateness and Discretion; as I, myself, knew an Attorney's Clerk who thought he had a Right to the Crown of *England*, and yet did all the Business of his Place with great Exactness and Accuteness. What are Mr. *Webber's* mad Strings I shall have occasion to point out presently. But, having been so severe upon this Author for wearing a Mask, it will very reasonably be expected that I should pull off my own. I had a Reason, which I shall keep to myself, why I did not put my Name to the *Title Page*, but it will be equally satisfactory if I mention it now in the *Introduction*, and will answer every Purpose of the Reader as well. If the *Draper* had taken the same Method, he would have remov'd all just Ground of Complaint on that Head. The Reader, then, may please to take notice that I write myself, *Andrew Freeport*, of LONDON, *Gent.* one, who has as high a Value for Trade, as much Duty for his Prince, and as much Affection for his Country,

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as any Draper in the City can have; that I write from the same Motive which he professes, from the same sincere Desire of serving them, tho' I profess my Intentions with less Solemnity; and that I may as heartily wish Success to what I am going to write, tho' I should not think it necessary to begin (as it seems he did) with a Collect.

Before I enter upon the Merits of the Cause, I shall desire the Reader not to make a Judgment of any particular Part 'till he shall have gone thro' the Whole, or be surpriz'd at any Concessions that he may chance to think too large. The larger they are, the better, provided I can, as I make no doubt but I shall, make good my Point at last. If you confute a Man upon his own Principles, you gain the most compleat Victory, and leave your Adversary without a Possibility of rallying, or retreating. To come now to the Point—That I may give the more distinct, particular, and full Answer to this admir'd Performance, I must repeat the several Heads of it, as they stand enumerated in the Title Page; which are as follows.

1. The Consequences of Trade, as to the Wealth and Strength of any Nation.
2. The Consequences of the Woollen Trade in particular, and the great Superiority of it over all other Branches of Trade.
3. The present State of it in England and France, with an Account of our Loss and their Gain.

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4. The Danger we are in of becoming thereby a Province to France, unless an effectual and immediate Stop be put to the Exportation of our Wool.

The first of these I have neither any Design, nor any Occasion to dispute with him, in order to clear up the Conduct of the M---r. It is no Discovery that TRADE is the Source of RICHES, or that the most wealthy People may be, if they are wise enough to make the best Use of their Wealth, the most powerful. This, I readily agree with him, may easily be shewn both from the Nature of the Thing and from Facts in the History of the several Nations of the World; and, as a necessary Consequence of it, that whoever is an Enemy to the Trade of any Nation, is so far an Enemy to that Nation, and to its Prince, whose Strength can be no other than that of his People. Who so ignorant as not to see, who so obstinate as to deny these plain Truths? Where, then, is the great Merit in having shewn a thing that is almost self-evident, and which has been so often shewn before he was born? I grant, what he has said, is said in a succinct, perspicuous, and lively manner. And his greatest Admirers, if they will act as ingenuously as I do, must own that his way of writing is full dogmatical and pert; so exactly in the Air of a Sturdy Beggar, that if he had not told us he was a Woollen Trader, we might have sworn, he was a Merchant, or Tradesman of London.

As to the Superiority of the Woollen Trade over all other Branches, in respect to the
Wealth

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Wealth which it brings into a Nation, as my Scheme does not oblige me to deny what he has asserted, so I am no proper Judge of his Calculations. As, for instance, how much Wool Great Britain and Ireland have, by the most intelligent Dealers in Sheep and in the Woollen Trade, been generally allowed to produce; whether there be a greater Number of Sheep fed now than there were formerly; what Number of Labourers a Pack of Wool will employ; and what the Wages of those Labourers will amount to. These being Matters that are out of my Sphere, I shall not pretend to determine about them. I cannot but say, they are put upon a very fair footing, and their not having been fairly disproved by different Calculations better supported, how often soever some may have thought fit roundly to deny them without Examination, we ought, not only in Candour, but in common Justice to presume them to be true. I hope the Frankness with which I allow every thing that appears reasonable will procure a favourable Attention to the Arguments which I shall bring by and by.

His fourth Proposition concerns the Danger we are in of becoming a Province to France; which rests intirely upon the third, as its only Foundation, *viz.* the Loss of our Trade and our consequent Poverty, while France, the mean while, gains what we lose. Grant him his Premises, and he will prove his Proclussions. Give up the Cause and he gains his Point. As Trade is the grand Source of Riches, so Riches are the Sinews of War, as well as the Support of Arts and Sciences at home. My Brother Freeman, alluding to the Draper, observ'd that
Riches

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Riches will not do every thing, and then gave an Instance, whose Force was not answerable to the Writer's Intention in producing it. Money, no doubt, is not omnipotent, but yet it is very potent, or so many wise Men would not fall down and worship it. It cannot do every thing, but still it can do very great Things. It will blind the Eyes, and make Black appear to be White. It will shut up the Bowels of Compassion, and make a Man, naturally good-natur'd, do the cruellest Things for the sake of obtaining it. It will gradually wear out all Sense of Shame, and bring its Votaries to do the most infamous Things without blushing. It will harden their Hearts to such a degree, that they will act the most flagitious Crimes, nay, even write against the best M-----r that ever manag'd the Affairs of a Nation, without Remorse. It will force Men, intended by Nature for Patriots, to sacrifice their Country to their private Gains. If it will not give Genius, it will give Impudence in abundance to a Writer. If it cannot give real Merit, it will procure great Respect to the Unworthy and to the Insignificant. If it cannot alter the immutable Nature, it can wonderfully change the Appearance of Things. A Blockhead can never be more than a Blockhead, as an Ass will be but an Ass though covered with the richest Trappings; but the greatest Blockhead, with a great Estate, will be reckon'd much wiser and wittier than the most sensible, clever Fellow with an empty Pocket. But to return to our Subject. My good Brother Freeman, tho' in the main a most admirable Writer, by accident misses the Matter now and then, as the surest footed

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footed Horse may chance to trip. He mentions a rich Prince who, notwithstanding the Multitude of his Riches, was beaten in the Field of Battle. I am not sure what this able Advocate means to prove, but he seems, by the Course of his Reasoning, to intend this Inference, *viz.* that therefore a Nation that is poor may be stronger than a richer, of equal, or superior Strength in other Respects; that England, for instance, without Trade and Money, may be more than a Match for France, tho' abounding in Wealth acquir'd by our Trade. If my Brother did not mean this, he meant something that was nothing to the Purpose. Alexander, with a comparatively small Number of Men, beat a vast Army of the Persians. What then? Are Riches no Advantage to a Prince? Or can any Prince maintain an Army without Money, or have Money without Trade, or Mines? Common Soldiers and Sailors would live but poorly without Clothes and Victuals, and fight but poorly if naked and with empty Bellies; and Gentlemen of Estates would hardly go into the Army, or Navy, in any Capacity, without Pay, tho' my generous Brother fights without Fee, or Reward. And how is a Prince to pay his Army without Taxes, or raise Taxes unless his Subjects be able to bear them? Or how can that be done if they can get no Money? Or how can they get any without Traffick? Therefore, to give the D—l his due, tho' it makes ever so much against me, grant the Draper that we have lost our Trade, and that France has got it; that they are growing rich while we are growing poor, we must be in danger of becoming a
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Province to them. Indeed, by begging a People a M-----r might make a King absolute at Home, but he would be a poor, weak Prince, tho' an absolute one, and would soon be no Prince at all. He might tyrannize over his own Subjects, and drain them as long as they had a Farthing left, but he would lie at the Mercy of his Neighbours. The Draper and I are perfectly agreed in these Points; and if the Reader will give me but a little Credit, I shall soon turn his Artillery upon him, and confute him with his own Arguments. — I have thus reduced his formidable Arrangement of Propositions, which stand in the Frontispiece, like the Earl of Peterborough's Army in Spain, stretch'd out to a great Width without any Depth, to one single Head of Enquiry, *viz.* the present State of France and England in respect to Trade and Riches. — And here, I must be allow'd, what is very reasonable, to determine the Truth of these Facts by such Arguments as are adapted to my own Knowledge and Capacity; for, it is not the Nature, or Kind of Proof, but the Degree of its Force, which convinces the Judgment. Matters of Fact are most naturally and usually prov'd by the Testimony of credible Witnesses, but where their Evidence is not positive and full, or where their Character is not clear, the Truth of a Fact, thus attested, will be doubtful in proportion to the Imperfection of the Witnesses, or their Testimony. Again, a Fact, attested in such a manner that it would be credible, were there no Evidence brought in Opposition to it, may become incredible by the Force of Arguments drawn from the Nature of Things, or
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from other Facts that are more incontestible. As to the State of France, in respect to its Trade and Riches, it has not lain in my way to inform myself particularly concerning it. The Draper and others have brought some plausible Arguments which I am not able directly to contradict, tho' I must say, if France be in such a flourishing Condition, it is very strange that our publick Papers should agree to represent them as wanting Bread, and suing to Ireland for a Bit of Meat, with a pressing Importunity natural to Wretches who are starving; for, to my weak Apprehension, Scarcity and Plenty, Poverty and Riches, are not very consistent things. Thus, as to our own Country, I hear most dismal Complaints all over the Town, and from all Parts of the Country, that there is nothing to do, and no Money stirring. It may be so, as far as I know; and, as far as they know, if some People have nothing to do, (but to find fault) in a little time others may have enough, and more than Business enough upon their Hands. If there be little Money stirring at present, it may soon move more briskly. This I am sure of, that, however scarce a Commodity Money may be with this, or that particular Person, I could name you many who have great plenty of it; and tho' I am not with the Methodists in their levelling Scheme, I cannot help wishing that Providence had thought fit to divide the Specie of the Nation a little more equally, because I do own that as some have less than they desire, so others have more than they deserve. The Number of Poor unemployed, and the vast Weight of Parish Rates; the Number of Ma-

manufacturers.

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nufacturers that daily break, or leave off; the Number of Houses that stand empty, and the Number of Farms that are thrown upon the Landlords Hands; these and many more Arguments are urg'd, with seeming Probability, by the Enemies of the M---r, in proof of the Badness of our State, and of his Administration. Now, as I observ'd, with regard to France, so the State of England is liable to many and great Misrepresentations, thro' the Malice of Enemies, and the Ignorance of Friends; and, therefore, I shall put the Matter upon a more certain Issue; and shew, from undeniable Facts, that it is morally impossible that the Condition of France and England should be such as the Draper and his Party have represented them to be; and that, too, from express Concessions of his own. This must satisfy the Doubts of all reasonable Readers, since Difficulties and plausible Appearances can never weigh, in the Opinion of unbiass'd Judgments, against moral Impossibilities. Granting his Account of these Matters to be true, great indeed are the Necessities, deplorable the Condition of many Millions amongst us; and, as the Consequence of this National Poverty, most imminent must be our present Danger, absolutely certain (without immediate Care to prevent it) our danger of becoming, in a little time, a Province to the ambitious House of Bourbon. This the Draper allows, and from hence I argue to the Impossibility of his Account's being true. He owns that the M---r cannot possibly mean to ruin the Nation and give us up to France. Here I readily join Issue with him; and I presume he will as readily

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readily agree with me, that the Consequence of the Exportation of our Wool to France, and the giving up our Trade to them being so evident to the meanest Capacity, much more to one of his penetrating Genius, we may be morally certain, that a Person capable of seeing into the State of Things, and of foreseeing their necessary Effects, able by his Situation, and strongly inclin'd by his Disposition to prevent them, would not designedly bring us, nor thro' Ignorance suffer us to be brought, into such a wretched Condition. However, therefore, the Tendency of his Measures may seem to the Draper, or others, looking at them at too great a Distance, or thro' a false Medium, we shall form a much more rational, as well as charitable Judgment, if we judge that so upright a Person cannot have such wicked Intentions; that a Person of his Abilities could not be mistaken as to the Expediency of Measures; and, consequently, that it is morally impossible that these Things should be so; I say, this would be more reasonable than to argue only from doubtful Appearances, against Facts so universally allowed, as are the Goodness of his Intention and the Greatness of his Ability. Thus stands the Argument upon the Foot of his general Character: But if we descend to some Particulars of it, the Case will appear in a still clearer and stronger Light. — Malice itself will be ashamed to deny his Fidelity to his Sovereign, or his Gratitude to so bountiful a Master. If it should dare to dispute the former, nothing can be objected but the Prosecution of a P——n for preaching up Passive Obedience and Nonresistance; to which it may be

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be answer'd, that the Preacher was an high-flying Disturber of the Peace, and his Doctrine fitter for the Climate of Turkey, or Russia, than for a Free People, govern'd by Laws of their own making, under a limited Monarch. If the latter should be question'd, satisfied I am that all his Friends (and Friends are the best Judges of a Man's Principles and Temper) will attest, with one Voice, his Readiness to return good Services with Cheerfulness and Affection. Such a faithful and grateful Subject can never be suspected to have taken Measures to destroy, or neglected any proper Means to promote the Trade of the Nation, the Prosperity of which, alone, can make his Master Glorious, Great, and Powerful, and without which nothing can gain him the Hearts and Affections of his People. Nothing can induce me to think that he would sell such a Master, by selling our Wool to France. — From the same honest Principles and noble Dispositions which inspire Sentiments of Fidelity and Gratitude to his Prince, flow that Benevolence and Generosity which are so peculiarly his distinguish'd Character, and his highest Enjoyment. And is it possible to conceive that a benevolent and generous Mind would designedly bring Ruin upon his Prince, upon his Fellow Creatures, Fellow Christians, and Fellow Subjects?

The Scene which the Draper has painted, like a well-wrote Tragedy built upon Fiction, tho' it describes imaginary Scenes, has warmed my Heart with the tenderest Concern, and set my Mind at work to conceive the most affecting Apprehensions. I think, I see Numbers of Families greatly reduced in their Circumstances, unable

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unable without much Uneasiness to abridge their Way of Living, to quit their Pleasures, or abate of their Grandeur; striving, like the Egyptian Task-masters, to keep up the wonted Tale, their usual Rent, while their Tenants are incapable of paying it, tho' living a laborious, careful, anxious Life, with little more than barely Food sufficient to preserve it, and give them just Strength enough to drudge on. I think, I see Numbers of Trading Families, who from a comfortable Income are brought to want the common Conveniencies of Life, perhaps standing in need of those Acts of Hospitality and Charity which it has long been their Custom and their Pleasure to exercise towards others. I think, I see, what I read, not long ago, of Tiverton, in that idle, legendary Vehicle of Scandal, the Daily Post, Numbers of Families of the labouring Poor, who by working to the Manufacturies earned their Bread, took off the Products of the Land, and help'd to circulate Commerce by buying Goods of the Shopkeepers, now pining at Home with Hunger and Thirst; with Bowels yearning for Pity of their starving Infants; or standing at their Doors, on Market Days, to sell their little Furniture for a little, present Nutriiment; or running about the Streets and Country, with their Bodies almost naked, their Faces the Picture of Famine, their importunate Cries extorting Relief from those who can afford any, and melting the Hearts of those who cannot. My Imagination being thus on fire, it goes on to paint still more dreadful Scenes of Distress. I think, I see our ambitious Neighbours taking Advantage of our Weakness, and endeavouring

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vouring to get Possession of us and our Country by Force of Arms. Oh, what dreadful Havock will Ambition, bold and lawless Ambition, contending for Victory over a brave and valiant Nation striving to preserve their Freedom and their Fortunes; what Havock, I say, will such a fierce Contention make! I think, I see the Troops making a Descent, ravaging our Coasts, carrying the Devastation up into the Country; our Towns plunder'd, and burnt; many of the Inhabitants put to the Sword, or flying with the utmost Confusion and Horror from their cruel Enemies; Matrons and Virgins violated; perhaps their harmless Infants murdered before their Eyes. And if they should succeed, I leave it to the Reader's Fancy to conceive, what is too painful to my own to be able to describe, the Treatment which an envied, hated Rival may expect from a victorious, insulting, French Foe. The fictitious Scene has affected me so much, I should wish I had never read the Draper, but that it enables me to answer him. For, if the present State of the Trade of this Nation and that of France be truly represented, such certainly is the Distress of a great Part of our Countrymen, and such probably will be our future Fate; and, therefore, it is morally impossible that so good a M——r should knowingly ruin us, or that so wise a one should not have used the most prudent Measures to promote our Safety and Prosperity. — If his Love of Liberty and of his Fellow Subjects were not sufficient to free me from any Apprehensions of our being in such a ruinous and dangerous Condition, wide as our Religion and Trade may be thought

thought to be distant from one another, they have, as the Draper asserts and I allow, such a Connection between each other, that if we lose the one we shall not long preserve the other. If France get all or the greatest Part of our Trade from us; they will soon be able to give us their Religion in return. This, then, is another Argument, amounting to a moral Certainty, that the Draper's Account of our Trade and Wool cannot be true. For, if he had no other Inducement to do it, the affectionate Regard which the M——r is known to have for the Protestant Religion, would on all Occasions make him vigilant and zealous to preserve it in this and all other Protestant Countries, notwithstanding the vile Insinuations of the Champion, as if the Papists, at this very Time, boasted of their having greater Encouragement from him, and were more in Number than under King James II. — Such is the Character, such the Abilities of the M——r; such our Happiness, such our Safety; still farther strengthened by the Abilities and Integrity of those whom he has intrusted with any Degree of Power; whose Interest it can never be, upon the whole, to ruin their Country; and who, therefore, if there were any Danger, would not fail to acquaint his Majesty and the Parliament with their Sentiments. This the Draper allows to be fact, and his Concessions ought to have made him ashamed of his Assertions.

Having mentioned the Parliament, this suggests to me another Argument that makes it morally impossible that the Nation should be in such danger of being overpower'd by the growing Strength of France. The Draper expresses the

the most honourable Opinion of their Integrity and Wisdom; owns that they would not sacrifice the Interest of the Publick to any private Considerations; and, farther, that in this Case it could never be, upon the whole, the personal Interest of any one of them to do it. Now, if our Trade be so much decayed it must have been declining for some Years, and it is not to be suppos'd that none of them should perceive it. At first, indeed, it might steal upon us, imperceptibly, like a Thief in the Night; but after some Years of Declension it must have come upon us, more forceably, like an armed Man; as a Stone, rolling down a Hill, acquires Velocity by its own Weight, and moves vastly faster towards the Bottom. This huge Stone of Trade, according to the Draper, has been rolling down-hill many Years, and must now be tumbling with an accelerated Force, a Force too impetuous not to be felt by the most insensible. But, could it possibly be suppos'd that so many wise Men, ever watchful for the true Interest of their Country, should not perceive what, according to him, none but a blind Man could overlook, Mr. *Webber* has reminded them of it, several times, with the greatest Earnestness; and, therefore, from their not giving more Credit to his Remonstrances, we may be morally certain that, however candidly they might judge of his Intentions, they made light of his Apprehensions of our Danger, and of his Schemes to prevent our Ruin by his Recovery of our Trade. Had they really believ'd that such vast Quantities of our Wool were yearly exported to our greatest Enemies, to our immense Loss and their immense Gains; that

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Mr. *Webber* by an Universal Registry in Charter could stop this fatal Evil, recover our lost Trade, prevent the Ruin of his Majesty the Royal Family and the whole Nation, he would soon have been admitted, desir'd, commanded to explain his Notions, and communicate his beneficial Schemes. Instead of being neglected, he would have been amply rewarded for his Fidelity and Ingenuity. The Parliament, as I have been told, gave 14000*l.* for the Invention of an Engine that starv'd many Families; what then would they not have given to Mr. *Webber* if they had thought that he could find out a Method to employ several Millions of Hands, by their Labour bring such Treasures into his Majesty's Exchequer and into the Interest of Land and Trade from Foreigners, and ease us of an almost insupportable Load of Taxes? These things may convince any one that our Condition is misrepresented, and that Mr. *Webber*, though a well-meaning Man, is a wild Projector. Indeed, as the Draper has made so many believe almost incredible Things, and the Minds of so many of his Majesty's Subjects, thro' Misapprehension, are disquieted, I could wish, for the Peace of the Nation, and the Interest of his Majesty, that the Wisdom of the Legislature would be pleas'd to make Enquiry, to procure just Representations, from the several Parts of the Kingdom, of the true State of it. The Draper insinuates that Artifices have been used to prevent Petitions, and, therefore, for his own Credit, as well as the Quiet of his Countrymen, the M——r will be the forwardest to promote such an Enquiry: and, though it is by no means credible that Mr.

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Mr. *Webber*, or Mr. London should be able to advance any thing beyond the Insight of so many Persons of Knowledge and Experience in Trade; yet, forasmuch as they have written with some Reputation upon that Subject, and are esteem'd by many to be very knowing in the Methods how to improve our Trade; it is highly probable that they will condescend to consult them, in order to give intire Satisfaction to every one. — I persuade myself, I have clear'd up this Matter so thoroughly that the Draper will come into my Opinion, and acknowledge his Mistake. However, Things of this Importance cannot be made too plain, and they may appear clearer to some People in one Light than in another, and, therefore, I am sorry my Brother Freeman has laid aside the Thoughts of enquir'g into the Condition of his Parent, the Nation, whether she be really sick, and what her Distemper is. No doubt, he enquir'd of those who have the Care of her, and was soon satisfied that she is in perfect Health; but I had so high an Opinion of his generous Nature, I imagin'd he would have been greatly pleas'd with an Opportunity of giving that Satisfaction to others; especially when his Capacity and Credit made it so easy for him to do it. — I shall trouble the Reader with one Argument more, (tho' there is no great Occasion for it) because it is an Argument not only conclusive in itself, but particularly calculated to silence the Draper. He has express'd the greatest Regard for the Citizens of London, and the greatest Opinion of their Prudence, Activity, and Generosity; every one of which is a strong Evidence against him.

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Though they were not brought up in the Wool-
len Manufacturies, consequently are not so well
versed in the manner of manufacturing Woollen
Goods and the Profits arising from Labour,
tho' they cannot judge so well of the Truth of
the Calculations, yet it is morally impossible
that they should not be competent Judges of
the general State of our Trade. If it were
really so much decay'd, they would unavoid-
ably feel it, not only in their Demands for
Goods, but in the long Credit which they are
forced to give, and their many bad Debts. If,
therefore, these Things were so, active as the
Draper has acknowledg'd them to be, they
would long ago have exerted themselves in du-
tiful, but importunate Applications to the
Throne and to the Parliament. I need not re-
mind the Reader of such recent Instances as
they have given of their Activity in Matters of
infinitely less Consequence; and, therefore,
their profound Silence in this Affair is an in-
contestible Proof that they are of Opinion,
with my Brother Freeman, that Trade is in a
very flourishing, and we in a very safe Condi-
tion. To suppose otherwise, would be to ima-
gine, that wise Men would make a mighty
Bustle, sometimes, if a Tile of their House
were broken, or one of the Rafter's were out of
repair, but sit still and unconcern'd, when the
main Beams are decay'd, or the Foundation is
undermin'd. When Mr. Webber publish'd his
Remonstrance to them, had they given the least
Credit to his Representations, had they enter-
tain'd the least Opinion of the Truth of them,
they would readily have complied with his Re-
quest, of being heard by a Committee appointed
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for that Purpose.—The Draper exults migh-
tily upon the Demand for his Pamphlet. But
he should have consider'd, before he sung Te
Deum, what his Victory was, and over whom.
I have been so inquisitive as to inform myself
whence the Demand comes. Indeed, he him-
self tells us. It was from the Gentry, the Clergy,
and the Traders in the Country. The Gentry
and Clergy might easily be impos'd upon, by
so artful a Writer, in Matters so much out of
their way. And, as to the Traders, I suppose
they were Labourers who clubb'd for a Parcel,
out of self Interest; for, we may be sure, they
are fond of any Scheme that promises them
more Work and better Wages. But, name me
any of the celebrated, any of the rich Traders
of London, who have thought it worth while
to disperse the Pamphlet either in Town or
Country; and yet, they would, they must have
thought it worth while to send it to all Parts
of the Kingdom, if they had heartily believ'd
the Contents of it. The Honours which they
have lately so justly paid to Admiral Vernon,
and the great Rewards which they have be-
stow'd on a Captain and his Sailors for an In-
stance of Bravery, this generous and grateful
Behaviour shews what Honours they would pay,
what ample Recompence they would give to
Mr. Webber, if they were convinced that his
Scheme is so much wanted, and would be so
effectual to the saving of the Nation, if they
had any Notion that he could be the happy
Occasion of feeding so many hungry Poor, of
filling the Treasury, of easing and enriching
the People. Great is the Glory of the Admi-
ral, undoubted the Merit of the other's Bravery,
but

but granting the Woollen-Manufacturies to be in such a Condition, and of such Consequence as the Draper represents, if Mr. Webber can perform what he promises, he will be a better Benefactor to his King and Country than if he had taken all the Towns in America *. Allowing that he has persever'd for near ten Years in opposition to many Difficulties, great Discouragements, and as great Temptations, to restore a consumptive Nation to Health and Vigour, this is a greater Instance of cool Courage and Resolution, than the most gallant Action perform'd in the Heat of Blood, and the Hurry of an Engagement. If this obscure Manufacturer has been able to find out a Scheme which was beyond the Reach of every one that has attempted it, tho' it has been attempted almost

* The Draper often talks of Frenchified People, while he himself is so all over French he speaks their very Language; witness the following Passage in Voltaire's Anti-Machiavel, just publish'd in English: "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 perceiv'd 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."

most as often as the Discovery of the Longitude, he has given as great an Instance of Skill as it is possible for a Man to shew in the Military Way, tho' it makes less Noise, and is not so apt to captivate Admiration.

I know well enough what Doublings an old Fox will make when he is hard run. Sometimes he will take the Water, and sometimes the Ground. Never out of his Element. It is whisper'd, aloud, by the Draper and his Party, that the Cardinal has found Ways of drawing over some of our leading Citizens to his Interest, and makes use of their Influence to lull the rest asleep; nay, that the whole City, as well as the rest of the Nation, are actually in a Dead Sleep, and never will wake again, 'till they would be glad to sleep on. If you tell them that the Citizens are so far from being asleep that, go where you will, Wool and the Necessity of stopping it are the perpetual Subject of Conversation, they have the Impudence to answer, that nothing is more common than for People to talk in their Sleep; and insist upon it, that if they were thoroughly awake, so active a Body of Men would get up and go about the Business in good Earnest. They tell you farther, that one of these French Rockers was an avow'd Advocate for a Piratical War, (the very Thing that the Cardinal and his Friend wanted) and for having the Government buy up all our Wool, that the Cardinal might have the Opportunity of making a Friend of the Factor, and get a Pack or two, now and then, for Love, or Money. What will not Men say when they have a mind to say something? They talk almost as strangely of an-

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another, who appear'd openly in favour of a Scheme to prevent the Exportation of our Wool. Nothing more fruitful than a good Invention. Could any one have believ'd it? They scruple not to say, the Cardinal ploughs with the Heifer, and uses the Interest of a certain Lady at Paris to keep a certain Gentleman quiet at London. It is a most wonderful Thing that some Folks should see so much farther into a Mill-stone than other Folks. They pretend to see Rockers on both Sides of the Cradle; and the Dice must be in the Dice if, together, they should not be able to hush the bawling Brat. It seems, some are unwilling the City of London should address his Majesty, for fear That forward Madman should get Access to the Throne, and obtain what his Majesty was pleased to grant him. He has had the Glory, and will for ever enjoy the Pleasure of serving his Country, and it is but reasonable that others should come in for their Share of Credit and Satisfaction by conducting the Scheme which he has invented. I have mention'd these idle Stories only for the Amusement of the Reader, but I desire he would grow grave again, because I am going to mention the Narrative at the End of *The Consequences*, &c. I shall take notice only of two of the Facts, the Letter pretended to be written from France to Mr. Webber, and his to the Prince of Wales; the former asserting that somebody or another has taken upon him to make Bargain and Sale of the King and Kingdom to France, the other offering to convince his Majesty of the Danger that he and his Peoole are in; that his Majesty, in the Gazette, promis'd him Access

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cess upon the Terms propos'd in the Letter, and yet that afterwards he was refused. Now, if any one can believe all this, he may believe any thing, unless we suppose Mr. Webber to be so distracted as to be below Notice; for, otherwise, his Majesty would long ago have been made acquainted with Things of such Importance to his own Safety, not only out of Fidelity to his Person, but out of Regard to the Oath of Abjuration, which I desire the Reader to peruse. If I remember, aright, the Particulars of that Oath, if any Measures tending to the Subversion of the Government come to our Knowledge, we are sworn to make them known that they may be defeated. How far the wilful Concealment of such Matters may be treasonable, I leave to the Gentlemen of the Long Robe to determine, but in Point of Conscience it requires but little Skill in Casuistry to determine whether it be not Perjury in all such as have taken that Oath; and whether the not acquainting his Majesty with them, when it is in their Power to do it, be not a wilful Concealment; or whether it be not in the Power of the City of London to address him, or of the Privy Counsellors personally to speak to him, let common Sense judge. Since, therefore, I cannot suppose Mr. Webber and the Draper to be in their Senses, without supposing all the rest of the Nation to be out of theirs, they must excuse me if I write them both Non Compos, and much fitter to make their Appearance at Bedlam, than at St. James's. If one of the Inhabitants of that Place were to write such a Letter, as Mr. Webber did, to

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the Prince of Wales, I presume it would hardly be thought proper to trouble his Majesty about it; but if it were judg'd at all likely that any one might have Matters of Importance to the Safety of his Person, or Government, to impart to him; and those about the Court should hinder him from doing it, no doubt, all his faithful Subjects would think themselves bound in Conscience to consult how they might best make him acquainted with it.

F I N I S.