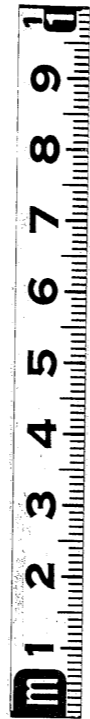


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LETTERS
CONCERNING THE
TRADE and MANUFACTURES.
OF
SCOTLAND;
Particularly the WOOLLEN and LINEN MANUFACTURES.

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable Convention of the ROYAL
BOROUGHs of SCOTLAND.

THIRD EDITION:

With LARGE ADDITIONS.

By DAVID LOCH, MERCHANT.

EDINBURGH:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by all the BOOKSELLERS in
Town and Country.

M,DCC,LXXV.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

*Presented by the Author to the Right Hon. Lord Esq. Earl
of Argyll & Glencairn, his Lordship's Secretary*

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LETTERS

BY

DAVID LOCH,

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

SIR, November 28. 1774.

MUCH has been said and printed on the present unhappy difference that subsists betwixt Great Britain and her colonies. We, in this country, have no merit, either in the discovery or conquest of them. It is our sister kingdom England, which has the sole merit of both. In consequence of the Union, however, we came to have an equal share with them in the trade and commerce to these settlements; and, since that period, we have done our part to people, protect, and support them.

A great deal has been thrown out as to their charters. By what authority did they hold these charters? Did these charters defend them from the encroachments of the French and Indians, who drove them out of all the fast holds they had in the back settlements, and; would have drove the whole of them into the Atlantic, had it not been for the troops from Great Britain? I had almost said, from the Highlands of Scotland; for they most undoubtedly conquered America more than it was done in Germany. Lord Chatham, when he wanted to pay compliments to his own abilities, as a prime minister, could not help bringing those hardy and intrepid race of men to his aid. "Much, says he, neglected in the war before last, they had nigh overturned the State; yet these very men, in the late war, I brought to combat on your side: they served with fidelity as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world; and in no part were they more serviceable than in North America."

How did the North Americans behave under Bradock? The time

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Printed for the Author by David Loch, Printer of the Caledonian Mercury, Glasgow.

is not so distant but most of us will remember, what a despicable figure they made, both in the field, and in supplying the troops, sent not only to preserve their country, but themselves from being scalped. Trusting to their support, and to save them from perdition, how many of our brave countrymen lost their lives? among others, a Sir Peter Halket, an ornament to his country and to mankind. I had the honour to be known to Sir Peter; his life was of more value than many Americans. Now, however, the time is come, that they have forgot all these most essential services done them; services that have cost this nation at least the blood of 15,000 good men, and 20,000,000 l. of good Sterling money; and, when parliament taxes an article of luxury or effeminacy, of no real use, I mean *Tea*, what a noise do they make! Would to God that all our taxes were laid on that destructive, mean, insignificant Article, and taken off the necessaries of life! Happy would it then be for this country. Let those who drink tea, pay for it; and, on condition the duties were taken off salt and leather, of which the poor pay almost the whole, I heartily wish it were at 30 s. per pound.

The way and manner the people in Boston took to disappoint Government of raising this duty, is indeed without precedent. No sooner is it brought into port, than they make a formal attack upon it; as if the tea was to come into their houses, and to levy the tax of itself. Had they let the tea been landed, and suffered it to rot before they would use or purchase it, they would have acted like rational men: Or, if it was rotten before it came to hand, as I have heard some giddy-headed people say, why buy it, or have any thing to do with it? The East India Company was not to oblige or force them to purchase their goods. But to allow a lawless banditti to commit piracy in open sun-shine, and not to endeavour, by every means, to oppose them, was acquiescing in their crime. Had I been master of the ship the tea was on board, with my ten Scots boys at my back, (and I am no fighting man,) each of us should have shot our man, before they had taken up the hatches, if we should have been cut to pieces in the end. A bill of lading is a sacred writing. The shipmaster obliges himself to deliver his cargo, *sea hazard excepted*. As there was no war, they were pirates that presumed to touch his cargo; and as such they should have been treated by the shipmaster, and the inhabitants of Boston. If, therefore, the Bostonians did not use their utmost endeavours to prevent them from an open violation of the laws of every country, and to secure the persons of the pirates, they ought to pay all the cost of the goods, and every expence and damage

damage incurred. Were the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith tamely to look on, and allow a lawless mob to go on board a ship in Leith harbour, or in the road of Leith, and suffer the cargo to be taken out and destroyed before their faces, without doing the utmost in their power to prevent it, they would, by the law, be obliged to pay the damages, and undergo a severe censure from their country and all good men.

I have been twice in America, and traded considerably to different parts of it, but not to advantage, as I could not get payments. I have, at present, several hundred pounds due there, which I would willingly give a right to for as many hundred pence. And I verily believe, were the Americans to balance accounts with this country, all their boasted wealth and property would not discharge the just and lawful debts due by them to the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland.

D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

SIR,

21. Dec. 1774.

I Some time ago, through the channel of your useful paper, gave my sentiments as to the Americans. I beg leave now, by the same channel, to give some hints as to their trade; and how much they are obliged to the Mother Country for that trade, and every blessing they enjoy.

Great Britain, to enable and encourage them to clear the country of the woods, that totally covered America, gave a bounty, and still continues it, on all their fir and pine timber fit for masts, yards, bowsprits, &c. of 20 s. Sterling for each ton of 40 cubick feet, customary girt measure, which is equal to 6 d. every solid foot.

The bounty on their hemp and flax is no less than 6 l. *per ton*.

For every barrel of tar, made in the ordinary manner, 6 s. *per barrel*; each barrel to contain 31 gallons, English measure.

For tar made by particular directions, 10 s. *per barrel*.

For every barrel of Pitch, 2 s. 6 d. *per barrel*.

For every barrel of turpentine, 3 s. 9 d. *per barrel*.

For every pound of indigo, if but half the value of that made by the French, 6 d. *per pound*, English weight.

Now, Sir, when we consider what great premiums these are, and how

how much they have contributed towards the improvement of that wild uncultivated country; I may with great truth say, that the money paid by the inhabitants of this kingdom, has done the whole that is done. After all this is allowed them, when their goods come to market, we pay the full market price; and I do assure you, the value of the bounties paid will almost purchase goods of the same species and quality in Russia, Sweden, Norway, and other parts of Europe, indigo excepted; and the bounty of 6 d. per lib. is a very high bounty, and a great encouragement to raise it. Who has made these haughty people lords of so fine a country? At the expence of how many millions have we, the subjects of this kingdom, purchased these lands, and protected and secured them to the present possessors, I dare say, at more expence than they will sell for?

I do think, rather than put this nation and government to more trouble and expence, we had better set the country up to public sale; for they cannot say the lands are not our property. If so, let them pay off the heritable and lawful debts due to the public and private people of Great Britain and Ireland; there will then be little or no balance left to the present possessors. They, and they alone, involved us into the last bloody and expensive war; now, they will not so much as in the least aid us to pay the interest of the money borrowed on their account, to keep them from being scalped. They pretend great loyalty to the King; but God forbid such a good man were trusted among such a canting hypocritical people. If they were left to the dictates of their own great judgments and wisdom, every one of them would chuse to be king on his own estate, and every merchant be king in the town he resides in, or at his own store-house. Then trade and commerce would flourish, and what not?

D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury, 31. Dec. 1774.

PLAN to reduce the AMERICANS to OBEDIENCE.

TAKE off the bounties given upon the importation of their goods; let them carry none to any market but to Britain, Ireland, and the West India islands, our own property, and no other; and, to prevent them from trading with the French, Spanish, or any other settlements, let them go under convoy of our men of war, and take

take sailing orders; in which let the owners of the ships and cargo be mentioned, and the bill of lading be affixed to the sailing orders; the ships to pay all attention, as under convoy in time of war, as to the signals, rendezvous, &c.

Ten frigates of 32 guns, ten ships of 20 guns, and twenty sloops of 14 guns each, will do the business, and employ our seamen and soldiers. Let each ship have only 2-3ds of her complement of sailors; let the other 1-3d, to make up the full complement, be soldiers, which may be stationed thus:

2 Sloops, 14 guns, at Savannah in Georgia.

2 Ships, 20 guns, and two sloops 14 each, at Charles-Town, South Carolina.

2 Sloops at Wilmington, Cape Fear, North Carolina.

1 Ship 20 guns, one sloop at Smert Sound Albemarle.

2 Frigates, two sloops, Cape Henry, and Cape Charles, Chifwick's Bay, Virginia.

1 Frigate, two sloops, Maryland.

2 Frigates, two sloops, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

2 Frigates, two ships, 20 guns, three sloops, Long Island and Newport.

3 Frigates, five ships 20 guns, four sloops, at Boston and in the Massachusetts Bay, Salem, &c. Or in such manner as the Lords of the Admiralty shall think most for the good of the service, and will most surely contribute speedily to bring these ungrateful Americans to their duty, and their own good; I had almost said, their *salvation*. Remove the whole military, except such as have been always employed in their forts and garrisons; for the money spent by the troops feeds them, and spirits them up to rebellion.

To prevent the necessity of a convoy going to Great Britain, let the masters, owners, and merchants, who ship the goods, find security in double the value of ship and cargo, that they shall really and truly land them in some part of Great Britain or Ireland, (sea-hazard excepted) and no where else, or forfeit their bond to the public; and, to relieve the bond, they shall have two certificates under the hands of the collector, comptroller, and surveyor of the port where the cargo is discharged, as to the true performance, so as they can transmit one by first ships, and keep the other to be brought over to America by themselves, to relieve their bond, or cancel it.

Every man of property, obstructing or flying in the face of the laws made by Great Britain, should forfeit his whole estate and effects,

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as guilty of high treason against the state; and all merchants and others, forfeit their goods and chattles, and their persons be sent home to the country from which they or their forefathers originally came; for there is not one in ten of them who was either himself, or his forefathers, born in Great Britain: They are mostly made up of German emigrants, French refugees, and convicts of all nations transplanted from Great Britain and Ireland, who never could get bread in their own country; yet they forsooth must boast what their forefathers did to support our constitution: For shame! that Britain should be deluded by such a hotchpotch medley of foreign enthusiastic madmen; who, whilst they throw dirt at the family that gave them most of their charters, praise Lord Chatham for ruining them, and hurting the mother country. At the same time, they rail at Lord Bute for making a peace that gave them a quiet possession of all that vast country, by getting the French to give up every place in North America to the Crown of Great Britain. I was in London at the time the peace was in agitation. I had the honour of being well acquainted with Sir Henry Erskine, the Right Honourable James Oswald, and many people in power at that period. I have often been asked, what the opinion of the merchants was. I always told them, the acquisition of all North America, upon our back settlements, was the great object. I own, my worthy friend Sir H. Erskine foresaw things which did not at that time occur to me; he often said, "These people are turbulent. It would be better to leave part of Canada to the French, to keep them in a proper subordination." I have even heard some very sensible merchants on the Change of London say so; but by far the greatest number were for the terms which were agreed to; and a glorious peace it was!

These inflammatory letters, from the general Congress to the people of Great Britain, and to their friends and fellow-subjects of Quebec, are wrote upon the most fallacious and base principles; not a word of truth from beginning to end, except what they quote from my late most worthy correspondent, the great Baron Montesquieu. Had they a trial at his court and constitution, or the King of Prussia's, that protestant hero, they would soon be brought to themselves, and to good manners. In short, these detestable letters are not conceived in the style of merchants, by whom only they ought to have been wrote; but appear to be the productions of some banished English or Irish attorney, or limb of the law, who has banished himself from this country;

country; or by some of the vermin of the clergy, who infest that deluded country and people. * I am &c.

D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

January 9. 1775.

IT is with the greatest pleasure I perceive, that his Grace the Duke of Argyle, my Lord Gardenston, and many other worthy gentlemen in Scotland, are now patronizing its staple, the Woollen Manufacture. I have of late been in several houses where these Manufactures are carried on; and could observe, that, with proper encouragement, great things might be done. I could wish to see our nobility and gentry pay the same attention to the article of porter, on which I have already said a good deal. I can, with the greatest truth, affirm, that it is brewed, by all the gentlemen I formerly mentioned, to a degree of perfection, much superior to the common run of that sold by many in Edinburgh, as London porter. It is a great misfortune to the people in this country, that they

* The author took the liberty of transmitting to Lord North, a copy of the Caledonian Mercury, in which this letter first made its appearance. He at the same time used the freedom of writing his opinion to his Lordship on the subject, and of offering his advice, as a private person, and a friend to the mother country, in what manner the Americans might be brought to a sense of their duty, and allegiance to their parent state, with the least prejudice to either of the contending parties. This the author did not think prudent to publish to the world at the time. Indeed, such a step would have entirely destroyed the very intention of the writer, had his Lordship adopted any part of the plan proposed, which was not the case. The outlines of the author's plan was, To impress all the seamen, belonging to the American vessels, from the Cabin boy to the Master, and to rate them on board the ships of war sent to block up their ports; at the highest wages any of them ever received, when employed in the merchants service. To land no troops at any of the ports so blocked up; as the money spent by the troops would enable the Americans the longer to continue their resistance, after a stop was put to their trade; and also might be productive of bloodshed, which in part has already happened, and, it is much to be feared, will be greatly increased, before any accommodation takes place. The reason why the author was solicitous to have all the seamen in America impressed was this: Though he has the highest esteem for that useful and brave set of men, yet long experience amongst them has convinced him, that they would rather do mischief than be idle. If he might be allowed a conjuncture, he could almost venture to say, that the repulse which the king's troops met with at Lexington, was occasioned chiefly by so many honest industrious fellows being thrown out of employment. If any future skirmish shall happen, which the author wishes may not be the case, he is much afraid, that these poor destitute seamen, who might have been employed, with advantage to themselves and their country, on board of the ships of war, will, as the case now stands, prove the most intrepid enemies which our troops will meet with in the field; whereas, if these seamen had been on board our ships of war, they would have had much influence in making the merchants and others come into reasonable terms. The author is sensible, that the impressing of the seamen may be objected to, as being against law. But, in answer to this, it may be observed, that necessity has no law; and that it is always customary to impress seamen in the time of war.

they give countenance to those articles with which we can so well supply ourselves: We even encourage publicans who are strangers, though they have the insolence to refuse felling porter, because it is Scots. Think, for a moment, countrymen, and feel for that country which gave you existence: Let us go hand in hand with our sister country, in doing every thing to promote the good of both; but let us observe the old proverb, *Charity begins at home*.—I have lately heard, that a porter-house returned a few dozens of porter, because it was Scots. A certain set of *Merchants*, if they may be so called, (being rather *porter-bottlers*) have the great hand in carrying on this pernicious trade. Nor must I pass over those worthies, the tax-gatherers for the impost, who, in order to rob the country of 10 s. each hoghead, become importers forsooth, and what not.

I am surpris'd to observe, that Mr A. B. from Dumfries, should complain, that no notice has been as yet taken of *Agricola's Letters*: I can inform him, that they were very early taken notice of by me in my Letters, and by every body with whom I had the pleasure of being in company, who had the welfare of their country at heart: And I have often asked him, and still wish, that Agricola, for his own honour, and that of his country, would put his real name to his excellent letters.

D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

January 23. 1775.

I Have always averred, that the Woollen is the great staple of Scotland, and have therefore long paid particular attention to that branch, which, I am sorry to observe, has not met with that encouragement from the public which it deserves. The Linen Manufacture, having always been the favourite of the public attention, has, at different times, met with many encouragements. Among others, the late institution of a Linen Hall is not the least considerable. I would be far from proposing to have these discontinued; but what I would humbly suggest, is, That the Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures, &c. should advertise, That the Linen-Hall will take in likewise all *Woollen cloth*, with the maker's name and price affixed, in the same manner as the Linen, and give orders, that 2-3ds of the value shall be paid the proprietor, on delivery of the goods into the Hall, after being valued by people of skill, and the remainder of the colours;

price paid the owner, when turned into cash; and that no charge shall be laid on the Manufacturer, but the interest of the money advanced. The time of sale to be the same as is observed with regard to the Linen.

I am well informed, that in many places in the North of Scotland, Orkney, Zetland, &c. they are in use to *row* the sheep, as they call it; that is, pull off the wool with their hands, much to the hurt of the sheep and the wool. Could the trustees bestow part of the public money better, than to send a few sheep shearers into these places, with the proper implements for cutting the wool off the sheep, as we do in this country, and otherwise to instruct them as to washing the sheep, cleansing the wool, and every operation necessary; particularly, with regard to the dying the different colours, &c.? I was always told, we behoved to get people from our sister country, England, to aid us in carrying on this most beneficial and useful manufacture; but, upon enquiry, and investigation of facts, I find no aid is wanted from any country on earth, as we have people well skilled in every part of that business, from shearing the sheep, to bringing the cloth of all dyes, from black to the finest scarlet, buff, and all colours, that are done in England, and at much less expence. I find, that the business of dying, and most other branches, has been carried on in England, by our own countrymen, many of whom are at the head of the profession. In short, the whole operation of this valuable manufacture can be done, not only in this metropolis and neighbourhood, but in most parts of Scotland, if the noblemen and gentlemen gave their countenance and support, by taking the goods when brought to market.

I have heard, that some gentlemen think, if the number of sheep were increased, it would lower the price of mutton, and consequently lessen the value of their land; but this proceeds from a mistake; for the wool alone will afford to pay the present rents; and, if the mutton were at half the price it now bears, the advantage that would thereby accrue to the manufacturer and the country in general is so self-evident as to require no argument in its support; for, if so many sheep were fed as to overstock our own market, it could be salted, and sent to foreign markets, with much profit to the country. The most northern settlement in Europe salt and sends to market, the greatest quantity of mutton, and the fattest I ever saw (I mean Iceland, belonging to the king of Denmark). I have bought it at Copenhagen, and excellent provision it was. From hence we may see, how well sheep thrive in a cold climate, and what vast quantities

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ties of coarse cloth and stockings come from thence; so that if proper care were taken of the breed of their sheep, and attention paid thereto, I have not the smallest doubt of their wool being as good as those of more southern climates; but that is not attended to. They are, however, in one respect, better farmers than we in the Lothians, who think it necessary to preserve their sheep during the winter, to smear them over with tar; a practice not only expensive, but destructive to the wool. In those northern countries they tar none; nor indeed is smearing with tar practised any where to the north of the Forth, in Wales, or any where in England, a few counties excepted; and these, I am told, are become sensible of the impropriety of continuing so bad and expensive a practice. The continuing it, because our fathers and grandfathers used this method, puts me in mind of the custom of last century, when it was usual to burn, for witches, the most sensible old women in the country. Thank God, times have altered much to the better! I believe no judge nor jury could, in this land, be found now a-days so hardy or cruel, as to condemn any man, or woman for the crime of witchcraft: I hope the smearing of sheep with tar will likewise be abolished, as it really destroys the wool, and by no means preserves the sheep, either from cold, rot or scab. Many things, as I formerly mentioned in my letters, can be substitute in its place, with much advantage to the farmer and his country.

D. LOCH,

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

March 25. 1775.

AFTER all the bustle made by some of the honourable gentlemen in the opposition, I must be pardoned to say, notwithstanding their great oratorial powers, that they either do not understand the American trade, or wilfully misrepresent it.

As facts are the best and most stubborn arguments in all cases, I always chuse to make use of them. In my letters of the 28th November and 21st December last, inserted in your paper, I took the liberty of pointing out several very material facts, with regard to the bounties and other encouragements given the Americans, and also took notice of the illicit trade they carry on in the west Indies, as well as with the Dutch, French, and Spaniards. Even this does not satisfy them. They go further in cheating the mother country.

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They carry on a great smuggling trade with many ports in Europe: Those which come within my own knowledge, I shall now mention; they are, Archangel, Peterburgh, Riga, Hamburgh, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, &c. At times they call at some ports in Great Britain, and clear out part of their cargoes for our own plantations; but the part that is liable to high duties is cleared for St Eustatia, or some free port in the West Indies; by which means they deprive the revenue of these duties, while all the commodities are landed in our own settlements.

One would think, after such evasive schemes to rob the Mother Country, the Americans would find few if any advocates for them in the British senate. These honourable gentlemen, however, who are fond of the name of Patriot, and which is very liberally bestowed upon them by the multitude in our neighbouring kingdom, with a degree of effrontery not easy to be accounted for, hold forth, that the Americans pay large sums of duties and excise to the revenue, for the goods they take from us.

The best answer to these gentlemen's false and fallacious arguments, as I before hinted, are facts. Some of these I will beg leave to submit to the public; from which it will appear how little the revenue is benefited by the boasted importation of the Americans from Great Britain. In this view, I must inform these gentlemen, as they seem not to have known it before, that the Americans pay no duty on any necessary or conveniency of life taken from Great Britain, which we see fall very heavy upon us.—I shall here enumerate such as at present occur to me.

The duties are drawn back by the exporter on all malt liquors; and spirits made in great Britain, as well as the bottles which contain them—on all glass—on leather, however manufactured—on cordage made from foreign hemp—on soap, candles, salt, paper, vellum, cards, starch, gold and silver lace, and many other articles.—Almost the whole duties, paid on foreign linen, are drawn back, and bounties given on most of our own made linen and canvass, equal to all the duties paid on soap, pot, pearl, wood and weed ashes, made use of in bleaching and whitening the same.—From this it must appear, that as the Americans are altogether exempted from land-tax, they can live at one half the expence it must cost our poor labourers, and indeed all classes of people in this country.

I am fully perswaded, that the inhabitants of the city of Edinburgh, and port of Leith, pay more duty and excise annually, than all America does to the revenue of Great Britain. I can therefore see no reason

reason that we should pay the army and navy for their protection, if they will not contribute equally. That we should be saddled with near two millions annually to pay the interest of money borrowed on their account, to keep them from being scalped; or drove out of all their boasted free country into the Atlantic, appears to me, and, I dare say, to every impartial inhabitant in South and North Britain, extremely hard and unjust. How can we ever expect to lessen the public debts, or get free of those taxes on salt, leather, and malt liquors, which, in a particular manner, affect the poor, if we are to pay the Americans debts as well as our own? Let them pay 25 s. annually, each individual, as we do, raise it as they please; but let this nation have it to ease numbers of her tradesmen, manufacturers, porters, and labouring people of every denomination. The Americans have good land at sixpence *per* acre, for which our honest farmers pay at least 20 s. besides the numberless taxes under which this country at present labours. The goods and manufactures we send to America are paid us in their own produce. We seldom or never get specie from them; that they employ elsewhere, to carry on their clandestine trade.

I intended to have troubled you with some thoughts on the subject of *representation* and *taxation*, but, as this has been very ably handled in your paper of late, I shall decline it for the present. Give me leave only to say, that *taxation* and *representation* do by no means go hand in hand in this country. The oratory of a Chatham, a Burke, or a Barre, shall never cram that sophistry down my throat: nor, I hope, will it ever have the least effect on his Majesty's good subjects here, to prevent them from paying the taxes laid on in a parliamentary constitutional manner, by King, Lords and Commons. Party-spirit, for the sake of opposition, and to shew their great talents, has almost ruined America. I long since took the liberty of writing Lord Chatham so. And am, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

D. L O C H.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

February 22. 1775.

SINCE the first letter I offered to the public, which was so far back as March last, on the trade, commerce, and manufactures of this country, I have uniformly maintained, that the woollen, in all

all its branches, was, by far, the most beneficial; and, if attended to, would turn out of great advantage to every individual.

The author of the *Considerations on the Scots Broad Cloth Manufactory*, has pointed out the many good effects the establishing it will have. I am certain he is right in every argument he makes use of; nor is any thing he advances exaggerated in the smallest degree.

It gives me the highest pleasure to hear, that the Hon. Board of Trustees are to allow the woollen goods to be taken into their Hall in the Canongate, on the same principles and terms as the linens have been for some time past. This will enable the woollen manufacturers to bring their goods to market at little expence, and support them with money to carry on their trade. Whichever of the banks affords this supply, it could not fail of turning out greatly to the advantage of their proprietors; as the honest tradesman will not trouble them for cash, but will put their notes in the true circle, for which banking was at first established. The security of pledges of a staple commodity has always been esteemed the most certain fund. The practice of the most ancient banks is the best proof that can be given of its utility. Witness the banks of Amsterdam, Venice, and Hamburg, who, adhering strictly to this maxim, receive no other security than real value pledged with them.

The materials for making cloths from 2 s. 6 d. to 13 s. 6 d. *per* yard, we have among ourselves; as well as those for making hats from 1 s. to 12 s. 6 d. *per* hat. I am well informed, by some sensible, substantial, and long experienced makers of hats, that the pile of the fur, on our hare and rabbit skins, is equal, if not superior, to that produced in most places in Britain. Indeed, our northern situation must make it so; and as to the making felt, or wool hats, either for home consumption or exportation, they can be made in this country, and particularly about this place and Glasgow, of equal quality, and on as good terms as any where in great Britain, or even in Europe. If finer hats are required, we can have no difficulty in procuring foreign materials; I mean, the fur of the beaver, from which our own manufacturers can make hats from 12 s. 6 d. to the finest that any country can produce. These materials we can likewise have upon the very lowest terms, and of the best quality, they being often imported in this country as a branch of trade. Were we even to commission them from London, we can have them brought to the port of Leith upon as small an expence as any manufacturing town in England.

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Give me leave further to observe, that there are no persons in this part of the island, employed in the making of hats, but such as have served a regular apprenticeship of seven years, which makes them complete workmen. The consupt for hats, for the inhabitants of North Britain only, may amount to 65,000 l. Sterling annually; and a quantity, much exceeding this in value, might be made for exportation, if ready sale could be found. Besides the great plenty of materials, already taken notice of, we have likewise hands sufficient to carry on this branch to an amazing extent. The advantage accruing to the nation, from such an acquisition of trade, would be flattering, in the highest degree, to every lover of his country. Not only would it afford employment to our men brought up to the business; but even women, boys, and girls might lend their aid, in carding, cleansing, and picking the materials, as well as in lining and cocking the hats. The hands, thus employed, may earn good wages, if they be industrious. The masters, too, might afford to supply them, every Saturday night, with as much ready money as would enable them to pay the baker, butcher, and brewer, weekly. Thus might these working people live in the same manner as the English workmen do, and make a circulation in every business in this country.

Another branch of trade, well worthy the attention of the public, is the stocking manufactory. Scotland is possessed of materials, by which the manufacturer can furnish stockings from 6d. to 10s. 6d. nay even to 40s. per pair. From my own experience, I can say, that I have purchased stockings made here, better and cheaper by 10 per cent. than ever I could purchase English stockings in any shop in Edinburgh; yet, to our shame be it said, I have known some shop-keepers in our city remit, or pay these people called *English Riders*, or more properly *Drainers of our specie*, from 3 to 4000 l. Sterling annually.

This branch has every advantage peculiar to the hat manufactory, above recited, and much about the same value might be made and vended.

In the manufactory of the last two branches, we happily possess many advantages over our industrious neighbours; the price of spinning, and all sorts of labour, being cheaper; and firing, a very essential article, we have at more moderate rates than the English; for, in most places of this country, we have excellent coal and turf at low prices.

Before I conclude, I must beg leave to offer an advice to the store-farmers.

farmers. Having lately been in company with some of the most eminent hat-makers in Scotland, the conversation naturally turned upon the preservation of the wool, adapted for their business, when it was the unanimous opinion of all present, that the store-farmers, and all raisers of lambs, ought to clip their wool off in the month of June or July: That the advantage the breeders of sheep would reap from this practice, could not fail of being very considerable, as they will always find ready sale for that wool: That it would also be attended with this additional advantage, by making the fleece grow close, and prevent it from shading. This practice, it was agreed, would also hinder the wet from penetrating into the skin, and keep the lambs from throwing their fleece, which they frequently do at the time mentioned, when nature should be assisted. Upon the whole, If this method was to be followed, I am fully persuaded it would bring a great deal of money into the farmer's pocket, and be of essential service to the country in general. I am, &c.

D. LOCH.

To the PUBLISHER of the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

S I R,

April 20. 1775.

LAST week, I had occasion to visit some of my old friends and acquaintances in East-Lothian, a county in which the honest worthy farmers bear a considerable part, and a very respectable body of men they are. Friday, being market day at Haddington, I dined with one company of these gentlemen, and spent the afternoon with another, where we had some excellent ale, Scots porter, and punch. The conversation at first turned chiefly on the management and improvement of the different soils, sowing of corns, grass-seeds, turnip, planting potatoes, &c. Although I am no farmer, I have read many authors, both ancient and modern, on agriculture; yet, when I consider the many solid reasons and sound arguments, derived from experience; which I heard during the course of the conversation, I confess my time lost in reading a multitude of opinions, founded more on theory than practice, and would therefore recommend to those desirous of making improvements in husbandry, to frequent the company of practical farmers, from whom they will reap more instruction than from all the books of agriculture extant.

As the glass went round, trade and manufactures became the general

neral topic. All of them, to a man, seemed much to regret the decayed state of our woollen manufacture, which they held to be the staple; particularly in that corner, so well adapted for it. Here, indeed, it has been carried on for near a century; and though little advantage has accrued to the company in general, owing partly to mismanagement, and partly to political causes, yet individuals have been supported by it in a very decent manner. So sensible of this are the worthy farmers, they are resolved, that all the obstacles hitherto thrown in the way shall not damp their patriotic spirit. They are, therefore, ready and willing, to go hand in hand with the noblemen and gentlemen, in promoting and supporting this useful branch, not only by contributing a reasonable proportion of stock to carry it on in a general plan, but by improving their breed of sheep, being sensible it will be a mean of procuring them a better market, both for fleece and carcase, and relieve them of a number of begging poor, who daily infest their doors.—Should these gentlemen join in promoting so laudable an undertaking, it could hardly fail of success, as they could in a great measure furnish the capital article wool, and, being a numerous, substantial body of men, would consume, in cloathing for themselves, their families and labourers, a quantity almost sufficient to employ all the idle hands in the country. Besides these advantages, this manufacture would open a new channel of employment for their sons, whom they are often at a loss to dispose of; and, considering the variety of operations necessary in such an undertaking, there is no poor person, from eight to sixty years of age, but might be usefully employed in it.

It is a melancholy consideration, that, while trade and manufacturers are just now at the lowest ebb, the rents upon new leases are racked to the highest degree; so that the wages of the labourer and industrious poor, cannot keep pace with the augmented price of provisions; nay, many of them are reduced next door to starving, and have only one dismal alternative left, *viz.* To leave their families on the public, and emigrate from present misery to distant hope; and should a tract of bad seasons occur, the master must probably follow the servant. It is indeed amazing to observe, how little respect is paid by landlords to this most useful and necessary class of men, the farmers, upon whom the whole race of mankind, from the king to the beggar, depend for support. The generality of lairds will scarce vouchsafe their tenants a look; and, if they condescend to exchange a few words with them, it is a mighty piece of condescension, or it must be upon business of great importance; and for ordinary they deliver their answer to any message from these dependents

dependents, at second hand, by their factor, as his Majesty did last week to the Lord Mayor of London by the Lord Chamberlain.—But, happily, the whole of our landlords are not of this cast. Of this I had a very striking instance, from the gentlemen I was in company with, who informed me, with hearts full of gratitude, that a few weeks before, all the tenants on the estate of Mr and Mrs C——s were entertained at B——n in the most hospitable, liberal, and familiar manner, the lady doing the honours of the table: A rare example of goodness and condescension! The affability of this lady excited a warmth of heart which they could not suppress; and immediately a bumper was called for, when they drank, “Prosperity, happiness, and long life, to that amiable pair, and family, who had, in so condescending a manner, done them that singular honour, the remembrance of which should never be obliterated from their minds.” At the same time they unanimously agreed, as a grateful proof of their esteem, and a just sense of the honour conferred on them, to celebrate, annually, the birth-day of the *lovely stranger*, in a manner suitable to her rank and merit.

This scene gave me much joy, and I shared in the general festivity.

I have many particulars to communicate on the subject of manufactures, &c. which I must defer till another occasion, and am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

May 15th 1775.

THE letter which appeared in your useful paper, some time ago, signed ANTI-JUNIUS, on *Public Spirit*, I was hopeful would have been followed by many others on the same subject. In this, however, I have found myself mistaken, and will acknowledge I have thereby been greatly disappointed, as perseverance in every undertaking is the most probable means, at least, of insuring success.

A single letter, signed, a SCOTSMAN, has indeed appeared since ANTI-JUNIUS; but he did little more than invite that gentleman to continue his lubrications on a subject of which he appears to be so thoroughly master. To both these writers I think myself obliged,

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and beg leave to return them thanks for the favourable opinion they have of my intentions. In this, I can assure them, they are not mistaken. The good of my country; employing the industrious tradesman; and providing work and bread for the poor, were the sole motives by which my conduct has been actuated since I took up the pen in favours of the manufactures of my country; nor should I chuse to support life a single moment, after losing sight of so glorious an object.

Anti-Junius has well observed, that it only requires resolution and firmness to put our country in a flourishing situation: I would beg leave to call the serious attention of the Merchant, the Farmer, the Tradesman, on this important subject. I am certain, were they to reflect upon it with their usual candour and good sense, they would be convinced, that so long as they do not, to a man, absolutely resolve to wear no clothes whatever, and drink no malt liquor, but what are the manufacture of Scotland, they are struggling against the interest of themselves, their families, their friends; their connections, and the poor; as well as the country which gave them existence. Consider how many industrious people such a resolution would give bread to here, that are now employed in London, and other parts of England, and the vast sums of money which, of consequence, would be kept in your country. Let these considerations stimulate you to give a check to the absurd and destructive practice, which so many of our tradesmen have adopted, of meeting together in Clubs, in different parts of the city, for the sole purpose of drinking London Porter *only*; while the Porter brewed in this city, and neighbourhood, is despised and rejected, for no other reason but because it is *Scots*. I would ask these London porter-drinkers how they would relish it, should the Noblemen and Gentlemen of property withdraw their business from them, because they were Scots Merchants, Scots Wrights, Scots Shoemakers, and so forth, of every other profession? * What reflections would they not have, and how highly would they be affronted, to be told, that none of them understood their trades so well as foreigners?—This, however, is the treatment these very gentlemen give to the Woollen Manufacturers and the Brewers of Scotland; but how highly injuri-

* I have always averred, that our own countrymen have genius equal, if not superior, to most in Europe; a striking instance of which I observed the other day at Keith Mill. The ingenious Mr Thomson, at that place, has made great improvements in most of the materials and utensils used in Husbandry. By his invention these necessary articles can be got at little expence, and upon the most plain and simple principles. This man has great merit, and deserves the attention of the public.

ous, as well as unjust, they are, when applied to them; must appear evident, to every one who has so much the love of his country at heart, as to make use of their commodities; and I humbly apprehend, no character, however exalted, need be ashamed to do so.

As Anti-Junius has not hitherto favoured the world, through the channel of your paper, with any more strictures on *Public Spirit*, I beg leave, through the same vehicle, to renew the subject; not, indeed, from a persuasion, that I am anywise equal to so arduous an undertaking, but from the hopes of some more able hand engaging in a work of so much public utility; and lest the subject itself, through so long a silence, should be totally neglected.

I am sensible many of my countrymen are every way qualified to rouse a proper spirit in their brethren, and to convince them of the utility of encouraging the manufactures of their own country, in preference to those of every other. There is one misfortune, however, which attends every public concern. What should be the business of all, is, for that very reason, neglected by all; and, unless this difficulty is got over, by some gentlemen of approved abilities stepping forth in support of Public Spirit, notwithstanding the advance already made in the improvements of the manufactures, I have endeavoured to recommend, we may have the mortification to see their further progress put a stop to.

That this may be prevented by the efforts of a few, or even of *one* gentleman of public spirit, we have a glorious instance in the case of Dean Swift. That gentleman *alone*, we all know, saved his country from ruin, in the case of Wood's halfpence: For, though Wood obtained a patent to coin no less a sum than 180,000 l. of them, by which he was to have acquired exorbitant gain, and proportionally impoverished the nation; and, though he was long supported by those who prostituted the highest delegated authority to the vilest purposes, the Dean of St Patrick's prevailed against their combined force. In the character of a *Drapier*, this gentleman wrote a series of letters to the people, urging them not to receive this copper money; and Wood was at length compelled to withdraw his patent; and his money was totally suppressed.

I have mentioned this striking instance of the power which *one* man may acquire, when engaged in the cause of his country. It is also a convincing proof of the certainty of his succeeding, so long as the great spring of his actions are directed by the true principles of Public Spirit.

This obligation, however great, was not the only one which the kingdom of Ireland experienced from the writings of Dean Swift. That

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great Politician and Patriot considered the improvements of the manufactures of his country as the greatest blessing it could enjoy. To this object, a great part of his time, as well as his money, were appropriated: nor did he lose his reward. Acclamations, and prayers for his prosperity, attended his footsteps wherever he passed: He was consulted in all points respecting domestic policy in general, and to the trade of Ireland in particular: But he was more immediately looked upon as the legislator of the weavers, who frequently came in a body, consisting of fifty or sixty chieftains of their trade, to receive his advice, in settling the rates of their manufactures, and the wages of their journeymen. He became the idol of the people of Ireland, to a degree of devotion, that, in the most superstitious country, scarce any idol ever obtained. Nor is this to be wondered at, when it is remembered, that he gave above half of his yearly income in private pensions to decayed families, and kept 500 l. in the constant service of the industrious poor, which he lent out 5 l. at a time, and took the payment back at one shilling a week, which was observed to do them more service, than if he had given it to them altogether, as it obliged them to work, and at the same time, kept up this charitable fund for the assistance of many others.

I have been more particular, with regard to this great and truly good man, in hopes that others may be induced to imitate so worthy an example. I know well, that the clergy of this country are not in a capacity to supply the necessities of the industrious mechanics in the manner that Mr Swift was. I do not think, however, it would in the smallest degree derogate from their character, were they not only to recommend industry and virtue from the pulpit, but even advise their hearers to encourage the manufactures of their own country in preference to every other. Dead Swift said, upon a particular occasion, that he never preached but twice in his life; and then they were not sermons, but pamphlets. Being asked, what the subject might be? he replied, They were against Wood's halfpence: meaning, no doubt, that he had never preached when the good effects of his sermons so evidently appeared as upon that occasion.

At the same time that Dean Swift was thus solicitous, in advancing the manufactures of his country, he was equally studious in discharging the functions of his holy office, with piety and devotion. I therefore flatter myself, that the Clergy of this country, for whom this letter is principally intended, will not take it amiss that I recommend that gentleman, as a pattern worthy of their imitation.

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Much service may be done by their means; and, I hope, the regard they have for their native country will be a sufficient inducement.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,
D. LOCH.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

S I R,

June 26. 1775.

HAVING some necessary business that called me to the north country, I did myself the honour of waiting on the proprietor at Laurence-kirk. This village is situated in a fine country, called the *How of the Mearns*. Here, under the patronage of so worthy a man, every branch of manufacture, and all kinds of industry, are carried on to a surprising degree. In order to induce manufacturers to settle upon this spot, every possible encouragement is granted. He not only supplies them with ground for houses and gardens, at the moderate rate of 3 d. per fall, but also allows every well-recommended settler in the village, his house and garden, free of rent, for the first seven years, and gives premiums to encourage different branches of industry.

The improvements made at this place, in planting and hedging, are very extensive, and thriving better than any I saw in this or any other country I have had an opportunity of seeing. As a further improvement to this village, the proprietor has erected a most convenient inn, where travellers can be supplied with neat and good lodging, and every other article, uncommonly elegant. Travellers find at this inn, one very singular piece of entertainment; which is, a library; at least, a very well chosen, though small collection, of amusing books.

There is one manufactory, newly established at this favourite village, of which I cannot omit taking particular notice; it is the manufacturing of stockings on frames or looms. By this loom, stockings of worsted, woollen, linen, and cotton, are wrought in a most expeditious manner, and can be afforded good, at very moderate prices. At the same time, Mr Harley, the person engaged to superintend this undertaking, employs a number of people in knitting stockings; by which means customers can be supplied with whatever kind they chuse. The industrious people, to which this manufactory gives bread, are numerous; and the expedition with which they spin, both wool and flax, is truly amazing. Here they all spin with both hands, and have two pirns upon the wheel, with great ease. I

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have seen many girls, not above twelve years of age, spin, in this manner, two flips a-day. It truly does honour to the gentlemen of the Mearns, that, at a numerous meeting of the *Farmers club*, they lately ordered Mr Harley to make a very pretty uniform of his stocking cloth, in which they are all to be clothed, and they have ordered the word *Plow* to be stamped on the buttons.

Though this is a fine sheep country, very few of these useful animals are as yet propagated in it. This, in a great measure, may be owing to the fears entertained by the noblemen and gentlemen of the hedges and young trees being hurt by them. As these apprehensions, however, will be removed, four or five years hence, when the young planting will be arrived at more maturity, I make no doubt but the number of sheep will be greatly increased, as the men of property in this part of the country are fully satisfied, that wool is the great staple of this country, and sheep the best crop that can be got from their lands.—I must, at the same time, observe, that the few gentlemen who feed sheep here, have them of a most excellent kind. I was among a flock, belonging to Mr David Scott of Benholm, who is a real patriot. His sheep bear as fine wool as any I ever saw in England. He is, indeed, at great pains in getting the best breed, and properly providing for them during the winter season; and I am fully persuaded, the whole men of property will follow his example.

I am extremely sorry to find, that what I said in my former letters, touching the raising of flax, turns out too true. The climate of Scotland is by no means adapted for this exotic plant. All our heat in spring cannot sufficiently warm the ground, to make it fit for the reception of the seed; and therefore vegetation stops. The country I am now treating of, is perhaps one of the finest in Scotland for the purpose; yet there I saw several fine fields plowed down which had been sown with flax, at great labour and expence; and surely no one will deny, that a more promising and warm spring has not happened for many years past. I paid particular attention likewise to the flax I saw growing betwixt Perth and Aberdeen, and I do declare I would not accept of the whole in a present, to be obliged to dress and manufacture it.

I have long thought, and I am now fully confirmed in that opinion, that the premiums given for raising flax, answered no other purpose, than depriving the country of so many thousand acres of good ground, which would have bore wheat or barley of the best quality. For the truth of this, I might appeal to every gentleman farmer,

farmer, who has been induced to lay down his ground with this pernicious article, for the sake of these premiums. Many, I am certain, have lost their crops altogether. Those who have been most successful, I am persuaded, will readily acknowledge, that their profits would have been very small, if any, had they not received the premium. I might even go a step further, and affirm, that those who raise the most, and the best flax, seldom if ever, make use of any of it for their own families, but purchase that which grows in foreign countries.

If these are facts, and that they are so, will not be denied by any one who understands the subject, the absurdity of granting premiums for raising flax, in this country, must, at first sight, appear obvious. Ten thousand pounds worth of wool, manufactured and sent to those countries, whose climates prevent them from raising that commodity, but where good flax grows, would purchase and pay for more strong substantial flax, than all Scotland can produce; and much corn might be raised on the ground, which is now thrown away in flax raising, greatly to the advantage of the poor, who would thereby be supplied with the staff of life on much easier terms than they unhappily are at present.

Were the Board of Trustees to bestow the premiums given on flax raising, to the merchant or manufacturer who should export the greatest quantity of woollen cloth, and to the nobleman, gentleman, or farmer, who should bring the best rams into the country, for bettering our breed of fine-woolled sheep, either in medals or in money, they would answer many good purposes. I am even persuaded, these premiums would be of more real service to the country in one year, than all that has been given by the public to force on the *Linen Staple*, as some people are pleased to call it, has done since the Union.

A fair trial, at least, might be made; and I am convinced, were this to be done, the good effects would soon appear. And if our neighbours, the Irish, had the same liberty of working up their wool, and exporting the cloth, which we enjoy, we would soon beat the French or Dutch, and all the world, out of the cloth trade. The Irish, in that event would sell no wool to the French or Dutch, without which none of these nations could compete with us, at foreign markets, in low or middling priced cloths; and for superfines, we can be supplied with Spanish wool on as easy terms as any other nation.

Upon the whole, Sir, I have not the smallest hesitation in affirming, that the wealth of Great Britain and Ireland, in a great measure,

sure, depends upon their manufacturing all their own wool, I am,

Sir, Your very humble fervant,

D. LOCH.

P. S. Upon the lands of Laurencekirk there is a very fine spring of mineral waters, from iron or steel, as it turns black so soon as spirits are put in to it; and it has been found useful in many cafes.

F I N I S.