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SEASONABLE

# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

## *Naturalization Bill,*

Now depending in *PARLIAMENT*; and also a clear Confutation of the City of *London's* Remonstrance to the House against it, shewing the Advantages that will accrue to *Great-Britain* by a *Naturalization*.



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*Naturalization Bill, &c.*

**I** FIND by some Paragraphs in the *London Evening Post*, of the 17th and 19th Inst. that the Subject of the *Naturalization Bill*, lately brought into Parliament, gives Occasion for great and warm Debates upon the Merits of it; and by the Votes of the House of Commons of the 16th, I observe, that a Petition was that Day presented by the Sheriffs of the City of *London*, in the Name of the City, or at least what may be called the Governing Part of the City, against the passing the *Naturalization Bill* into a Law; and by last Post, I am informed by a Gentleman of my Acquaintance, who lives at above one hundred and fifty Miles distant from the City of *London*, that some particular Members have wrote circular Letters to their Friends in the Country, to provide Petitions to be sent up to be presented against the Bill, upon the Meeting of the Parliament again after the Holidays.

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And forasmuch as I am verily perswaded, that the passing of this Bill will be of great Use and Advantage to the Nation in general, I cannot excuse myself from offering my Reasons and Arguments in favour of the Bill; and of refuting those Arguments advanced against the Bill, both in the beforementioned Petition, and also in the *London Evening Post* of the 19th Inst. said to be made use of against a general *Naturalization Bill* in the Year 1708: And I must needs say, that I am very sorry to see that such a perverse Spirit should predominate in the City of *London*, as there does appear in that Petition, which seems to be drawn up in the Spirit of a spiteful Opposition to a very salutary Measure; (I suppose understood to be projected by Gentlemen eminently concerned in the present Administration, and zealously industrious for maintaining the public Tranquility, and all our Rights, Properties, and Privileges, and for increasing our Wealth, and augmenting our Strength against both our foreign and domestic Enemies,) and I am strongly of Opinion, that if some Degree of Rancour, more than of the Spirit of Patriotism did not prevail, the Care and Concern for the Profits and Emoluments of the City, might as well be trusted to the Care and Conduct of the Representatives of the City in Parliament, as as well as many Grievances and Nufances about the City, which are neglected and left to the Care of any body that delights to take Care of those who will not take Care of themselves.

But to proceed to the Subject-Matter of the Petition; it may be observed, that the Authors of it have fallen into the same Dilemma, as those Authors frequently do, who are more concerned to advance, or support, an unrighteous Cause, or Measure, than to search after Truth in the plain and straight Way of clear Reasoning, that is to say, of being ridiculously inconsistent with themselves. You will observe, that the Petitioners alledge, in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Lines of their Petition, as it stands in the Votes, *That they apprehend that they, as Citizens of London, will be particularly affected by such a Law, by the Decrease, if not total Loss, of the Duties of Package, Scavage, Portage, and Bailage, of the Goods of foreign Merchants.*

This Clause, plainly implies, that they apprehend, that this Law will be a Means of introducing into this Nation abundance of wealthy, trading People: The very next Period says, and further expressing the Apprehensions of the Petitioners, *That the Naturalization of all foreign Protestants,*  
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*indiscriminately, is more likely to increase the Poverty, than make any Addition to the Wealth of this Nation.* And thus, you see, that as it were in the same Breath, they apprehend, they shall be detrimented by the coming in of wealthy and substantial Protestants, and also by poor and needy Protestants.

In the next Lines they say, *That a like Law being attempted in the Reign of the late King William, it was rejected, on such national Considerations, as it is presumed, can never escape the Attention, nor lose the Regard of this House; and that the Experiment being made by passing a Law for that Purpose in the Reign of the late Queen Anne, it was found so detrimental to the Public Interest, that it was shortly after repealed, and not without some Reflections on the Mischiefs it had produced.*

Now this Clause may easily deceive (as no doubt it was intended it should) any Man that does not examine the History of those Times: For the State of the Case was this; such a Law was attempted in the Reign of King *William*, and it would have passed, but that there was in the Nation a Sett of People of the same Kidney with your Petitioners, who raised a Clamour, that the King wanted to bring over his Countrymen to eat us up; and that in a Twelvemonth's Time, the Nation would all be over-run with *Dutch* Folks, and so rather than bear with such Reflections and Reproaches, the King was willing it should be dropped. In the former Part of Queen *Anne's* Reign, there was a Ministry, and a Parliament, who were so just and considerate, that they were willing that all sober honest People who approved themselves good Subjects, and inoffensive; should enjoy the Liberty and Privilege of saying their Prayers their own Way; and furthermore, that if there were any of our Protestant Brethren in other Parts of *Europe*, who were persecuted or oppressed in those Governments where they resided, they should be welcome to come here, and serve God in their own Way with us: And the passing of that Bill into a Law, afforded Matter of Joy and Consolation to all our Protestant Brethren abroad, who lived under any of those Governments where Liberty of Conscience is not allowed.

But soon after this Law was enacted, (*maximè deplorandum est!*) some fairy Phantom took a Turn in the Queen's Head, to make a Change in the Ministry; away she turns her old Servants, and her old Counsellors, and got new Counsellors

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about her, who knew not the Lord, nor true Religion, nor Humanity, nor sound Policy; and there being a Noise made by the Devil's Trumpeter, and a great Clamour by the Blackguard-People, that the Church was in Danger, (though it was not said what Church, whether it was *St. Paul's Church*, or the Church of *St. Andrew's, Holborn*; but you know that it could not be the Church of Christ, because he founded his Church upon a Rock, and said that *the Gates of Hell should not prevail against it*;) and that Parliament being dissolved which had passed the *Naturalization Bill*, and another Parliament convened, in which they got a Majority of those Gentlemen, who thought it a Glory to be reputed Champions for the High-Church, and the Wealth, Dignity, and Dominion of the Clergy; and for the Sake of obliging the Ambassadors of *Jesus Christ*, they proceeded to make such Acts as the *Occasional Conformity Bill*, and the *Schism Bill*, in order to crush their peaceable *Christian Brethren the Dissenters*; for which the High-Church Clergy honoured them with the glorious Epithet of True Sons of the Church; and these true Sons of the Church it was, who, among other noble Acts, repealed the *Naturalization Bill*, which our Petitioners refer to; and which was done for fear we should have too many *Protestants* in the Nation.

So that I presume, Sir, when you have considered what Ministry it was, and what Parliament it was, which repealed the *Naturalization Law*; you will conclude, that the Petitioners don't do themselves much Honour, by quoting the Acts of that Parliament, as an Argument against the passing the *Naturalization-Bill* into a Law at this Time: The last, and closing Clause, (though very base and malignant) is very smart, it being I suppose intended for a Flourish at going off; and this it is, *And that as Naturalization, cannot convey to Foreigners, a true Knowledge of our happy Constitution, in Church and State; or give them such Zeal and Affection for it as may be requisite in maintaining and defending it, and as those who are grown up under arbitrary Government may be fittest to answer arbitrary Purposes; too much Caution cannot be used in a Matter of such great Importance;* this last Clause to be sure was intended as a Home-stroke; but I shall shew you that this Part of it is as inconsistent, and as absurd, as what went before.

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The Foreigners, who are to come in upon the Encouragement of this Law, are to be Protestants, sufficient care is taken for that, and the principal Reason for their leaving their native Country must be, because as Protestants, they are oppressed under the arbitrary Governments where they now live; and can there appear the least Colour or Pretence to suggest, that those People who came here to be made easy from the Oppressions of arbitrary Governments, would afford their Aid and Assistance towards making this Government Arbitrary?

I think your Petitioners do not seem to know what the Ways and Means are, that will make such a Government as ours is arbitrary, and therefore for their Information, I will describe it. In order to make such a Government as ours is Arbitrary, it is necessary for the Prince, and his Ministry, to enter into a Combination with the Priests; the Priest is first of all to enslave the People's Minds, to Superstition and Bigotry, and then the Prince and his Ministry may enslave their Bodies; but so long as a sensible People can exercise their Minds in thinking for themselves, and their Tongues, and Pens, in communicating their Sentiments to each other, by which Means their Knowledge will be extended, and their Understandings enlarged; I defy all the Powers on Earth to enslave them; and so Sir, I take my Leave of your Petitioners for the present, only recommending you to read it over again, as it stands in the Votes (for that is what I write by) and I believe you will find, that there is not the Appearance of either a good Principle, good Reason, or good Sense, from the first Line to the last.

I come now to the Arguments inserted in the *London Evening Post*, said to be made use of against the Bill in 1708.

*The first Argument is that probably the Effect of such a Law would be that the Aliens would owe Allegiance to their respective Princes, and retain a Fondness for their native Country, and be Spies, and Enemies; and the professed Enemies of our Church might come over with Design to overthrow it.*

*Reply.* It is allowed to be a general good Rule to draw Conclusions upon what may be like to happen in Future, from what has happened before in the like Cases: and if we reflect upon the Conduct of foreign Protestants, who have formerly come to settle in our Dominions, we shall find, the most considerable  
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have been the *French Refugees*, the *Palatines*, and the *Saltzburghers*; the former have always behaved like a loyal, sober, industrious, religious People; and they have chiefly employed themselves in such Manufactures as we were not well skilled in before they came, and the improving and Advancement thereof, has brought very great Advantages to this Nation; and for the *Palatines*, and *Saltzburghers*, they not being permitted to settle here, transported themselves mostly to *Pensylvania*; where they have always behaved very soberly, peaceably, and inoffensively, and remarkably industrious, both in Husbandry, as well as in Manufactures; and they are esteemed in that Country, as useful and valuable a Community as any in *America*.

As for the Danger of the Church (the stale Topick constantly lugged in upon those Occasions by People void of Charity and Hospitality) there is no Instance can be shewn that any of those foreign Protestants ever troubled the Church: They have a Church of their own, mostly of the *Lutheran* way, pretty much resembling the Church of *England*, and they have never any where offered any Affront, or Disturbance to any other Church: But I can give you a Recipe that will infallibly secure the Church for ever.

Let the Church never trouble other People, and other People will never trouble the Church: Towards the latter Part of King *Charles* the First's Reign, the Church was most sadly demolished that is the Truth of it; but how came it to pass? Archbishop *Laud*, as the Head of the Church, next under the King, persuaded the King to send the Church down to *Scotland*, to disturb the People there; and put them out of their own Way of Worship, who before were very quiet and loyal Subjects; and would never have come up to *Lambeth* to disturb the Church, if the Church had not begun with them first, and that very Measure, contributed more towards ruining the Church, and the King, than any one Thing besides.

The 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th Arguments, have not Weight enough in them to deserve a particular Reply to each; and therefore I shall take them together. The Substance of them is, that our People will be likely to be disgusted, and there will be Jealousies, and as they would be likely to be mostly Manufacturers, we should have more Hands than Work, and that Hands to carry on our Manufactures were not wanted, and that there were no Instances of any Refugees  
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betaking themselves to the Spade, Plough, or any Manner of Toil. To all which I answer, as to the Disgusts and Jealousies, &c. there is nothing in that worth Regard, it being only the mere Humour of unintelligent and disaffected People.

Whatever might in the Year 1708 be the State of our Manufactures, I am sure, that at this Time, Hands are much wanted in many Parts of the Nation, to work in the Woollen Manufactures, the Masters complaining that they cannot get Hands enough to make up such Quantities of Woollen Goods as the Merchants make a Demand for; whether any of the *French Refugees* were Husbandmen, or employed themselves in that Way or no, I cannot say; but this I know, that sufficient Numbers of the *Palatines*, and *Saltzburghers*, who went to *Pensylvania* were Husbandmen; and they are allowed now to be the best, and most industrious Husbandmen in all *North America*; and had not so much Poverty among them, but that they could hire Ships in *Holland*, and some in *England*, to transport their Families, and Effects to that Country; and when they arrived there, had Money, or Goods enough, to purchase Lands, and to begin the World with, without being beholding to the former Inhabitants: And it is well known, that among those *French* Protestants who are now incorporated with us, there were a great many substantial People, who brought with them, or had sent after them, considerable Effects.

It is obvious to every Citizen of *London*, that every Summer, abundance of Hands are wanted to help to get in the Harvest in the adjacent Counties, and upon that Account the City is pestered with thousands of *Irish* People, even about the *Exchange* you meet with them, that it is troublesome walking the Street for Fear their Pitchforks should run in your Eyes, and of a *Sunday* they swarm so thick about the *Roman Catholick* Chapel in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, that the Sight of them is shocking, and alarms many People with Apprehensions of the City being in Danger from them: and yet I could never observe that the Magistrates give themselves any Concern about them, and perhaps the Reason of neglecting them may be, because they are *Roman Catholicks*; and if there be a little Rain in Harvest Time, they make that a Pretence for begging, and their Pitchforks they make use of instead of a Certificate, and for their further Encouragement, I have observed in a rainy Time, that  
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Collections have been made at the *Royal-Exchange* of a great many Pounds at a Time to distribute amongst them; and what is most provoking of all is, that hundreds of them will be stroling about the Streets, begging, when it has been fine Harvest Weather abroad, and yet the Magistrates and Parish Officers take no Notice.

The Preamble of this *Naturalization Bill*, now brought into the House says,

*Whereas the Increase of People is a Means of advancing the Wealth and Strength of a Nation :*

*And whereas many Strangers of the Protestant, or Reformed Religion, out of a due Consideration of the happy Constitution of the Government of this Realm, would probably be induced to transport themselves and their Effects into this Kingdom, if they might be made Partakers of the Advantages and Privileges which the natural-born Subjects thereof do enjoy. Be it Enacted, &c.*

Now it may be demonstrated twenty Ways, that the Increase of People is a Means of advancing the Wealth and Strength of a Nation: I will instance two or three: Is it not notorious to all the World, and allowed by every one who either writes, or speaks of it? that the Expulsion of the *Moors* out of old *Spain*, was the worst Step that ever that Government took, and that that Measure, together with such great Numbers transporting themselves to *America*, has so reduced the Kingdom of *Old Spain*, that it is not now accounted to be half so considerable either for Wealth or Strength, that it was before those two Events happened; Houses and Lands for the most Part in *Old Spain* let but at half the Rents, that they did two or three Centuries ago, notwithstanding the immense Quantities of Gold and Silver brought since into that Kingdom from the *West-Indies*, which has been very far from ballancing the Loss they have suffered from the Decrease of their People; while *Holland*, from a Bog, thinly inhabited, and only by the poorest and lowest of Mankind, has, by an Accession of People, and consequently Trade, grown into a rich and powerful Country,

Country, and by Industry made it pleasant, though the Produce of their whole Land is not sufficient to furnish Cheese for all its Inhabitants.

A Number of People must make a trading Country rich, for as every one must eat and wear something, so he must purchase Meat and Cloaths, and if he has no Estate, must by Labour and Industry obtain them; and almost every Writer on this Subject will shew how many Trades the poorest Man must employ, (or perish with Hunger and Cold,) and as he spends all he gets among the several Trades, what that is, is so much gained to the Nation, as the poorest Man must spend something, or he cannot live, and his Employer must get something likewise by his Labour, which is another Advantage to Trade, and so on. Experience is a good Mistress, and when backed with Reason, the best; and that both declare on this Side the Question is easily determined by any one who will give himself the Trouble of Thinking, and has Sense or Courage enough to lay aside Prejudice, and dissent from the noisy, though senseless, Clamour of a Party.

There is one Sett of Men who will never see such a Bill as this pass without great Anger and Clamour, unless they should part with their rebellious and destructive Principles. I mean those who are the determined Enemies to our present happy Establishment. There must, and always will be, against this, or any Bill of this Kind, and for this obvious Reason, that all Protestants who settle here, under the Protection of the present Royal Family, must and will be zealous Supporters of them, and will breed up their Children in the same Principles; which Children, being natural-born Subjects, will be so many Thousand true Friends to the said happy Establishment of the illustrious House of *Hanover*, which being a great Accession of Strength to it, cannot, without great Pain and Envy, be seen by their Enemies, who must, consequently, be Enemies to the *Protestant* Religion also.

But I hope the Eyes of the Nation are so thoroughly opened by the late Rebellion, that a very great Majority see the true and real Interest

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Interest of their Country, and will, on this Occasion, shew they are not in Words (only) but in Effect, sincere to the *Protestant Cause*, and consequently to his present Majesty and his Family.

Again; a certain Sum of Money must annually be raised to defray the Charges of any Government, and a certain Number of Forces must be employed, especially in War, to support and defend the Nation: Suppose then, that there is in a Nation Five Millions of People, and that Five Millions of Pounds must annually be raised to answer the Exigencies of the State, that is Twenty Shillings *per Head*; but if, instead of Five Millions of People, they could be increased to Ten Millions, then each Individual would have but Ten Shillings to pay; and if it will be necessary to raise Forty Thousand Men to defend this Nation against an Enemy, that Number of Men are easier to be raised out of Ten Millions of Inhabitants than out of Five: And I believe that nobody will pretend to dispute that the Lands in this Kingdom may so far be improved, as to be able to feed twice the Number of Inhabitants, the Advantage will be very great to the Landholder; for as the multiplying the Number of Mouths to be fed, will make the greater Demand for Corn, and other Produce of the Land, the Farmer will be continually improving his Land, which will consequently prove to the Advantage of the Owner.

There is nothing in this Nation more apparent, than that those Lands which lye round, contiguous to any populous City or Town, do yield a much greater Rent than Lands of equal Goodness do, which are situated at a greater Distance from a populous Place; and if the Inhabitants could be so much increased, as to make all the Nation as populous as the County of *Middlesex*, then those distant Lands which are now lett but at small Rents, would increase in Value.

There has been formerly a mean, selfish Spirit diffused among the lower Class of People, that if any Number of new Inhabitants were introduced, they would take away the Livelihood, the Work, and the Bread of our Inhabitants; and this Notion is propagated at this Time  
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by some Persons of higher Rank, who are not willing to see the Nation prosper, or at least not to prosper under the present Administration; but this Notion is in the Nature of it, as false as malicious.

It is self-evident, that no Man can live by himself, nor no Family, so as to enjoy the Comforts and Conveniencies of Life, every Man that works at any Trade, or Occupation, for the Use and Conveniencies of others; as for Instance, among Manufacturers and Mechanicks, as Weavers, Taylors, Shoemakers, &c. has at the same Time many others working for him: There are continually a hundred Trades, and Artificers employed in furnishing all the Necessaries and Conveniencies that one Family will call for, and those again in their Turn, are employed in providing Things for the Use of others; and by how much the more Populous a Nation is, by so much the more ready, and cheaper, can every Individual be supplied with what they want; and our extensive Trade to all Parts of the World, and our fine Situation for the best Navigation of any Nation in the World, puts us in a Capacity to vend in other Countries, all the Surplus of our Produce, and Manufacturers, that we cannot make Use of at Home.

It was the Opinion of Sir *William Petty* many Years ago, that it would be for the Advantage of *Great-Britain*, if the whole Land of *Scotland* were sunk in the Sea, provided the Inhabitants were brought in to improve the Lands in *England*. And Sir *Josuah Child*, who was esteemed a worthy and ingenious Merchant of the City of *London*, and a Gentleman who understood the Interest of this Nation in its Trade and Navigation very well, writes a Chapter in his Book called *A new Discourse of Trade*, on the Subject of *Naturalization*; it is Chapter 7th, in which he says, *That an Act of Naturalization of Strangers, which would tend to the Advancement of Trade, and increase of the Value of the Lands of this Kingdom, is now so generally owned, and assented to, by all Degrees of Men amongst us; that I doubt not but a short Time will produce, some Act or Acts of Parliament to that Purpose: —* And in the next Chapter concerning Wool and Woollen Manufactures, He says, *That one Cause of the Exportation of our Wool, is the Want of Hands to work it up here, which, says he, an Act of Naturalization would cure.*

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And that laudable Undertaking which has been carried on lately in *Ireland*, of erecting Working-Schools, where the poor Children are admitted very young, and trained up to read, and to work, at the Expence of abundance of generous Subscribers both in that Nation, and in this also; does manifestly shew, that it is the Sense of all those worthy and numerous Benefactors, that the Increase of the Number of working Hands is a national Benefit; and if we can by a *Naturalization Law* add to the Number of working Hands, those thus introduced will still be more profitable than those other before mentioned; because they will be mostly educated to work before they come here, and will probably bring considerable Effects with them. For these, and many more Reasons, which might be rendered, I hope that the *Naturalization Bill* will be passed into a Law, maugre the Opposition of envious and prejudiced People against it.

FINIS.

